



ADVISING CENTER NEWS

By: Paige Thomas

The ADVISING CENTER has moved to the first floor in 118 Tyson. The move is a work in progress, but please stop by at your convenience to see the larger space with new paint and carpet. I continue to work with 'open door policy', and you are welcome at any time.

Five undergraduate students are scheduled to graduate on Saturday, August 18. Please congratulate these students when you see them.

HORTICULTURE: Erik Carson, Sarah Rhynalds, Allison Leech
LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING: Anthony Bryk, James Nolte



Ag Progress Days Highlights

BOTH PAST AND FUTURE TO BE FEATURED AT PASTO AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

<http://aginfo.psu.edu/News/07July/Pasto.htm>

DON'T MISS "THE EQUINE EXPERIENCE" AT AG PROGRESS DAYS

<http://aginfo.psu.edu/News/07July/EquineExperience.htm>

ENERGY FROM AGRICULTURE FEATURED AT AG PROGRESS DAYS

<http://aginfo.psu.edu/News/07July/GreenEnergy.htm>

FARM HEALTH AND SAFETY FEATURED AT AG PROGRESS DAYS

<http://aginfo.psu.edu/News/07July/FarmSafetyHealth.htm>



August

Calendar of Events

August 6

- Second six-week session late Drop Deadline

August 14-16

- Ag Progress Days

August 15

- Second six-week session withdrawal deadline and classes end

August 16

- Second six-week session study days

August 18

- Commencement

August 20-September 10 - Intent to graduate activation period

August 24

- Leave of absence deadline

August 24-25

- Arrival day, new students

August 25-26

-Arrival day, returning students

August 26

- Student registration deadline

August 27

-Classes begin

August 27-September 5

-Drop/Add period

Horticulture Touches Everyone and Even Now the Farm Bill?

By: Bill Lamont

In the Centre Daily Times today there was an article in the Business Section titled "House Prepares for Farm Bill Showdown". Part of the debate on the new farm bill is the push to boost support for specialty crops (code word for horticultural crops) since the benefits of eating more nutritious fruits and vegetables and the true value of the entire horticulture industry is finally being recognized in the halls of Congress. It is not being lost on the members of Congress that the expanding waistline of the American public and especially the childhood obesity issue will certainly impact the health care system in the future if not addressed now. I am not going to address this issue although my simple plan to handle the childhood obesity issue would be to "eat good nutritious food and exercise more and less computer games" should go a long way to solving that problem without spending billions of dollars researching the issue!!

It is nice to see that horticulture is finally being recognized even if it is called "Specialty Crops". Horticulture is a broad and diverse field and that breadth has been one of the major impediments to getting it recognized for all the benefits that society receives daily from a strong and vibrant horticultural industry. Horticulture does indeed "Touch Everyone Everyday of Their Lives" as Dr. Pete Ferretti likes to say. Think about those delicious blueberries and raspberries that you have been enjoying. What about the antioxidants they supply that help to keep you healthy? What about the delicious red tomatoes with their lycopene, and the wide variety of nutritious and delicious vegetables and fruits being produced and consumed each day? What about the "Green Industry" with the nursery crops (trees and shrubs), and the large floriculture industry that beautify our homes and landscape and even the beautiful cut flower arrangements that grace our dinner tables? There are the nut crops like almonds that have many reported health benefits. I personally even consider the turf industry in Horticulture although I know that it is housed in the Agronomic/Crops areas in many universities, it is integral to the entire landscape design. Think about the organic production and marketing of fruits and vegetables. The breath and depth of horticulture is huge and it does indeed impact everyone everyday of their lives and we are better for it.

It is good that horticulture is being recognized in the halls of Congress because it is important to the health of both the minds and bodies of our citizenry and to the true national security of the country. Behind this large horticulture industry are the researchers, teachers and extension professionals who practice the "art and science" of horticulture at Land Grant Universities, two and four year colleges, technical schools, research centers, and within private corporations to help to ensure that our horticultural industries remain strong and vibrant.

It is true that horticulture does indeed touch your life everyday.

Congratulations

Taryn Bauerle won "Best Student Paper Award" at the ASEV-ES (American Society for Enology and Viticulture) conference.

Elsa Sanchez was named vice chair of the Commercial Horticulture Extension Working Group for ASHS.

Congratulations to **Art Gover** whose wife gave birth to a baby girl, Elinor Catherine Gover, on July 23rd she weighed 8 lb, 2 oz, and was 21 inches long. Mother and child are doing well.



Elinor Catherine Gover



Cellar Market



The Cellar market is open Wednesday's 12:00 to 5:30. Come in and check out the selection of fresh fruit and veggies. Don't forget fresh cut flowers too.

Happy Birthday

Kathy Shumac	Aug. 5
Amelia Henry	Aug. 6
Mark Gultinan	Aug. 13
Richard Arteca	Aug. 23
Janine Conklin	Aug. 30



Bernie Kratky, a Horticulturist with The Tropical Plant and Soil Science Department at The University of Hawaii and based at The Beaumont Agricultural Research Center in Hilo, Hawaii has joined his old friends, Mike Orzolek and Bill Lamont for a 6 month sabbatical leave at The Center for Plasticulture from June through November.

There are many similarities between vegetable growing technology in The Center for Plasticulture's high tunnels and Hawaii's rainshelters. Thus, a sabbatical at Penn State University should provide learning opportunities for all parties involved.

He is conducting research in plastic tunnels at the Rock Springs Farm on simple hydroponic techniques. His main project is to improve a float-support method for growing lettuce in raceways containing non-aerated nutrient solution. No additional nutrients and water are needed after their initial application prior to transplanting. No weeding, thinning, electrical power or pumps are necessary and water use efficiency should be less than 2 gallons/head. His first crop is already growing.

A second planned project is to develop a fluid drilling method to plant very tiny (155,000 seed/oz) watercress seeds in net pots and to grow ratoon crops of watercress by a suspended pot, non-circulating hydroponic method. Watercress is a very nutritious crop which is well liked by Hawaii consumers. Currently, watercress in Hawaii is vegetatively propagated and most is grown in flooded soil beds and some upland watercress is also grown. However, yields have been decreasing in recent years and other production methods need to be developed.

Bernie's experience in Tropical Agriculture gives Penn State an opportunity to react to global warming by experimenting with tropical crops requiring longer growing seasons which the combination of global warming and plastic tunnels might provide. He is setting up sub-irrigated tanks of edible ginger, taro, papaya, Gogi berry and wax apple. This will give students and visitors exposure to these tropical crops.

In addition, Bernie plans to interact with Horticulture faculty and students, conduct library research, attend several classes and meetings and present a seminar.

Bernie is occupying Pete Ferretti's office (Tyson 222) and can be reached by email at kratky@hawaii.edu or bak22@psu.edu

Frank J. McArdle

Frank J. McArdle, 87, passed away on July 2, 2007, in Venice, Florida. He is survived by Ruth, his wife of 60 years, one daughter, and three sons. During his tenure at Penn State he served on the USAID-AUD project which planned and established a land grant university in the state of Maharashtra, India. He worked in Horticulture from 1958-1975 before transferring to food science and retiring in 1980. He was a Co-Advisor for the Hort club from 1963-1966. He also was a veteran of World War II and held the rank of Senior Scientist in the Reserve U.S. Public Health Service.



Russell Larson standing on far left, Frank McArdle standing on far right, and Ernie Bergman sitting