



Horticulture Alumni Newsletter



Department of Horticulture
College of Agricultural Sciences

Issue No. 4, Fall 2007



Join us for the Centennial Celebration of the Department of Horticulture at Penn State

The Department of Horticulture will celebrate its first 100 years October 5 – 7, 2007. This will be a great time to visit with old friends, take in the 94th Hort Show, watch a Big 10 football game, and tour the Penn State Campus and the Rock Springs Research Farm.

Below is the tentative schedule of events, but registration information will be sent out electronically along with on-line registration material. Visit the web site for updated information at: <http://hort-centennial.psu.edu>.



Tunnel Town at the Horticulture Farm

Friday Evening October 5: Meet at Ag Progress Days (APD) site at Rock Springs for a Bon Fire and snacks. There will also be a family-friendly movie. Motel rooms will be limited because of the home football game, so camping will be available, so bring a tent or your RV.



Hintz Alumni Center

Saturday October 6: Tour the Hort Show at the Ag Arena and have a continental breakfast (transportation will be provided to and from the APD site). If you chose not to stay on campus for the game against Iowa, then return to APD for lunch and watch the game on big-screen TV. There will be activities for kids. Dr. Dick Craig will make a presentation on the *History of the Horticulture Department*. There will be a pig roast followed by the Annual Alumni Meeting for election of new officers plus other activities.



Annual Hort Show

Sunday October 7: Continental breakfast plus tours of the Horticulture Research Farm and tours of campus.

This will be that last year that the Horticulture Alumni Newsletter will be mailed as a hard copy. Starting in 2008 it will be mailed as an electronic document. If you wish to receive the electronic version next year, please send us your email address. Send an email to Erika Stover, ess9@psu.edu, and place Alumni Newsletter in the subject line. Visit the Horticulture Department at: <http://horticulture.psu.edu> and view the Alumni Newsletter at http://horticulture.psu.edu/news/alumni_newsletter/index.html

Welcome

Greetings from Happy Valley! I hope all our alumni and friends had a successful year and enjoyed the summer. Our intent with this newsletter is to bring you up to date on the activities in the Department of Horticulture during the past year, but I will limit this discussion to only the highlights.

The past year has been a busy and exciting year for the Department of Horticulture. The next two years will be a time of transition as we hope to fill positions vacated by recent retirements. Although it is always sad to see people retire, it gives us an opportunity to re-evaluate our teaching, extension, and research programs to position the department for the future. Last year the Landscape Contracting program had a strategic planning session involving representatives of the landscape, nursery, and tree care industries. Strengths and weaknesses of the program, as well as future directions, were identified. The resulting strategic plan is being used to justify new faculty positions. One goal of the plan is to hire an arboriculture instructor so we can offer a minor in arboriculture. The position is being funded again this year and we will continue to seek permanent funding so we can offer a minor in arboriculture. Through new faculty hires we hope to strengthen all three missions of the department.

Another project we will be working on during the next few years involves greenhouse renovation. Most of our greenhouses were built during the 1950s and have never had a major face lift. A committee involving faculty, county educators, and industry representatives developed a renovation plan and we are very hopeful that we will receive approval for installing new temperature control systems and for upgrading the electrical capacity in most of the greenhouses. Another opportunity involves the Arboretum at Penn State. After many years the university has obtained a major gift to get the arboretum started. Mr. Charles Smith recently committed \$10 million dollars to install an overlook pavilion, conserva-

tory terrace, event lawn, rose garden, and horticultural demonstration area. This should all be completed within about a year and the Horticulture Department will be determining how we can participate in the project to further our goals in education, research, and outreach. To learn more about the arboretum, you can visit the web site at <http://www.arboretum.psu.edu>.

Finally, 2007 marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Horticulture Department at Penn State. We are planning a weekend of celebration October 5-7 and we hope many of you will be able to join us. This will be a great opportunity to take in the Hort Show, visit with old friends, tour the research farm, greenhouses and campus, see a Big 10 football game against Iowa, and meet current department members and students and well as retired faculty members. The article on the front page provides many of the details and registration information will be coming shortly.

For more information about the department, check out our we site at <http://horticulture.psu.edu>

*-Rich Marini
Department Head*

Hort Alumni Update

Take a minute and think about your time here at Penn State. Think about the good times and bad, the great friends you made, the faculty and of course the campus itself. With the Department's upcoming 100 year celebration, I keep wondering about what other Hort Alumni remember about their experiences here.

For me, so much has changed in the 16 years since I graduated (wow that makes me feel old!!!). I've lost contact with a few friends, met so many new ones as I've attended horticulture events over the years and even have a PSU Horticulture Alumnus as my administrator. And then there is campus. It has changed so much over the years that sometimes I have a hard time remembering what it was like when I was here as a student. So many new buildings!!!

The 100 year reunion celebration should be a great time to reminisce about the good old days and also see what is new in and around campus. The committee has been working hard to develop a great weekend of activities. Hope to see you there! And also do not forget to visit the Hort Show while you are here ... it should be spectacular.

