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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, November 8, 2011

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University of Nebraska–Lincoln
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Department of Agronomy and Horticulture

Agronomy and Horticulture Newsletter

Nov. 8, 2011



Agronomy Society Awards Faculty

Five faculty members from the UNL Department of Agronomy & Horticulture were presented awards at the ASA•CSSA•SSSA annual meeting in San Antonio, TX, Oct. 16–19, 2011.

Richard Ferguson and Charles Wortmann were named ASA Fellows. Dr. Ferguson is a professor of soil science and an Extension soils specialist and Dr. Wortmann is a professor and soil fertility specialist.

Drew Lyon received the Extension Education Award. Dr. Lyon is the Fenster Professor of dryland agriculture and an Extension dryland cropping systems specialist at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center.

Professor emeritus Lowell Moser and Professor Steve Mason were presented the ASA Distinguished Service Award for Service on the Division Alignment Task Force. Congratulations to our faculty members!

ISHS Recognizes Dr. Paul Read

The International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) presented the ISHS Medal to Dr. Paul E. Read in October. He was recognized for meritorious service as a co-convener (with John Preece) of the Fifth International Symposium on Acclimatization and Establishment of Micropropagated Plants from Oct. 16–20, 2011, in Nebraska City, Neb.

Mark the Date!

- Nov. 10:** Heuermann Lecture series with Dr. P. Stephen Baenziger, East Campus Union, refreshments at 3:30 with lecture at 4 p.m.
- Nov. 11:** Dept. Seminar – Food Allergy Thresholds & Risk Assessment, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, (refreshments, 3 p.m.)
- Nov. 16:** Teaching Brown Bag, noon–1 p.m., Goodding Lab, The topic is the new UNL electronic advising record system called WebNow.
- Nov. 18:** Dept. Seminar – Empathy Priming & Emotional Feedback in Environmental Choice: Are They Effective?, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, (refreshments at 3 p.m.)
- Nov. 24–27:** Thanksgiving Break.
- Dec. 2:** Dept. Seminar – Effects of Biofuel Crop and N Management on Soil Greenhouse Gas Fluxes from a Marginal Site (Mead, NE), 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, (refreshments, 3 p.m.)
- Dec. 2:** Tri State Fruit & Vegetable Growers Symposium, noon–5:15 p.m., Stoney Creek Inn, Sioux City, IA.
- Dec. 7 & 8:** Hort. Club Poinsettia Sale, Nebraska Union and East Campus Union, 8–4:30.
- Dec. 9:** Dept. Seminar – Arbuscular corrhizal Fungi in Maize Cropping Systems: Beneficial or Not?, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, (refreshments, 3 p.m.)
- Dec. 12:** Heuermann Lecture series with former Sen. Bob Kerrey, Hardin Hall Aud., refreshments at 3:30 with lecture at 4 p.m.

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Heuermann 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.



Dr. Steve Baenziger

The next series speaker 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.

For more information, see the announcement at <http://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/ianrnews/740/4441>.

Nominations Sought for Holling Award

Nominations are being accepted for the annual Holling Family Teaching Excellence Awards in Agriculture and Natural Resources. Nominations may be made by peers and/or administrators who feel that a particular individual effort deserves special recognition. Categories include: 1) Senior Faculty Teaching Awards (\$5,000); 2) Junior Faculty Teaching Awards (\$3,000); and 3) Teaching Assistant Awards (\$1,000). See the award criteria:

http://casnr.unl.edu/LinksforFacultyandStaff/FacultyAwards#Holling_Family_Award. Nominations are due Jan. 16, 2012.

Undergraduates win Engler Scholarships

Three Agronomy & Horticulture freshmen were among 10 students who won scholarships from the Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Scholarship Program within IANR. Joseph Duba, an agronomy major from Wilber, and Rachel Stevens, a horticulture major from Falls City, won the four-year scholarship, and Jessie Nielsen, a horticulture major from Deshler, won the one-year Engler Scholarship. For more information, see the news release at: <http://ianrnews.unl.edu/static/1110260.shtml>. Congratulations!

Mark the Date!

