March 6, 2009

TO: CALS Department Heads and Graduate Program Directors

From: Sam L. Pardue, Chair, GSPDW Planning Committee

SUBJECT: 23rd Annual Graduate Student Professional Development Workshop

The 23rd Annual Graduate Student Professional Development Workshop for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will be held on October 7-9, 2009, at the Aqueduct Conference Center, Chapel Hill, NC. The goal of this workshop is to provide advanced graduate students with professional skills and experiences beyond those normally obtained during their formal academic training. The workshop is designed to expose participants to many professional development issues including personal management, role of personality types, interviewing skills, stress management, ethics, and balancing personal and professional life. A copy of the program from last year is attached, and additional information can be obtained at www.cals.ncsu.edu/gspdw

The planning committee, consisting of Drs. Sam Pardue, Robert Evans, and Jim Flowers would like your assistance in selecting graduate student participants for this year. Each academic department should nominate two Ph.D. candidates and an alternate. Nominations are needed by April 24, 2009. The committee will invite 36 graduate students to participate in the workshop. We will hold two places for each department and will place the two nominees into these slots. Please make certain that the individuals nominated will participate and that they understand that they are expected to attend the entire program by staying at the Aqueduct Conference Center. If one of those nominated cannot participate, we will attempt to fill that slot with the department’s alternate.

The process by which the department selects its participants is at the discretion of the department; however, we strongly recommend that you consider the following criteria:

- Participants will be Ph.D. candidates who have been on campus for at least 1 year (preferably 2 years), with at least 1 year remaining for completion of the degree.

- Departments should consider enhancing the diversity of participants when making selections.

- Nominations should be submitted through the department head or the director of graduate studies.

- The college administration and the planning committee are interested in extending the experiences of participants to others in their respective departments. Thus, nominees should have good communication skills to enhance this process.
Please send names and full contact information for your two nominations and one alternate to me via email (sam_pardue@ncsu.edu) or via campus mail:

Sam L. Pardue
Department of Poultry Science
Box 7608
NC State Campus

If you have any questions, please contact me at 515-5540. Thank you for your assistance in providing this exciting and meaningful opportunity for our graduate students.

cc: Dean Johnny Wynne
Dr. Kenneth Esbenshade
Dr. Sam Pardue
Dr. Robert Evans
Dr. Jim Flowers
Ms. Marcy Bullock