

DEPARTMENT, INDUSTRY SADDENED BY MORELOCK'S DEATH



Dr. Teddy Morelock

Dr. Teddy E. Morelock passed away on April 18, 2009. He joined the Department of Horticulture in 1974 as an Assistant Professor. He had B.S.A. and M.S. degrees in horticulture from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. in plant breeding and genetics from the University of Wisconsin. He joined the faculty as a vegetable crop extension specialist. After the retirement of Dr. John Bowers he took over the vegetable breeding position and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1978. He was promoted to Professor in 1988 and was honored for his work and contributions to the University of Arkansas, the Division of Agriculture and the State of Arkansas by his appointment to University Professor in 2007. He served as major professor to 10 Ph.D. and 21 M.S. students and was a committee member for over 60 Ph.D. and M.S. students. David Hensley, department head said, "Teddy's work was important. In spinach he improved yield, form, nutri-

tional components and solved the problem of some of the worst diseases. His genetics are represented in most of the spinach grown for fresh and processing use in the United States today. He released 13 selections of Southernpeas, 6 spinach, as well as turnip, collards, mustards and other vegetables. Additionally he holds 3 utility patents for lines of cowpea with natural herbicide resistance." Hensley added, "He was passionate about Arkansas, the University of Arkansas, peas and spinach, plant breeding, cooking, barbeque, his late wife Jane, his daughter Leslie, his granddaughter Hailey, Black Angus cattle, and his friends. I will miss him terribly."

The family request that memorials be made to the Dr. Teddy E. Morelock Memorial Scholarship, University of Arkansas, Dale Bumpers College; attention; Development Office, E108 AFLS Building, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

Alumni, Service and Friend Reception

The Department honored alumni, service and friends at the 12th annual awards program at the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House last fall. Honorees were Carlos Fear, 2008 Distinguished Alumnus; Dennis Motes, 2008 Distinguished Service; and Pat Berger, 2008 Distinguished Friend.

Dr. Fear earned his master's degree in horticulture at the U of A in 1977. He is now director of plant breeding and variety development for Berry Gardens Plans in the The United Kingdom. John R. Clark introduced Fear and presented him with his award.

Dennis Motes received his master's degree in horticulture in 1978 at the U of A. He has been director of the Division of Agriculture's

Vegetable Research Station at Kibler for thirty-five years and is a recipient of the John W. White Team Research Award. His introduction and presentation was made by Teddy Morelock.

Pat Berger is sports turf manager for men's athletics at the U of A. He has been with the U of A since 2001. His work with the department's turf grass team has strengthened the relationship between the department and men's athletics. Berger's program offers internships for horticulture students and jobs after graduation. His "turf" has provided outdoor classrooms for horticulture department students. Aaron Patton introduced Berger and presented him with his award.



Above: Carlos Fear, Dennis Motes and Pat Berger were honored by department as distinguished Alumnus, Service and Friend.

Faculty, Staff and Student Notes

- **Jon Trappe, Will Jellicorse** and **Jay Richards** won awards for their research presentations at the annual Crop Science Society of America meeting in Houston. There were 28 posters and 39 oral papers in the graduate student competition.

In the graduate students poster competition Trappe placed first with a poster titled "Successful bermudagrass overseeding is dependent on species selection and pre-plant cultivation technique." Jellicorse's third place poster was titled "Dormant seeding bermudagrass into an overseeded ryegrass turf." Richards placed first in the graduate student oral competition with a paper on "Putting green mowing frequency and height and rolling effects on ball roll distance."

- **Alisha Ruple** placed first in the Gamma Sigma Delta Student Research Competition with her oral presentation of "Evaluation of Fertility in Floricane- and Primocane-Fruiting Blackberry (*Rubus L. ssp.*) Genotypes." The research was done by Ruple, John R. Clark and M. Elena Garcia. Gamma Sigma Delta is the honor society of agriculture. The University of Arkansas chapter is the Arkansas Chapter.
- The Department Turf Bowl team coached by **Jon Trappe**, Turf Program Technician, placed seventh out of 83 teams at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Turf Bowl competition in New Orleans. Team members included **Miles Carlson, Brian Cornett, Scott Wasser** and **Emma White**. The competition is a written exam created by university professors and industry professionals and is designed to challenge the student's

knowledge of turf science and golf course management. Material included identification of soils, seed, grasses, insects, and weeds. Competition covered mathematics, plant physiology, growth and development, soil fertility, and business. This is the second year a team from the University of Arkansas has competed. Last year's team placed seventeenth.

