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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, August 25, 2011

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They're baack!!!



Dr. Roch Gaussoin

No not poltergeists, but students. The first day of the semester, especially fall semester, never ceases to amaze me. The level of energy from the dog days of summer increases an order of magnitude. The majority of this energy (as well as a decrease in open parking spaces and the increase in the line at the bakery in the Union) arises from the students. Part of our job as faculty and staff in the department is to help the students, especially those here for the first time, acclimate to their new

surroundings. If a student appears confused and wandering the halls, take the time to ask them if you can help. If they approach in the office or at your desk and ask a question, help them if you can and if you don't know the answer find somebody who does. Imagine the last time you were put on hold or routed to somebody else when you had a problem with your cable bill or a technical issue with your DVR or any number of other examples. You were probably not a happy camper. The same is true of our students. Extend a helping hand, say hello and smile when you pass them in the hall, and make them feel welcome. I am convinced it is worth the effort and a small investment in our future.

Roch Gaussoin
Interim Department Head

Fall seminar schedule planned

The Agronomy and Horticulture Seminar Committee has completed it schedule for the Fall 2011 Seminar Series. Seminars are each Friday at 3:30 p.m. in 150 Keim Hall (unless otherwise noted). Refreshments are served at 3 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

- Sept. 16:** Modulation of the Human Gut Microbiota by Dietary Strategies, Jens Walter, Assistant Professor – Food Science & Technology;
- Sept. 23:** Commercialization Opportunities in the Plant Sciences, Cheryl Barts & Emily Hatas, Technology Agent at NUtech Ventures;
- Sept. 30:** Bioenergy Systems in Brazil, Weber Amaral, Fulbright Scholar – University of Sao Paulo, Brazil;
- Oct. 7:** Look What is Blowing Into Nebraska: Pesticide Application Technology Research at the West Central Research & Extension Center (WCREC), Greg Kruger, *Location in Goodding Lab**;

- Continued to page 2.

Mark Your Calendars!

- Sept. 1:** State of the University speech & picnic, Lied Ctr., 11 a.m.
- Sept. 5:** Labor Day.
- Sept. 7:** eARFA Information due.
- Sept. 16:** IANR to 2025: Time for Action. IANR All Hands 3-5 p.m., Hardin Hall. Ice cream at 3 p.m., V.C. Ronnie Green at 3:30 p.m.
- Sept. 19:** Mechanical Grape Harvester Field Day, Ida's Vitas Vine-yard, Ogallala.
- Oct. 3-7:** Agronomy & Horticulture Dept. Comprehensive Review.
- Oct. 17-20:** ASA-CSSA-SSSA Int'l. meetings, San Antonio, Texas.
- Oct. 16-20:** Fifth Int'l. Symposium on Acclimatization and Establishment of Micropropagated Plants, Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City.
- Oct. 17-18:** Fall Break.
- Nov. 24-27:** Thanksgiving Break.
- Dec. 16-17:** Graduation.
- Dec. 19:** Agronomy & Horticulture Holiday Luncheon, EC Union.
- Dec. 26-Jan. 2, 2012:** Holiday Closedown.
- Jan. 16, 2012:** MLK Day.
- 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, Wash.

- Seminar schedule continued from page 1.

- Oct. 14:** Environmental Variability and Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystems, Terry Loecke, Professor – School of Natural Resources (SNR);
- Oct. 21:** Fusarium in Wheat, Heather Hallen-Adams, Assistant Professor – Food Science & Technology;
- Oct. 28:** Confronting Pediatric Obesity: Current Evidence and Future Directions, Tim Nelson, Assistant Professor – Psychology;
- Nov. 4:** Cost Effective Teaching in the Life Sciences, Don Lee, Professor – Agronomy & Horticulture;
- Nov. 11:** Food Allergy Thresholds and Risk Assessment, Joseph Baumert, Assistant Professor – Food Science & Technology;
- Nov. 18:** Empathy Priming and Emotional Feedback in Environmental Choice: Are They Effective? Mark Burbach, Associate Geoscientist – Survey Division – SNR;
- Dec. 2:** Effects of Biofuel Crop and N Management on Soil Greenhouse Gas Fluxes From a Marginal Site (Mead, NE), Virginia Jin, Research Soil Scientist – USDA – Agricultural Research Service (ARS); and
- Dec. 9:** Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi in Maize Cropping Systems: Beneficial or Not? Rhae Drijber, Professor – Agronomy & Horticulture.

Information For and About Graduate Students

Congratulations to the following Agronomy & Horticulture graduate students who have been awarded ARD and CASNR fellowships. They will be recognized at a luncheon in October.

