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University of Nebraska–Lincoln Department of Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter: February 7, 2013

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Department of Agronomy & Horticulture

Newsletter



February 7, 2013

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Calendar of Events

Feb. 8: Department Seminar—"Root traits for drought adaptation in wheat," Harkamal Walia, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

Feb. 11: Plant Pathology Seminar Series—"Forest mortality: Invasives and climate change," Dr. Gerry Adams, Associate Professor of Practice, UNL Department of Plant Pathology, 4 p.m., 264 Keim.

Feb. 13: Biotechnology & Life Sciences Seminar—"The ecology of algal biofuels production," Dr. Val Smith, University of Kansas, hosted by Dr. Dave Dunigan, Nebraska Center for Virology, 4 p.m., E103 Beadle Center.

Feb. 14: Department of Agronomy & Horticulture Valentine Dessert Potluck, 2 p.m., 150 Keim.

Read leads Education Abroad program to Australia



Photo by Sam Rosewarne

Dr. Paul Read, UNL Professor of Viticulture, and UNL undergraduate and graduate students tour the Frogmore Creek Wines vineyard at Richmond on the island of Tasmania, Australia.

Dr. Paul Read, Professor of Agronomy & Horticulture, led a group of UNL undergraduates and graduates on an Agriculture and Natural Resources Tour to Australia, Dec. 25, 2012–Jan. 14, 2013 for AGRI 310. This two-week program introduced participants to agriculture on the island of Tasmania and explored how farming practices intersect with wildlife preservation and conservation.

The group departed Omaha at noon on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2012. They spent two days in Sydney, mostly getting acclimated and visiting tourist sites including the Sydney Opera House.

They arrived in Hobart, Tasmania in time to visit the Salamanca Market and attend the "Taste of Tasmania"—a great combination of a flea market and vendors. The "Taste" provided students with an opportunity to sample local culinary delights such as wallaby burger and scallop pie.

The Tasman Island Boat Cruise provided the students with an opportunity to see the characteristics of the island state, and some marine life such as porpoises, whales and seals; aqua culture and unique bird life.

The group made visits to vineyards and wineries, a cheese factory, and an incredibly modern producer of salad vegetables—the

Continued on page 2.

Calendar of Events

Feb. 15: Department Seminar—"Western corn rootworm adaptation to management practices: Historical and current perspectives," Lance Meinke, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

Feb. 18–19: 2013 NNLA/NAA Nebraska Great Plains Winter Conference, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln.

Feb. 20: Biotechnology & Life Sciences Seminar—"Construction and potential applications of engineered minichromosomes in plants," Dr. Jim Birchler, University of Missouri, hosted by Dr. Sally Mackenzie, Center for Plant Science Innovation, 4 p.m., E103 Beadle Center.

Feb. 22: Department Seminar—"Genomic selection: Corn and cattle," Blaine Johnson and Keith Boldman, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

Feb. 27: Biotechnology & Life Sciences Seminar—"Learning from natural immunity to HIV-1: Developing effective vaccine and identifying novel target for HIV-1 prevention and treatment," Dr. Ma Luo, University of Manitoba/National Microbiology Laboratory hosted by Dr. Qingsheng Li, School of Biological Sciences, 4 p.m., E103 Beadle Center.

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

March 1: Department Seminar—"Simulation modeling for crop management decision support," Haishun Yang, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

March 8: Department Seminar—"From grad student to USDA plant geneticist—A research overview," Melinda Yerka, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

March 18–22: Spring Break, UNL offices are open but no classes.

April: Department of Agronomy & Horticulture Spring BBQ.

April 27: Spring Affair, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Lancaster Event Center.

Education Abroad Program continued from page 1.

students were fascinated with their bed-making and machine harvesting methods.

While visiting one of the vineyards, the group was interviewed for the local newspaper, *The Mercury*, and the story was also picked up and amplified by *Tasmanian Country*, a weekly agriculture-related newspaper.

To start the new year on Jan. 1, petrol was mistakenly pumped into the diesel vehicle's tank which necessitated a change of itinerary. This allowed the group an opportunity to visit a farm that produces opium poppy. Although previous groups had seen this crop from a distance (it is strictly protected by law), our group was able to see the plants close-up.

While traveling in the Derwent Valley, after observing hops farms and a historic fish hatchery, the group saw a raspberry harvester in operation and subsequent processing system.