- Faculty attending the Southern Region American Society of Horticultural Scientists in Atlanta were **Dave Hensley, Garry McDonald, Teddy Morelock, Elena Garcia,** and **John R. Clark**. Graduate students, **Alisha Ruple** and **Christopher Vincent** competed in the J.B. Edmond Graduate Student Paper competition. Undergraduate students attending were **Joseph O'Neill, Shana Ricks, Keisha Smallwood** and **Jamie Evans**. Dr. Morelock was award the Julian C. Miller, Sr. Distinguished Research Award. Horticulture Club members O'Neill, Ricks, Smallwood and Evans placed first in the J. Benton Storey Fruit, Vegetable and Nuts Team competition. Ricks placed second in the individual Fruit, Vegetable and Nuts competition. Morelock and McDonald were coaches for the undergraduate team.
- **Jon Trappe** was selected as one of the scholarship winners of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Student Essay Contest. Trappe earned second place for his paper "Implications of Genetically Modified Turfgrasses".

The contest is open to undergraduate or graduate students who are pursuing degrees in any field related to golf course management.

Plant Science Course Exchange Helps Solve Curricula Problems

Problems facing the plant science curricula are being addressed by the creation of Alliance for Cooperative Course Exchange in the Plant Sciences (ACCEPTS). A \$500,000 grant funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Higher Education Challenge has been awarded to the ACCEPTS program. Other participating institutions are Louisiana State University, Oklahoma State University, and Mississippi State University. The grant was funded because of the following problems facing plant science curricula: lack of teaching positions, conversion of teaching positions to research positions, under-enrolled courses, need for a specific class dictating position description, and lack of teaching resources to meet needs. These problems were addressed by education professionals led by U of A team Mike Evans, associate professor,

and Donna Graham, associate dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences, coming together with representatives of the other institutions, to brainstorm and work out the details with each campus. Registrars, financial officers, continuing education and distance education specialists from each institution were included in the discussions.

The program will begin the Fall 2009 semester and will begin with eight courses, two of which will be taught at the U of A. Mike Evans will teach a greenhouse management class. Elena Garcia, fruit extension specialist, and Curt Rom, professor, will teach a course on organic and sustainable agriculture. Method of delivery of each course will to be determined by the teaching institution.



Above: Keisha Smallwood, right, Horticulture Club treasurer, takes money from customers at the 2009 Horticulture Club Plant Sale. The sale is an annual event sponsored by the Club. Funds raised by the sale are used for undergraduate student travel and book scholarships.

Arkansas HORTICULTURE *News*

A bi-annual newsletter from the Department of Horticulture

ARKANSAS HORTICULTURE is a bi-annual newsletter for alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the Department of Horticulture at the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, and the UA Division of Agriculture.

Dr. David Hensley
Marilyn McCord

Department Head
Editor

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<http://bumperscollege.uark.edu/>
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Students Inducted into Honor Society

Twelve students were inducted into the Omicron Chapter of Pi Alpha Xi, the National Honor Society of Horticulture, at the end of the spring semester. Pi Alpha Xi has more than 35 chapters nationwide. The Omicron Chapter is the first and only chapter in Arkansas. The following students were honored for their high academic performance and as leaders among their peers: Atasuko Akabane, Lauren Airola, Karen Moss, Jay Richards, Shana Ricks, Alisha Ruppel, Elmer Salazar, Paul Sandefur, Stephen Steward, Jon Trappe, Scott Wasser, and Emma White. This was Omicron Chapters' fourth class of honorees.

Seminar Class Produces Variety of Topics, Prepares Students

Students enrolled in the weekly Horticulture Seminar class receive one credit hour per semester. Seminar is a required course for graduate students and is attended by faculty, staff and, undergraduate students.

The 2008-09 Seminar Class Instructor Dr. Doug Karcher said, "The purpose of seminar is to broaden the students' horizons, provide experience in professional presentations before a scientific audience. It is viewed by our faculty as a key professional activity. It also serves to inform other members of the Horticulture Department about the research being conducted elsewhere in the department." Faculty often give extra credit to students for attending a seminar when the topic is related to their course material. Presentations are required from enrolled graduate students and from undergraduates who have recently completed an

internship. Additional speakers are invited by the seminar instructor and may include departmental faculty members or speakers from outside our department or from the University community. The department head assigns the seminar instructor for an academic year from the department teaching faculty and is done on a rotating basis. Brad Murphy will be the instructor the 2009-10 school year. This year there were sixteen undergraduate internship presentations, fourteen graduate seminars, and 3 faculty presentations. Topics such as "Coffee, Society and Power in Latin America", "Chasing the Dragon: The Role of Poppies and Opium in Human Societies", "Cacao and Rituals in Mesoamerica: The Hidden Language of Chocolate" were presented from speakers outside the department.

Butterfly Bush Varieties Released



Two new varieties of Buddleja, "Orange Sceptre" and "Winter Waterfall", have been released by Dr. John Lindstrom. These releases are a result from a breeding program that began in 1999. Buddleja is also known as butterfly bushes because their blooms and nectar attract butterflies.

"Orange Sceptre" has unique orange blooms. This is a new color in Buddleja and it attracts hummingbirds as well as butterflies. It has an upright and open growth habit and can reach heights of more than 8 feet. Each flower cluster produces 15-24 flowers that are orange when open. It flowers well into fall.