Hardin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship:

Tadele Kumssa (Advisor: P.S. Baenziger)

Dante Placido (Advisor: H. Walia)

Shear-Miles Fellowship:

Juan Jose Miceli Garcia (Advisor: D. Lyon)

Widaman Trust Distinguished Graduate Assitant Award:

Niegel La Borde (Advisor: I. Dweikat)

Gelli Malleswari (Advisor: I. Dweikat)

Moseman Fellowship:

Jessie Fernandez (Advisor: R. Wilson)

Welcome to Dr. Jenny Stebbing

Please extend a warm welcome to Dr. Jenny Stebbing who joined our department as a Weed Science Research Technician. Dr. Stebbing earned her Ph.D. in entomology, her M.S. in weed science, and her B.S. in agronomy all from UNL. She previously was a distance course lecturer in insect ecology with Dr. Steve Danielson.

Originally from O’Neill, Neb., Dr. Stebbing is married to Andy Stebbing (Lancaster County Treasurer) and they have two sons, Chase, 11, and Jesse, 6. They have a small family website at www.ajstebbing.com. Dr. Stebbing enjoys boating, fishing, baseball, football, and archaeology. Her office is located in 362 PLSH and she can be reached at 472-1547 or jstebbing3@unl.edu.

Faculty emeritus featured in Lincoln *JournalStar*

Agronomy & Horticulture faculty emeritus Dr. David Andrews was featured in the Aug. 7, 2011, Lincoln *JournalStar* for his development of several ornamental millet varieties.

Andrews began experimenting in developing ornamental millets after his retirement from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. While he was studying potential breeding stock in India in the 1980s, Andrews encountered a unique purple pearl millet. The plant was not suitable for grain, but he kept it to allow students to study the genetic differences.

Andrews was later encouraged to develop the unusual millet for the ornamental market, resulting in Purple Majesty, winner of the 2003 All-America Selection Gold Medal. Purple Majesty grows to be 4- to 5-feet tall and has vibrant purple leaves with a red midrib down the center of the leaves and long, narrow “bottlebrush” seed heads. Along with Purple Majesty, Andrews has developed three other millets: Purple Baron, Jester, and Jade Princess. Purple Majesty can currently be found in the Lincoln Sunken Gardens where its unique color and height make it a distinctive addition to the landscape. The entire article with pictures can be viewed online at http://journalstar.com/lifestyles/home-and-garden/article_bfdcf10d-e357-5b5c-8db5-f0a41880c3e4.html?mode=story (you may need to sign into the website).

Faculty recognized in Alumni Association newsletter

Drs. Ken Cassman and Steve Baenziger were featured in the fall 2011 issue of Good NUz, the Nebraska Alumni Association and University of Nebraska Foundation newsletter.

Cassman was featured after he was named head of the council that advises the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). This consortium is a major network of international agricultural research centers. These centers “work to improve agricultural productivity, conserve national resources and promote policies that stimulate agricultural growth in development nations,” according to the Good NUz article.

Baenziger was recognized for his efforts to ensure the IANR wheat breeding program will continue for years to come. He worked to bring about a new relationship between NUtech Ventures and Bayer CropScience AG. Baenziger was named to the first-ever Nebraska Wheat Growers Presidential Chair. He was also instrumental in securing a five-year USDA grant for wheat and barley research at 28 universities, including UNL.

For more information about these articles in the Good NUz, see the website at http://www.huskeralum.org/news/good_nuz/.

For Your Information

For the latest news, information, and list of events at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, please visit <http://ianrhome.unl.edu/home>. Click on IANR News Feed or the IANR Calendar under the heading “Timely Topics.”

If you would like to submit events for the Agronomy & Horticulture calendar, give them to **Aaron Franco** after they have been approved by the department head. Our calendar also shows events posted on the IANR and CASNR calendars. Go to: <http://events.unl.edu/agronomy>.

A WORD FROM YOUR OFFICE PROFESSIONALS *Register for ASA-CSSA-SSSA Meetings*

The ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual meeting is fast approaching Oct. 16-19, 2011, in San Antonio, TX. Please contact Karen Kreider, kkreider2@unl.edu, or Carola Strauss, cstrauss1@unl.edu, to make arrangements for this meeting. Hotel rooms are filling up so it's important to make reservations soon. Standard registration ends on Sept. 23, and after that a \$60 late fee will be applied to the registration fee. For more information, see the website at: <https://www.acsmeetings.org/>.



----- Brenda, Carola, Karen, Kat, Kathy, Marlene, and Tiffany

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.

Welcome to a new school year at UNL!

