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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, December 21, 2012

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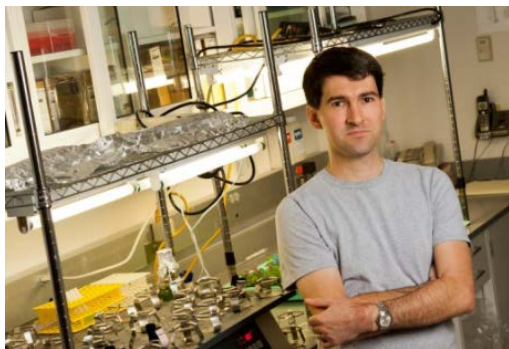
Agronomy and Horticulture Newsletter December 21, 2012



Happy Holidays! Thanks to everyone who supported the successful Horticulture Club Poinsettia sales in December.

In the news

NSF award aids Basset's coenzyme Q research



Gilles Basset

Gilles Basset, an assistant professor of agronomy and horticulture, was recently in the news at Today@UNL about his micronutrient ubiquinone or coenzyme Q research. Basset is using a new approach to study this elusive nutrient. His research may lead to improving human health. A faculty

member in UNL's Center for Plant Science Innovation, Basset studies how plants synthesize and metabolize chemicals beneficial to health.

He's expanding his ubiquinone research with a five-year, \$784,820 Faculty Early Career Development Program, or CAREER Award, from the National Science Foundation. This prestigious award helps outstanding pre-tenure faculty develop as teacher-scholars and researchers. See newsroom.unl.edu/announce/todayatunl/1899. Nice work Gilles!

Mark Your Calendars

Dec. 24, 2012–Jan. 1, 2013:
 UNL Holiday closedown.

Jan. 8–10, 2013: Nebraska Turf Conference, LaVista Conference Center.

Jan. 17, 2013: IANR All Hands Meeting, 9–11 a.m., Great Plains Room, Nebraska East Union (NEU). The presentation will also be video streamed.

Feb. 18–19, 2013: Nebraska Great Plains Conference, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln.

Feb. 28–March 2, 2013: Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum and Trade Show, Holiday Inn, Kearney.

New Mileage Reimbursement Rate for 2013

The UNL mileage reimbursement for miles driven beginning Jan. 1, 2013 will increase to 56.5 cents per mile from the previous 55.5 cents per mile. UNL adheres to the federal mileage reimbursement rate.



Roy Spalding puts new spin on pipeline path



Potential groundwater contamination risks posed by the Keystone XL pipeline in Nebraska are minimal and manageable under a “risk-managed” route proposed by UNL Agronomy and Horticulture professor Roy Spalding.

Spalding, hydrochemist and water quality expert, and Aaron Hirsh, graduate student from the civil engineering department, outlined the findings in a journal article about risk-managed approaches to routing petroleum pipelines.

The article is in the Dec. 4 issue of *Environmental Science and Technology*, a long-standing and highly regarded journal published by the American Chemical Society, based in Washington, D.C.

See pubs.acs.org/action/doSearch?action=search&searchText=Keystone+pipeline&qSearchArea=searchText&type=within&publication=40025991.

Spalding was recently quoted in the Lincoln Journal-Star about his journal article. Spalding and Hirsh point out that in Nebraska, where 85 percent of the population use groundwater for its drinking water source, “threats to water quality are taken quite seriously.” They say the petroleum pipelines route could be “made much more acceptable by adopting risk-managed routes that lessen the potential to adversely impact high-quality groundwater and, should a release occur, decrease the longevity and potential detrimental effects of hazardous groundwater contaminants.”

See journalstar.com/news/local/education/nu-researcher-puts-new-spin-on-pipeline-path/article_0d390669-ad78-5623-afc7-73201250143c.html.

Undergraduate students win awards

Luqi Li, a senior undergraduate student in Turfgrass and Landscape Management (TMLT) has won two quick pitches during his class time in HORT 488 this fall, taught by Professor Dave Lambe. His first win was at the IANR Quick Pitch competition on Sept. 24. His second win was more recent at the UNL Center for Entrepreneurship 3-2-1 Quick Pitch competition held in the Memorial Stadium skyboxes on Nov. 29. Li’s business idea involves a lawn care company in Beijing, China. Li has won a total of \$2,000 and an iPad2 for his efforts. In addition, he has gained a business plan and some great feedback from quick pitch judges.

Josh Beckman, a senior undergraduate in Agronomy, won \$1,000 for his presentation at the 3-2-1 Quick Pitch competition on Nov. 29. Josh’s business idea is to emphasize and sell micro-nutrient fertilizers and water monitoring sensors in field crops. Both aspects of his business idea save money and increase yields to farm operations. Josh took AGRO 488, taught by Professor Lambe, as an online student. Congratulations to both students!

ActivityInsight is replacing eARFA

ActivityInsight is replacing eARFA, a reporting system for faculty members to detail their annual activities. This new system appears to be more user friendly than eARFA and can handle direct links to other UNL systems. The absolute deadline for faculty members to submit all their work information is Jan. 15, 2013.

Free Blackboard training available for instructors

Information Services is offering free Blackboard training to campus instructors starting Jan. 8. The free Power Classroom Training Sessions include: “Getting Started with Blackboard,” “Grade Center Basics and Using Assignments,” and “Tests, Surveys and Pools.”

The training sessions will be in Architecture Hall, room 107.

For more information, or to register, go to go.unl.edu/8az.



Aaron Lorenz honored by DuPont Young Professors program



Aaron Lorenz

Agronomy and Horticulture Professor Aaron Lorenz is one of nine professors in the nation to be honored by the DuPont Young Professors program.