"Winter Waterfall" has a spreading, open growth habit and reach a height of about 10 feet. It produces clusters of white flowers in drooping panicles and bloom from November through March.

Both plants tolerate dry soils but grow best in moist, well-drained soil and prefer neutral pH. They grow best in full sun.

These varieties are Lindstrom's second and third Buddleja releases. The first is named "Asia Moon". "Asia Moon" is a symmetrical round shrub with light purple flowers. It is useful in landscaping and has an extended flowering stage

Left: Plant breeder Jon Lindstrom developed two new Buddleja (butterfly bushes) that have been released by the U of A. Lindstrom is show with the new release "Orange Sceptre".

Arkansas Turfgrass Report 2008 Posted to Web

Research Series 568: Arkansas Turfgrass Report 2008 is now posted to the web. Editors of the report are turfgrass faculty Mike Richardson, Doug Karcher and Aaron Patton. The Arkansas Turfgrass Report is a Research Series that is published annually by the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and features significant findings made by turfgrass scientists over the past year. "Although this publication primarily summarizes findings from the research program, it also highlights advancements in teaching and extension programs, as well as significant issues that affect the industry as a whole," stated Patton. He added, "It is our desire that

this publication will keep our stakeholders abreast of significant changes and advancements that affect our industry. Mike, Doug and I are proud of this installment of the Arkansas Turfgrass Report, which includes 33 papers from faculty, staff, and graduate students. These papers are posted to the web and linked below for your use. We hope that this publication will be of value to all persons with an interest in the Arkansas green industry."

Access the full report at:
<http://turf.uark.edu/research/reports.html>

College, Departmental Activities Enlighten Future Students

by Marilyn McCord

Recruiting quality students is a major goal of the Department and the Bumpers College. The Department and the Bumpers College participate cooperatively in a number of activities to educate students, teachers, counselors, and parents of the applied sciences in agriculture. "Exploring Your World Through Science" is a program sponsored by the Bumpers College and is held in several locations throughout the state during the school year. It is a hands-on workshop for high school juniors and seniors who plan to attend college.

Participants are chosen by their science teachers. Ashley Harris, recruiter for the Bumpers College said, "our purpose in sponsoring this event is to engage students by exploring science in their world and illustrate science degree options available to bright, young Arkansas students through the Bumpers College."

Fall is an important time to recruit high school seniors. Some haven't made up their minds whether or not to attend college, some of those who have decided to attend college have yet to take the ACT test, and some have not decided on which college to attend. Each fall the department participates in the Bumpers College sponsored College Career Day. The Career Day gives students and their parents the opportunity to visit the U of A campus. Many students from Arkansas and other states may be interested in the U of A but have never visited the campus or the city of Fayetteville. At this event, students learn about the cost of college, scholarship opportunities, financial aid, global studies, housing, majors and minors, and answers to other questions they may have. There are breakout sessions so that students and their parents can meet with represen-



Above: "What is a GoodApple?" was the title of the hands-on activity led by Program Technician Jason McAfee, as part of a recruiting event held by the Bumpers College to encourage college bound high school students to think about the applied sciences offered in the field of agriculture.

tatives of various departments in the College. These sessions explore required classes, internships, and career opportunities. Campus and housing tours are also available on that day.

This spring the University of Arkansas Extension Service and the Bumpers College hosted Bumpers College Family Nights. Through the Extension Service, 4-H groups were invited to attend College Nights. A total of forty-nine students attended the events held in Bentonville, Huntsville, Russellville, Fayetteville, Conway, Harrison, Mountain Home and Van Buren. The sessions were

open to high school students and their families. Discussion was major interest areas, opportunities for careers, financial concerns and introduction of U of A representatives. An Alumnus speaker from each area gave a talk on how his/her time at the U of A Bumpers College had affected their lives and prepared them for their careers.

Future students have many organized opportunities to visit campus throughout the year by attending events sponsored by the U of A Office of Admissions. The Department participates in many University of Arkansas recruiting activities, junior college transfer fairs, high school college fairs and county-wide college fairs. Not only do these activities enlighten students about the different college and university choices, they provide students with information about scholarship deadlines, financial aid plans and other facets of going to college.

If you know of anyone interested in pursuing a degree in horticulture, please have them contact Marilyn McCord, 479-575-3793 or mmccord@uark.edu. We encourage students and their parents to visit our department.

Spring 2009 Horticulture Department Graduates

Cody Howard
Clinton McNutt
Sharon Morgan
Sarah Pierson

Tim Rogers
Courtney Sidwell
Stephen Steward
Kaci Welch



UREL #09-145



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Left: Heather Friedrich, Program Technician, gives fifth grade students a lesson on the history of apples. The Department hosted students K through 5 from Leverett Elementary School at the Agricultural Experiment Station as part of the Apple Seeds, Inc. Apples in the Classroom healthy eating program. Apple Seeds, Inc. is a non-profit organization that emphasis teaching nutrition and good eating habits.