



UNIVERSITY OF
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OF AGRICULTURAL, FOOD
& LIFE SCIENCES

Arkansas HORTICULTURE

UofA UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

A bi-annual newsletter from the Department of Horticulture

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News

ACCEPtS Program Big Boost for Students

The *Alliance for Cooperative Course Exchange in the Plant Sciences* (ACCEPtS) has broadened the number and choices of classes available to University of Arkansas horticulture students. By the end of the Spring 2011 semester, the program, which is the brainchild of Dr. Mike Evans, had served approximately 420 students with more than 1,000 credit hours earned.

ACCEPtS was initiated in the Fall 2009 semester with a grant for \$500,000 funded by a USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant. The grant was successful because problems facing plant science curricula in the southeast region: lack of teaching positions, conversion of teaching positions to research positions, under-enrolled courses, need for a specific class dictation position description, and lack of teaching resources to meet needs. Participating universities in the program are the University of Arkansas, Louisiana State University, Oklahoma State University and Mississippi State University.

Students who enroll in an ACCEPtS class take the course on-line. Classes offered for Fall 2011 semester are: Greenhouse Management (HORT 4703), taught by the University of Arkansas; Plant Growth and Development (HORT 601V), taught by Mississippi State University.

According to Evans, "starting this summer we will also offer continuing education classes for industry professionals in greenhouse management."

Evans runs the program. Because of the technology involved, he works closely with the University of Arkansas Global Campus.



From left, Vickie Caraway, Terry Delany and Dr. Roy Rom were honored as Distinguished Alumni and for Distinguished Service to the Department at a reception last fall.

AWARDS PRESENTED TO ALUMNI AND SERVICE RECIPIENTS

The Department of Horticulture honored its Distinguished Alumni and Service recipients with a reception at its 14th annual awards program held last fall. Distinguished Alumni awards went to **Vickie Caraway** and **Terry Delany**. **Dr. Roy Rom** was honored with the Distinguished Service Award.

Caraway, who received her BSA in 1977 from the University of Arkansas, grew up on a farm in Sidney, Arkansas. She moved to Hawaii in 1989 and has been the state botanist for the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources in Honolulu since 1999. She has more than 25 years experience in natural resource management and specializes in the eradication of invasive species and the preservation of rare and endangered native species. Among her many honors, she was selected as employer of the year at the State of Hawaii DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Caraway was introduced by Gerald Klingaman, Emeritus Professor.

Delany is founder and president of GroundServ, a full-service landscape management company. After receiving his BSA from the

University of Arkansas in 1995, he began the company, known then as Southeast Landscape Management Co., with a pickup truck, trailer and a lawnmower. Within six years the company was grossing more than \$1 million annually and today grosses more than \$2 million and employs more than 40 people. Delany also serves as a small business consultant. Emeritus Professor Al Einert introduced Delany and presented his award.

Roy Rom was recognized for his many years of service as a professor in the Department of Horticulture. After having several different jobs in his youth, Rom decided to attend graduate school to major in horticulture. He retired after 23 years as a scientist and teacher of horticulture at the University of Arkansas. Both his BS and PhD are from the University of Wisconsin. Rom served in the U.S. Army in World War II as an Air Corps trainer. After the war, he coached the Yale University lightweight crew team. He then worked in the millinery business. Rom established the Rom Family Apple Orchard in northwest Arkansas. Rom was introduced by his son Dr. Curt Rom who is also a Professor in the Department of Horticulture.

Congratulations Spring 2011 Graduates!!

Lauren Airola	Luke Laird
Jody Hedge	Jill Lehmann
Derek Hubbell	Ben McIntyre

Clark Recognized by Division of Agriculture

John R. Clark was recently honored by the Division of Agriculture by being chosen to receive the Spitze Land Grant University Faculty Award for Excellence. According to the description, the award recognizes meritorious and comprehensive scholarly performance in the areas of academic responsibility unique to the Land Grant mission: teaching and advising, research and publication, extension and public service, and participation in professional associations and faculty governance.

Clark has been the director of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture's fruit breeding program since the retirement of James N. Moore, former director of the program. His

blackberry varieties include the thornless blackberry and the first and only primocane-fruiting blackberries. Other fruits in the breeding program include peaches, grapes, nectarines, blueberries and muscadines.

Before being appointed to a faculty position in 1994, Clark was director of the Division of Agriculture's Fruit Substation at Clarksville from 1983 to 1994. He is a Fellow of the American Society for Horticultural Science and has served as president and chairman of the board for the Society.

