

# The Chick Papers

A Monthly Newsletter from the Georgia Poultry Laboratory



December 2014

## The Oakwood Lab..... A Time to Say Goodbye

The Georgia Poultry Industry has a precious history of notable events dating back to the early 1900's and many successes are described in the list below. The construction and completion of the New Oakwood Lab in 1961 was among the highlights. At that time, Ernest Vandiver was the Governor of the State and John F. Kennedy was the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. Dr. Dank

Morris (chief veterinarian) and R.J. Lee (executive secretary) were co-executive directors of the Georgia Poultry Laboratory. The Oakwood Laboratory was the main testing lab serving 11 branch labs scattered over the state since 1961. The Oakwood Lab has been the home to many GPLN employees for most of our working careers. A number of employees retired from Oakwood Laboratory with more than 30 years of service to GPLN. Millions of antibody tests, thousands of bird necropsies, and tens of thousands of Salmonella tests comprise the history of testing at Oakwood Lab .

The cooperation, support, and communication offered to GPLN by the Oakwood community and city government has been tremendous and we appreciate the close working relation-

- 1924 Baby Chick Association
- 1935 NPIP
- 1946 GA Poultry Improvement Association
- 1956 First Laboratory in Gainesville
- 1961 New Laboratory in Oakwood
- 1975 Pullorum eradicated!
- Mycoplasma, Salmonella, AI testing
- 2014: New Laboratory in Gainesville!

ship GPLN has had with Oakwood over the last 53 years. GPLN will miss the Oakwood community and we want to thank each Oakwood resident, business, and government who had a part in shaping the Georgia Poultry Industry for more than 50 years.

**The New Lab :** December 5 (Friday) was the official moving date for the lab. The lab was closed to our customers for this moving day. GPLN had previously moved much of the non-critical equipment and supplies prior to the big move date of Dec. 5. Adams Transfer and Storage supplied an ample number of trucks, containers and personnel to get us relocated in a day, and the lab provided pizza and drinks for all GPLN staff and movers. It was a tremendous undertaking, but GPLN was successful in getting all equipment and supplies moved in preparation for the Monday (Dec. 8), new lab opening .day .

Since the move, the new Gainesville Lab hosted GPLN Friends and Family Night, a Christmas Party, TV and newspaper interviews, and a host of visitor tours. We will be more than glad to schedule a tour of the new facilities with any of our customers, colleagues, and acquaintances .Please call Len Chappell at 770-766-6819 (office) or 706-889-6225 (cell) if you would like to visit and tour.



The Oakwood Laboratory: The last day opened for business was Thursday, December 4, 2014.



Moving Items from the Oakwood Lab



Moving Automated Robotics System from the Oakwood Lab



New Gainesville Laboratory: First day of business was December 8, 2014



## GPLN Events:

- Christmas Season Celebrated at GPLN Via Party and Some Really Good Food:** On December 17, the GPLN staff assembled for the annual Christmas Party festivities. The lunch consisted of some great home cooking side dishes and turkey & ham furnished by the lab. Dr. Louise Dufour Zavala was presented a gift from the lab staff in appreciation of what she has done to get us a new laboratory. Each employee received a gift from "Secret Santa" and all had a good time. White elephant gifts were exchanged by many GPLN participants. A special thanks to Cristi Hunt and the Christmas party committee for helping with all the activities.



GPLN employees fellowship one with another and have some good food at Christmas Party

- GPLN Staff Help with Avian Influenza Workshop:** Dec. 10-11, Len Chappell assisted the NPIP Team in hosting the NPIP Avian Influenza Workshop at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center in Athens, Georgia. Len helped in the preparation and instruction for the wet lab exercises and presented a talk entitled "AI testing at GPLN".
- GPLN Host Friends and Family Night at the New Lab :** On December 17, GPLN opened the lab after hours to give GPLN employee family and friends a chance to view the new facility. The families had the opportunity to see a overall view of the lab from the mezzanine and also were allowed to go into the specific parts of the lab where their loved ones work on a daily basis. The lab provided finger foods and drinks for all our guests in the lobby of the lab. Approximately 100 people attended this viewing, including retired GPLN employees.
- The Gainesville Times Visits the New Lab for Feature Story:** On December 18, the Gainesville Times captured pictures and produced a videotape interview with Radford Murphy based on his reflections of working with the Georgia Poultry Laboratory for more than 50 years. On the same day, the Farm Monitor took many pictures of GPLN employees working in the new Lab for a future article about the new lab.



GPLN Staff greet family and friends during "Family and Friends Night"

### New poultry lab's operations smooth so far

By Jeff Gill

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POSTED: December 19, 2014 12:31 a.m.



SCOTT ROGERS/The Times  
Dr. Arun Kulkarni works at the new Georgia Poultry Lab's main office searching for possible pathogens.

The Georgia Poultry Laboratory is up and running in North Hall County, with ties mostly cut to its 50-year-old building in Oakwood.

"There have been no delays, no major hurdles, and everybody has a smile on their face," Executive Director Louise Dufour-Zavala said. "I'm just proud of making this transition just so smooth, from industry to my employees."

The lab had operated since the early 1960s out of a red-brick, single-story structure off Oakwood Road. The building began wearing out, with part of it condemned, prompting officials to begin

his reflections of working with the Georgia Poultry Laboratory for more than 50 years. On the same day, the Farm Monitor took many pictures of GPLN employees working in the new Lab for a future article about the new lab.

- NPIP Georgia Coordinator Explores New Opportunities:** Dr. Ben Johnson, the NPIP Georgia Coordinator for 7 years, will be leaving the Laboratory in early January to work for a prominent veterinary pharmaceutical company. Dr. Johnson had many responsibilities at GPLN including 1) NPIP: State Coordinator for NPIP, 2) Lab: Veterinarian Director for NPIP, 3) Overseer of the GPLN Wellness Program, 4) Director of the GPLN Biosafety Committee, 5) Coordinator for the GPLN/GDA Depopulation Team, and 6) responsible for the development of software to monitor submissions from companies participating in NPIP programs. One of his major accomplishments was the enhance testing of backyard flocks of which Georgia had previously done very little testing. Dr. Johnson presented many talks on NPIP Testing at GPLN and backyard flock seminars. He will be truly missed at GPLN.



Dr. Ben Johnson