

### COE STUDENT LISA TENNY CREDITS MENTORS FROM COE IN HELPING HER BECOME THE POULTRY PROFESSIONAL SHE IS TODAY

Lisa Tenny was a student at Kansas State University when she learned about the Midwest Poultry Consortium's Center of Excellence (COE) Scholarship Program. She took COE classes in 2015 and completed her COE internship with Nelson Poultry, working with Jeremy Lies (COE 2001/2002). In addition to her internship with Nelson Poultry, Lisa also interned with Elanco Animal Health in its Poultry Business Unit.

Lisa attended veterinary school at Kansas State University but kept the poultry industry in her sights. After graduation, she took a position with Aviagen as an Associate Veterinarian.

Lisa is currently living in Huntsville, AL. While working, she is also pursuing a Masters of Avian Health and Medicine from the University of Georgia. She graduates in May and will sit for her poultry board exam in August.

When people unfamiliar with the poultry industry ask Lisa what she does for a living, she tells them she is a 'chicken doctor.' Lisa said she ensures the meat people eat comes from healthy and happy chickens. "Many people don't realize how much veterinary support goes into the meat they consume. I oversee the health, welfare, and biosecurity of the internal Aviagen GGP flocks in Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi."

Lisa said the education she obtained at COE continues to be useful in her career today. "I do a lot of necropsies as part of my job and the physiology class set the foundation for that knowledge." Lisa said the COE classes helped her understand a hen's reproductive tract, how an egg is formed, and how the incubational development occurs. These are all things she now teaches growers and other Aviagen employees. "I use the 'hands-on' and practical poultry management skills learned in COE often; so much so, I sometimes forget I learned them at COE."

Lisa has served as an internship mentor for other COE students who come to Aviagen to gain experience in their veterinarian department. She worked with Samantha LeBlanc (COE 2021) and Paige Williams (COE 2021/2022) during their COE internships. Lisa also worked with Eliza Ripplinger (COE 2016/2017) when she came to visit Aviagen as a veterinary student.

Lisa and Dr. Gemma Isermann (COE 2013/2014) were colleagues on the veterinary team at Aviagen and were able to work together on a few projects. "We both shared an interest in egg handling and sanitation and worked to improve those processes within Aviagen at our respective bird generations and complexes," Lisa said.

Outside of work Lisa still connects with others from the COE network. She considers Bernie Beckman to be an important mentor who helped her get started in her career. She also credits Jeremy Lies, whom she worked with as a COE intern, with helping shape her into the professional she is today.

This year at IPPE she was able to catch up with other COE classmates, including Kate Borders (COE 2014/2015) when the two of them were recognized with the 'IPPE Young Leaders Under 30' award. She also works with Dr. Goeff Lossie (COE 2015) on the Development Committee for the American Association of Avian Pathologists and the two of them coordinate a raffle and auction to support student scholarships. She has enjoyed hearing about Dr. Lossie's experience teaching in COE's Avian Health course.

Lisa has three cats she affectionately named after amino acids and her favorite bacteria: Arginine, Taurine, and Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae. She enjoys historical fiction and thrifting. She got married this month surrounded by many of her favorite poultry professionals. She and her husband Ben are looking forward to a honeymoon in Europe with stops in Paris, Versailles, and London this fall.