The Division of Agriculture includes the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station. Mark Cochran has recently replaced Milo Shultz as Vice-President of Agriculture.



The sixth class of honorees was initiated into the Omicron Chapter of Pi Alpha Xi, the National Honor Society of Horticulture. Pictured from left are Morgan Gates, Raven Bough, Will Ritchie, and Jake Anderson.

National Society Names Carson Outstanding Extension Specialist

Ms. Janet Carson, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, was selected the 2010 Outstanding Extension Educator by the American Society of Horticultural Science (ASHS). She was presented the award in August 2010 at the annual conference of the ASHS in Palm Springs, CA.

Carson, an associate professor, works directly with the over 55 Master Gardener groups in the state. She trains county agents statewide through her role as extension agent and through her media programs. She writes one of the most pop-

ular weekly columns in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, contributes to Arkansas Gardening, and has been published in Fine Gardening. She also hosts a weekly call-in radio show.

With her work with the Master Gardeners, she has produced the Arkansas Master Gardener Handbook, the Arkansas Master Gardener Program Management Guide, the Arkansas Master Gardener Volunteer Manual and a series of CD's. She also authored Arkansas Gardening available at local bookstores.

Before Carson became an Extension Horticulture Specialist, she was a County Agent in Pulaski County. She received her BS and MS degrees from the University of Arkansas.

From the Department Head

This has been a productive year for the department. Our faculty published numerous journals, magazines, and news articles. Faculty and grad students presented posters/selected/invited papers at professional meetings regionally, nationally and internationally. Faculty have been successful in obtaining grants and industry support for research, teaching and extension efforts.

We are hoping to fill the vegetable breeding position vacated due to the untimely passing of Dr. Teddy Morelock. We have the support of the administration and the need for improved

selections of spinach and other vegetables to help solve problems for Arkansas and regional growers continues to expand. Growth in vegetable and fruit production has been significant in the past few years with much of this produce sold locally. Arkansas now has some 90 Farmers markets across the state, according to Dr. Craig Andersen.

We are also hoping to fill the Extension Turfgrass position vacated by Dr. Aaron Patton.

Student numbers continue to grow. We had 66 undergraduate students during the fall 2010 semester and have added 10 new students this spring. We have 11 graduate students.

Memorials

Members of the Department are saddened by the recent deaths of three individuals who have been a vital part of the department: Dr. Chris Stiegler, Mr. H.L. Hembree, and Ms. Margaret Secks.

Stiegler and his wife Jenny were killed in an automobile accident December 24, 2010. He received his Ph.D. in horticulture from the University of Arkansas in May 2010 and had just finished his first semester as a Soil and Crop Sciences faculty member at Texas A & M University. Stiegler and Jenny both received their BS and MS degrees from Oklahoma State University. Their infant daughter, Emily, survived the accident. Mike Richardson was his major professor.

Hembree died January 21, 2011. Because of his support to the Department and the University of Arkansas Vegetable Research Station at Kibler he was named the 1999 Distinguished Friend of the Department of Horticulture. At the University of Arkansas, he served as a member of the Board of Trustees, Razorback Foundation Board, Arkansas Alumni Association Board and National Development Council. He earned degrees from the University of Arkansas in business and law. He died January 21, 2011.

Secks received her M.S. from the University of Arkansas in 2001. She worked as a graduate assistant under Mike Richardson. After receiving her degree she worked in the department as a program technician with Doug Karcher and Brad Murphy. Her 1984 undergraduate degree was from Rutgers. She died September 5, 2010 in Springdale, AR

Outstanding Undergraduates Recognized

Luke Laird and Joseph O'Neill were chosen by the faculty as joint recipients of the Vaile-Watts and the Bumpers College Outstanding Seniors Recognition. Both O'Neill and Laird have received numerous other awards.

VAILE-WATTS AWARD

The Vaile-Watts award recognizes the outstanding horticulture senior who has achieved both in and outside the classroom. Consideration is made of grade point, classes taken, involvement in extra-curricular activities, and leadership.

The Vaile-Watts Award was created by the Horticulture Department in 1972. O'Neill and Laird are the 40th year of students to be recognized with the award. Dr. Vaile and Dr. Watts were long tenured faculty in the Department. Dr. Vaile was a faculty member in the department from 1936 to 1969. He taught fruit production and conducted research on grapes, strawberries and other small fruits. Watts served as a faculty member from 1927 to 1968. He was founder of the vegetable breeding program in the department with a focus on watermelons and tomatoes. He was also an active ornamental breeder developing cultivars of crepe myrtle, daffodils, and lilies. He served as Department Head from 1949-1968.



