



From the Climate Committee -  
**Breakfast at the North Atherton Waffle Shop, January 10th**



As you may know, we're trying to plan more social events for the department. Work responsibilities and conflicting family activities can make it difficult to participate in activities, so, we're trying something little different. We're scheduling our first "department breakfast" for Wednesday, January 10th at 7:30 a.m at the Waffle Shop at 1229 North Atherton Street. Hopefully that won't cut into your work day, and should be a nice way to start it! We'll send out an email reminder and ask how many plan to attend a couple of days ahead of time so we get an appropriately-sized table(s). The department is not picking up the tab, but the low cost of breakfast will hopefully fit even a grad student budget. For those who don't know where this Waffle Shop is, it's on the right if you're heading out of town, just before the intersection where you'd turn left if you were heading to the Giant Food Store plaza. Hope to see you all there!

**Penn State Access Account Passwords Set to Expire Annually**

Penn State has recently begun an initiative that will require all Penn State Access Account owners to change their passwords annually. The new password change requirement has been instituted to increase the personal security of Penn State community members and to help protect business, research and academic resources throughout the University. See University implements yearly password change initiative for details about the initiative.



Passwords can be changed at any time, but must be changed no later than April 2007. ITS strongly recommends that you change your password before it expires.

To change your password or to find out more information about changing your password, visit <http://its.psu.edu/password/>

## January

### Calendar of Events

- Jan. 2-29**  
- Intent to Graduate Activation Period
- Jan. 6-13**  
- PA Farm Show, Harrisburg
- Jan. 12**  
- Arrival Day for New Students
- Jan. 15**  
- Leave of Absence DEADLINE  
- Student Registration DEADLINE  
- Martin Luther King Day , NO CLASSES
- Jan. 16**  
- Classes Begin
- Jan. 16-25**  
- Drop/Add Period
- Jan. 26**  
- Late Registration and Late Drop Begins
- Jan. 30-Feb 1**  
- Mid Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Conference, Hershey





## Department Match



Match the fact with the correct department member. Facts may apply to more than one department member listed (and possibly others not listed). Some information can be found in the “Colleagues and Cohorts” feature in this issue, and the correct answers appear below. Permission to use facts and names is usually obtained prior to publication.

A. Former Air Force Sergeant	Tracey Harpster
B. Enjoys quilting	Larry Kuhns
C. Former Navy Commander	Kathy Kelley
D. Avid NASCAR fan	Bob Snyder
E. Was a First Lieutenant in the Army	Jamie Smith
F. Think Harley-Davidson motorcycles	Tiffany Shultz
G. Has a Boykin spaniel named “Colonel”	Bill Lamont

## SOCIAL HOUR

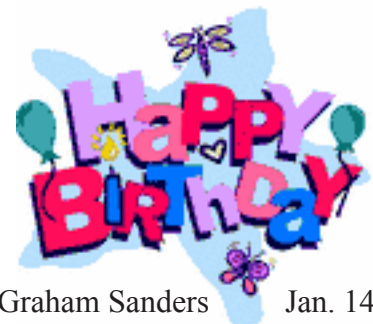


THE DEPARTMENT’S SOCIAL HOUR FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, JANUARY 12 AT 10:00 IN ROOM 21 TYSON. OPEN TO EVERYONE IN THE DEPARTMENT INCLUDING FACULTY, STAFF, GRADUATE STUDENTS, POST DOCS, AND VISITING SCHOLARS. PLEASE ENCOURAGE OTHERS, WHO HAVEN’T ATTENDED IN THE PAST, TO ATTEND SO THAT 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 Chien-chih Chen on passing his comprehensive exam 12/15/06.

Congratulations to Johannes Postma on passing his candidacy exam 12/19/06.



Graham Sanders	Jan. 14
Siela Maximova	Jan. 17
Craig Kreider	Jan. 29
Jori Sharda	Jan. 30

Answers: A – Bob Snyder; B – Tracey Harpster and Kathy Kelley; C – Bill Lamont; D – Tiffany Shultz and Jamie Smith; E – Larry Kuhns; F – Tracey Harpster; G – Larry Kuhns

## Colleagues and Cohorts



Bob Snyder  
Research Support  
Assistant  
15 years with the  
department  
Born in Hager-  
stown, MD; raised  
near Fairview, MD

Bob Snyder is  
lab manager for  
Drs. Lynch and  
Brown, where he  
works in research,

conducting experiments in the lab, the field, and places in-between. He also works with grad students, training and mentoring them in safety and research. There are recurring themes in Bob's life.... experiments ("I was trying to make solid rocket fuel in the storage shed as a kid."), mice ("They returned to earth safely."), a love of nature and the outdoors, and he has an artistic side that just keeps resurfacing.