Alumni in the news! If you have received your July/August edition of the Penn Stater, take a closer look at Tina Mays section at the front of the magazine. Our own Hort Graduate Alan Petravich is pictured as he was giving a talk at Longwood Gardens during the City Lights tour on June 10th. Alan is a senior gardener in research at the Gardens.

The past year has been very quiet for the Hort Alumni Group. We did not teach any classes, but did make corsages for graduates at the fall and spring graduation luncheon and provided support at Ag Progress Days. Our 2007 Scholarship Recipients are Kimberly Oellerich, HORT, Matamoras, PA and Stephanie Lenhart, HORT, Irwin, PA

*-Mary Wodecki-Ricard
Hort Alumni President*

PENN STATE TAKE 5TH AT PLANET COMPETITION AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Penn State Landscape Contracting and Horticulture students were well represented this year at the PLANET (Professional Landcare Network) Student Career Days held March 29-April 1. Thanks to support from the College of Agricultural Sciences, the Penn State Horticulture Club, ValleyCrest Companies, Anewalt's Landscape Contracting, and Scott's Landscaping, 42 students and 5 faculty traveled to Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI and competed against 55 colleges and universities from across the country. In addition to the 25 competitive events, students participated in a career fair attended by 106 landscape contracting companies from across the nation, and attended workshops

and seminars sponsored by leaders in the green industry. For the second year in a row, the Penn State team finished in the top ten, bringing home a best-ever fifth place award. Five students also received \$1000 scholarships from PLANET for their scholastic and extracurricular achievements.

Landscape Contracting and Horticulture students who received top awards include:

Team events:

First Place Maintenance Equipment Operation - Jay Bell and Eric Kobb

First Place Wood Construction
-Kabel Kellogg and Buddy Lyman

Second Place Paver Installation
-Nick Kish and Dan Klimas

Individual events
First Place Business Management
-Nikos Phelps

Second Place Estimating and Bidding
-Melissa Cox

Second Place Exterior Landscape Design
-Zach Hammaker

Scholarship recipients
Jeffrey Erb, Sonia Erb, Julie Harr, Jamie Love, Zach Hammaker

In addition, Evan Stearns won a chain saw for his skill in saw maintenance.

The Penn State contingent was greeted by many Landscape Contracting alumni who were representing companies from Baltimore to Arizona. Their presence inspired our students and helped to create an exceptionally strong sense of "Penn State Pride".

Students are already getting excited about Student Career Days 2008, which will take place next March in Atlanta, GA.

Landscape Contracting 2006 Fall Field Trip

-Dan Stearns, Professor of Landscape Contracting; J. Franklin Styer Professor of Horticultural Botany

On October 27 and 28, forty juniors and seniors in Landscape Contracting participated in the annual Landscape Contracting Fall Field Trip. The group traveled to the Baltimore/Washington metropolitan area, with the first stop at Outside Unlimited, a large nursery and contracting firm located in Hampstead, MD. HORT grad Steffanie Gannon ('06) and LSCPE grad Chris Powers ('06) served as hosts. The next visit was with Bob Jackson Landscaping, where the group toured three spectacular homes in Caves Valley, a private golf community in Owings Mills, MD. The first day was completed by a tour of the Baltimore facilities of RAR Outdoor Services, where students also participated in exercises to demonstrate advantages of Lean Management techniques.



Day two of the trip started in Fort Washington, MD with a visit to Denison Landscaping. LSCPE grads John Kunkle ('06) and Adam Hecht ('05) hosted tours of facilities and of a nearby project that will be the second largest privately funded construction project in the country. Following a short bus ride, the group then toured the National Arboretum before heading to Homestead Gardens, the largest single-location garden center east of the Mississippi. The last stop on the trip was at Foxborough Nursery in

Street, MD. This family operation (including Andrew Thompson, LSCPE '06) has an amazing collection of rare and unusual plants.

The annual Fall Field Trip exposes students to a variety of businesses and gives them a glimpse of how public gardens are maintained. The learning is continuous as discussions on the bus fill the time between stops. It gives the landscape contracting program and the host companies a chance to build relationships that greatly benefit both. It is also an excellent opportunity for students, faculty, and alumni to interact outside the walls of Tyson Building. Students were joined on the trip by Larry Kuhns, Mike Reinert, and Dan Stearns.

Landscape Contracting Students Improve the Landscape Around Ag Administration Building

-Dan Stearns, Professor of Landscape Contracting; J. Franklin Styer Professor of Horticultural Botany

Following last year's success with the Phase I landscape renovation of Tyson Building, Students in Hort 464 (Landscape Construction I) and Hort 368 (Planting Design) tackled Ag Admin's landscape during Spring semester 2007. The project got its start when residents of Ag Admin saw how great Tyson looked and envisioned a similar environment around their own building.

The project included construction of a paved terrace in front of the main entrance, complete with benches and planters. A new bike parking pad was also built on the north side of the building to encourage the use of pedal power on campus. Planting included an attractive collection of trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and perennials, including red buckeyes, yews, hollies, boxwoods, and liri-ope. Work extended along Curtin Road to tie in with plantings at the new Creamery building. This year's project was not without challenges. Snow and relentless rain slowed progress at times, encounters with underground utilities pro-

vided some unplanned delays, and continuous pedestrian traffic on the walkways surrounding the project made it interesting at times. The students overcame all obstacles to complete the work on time, on budget.