JOSEPH O'NEILL

The American Society of Horticulture Science (ASHS) named Joseph O'Neill as a 2011 ASHS Outstanding Undergraduate

Horticulture Student. O'Neill was one of nineteen students to receive this nation-wide recognition. Department faculty nominated him based

on academic achievements, leadership abilities, participation in campus clubs and activities, and service to the department. He is a member of Pi Alpha Xi National Honor Society of Horticulture, has served as president of the Horticulture Club, is a member of the U of A Honors College, and the Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture, Food and Life Sciences (DBCAFLS) Honors Program. He has been a member of the U of A DBCAFLS Dean's Advisory Board.

O'Neill was chosen to participate in a 2010 Horticulture Study Tour to China. This trip was described by O'Neill as 'a great adventure'. He accompanied three other students and Drs. Curt Rom and Jim Robbins from the University of Arkansas, along with students and faculty from Mississippi State University and the University of Florida on this Tour to view and evaluate China's use of season extension techniques.

Through the University of Arkansas Honors College, O'Neill found out about the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. The Center is an independent, nonprofit organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States and other countries to provide selected students challenging opportunities to work and learn in Washington, D.C. for academic credit. The program consisted of classes, lecture series, an internship, a personal community service project and creating a portfolio.

O'Neill performed his internship at CentriNia, a bilingual charter school where he worked in the garden and helped with fundraisers. His community service project was for the DC School Greening. The objective of his service project was to design and implement a program that helps the organization and has long term benefits. The Washington Center is not an academic institution that issues grades for performance while participating so a portfolio, of your experiences is created

to take back to your university for credit. O'Neill obtained six hours of credit while participating in the program. He will graduate at the end of Fall 2011 semester and is from Fayetteville.



LUKE LAIRD

Laird, who is from Gardner, Kansas received his B.S. in Horticulture in the spring of 2011. He is currently a graduate student working with Dr.

Doug Karcher. The summer of 2010, Laird had an internship with the Northwest Arkansas Naturals at Arvest Ballpark in Springdale. During the time of his internship the field was awarded Professional Baseball Field of the Year based on the maintenance of the field. This honor is awarded by the SportsTurf Managers Association.

He chose to attend the University of Arkansas to be a member of the track team. A javelin thrower, Laird won the SEC javelin title in 2008. That year he was honored by being in Sports Illustrated's 'Faces in the Crowd'. He currently holds the third best javelin throw in Arkansas history and finished twentieth in the 2008 World Junior Championships.

The Brandon Burlsworth Scholar-Athlete Award was presented to Laird at the end of spring semester. The award is based on community service, character, academic and athletic achievements. Burlsworth was a former Razorback football player who life was cut short by a tragic accident after the graduated from the U of A. He was a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee for three years and was the chairman of the Community Service Committee. He also made the SEC Academic Honor Roll from 2008-2010.

Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame Inductees

Teddy Morelock was one of five persons inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame. Morelock, who was inducted posthumously, died in April of 2009. He was a premier vegetable breeder and a professor in the Department of Horticulture,

Landscape and Turfgrass Sciences for thirty-five years. Morelock's daughter, Leslie Roye said, "I am grateful my father is recognized for his accomplishments. It means a lot to my family. He was a rather modest person, but I think he would be pleased."

Also inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame were four other men who spent their lives advancing agriculture in Arkansas as well as

community and economic development. In addition to Morelock, the inductees were Don Alexander of Bryant; Jerry Hall of Damascus; Hugh McClain of Mountain Home; and Dr. Milo Shultz of Conway.

The Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Arkansas Farm Bureau.

Department External Review Completed

The Arkansas State legislature has mandated that every department in the University of Arkansas go through an external review. The Department of Horticulture underwent its 10 year review in March 2011. The purpose is to conduct a thorough, objective review of the state-wide research, extension, and teaching programs. Research, teaching, and extension programs affiliated with the Department on the Fayetteville campus, Cooperative Extension Service in Little Rock and research stations at Clarksville and Kibler were included in the review.

The review team was in Arkansas March 27-March 3, 2011. Arriving in Little Rock, the team's first assignment was the Cooperative Extension Service overview. The team examined the Fruit Extension program with Dr. Elena Garcia, the Vegetable Extension program with Dr. Craig Andersen, Master Gardener program with Ms. Janet Carson, and the Ornamentals Extension program with Dr. Jim Robbins. In

route to the University of Arkansas campus, they toured the Fruit Research Station in Clarksville and the Vegetable Research Station at Kibler.