Numerous crops were observed, including a tour of a cherry orchard entirely covered with netting, a lavender farm, grain crops, two modern dairy farms (but different systems), wool and meat sheep production, forestry enterprises, an organic producer of flaxseed, quinoa and brussels sprout, several opportunities to observe and learn about grassland and forage management, and a

research dairy at University of Tasmania/Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture. The students learned about production, harvesting, processing and packaging of vegetables; and observed production, grading and marketing of tulips, Dutch iris and lily bulbs.

"Students saw an incredibly diverse array of agricultural enterprises and natural resource sites."

Natural resources in Tasmania abound. Mining, forestry, pulp production, mountains, breath-taking waterfalls and streams of rare beauty are but a few of the sights that titillated the senses.

The students learned quickly to make lavish use of sunscreen, since the ozone layer is thin over Tasmania and sunburn/ultraviolet radiation are concerns.

"Students saw an incredibly diverse array of agricultural enterprises and natural resource sites," said Read. "I learned a great deal that will help facilitate an even more valuable experience for CASNR students who want to participate in the next Education Abroad trip to Australia."

In the news

Wortmann lends support to Ugandan soil research team



Charlie Wortmann

Charles "Charlie" Wortmann, professor of soil science in the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture, was recently in the news at Today@UNL about his work with the Ugandan soil research team from the National Agricultural Research Organization and Makerere University, led by soil scientist Kayuki Kaizzi.

The team has developed a way for farmers to greatly improve profitability of fertilizer use.

"Fertilizer use recommendations for Nebraska are made for each crop-nutrient combination to maximize net returns per acre. The findings in Uganda indicated a need for a more complex recommendation

system that could maximize net returns on the small investments in fertilizer use for severely finance-constrained situations," Wortmann said.

To enable this complex decision process, Jim Jansen, former UNL graduate student from Fordyce, Neb., worked with Wortmann to develop an Excel-Solver decision tool. Jansen has since graduated with Master of Science degrees in agricultural economics and agronomy from UNL.

The tool, called the Uganda Fertilizer Use Optimizer, considers the 15 crop nutrient response functions and determines the crop-nutrient-rate combinations that are expected to maximize net returns on investment.

See newsroom.unl.edu/announce/todayatunl/1973/11031.

Calendar of Events

April 5: Department Seminar—"Genetic, genomic, biochemical and cell biological insights into maize endosperm texture and protein quality," David Holding, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

May 3: UNL Graduate College Commencement, 4 p.m., Memorial Stadium

May 4: UNL Undergraduate Commencement, 9:30 a.m., Memorial Stadium

June 25–27: 2013 NAIPSC Field Course, University of Nebraska–Lincoln West Central Research & Extension Center, North Platte.

July 22–25: 2013 ASHS (American Society for Horticultural Science) Annual Conference, Palm Desert, CA.

NAIPSC Webinar Series Schedule

Feb. 14: "Large-scale restoration projects: How?" Chris Helzer, The Nature Conservancy, Nebraska.

Feb. 27: "Fire on the landscape," Dr. Lance Vermeire, USDA-ARS, Montana.

March 14: "Native thistles: How important are they?" Dr. Natalie West, USDA-ARS, Illinois.

March 27: "Training animals to control invasive plants," Kathy Voth, Livestock for Landscapes.

April 10: "Biocontrol successes and controversies," Dr. Eric Coombs, Department of Ag, Oregon.

April 23: "Models: What are they really telling us about invasive plants?" Dr. Bethany Bradley, University of Massachusetts.

May 9: "Is there a complimentary native replacement for every invasive or non-native plant species?" Charlotte Adelman, Author of *Midwestern Native Garden*.

News from the HAPPI Business Center

New P card voucher available

A new P card voucher has been issued. Please start using this new form as soon as possible for your credit card purchases.

The most significant difference on the voucher is the new box for justification—why the prime vendor or eShop were not used.

This new form is located on the department server under FORMS/Purchasing/PCard Voucher1-2013 REVISED.pdf. It's also on the Office Pros web page.

If you are not familiar with eShop or need access and training, please visit with one

of the HAPPI Business Center staff in 202 Keim. If you have questions regarding the form, please contact your reconciler.

Turn in package slips

Please remember to turn in all packing slips to the business center for any order you receive. It is an important piece of information we are required to keep on file to show an order was received and the invoice is ok to pay.

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Lennander at blennander2@unl.edu or 2-6238.

2013 North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course now open

The 2013 North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course (NAIPSC) is now open for registration. Similar to previous years, the 2013 NAIPSC Field Course will include presentations, hands-on workshops, site visits and instructor-led discussion sessions on the latest in invasive plant ecology and management.

