

Message From the Department Head



We are glad to resume publication of the PSES Newsletter. Turn-over in departmental office staff left us short handed for a while, but with Lisa Washburn's arrival, we are back to full ranks in the office and are resuming the newsletter to help keep faculty, staff, students and alumni aware of events in PSES.

The 2006-2007 academic year has drawn to a close. We bid farewell to another group of graduating students. We wish all 12 undergraduates, 16 M.S. students, and five Ph.D. candidates who graduated from PSES this spring the very best in the next phase of their lives.

At our Spring Graduation Celebration and Awards Ceremony on May 2, we recognized graduating students and honored our nominees and winners of college and university awards. I am very pleased to tell you we had an exceptional list of faculty, staff and students and student nominees. Our Outstanding student nominees were: Julie Hilland, Freshman, Willow Falcon, Sophomore, Daniel Murphy, Junior and Mary Ridout, Senior. Babu Srinivasan won the Hubert C. Manis Award. Roy Patten won the CALS Outstanding Staff-Service Maintenance Award for his excellent work as the Farm Manager for the Plant Science Farms. Dennis Schotzko and Karl Umiker won University of Idaho Outstanding Employee Awards in the Staff-Technical/Lab Support category. Cally Matsuoka won the University of Idaho Outstanding Employee Award in the Secretary/Clerical category. Our other nominees were Deb Holstad in the Classified Exempt category for her excellent work as our Budget Specialist. Jodi Johnson-Maynard was our nominee for CALS Outstanding Advisor for her work with undergraduate majors in soil science and the Soil Stewards. Jack Brown

was our nominee for the R.M. Wade Excellence in Teaching Award. Sanford Eigenbrode was our nominee for the Richard C. Heimsch Award for Excellence in Research. Nilsa Bosque-Pérez was one of three winners of Athena's Woman of the Year Award. Please join me in congratulating all these people who have contributed so much to the success of PSES.

The university also recognized the following PSES employees for longevity of service to the institution: Five Years Service—Ericka Ziebarth, Aberdeen R&E Center, 10 Years Service—Daniel Carmona, Parma R & E Center, Fifteen Years Service—Kristi Cope-land, Aberdeen R & E Center, Tina Brandt, Kimberly Research and Extension Center, Linda Wilson, Mary Lauver and Ying Wu, PSES, Moscow, 20 Years Service—Mary George, PSES, Moscow, 25 Years Service, Roy Patten, PSES, Moscow, and 30 Years Service—Bradley Harmon, PSES, Moscow.

Since our last newsletter we have had several faculty and staff retire or leave for other employment opportunities. Jeff Miller left the Aberdeen R&E

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lisaw@uidaho.edu

Bryan Hopkins moved to a faculty position at Brigham Young University. John Lloyd became the Director of the Urban Forestry Institute. Tom Mowry retired. Cinda Williams left for the position of Latah County Director and Extension Educator of Agriculture and Small Farms.

Several new employees are joining PSES. Dr. Jianli Chen is joining the department as a faculty member at the Aberdeen R& E Center. Her program will be in wheat breeding and genetics. JaNan Farr, Research Technician and Justin Wheeler, Support Scientist I, have both been hired by Pam Hutchinson in Aberdeen, and Donald Shouse has been hired as a Scientific Aide Senior in Twin Falls by Don Morishita and Xue Zhao has been hired as a scientific Aide Senior in Moscow and is

working for Sanford Eigenbrode and Marc Klowden. Lisa Washburn joined the PSES office staff as our new academic assistant. Babu Srinivasan returned to the U of I to join Juan Manuel Alvarez's program at the Aberdeen R&E Center. We wish to welcome Jianli, JaNan, Justin, Donald, Xue, Lisa and Babu to the department and encourage you to meet them if you have not already done so. We have four additional faculty searches underway and are hoping to initiate six more in the near future as we continue to fill positions to meet changing needs.

This fall we are initiating our new, multidisciplinary bachelors program in Agroecology, Horticulture and Environmental Quality. This unified program

will allow us to offer students broader-based preparation in agricultural, biological, ecological and environmental sciences. Thus, we expect to attract more students and offer them education that will diversify their educational and career options.

