



March 2007

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## ADVISING CENTER NEWS

By: Paige Thomas

Registration for fall semester, 2007 begins right after Spring Break. Registration is staggered, based on how many credits students have. Varsity athletes and Schreyer Honors' students can register at the beginning of the registration period.

Here are a few tips that might be helpful as you meet with your advisees to discuss their fall schedules.

All the Chemistry course numbers have changed.

- Chem 12 has changed to Chem 110
- Chem 14 has changed to Chem 111
- Chem 13 has changed to Chem 112
- Chem 34 has changed to Chem 202

Gary Moorman will definitely be teaching a 3-credit course this fall in Plant Pathology of Horticultural Crops (PPath 300). This new course will be offered on Monday and Wednesday @ 9:05-9:55 with Friday Lab @ 9:05-11:00. Horticulture students can use PPath 300 as a substitute for PPath 405. Landscape Contracting students can use PPath 300 as a substitute for PPath 318. The schedule number for PPath 300 is 883345.

For those Horticulture students who choose to take PPath 405 in the fall, the class time is being (or has been) changed. The CORRECT time for PPath 405 in the fall will be: Monday and Friday @ 2:30-3:25 with Wednesday Lab @ 2:30 – 4:25.

### Congratulations!

Dennis Decoteau was presented with the American Society of Plasticulture's Pioneer Award.

Congratulations to the following individuals for their years of service to the College of Agricultural Sciences.....

#### 25 Years

Craig Kreider  
Mike Orzolek

#### 15 Years

Bob Snyder  
Kathy Shumac  
Paige Thomas  
Mark Gultinan  
Jonathan Lynch

#### 10 Years

Sharon Pishak

#### 5 Years

Dave Despot  
Kathy Kelley

## MARCH

Calendar of Events

#### March 2

-Social Hour 10:00 Room 21  
Tyson

#### March 4-11

-Philadelphia Flower Show

#### March 11

-Daylight savings, remember to change your clocks ahead

#### March 12-16

-No classes - Spring Break

#### March 12

-Deadline to pass Doctoral Defense

#### March 17

-St. Patrick's Day

#### March 18-24

-National Ag Week

#### March 20

-First Day of Spring



## Happy Birthday!

Ronald Shuey	March 2
Luis Valenzuela	March 9
Robert Snyder	March 10
Dave Despot	March 23
James Sellmer	March 23
Jeannette Arteca	March 26
Amy Burton	March 27

The Department of Horticulture holds monthly department meetings for all of the department employees and all are encouraged to attend. These meetings are intended for faculty, post docs, administrative staff, research technicians, graduate students and wage payroll employees. Many items are brought to the floor for all department employees to discuss, therefore, please make note of these meetings and try to attend. All meetings are held in room 10 Tyson.

March 22	2:00-3:00
April 19	1:30-2:30
May 14	2:00-3:00



### Missing Department Profiles and Department Match

Those of us who planned to write the department profiles and match-the-facts list have been on the road a little too much. The articles will be back next month.



#### BREAKFAST AT THE WAFFLE SHOP

Anyone interested in having another breakfast at the North Atherton Waffle Shop? It's a nice way to start the day. We're planning one for Thursday, March 22nd at 7:30 a.m., so mark your calendars. Hope to see you there!

## Graduate Colloquium

### Horticulture 590

Room 111 Tyson

4:00 - 5:00 PM

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Mar. 5  | <b>Ralph Scorza</b> , USDA-ARS Appalachian Fruit Research Station, Kearneysville, WV "The Development of Plum Pox Virus Resistance in Stone Fruits through Genetic Engineering — From Concept to Product" |
| Mar. 12 | <b>Spring Break - No Seminar</b>  |
| Mar. 19 | <b>Robert E. Lyons</b> , Graduate Program in Public Horticulture, University of Delaware, "Title to be announced"   |
| Mar. 26 | <b>Elsa Sanchez</b> , Department of Horticulture, Penn State University, "Sustainable Horticulture Research"  |

## Social Hour



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

### Update from Dave Beattie

I am enjoying retirement in Grants Pass, Oregon, but especially enjoying my granddaughter Codie Alyssa Plummer, age 6 months. My cancer is still progressing, but slowly, so I hope to be able to get in a little fishing for Steelhead Trout in the Rogue River next summer. Hope all is well at University Park.