The NAIPSC Special Session for 2013 is on the topic of biocontrol. Registration can be done either online or by downloading a brochure from the NAIPSC website at ipscourse.unl.edu. While there, be sure to check out the new NAIPSC Online

Community that features relevant webinars, (listed to the left) interesting articles, and opportunities to interact on any topic related to invasive plants.

Also new is the Invasive Weed Ecology Program, which has some interesting information and thoughtful insights on invasive plants.

The third annual NAIPSC Field Course will be held June 25–27, 2013 at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln West Central Research & Extension Center in North Platte, NE. CEU and graduate student credit will be available.

News for and about graduate students

Travel fund opportunity

The Daniel T. Walters Graduate Student Travel Fund is named in honor of a soil scientist, professor, researcher, mentor, and teacher in the UNL Department of Agronomy for 26 years. Dan Walters had a continual quest for new knowledge and the use of existing knowledge for the betterment of humankind, showed excellence in scholarship and teaching, had a strong commitment to students, and was actively engaged in university governance.

This fund will provide up to a \$500 award to a graduate student in the Department

of Agronomy & Horticulture who is personally presenting their research results at a professional meeting. Preference will be given to students who have a significant soils component in their research. Expenses may include transportation (not to exceed cost of coach class airfare), registration, lodging and meals. University procedures for travel authorization and expense reimbursement must be followed. Students must be enrolled at UNL at the time they are presenting their research.

Applications are due March 25. Please contact Marlene Busse with any questions at marlene.busse@unl.edu or 2-1560.

Award presented

The Chancellor's Committee on Wellness presented the Outstanding Contribution to Employee Wellness Award for the Fall Semester 2012 to **Erin Bauer** and **Aaron Franco** for their exceptional commitment to providing Wellness opportunities to their co-workers. Congratulations!

Proposals due

The **Nebraska Wheat Board** is now accepting research and extension proposals for the 2013–2014 fiscal year. Deadline for submitting proposals through Nugrant is Friday, Feb. 8, 2013.

Grant

The **Nebraska Crop Improvement Association** has a Grant Fund to support investigations and promotion of seed science related projects in Nebraska. Requests must be submitted by March 15 to the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association. Call 2-1444 with questions.

Congratulations

Emily Levine, Department of Agronomy & Horticulture Special Projects Research Horticulturist, was recently elected as a Fellow of the Center for Great Plains Studies by their Board of Governors. Nice work Emily!

Digital Library

The ACCESS Digital Library is available at libraries.unl.edu/trials for faculty, staff, and students to use until Feb. 13.

This digital library will provide immediate online access to the content of *Agronomy Journal*, *Crop Science*, and other publications from ASA-CSSA-SSSA, particularly the older content which is currently available only in print at C.Y. Thompson Library. E-versions of ASA-CSSA-SSSA books also are available through this digital library.

Contact Nora D'Croz-Mason, Agronomy library liaison, at ndcroz-mason2@unl.edu with any questions.

2013 Nebraska Turf Conference held in January



Mike Boekholder, of the Philadelphia Phillies, gave the conference attendees a behind-the-scenes look at turf management for the Major League Baseball World Series.

On behalf of UNL and the Nebraska Turf Association (NTA), Department of Agronomy & Horticulture Events Coordinator Wendy Morrissey and Professor Zac Reicher would like to thank everyone who attended and/or helped with the 2013 Nebraska Turf Conference held at the LaVista Conference Center on Jan. 8–10. Highlights of the Conference included:

- Over 550 professionals registered for workshops and educational sessions covering all areas of lawn, sports, and golf turf management.
- The trade show included over 30 exhibitors and was heavily trafficked during the intentionally abbreviated hours.
- The general session was packed, as Mike

Boekholder of the Philadelphia Phillies, talked about what it takes to manage turf for the Major League Baseball World Series, followed by Department of Agronomy & Horticulture Head Roch Gaussoin reflecting on the last 20+ years of his work in Nebraska.

- Gaussoin was the recipient of the NTA's highest Award—the Distinguished Service Award.
- The Extra Mile Award was presented to Tim Corbett of TruGreen, for his unselfish work on the NTA Board of Directors—helping the NTA through relatively rough periods of embezzlement by a management company, as well as improving the transparency of the finances for the NTA.
- This year's winner of the Presidential Award was awarded to Jeff Witkowski.