With renovated landscaping on both sides of Curtin Road, and with the planned improvements to Borland Lab (the old Creamery building) in progress, Ag Hill is looking fine. We hope to do more work on Phases II and III of Tyson Building next spring. Come by Tyson on your next visit to campus and see what we have accomplished!

Landscape Contracting and Horticulture Students Study Gardens in Italy

-Dan Stearns, Professor of Landscape Contracting; J. Franklin Styer Professor of Horticultural Botany

Eighteen students from the Department of Horticulture spent two weeks in May visiting a selection of classic gardens in Italy. All were enrolled in a Spring semester course in which they researched the history and highlights of gardens and public spaces in and around Florence and Rome. As the semester was ending, excitement was building for the “field trip” part of the course. The group met in Philadelphia for an evening flight to Rome via London. Upon arrival, the tired but upbeat entourage boarded a bus for a four-day stay in Florence. Experiences at the Boboli Gardens and Villa Gamberaia combined with explorations of the city’s piazzas and streets to expand everyone’s definition of landscaping. Visits to historical sites including the famous Uffizi Gallery, the Academia and the Duomo were also highlights. Side trips to Pisa (the tower is still leaning), San Gimignano and Bagnaia offered glimpses of medieval living and the fabulous renaissance gardens at Villa Lante.

There was plenty to experience in Rome, plenty of walking each day. Ancient Roman ruins vied with the Vatican for top billing. The Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon, and the many piazzas offered opportunities for studying people,



their movements, and their habits. Park-like Villa Borgeese with its Borgeese Gallery offered some welcome respite from mid-day heat. A trip to Tivoli to visit the impressive gardens and water features of Villa d’Este was another highlight of the trip, as was a trip to Ostia Antica, complete with an opportunity to wade (or swim) in the Mediterranean.

Six students missed their graduation ceremony to attend the trip. In celebration, they had their own brief ceremony on our bus at the exact time their classmates were graduating at University Park. Later on, they posed for pictures dressed in a Penn State cap and gown in front of the Colosseum. That’s a graduation to remember!

The trip provided a wonderful opportunity to bring all of that Larch 060 knowledge to life. The group saw landscapes that have withstood centuries, even millennia, with only minor changes. Memories of “Italy 2007” will undoubtedly remain with these students throughout their lives.



Green Roof Research at Penn State

-Rob Berghage, Associate Professor of Horticulture

In the last 7 years the Penn State Center for Green Roof Research has been leading the way to greener cities in North America. The Center is a partnership between faculty from Horticulture, Agricultural and Biological Engineering the Department of Architectural Engineering at Penn State, University Park and The Environmental Pollution Control Program at Penn State , Harrisburg. The center was founded by former director, Dr. David Beattie, who retired last year. The mission of the Center is to characterize and quantify the performance of green roofs and to promote their use through education and outreach. The center is unique, in that it is the only location in North America with small test green roofs on replicated buildings. Some of the cutting edge research done at the center has included studies in storm water runoff quality and quantity, building energy consumption and insulation value, media chemical and physical characteristics, plant selection, plant water use, waterproofing resistance to root penetration, and drainage materials. Three graduate students have completed their MS thesis working on green roof projects and there are currently 5 MS and 1 Ph.D. students working on green roof projects. We have taught a green roof technologies class, the first in the nation, for 3 years with students from many disciplines participating.



Cellar roof during construction, November 2006

Last year we were successful in getting 2 large-commercial scale green roofs installed on campus, the first on the new Forest Resources building. This roof is an outstanding example of the state of the art in commercial roofs. The second green roof is on the Root Cellar (Veggie-Cellar) behind Tyson. A \$50,000 cooperative project between the Center and Penn State OPP (Office of the Physical Plant) this roof is an example of a low cost, minimal input green roof designed to not only demonstrate the potential for lower cost construction but also to be used as an open-air classroom and laboratory for students and faculty working on green roofs. The root cellar is a large concrete structure that was built in the 1920's. When it was built it was one of the only buildings on this end of campus. It is currently used for storage and to house the Cellar Market, where produce from the Horticulture farm is sold every Wednesday afternoon during the summer. The new green roof is approximately 4500 ft² and is divided into 6 equal sections. Runoff from each section drains through a series of drainage pipes into the back of the building where a flow monitoring system is being installed. Four of the roof sections were covered with 4 inches of a simple roof media, formulated from a local gravel and compost from the University compost project. The other 2 sections have 8 inches of the same media. Students from the green roof technologies class produced all the plants and planted most of the roof in the spring of 2007. Many of the plants are typical green roof plants but some are new untested species and cultivars. The plant community on the roof will be followed over time and new plants will be added to continue the process of selecting and evaluating plants for use on green roofs. The plants are growing and covering the roof quickly this summer. We hope to have near complete coverage by the end of the growing season.



