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UMES Hosts Lower Eastern Shore STEM Team

University of Maryland Extension at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore hosts its first ever 4-H Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) team. Charged with engaging area youth in the many program areas within the STEM fields, the team has established offices in each of the tri-county areas of the lower Eastern Shore.

“Engaging more young people within the STEM fields is a national priority and it is a priority of the University of Maryland Extension and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. We are, therefore, very excited about having a team that’s reserved for making STEM its priority,” said Dr. Henry Brooks, UME-UMES Extension administrator.

Team leader Jocelyn Koller is stationed at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore campus and has joined the team as a 4-H STEM associate agent. She is a graduate of Towson University, where she earned a Master of Science degree in biology with an interest in molecular biology and forensics. Having taught at the middle, high school,

and college levels, she brings to her position a wealth of knowledge about the value of education in the sciences. In addition to teaching, she has served as a biology program manager for Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Talented Youth and



as a STEM education and outreach specialist with Towson University’s Bioscience and Outreach Program.

“I expect that this new STEM initiative will result in more youth being excited about STEM and having a greater understanding of it,” said Koller. “I believe they will take their newly acquired knowledge beyond the four walls of their classrooms and into their communities and careers.”

John Kotz has joined the team as a 4-H STEM faculty extension assistant in Somers-
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Calendar of Events: Mark Your Calendars — Plan To Participate

April 26, 2014 10 a.m. to noon	Growing High Tunnel Spring Crops Workshop Pereyra Farm, 6182 Worcester Highway, Newark, Maryland
May 16-17, 2014 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Goat Artificial Insemination Clinic UMES Small Ruminant Farm
June 23, 2014 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Rise to the Challenge 4-H STEM Summer Workshop UMES
June 25, 2014 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Rise to the Challenge 4-H STEM Summer Workshop Christ United Methodist Church, Salisbury

STEM cont'd



set County. He is a graduate of Salisbury University, there earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education. In August 2013, he received his master's degree

in school leadership from Wilmington University and is certified to teach technology education. He has worked as a high school technology education teacher in Salisbury for six years and has served as dean of students on both the middle school and high school levels. John wants to use STEM to promote life-long learning to youth on the Eastern Shore.

Lisa Murphy, also a 4-H STEM faculty extension assistant, is stationed in Worcester County. She is a native of Salisbury and a graduate of the University of Maryland in College Park. She has earned a Bachelor of Science in horticulture with an interest in horticultural therapy and has continued her education by taking graduate courses in agricultural education at UMES. She has worked as an agricultural technician at UMES, a branch executive director of the Maryland Chapter Arthritis Foundation, assistant director of the SU Fund at Salisbury University; a community relations director for a retirement community and chief of Senior Centers with MAC, Inc.



Celine Pastore is the 4-H STEM faculty extension assistant for Wicomico County. An honors graduate from Mount Holyoke College with a Bachelor of Arts in math, Pastore has worked as a pre-calculus, geometry and algebra II teacher at the Massa-

nuten Military Academy, a second-chance boarding school located in rural Virginia. Having also worked as a teacher and volunteer in programs through Westfield Youth Detention Center and Habitat for Humanity, Celine has had the opportunity to teach and mentor youth from many diverse backgrounds and experiences. She is eager to apply her experience to helping youth on the Eastern Shore gain confidence and interest in all aspects of STEM.



For more information about the UME-UMES 4-H STEM team and their STEM initiatives on the lower Eastern Shore, please contact Jocelyn Koller at jckoller@umd.edu.

Zoumenou Takes EFNEP to Capitol Hill

by Crystal Wright



Dr. Virginie Zoumenou, 1890 EFNEP Program Leader, during a recent visit to Capitol Hill (February 27 and 28, 2014), sought out Senators and Congressmen alike to call their attention to the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) that she runs on the Lower Eastern Shore.

Dr. Zoumenou met for roughly 20 minutes with Mike Thomas (legislative assistant), who handles nutrition and food security issues for Senator Ben Cardin, and presented both EFNEP and the childhood obesity program she is currently leading. Thomas was very impressed and expressed a strong interest in advocating for the EFNEP program. He also insisted that the summer youth programs be paired up with a free lunch program held during the summer. Dr. Zoumenou and Mr. Thomas continue

working on this collaboration.

