

ADVISING CENTER NEWS

By Paige Thomas

There are some important deadlines in April for Faculty Advisers to remember to discuss with their advisees.

- Friday, April 11 - Late Drop Deadline
- Wednesday, April 30 - LAST DAY to apply for College of Ag Sciences and Department of Horticulture Scholarship for next year – That is done on-line at <http://scholarships.cas.psu.edu/> - Follow link to 2008 Application Form.

Registration for fall semester, 2008 classes is happening right now. This is a great time for Faculty Advisers to contact their advisees! If any student is planning to participate in a Horticulture Internship this summer for credit, he/she must register for Hort 495 before the end of spring semester. More information about this is available in the Advising Center in 118 Tyson.

Social Hour

THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL HOUR FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, APRIL 4 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.

April

Calendar of Events

April 4

- Social Hour 10:00, 21 Tyson

April 11

- Late drop - DEADLINE

April 14

- Submit final thesis

April 22

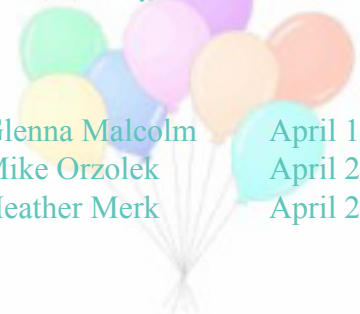
- Earth Day



Happy Birthday!

Glenna Malcolm
Mike Orzolek
Heather Merk

April 17
April 23
April 23





Graduate Colloquium

Horticulture 590

Room 111 Tyson

4:00 - 5:00 PM



April 3 - Phanchita Vejchasarn, *The genetic Regulation and Physiology of Manganese Toxicity and Tolerance in Arabidopsis (Arabidopsis thaliana)*

April 10 - Mike Mohny, *Mastering Google Sketch Up: A guide for Landscape Designers*

April 17 - Ben Hoover, *Developing Hypoxia Tolerant Conifers*

April 24 - Beth Mathie, *Student Perceptions Toward Incorporating Real World Activities Into Horticulture Curricula*

Jeff Nagle Alumni Achievement Award Winner

Nagle is the Smithsonian's supervisory horticulturalist. His job requires that he oversee the upkeep and maintenance of the gardens and plants on Smithsonian museum grounds. He heads a staff of about 10 other horticulturalists, biological science technicians and volunteers.

Nagle, who graduated from Penn State in 1998, and staff take care of seven different museum outdoor areas and three main specialty gardens that are considered to be the most frequented outdoor museum spots around the Smithsonian.

Nagle said that the Smithsonian's lavish gardens are generally regarded as meeting spots or gathering places where frequent museum visitors like to meet up with friends and colleagues, to take nature walks or simply to sit and relax.

Nagle credits Penn State for having a renowned horticulture study program that helped him land his job at the museum. "Penn State was one of the few schools in the nation that had a horticulture major when I was looking at colleges," he said.

While Nagle was a student, he participated in the university's work-study program, in which he did landscape work around the Agricultural Administration Building on the University Park campus. During his summers off from school, Nagle held prestigious internship positions, landscaping with popular commercial landscaping companies such as the Shearon Environmental Design Company in Plymouth Meeting, Pa.

Nagle at planterNagle enjoyed his time in commercial and residential landscaping but knew that he wanted to take on a more interactive, nature-based approach to landscap-

ing. “When you work for a commercial landscaping company, you go to the same work-site every day to complete your job on a certain home,” Nagle says. “But doing the landscape for the Smithsonian is just a more satisfying, hands-on, long-term kind of activity.”

Nagle recalls that his landscape design class was his favorite at Penn State. “It required a lot of creativity and a lot of drawing,” Nagle says. “We would go out to a house, draw up a new landscape, and present it to the homeowners there. It really prepared you in terms of what it would be like to have clients.”

One of the reasons Nagle enjoys his current occupation so much is because landscaping the grounds of one of the nation’s largest and most celebrated museums is like having the opportunity to create several grand artistic masterpieces in nature. “People come from all over to tour the Smithsonian gardens to take leisurely strolls through Smithsonian Parks and to picnic among the beautiful fall foliage or the colorful scenery of the garden’s seasonal flowers,” he says.

The best part about his job as supervisory horticulturist, Nagle believes, is that he gets to see people enjoying the grounds that he cares for, firsthand, every day. “It’s incredible, the number of people who get genuine enjoyment out of the work I do,” he says. “You can see it in the way people remark about the different displays and stop to smell the flowers.”

<http://www.cas.psu.edu/Spotlights/06Nagle/Default.html>

On Thursday, April 3 from 7:30-9:00 pm there will be an Alumni Achievement Award Mixer at the Hintz Alumni Center.

Current students and young alumni are invited to greet the alumni award recipients, learn how their Penn State experiences helped influence their professional career, and gain insights into the secrets of their success.

A New But Familiar Face in Tyson

Dr. Louise Comas joined the research faculty of the Horticulture Department this fall as a Research Associate. Her position is funded by a NSF grant she secured with a collaborator, Dr. Hilary Callahan, at Barnard College of Columbia University. Many of you may remember Louise - she completed her dissertation under the direction of Dr. David Eissenstat in 2002 investigating differences root form and function among forest trees. Her current work continues to examine patterns of variation in root traits among species. A portion of her research will focus on plasticity of root morphology when root are mycorrhizal versus uncolonized, and take place in the PSU Experimental Forest near Shavers Creek, and Black Rock Forest, Columbia University’s experimental forest. Another portion of her work will examine broad patterns of root trait diversity across woody angiosperms and their non-seed plant relatives, sampled from living plant collections at the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Barnard College.

Louise is developing her research and associated interests with a team of undergraduate students. She currently has five students working with her, three on aspects of her research and two on aspects of the Growing Native Program, a collaborative program involving ClearWater Conservancy, PSU’s Center for Sustainability, and two local high schools.



You can find Louise in 16 Tyson. Stop by if you have a chance!