Planting the cellar roof, May 2007

Thanks at least in part to the efforts of the Horticulture Department, the University now has plans for 3 additional green roofs to be constructed in the next few years. The new student health services building and the new Dickinson Law School building, both currently under construction will have green roofs. The new wing to the Carlisle campus of the Dickinson Law School is also planned to have a green roof. When all these are finished Penn State will not only be a leader in green roof research, but will also be a leader in institutional application and use of green roofs with nearly an acre of green roofs.



COMMENCEMENT

Horticulture B.S. Degree Fall 2006

Julie Flinchbaugh, Jeffrey Kochem, Ezekiel Seivers, James Shelby, Hans Tornquist

Horticulture Minor Fall 2006

Chido Mpofo, Christopher Palandro, Curtis Runyan, Benjamin Wenk

Landscape Contracting B.S. Degree Fall 2006

Adam Davis, Erik Josephson, Jennifer Kelley, Martin Kinnaman, Jeffrey Kochem, Mark Lukachinsky, Derek Matthews, Jonathan Milewski, Alex Peck, Frank Ravella, Curtis Runyan, Steven Schaffer, Zachary Smith, Brian Stauffer

Horticulture M. Agr. Degree Spring 2007

Mike McCoy, Advisor Dan Stearns

Horticulture B.S. Degree Spring 2007

Jennifer Bixler, Joseph Gerber, Luke Hallman, Carolyn Knoop, Laura Larrick, Kelly Martin, Catherine Moehle, Paul Readly, Christopher Reid, Kathryn Sanford

Horticulture Minor Spring 2007

Jennifer Bechtel, Jeffrey Erb, Kaitlin Feeney, Matthew Fleming, Denise Gardner, John Higgins, Bristol Konjoian, Nichole Mendinsky, Jessica Peachy

Landscape Contracting B.S. Degree Spring 2007

Sharon Barbour, Nicole Davis, Nicholas Duffy, Jeffrey Erb, Kaitlin Feeney, Matthew Fleming, Benjamin Grace, Benjamin Graham, Brandon Greenleaf, Julie Harr, Timothy Janda, Derrick Jantzi, Kabel Kellogg, Nicholas Kish, Daniel Klimas, Matthew Kruk, Jamie Love, John Lyman, Bruno Morganheira, James Mulkey, Kyle Narsavage, Nikos Phelps, Nichole Shemansky, Aaron Smith, Travis Walters

Horticulture Ph. D. Degree Summer 2007

Taryn Bauerle, Advisor David Eissenstat

Floral Judging and Design Team

The PSU floral quality judging and design team went to Oklahoma to compete in the 66th National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality and Design Competition held March 28-30. Penn State has a long history of participating in this contest sponsored by Pi Alpha Xi and the American Floral Endowment. The Judging team placed seventh overall and Patti Stefanick placed fifth in the individual overall judging. Karlee Curolata took second in the round centerpiece design competition. Team members this year included Patti Stefanick, HORT, Joe Noll, HORT, and Karlee Curolata.

2007-2008 Horticulture Department

Scholarships and Awards

The Horticulture Department awarded \$125,251 to 86 undergraduate students in the for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Scholarship and award recipients are chosen by unit scholarship committees as well as a college-wide committee on the basis of their qualifications and donor-established guidelines.

The amount awarded is listed next to the name of the scholarship. The notation immediately following a student's name is an abbreviation for the students major (HORT - Horticulture, LSCPE - Landscape Contracting).

If you wish to make a contribution towards any of these scholarships, or are considering establishing a new scholarship, contact: Denise Connelly, Assistant to the Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State, 140 Ag Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802; phone (814) 865-0113; email - dcc6@psu.edu.

Acorn Alcinda Award in Landscape

Jay Bell, LSCPE, Greensburg, PA

Aden & Merna Francis Scholarship

David Frey, HORT, East Greenville, PA

Bartlett Tree Foundation

Devin Kennedy, LSCPE, Titusville, FL
Matthew Hood, LSCPE, Ligonier, PA

Patrick Bennett Scholarship

Jeffrey Krezo, LSCPE, State College, PA

Brickman Scholarship

Christopher Bunch, LSCPE, Philadelphia, PA
Devin Kennedy, LSCPE, Titusville, FL

Fred Brown Scholarship

Johanna Mirinda, HORT, Lewisburg, PA
Shallin Munksgard, HORT, Warren, PA

Jordane Fairchild, HORT, Watsonstown, PA
Patricia Stefanick, HORT, Furlong, PA
Patrick Cocchiarella, HORT, Oxford, CT
Emma Childs, HORT, Taneytown, MD
Lee Proctor, HORT, Southbury, CT

Wilbur & Mary Cherry Scholarship

Shaun Carlson, HORT, Austin, PA

Oliver Christman Scholarship

Nathan Cooper, LSCPE, Martinsburg, PA
Jaison Van Horn, LSCPE, Gibsonia, PA
Christopher Snyder, LSCPE, New Columbia, PA
Adam Scheletsky, LSCPE, Baden, PA
Kenneth Savella, LSCPE, Eagleville, PA
Michael McCallips, LSCPE, State College, PA
David Mattern, LSCPE, Dornsife, PA
Eric Kobb, LSCPE, Media, PA
Todd Klopp, LSCPE, Lititz, PA
Aaron Householder, LSCPE, Hagerstown, MD
Christopher Brett, LSCPE, Johnstown, PA
Shaun Greenland, LSCPE, PA Furnace, PA
Sarah Dickert, LSCPE, Millersville, PA
June Cunningham, LSCPE, State College, PA
Anthony Capotosto, LSCPE, Friendsville, PA
Toni McLaughlin, LSCPE, New Eagle, PA