Dr. Zoumenou also met with Jane Williams, legislative assistant for our local congressman, Andy Harris (MD-01). Ms. Williams, also kind enough to grant 20 minutes for the meeting, was very impressed with Dr. Zoumenou's presentation and plans to advocate for EFNEP with enthusiasm. Ms. Williams is working with Dr. Zoumenou to arrange for Congressman Harris to visit the childhood obesity project at Princess Anne Head Start before the end of the school year.

Finally, Dr. Zoumenou met with McKenzie Haynes, legislative assistant for Congressman John Delaney of Maryland's 6th District. Ms. Haynes was especially impressed with Dr. Zoumenou's efforts to introduce these programs, given that Congressman Delaney is outside of our local district. Impressed by the presentation as well, Ms. Haynes requested contact information for the 1862 EFNEP program leader to arrange a visit to the EFNEP program in the Western Region of Maryland.

As everyone who works on Capitol Hill is extremely pressed for time, it is a rare event to be granted 20 minute long meetings. This is a testament to Dr. Zoumenou and the passion she displays for her work, which the above success demonstrates is infectious.



May Insemination Clinic at UMES

The University of Maryland Extension at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore is sponsoring a goat artificial insemination clinic on May 16 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days. Teresa Wade, from BIO-Genics, LTD, will be the instructor for the two-day event.

Among the subjects students will study the first day are: appropriate feed, care, environment and selection of suitable artificial insemination (AI) doe candidates and semen donors; the basic anatomy and reproductive tracts of both female and male goats and how fertilization occurs; hormonal processes in both the doe and the buck; semen abnormalities and their affects on viability; semen storage; AI equipment and hands-on training; and effective record keeping.

The second day, AI clinic students will practice artificial insemination with does and will apply the techniques learned the day before. AI students will use does from the goat herd at the UMES Small Ruminant Farm.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

The number of students is limited to 14 to ensure that the learning experience is a rewarding one for each of the participants, including the hands-on practice on the second day. The registration will be considered complete when payment by credit card or check has been received at the UMES Extension Office. The registration fee is \$175 per student.

After the clinic, 10 of the AI kits used during the AI Clinic will be available for purchase (\$80 each), and each kit will be complete with everything a goat producer needs to successfully perform artificial inseminations. The registrant should indicate on the registration form if he or she wants to buy an artificial insemination kit. The registration form will be available soon online at www.umes.edu/1890-MCE and by hard copy.

For more information contact Dr. Enrique

Nelson Escobar, assistant professor for small ruminant production and management, by phone at 410-651-7930 or by email at enescoabar@umes.edu.



The Power of Pi

On Friday, March 14, sixth grade students at Wicomico Middle school in Salisbury, participated in Pi Day.

Approximately 240 students learned about the properties of circles and Pi by measuring the circumference and diameter of various circular objects, then dividing the circumference by the diameter to get an estimate of Pi. The objects measured included coins (the smallest), a pizza, a bicycle wheel, and a 30 ft. parachute.

The parachute station was a favorite. There students not only got a chance to "make the chute fly," but also practiced critical thinking skills in coming up with methods to measure such a large object. Strategies included pacing and counting steps around and across; measuring the outside edge of one segment; and then multiplying it by the total number of segments to get an estimate of the circumference.

Students were also encouraged to think of reasons for knowing Pi, such as calculating the distance through the center of an



impenetrable object by measuring the distance around it.

And of course, what Pi Day would be complete without chocolate pie?

Nicole Skorobatsch of Somerset County Extension provided a mini nutrition lesson with a "pie in a bag" recipe. Other participants included Jen Campbell, Math PD Coach at Wicomico Middle and 4-H STEM team members: Jocelyn Koller, Tri-county; John Kotz, Somerset County; and Lisa Murphy, Worcester County; and Celine Pastore, Wicomico County.

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Attention Extension Educators!