Bob took college preparatory courses in high school, but the draft redirected him to the Air Force, where he attained the rank of Sergeant, spending time in Turkey and Minot, ND guarding aircraft and missile sites. He eventually attended college, starting out as a Liberal Arts major, but "I stunk at sculpture and poetry", so a switch to a biology curriculum was in order. After obtaining his Bachelor's degree in Biology, he earned an M.A. in Environmental Science during evenings and weekends while working full-time as a lab technician in plant physiology (herbicide and plant growth regulators) for the USDA-ARS in Fort Detrick, MD. Opportunities to advance in the job were nonexistent, and other jobs he tried were lacking ("I need windows."). He met his need for fresh air and nature for 10 years by working on weekends as a whitewater raft guide and canoe instructor on the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers. Eventually, while visiting a friend in PA, a chance meeting with Dr. Don Waddington on a back

road turned into a job in the Agronomy Dept., and an interview with Dr. Jonathan Lynch followed. He recalls that the day he interviewed with Jonathan, his horoscope read "Your fate has been set". Bob's lifelong love of nature and the outdoors, and his artistic side that's apparent in his photography are combined into gorgeous (in the author's opinion) photographs of birds, nature and botany. He still loves the solitude of nature, and the clarity that solitude brings to light.

Bob eventually returned to Minot during a canoe trip to the Boundary Waters area, where he visited Barb Anderson, who he had known from 25 years previous during his Air Force days. "I kind of rekindled an old flame, I guess"... and in 1997, he and Barb were married. They reside in Howard with 2 cats and 1 dog. Bob's photography can be viewed on his office door, on the Web at <http://bobsnyderphotography.phanfare.com/> and at the Artisan Connection downtown.



Bill Lamont  
Professor of Veg-  
etable Crops  
206 Tyson Building  
75% extension, 25%  
research appoint-  
ment  
10 years with the  
department  
Born in Philadel-  
phia, PA; raised in

Huntingdon Valley, PA (18 miles outside of Phila-  
delphia)

Bill credits his interest in horticulture to his grand-  
father, who came to the United States in the early  
1900s from Ireland, and worked in industrial  
construction with family members. Though his  
profession was construction, his passion was horti-  
culture. Bill's grandfather had a glass greenhouse,  
and he enjoyed plants, especially flowers. Oddly,  
Bill's first horticultural memory is negative. When  
he was little he pulled up his grandfather's to-  
mato plants and "got a little whipping". Bill also

replanted a lot of azaleas in his youth that were in a location where they tended to get run over. Despite the rough start, Bill's affection for horticulture led him to his current position as professor of vegetable crops.

Bill came to the department in 1997. Prior to arriving here, he was on the faculty at Kansas State University for nine years, and at North Carolina State University for six years. He applied for the position here after finding out about it from Mike Orzolek, a long-time colleague and friend. Bill thought it would be fun to come back to Pennsylvania and saw a lot of opportunities in horticulture because of the large population centers in the northeast.

Bill's first Bachelor's degree was in Economics and Business Administration from Lebanon Valley College in 1967. He spent 4 years in active duty with the Navy, achieving the rank of Commander, and then earned his second undergraduate degree, this time in Horticulture at Delaware Valley College. ("Hey, I was an undergraduate for 7½ years! That might be a record for our department!"). His Master's and Ph.D. degrees were earned at Cornell University in Vegetable Crops.

Bill's favorite food is a good steak. His favorite hobby is having fun. He enjoys singing (and music in general), reading non-fiction and fiction books (he's been reading about Joshua Chamberlain, a hero at the battle at Gettysburg) and hunting (he'd hunt year round if he could). For Bill, horticulture is more than a career - it is part of his being and he lists agriculture as another hobby. Bill has a couple of favorite places to spend time; Spain because of the people, culture, wine and food, and the shore where he likes to fish. His favorite song is "The Impossible Dream" from the musical "Man of La Mancha" - he said he wore the record out when he was in college.

Bill's favorite quote is the "Man in the Arena", or "Not the Critic" quote from Theodore Roosevelt. You can find the full quote at various places on Web by searching on "Man in the Arena".

Bill has been married to his wife Phyllis for 30

years. They have two sons, Billy and Kevin, who are both in college. Bill's enjoying making plans for building a cabin on the 27 acres of land he's recently purchased in Huntingdon County.

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## The Pennsylvania Farm Show

The PA Farm Show is the largest indoor agricultural event in America, with 25 acres under roof, spread throughout 11 buildings including three arenas. Farm show officials expect more than 400,000 spectators, some 10,000 animals, 8,000 competitive exhibits and nearly 300 commercial exhibitors at the eight-day event. More than \$440,000 in premiums will be offered to competitive exhibitors.

Each year, more than 150 faculty, county extension educators and staff from Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences participate in the Farm Show as committee chairs and members, exhibit personnel, publicity staff and judging coordinators for competitions from beef cattle and poultry to maple products and mushrooms.

The show runs from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 6 - 13 at the Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, at the corner of Cameron and Maclay streets in Harrisburg, just off exit 67 of Interstate 81. Admission is free, and parking is \$5. For more information, visit the Web at <http://www.farm-show.state.pa.us>.

