



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS
DALE BUMPERS COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURAL, FOOD
& LIFE SCIENCES

Arkansas HORTICULTURE News

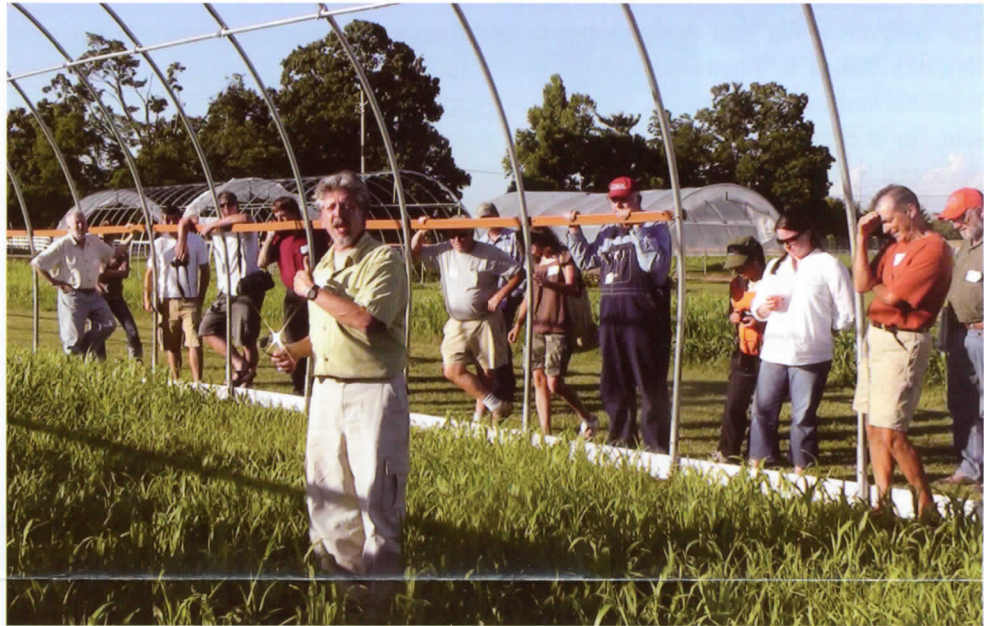
A bi-annual newsletter from the Department of Horticulture

Volume 14, Number 1, 2010

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Student Chosen as College Ambassador

Senior horticulture student Danilo Pfunaptche was chosen to represent the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences as a student Ambassador. Chosen from a pool of applicants, ambassadors for the Bumpers College work with both on-campus and off-campus recruiting activities. He is the first College Ambassador from Horticulture. As representatives of the College, they introduce the benefits of the Bumpers College to prospective students, parents, and alumni. Pfunaptche transferred to the U of A from Coffeyville Community College in Coffeyville, Kansas. He is an international student from Cameroon.



Curt Rom gives a tour of newly constructed high tunnels at the Arkansas Agricultural Research and Extension Center as part of the High Tunnel Production workshop held for growers.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORKSHOPS EDUCATE GROWERS

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service sponsored several different workshops this summer for growers of specialty crops. Both workshops were hosted by Extension Specialist Elena Garcia.

A high tunnel production workshop was held for growers interested in high tunnels for season extension and improvement of their specialty crops. Growers from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri joined University specialists, grower presenters and manufacturing representatives for an afternoon workshop, barbeque dinner and tour of newly constructed high tunnels at the research farm. Topics covered by professionals and growers were fruit and vegetable production in high tunnels, the economics of high tunnel production, construction and styles of high tunnels,

and construction methods.

A one-day workshop, 'Enhancing Food Safety of Directly Marketed Specialty Crops', was held in four locations around the state for specialty crops producers who directly market to consumers. Advanced knowledge of food safety practices on the farm is essential to prevent food-borne outbreaks and to maintain trust between growers and consumers. Growers adopting food safety plans will result in higher consumer confidence in the safety of their locally produced fruits and vegetables.

The Cooperative Extension Service is a part of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. It has offices in all 75 Arkansas counties. The faculty and staff provide educational programs and research based information to the people of Arkansas.



Program Technician Josh Summerford gives a talk at the Turfgrass Field Day held in August at the U of A Agricultural Research and Extension Station. Field day provides those in the turf and landscape industries to hear the latest up-to-date information about new products and research studies. Tours were available for those in the lawn care and landscaping industry as well as those in golf and sports turf. After lunch, pesticide recertification training was offered.