The Conference was completely revamped this year, sponsored solely by the NTA, held at a new location, and focused primarily on turf. The positive responses to the changes were overwhelming, but the NTA will constantly be looking for ways to improve future conferences.

This conference took a tremendous amount of work and we want to thank the Board of Directors of the NTA as well as the entire turf program staff at UNL.

Dr. Roch Gaussoin and Jeff Witkowski receive awards

The Nebraska Turfgrass Association's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, is given to an individual who has contributed significantly to the development of the Nebraska Turfgrass Association and the ideals it represents. Dr. Roch Gaussoin earned this prestigious award for his tireless work helping to improve the turf industry of Nebraska and the country over the last 20 years.

The Nebraska Turfgrass Association's Presidential Award is given annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the professional turf industry of Nebraska. This year's winner was Jeff Witkowski, who has been involved directly or indirectly in every single research trial over the last 20 plus years at the John Seaton Anderson Research Center in Mead.



Above (left to right): Andre Hoyt was presented the NTA Past President Award; Dr. Roch Gaussoin, the Distinguished Service Award; Tim Corbett, the Extra Mile Award; and Jeff Witkowski, the Presidential Award at the recent Nebraska Turf Conference.

Both awards were presented at the 2013 Nebraska Turf Conference Jan. 8–10.

Fidelity, TIAA-CREF counseling sessions available in February

Free one-on-one financial counseling sessions will be offered to faculty and staff in February.

TIAA-CREF sessions are Feb. 14, 18, 19, 27 and 28 in the NEU (room posted) and Feb. 11, 18, 21, 22, 25, 26 and 28 in the Wick Alumni Center Library. Sign up by calling 800-732-8353 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. After hours messages can be left at 1-866-842-2908, extension zero.

A **Fidelity** consultant will be at the Nebraska Union Feb. 7 and 19 and the NEU Feb. 18 and 22. Sign up by calling 800-642-7131.

For more information, contact Dani Whitney at dwhitney3@unl.edu or at 2-0937.

Identify Cupid's Cutie



A department baby photo contest – Identify Cupid's Cutie – is being held until the end of day, Feb. 13. The winner will be announced Feb. 14 at the department's Valentine Dessert Potluck.

In the 202 Keim Hall Suite are the "Cutie" contestants. Please make a point to stop by 202 Keim Hall to cast your ballot.

The winner will receive a box of chocolates and two theater movie passes. Rules for the contest are as follows: all staff, faculty and students may enter (except the "Cuties" in 202 Keim) and only one entry per person is allowed. The first ballot drawn with all correct identifications will be the winner. If no one identifies all photos correctly, the first ballot drawn with the most number of correct identifications will be the winner.

"Growing an Industry" is theme for forum and trade show

The 16th Annual Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum and Trade Show will take place at the Kearney Holiday Inn from Feb. 28–March 2, 2013.

The lineup of speakers for the overall program will include successful Nebraska grape growers, wine makers, grape enthusiasts, and experts from Nebraska and neighboring states.

Registration for the forum and trade show can be found at events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e6y671j7fc91b3d9&llr=mnvcekklab.

There is also a call for submissions of wine for the competition featuring Nebraska's best wines to match each course of the banquet. The new Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association (NWGGA) Executive Director will provide insights on the state of the industry, as well as coordinate the trade show.

Best paper award presented to Blanco



Humberto Blanco

A 2008 paper by Humberto Blanco-Canqui, UNL Department of Agronomy & Horticulture, and Rattan Lal, The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources, was selected as the 2012 S-06 Best Paper Award (Humberto Blanco-Canqui and Rattan Lal. 2008. No-tillage and carbon sequestration: An on-farm assessment. Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J. 72:693-701.)

Their paper was selected from S-06 papers published in the last seven years that have had exceptional impact on the scientific community. Nice work Humberto!

Gaussoin to receive Distinguished Service Award



Roch Gaussoin

Dr. Roch Gaussoin was acknowledged as one of four men, in the golf course management industry, chosen to receive the 2013 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)

Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award. This took place at the 2013 GCSSA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA on Feb. 6. Other recipients were Ken Mangum, CGCS; Dennis Lyon, CGCS; and Frank Lamphier.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to individuals who have made an outstanding, substantive, and enduring contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession. The award was renamed in 2009 in honor of Morley, GCSAA's founder and first president.

Known as "Doc Roc" in the turfgrass industry, Gaussoin has accelerated in the fast lane of turfgrass management, doing everything in his power to ensure superintendents go along for the ride. Gaussoin has published more than 80 scientific research articles and at least 250 pieces for trade journals, newsletters, and extension programs.

