



# RICH'S REFLECTION

Despite all that is going happening on campus right now, two issues have taken much of my time during the past month. One issue is related to federal funding for research and extension programs. In early November I attended the NC-140 technical committee meeting. This North-Central regional project was established in the late 1960s to evaluate apple rootstocks (Charles Heuser told me he was a charter member) and the project has grown to become international in scope. Following that meeting I had another meeting for the eXtension project I am involved with. During the meetings we had a phone conversation with Tom Bewick, the national program leader for Horticulture at the NIFA. We all know that congress is looking for places to cut the budget and they expect the USDA budget to be cut, but the SCRI has strong support from many members of congress. One of the reasons that we have support is because we can

demonstrate that our programs have impact; our programs improve people's lives. He stressed the importance of powerful impact statements that can be shared with politicians. A few days later I participated in a webinar on writing effective impact statements sponsored by ASHS. It was actually a very good session led by Linda Brewer, a technical writer with Oregon State University Cooperative Extension, and Tom Bewick. If you are interested, you can watch it at <https://connect.moo.umd.edu/p52694716/>. At the urging of Jonathan Moore, ASHS National Issues Consultant, our impact statements for SCRI projects are being posted to the ASHS website (<http://ashsmedia.org/?p=136>) and Jonathan is directing congressmen to read them. Just a few weeks ago we were required to write our experiment's station research reports and there is a section for impact. I realized that we do a very poor job

of stating impacts. One thing I learned is that impact statements are not intended for our colleagues, they are intended for politicians who decide how much funding we will get. They have no scientific background and they don't care if we publish scientific papers. They provide funding to colleges of agriculture because they expect the research with eventually improve the lives of our citizens. So when writing your impact statements next year, try to think of how your research results will improve the environment, enhance economic growth, create jobs, and improve the health and well-being of Pennsylvania citizens.

The second issue that has occupied my thinking is the department merger. The joint committee of the two groups has met twice and some of us attended each other's department meetings. Overall, I am very encouraged by the positive —Continued on Page 2—

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**Calendar of Events:**

- December 9—  
*Last Day of Classes*
- December 12-16—*Final Exams*
- December 17—  
*Commencement*
- December 23-  
January 2—  
*Christmas Break*

# Rich's Reflection (cont. from Page 1)

and cooperative attitudes of everyone involved.

I think there are some great opportunities for the new department to thrive. We will have a relatively large number of undergraduate (about 300) in the three majors. We will have a very strong Extension component and nearly half the county educators in the state will be affiliated with our department. We also have some strong areas of research. Although the two departments do many things differently, many of the things we do are similar and the makeup of our departments is similar with strong programs in all three missions. My conversations with department heads at other universities that are going through mergers indicate that about 12 to 18 months of planning is ideal before the units actually merge. We are only about 7 months away from the planned merger date, so we are behind where we should be. So we have a lot of work to do in a short time. The committee feels that we should have a full-day retreat to discuss some of the important issues. This should have been done last summer when people's schedules were a little less busy, but I hope you will make a serious effort to attend this session because it will be important for charting the course of our new department. Hopefully discussions concerning leadership for the new department will soon be initiated and the process can move at an accelerated rate.



## Landscape Contracting 2011 Fall Field Trip

On November 10-11 thirty students and five faculty members participated in the annual Landscape Contracting Fall Field Trip. The group benefited from visiting horticultural enterprises and public gardens located in Washington, DC and the surrounding areas. The first stop was at Merrifield Garden Center, an upscale retail center located in Gainesville, VA. The store manager talked in detail about his responsibilities and the company's commitment to customer service.

The group then traveled to Herndon, VA to visit Hidden Lane Landscape and Design, a design/build company catering to high-end residential clients. Owner Peter Murray showcased two nearby projects that displayed thoughtful design and detailing.

Although it rained during the tour of Dumbarton Oaks, spirits were high as we were led through the classic garden rooms by knowledgeable docents. Students were pleased to realize that they had studied this Beatrix Farrand design in their LARCH 060 class.

Although darkness arrived early, the Martin Luther King, Jr. and the FDR memorials were noted for their design, and for the messages they both imparted to visitors. The scale of the two iconic memorials was a change from the earlier landscapes.

Following an overnight stay in Alexandria, the group visited Denison Landscaping in Ft. Washington, MD. Alums Adam Davis ('06), Bill Cahill ('08), Mike Reifner ('10), and Vince Pollino ('10) put together a very informative tour with stations displaying the type of work they do.

Alumnus Craig Atkins ('98) led discussions at the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial. Craig, now a registered landscape architect, served as the designer and construction supervisor for the project. His stories about working with multiple clients (government commissions, the Pentagon, and families of the victims), meeting deadlines, and managing the logistics of the project kept the group engaged for over an hour.