The first day in Fayetteville was the Agriculture Research Station. Dr. Mike Richardson gave the Introduction to Research. Programs on fruit crop research were given by Drs. John Clark, Garcia and Rom; turfgrass was given by Drs. Richardson and Doug Karcher; landscape horticulture, Dr. Garry McDonald; greenhouse and soils research, Dr. Mike Evans; horticulture biotechnology research, Drs. Brad Murphy and Viba Srivastava; and ornamentals, Drs. Jon Lindstrom and Robbins. Evans presented the undergraduate program overview and Murphy presented the graduate program overview. The committee also visited with support staff, graduate and undergraduate students

After visits with the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural Food and Life Sciences Department Heads, the committee prepared its report and

presented the results first with the Division of Agriculture Administration and then to the Department of Horticulture faculty. The oral presentation and discussion will be followed up by a written report. Overall, the review team was very impressed and pleased with the programs within the Department.

Review team members were: Dr. Wayne MacKay, Professor and Director, Mid-Florida Research and Extension Center, University of Florida; Dr. Roch Gaussoin, Professor of Horticulture, University of Nebraska; Dr. Brian Whipker, Professor of Horticulture, North Carolina State University; Dr. Richard Harkess, Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences, Mississippi State University; Russell Black, owner of Westwood Gardens, Fayetteville; and Dr. John Gaber, Professor of Political Science, University of Arkansas.

Arkansas HORTICULTURE News

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.

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Award to Honor Chris Stiegler

The "Chris Stiegler Turfgrass Science Graduate Student Travel Award Fund" has been established to honor Chris Stiegler who was killed in a December 24, 2010 car crash. A minimum of \$25,000 is needed to fully endow the award. Mike Richardson who was Stiegler's major professor said of him, "Although our sciences will never be able to realize Chris' full potential, his tremendous contributions as a graduate student prompted the formation of this graduate student scholarship in his name." He added, "Chris was a young man that had a passion for life, his work and especially his fam-

ily—he made a lasting mark on everyone he came in contact with."

Contributions may be made by check or through an online donation form. Make checks out to ASF, note Chris Stiegler Fund on the memo line and send to: ASF, 5585 Guliford Rd., Madison, WI 53711. To submit a secure online donation, select the "Chris Stiegler Turfgrass Science Graduate Student Travel Award Fund" from the drop-down list on the CSSA foundation website at www.crops.org/foundation/donate.

If you have any questions about the fund, please contact Mike Richardson, mricha@uark.edu; Richard White, rh-white@tamu.edu or Greg Bell, greg.bell@okstate.edu.

Online Greenhouse Management Course for Industry

Dr. Michael Evans will offer Greenhouse Management on-line to industry professionals wishing to take a formal greenhouse management class. Participants completing the 15-week class will receive three continuing education

credits and a certificate of completion. The class will include greenhouse design and operation principles, lighting, heating and cooling systems, growing media and mineral nutrition, water quality and irrigation systems. For more information visit the website at globalcampus.uark.edu/greenhouse. The class begins August 22, 2011.

2012 Study Tours—Protected Horticulture Production in China

Dr. Curt Rom is announcing the planned Study Tours to China in 2012. According to Rom, two tours are planned, the first from May 14-June 1, 2012, and the second from December 16, 2012-January 3, 2013. These tours are open to graduate and undergraduate students who are interested in horticulture science.

Trips will be extensive tours of several provinces of China and focused on protected horticulture production: greenhouse, nurseries, tunnels, and plasticulture—propagation and production—vegetables, fruits and ornamentals. Rom said, “travelers will also have the opportunity to visit several Chinese Universities and interact with Chinese horticulture students as well as farmers, producers, and marketers.”

This Study Tour Program is based upon a USDA International Study Exchange Grant between Mississippi State University, the University of Florida, and the University of Arkansas. For each trip participation is limited to four students from each institution. Participation is based upon application and selection.

For more information, contact Rom at crom@uark.edu.