David Curwen Memorial Award

Kimberly Oellerich, HORT, Matamoras, PA

Ester J. Darrow Scholarship

Johanna Mirinda, HORT, Lewisburg, PA

Holcomb Family Scholarship in Hort

Stephanie Lenhart, HORT, Irwin, PA

Catherine Imbt Scholarship

Leah Ruth, HORT, Lancaster, PA
Owen Bellis, HORT, Salisbury, MD

Joseph M. Johnson Scholarship

Stephanie Lenhart, HORT, Irwin, PA
Kristie Basta, HORT, Chagrin Falls, OH

Joseph Noll, HORT, Pittsburgh, PA

Klopp Award

Zachery Hammaker, LSCPE, Duncannon, PA

Robert P. Meahl Scholarship

Zachery Hammaker, LSCPE, Duncannon, PA

J. Lupton & Eva Scott Mecartney

Xiu Lin, HORT, Philadelphia, PA
Dustin Peffer, HORT, Robertsdale, PA
Fred Gouker, HORT, Hanover, PA
Hope Pfleger, HORT, Oley, PA
Randall Ross, HORT, Sunbury, PA
Gregory Hobbs, HORT, Bellevue, PA
Bethany Carlisle, HORT, Cheswick, PA
Jennifer McConnell, HORT, New Castle, PA
Matt Urian, HORT, Bethel Park, PA
Jane Dahms, HORT, Dupont, PA
Jonelle Carruthers, HORT, Clearfield, PA
Stephen Stubna, HORT, Oakdale, PA
Luke Puglia, HORT, North Wales, PA
Kristin Prommel, HORT, Newton, NJ
Angel Lyons, HORT, Reynoldsville, PA
Samantha Lorenzetti, HORT, Carbondale, PA

PA Agronomic Society

Jessica Lenker, HORT, Blain, PA

Penn State Hort Club Scholarship

Kimberly Oellerich, HORT, Matamoras, PA
Benjamin Keim, HORT, Reading, PA

Penn State Hort Alumni Group

Kimberly Oellerich, HORT, Matamoras, PA
Stephanie Lenhart, HORT, Irwin, PA

Radley Run Garden Club Scholarship

Matthew Frocillo, LSCPE, West Chester, PA

Max & Esther Sestili St. Memorial Award

Matthew Frocillo, LSCPE, West Chester, PA

George W. Sherlock Student Award

Thomas Jastrem, LSCPE, Phoenixville, PA
Curtis Frederick, HORT, Sugarloaf, PA
Kelby Taylor, HORT, Birdsboro, PA

Karl Quimby, HORT, Bethesda, MD

Robert Lamar Skeath

Michael Hansbury, LSCPE, Frackville, PA
Gregory Crews, LSCPE, Watsonstown, PA
Benjamin Juarez, LSCPE, Reading, PA
Lynn Galloway, LSCPE, Boyertown, PA
Sonia Erb, LSCPE, Bethel, PA

Harry W. Skinner Scholarship

James Wyble, HORT, Philipsburg, PA
Matt Urian, HORT, Bethel Park, PA
Bradley Klinedinst, LSCPE, York, PA
Kacee Wheeland, HORT, Port Matilda, PA

Joseph & Sharon Strite Scholarship

Benjamin Keim, HORT, Reading, PA

J. Franklin & Agnes T. Styer Scholarship

Elizabeth Eagan, LSCPE, State College, PA
Ryan Kiehl, LSCPE, Marienbille, PA
Kevin Kindig, LSCPE, West Chester, PA
Derek Macko, LSCPE, South Park, PA
Matthew Oberlies, LSCPE, Blue Bell, PA
Ronnie Pacchioli, LSCPE, Easton, PA
Ashley Silsby, LSCPE, Genesee, PA
Justin Weis, LSCPE, Nazareth, PA
Nicholas Metz, LSCPE, Cecil, PA
Kristen Mowery, LSCPE, Lewistown, PA
Ruth Dunlevy, LSCPE, Telford, PA
Christopher Edmiston, LSCPE, Tyrone, PA
Stephens Burns, LSCPE, Jacobus, PA
Bret Calderwood, LSCPE, Hollidaysburg, PA
Joe Curley, LSCPE, Mechanicsburg, PA
Paul Dixon, LSCPE, Clarksburg, PA
Jane Dahms, HORT, Dupont, PA
Brandon Stolz, HORT, Robeson, PA
Joseph Peterson, LSCPE, Wyalusing, PA

Darrell E. Walker Scholarship

Melissa Mazurkewicz, HORT, Lititz, PA

John H. Weinberger Scholarship

James Gilliland, LSCPE, Curwensville, PA

Awards and Recognitions

Students

Jordane Fairchild, HORT, was one of 14 students selected to receive a \$500 Internship Award for completed internships. Her employer was County Market Nursery located in Mechanisburg, PA.

