



Hort d'oeuvres



College of Agricultural Sciences
May 2007

Volume 10, Number 05

ADVISING CENTER NEWS

By Paige Thomas

MAY

Calendar of Events

Thirty-five undergraduate students will be awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Department of Horticulture on Saturday, May 19 in Eisenhower Auditorium at 9:00 a.m.

Please congratulate these students when you see them!

25 Landscape Contracting Graduates 10 Horticulture Graduates

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Sharon Barbour | Nicholas Kish | Jennifer Bixler |
| Nicole Davis | Daniel Klimas | Joseph Gerber |
| Nicholas Duffy* | Matthew Kruk | Luke Hallman |
| Jeffrey Erb | Jamie Love | Carolyn Knoop* |
| Kaitlin Feeney | John Lyman | Laura Larrick |
| Matthew Fleming | Bruno Morganheira | Kelly Martin |
| Benjamin Grace | James Mulkey | Catherine Moehle |
| Benjamin Graham | Kyle Narsavage | Paul Readly |
| Brandon Greenleaf | Nikos Phelps | Christopher Reid |
| Julie Harr | Nicole Shemansky | Kathryn Sanford |
| Timothy Janda | Aaron Smith | |
| Derrick Jantzi | Travis Walters | |
| Kabel Kellogg | | |



*Standard Bearers for Horticulture and Landscape Contracting Programs

May 4

- Social Hour 10:00, Rm 21 Tyson
- Withdrawl Deadline
- Classes End

May 5-6

- Study Days
- Orchid Show, Ag Arena

May 7-11

- Final Exams

May 13

- Mother's Day

May 18-20

- Commencement

May 28

- Memorial Day

Penn State Automatic E-mail Reply Message Utility

This service lets faculty and staff create an automatic e-mail reply message to e-mail messages that are received while on vacation, on sabbatical, or on leave from the University. Here's the link to setting up a vacation message for your email while you're away: <http://www.work.psu.edu/vacation>



- | | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Sharon Pishak | May 4 |
| Louise Comas | May 5 |
| Jon Johnson | May 6 |
| Emily Cook | May 16 |
| Robert Oberheim | May 24 |
| Thomas Adams | May 25 |

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, May 10 at 7:30 a.m., so mark your calendars. Hope to see you there!

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES SPRING 2007 COMMENCEMENT

The College of Agricultural Sciences Spring 2007 Commencement Ceremony is held at Eisenhower Auditorium at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 19, 2007. All graduates need to arrive between 8:15-8:30 a.m. in the lobby of Eisenhower Auditorium.

There are no tickets required for family and friends to attend the commencement ceremony, but tickets are required for graduation brunch afterwards. A flyer about the brunch has been mailed to each graduate's home address or you can pick one up in Room 101 or 229 Ag Adm. Bldg.

Graduates must be in academic regalia (cap and gown) to take part in the ceremony (Newly commissioned ROTC students can wear their military uniform). Caps and gowns can be purchased at The Penn State Bookstore (at the HUB) and the Student Bookstore (330 E. College Ave.) In keeping with the nature and tradition of university commencement ceremonies and the standards of decorum associated with these events, you may not place anything (signs, placards, messages, flowers, etc.) on your caps and gowns.

For more information, you can go to:
<http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/casuged/graduation.html>

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 (OK, sometimes) obtained prior to publication.

A. Loves salsa	Bob Oberheim
B. Did a 5-day run of the famed Rogue River in Oregon in a "rubber duckie" (without drowning!)	Jonathan Lynch
C. College football quarterback	Mike Orzolek
D. Started out in electrical engineering curriculum	Christina Wagner
E. Fluent in several languages	Bob Snyder
F. Avid Harry Potter fan	

Answers: A – Mike Orzolek; B – Bob Snyder; C – Bob Oberheim; D – Mike Orzolek; E – Jonathan Lynch; F – Christina Wagner

