

**National
Food Safety &
Toxicology Center**

Director
Ewen C.D. Todd

Deputy Director
Ed Mather

Associate Director
Robert Roth

NFSTC Members
Agricultural
Engineering

Diagnostic Center
for Population
and Animal Health

Biochemistry

Botany & Plant
Pathology

Communications

Entomology

Epidemiology

Food Science &
Human Nutrition

Geological Sciences

Horticulture

Human Medicine

Large Animal
Clinical Science

Microbiology

Pathobiology &
Diagnostic
Investigation

Pediatrics &
Human Development

Pharmacology &
Toxicology

Sociology

Zoology



Left to right, Xiaoyu Sun, vice president of the Development Research Center, MSU President-designate Lou Anna K. Simon and Enzhong Ma of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce speak at the Global Food Safety Forum in Beijing Nov. 18-19. Photo/ Weijun Zhao

MSU and Chinese academy sign food safety agreement

In November 2004 in Beijing, MSU President-designate **Lou Anna K. Simon**, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Dean **Jeffrey Armstrong** and **Zhai Huqu**, president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), renewed the MSU-CAAS Memorandum of Agreement to foster international cooperation in education and research.

In addition to the renewed commitment, NFSTC Director **Ewen C.D. Todd** and **Ye Zhihua**, director general of the CAAS Institute of Agricultural Quality Standard and Testing Technology, signed an agreement to establish a research laboratory at CAAS to conduct joint research on food safety policy, risk management, testing technology, and personnel training (*photo on page 2*). MSU and CAAS have been awarded U.S. Department of Agriculture funding for three years to conduct joint research on third-party certification of food safety. The first step will involve a certification survey.

The signings coincided with the Global Food Safety Forum in Beijing Nov. 18-19. MSU was the sole U.S. university co-sponsor of the forum.

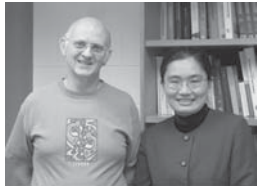
Many MSU administrators participated in the forum, including Acting Provost-designate **John Hudzik**, College of Veterinary Medicine Dean **Lonnie King**, Institute of International Agriculture Director **Dan Clay**, and NFSTC faculty members **Les Bourquin** and **Timothy Zacharewski**. President-designate Simon delivered the plenary session keynote address on "An Overview of Food Safety Programs at MSU."

Additional sponsors of the forum included the Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council, China's Ministry of Science and Technology, China's Ministry of Commerce, the Canadian International Development Agency, the World Health Organization and the World Bank. MSU's involvement in the forum is part of an ongoing collaboration between MSU and the DRC. Many faculty at MSU with expertise on the various dimensions of food safety, from production agriculture to processing, packaging, and preparation are involved.

For more information, please contact Ewen Todd at toddewen@cvm.msu.edu



Asia is in focus for 2005 research



Above right, Liqin Wu from the Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences visits the NFSTC. Dr. Todd, near right, signs an agreement to help establish a research lab in China.



Ewen C.D. Todd
NFSTC Director

Over the past year, the NFSTC has made significant strides in working with Asia, and will continue to expand these efforts over the coming years to improve international food safety research and education. International food safety is critical for continuing trade and reducing foodborne disease worldwide. Here are some examples of the collaboration:

China/Hong Kong

- NFSTC Director **Ewen C.D. Todd** and Ye **Zhihua**, director general of the CAAS Institute of Agricultural Quality Standard and Testing Technology in China, signed an agreement in November to establish a research laboratory at CAAS to conduct joint research on food safety policy, risk management, testing technology and personnel training. *(photo above center)*
- Researcher **John Giesy** is Chair Research Professor at Large for Hong Kong University (department?). Giesy and his colleagues in Hong Kong have about \$15 million in funding to work on several areas, including risk assessments and residues in

food, particularly in mainland China.

- Visiting scholar **Liqin Wu** from the Center of Quality Monitoring and Analysis for Farm Products at Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences, spent two weeks with the IR-4 laboratory at the NFSTC *(photo above)* Wu learned more about U.S. Good Laboratory Practices and other quality control regulations.

Japan

- NFSTC researcher **James Trosko** has received his 2nd, 3rd? "Japan Society for the Promotion of Science" travel award. He will be giving lectures of "Mechanistic concepts of Dietary Influences on Human Diseases: Implications for Causes and Prevention of Chronic Human Diseases" throughout Japan in April 2005.
- This fall, NFSTC researcher **John Giesy** spent a week working with colleagues at the Japanese Institute for Industry and Technology helping to develop methods for the analyses of perfluorinated compounds in the environment.



Representatives from Korea University visit the NFSTC in August.

Korea

- Representatives from Korea University in Seoul visited the NFSTC and MSU in August and are hoping to finalize a Memorandum of Agreement to foster international food safety research with the NFSTC. *(photo above)*
- Researcher **John Giesy** spent a week collecting samples in Lake Shihwa in Korea. "This is one of the most industrialized areas on the planet. There are more than 2,000 industries in a 25-square-kilometer area," Giesy says. Several of his former students work in Korea.

Congrats to new leaders

As of Nov. 1, **John Baker**, associate dean for research and graduate studies for the College of Veterinary Medicine, is serving as the temporary acting director of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. CVM and NFSTC faculty member **Susan Ewart** is serving as the acting associate dean for the oversight of research initiatives and the day-to-day operations of the office. The assignments end Oct. 31.