It is an exciting and challenging time for PSES as we undergo continuing changes. I want to express my appreciation to the faculty, staff and students who do excellent work in our programs. I also want to acknowledge our gratitude to our alumni and other supporters. Of particular note are our departmental advisory committee, volunteers who serve on search committees, and donors. Their contributions are vital to our success. Ding

Cultivating Success Program: Sustainable Small Farm Education


PSES continues to partner with the **Cultivating Success Program** to offer a series of courses that provide education in the sustainability of small farms and ranches. The goal of the program is to promote knowledge and skills needed to be a successful small acreage farmer or rancher. Courses are open to students at the University of Idaho and Washington State University.

The Fall 2006 courses drew five U of I and five WSU students. 16 students enrolled for non-academic credit. During the Spring 2007, students from the U of I enrolled in the Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Field Analysis of Sustainable Food Systems courses. This coming fall, courses will include World Agriculture Systems, Organic Farm Practicum, and Sustainable Small Farming and Ranching (also being developed to be offered on-line), all offered jointly with WSU.

On-Farm Apprenticeships.... are also available. Examples include apprenticeships at the WSU Organic Farm, GreenTree Naturals in Sandpoint, ID & Maple K Farms in Colfax, WA.

For more information please visit: www.cultivatingsuccess.org.

Club News...

PLANT & SOIL SCIENCE CLUB:

The Plant & Soil Science Club is open to any U of I student interested in plants and/or soils. The club participates in numerous activities, including growing plants for Plant Club Sales, field trips, hosting guest lecturers, and community service activities. Students interested in joining can go to <http://www.uidaho.edu/clubs/pssc/getinvolved.htm>.

Club Officers for 2007-08: President Paul Collins, Vice-president Jesse Dahl, Secretary Esther Buck, Treasurer Megan Nickelson.

Spring 2007 Field Trip: Six students (Paul Collins, Jessie Knox, Jesse Dahl, Adam Blalock, Lauren Svejcar, and Jeff Naher), along with club advisor **Bob Tripepi**, traveled to Seattle to visit a well-known horticultural garden (the Bloedel Reserve) and other horticultural attractions. The trip was supported, in part, by department funds and by bedding plant sales.

Thanks for the Support: The Plant & Soil Science Club wants to thank PSES and the university for supporting the annual bedding plant sale. This year's sale was quite successful and well supported by the university community. If you have requests for certain cultivars of annual plants, feel free to contact the club president, Paul Collins (coll5318@vandals.uidaho.edu) with your request.

Club News (cont.) ...

SOIL STEWARDS:

The Soil Stewards have been busy this spring and summer planning and planting over a ¼ acre of organic vegetables, flowers and fruit at Parker Farm! Our farm managers Heidi Heffernan and Daniel Murphy have been overseeing our 2007 production plan and our slew of campus and community volunteers, who have worked hard on a number of projects already this season.

Most noticeably, if you've driven the Troy Highway lately and glanced over at our plots just inside the gates at Parker, is the addition of a 12 foot tall "hoophouse" built this spring with money awarded to the Soil Stewards through a Sustainable Idaho Initiative grant. We are already seeing eggplants and green tomatoes inside! Photos of the building process are now online at our website: <http://stuorgs.uidaho.edu/~soilstewards/>

We have sold over 20 "shares" through our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, and look forward to providing our shareholders with fresh, delicious produce starting in July. If you missed getting your subscription this year, or only need a few things for dinner, be on the lookout for our on-campus Farmstand, starting sometime in July!

Other news: we officially filed our paperwork for organic certification with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture this January and await our inspection sometime this summer. If you'd like to conduct your own inspection, we are planning an open house/farm field day in August, date and time TBA, but expect plenty of food, music, a tour, and more!

We are extremely grateful to the folks who stayed around this summer and have committed to helping out on the farm. Students and staff returning this fall can jump right in as well. We will have bi-weekly or monthly club meetings, harvest days several times a week. For our on-campus Farmstand, and events like Palousafest and Ag Days, we will need help staffing! We cannot do it without volunteers.