Congratulations to **Shallin Munksgard**, HORT, for being selected along with 13 other undergraduate students to be an Ag Advocate for 2007-2008. Ag Advocates are a critical element for the college's recruiting and retention efforts.

Jonie Carruthers, LSCPE, was honored as a nominee for the Outstanding Adult Student Award at a reception for the Vice President's Above & Beyond Award Ceremony for Student Leadership. Please congratulate Jonie when you see her.

Faculty

Mike Orzolek, Professor of Vegetable Crops, received recognition for 25 years of service to the Pennsylvania State University.

On March 24 the College held their second annual Ag Ball. Clubs and Individuals were reconized for 2006-2007, **Dan Stearns**, Professor of Landscape Contracting, was named "Advisor of the Year" for advising the Hort Club.

Dennis Decoteau, Professor of Horticulture and Plant Ecosystem Health, was presented with the American Society of Plasiculture's Pioneer Award at the group's 33rd National Ag Plastics Congress.

Mike Orzolek, Professor of Vegetable Crops, was presented with the 2007 Tomato Industry Award at the Tomato Award Luncheon at the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in February.

Dave Eissenstat, Professor of Woody Plant Physiology, was named Coordinator of the Intercollege Graduate Program in Ecology

Kathy Kelley, Assistant Professor of Horticultural Marketing and Business Managment, was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure

Alumni News

Where Are They Now?

Class of 1963

James Poorbaugh, B. S. HORT; M.S.Ag Econ 65 North Port, FL

Retired after 40 years with Monrovia Nursery Co. in California. Now resides in Florida playing golf, traveling, and enjoying life.

Class of 1997

Christopsher Colitas, B.S. LSCPE Bethlehem, PA

President of Design/Build Landscape Co., Married Debbie in 2001 and has two children.

Class of 1998

Alexandra (Turner) Dadio, B.S. HORT Perkasio, PA

Resides in Perkasio with husband and three children

Class of 1999

Kari (Robinson) Mazzaferro, B.S. HORT St. Albans, WV

Michigan State 2002, M.S. HORT

Married in Spring of 2003, Son Alekzander born Feb. 2004. Currently working as Ag and Natural Resource extension agent in Kananwha Co., WV.

Class of 2000

Jeff Leindecker, B.S. HORT Pittsburgh, PA

Working as a garden center manager for Leisure Lawn Service, Inc. in Cranberry Twp., PA

Class of 2002

Adrienne (Donald) Hojnowski, B.S. HORT Cherry Hill, NJ

M.S. in public Horticulture from the university of Delaware, Longwood Graduate Program.

Married Andrew in April 2006; Recently started as a staff gardener at the Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia.

“Hiking Through Horticulture”

Hort Show 2007



The theme for Horticulture Show 2007 is “Hiking Through Horticulture.” The design is set up to represent the Appalachian Trail. A major goal is to use native plant species throughout the show and to educate the public on their benefits and use in the landscape.

A quick walkthrough of this year’s show brings to light its major themes. Upon entering the show an invasive plant learning platform is the first area. Here we have examples of invasive plants and their disadvantages to the environment. We can educate people on invasive threats to the landscape and control methods for dealing with these species.

The next feature on the path is the ericaceous plant section which highlights acid-loving shrubs and perennials. Continuing on the path the next element is a water fall and wetland area. In this area we plan to incorporate plant material that tolerates wet-feet. Moving along our next area is a campsite, the campsite will not only serve as an aesthetic element, but here we plan to have the kid’s area, where there will be activities for them to enjoy.

Next along our trail is a section that concerns the environment and sustainable living. We have included an Audubon garden, a green roof, and a vegetable and herb garden. It is our goal for people to learn about gardening in ways that will help conserve the environment and bring benefit to them.

After one has completed their hike through our Appalachian Trail, the last section of the show is a town area. Here we plan to showcase ornamental trees, shrubs, and perennials. This is the only area that will consist of non-native species. Here we also plan to have the produce and cut-flower sales area. This concludes our brief walkthrough of the show, and the Horticulture club is very excited to build and show off what we have planned for this year.

*-The Designers
Melissa Cox,
Zach Hammaker, LSCPE
Bruno Morganheira, LSCPE*

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

Ninety Landscape Contracting students participated in the 2006 Day of Caring, building upon their commitment to community service while helping to improve a variety of landscapes in the Centre Region. Two-thirds of the students worked at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, where they planted trees and removed invasive plants such as oriental honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and privet. Stumps were treated to inhibit re-growth. Other student teams planted flower bulbs at the “Welcome to State College” sign on East College Avenue, at the University Park Airport, and beneath the trees on Old Main lawn. The students were enrolled in Hort 410w, Issues in Landscape Contracting, and Hort 269, Residential Landscape Planning. The work crews were assisted by Larry Kuhns, Tracy Harpster, Martin McGann, and Dan Stearns.