Attention Alumni Horticulture Alumni Scholarship

The Horticulture Endowed Alumni Scholarship was initiated in 2002 by the Department of Horticulture. The endowed scholarship has accumulated more than \$10,000 in funds that draw interest until reaching the goal of \$25,000. When fully endowed, it will provide funding for students for many years. Donations in any amount may be sent and are tax deductible. They may be sent to:

Trina Holiman
C/O Dale Bumpers College of
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Turfgrass Science Students Shine in National Competition



Members of the University of Arkansas Turfgrass Science Team study samples of grass in preparation for the Collegiate Turf Bowl in Orlando. Team members, all undergraduate students, are, from left, Scott Hendrickson of Nixa, Mo.; Nathan Tompkins of Edmonton, Okla.; Lee Gatlin of Springdale; Nic Brouwer of Fayetteville; Conor Cummings of Tulsa; and Kory Crews of Farmington.

By Joey Young

The UA Department of Horticulture's Turfgrass Science Team placed in the top 20 of 87 teams at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 17th Annual Collegiate Turf Bowl competition February 10, 2011 in Orlando, Florida.

Team members are Nic Brouwer, Scott Hendrickson, Nathan Tompkins, Kory Crews, Lee Gatlin and Conor Cummings. Coaches are doctoral students Joey Young and Dan Strunk.

The competition consists of an exam on the science and business of managing turfgrass for lawns, sports fields, golf courses, parks and other landscapes.

Coach Joey Young said, “The team maintained the University of Arkansas' dominance among schools in the Southeastern Conference. The team was within 14 points of the top 10 teams, which divided \$10,000 in prize money provided by John Deere.”

Young said, “Our students were scheduled to travel to Orlando on Wednesday, February 9, the day of the monster blizzard that dropped 18+ inches of snow on Fayetteville. Our flights

were cancelled, and after reluctantly releasing a couple of our students, five of us loaded into a Honda Accord and drove to Orlando. We left Fayetteville at 12:30 a.m. on Wednesday, and 18 hours later we arrived at our destination in time to get some rest before the students took the test the next morning. I would be remised not to mention our two students who did not make the trip. Both Lee Gatlin and Conor Cummings proverbially ‘took one for the team’ by staying back and allowing the rest of the students to participate in the contest. These guys all worked incredibly hard throughout the fall semester and the first few weeks of the spring semester preparing and studying for this competition.”

The majority of these students will be graduating in May or December 2011, so this was their last opportunity to compete. We will have Nathan Tompkins back next year, and we hope to add a few more sharp individuals to build on the success the University of Arkansas has had in this great competition. I look forward to working with some new students next year, and hope to take a strong group of contenders to Las Vegas, NV for the GCSAA's annual conference in 2012.”



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Faculty, Staff and Student Notes

Dr. Michael Evans, Drs. Matt Taylor and Jeff Kuehny, were awarded the 2011 OFA Alex Laurie Award. The Alex Laurie Award is presented for the best research paper published in any of the three American Society of Horticultural Science research journals (Journal of ASHS, HortScience, Hort Technology) related to greenhouse crops and/or floriculture crops production. The award was made for the research paper titled "Physical Properties of Bio-containers for Greenhouse Crops Production" published in HortTechnology.

Several graduate students won awards for research presentation in the Turfgrass Science Division at the Crop Science Society of America International Annual Meeting last fall in Long Beach, CA. **Joey Young**, a Ph.D. student with Mike Richardson won first place in his session with a poster titled, "Evaluating Ball Mark Severity and Recovery Using Digital Imaging Analysis." **Josh Anderson**, M.S. student with Doug Karcher, won first place in his session with a poster titled, "Planting Method Affects the Establishment Quality of Sports Turf." **Dan Strunk**, a Ph.D. student with Doug Karcher, gave an oral presentation titled, "Golf Shot Quality Is Affected by Ball Lie."

Undergraduate students recognized by the American Society

of Horticulture Science as Collegiate Scholars are; **Lauren Airola, Raven Bough, Jody Hedge, Scott Hendrickson, Jill Lehmann, Luke Laird, Adam Mores, Christopher Norman, Danilo Pfunaptche-Tchoupe, Marie Teague, and Jay Wade.**

Nathan Tompkins 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 work with on-campus and off-campus activities to introduce the benefits of the College to prospective students, parents, and alumni. Tompkins is a junior interested in turf management. He is from Edmond, Oklahoma. **Danilo Pfunaptche** represented the department as an ambassador last school year.

The Southern Region of the American Society for Horticultural Science awarded **M. Elena Garcia, Heather Friedrich and Christopher Vincent** the Blue Ribbon Extension Communication Award for the 2010 publication "Organic Horticultural Training for the Southeast". The award recognized outstanding contribution to the understanding of horticultural subjects.