Dr. Virginie Zoumenou has successfully negotiated a contract with three hotels in Salisbury for the 1890 Extension program. The contract offers discounted rates on rooms and meeting space that can be used for any of the 1890 Extension program functions and is valid between October 1, 2014 and May 2015.

For contract details or bookings, please contact Dr. Virginie Zoumenou at 410 651 6212 or Crystal Wright at 410 651 6218.



A note from the Administrator



This is a pinnacle year for UME here at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. We are part of a nationwide centennial celebration of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act, which officially created the national Cooper-

ative Extension System.

On May 8, 1914, the official signing of the act established that “cooperative agricultural extension work shall consist of the development of practical applications of research knowledge and giving of instruction and practical demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture, uses of solar energy with respect to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy, and subjects relating thereto to persons not attending or resident in said colleges in the several communities, and imparting information on said subjects through demonstrations, publications, and otherwise and for the necessary printing and distribution of information in connection with the foregoing; and this work shall be carried on in such manner as may be mutually agreed upon by the Secretary of Agriculture and the State agricultural college or colleges or Territory or possession receiving the benefits of this Act.”

Today, some 100 years later, the state of Maryland Cooperative Extension network involves two universities (UMES, an 1890; and UMCP, an 1862), 23 county Extension offices, a Baltimore City Extension office, and four research and education centers. The University of Maryland Extension network is working each year to fulfill the expressed mission of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 offering instruction and service in 4-H & youth programming, agriculture, environment & natural resources, food and nutrition, health and wellness, home gardening, money, small farms, seafood technology, alternative and small scale farming and more.

Stay tuned for more information about how you can join our part of the celebration here

on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.

On another note, this will turn out to be a pinnacle year for me as well in that my service as the 1890 administrator of the University of Maryland Extension is soon coming to an end. While many of my years in Extension, 47 to be exact, were spent in the field doing what I think is some of the most rewarding work a person can do, 33 of those 47 years were spent leading a dedicated and hardworking team at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and in the counties.

I will therefore devote the next several months leading up to my retirement on June 30 to reflecting on what Extension has meant to my life and to the lives my service has touched.

I am sure my final note will include my thoughts along that line. Until then, just know that I have been very happy to serve with and for the many personalities and talents that have passed through our office over the years.

Dr. Henry M. Brooks
hmbrooks@umes.edu

Small Farm Spring Series Ends April 26



The 2014 Small Farm Spring Series culminates with the Growing High Tunnel Spring Crops workshop on Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. until noon.

At the Pereyra Farm, located at 6182 Worcester Highway in Newark, Maryland, participants will be taught the basics of high tunnel systems. To learn about site preparation, site set-up, pricing, types of crops that can be grown and financial assistance programs available from USDA, be sure to preregister for this workshop. Workshop fees, which cover handout materials and lunch, are set at \$10 per person.

For more information about the 2014 University of Maryland Extension Small Farm Workshop Series or to register contact Kayla Parmar at 410-651-6070 or by email at kjparmar@umes.edu. To register online, visit www.umes.edu/1890-mce.

Anyone in need of special services or accommodations in order to participate must call one week in advance.

4-H STEM Summer Workshop

University of Maryland Extension 4-H STEM educators invite Somerset and Wicomico county youth to participate in a one-day workshop that offers fun and informative activities relating to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics on Monday, June 23, at UMES or Wednesday, June 25, at Christ United Methodist Church in Salisbury. Both events will start at 9 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

The STEM Day Summer Workshop, titled “Rise to the Challenge,” is reserved for youth ages 11-14. Planned activities for the day will expose the youth to skyscraper history as well as the basic design principles behind their success; ballooning history and the principles of flight along with NASA’s Scientific Balloon Program; the mighty microbes in bread that facilitate it’s rising; and the big things happening in the world of nanoscience and nanotechnology.

Registration fees are set at \$20 per person and include a mid-morning snack and all educational materials; registrants will need to pack a sack lunch that does not require refrigeration. To register online, visit www.umes.edu/1890-mce. Once registration is complete, a packet will be mailed that must be brought to the session. Scholarships and multiple student family discounts are available.

For more information, contact STEM Associate Agent Jocelyn Koller at 410-651-7974 or by email at jkoller@umd.edu.