Report of the Washington DC Area Chapter of ARPAS

The Washington DC Area Chapter of ARPAS had a full slate of activities for the 2011/2012 year. Six monthly luncheon meetings were held and the dates, speakers, and titles of their presentations were as follows:

Tuesday, September 20, 2011 – Dr. Kenneth R. Cummings, Executive Vice-President of ARPAS, spoke about the activities of ARPAS at the national level. Mr. Lee H. Boyd was presented the Distinguished Professional Animal Scientist Award by Dr. Cummings and Dr. William D. Price. Mr. Boyd served as the President of ARPAS during 1989-1990.

Tuesday, October 18, 2011 – Dr. Amy O. Burk, Associate Professor and Extension Equine Specialist, University of Maryland – “The Equine Studies Program at the University of Maryland: Jumping to New Heights”


Wednesday, February 15, 2012 - Ms. Jeanette Murphy, Consumer Safety Officer, FDA - Center for Veterinary Medicine – “Up-date on the Implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act”


On Wednesday, May 2, 2012, the Washington DC Area Chapter of ARPAS held their annual mini-symposium at the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center with 60 individuals in attendance. The title of the mini-symposium was “International Animal Agriculture: Programs and Opportunities for Global Food Security”. Six speakers highlighted research, food safety, food quality, and regulatory initiatives that are taking place to enhance global food security. Titles of the presentations and their presenters were as follows:

Overview of the Symposium – Dr. Scott Lough, President-Elect - Washington DC Area Chapter of ARPAS
USDA-ARS International Research Programs Overview: With an Eye on Animal Research – Ms. Eileen Herrera, Deputy Director - Office of International Research Programs, USDA, ARS; Beltsville, Maryland

Applied Genomics in Ruminants – International Opportunities to Meet the Global Food Challenge - Dr. Tad S. Sonstegard, Research Geneticist and Dr. Curtis Van Tassell, Research Geneticist – Bovine Functional Genomics Laboratory, USDA, ARS; Beltsville, Maryland

Genetic Resistance to Gastro-Intestinal Parasite Infections in Sheep – Dr. Magda Benavides, Animal Health Research Scientist, Embrapa – Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation and Visiting Scientist, Bovine Functional Genomics Laboratory, USDA, ARS; Beltsville, Maryland

Challenges and Opportunities for Animal Agriculture in International Development – Dr. Mark A. Varner, Senior Counsel - Office of International Programs, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities; Washington, DC

International Feed/Food Safety and Quality Programs – Dr. Gerald E. Poley, President - Technical & Nutrition Service, Inc.; Columbia, Maryland

International Activities of the FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine – Mr. Jon F. Scheid, Health Communications Program Manager - International Programs, FDA - Center for Veterinary Medicine; Rockville, Maryland

After the mini-symposium, the joint banquet of the Washington DC Area Chapter of ARPAS and the University of Maryland – National Capital Area Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta was held at the Holiday Inn in College Park, Maryland. Fifty-seven individuals were in attendance at the joint banquet. Dr. Ann Bartuska, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics was the after-dinner speaker and the title of her presentation was “USDA’s Role in Feed the Future Initiative”. A tribute to the late Dr. Vernon G. Pursel was given by Dr. Roger J. Gerrits and Dr. Lawrence A. Johnson. Academic Achievement Awards in the amount of $100.00 each were given to four undergraduate students in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences at the University of Maryland. The recipients were: Ann M. Bolek and Christine M. Condo, both Juniors and Ashley C. Klein and Sindhu Siva, both Seniors. The Dr. Vernon G. Pursel Memorial Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr. Kristi O. Smedley, Vice-President and Consultant, Center for Regulatory Services, Inc. in Woodbridge, Virginia. Dr. Smedley has been involved with the Washington DC Area Chapter of ARPAS for over 20 years and she has served the Chapter as Treasurer and as a Director-at-Large.

The Chapter officers for 2012/2013 are: Dr. Scott Lough, President; Dr. Padmakumar Pillai, President-Elect; Dr. Robin Keyser, Secretary; Dr. William Price, Treasurer; and Dr. Lonnie Luther, Past-President.
Directors-at-Large for 2012/2013 are: Dr. Lewis Smith; Dr. Theodore Elsasser; Ms. Jennifer Woodward-Greene; Dr. Adam Orr; Dr. Gerald Poley; and Dr. Rial Christensen.