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- Dec. 12–15:** 2011 North Central Weed Science Society Annual Meeting, at the Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee, WI.
- Dec. 16:** CASNR Salute to Graduates, 4 p.m., Great Plains Room, East Campus Union.
- Dec. 16–17:** UNL Graduation.
- Dec. 19:** Agronomy & Horticulture Holiday Luncheon, EC Union.
- Dec. 23–Jan. 2, 2012:** Holiday Closedown.
- Jan. 4, 2012:** Crop Production Clinics in Beatrice.
- Jan. 5:** Crop Prod. Clinics, York.
- Jan. 5–7:** Great Plains Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference, Missouri Western State Univ., St. Joseph, Mo.
- Jan. 6:** Crop Prod. Clinic, Kearney.
- Jan. 6:** Deadline to nominate a CASNR colleague for UNL's Distinguished Teaching Awards.
- Jan. 9:** Spring semester starts.
- Jan. 10:** Crop Production Clinics in Hastings.
- Jan. 11:** Crop Production Clinics in North Platte.
- Jan. 12:** Crop Production Clinics in Gering.
- Jan. 16, 2012:** MLK Day. Offices closed & no classes.
- Jan. 17:** Crop Production Clinics in Ainsworth.
- Jan. 18:** Crop Production Clinics in Norfolk.
- Jan. 19:** Crop Production Clinics in Fremont.
- Jan. 23–25, 2012:** Nebraska Green Expo, Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs, IA.
- Jan. 29–Feb. 3, 2012:** Society of Range Management 65th Annual Meeting, Spokane, WA.
- March 18–25:** Spring Break.
- May 4-5:** Graduation.

Hail and Farewell Celebration Boasts Halloween Theme

More than 40 people attended the Department's Hail and Farewell celebration and potluck on Oct. 31, 2011. The event was held to welcome new employees and graduate students and to say farewell to employees and students who have left the department. Since the event was on Halloween, a Halloween contest was also held. Contest winners were: 1st Place: Goofy (Karen Kreider); 2nd Place:



MacGyver (Aaron Franco); and 3rd Place: a Bat (Sue Walker). Kathy Schindler won the pumpkin centerpiece donated by Ruth and Dale Miller.

eLibrary Expands Worldwide Collaboration

The Plant and Soil Sciences eLibrary was recently featured in the news after expanding and adding more collaborative tools, social media connections, animations, course materials, and information.

Deana Namuth-Covert, plant science educator and eLibrary director, said the expanded site will give students, adult learners, teachers, and industry professionals a place to learn interactively and globally. The interactive tools include discussion forums, real-time online meeting rooms and communities, and connections on Facebook and Twitter (@eLibrarypro). The new features have been used for workshops and for plant and soil science educational materials for high school students, college students, and adult learners.

For more information, see the article at <http://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/todayatunl/713/4326>.

Maxwell Tours Continue

The walking tours at the Maxwell Arboretum are continuing into the fall. They are the 2nd & 4th 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.

Check Website for Funding

Visit UNL's Office of Sponsored Programs website for funding announcements at <http://www.unl.edu/research/sp1/> under "Funding Opportunities." These announcements are compiled from the funding opportunities offered by federal funding agencies, private foundations, and a variety of additional entities. To subscribe to Funding Announcements, contact Nathan Meier (472-1808 or nmeier2@unl.edu).

Information For & About Graduate Students *Schedule an Exit Interview Prior to Graduation*

Graduate students who will graduate at the end of the semester are asked to schedule an exit interview with the Department Head to discuss their experience within the department. Call Charlene Wendt at 472-1555 to make that appointment.

Maria Selected for Borlaug Fellowship Program

Ricardo Maria was recently selected as a Fellow for the Leadership Enhancement in Agriculture Program (LEAP) of the Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program. Dr. Borlaug was a Nobel Laureate who worked to eliminate recurring famines in South Asia. Maria is a graduate student with Agronomy & Horticulture working under Dr. Charles Wortmann. He is currently working on his Ph.D. research in Mozambique. Congratulations!