So stop by the plots, email one of our officers, or visit our website to learn more. See you at the farm!

Advisor: Jodi Johnson-Maynard jmaynard@uidaho.edu

President: Carrie Caselton-Lowe carrie.caseltonlowe@vandals.uidaho.edu

Vice President: Lydia Clayton lydiaclayton@vandals.uidaho.edu

Treasurer: Karen Vaughan karen.vaughan@vandals.uidaho.edu

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Esmaeil “Essie” Fallahi, Professor of Pomology, SW Idaho R&E Center, presided and gave two talks as an invited keynote speaker on “Global Cherry Research and Challenges” and “Status of New Bio-regulators for Apples” at the International Fruit Tree Association (IFTA) Conference in Yakima, Washington, June 10-14, 2007. Representatives from many states and countries participated at this conference.

Erica Nees, B.S. in Horticulture 2006, has been accepted into medical school.

Esther Ngumbi, Ph.D. student in Entomology, was the recipient of an American Association for University Women Fellowship, a University of Idaho Presidential Fellowship and an NSF-EPSCoR Fellowship. Esther was also selected to attend the Future Leaders Forum sponsored by the Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development. Esther is beginning her third year of her Ph.D. project on virus-vector-plant interactions under the supervision of **Sanford Eigenbrode**. She aspires to complete her studies in the US and return to her home country, Kenya, to work on the development and adoption of safe and sustainable agricultural pest management practices and other aspects of food security.

Bob Mahler will assume the role of Chair of the Division of Soil and Land Resources, taking over for **Matt Morra**, effective July 1, 2007.

NEW HIRES

Jianli Chen is joining the department as a faculty member at the Aberdeen R&E Center. Her program will be in wheat breeding and genetics.

JaNan Farr, Research Technician and **Justin Wheeler**, Support Scientist I, have both started working in Aberdeen for **Pam Hutchinson** in her Potato Cropping Systems, Weed Management program. JaNan began work on November 6, 2006 and Justin, who completed his M.S. with Ed Souza, started working in December 2006.

Donald Shouse has been hired as a Scientific Aide Senior in Twin Falls. He is working for **Don Morishita** assisting in the weed science program and is helping coordinate the small grain cereals, sugar beet, corn and alfalfa weed management projects.

Rajagopalbabu (Babu) Srinivasan has been hired as a Research Support Scientist 1 in Aberdeen. He is working for **Juan Manuel Alvarez** assisting in two projects, aphid-virus interactions in potato systems and pest management in potatoes and small grains. Babu earned his doctorate under Juan Manuel late last year and left for a Post-doctoral position in Florida. We were lucky to hire him back earlier this year. He began working for Juan Manuel again on February 20, 2007.

Lisa Washburn has been hired as an Administrative Assistant 2 in Moscow. She is the academic assistant for the department and takes care of our student—and course-related matters. She began work on February 12, 2007.

Xue Zhao has been hired as a Scientific Aide Senior in Moscow. She is working for **Sanford Eigenbrode** and **Marc Klowden** on a project involving the mating behavior and pheromones of *Anopheles gambiae*, one of the major malaria vectors.



Dates to Remember for Summer 2007

The URL for PSES Newsletters is: http://www.ag.uidaho.edu/pses/Students/pses_newsletters.htm

Tuesday, June 26 Parker Farm Field Day—Contact Stephen Guy at 885-6744 or
sguy@uidaho.edu

Wednesday, July 4 Independence Day—U of I Closed

Monday, July 9 Beginning of 4-6 week Summer Session

Friday, August 17 Last day to submit final grades for incompletes given in the prior Fall or
Intersession terms and Close of Summer Session.

Monday, August 20 Last day to file acceptable theses, dissertations, abstracts, and results of
comprehensive examinations for graduate degrees to be awarded in August.

First day of the Fall 2007 semester

Tuesday, August 21 Summer grades due at 12 p.m.

\$50 Late Registration for Fall 2007 semester begins