The National Cathedral and its surrounding gardens suffered considerable damage from the August earthquake. Although the site was still closed to the public, Horticulturist Toni McLaughlin Kislear (LSCPE 2008) was able to arrange for a garden tour and a quick peek at the interior of the cathedral. Toni explained her role in maintaining the gardens for the enjoyment of visitors year round.

The final stop on the trip was at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, MD. It was an interesting time to view the public garden, as the staff was transitioning from summer displays to holiday mode. The garden also offered a contrast to the more formal Dumbarton Oaks.

The annual Fall Field Trip is designed to introduce students to a variety of landscape businesses and public gardens. Learning is continuous as lively discussions fill the time between stops. It is an excellent opportunity for students, faculty, and green industry representatives to interact outside the walls of Tyson Building. Joining students on the 2011 Fall Field Trip were faculty members Kathy Kelley, Martin McGann, Mike Mohney, Jim Sellmer, and Dan Stearns, and Ph.D candidate Margaret Hoffman.



**On the left, students enjoy a stroll on the grounds of the National Cathedral. On the right, students view a residential project designed and built by Hidden Lane Landscaping and Design.**

# Remaining 2011 Holidays

The Office of Human Resources announces the remaining 2011 holiday schedule.

## December/ January Holidays

This year, December 25th will fall on a Sunday, as will January 1st, 2012. The official University holidays, therefore, will be December 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30; and Monday, January 2.

University policies provide, however, that if a holiday falls on an employee's regularly scheduled day off, the employee receives another day off with pay to be used at another time. Thus, employees who normally do not work Sundays will receive a compensatory day off for the December 25 holiday.

Friday, December 23 is not a University holiday and offices ordinarily would be open that day.

However, in order to provide a generally more desirable and efficient application of time off, University offices and facilities except for essential services will be closed for this day as well. Therefore, the University will be closed from the end of normal operations on Thursday, December 22, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3.

The compensatory day earned for the Sunday, December 25 holiday will be used for the work absences on December 23 because of University offices and facilities not being open. This day closed, however, will not be an official University holiday. Employees in essential services who qualify for compensatory days but who must work December 23 will still have their compensatory day off for use at a later time.

Information about paycheck

distribution will be announced at a later date.

Questions regarding this holiday schedule should be directed to the Human Resource Services office at 814-863-3452.



## *Weather Day Guideline*

With the winter months and the "snow" season soon to arrive, you are reminded to review the provisions of Human Resources Guideline No. 10, "**Handling Weather Day Absences or Official University Closedowns Due to Weather Conditions**".

A key principle of the guideline is that the University does not give free time off for "weather day" absences, unless the President or the chief executive officer of a campus officially closes the facility. No one else may authorize free time off.

Please also review the provisions of HRG-10 with appropriate individuals in your area of responsibility. The Employee Relations Division is available to answer questions.

WPSU-FM will continue to provide information on class cancellations and office closings in times of inclement weather. WPSU-FM intends to provide more information, and more quickly, than the other media outlets.

## FALL DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

### Important Department Meeting with the Dean

**\*ALL FACULTY, STAFF, AND GRAD STUDENTS URGED TO ATTEND\***

**DECEMBER**  
Wednesday, December 14  
2 pm  
**108 Tyson**

### Tyson Building Now Has Wireless Internet

We're happy to announce that Tyson Building is now wireless!!

One request per IT, please turn off your wireless when you are docked (plugged into the network).

Follow the instructions below (PSU Wireless) for connection. Please also note that we are now VPN 1.0; you can download 2.0 any time before July 1, 2012 (instructions are also on the site).

<http://wireless.psu.edu/using.html>

Per Ag IT; if you have any problems with wireless, please put through a help ticket at the following link. Please keep in mind PSU Wireless website can answer most of your questions.

<http://agsci.psu.edu/it/help-request>

Also, we would like to give a big 'thank you' to Landscape Contracting; they funded the project for Tyson Building!!

Enjoy!



### LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING POLO SHIRTS

\$7.00

Landscape Contracting Sizes: Large  
and X-Large

\*\*Please come to 102 Tyson for  
purchase\*\*

# Congratulations!

**Congratulations Melissa Miller and Amy Hinkle! These Horticulture students tied for second place during the College of Ag Sciences' Ag Business Springboard Competition.**



## Dr. Charles Heuser's Retirement Party

Saturday, December 10, 2011

6:00 pm

Dr. Dennis & Chris Decoteau's  
Home

Please see Heather for  
additional information or to RSVP.

