



ADVISING CENTER NEWS

by Paige Thomas

If you have been a faculty supervisor this summer of a student who registered for a Horticulture Internship (Hort 495), please encourage that student to apply for a 2008 College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society Internship Award. Awards of \$750 each will be made to eight students who are chosen for the best application packets. Application forms were sent to students' home address, and I have additional copies in the Advising Center for any faculty member and/or student who wants a copy. Deadline to submit application in 229 Ag Administration Building is Friday, September 12th at 5:00.

Welcome New Graduate Students to the Department

Advisors: Jonathan Lynch

Nathan Moore, Ph.D. Horticulture

Larry York, Ph.D. Ecology

Patompong Saengwilai, Ph.D. Plant Biology

Advisor: Elsa Sanchez

Ermita Hernandez, Ph.D. Horticulture

Advisor: Dave Eissenstat

Jane Wubbels, M.S. Horticulture

Jay Osborne, Ph.D. Ecology

Advisor: Dan Stearns

Dan Havrilla, M.Ag. Horticulture

Advisor: Roger Koide

Chris Fernandez, Ph.D. Ecology

Calendar of Events

Sept. 1

- Labor Day Holiday NO CLASSES

Sept. 1-3

- Drop/Add Period

Sept. 1-8

- Intent to graduate, activation period

Sept. 4

- Late registration and Late Drop Begins

Sept. 5

- Department Social Hour 2:00 Room 10 Tyson

Sept. 6

- PSU Home Football vs. Oregon State 3:30pm

Sept. 13

- PSU Football at Syracuse 3:30pm

Sept. 20

- PSU Home Football vs. Temple 12:00pm

Sept. 22– Oct. 12

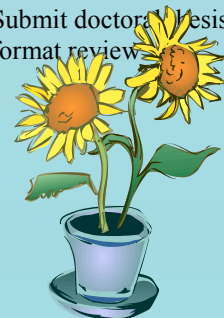
- Final Exam Conflict – Filing Period

Sept. 27

- PSU Home Football vs. Illinois 8:00pm

Sept. 29

- Submit doctoral thesis for format review



Good Bye!



With great sadness we must announce that Guoyang Lin will be leaving the department. Lin's last day will be Friday, September 5. Lin has worked in this department for many, many years and has been a familiar face to so many long standing employees, students and many friends of the department. Lin will be sorely missed by all.



There will be a farewell gathering for Lin on Friday, September 5 at 2:00 in 10 Tyson. If you are available, please try and stop by.



Sept. 7—Charles Heuser
Sept. 10—Tracey Harpster
Sept. 13—Kathy Brown
Sept. 16—Bruce Dye
Sept. 21—Christina Wagner
Sept. 28—Chien-Chih Chen



CELLAR MARKET

Stop by and see what the Market has to offer. Open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Rich's Reflections

We are always trying to attract good graduate students and students that bring diversity to our department. During the past 18 months I have travelled to Puerto Rico with a College delegation to visit the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, where a memorandum of understanding was signed to facilitate exchanges and cooperative initiatives between the two universities in the area of teaching, research and outreach. Our department has already participated in this program by hosting undergraduate students from UPR-M for a summer experience. We hope some of these students will return as graduate students. While I was there I presented an overview of the department and visited with four Horticulture M.S. students who were considering doctoral programs in the U.S. I have also visited with university administrators from Mexico, Africa, and two Chinese universities to discuss opportunities for cooperative projects and graduate student training. Several faculty members in our department were involved in a 3-year project to train Mexican graduate students from the University of Guanajuato to become Extension Specialists. While here the students learned how to conduct applied research, use plasticulture to extend the growing season, and market horticultural products.

A new opportunity developed this summer. In June we hosted a group from Humboldt University in Berlin. Three faculty members brought 14 students (undergraduates, MS and PhD students) on an excursion to the U.S. Most of the students were interested in various aspects of horticulture, but some were interested in Phytomedicine (Plant Pathology and Entomology). They visited Virginia Tech, Penn State, Cornell University, and a USDA station in Delaware and they did some sightseeing in Washington DC, Philadelphia, Longwood Gardens, and New York City. They are interested in placing their students in graduate programs in the US, so they wanted to learn more about our programs. On Saturday, June 21 they toured the greenhouses and Bob Cameron, PhD student working with Rob Berghage, gave them an overview of the green roof program and explained many of Penn State's activities to protect the environment and conserve resources. After a visit to the Creamery, Bill Lamont gave them an overview of high tunnels and vegetable research at Rock Springs. I gave them an overview of the tree fruit and small fruit research programs, as well as the Plant Science farms at Rock Springs. I also gave them a brief tour of campus and gave them some general information about Penn State and the College of Agricultural Sciences, the Intercollege graduate programs, and the Department of Horticulture, as well as an explanation of the Land Grant system. Saturday night they enjoyed a cook out at Amy Burton's (PhD student with Kathy Brown) house, where they met some grad students from several departments. On Sunday they hiked Mt. Nittany, did some shopping and attended a Spikes game – the first baseball game any of them had ever seen. On Monday morning they got a brief tour of Tyson Building and then 4 of their students and 3 of our students (Amelia Henry, Jennifer Landry, and Lori Shapiro from Entomology) gave short presentations on their research. The research they are doing is quite diverse, including growing sphagnum as a crop as an alternative to peat moss in soilless media, using a phytoplasma to control an invasive weed in the tropics, genetic changes in cherry leaf roll virus, and using secondary metabolites from plants infected with bacteria to protect plants from infection. Through these efforts, and through the efforts of individual faculty members, I hope we will be able to attract more international graduate students into our program.