International Activities

Mexico: In 2004, the College of Agricultural Sciences established a formal relationship with the University of Guanajuato, Mexico, with the objectives of rebuilding Extension in the State of Guanajuato. On December 1, 2004, The Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development (ALO), in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Mexico, awarded a grant under the U.S.-Mexico Training, Internships, Exchanges, and Scholarships (TIES) Initiative to The Pennsylvania State University/Universidad de Guanajuato. The ALO support allows both universities to train Mexican graduate students in extension and applied research on the application of plasticulture techniques to boost rural incomes and protect the rural environment. The Department of Horticulture has hosted 5 Mexican graduate students during the past two years and they have returned to Mexico to complete their degrees. In May 2007, Dr. Manuel Collado, Dean of the Agricultural Science Institute, along with a group of five Mexican agricultural researchers visited Penn State for three days to explore areas

of common interest for future research. Grant proposals will be submitted to allow cooperative research, faculty exchanges, and training of graduate students.

China: To celebrate the 100th anniversary of a relationship between South China Agricultural University and Penn State University, Dr. Luo Shiming, former president of South China Agricultural University was the speaker at this year’s College commencement. Dr. Shiming spent two days in University Park to strengthen ties between the two universities. The Department of Horticulture has a relationship with the University and has trained several Chinese graduate students. President Spanier and President Chen of SCAU signed an agreement for further collaboration and inaugurated the joint lab of root biology. This will allow Chinese graduate students and faculty members to perform research at Penn State and to facilitate exchanges for graduate students and faculty members.

Puerto Rico: In April a group of department heads joined Dr. Marcos Fernandez, Associate Dean for Undergraduate studies, on a visit to the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (UPR-M) to sign a memorandum of understanding to facilitate exchanges and cooperative initiatives between the two universities in the area of teaching, research, and outreach. The Department of Horticulture has already participated in this program by hosting undergraduate students from UPR-M for a summer research experience. Hopefully some of these students will return as graduate students. The UPR-M is a Land Grant University and other opportunities for cooperative research and undergraduate teaching are being explored.

Italy: From May 1 to June 7, **Dave Eissenstat**, Professor of Woody Plant Physiology, and his wife, Brenda, lived in Bologna, Italy on a “mini-sabbatical”. David was awarded a fellowship from the University of Bologna, Institute for Advanced Studies that provided support for travel and housing. Dave worked on root



biology in apple and peach at the Faculty of Agriculture with Professor Massimo Tagliavini, an expert in tree fruit nutrition who also works in orchard ecosystem ecology. The Department of Fruit Tree and Woody Plant Sciences has one of the strongest fruit programs in the world, partly because of their excellent regional support. The Emilia-Romagna region of Italy is extremely fertile and a center for production of kiwi, peaches, nectarines, grapes, pears, sweet cherries and apples. Farms tend to be small, family owned and run, and planted with multiple crops so that the work load can be spread out over the seasons. This pattern of production also spreads out the risks due to weather (especially hail in the spring) and price fluctuations.

They also visited the Bolzano region, which is near Austria and has a strong German influence. Most of the farmers in the region speak German as their first language. This region is a key apple-growing area in Europe. The research station in Bolzano was extremely well equipped



and great source of pride for the local politicians.

Dave and Brenda made several sight-seeing excursions to Ravenna, Venice, Faenza and Ferrara. They also went hiking in Tuscany and in Cinque Terra. Italy has some absolutely gorgeous landscapes and a rich history and culture. Five weeks only allows one to scratch the surface.

The Penn State Master Gardener Program



The Master Gardener (MG) celebrated its 25th anniversary and is going through somewhat of a transition. In January 2006 Ms. Ginger Pryor was hired as the half-time

state coordinator. The MG program is a source of quality research-based horticultural information for the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Volunteers receive training and in return they volunteer to participate in outreach programs, such as staffing phone lines in county extension offices to respond to clients gardening questions, presenting seminars or working with local schools and area agencies, and supporting community efforts to reach underrepresented groups. There are MG programs in 57 Pennsylvania counties with more than 1,800 MG's and each year they volunteer more than 90,000 hours in their communities and reach more than 158,000 people. Some of the accomplishments for the Program this year include,

- Developing a strategic plan
- Experimented with delivering training sessions over the internet and this will be expanded this fall.
- Held a state-wide training session for county coordinators
- Held a state-wide in-service for all MG's
- Established a Sustainability Committee to develop short- and long-term strategies to finance the program without state funds.

To learn more about the Program or to become a Master Gardener, visit the following site: <http://hortweb.cas.psu.edu/extension/mg/mg.html>