*AG*IDEA Initiative Offers Five New Courses*

We are happy to announce that five new horticulture graduate-level courses are available to UNL students for the Spring 2012 semester through the AG*IDEA Horticulture Initiative. The courses are:

- 1) HORT 842A: Plant Pathology (3 cr., taught by Dr. Paul Twigg, University of Nebraska–Kearney);
- 2) HORT 842J: Water Issues in Lawn & Landscape (3 cr. , taught by Dr. Dale Bremer, Kansas State University);
- 3) HORT 843B: Seed Science (3 cr. , taught by Dr. Norm Hopper, Texas Tech University);
- 4) HORT 843E: Advanced Interiorscaping (3 cr., taught by Dr. Cynthia McKenney, Texas Tech University); and
- 5) HORT 844B: Environmental Stress Physiology (1 cr., taught by Dr. John Williamson, North Carolina State University).

Because this is a special contract program at UNL, enrollment and student billing are handled outside MyRed. Enrollment is coordinated by Diane Wasser, CASNR Distance Education Consortium Coordinator, dwasser@unl.edu, 402-472-6251. Students must obtain written permission from their advisors to enroll in these courses. Billing is processed through UNL's Office of Extended Education & Outreach (EE&O). Course tuition is also different than UNL's regular tuition rates: for the current 2011–12 academic year, the AG*IDEA common graduate tuition is \$465 per credit hour. For more details, please visit the AG*IDEA Graduate Course Share Web site at: <http://agronomy.unl.edu/courseshare>. For additional information, contact Cathy Dickinson, cdickinson2@unl.edu, 402-472-1730.

Beachell Fellowship Applications due Nov. 14, 2011

Agronomy & Horticulture graduate students are invited to apply for the 2011–2012 Henry M. Beachell Fellowship. Preference is given to students who currently don't hold another fellowship and to students pursuing work in crop breeding and genetics. For more information, contact Marlene Busse, graduate secretary, at 472-1560, mbusse1@unl.edu, or review her e-mail from Oct. 27.

Student Travel Funds Available

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 from July 1–Dec. 31, 2012, is May 15, 2012. For more information, see the website at: <http://ard.unl.edu/awards>.

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 are on the following webpage: <http://ard.unl.edu/awards>. Applications should be sent electronically to the department head and then to the ARD office.

Sympathy Extended to McAndrew Family

Deepest condolences are extended to T.J. McAndrew whose son, John, passed away Oct. 23rd. Please keep T.J. and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

News from the HAPPI Business Center 2012 Benefits Open Enrollment Begins November 13

The benefits open enrollment period at the University of Nebraska will run from Nov. 13–Dec. 2, 2011. Now is the time to start thinking about changes to your plan and Flexible Spending Account (FSA) allocations for next year. Please watch ESS and UNL announcements for information about the enrollment process.

A Word from Your Office Professionals Travel Reminders and Recommendations

Four Office Pros and two HAPPI staff attended a Travel workshop on Nov. 2 provided by the UNL Travel Services staff. The workshop reinforced many of the guidelines we are currently using – including those below.

Prior to traveling, don't forget to fill out a pre-trip Travel Authorization (T.A.). After your event, please turn in expenses within 60 days of the travel date (this is a Nebraska state law). Receipts should be fully itemized with the essential characteristics of the expense. Don't forget that alcohol will not be reimbursed and that tips more than 20 percent will not be reimbursed. Please turn in expenses to the Office Pros in 279 PLSH.

Announcements Sought for Department Newsletter

Please contact Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, 402-472-1508, to submit announcements, pictures, and articles for the newsletter. The newsletter is distributed twice a month and features news for the UNL Department of Agronomy & Horticulture.

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



Participate in the UNL Combined Campaign

All employees are invited to participate in the annual "UNL Combined Campaign for Health and Human Services." There are two ways to donate: 1) e-Pledge at http://www.unl.edu/ucomm/chancellor/combined_campaign/ and 2) Pledge via the paper pledge card that employees received in the mail. A drop box has been created in 279 PLSH for those wishing to pledge using paper pledge cards.

The theme this year is "BIG IMPACT – GO BIG, GIVE BIG." Please make your pledges and/or contributions by Wednesday, Nov. 16. For questions, contact Karen Kreider in 279 PLSH, kkreider2@unl.edu, 402-472-5138.