## Green Roofs Show University's Ecological Commitment

Long a leader in green-roof research, Penn State this spring will plant vegetation on two large green roofs that were prepared last fall and begin a monitoring program that promises to last for years.

One of the green roofs will be what lead researcher Rob Berghage calls "a showcase," on top of the University's recently opened \$30.5 million Forest Resources Building at the corner of Park Avenue and Bigler Road. The green roof was a key factor in the structure recently receiving a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

That's a designation officials in the University's College of Agricultural Sciences point to as proof that they are serious about developing sustainable buildings that are more energy efficient, water efficient and ecologically sound. "Since our academic unit is based upon the principles of sustaining natural resources, we are aptly proud of the LEED Silver Certification earned by our new home," said Chuck Strauss, director of the School of Forest Resources.

A special feature of the green roof on the Forest Resources Building, according to Strauss, is a large viewing deck built with a composite wood-plastic material developed by a researcher in the school. "Once the plants are growing on the roof and the weather gets nice, that deck will be a popular place for students, faculty and staff to have lunch and relax," Strauss predicted.

What makes the green roof "green" is the dense covering of plants and groundcover-like vegetation placed on top of the building, explained Berghage, associate professor of horticulture. "Typically a flat roof works best," he said. "To have a green roof, a building must be designed to support the extra weight of the vegetation, 4 to 12 inches of planting medium, a roof membrane and a drainage layer."

Those preparations were completed last fall on the 4,700-square-foot roof over part of the Forest Resources Building, and on the 4,500-square-foot roof over a root cellar near the greenhouses behind Tyson Building off Eisenhower Boulevard. Runoff from the green roof over the root cellar will be collected and piped to a basin where students in Berghage's Eco-Roof Technology horticulture class can monitor the water quantity and quality, as well as plant growth and effectiveness of the green roof.

"This monitoring will be part of our research and it will go on for long time," he said. "Penn State has been doing green roof research longer than any other institution in North America."

The large, shallow-media "extensive" zones of the roofs will be planted with a variety of sedum species and other drought-tolerant plants such as allium and talinum, while the deeper "intensive" parts of the roof will have larger showy herbaceous perennials such as salvia and lavender.

Green roofs offer a number of benefits, explained Berghage. "Many older cities have sewage-treatment problems, and their sewage systems often overflow with stormwater," he said. "Green roofs absorb and hold some of that water. Every drop of water that hits a roof must go somewhere, and usually that place is a stormwater basin. Not only do we lose valuable land by setting it aside for stormwater-retention basins, but they become an eyesore and a breeding ground for mosquitoes, which may carry West Nile Virus. Green roofs address these issues."

Also, the insulation provided by the vegetation can reduce the energy needed to cool or heat a building by 10 percent or more, Berghage pointed out.

Yet, with all the positives, Berghage noted that green roofs can be difficult to implement. "You generally run into problems in terms of weight," he said. "The cost of reinforcing an existing roof may not justify it, so most green roofs these days are constructed on new buildings such as the Forest Resources Building."

Green roofs have been popular in Europe for decades but have been slow to catch on in the United States. However, the move toward constructing green roofs in this country seems to be gaining momentum, according to Berghage. "We are beginning to see a shift toward more green roofs in places like Chicago to counteract problems with heat in buildings," he said. "In fact, from last year to this year, there has been an 80 percent increase in green roof projects."

A graduate student working with Berghage is surveying people working in the Forest Resources Building to gauge their attitudes before and after the green roof there is installed. "There is some evidence that absenteeism goes down among employees working in a building with a green roof," he said. "Some of the leading corporations in this country are doing this kind of research because there is big money in amenities for employees. Companies have discovered that they can rent offices faster if they look out on green roofs."

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