Retirements

Larry Kuhns



Dr. Larry Kuhns retired at the end of March 2007 after 30 years of service to the Pennsylvania nursery industry and students at Penn State. Larry grew up in Pennsylvania and majored in General Agriculture at Penn State. After

graduate studies at the Ohio State University, Larry's dream of returning to Penn State materialized in 1977 when he was hired as Assistant Professor with a joint Extension/Research appointment and for 20 years he conducted educational programs for the nursery, landscape, and garden center industries, Christmas tree growers, and street tree managers. In 1998 he changed from an extension to a teaching appointment to develop the newly created landscape management option in the Landscape Contracting major. He taught courses on Landscape Establishment and Maintenance, Weed Control in Turf and Ornamentals, and Issues in Landscape Contracting. Larry has served the university, the nursery industry, and the Horticulture profession by volunteering his time to serve on many committees and as an Associate Editor. During his career Larry has received a number of awards, including the Kenneth Post Award for outstanding graduate student research in floriculture, ornamental and landscape horticulture presented by the American Society for Horticultural Science, the Mid-career Award from the Pennsylvania chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi, national honorary extension fraternity for excellence in developing and presenting extension education programs, and the Outstanding Extension Educator Award, presented by the American Society for Horticultural Science for excellence in developing and presenting extension education programs. The annual Penn State Horticulture Show was dedicated to Larry in 2006. Larry also coaches the boys and girls Rugby teams at State College Area High School. As an emeritus faculty mem-

ber, Larry will live in State College and continue some of his applied research and he will continue growing trees on his 40-acre Christmas Tree Farm and Nursery. To honor a long career of serving the nursery industry, the department has established the Larry Kuhns fund for extension and applied research excellence in landscape/nursery programs. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 to create a perpetual annual income devoted to the enhancement of extension and applied research in nursery crops.

Peter Ferretti



Dr. Pete Ferretti retired on December 31, 2006 after 37 years of service. He is a native Pennsylvanian and received his B.S. in Plant Breeding / Horticulture at PSU, then went to the Uni-

versity of Connecticut for a M.S. in Cytology Cytogenetics / Botany, and returned to PSU for a Ph.D. in Plant Nutrition / Plant Pathology. He was hired in 1969 by Dr. Darrell Walker with a 100% Extension appointment, split equally between small fruit and vegetable production for direct market growers. During his tenure at PSU, Pete has been involved with evaluation of specialty vegetable crops to identify varieties with characteristics desirable for home gardeners and direct marketers. He was involved in the horticulture gardens and served as an official All America Selection Vegetable Judge. For years he organized the vegetable displays at the Farm Show and is very involved with the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association. Pete has served as a session coordinator and as a participant in the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey. For his many contributions to the Pennsylvania Vegetable industry, Pete recently received a career award from the Pennsylvania Tomato Processors. Pete has also shared his expertise with other countries by traveling and consulting in Ukraine through the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs program. He also volunteers to serve on a number of committees

both on and off campus and recently participated in the LEAP program. We will miss Pete's culinary talents at department functions, but we wish Pete and his wife Sandy many years of health and happiness in retirement.

Horticulture Department Items for Sale



Please contact Tracey Harpster at 814-865-3190 or TLH8@psu.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 29-31, 2008	Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Conference Hershey, PA
February 12-14, 2008	2007 PLNA Conference State College, PA
February 13 & 14, 2008	2007 Christmas Tree Management Short Course State College, PA
March 2-9, 2008	Philadelphia Flower Show Philadelphia, PA
August 19-21, 2008	Ag Progress Days Rock Springs, PA

In Memoriam

Cyril B. Smith

Cyril B. Smith, 86, of Boalsburg, died Saturday, March 24, 2007, at Mount Nittany Medical Center. Born February 21, 1921, in Winnipeg, Canada, he was a son of the late Herbert G. and Lily McDowell Smith. On May 24, 1952, he married Marion Underwood, who survives at home. He graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Horticulture and earned a Ph.D. from Penn State University also in Horticulture. He was Professor Emeritus in Horticulture at Penn State, retiring in 1989. He was a member of the State College Presbyterian Church and a former member of Centre Squares and of the 50-50 Club. He was an avid supporter of PSU athletics. He and his wife, Marion, designed their home. He enjoyed woodworking, his flower and vegetable garden, and planted trees on his property. He skied at Tussey Mountain. He enjoyed classical music and played the violin. He attended and supported the Nittany Valley Symphony, Choral Society, and Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra concerts. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two sisters, Irene and Eva.

Published in the Centre Daily Times on 3/27/2007.

Frank J. McArdle

Frank J. McArdle, 87, passed away on July 2, 2007, in Venice, Florida. He is survived by Ruth, his wife of 60 years, one daughter, and three sons. During his tenure at Penn State he served on the USAID-AUD project which planned and established a land grant university in the state of Maharashtra, India. He worked in Horticulture from 1958-1975 before transferring to food science and retiring in 1980. He was a Co-Advisor for the Hort club from 1963-1966. He also was a veteran of World War II and held the rank of Senior Scientist in the Reserve U.S. Public Health Service.

Alumni News: We Want to Hear from You!

Please take a minute to share what has happened to you recently: new positions, promotions, advanced degree(s), births of children, professional recognitions, retirements, marriages, etc.

Mail to: Dept. of Horticulture, Attn: Alumni Newsletter, The Pennsylvania State University, 102 Tyson Building, University Park, PA 16802 or email hortpsu@psu.edu

Name _____

Class of 19/20 _____ Degree(s), Major _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone (____) _____

E-mail Address _____

Your news: new positions, recognitions, retirements, promotions, degree(s), births of children, marriages, etc

** This will be the last hard copy of this newsletter if you wish to receive the newsletter via email please email Erika Stover, ess9@psu.edu, and place Alumni newsletter electronically in the subject area. Thank you.**

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