"I just did what I thought superintendents needed in terms of research and education," says Gaussoin. "I spent as much time listening as doing. I think that open ear helped the most."

Connecting with students is also one of Gaussoin's strong suits. He helped undergraduates at Nebraska form a student GCSAA chapter and then stayed on as their advisor for more than 10 years. Congratulations Roch!

"I spent as much time listening as doing. I think that open ear helped the most."



Valentine Dessert Potluck

Valentine's Day, Feb. 14
2–3:30 p.m.
150 Keim

Please bring a dessert or snack (popcorn, fruit, etc.) to share.

Coffee, ice tea, lemonade, plates, cups, napkins and utensils will be provided by the Activities Committee.

Judges Needed

Attention faculty, staff, graduate students, and upperclass undergraduates—judges are needed for the 2013 Nebraska Junior Academy of Science Southeast Regional Science Fair for Middle and High School Students on March 2, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. at the NEU. Judges are responsible for reviewing participant abstracts and critiquing presentations. No preparation needed. Register at go.unl.edu/sciencefair by Feb. 18. If you have questions please contact Laura Frey at 2-4445 or lfrey2@unl.edu.

Free Membership

The American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS), premier worldwide organization for those interested in the science, art, and practice of horticulture, invites all undergraduate students enrolled in horticulture classes to membership in ASHS. The membership is free for an entire undergraduate career and gives electronic access to the ASHS newsletter, videos and podcasts; and notification of scholarships offered. Sign up today at ashs.org.

Office pros news and updates

Making room reservations

Many of the Office Associates can make conference room reservations for 202N Keim, 279M PLSH, 375 PLSH, and 150 Keim. Feel free to contact us at the phone number or email listed for making a room reservation.

Are you expecting a shipment?

When ordering large equipment or a large shipment, please let the Office Associates in 279 PLSH know. If we are not notified, we can spend a lot of time hunting for the owner of the shipment. Please help us and assist you by notifying an Office Associate listed: Fran Benne, fbenne2@unl.edu, 2-8747

Kat Cockrill, kcochrill1@unl.edu, 2-1503
 Brenda Gibson, bgibson2@unl.edu, 2-2811
 Marlene Busse, marlene.busse@unl.edu, 2-1560
 Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, 2-1508.

Forms on the web

The Office Pros are continually working to make our website usable and pertinent. We have updated travel forms with the new mileage rate (.565) and posted them on the left side of our web page. If you are looking for a form, please visit the web page at agronomy.unl.edu/officepros. If you would like another form added to the site, please contact Kathy Schindler, 2-1508, kschindler1@unl.edu. Thank you!

MyPLAN expands 'flags' and 'kudos' messaging options

Now UNL instructors are able to use MyPLAN to send two new types of messages directly to students.

MyPLAN—My Personal Learning and Advising Network—is UNL's new student advising system. The tool is a digital system available through a tab in Blackboard. It is designed to help document advising sessions electronically and to track and monitor student successes toward graduation.

The new messages offered are flags—automated email regarding concerns with academic performance or attendance and kudos—positive email related to strong academic performance within a course.

If a student has three “flags” raised during a semester an automated email will be sent to the student's academic adviser. The message will encourage the adviser to contact the

student and provide support and referrals to academic resources.

In contrast to a flag, kudos are positive messages that instructors can send to students. Kudos are designed to offer students further motivation and encouragement to keep up their good work within a class.

MyPLAN was implemented as part of broader campus efforts to improve academic advising for undergraduates. In addition to creating an electronic advising record that accompanies students throughout their academic careers, MyPLAN also offers instructors features such as attendance rosters and the ability to offer online scheduling for office hours and other appointments.

For more information about MyPLAN go to myplan.unl.edu or contact Vanessa Roof at vroof2@unl.edu.

USDA-ARS Research Unit welcomes new employee

Nicole “Nikki” Herrera, began the position of Program Support Assistant, for the UNL USDA-ARS program units recently.

Nikki is a native of Lincoln who graduated from Lincoln Northeast High School. After graduating from high school, she joined the U.S. Army Reserves in Lincoln to help with her college expenses. While with the Army, she was deployed to Iraq three

times. She earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration while with the Army.

Since April, 2010 she had been working as a civilian employee for the U.S. Army Cadet Command at Creighton University in an equivalent administration position.

She prefers to be addressed as “Nikki.” She and Donna Martin are the main administrative contacts for UNL based ARS staff.