Salute to Leadership

The continuing success of the PSA Foundation is the result of the outstanding leadership of a team of highly dedicated people who shared the vision of the foundation designed to support the development of the future scientific leadership for poultry.

As the PSA Foundation started to take shape and become an effective organization, Dr. William “Bill” Saylor (University of Delaware) assumed the leadership as Chair of the Board of Trustees. During his service, with the support of Dr. Andrew “Drew” Giesen (Novus International-deceased) through the challenge grant, the PSA Foundation provided leadership in the development of the “Legacy Project”. This project developed the online access for the Journal of Poultry Science and Journal of Applied Poultry Research. This involved the conversion of the existing volumes to digital format. Unfortunately, Dr. Saylor had to resign from his responsibility as Chair for personal reasons.

Dr. Ernest E. “Ernie” Pierson graciously assumed the role of Chair and continued the Capital Campaign. During his term of service, the PSA Foundation received grant support from the Andrew F. Giesen Family and Novus International, DSM Nutritional Products, A. W. Perdue Foundation and Merck Animal Health in addition to the Diamond V Endowment.

Dr. Lisa R. Bielke (Ohio State University) followed as Chair of the Board of Trustees as the Capital Campaign continued to enjoy success. During her term of service, the Foundation received Continuing Education Endowments from Aviagen, Cobb-Vantress, Ceva Animal Health, Phibro Animal Health and Huvepharma, Inc. The signal accomplishment during her service was the Inaugural Founder Donor Endowment-Merck Animal Health of $0.5 million.

Dr. Christopher “Chris” Knight (Novus International-retired) will assume the role as Chair this year. He was the driving force in the establishment of the Andrew F. Giesen Undergraduate Internship program supported by the Giesen Family, Novus International and DSM Nutritional Products. In addition, he has provided leadership for the Ph.D./DVM Student Career Fair jointly sponsored by US POULTRY and the PSA Foundation during the IPPE in Atlanta.