Spinach Conference and Manuscript Dedicated to Teddy Morelock

The T.E. Morelock International Spinach Conference was dedicated and named in memory of plant breeder and University Professor Teddy Morelock who died in April 2009. Companies that grow much of the world's spinach had representatives at the conference hosted by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. Presentations were given by university and industry scientists from six states and The Netherlands. The Conference was held at the University of Arkansas Agricultural Research Station in Fayetteville and at the Division of Agriculture Vegetable Research Station near Alma. David Hensley, department head, said, "most of the spinach grown in the United States has genetic traits developed by Morelock and colleagues, including resistance to some of the worst plant diseases of spinach."

Participant Jerry Lee, representing McCall Farms in Effingham, South Carolina, came to the conference as a first time participant. Asked why he came Lee said, "I came to find out about new varieties and new herbicide techniques." McCall Farms is a canner of southern vegetables and is a competitor of Allen Canning Company in Siloam Springs.

Growers, canners, and seed companies from ten states, The United Kingdom and The Netherlands were represented at the conference.

Also recently published and dedicated to Morelock is the manuscript *A History of the Wintergarden Spinach Industry: 1918-2008*. The manuscript, sponsored by the Texas Wintergarden Spinach Producers Board, was authored by Drs. Frank J. Dainello and Morelock.

The dedication page reads "for the past 20 years Dr. Morelock was the only public spinach breeder in the United States. Without his breeding efforts it is doubtful if spinach would have remained a profitable crop in Texas. His untimely death is a serious blow to those who knew him as well as to our industry. Unfortunately his death occurred before this manuscript was published. He will be sorely missed."

The Texas Wintergarden is the area formed by a triangle drawn from San Antonio on the northeast down to Laredo at the south up to De Rio

at the northwest and back to San Antonio. Spinach is a cool season, short day crop that thrives best in well drained clay loam soils and with a long growing season. The Wintergarden area meets all these criteria.



A new tree, made possible through a donation from the 2009 International Spinach Conference, was planted in the Plant Science Garden in memory of University Professor Teddy Morelock. Faculty, staff and students planted the memorial tree in the Plant Science Garden in the raised planter on the Northeast corner of the Plant Sciences Building. The tree is a Carolina Silverbell—*Halesia Carolina*. Native to the Southeast, the tree will grow about 30 feet tall and 20 feet wide. It blooms in late April to May and has white bell-shaped flowers.

Undergraduates Awarded Scholarships ...from Arkansas Flower and Garden Show



Joseph O'Neill and Shana Ricks attended the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show in Little Rock to receive their scholarships. They are pictured with Arkansas Flower and Garden Show president, Dick Blankenbeker.

Horticulture students from the University of Arkansas were awarded statewide scholarships given by the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show. The scholarships were presented at the annual Arkansas Flower and Garden Show held in Little Rock in February.

Shana Ricks and Joseph O'Neill were awarded two of the three statewide awards. Ricks is a senior horticulture student from Little Rock and O'Neill is a junior from Fayetteville. Both attended the Show. Ricks also attended a dinner at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion to honor Susie Coelho, host of HGTV's primetime series "Outdoor Spaces".

Industry Loses Pioneers

Department and industry leaders were saddened to learn that Distinguished Alumni of the department, Warren S. Barham and Cecil Bittle passed away this spring.

Barham received his BS degree from the U of A in 1941 and his PhD from Cornell University in 1950. He was a research associate and acting resident director at the U of A Fruit Experiment Station in Hope from 1945-46. He was head of the Horticulture Department at Texas A & M University and was on the faculty of North Carolina State University. As a vegetable breeder he made contributions in research of onions, tomatoes, watermelons, melons and cucumbers. He was a pioneer in the development of seedless watermelons. In 1985, he formed Barham Seeds, Inc. in California. Barham was chosen as a Distinguished Alumnus of the Department of Horticulture in 2002 and died April 16, 2010.

Bittle was chosen by the Department to receive its 2005 Distinguished Service Award. After completing his MS he served as the director of the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Hope. He retired from the Center in 1977. Before receiving his MS, he taught Vocational Agriculture at Imboden. He died May 5, 2010.

Reception Honoring the 2010 Distinguished Alumni and Friend

Thursday, October 14 from 3:30-5:00 at the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House on Razorback Road. Please contact Marilyn McCord, 479-575-3793, mmccord@uark.edu for additional information and parking instructions. Honorees will be announced at a later date!