Lorenz is part of the 2012 class of honorees. Awards are given to advance key research that is relevant to DuPont.

Lorenz has been at UNL since 2010. He was honored for his work in the optimization of genomic selection for plant breeding. The award is \$25,000 per year, renewed for up to three years.

Lorenz received his bachelor's degree in agriculture-plant science from the University of Minnesota, his master's in plant breeding from Iowa State University and his doctorate in plant breeding and genomics from the University of Wisconsin.

The 2012 class represents eight universities in the United States and one in Germany. It is the 44th class of DuPont Young Professors. DuPont awarded a total of \$675,000.

Since the inception of the award in 1967, about 557 young professors from the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, Canada and Africa have received nearly \$49 million in grants.

The DuPont Young Professor program is designed to provide start-up assistance to promising young and untenured research faculty working in areas of interest to DuPont. Research by the class of 2012 Young Professors represents key components of DuPont science and includes promising research in the fields of nanotechnology, genomics, system biology, next-generation herbicides, synthesis of natural products, carbon dioxide capture, DNA sequencing and enzymatic synthesis. Congratulations!

Winter Interim Teaching and Learning Workshop to be held

Organized by the CASNR Teaching and Learning Improvement Council and hosted by CASNR with support across UNL, the 2013 Winter Interim Teaching and Learning Workshop will focus on how to best develop teaching and learning goals. The workshop will take place Friday, Jan. 4 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at the UNL Nebraska East Union. There is no registration fee and lunch will be provided. **Registration must be done as soon as possible**—go to go.unl.edu/interimworkshop.

Continued on page 4.

Gaussoin selected for committee

The Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs sponsored the participation of five UNL faculty members for the Committee on Institutional Cooperation's Department Executive Officers Seminar.

Participants for the 2012–2013 seminar were Timothy Carr, interim chair of nutrition and health sciences; Gwendolyn Combs, chair of management; Roch Gaussoin, department head of agronomy and horticulture; Sherri Jones, director and chair of special education and communication disorders and Judy Walker, chair of mathematics.

Each year, about 50 department heads and chairs from CIC universities come together for the DEO seminar. Topics at the three-day event range from conflict resolution and time management to faculty development, performance reviews and group problem-solving. This year's program was held Oct. 11–13 in Chicago.

For more information on the five UNL faculty who participated in the seminar, go to [//go.unl.edu/8gc](http://go.unl.edu/8gc).

Individual department heads and chairs are selected by their campuses. For information about the CIC's Department Executive Officers Seminar, contact UNL's DEO liaison, Lance C. Pérez, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, at lperez1@unl.edu.

Winter Interim Workshop continued from page 3.

The workshop will cover current theories on developing measurable, clear teaching and learning goals and strategies for recording the impacts from goals. Participants will develop personalized teaching goals that can be directly incorporated into Activity Insights (the new annual reporting system).

Speakers include Dr. Beth Lewis, who will provide a workshop on setting teaching and learning goals and how to assess them, and Dr. Dann Husmann, who will lead a session on developing individualized goals for use in faculty Activity Insights report. Dr. Ron Yoder will talk about the importance of annual reporting. In addition, Dr. David Jackson will be on hand to talk about how to use the new Activity Insights reporting system and Pam Peters will answer any individual questions about imputing data into the new system.

This workshop will provide faculty with a unique opportunity to develop clear teaching goals and format them to match the new Activity Insight system. Remember, the Activity Insight Report will be due Jan. 15. For more information contact Dr. Lisa Karr-Lilienthal at lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu, Dr. John Markwell at jmarkwell2@unl.edu, or Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss at theng-moss2@unl.edu.

News for and about Graduate students *Graduate students earn awards at NCWSS meeting*

The 2012 North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) Annual Meeting was held Dec. 10–13 in St. Louis, MO. Graduate research assistant Jared Schmidt, advised by Agronomy and Horticulture Professor John Lindquist, won first place in the Weed Biology, Ecology and Management section of the NCWSS's graduate student paper contest with his paper titled "Allelopathy of sudangrass cover crop on green foxtail" coauthored with Sam Wortman and Lindquist.

Graduate student Rodrigo Werle, also advised by Lindquist, won first place in the Soybeans and Legumes section of the NCWSS's graduate student paper contest with his paper titled "Fall weed management to limit SCN population build-up" coauthored with adjunct faculty member Mark Bernards, Plant Pathology Professor Loren Giesler and Lindquist.

Two of West Central Research and Extension Center Assistant Professor Greg Kruger's Agronomy graduate students earned awards at the NCWSS Annual Meeting. Connor Ferguson and Ryan Henry, were on the UNL team that won the quiz bowl. Ferguson also placed first in his section of the NCWSS's graduate student oral paper contest. Another Agronomy graduate student, Cody Creech, placed second in his section of the graduate student poster contest. Congratulations!

Research Travel Fund applications due Jan. 15

IANR Research Travel Fund applications for the 4th Quarter 2012–2013, for travel from April 1–June 30, 2013, are due by Jan 15, 2013. Faculty should refer to the copy of the guidelines and application form sent in an email recently. These are to be used when requesting these funds. Email Debra Lawrence at dlawrence2@unl.edu with questions or requests for forms.

Please submit your application electronically through your department head/chair, who will then forward to the Agricultural Research Division (ARD) office.

New grandson arrives

Congratulations to Grandma Charlene Wendt! Grandson Vincent Cunningham, Jr., was born Dec. 10 and he weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 inches long. He joins big sister Emily, 2-years old, at home in Scribner, NE. This is Charlene's seventh grandchild.