State policy ideas outlined in MSU sociologist's talk

NFSTC faculty members **Craig Harris** and **John Tilden** participated in a panel discussion on globalization, food safety and security at the "Michigan and the World Coalition" in November. Robert Glew of the Center for Advanced Study of International Development at MSU served as moderator. Harris' talk is online at www.foodsafe.msu.edu

Deans receive honors

In October, Dean **Jeffrey Armstrong** of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources was reappointed for another term as one of 10 members to the USDA's National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board. Also in October, Dean **Lonnie King** of the College of Veterinary Medicine was elected to the Institute of Medicine.



New proMS courses offered

New courses in pre-harvest food safety and food protection and defense are available starting spring semester 2005 for the Professional Online Master of Science (proMS) in Food Safety Program. The courses are being offered jointly with other MSU departments. The online master's program is designed for professionals already working in fields including government, industry or academia. The first-of-its-kind program has attracted a wide variety of working professionals thus far – the 45 students enrolled come from 25 states and three countries. All core courses are taught completely online. Log onto www.foodsafe.msu.edu/proms for more info or to enroll.



Left to right, John Spink, William Schwartz, Kristie Gates and Jeff Elsworth discuss the new food protection and defense course. Photo/Trent Wakenight

International course offered

There's still time to sign up for the International Short Course in Food Safety at MSU. The 7th annual course will be held July 24-29 at the NFSTC. The deadline to apply is June 30. Contact Karim Mare dia for more info or to enroll at kmaredia@msu.edu

Faculty advise media students

NFSTC faculty members **Toby Ten Eyck** and **Vincent Young** were guest speakers to a group of University of Michigan environmental journalist undergraduates on Dec. 10. They discussed media coverage of food safety and science issues with the students.

Organics proceedings on sale

Limited copies of the CD and print proceedings are still available from the First World Congress on Organic Food: Meeting the Challenges of Safety and Quality for Fruits, Vegetables and Grains (March 2004). The CD proceedings (\$30 plus shipping and handling) include all Powerpoint presentations, video of speakers and full text of various Congress documents - all viewable with any computer with Windows 98 and higher. Each order includes the print proceedings. Contact Kirsten Khire at 517-432-3100 x. 111 or khirek@cvm.msu.edu to order your copy today.



Col. Gary Vroegindewey of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps (center), meets (left to right), Pattie McNiell, Trent Wakenight, Edward Mather and Kristie Gates of the NFSTC during his seminar on Dec. 3: "Food as a Weapon." Photos/ Kirsten Khire

NFSTC seminars give 'taste' of food safety

The 2004 fall seminar series (VM 828) was full of highlights, including several guest speakers and a four week internal research collaborative session. **Robert Gravani**, professor of food science at Cornell University, provided the concluding seminar on Dec. 6: "Good Agricultural Practices: Are they making a difference?"

Col. Gary Vroegindewey, assistant director of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, provided a special seminar on Dec. 3: "Food as a Weapon." The seminar was sponsored through MSU's interest and programs in homeland security.

The spring series begins on Jan. 10 and runs each Monday at 3:30 p.m. through April 18 in Room 162 of the Food Safety & Toxicology Building. If you are interested in being a speaker, or to recommend a speaker, contact Ewen Todd at 517-432-3100 or email him at toddewen@cvm.msu.edu To view the complete schedule, go online to www.foodsafe.msu.edu under NFSTC Events.



Robert Gravani of Cornell University (center) met with Pattie McNiell and Edward Mather of the NFSTC after his seminar regarding Good Agricultural Practices.



Outreach

Edward Mather and Pattie McNeil of the NFSTC present Kristin Moretto of the MSU Student Food Bank with the collection from the NFSTC Trick-or-Treat.



No tricks, lots of treats!

A “thank you” to all who made donations to the MSU Student Food Bank via the 3rd annual NFSTC Trick-or-Treat on Oct. 29. This year a quintet of trick-or-treaters collected \$452.94 and several boxes of canned goods — an increase from last year’s drive. Specials thanks to *The School of Hospitality Business*, the *College of Veterinary Medicine* and the *Controller’s Office* for collecting canned goods through October.

High school initiates unique 8-day food safety curriculum

In November, Truman High School in Taylor introduced 9th- to 12th-graders to food safety education through an eight-day curriculum. Funding for the program came from the NFSTC-led Consumer Food Safety Mini-grant Program. Although there are several national examples of high-school level food safety lessons, many are geared toward a single activity or one-day lesson. The Truman team, however, expanded their curriculum from what started as a one-day lesson to eight 90-minute lessons. The Truman High program required students to take an active role in the lessons. Interviewing the school cook, monitoring handwashing practices in the restrooms, and composing an original food safety-themed music video were examples of student-driven projects that placed the food safety message in their hands. A survey conducted before and after the sessions showed an increase in Truman High students’ knowledge of proper food safety practices from 43 percent to 80 percent. In January, a follow-up survey will chart students’ adoption of proper behaviors. For more information on the curriculum, contact Trent Wakenight at 517-432-3100 or wakenigh@msu.edu

To get involved with NFSTC and local food safety outreach efforts, contact Trent Wakenight at 517-432-3100 or wakenigh@msu.edu

MSU is an affirmative-action,
equal-opportunity institution.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

For more information about
the National Food Safety &
Toxicology Center or to
change your newsletter
subscription, contact:
Kirsten Khire,
Director of Communications,
by phone: 517-432-3100,
fax: 517-432-2310, or email:
khirek@cvm.msu.edu

National
Food
Safety &
Toxicology
Center
National Food Safety & Toxicology Center
Michigan State University
165 Food Safety & Toxicology Building
East Lansing, MI 48824-1302
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED