Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, October 25, 2011

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Halloween Hail & Farewell Potluck Set

The Department of Agronomy & Horticulture invites employees to “fill their fangs” at the Halloween Hail & Farewell Potluck on Monday, Oct. 31, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 150 Keim Hall.

The Hail and Farewell will be at noon followed by costume judging. The top three costumes will be recognized with prizes.

Since this is a potluck, employees are asked to bring the following foods according to their last name: A-I entrees; J-R side dishes; and S-Z desserts. The activities committee will provide tea, lemonade, chips, and candy.

Research Travel Funds Available

IANR Research Travel applications for 3rd quarter 2011-2012 (for travel from Jan. 1-March 31, 2012) are due by Nov. 15, 2011. Guidelines and forms can be found on the following webpage: http://ard.unl.edu/awards.

Applications should be sent electronically to the department head and then forwarded to the ARD office.
Series offers Food for Thought
The second speaker in the Heuermann Lecture series will be Dr. P. Stephen Baenziger on Thursday, Nov. 10 at 4 p.m. in the Great Plains Room, East Campus Union. He is the first UNL scientist to hold the Nebraska Wheat Growers Presidential Chair, an endowed professorship. Dr. Baenziger will speak on “Setting the Stage: Why Agriculture.” A 3:30 p.m. reception precedes the lecture.

The next speaker in the series will be former Governor of Nebraska and U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey. Sen. Kerrey will present on December 12th, 4 p.m. in the Hardin Hall auditorium to discuss “Conflict and Resolution on the Missouri River.” A 3:30 pm reception will precede the lecture.

These sessions focus on providing security in the areas of food, natural resources, and renewable energy, and securing the sustainability of rural communities. They are open to the public and made possible through a gift from B. Keith and Norma Heuermann of Phillips, Neb.

Information For & About Graduate Students
AHGHA Cookout is successful
By Brian Kreinke
The 2011 AHGSA fall cookout was a big success. More than 50 individuals attended throughout the event. A huge thank you goes out to those who helped make this possible, our sponsors: Rotella’s Bakery, Russ’s Market, and SuperSaver and of course, our bakers. The desserts were delicious and well received. The winners of the baking competition were: Roch Gaussoin for the cake category, Colleen Steele for the cookies category, and Marlene Busse for the brownies category. Thank you again for your participation in this year’s fall cookout.

Dworak Wins First Place in Poster Competition
Congratulations to Scott Dworak who received a first place award in the graduate student poster competition in the C-05 Division at the ASA•CSSA•SSSA annual meeting in San Antonio, TX, Oct. 16-19, 2011. Scott’s presentation was entitled “Improved Turfgrass Digital Image Analysis through Normalization to Single Light Conditions” and was co-authored by Roch Gaussoin and Tim Arkebauer. Congratulations Scott!
Travel Funds are Available for Graduate Students

Any Agronomy & Horticulture graduate student, whose advisor or co-advisor has an ARD research appointment, is invited to apply for the Larrick-Whitmore Graduate Student travel grant for 2012. This award is for up to $500 to students who are personally presenting the results of their research and/or scholarly activity at a professional or scientific meeting. The deadline to apply for a grant for travel between Jan. 1–June 30, 2012, is Nov. 15, 2011. The deadline to apply for a grant to travel between July 1–Dec. 31, 2012, is May 15, 2012. For more information, see the website at: http://ard.unl.edu/awards.

Name mispelled in the last newsletter

Gracie Mae Barber was born July 27 at 11:57 p.m. to Christopher & Kayla Barber. In the last edition of the department newsletter, her middle name was misspelled. Our apologies. Gracie weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 20½ inches long. Congratulations again to Chris and Kayla!

News From the HAPPI Business Center

Sign and Date Invoices Prior to Turning Them in

Please remember when receiving invoices or packing slips to sign, date and turn them into the business center. If there is no cost object listed, please also write that on the invoice. Your signature tells us that you have received the goods and that the invoice is ok and appropriate to pay from the cost object. With increased scrutiny we want to make sure that we have all documentation in the file with an authorized signature.

2012 Vacation/Sick Leave may be Requested in ESS

Employees using Firefly’s Employee Self Service (ESS) “Create Leave Request” process will now be able to request vacation or sick leave for the calendar year 2012. For the rest of 2011, employees will be limited to requesting up to 40 hours of vacation and up to 40 hours of sick for 2012. However, the information in ESS will not reflect correct balances until all the “carry forward” balances are moved to the new year in January 2012. The incorrect balances will not impact requests. For more information, see the e-mail from Oct. 18.

Upcoming: Benefits Open Enrollment

The benefits open enrollment period at the University of Nebraska will be coming in November with exact dates forthcoming. Now is a good time to start thinking about changes to your plan and Flexible Spending Account (FSA) allocations for next year. Please watch for information about this upcoming enrollment period.
A Word from Your Office Professionals

Turn in Travel Expenses Within 60 Days

Please remember that travel expenses from recent conferences and meetings must be submitted within 60 days of the travel date. This a Nebraska state law so there won’t be any exceptions. Please turn in expenses to the Office Pros in 279 PLSH.

Turn in Mileage Transportation Logs by the Fifth of Each Month

Don’t forget to turn in your October mileage logs to Tiffany Anderson, 279 PLSH, tanderson17@unl.edu, by Nov. 4, 2011, (since the 5th is a Saturday). If logs are not submitted to the UNL Transportation Department by the 10th of each month, there is a $10 fine.

– Brenda, Carola, Karen, Kat, Kathy, Marlene & Tiffany

2011 Walking Tours of the Maxwell Arboretum

The walking tours at the Maxwell Arboretum are continuing into the fall. They are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 12:00–1:00 p.m. The free tours are led by Emily Levine, Special Projects Research Horticulturist with Agronomy and Horticulture, and former Grounds Supervisor for the arboretum. Please meet at the Karl Loerch Gazebo one block east of the UNL Dairy Store, near 38th and Holdrege streets. In the event of rain, that week’s tour will be canceled.

Funding Announcements

FYI: Visit UNL’s Office of Sponsored Programs web site for funding announcements in PDF format at http://www.unl.edu/research/sp1/index.shtml under “Funding Opportunities.” These announcements are compiled from the funding opportunities offered by federal funding agencies, private foundations, and a variety of additional entities. If you want to subscribe to Funding Announcements, contact Nathan Meier (472-1808 or nmeier2@unl.edu). Additional funding opportunities may be found at http://www.grants.gov. Grants.gov is the single access point for individuals to search competitive funding opportunities from more than 900 grant programs offered by the 26 federal grant-making agencies.