



Hort d'oeuvres



Volume 10, Number 05

College of Agricultural Sciences

May 2008

ADVISING CENTER NEWS

By Paige Thomas

MAY

Calendar of Events

May 2

- Withdrawal DEADLINE
- Classes End
- Social Hour 10:00, 21 Tyson

May 2-4

Orchid Show, ag arena

May 3-4

-Study Days

May 5-9

-Finals

May 16-18

-Commencement

May 18

-Arrival Day -New students,
 First six-week session
 -Student Registration, First six-week session

May 19

-Classes Begin, First six-week session

May 19-22

-Drop Add Period, First six-week session

May 19-June 20

-Intent to Graduate - Activation Period

May 23

-Late Registration and Late Drop begins

May 26

-Memorial Day - NO CLASSES

Twenty-eight undergraduate students are scheduled to graduate from the Department of Horticulture on Saturday, May 17 at 9:00 in Eisenhower Auditorium. Please congratulate these students when you see them. Gregory Crews has been selected to carry the Landscape Contracting banner, and Melissa Mazurkewicz will carry the Horticulture banner.

19 Landscape Contracting Students

James Broderick
 Anthony Capotosto
 Melissa Cox
 Jeffrey Deegan
 R. Andrew Gabries
 Thomas Jastrem
 Jeffrey Krezo
 Toni McLaughlin
 Michael Nitroy
 Jaison Vanhorn

William Cahill
 Nathan Cooper
 Gregory Crew
 Elizabeth Egan
 James Gilliland
 Eric Kobb
 Ross McAllister
 Andrew Myers
 Joseph Pascucci

9 Horticulture Students

Jordan Fairchild
 Crystal Hoffman
 Stephanie Lenhart
 Melissa Mazurkewicz
 Johanna Mirinda
 Hope Pflieger
 Patricia Stefanick
 Stephen Stubna
 Kacee Wheeland

CONGRATULATIONS!



Cellar Market

The Cellar Market will begin its season Wednesday, May 21 from 12:00 to 5:30 p.m. Come visit the market and check out the selection of fruit and vegetables for the first time this season.



Spring Flower Sales

May 14-15 (every Wednesday and Thursday following while supplies last.)

11:00am - 3:00pm

HH #2

Variety of annuals, African Violets, and other misc. houseplants





Spring 2008 Commencement

Commencement ceremonies will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2008 at Eisenhower Auditorium.

Graduates should arrive no later than 8:30 a.m. in the lobby of Eisenhower Auditorium and must be in academic regalia (cap and gown) to take part in the ceremony. Caps and gowns can be purchased at The Penn State Bookstore (at the HUB) and the Student Bookstore (330 E. College Ave.).

There are no tickets required for the College of Agricultural Sciences Spring Commencement ceremony, but tickets are required for the graduation brunch afterwards.



CAS Graduation Brunch

The College of Ag Sciences Alumni Society invites faculty and instructors to be their guests at the Graduation Brunch in Gym I of the Intramural Building immediately following the commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 17, 2008. This special brunch, hosted by the Alumni Society, provides an opportunity for our newest graduates and their families to mingle with faculty, administrators, other graduates, and our alumni family. The brunch will be served as guests arrive. The Alumni Office will provide you with one complimentary ticket for the event, and additional tickets may be purchased at \$12 each. All tickets must be reserved in advance -- there will be no admission at the door without tickets. Please register online at agalumni.cas.psu.edu. All reservations must be made by Monday, May 12, 2008. For more information please call 814/863-2822. We look forward to having you with us to celebrate this happy event in the lives of our students!

Tree and Shrub Sale

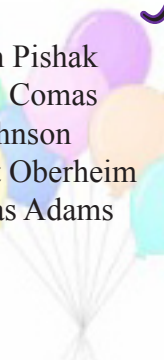
Thursday and Friday, May 1 - 2, 2008
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Behind Tyson Building in the parking lot.
While supplies last!

