

PENNSTATE



# HORT D'OEUVRES

Department of Horticulture  
College of Agricultural Sciences

MARCH 2009

## CONTENTS

<b>Rich's Reflection</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>Congratulations &amp; Social Hour</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Advising Center News</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Spring Dept. Meetings Schedule</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>March Seminar Series</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Hort Club News</b>	<b>2</b>

### Calendar Of Events:

#### March 8

- Last Day Final Exam  
Conflict Filing Period

#### March 9

- Pass Doctoral Defense-DEADLINE (SP 09)

#### March 9-13

- **SPRING BREAK—NO CLASSES**

#### March 17

- St. Patrick's Day

#### March 20

- First Day of Spring

## RICH'S REFLECTION

I just attended an open forum for one of our candidates for the Dean's position. He was asked a number of very interesting questions, but his response to one was particularly interesting. The question concerned evaluation of research programs. He said the thing that makes our College valuable to society is that we discover new knowledge through our research, and then we transfer the new information to our students and also to the people around the state who can use it to better various aspects of their lives. This was nothing new to me because it is exactly why I decided to major in agriculture as an undergraduate and why I wanted to work at a Land Grant Institution. He continued to say that one way to evaluate the quality of a program is by counting refereed journal articles and considering the amount of external funding a program generates. This is also

nothing new, but he went on to say that the University administration is starting to value the leadership role that a program may have in a given field. Do our peers around the state in other states consider a program as one of the best in the country? Do our faculty members take leadership on multi-institutional grant proposals and on developing workshops? This aspect of evaluating the quality of a program is a little new, so I thought about how our programs are viewed by our peers.

I believe that we have a number of programs that are considered among the best in the country. I know from talking with other Horticulture department heads and industry leaders that our landscape contracting program is considered one of the best, if not the best in the country. The high tunnel and green roof programs are among the oldest, largest, most innovative and most highly re-

garded in the country. Collectively, our expertise in root research is certainly very highly regarded around the country. The fruit program, including expertise from other departments, is a national leader in organic fruit research and in orchard mechanization. The fruit extension program has also become the primary source of information for growers in the mid-Atlantic region. The Christmas tree short course attracts growers from many states and I have been told by growers from several states that it is the best program in the region. A number of faculty members serve on editorial boards for prestigious journals and grant review boards. During the last five years, the department has been well represented on the board of directors for the American Society for  
(Cont'd page 2)

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to **Louise Comas** on the arrival of her baby, **Simon Jeffrey Belda**, 9lbs. & 22 inches long. **Simon was born at 11:45pm on February 7, 2009. Louise and Simon are home and doing well.**

## SOCIAL HOUR

### FRIDAY, MARCH 6

#### 9:30am, 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. Come and socialize with your colleagues in the Horticulture Department.

## ADVISING CENTER NEWS

By: Paige Thomas

It is time for your students to apply for a College of Agricultural Sciences/Department of Horticulture scholarship for the next academic year. The simple application is completed on-line at this web site: <http://students.cas.psu.edu> Follow link to scholarships. If students don't apply, they won't get a scholarship from the Department of Horticulture next year. Registration for summer classes is happening NOW. Registration for Fall, 2009 classes begins after spring break and is staggered based on credits accumulated. Thanks for your help in getting this information out to your student advisees!



## Rich's Reflection (Cont'd from pg. 1)

the American Society for Horticultural Science and Bill Lamont is the president elect. I am sure that I have left out some other areas where we are considered leaders, and considering the department as a whole, I believe that we are in a leadership position in the mid-Atlantic and the northeast regions.



## SPRING DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

All meetings are held in  
Room 10 Tyson

March 23 at 10:00 am

April 27 at 10:00 am

May 26 at 2:00 pm

## MARCH SEMINARS

WEDNESDAYS 4:00-5:00pm

111 TYSON BLDG.

**MARCH 4— Samuel Trachsel, Penn State University, *The genetic control of root growth and root morphology in tropical maize***

**MARCH 18— Gregory Peck, Cornell University, *Integrated and Organic Fruit Production in New York State: A Four-Year Comparative Trial in a 'Liberty' Apple Orchard***

**MARCH 25— Richard Bowden, Allegheny College, *The Dirt on DIRT: Using Organic Matter Manipulations in the DIRT (Detritus Input and Removal Treatments) Experiment to Understand Forest Soil Carbon Dynamics***

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Mar. 10

Bob Snyder

Mar. 18

Annette Dathe

Mar. 23

Dave Despot

Mar. 26

Jeanette Arteca



## NEWS FROM THE HORT CLUB:

On February 12 and 13, the club held its annual Valentine's Day Flower Sales in the HUB. Despite competition from other organizations, we were still able to sell the majority of our flowers. The flower sales presented an opportunity for the club to interact with the public. This coming Spring, the club is planning a few community service projects. One of the projects that is proposed is to clean-up a very visible area of campus. Keep watching for more details of this project. From March 21 – March 29, 19 club members will be competing in the PLANET Student Career Days held in Pomona, California. We are hoping that they have fun and that they represent our school to the best of their ability. If you see any of the students going to PLANET, wish them luck. Hort Club still meets every other Wednesday at 6:45pm. The next two meetings will occur on March 4, and March 25.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801; Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY.