Horticulture Students Represent the University of Arkansas at GCSAA

By Joey Young

Five University of Arkansas Horticulture students participated in the 16th annual Turf Bowl Competition at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) annual conference in San Diego, CA on February 11, 2010. The students were divided into two teams, a team of four and an individual who took the exam alone. Our team of four finished 11th and the individual student finished 26th out of 67 teams from universities throughout the country. The Turf Bowl competition is a written test that assesses the students' knowledge on a comprehensive range of turfgrass management subjects including: plant physiology, soils, mathematics, business, weeds, entomology, plant pathology, and turfgrass identification. Students also are required to write an essay response to one of four real world scenarios. The students' responses are then graded by superintendents from around the country that have knowledge on the selected subject area. In addition to taking the exam, the students also create contacts in the industry through a student-superintendent networking reception.

These students prepared for the Turf Bowl competition by enrolling in HORT 402V. This one-hour credit course requires students to meet once a week beginning in September to learn about each of the general subject areas tested on the exam. These students worked diligently each week completing numerous assignments and learning materials up until the point of participating in the exam.

The five students who represented the University of Arkansas are all Horticulture, Landscape, and Turf Science students in the Department of Horticulture. The students competing for the University of Arkansas were Nic Brouwer, Lee Gatlin, Scott Hendrickson, Nathan Tompkins,



Turf Bowl competitors were: Nathan Tompkins, Scott Wasser, Nic Brouwer, Scott Hendrickson, and Lee Gatlin.

and Scott Wasser. The students were coached by graduate students Jon Trappe and Joey Young.

The competition builds camaraderie among those competing, strengthens their knowledge of their career field, and builds industry contacts and networking skills. As this was a young team of competitors, the students are looking forward to next year's Turf Bowl Competition in Orlando, FL., where they plan on bringing continued recognition to the University of Arkansas Department of Horticulture.

Students Learn from ‘Real Experience’

Four undergraduate horticulture students and two professors from the University of Arkansas participated in a study abroad tour to China this summer. Faculty leaders Curt Rom and Jim Robbins accompanied students Katie Sozansky, Josh Dunn, Kathleen Airola and Joseph O’Neill on this ‘great adventure’, as described by O’Neill. This U of A study tour was in cooperation with Mississippi State University, University of Florida and six Chinese institutions. Mengmeng Gu, the program faculty leader from Mississippi State received her PhD in horticulture from the U of A. Robbins was her major professor. The primary focus of the study trip was to view and evaluate China’s use of season extension techniques.

The group visited the Chinese cities of Shanghai, Shougauang, Qingdao, and Beijing as well as other cities and villages. Trips to universities, research institutions, production companies, and markets offered students opportunities to directly experience and witness horticulture crops season extension



Students and faculty from the horticulture department and from horticulture departments at other universities spent part of their summer at a study abroad tour in China.

research, production, and marketing.

“The entire experience wasn’t just agricultural,” stated O’Neill. “Times were arranged for us to meet with Chinese students, we hiked the Great Wall, and toured monasteries

and markets. We were unleashed into all the nooks and crannies of China to get the full experience.”

Students received three credit hours for the study tour.

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Dr. David Hensley Department Head
Marilyn McCord Editor

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<http://hort.uark.edu/>

Honor Society Initiates New Members

The fifth class of honorees was initiated into the Omicron Chapter of Pi Alpha Xi. The organization is the National Honor Society of Horticulture and recognizes outstanding achievement by graduate and undergraduate horticulture students. New initiates are Stephanie Beeks, Maria Querico, Susan Frey, Joseph O’Neill, Joey Young, Dan Strunk and Danilo Pfunapctche. The Omicron Chapter was established at the University of Arkansas in April of 2006 and is the only chapter in Arkansas and has initiated more than sixty members. David Hensley, Department Head, is faculty advisor.



New initiates into Pi Alpha Xi are from left: Dan Strunk, Maria Querico, Joseph O’Neill, David Hensley, faculty advisor, Joey Young, and Susan Frey. Not pictured is Danilo Pfunapctche.

Tradition of Honoring "Its Best" Continues

Since 1997 the department has honored alumni, friends and those who have been of service to the department, the horticulture industry, and to horticulture in the state of Arkansas. The 2009 recipients were Dr. Teddy Morelock, Dr. Charles Murdoch, Dr. George Bradley and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Arkansas. They were honored at a reception held at the Janelle Y. Hembree House on the U of A campus.