No big shade trees as in the past. Arborvitae, Blue spruce, hemlock, Douglas-fir, some forsythia, and odds & ends. Also, we'll have a few houseplants for sale. Cash or checks only, no credit cards. For more information contact Kathy Shumac, kms8@psu.edu



*Happy
Birthday!*

Sharon Pishak	May 4
Louise Comas	May 5
Jon Johnson	May 6
Robert Oberheim	May 24
Thomas Adams	May 25



Social Hour

THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL HOUR FOR THE MONTH OF MAY WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, MAY 2 AT 10:00 IN ROOM 21 TYSON. 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. SMALL REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED BUT YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE.



Congratulations

Congratulations to **Mike Mohney** who will graduate this semester with a MAgr., Advisor Dan Stearns and **Graham Sanders** who will graduate with a M.S. Horticulture, Advisor Elsa Sanchez.

Congratulations to **Jori Sharda** (PhD candidate, IBIOS, Advisor: Roger Koide) and her husband Dan on the birth of their son,

32nd Annual PLANET Student Career Days a Success for Penn State

-Submitted by Martin McGann

For the third time in as many years, a student team from Penn State has finished in one of the top ten positions at the Annual Student Career Days competition. This year the event was held at North Metro Technical School near Atlanta and had a record 64 schools in attendance. Penn State placed 6th overall with many individuals placing high in their events.

On the way down to Atlanta, the 40 students on the Penn State team and one student from Pennsylvania College of Technology had an opportunity to visit the Bartlett Tree Company Research Arboretum and the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in Charlotte, NC. At the Bartlett Arboretum we were shown around by Dr. Greg Paige who was also generous enough to provide us with a lunch at their headquarters building. The arboretum is used by Bartlett to examine growth habits, utilization, and problems associated with trees in the landscape. The Daniel Stowe Garden was a small but very varied garden with excellent exterior displays and a wonderful orchid collection on display in the conservatory. Both locations were worth the time and gave everyone a chance to stretch their legs before proceeding on to PLANET.

Before starting the competition portion of Student Career Days, students had a chance to attend several workshop sessions hosted by leading individuals and companies in the green industry. This was followed by a faculty/industry reception and a student reception. Judging by the noise level the students had way more fun however, it was nice for the PSU faculty to reconnect with faculty and friends from other institutions over the three day event. There were twenty five events offered this year and although not everyone place high in their event, we always appreciate the effort students put into preparing for this competition. Following are some of our best finishes.

2nd Place-Annuals and Perennials (Margaret Hoffman), Exterior Landscape Design (Jaison Van Horn), Interior Landscape Design (Tu Bui)

3rd Place- Interior Plant ID (Kim Ollerich), Landscape Maintenance Operations (Aston David & Kevin Kindig)

4th Place- Arboriculture Techniques (James Gilliland & Greg Crews), Leadership Skills (Kristen Mowery)

5th Place- Skid Steer (James Broderick)

7th Place- Construction Cost Estimation (Joe Pascucci), Interior Plant ID (Patti Stefanick)

10th Place- Sales (Laura Maynard)

Faculty who attended this event: Larry Kuhns, Martin McGann, Mike Reinert, Jim Savage, Dan Stearns.

Isaiah Richard Sharda. He was born Thursday, April 3, weighing 8 lbs.



Kevin Mueller (PhD candidate, Ecology, Advisor: Dave Eissenstat) is receiving an NSF International Dissertation Improvement Award entitled: International: Using ^{13}C NMR Spectroscopy to Study the Influence of Litter Chemistry on Soil Organic Matter Formation in Forests, \$18,000.

The award will provide Kevin funds to collect samples in our common garden research plots in south western Poland and then conduct research for three months in the lab of Dr. Ingrid Kögel-Knabner (Technical University of Munich, Germany) where he will use two highly-specialized techniques (physical soil fractionation and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy) to examine how litter chemistry affects soil organic matter formation. These awards are highly competitive and Kevin should be congratulated for writing an excellent proposal.

Congratulations to **Erika Stover** and **Diane Rudy** for successfully completing and receiving their certificate for the 2007/08 Office Professional Excellence Program. This program began during the fall 2007 semester and was completed during the spring 2008 semester. Congratulations to both of you for a job well done!