

## Promoting the Georgia Poultry Industry to the Workforce of the Future

The Georgia Poultry Laboratory is committed to promoting the Georgia poultry industry to elementary, high school and college students throughout the state of Georgia. Whether it is live bird demonstrations at the annual Hall County Agriculture Day, presentations at local 4-H clubs throughout Georgia, or volunteering at "Poultry World" at the Georgia State National Fair, the Lab's commitment to teaching has never been stronger. The construction of the Georgia poultry industry diorama has been a catalyst to introduce the industry to young students. The future of the growing Georgia poultry industry is very bright, and there will always be a need for educated and well-trained workers. GPLN's efforts to expose students to the industry early in their lives will hopefully foster interest and guide them into the poultry industry in their future careers.

On March 2nd and 3rd, GPLN hosted two classes of 7th grade students from Radloff Middle School in Gwinnett County. The students' first stop was a tour of the poultry diorama, followed by illustrative presentations in Bacteriology and Virology. The students participated in egg candling demonstrations, biosecurity exercises and activities related to poultry genetics and live production in the poultry industry. The students wrote letters to describe their experiences at GPLN. Included below are two of those many letters:



Dear GPLN,

Thank you GPLN for letting us go to your Lab and seeing how you keep the chickens healthy and how you take care of any diseases or viruses that the chicken might have. My favorite part of the field trip was when we got to see the train station and how every building was important there. One thing I learned is that there is a lot of chicken meat produced each day, a lot of eggs and there are two types of chickens which are meat type chickens and egg type chickens which each have different houses they go to. Some thing that I connected to that we learned in the class is when they were talking about 11 different types of chickens but are technically the same, I was thinking about finches and how we learned there are different types with different beaks but are actually all from the same finche but evolved differently. Thank you again GPLN for letting us go.

Sincerely,  
Alison Castro

3/01/17

Dear GPLN,  
Our team really appreciates that you saved us the opportunity to go in for a visit. I enjoyed how everything we saw was steam related.

During our visit one of the many things that grabbed my attention was the model of the poultry system. I liked that it was in great detail. My favorite part of the model was the big boat. I was really impressed when I heard that it took almost a year to build.

Another thing I enjoyed was the bacteria lesson. I learned that bacteria needs water, heat, and food in order to survive. I didn't know that bacteria needed water!

Once again thank you for an amazing trip! It was really amusing to see the many things you have like the robot that has not made a single mistake since 2000, and that's about 17 years old!

Sincerely,  
Anett

## Tours and Visitors

- March 1-2: Radloff Middle School workshop and tour
- March 3: PTAC meeting
- March 6: UGA Agriculture and Environmental Science student tour
- March 16: International Trade Representatives tour
- March 27: University of North Georgia Poultry Science student tour
- March 31: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College tour



UNG Poultry Science students toured the lab.



Dr. Zavala explains the diorama to international trade representatives during their tour.



UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Science students toured the lab.

## Model Update

The poultry industry diorama is making fantastic progress! We have installed traffic lights, interior lights, fences and moving railroad crossing gates. Many buildings are now finished and weathered, which greatly contributes to the realistic appearance of the diorama. Many thanks to Bob and Halina Wheeler who have been hard at work making trees to place throughout the diorama.

If you have not seen the diorama yet, please stop by the lab to visit—you will not believe the progress!



A broiler farm with a train station in front.



A church with stained glass windows.



A layer complex demonstrates the litter drying process.



Well-known restaurants are nearing completion.



The feed mill, a service station and a restaurant.



Moving railroad crossing gates.

## GPLN Events



March 27: Dr. Zavala and Pat West visiting with Dr. Bohanan! The old Canton/Dalton team reunites!