



Calendar of Events

Jan. 1

- New Year's Day

Jan. 2-26

- Intent to Graduate, Activation Period

Jan. 9

- Leave of Absence—
DEADLINE

Jan. 10

- Arrival Day—New Students

Jan. 11

- Student Registration—
DEADLINE

Jan. 12

- Classes Begin

Jan. 12-21

- Drop/Add Period

Jan. 19

- Martin Luther King Day—NO CLASSES

Jan. 22

- Late Registration and Late Drop Begin
- 2:00 Department Meeting, Room 10 Tyson

Jan. 26

- Deadline to Activate Intent to Graduate on eLion

Rich's Reflection...

I was just reading the December issue of the ASHS newsletter. One of my favorite sections of the newsletter each month is the section called "Notes from the Archivist". Don Maynard is the archivist and I first met Don about 40 years ago when I was in high school and he was an Associate Professor at UMass. I always try to visit with him at ASHS meetings because he is a walking ASHS history book. In this month's column he published part of a presidential address from 1988 by Jim Moore, a retired fruit breeder at the University of Arkansas. Jim listed some challenges facing horticulturists in the late 80s, but most of these challenges are still with us today. As we near submission of our strategic plan it might be good to think about some of these challenges that were discussed by Jim.

- Maintain identity of horticulturists
- Adjusting to changes in sources of program funding
- Coping with increasing specialization
- Conserving natural resources
- Germplasm preservation and use
- Adapting to regulatory restrictions in agriculture
- Meeting consumers needs and demands
- Integrating biotechnology and horticultural science
- Meeting future educational needs of horticulturists
- Influencing public opinion

The Horticulture departments that still exist today are those that were able to overcome or adapt to these challenges. The Horticulture departments that survive the next five years will be those that can continue to meet these challenges. I think that we have a department that is well positioned to prosper during the next few years. We are still a comprehensive horticulture department with strong undergraduate, graduate and extension programs. As extension restructures during the next few years, we should be better able to include the county educators and the Master Gardeners to obtain external funding. We are one of only three horticulture departments in the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions with a comprehensive teaching program, so hopefully we will be able to attract more students from other states. Our research projects span the entire range from very basic to very applied plant biology, as well as marketing, ecology, and energy. With new federal funding for interdisciplinary and translational research, we will emerge as the primary horticulture department in the region and we will play a leadership role in all three missions.



Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Conference

This year's meeting in Hershey will be one week later than normal and will be held **Tuesday February 3 through Thursday February 5**. This is a premier fruit and vegetable conference on the east coast with over 1800 participants, speakers and exhibitors. The convention is held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center (<http://www.hersheyhodge.com>). The program details can be accessed at <http://www.mafvc.org/html/> and click on educational program. Brian Nicholson, Vice President of Marketing and Sales of Red Jacket Orchards, will be the keynote speaker for this year's Convention. Remember to tell your students that they will receive complimentary registrations by visiting either the State Horticulture Association of Pennsylvania registration booth across from the entrance to the Exhibit Hall or the Pennsylvania Vegetable Grower Association registration desk in the Chocolate lobby.

Social Hour

**Friday, January 9
10:00am, Room 21 Tyson**

Please join us for the Department's Social Hour. Open to everyone in the department including faculty, staff, graduate students, post docs, and visiting scholars. Please encourage others, who haven't attended in the past, to attend so that they can meet and socialize with other colleagues in our Department.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jori Sharda for successfully passing her final oral exam. Jori's advisor is Roger Koide

Congratulations to Phanchita (Nan) Vejchasarn for successfully passing her thesis defense. Nan's advisor is Kathy Brown

2009 Pennsylvania Farm Show

The best of Pennsylvania's agriculture will be on display at this year's farm show running from January 10-17, 2009 with the theme—Keeping Pennsylvania Growing. Visit the Farm Show website for more information at:
<http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/farmshow/site/default.asp>

Happy Birthday!

Jan. 17
Siela Maximova

Jan. 18
Margaret Hoffman

Jan. 30
Jori Sharda



January Seminars

**Wednesdays 4:00-5:00pm
108 Tyson**

Jan. 14—Louise Comas, Research Associate, Department of Horticulture, *Title TBA*

Jan. 21—Kevin Mueller, Ecology Ph. D. Candidate, *International, interdisciplinary research at the graduate student level: why do it? where's the money? and a few results too*

Jan. 28—Matt Kinkade, Plant Physiology Ph. D. Candidate, *Title TBA*

Spring Department Meetings

All meetings are held in Room 10 Tyson

Jan. 26 at 10:00pm
Feb 25 at 2:00pm
March 23 at 10:00am
April 27 at 10:00am
May 26 at 2:00pm

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