### \*IMPORTANT INFORMATION—Grants and Contracts Office\*

The Grants and Contracts office will be closed for the holiday break starting December 23<sup>rd</sup>, returning January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Any proposals with a due date between December 16<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup> will need to be in our office prior to close of business on December 15<sup>th</sup> in order to make sure we have sufficient time to process.

If you know of anything that will be due right after the break, please let us know as soon as possible.

We appreciate your help with our efforts to provide you with the best possible service.

## FALL 2011 Graduates (Undergraduate and Graduate)

Ten undergraduate students and four graduate students in the Department of Horticulture are scheduled to graduate on Saturday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. in the Bryce Jordan Center. Two students will be graduating with a B.S. in Horticulture and eight with a B.S. in Landscape Contracting. Please congratulate these students when you see them.

### **B.S. in Horticulture**

Jillian Hanelly  
Kristin Prommel

### **B.S. in Landscape Contracting**

Kenneth Heron  
Jenna Hicks  
Aaron Householder  
Tyler Johnson  
Kyle Riordan  
Derrick Stack  
Louis Vitko  
James Wyble



### **M.S. in Horticulture**

Katy Barlow—Brown  
Tracey Harpster—Sellmer  
Jon Johnson—Sellmer

### **Ph.D. in Horticulture**

Magalhaes Miguel—Lynch



## 25-Year Service Awards Ceremony

This is an invitation to attend a special reception on **Tuesday, December 6, at 2:00 p.m.** in *Ballroom C* at the Nittany Lion Inn to honor those individuals who have given 25 years of service to The Pennsylvania State University.

This year the following faculty and staff will be recognized:

*Debra Clemmer*

*Karen Dreibelbis*

*Karen S. Hack*

*Roger T. Koide*

*Jeff Metz*

*Thomas R. Palchak*

*Karen A. Thomas*

*A. J. Turgeon*

*Robert A. Dickerson*

*Marianne L. Fivek*

*Roy G. Knupp*

*Maria R. Long*

*Thomas B. Murphy*

*Ann M. Swinker*

*Heather G. Treaster*



The program is open to ALL faculty and staff in the College as well as family and friends of the recipients. The formal program will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. and will be followed by refreshments and a social hour.

We hope to have a big turnout to help us say "thank you" to the award recipients for their many years of dedicated service to the College and the University. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

## Blue and White Bi-Weekly Office Cleaning Schedule 2011

A new janitorial schedule is in place per OPP immediately. Cleaning of rooms will take place every other week, which includes dumping of trash cans. Janitorial will be on a blue/white week. Some floors get done on a blue week; others on a white week. The schedule is attached for the remainder of this year and will continue next year.

Also, please dump your trash the weeks you are not schedule to be cleaned. If it is overflowing, take it to the large trash can provided in the hallway. Thanks.

| November 2011 |       |       |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|               | Sun   | Mon   | Tue | Wed | Thr | Fri | Sat |
| White         | Oct30 | Oct31 | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   |
| Blue          | 6     | 7     | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| White         | 13    | 14    | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| Blue          | 20    | 21    | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| White         | 27    | 28    | 29  | 30  |     |     |     |

1-2-3rd floors  
Thru out the week  
Basement  
1-2-3rd floors  
Basement  
1-2-3rd floors

| December 2011 |       |       |       |       |     |     |     |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
|               | Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thr | Fri | Sat |
| White         | Nov27 | Nov28 | Nov29 | Nov30 | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| Blue          | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| White         | 11    | 12    | 13    | 14    | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| Blue          | 18    | 19    | 20    | 21    | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| White         | 25    | 26    | 27    | 28    | 29  | 30  |     |

1-2-3  
Basement  
1-2-3  
Basement  
1-2-3

Office Cleaning is now done bi-weekly. To help you determine which weeks to clean your offices, we have developed a Blue/White Office Cleaning Schedule.

- Here is a calendar for the remainder of 2011 with Blue and White weeks highlighted.
- Refer to your schedule to find out if your offices are cleaned on a BLUE or WHITE week.
- Check this calendar to make sure you are cleaning offices on the correct week.
- Contact your supervisor with questions.



### CHANGES IN KEYS/PARKING OFFICE

(115 AG ADMIN)

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

OFFICE WILL ONLY BE OPEN MONDAYS (1:30-3PM)  
AND FRIDAYS (9-10:30AM) UNTIL JAN 3, 2012!

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801; Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY.

# Department Birthdays

December 6—Don Smith  
December 9—Kathy Kelley  
December 14—Roger Koide  
December 18—Bill Lamont  
December 24—Roger Tharp  
December 24—Bonnie McDonald  
December 27—Rob Berghage  
December 28—Heather Read