The Distinguished Alumni honors went to Morelock and Murdoch. Morelock's was awarded posthumously. The award was accepted by his daughter Leslie Roy and granddaughter Hailey. Dr. James Moore made the introductions and presentation. Morelock was a vegetable crop breeder who developed varieties of southernpea, spinach, and mustard and turnip greens. He joined the horticulture department faculty in 1974 and served as major professor to 10 Ph.D and 21 M.S. students. His B.S.A. and M.S. degrees were from the University of Arkansas and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. Morelock's career work produced 13 released varieties of Southernpeas, 6 varieties of spinach as well as varieties of turnips, collards, mustards, and other vegetables. He died in April 2009.

Although Murdoch's degrees, B.S.A. '59, M.S. '60, were in agronomy, his career led him into turfgrass research and education. He serves as Emeritus Professor of Horticulture and Emeritus turfgrass specialist at the University of Hawaii. At the University of Hawaii he conducted research and developed



Recipients of the Department's Distinguished Awards are Dr. George Bradley, Leslie and Hailey Roy, accepting for Dr. Teddy Morelock, Lee McBurnett and Dr. Charles Murdoch.

recommendations for turfgrass management practices for the state of Hawaii where he taught turfgrass management. He advised seven Ph.D. students and 25 M.S. students. Murdoch lives in Hot Springs Village and is an adjunct professor of horticulture at the U of A. He served in the U.S. Navy. Aaron Patton introduced Murdoch and presented him with his award.

The Golf Course Superintendents

Association of Arkansas was recognized as the 2009 Distinguished Friend. The Association has consistently supported turfgrass research, education and extension programs at the U of A. The group has provided financial support for the construction of in-ground irrigation systems and research greens at the Arkansas Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Fayetteville. The Association was introduced by Mike Richardson with Lee McBurnett, BSA '02, secretary of the association to accept the award on behalf of the association.

George Bradley received the Distinguished Service Award. Bradley came to the U of A in 1955 after earning his B.S. in horticulture at the University of Delaware and his Ph.D at Cornell University. He remained at the U of A throughout his entire

career. He was department head from 1968-1991 and was known for bringing many outstanding faculty to the U of A who developed renowned research programs in fruit and vegetable crops, ornamental horticulture and forestry. He taught classes, advised M.S. students and conducted research on several crops important to the Arkansas processing industry. John R. Clark introduced Bradley and presented him with his award.

Congratulations Graduates!

Fall 2009 Graduates Spring and Summer 2010

Atsuko Akabane

Miles Carlson

Rebecca Barocco

Brian Cornett

Elizabeth Demaree

Adam Gates

Miles Jandrasevic

Matthew Martin

Paul Sandefur

Keisha Smallwood

Scott Wasser

Emma White



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Faculty, Staff and Student Notes

- The Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural Food and Life Sciences presented The Presidential Scholar award to **Joseph O'Neill**. This award is for the student with the highest grade point average after having earned at least 45 credit hours. O'Neill is a junior and past president of the Horticulture Club.
- Masters student, **Celina Gomez** placed first in the student competition at the Southern Region International Plant Producers Society meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi. Her paper was titled "Rooting of three ornamental plants in eight propagation substrates". Gomez's submitted paper was selected to be given as an oral presentation at the conference. Dr. Jim Robbins is her major advisor.
- **Chris Stiegler**, a May doctoral graduate of Dr. Mike Richardson, was awarded a postgraduate grant by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America as one of three winners of the Watson Fellowship Program. In August, Striegler began his job at Texas A&M as assistant professor of turfgrass science and ecology.
- **Aaron Patton**, former Turfgrass Extension Specialist at the University of Arkansas, has accepted a position at Purdue University as Assistant Professor and Turfgrass Extension Specialist. His duties at Purdue began in July.
- **Jon Lindstrom** was honored as a University Outstanding Faculty member at the Faculty Appreciation Banquet held in March.
- Recent graduate, **Scott Wasser** was chosen as the 2010 Outstanding Undergraduate student by the Horticulture, Landscape and Turfgrass Science faculty. **Celina Gomez** was chosen by the faculty as Outstanding Graduate student.
- Horticulture Club officers for the 2010-2011 school year are president, **Raven Bough**; vice president, **Will Harmon**; secretary-treasurer, **Cassidy McCants**; greenhouse managers, **Danilo Pfunapche** and **Josh Dunn**; web and newsletter, **Joseph O'Neill**.