Social Hour

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



PENN STATE TAKE 5TH AT PLANET COMPETITION AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Penn State Landscape Contracting and Horticulture students were well represented this year at the PLANET (Professional Landcare Network) Student Career Days held March 29-April 1. Thanks to support from the College of Agricultural Sciences, the Penn State Horticulture Club, ValleyCrest Companies, Anewalt's Landscape Contracting, and Scott's Landscaping, 42 students and 5 faculty traveled to Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI and competed against 55 colleges and universities from across the country. In addition to the 25 competitive events, students participated in a career fair attended by 106 landscape contracting companies from across the nation, and attended workshops and seminars sponsored by leaders in the green industry. For the second year in a row, the Penn State team finished in the top ten, bringing home a best-ever fifth place award. Five students also received \$1000 scholarships from PLANET for their scholastic and extra-curricular achievements.

Landscape Contracting and Horticulture students who received top awards include:

Team events:

First Place Maintenance Equipment Operation
- Jay Bell and Eric Kobb

First Place Wood Construction
-Kabel Kellogg and Buddy Lyman

Second Place Paver Installation
-Nick Kish and Dan Klimas

Individual events

First Place Business Management
-Nikos Phelps

Second Place Estimating and Bidding
-Melissa Cox
Second Place Exterior Landscape Design
-Zach Hammaker

Scholarship recipients

Jeffrey Erb, Sonia Erb, Julie Harr, Jamie Love,
Zach Hammaker

In addition, Evan Stearns won a chain saw for his skill in saw maintenance.

The Penn State contingent was greeted by many Landscape Contracting alumni who were representing companies from Baltimore to Arizona. Their presence inspired our students and helped to create an exceptionally strong sense of "Penn State Pride".

Students are already getting excited about Student Career Days 2008, which will take place next March in Atlanta, GA.

Floral Judging and Design Team

The PSU floral quality judging and design team went to Oklahoma to compete in the 66th National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality and Design Competition March 28-30. Penn State has a long history of participating in this contest sponsored by Pi Alpha Xi and the American Floral Endowment. The Judging team placed 7th overall and Patti Stefanic placed 5th in the individual overall judging. Karlee Curolata took 2nd in the round centerpiece design competition. Team members this year included Patti Stefanic, Joe Noll, and Karlee Curolata.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Shallin Munksgard**, HORT, for being selected along with 13 other undergraduate students to be an Ag Advocate for 2007-2008. Ag Advocates are a critical element for the college's recruiting and retention efforts.

Jonie Carruthers, a first semester senior in Landscape Contracting, was honored as a nominee for the Outstanding Adult Student Award at a reception for the Vice President's Above & Beyond Award Ceremony for Student Leadership. Please congratulate Jonie when you see her.



Robert L. Oberheim
20 years with the Department, 27+ years with the College
Born in Lock Haven, PA; raised in Bellefonte, PA

Don't try to write Bob Oberheim's title in a small box. He's

Manager of the Horticulture Research Farm, Manager of Ag Progress Days, Manager of the Timber Show, and Secretary of the Farm Show Commission.

Agriculture has always been a big part of Bob's life. When Bob was 12, he started working on a dairy farm, and by the time he was a junior in high school, had decided that he wanted to be a professional farmer. He enrolled at Delaware Valley College where, besides majoring in Agronomy, he also played quarterback as a walk-on football player.

One of the requirements of Delaware Valley was that students were expected to work in the field of their major during the summer, so for 3 summers Bob worked at Penn State's Agronomy Farm with John Shenk, Professor Plant Breeding, gaining field experience and lab experience running lab tests for forage quality. After graduating from Del Val in 1979, he worked that summer for Dr. J.D. Harrington at the Ag Progress Days Show. He was then hired in 1979 by Dr. Jim Starling as a Senior Research Technologist at the USDA Pasture lab on a 4-H breeding program. While working at the pasture lab, he earned his M.S. in Agronomy under Dr. Clyde Berg. In the spring of 1982 he assumed the responsibilities to coordinate the Forage Testing Program for 5 years, running field and location trials, and putting in a lot of miles.

Bob was hired as Manager of the Horticulture Research Farm in January of 1987, and while serving in this capacity, completed



Dr. Michael Orzolek
25+ years with the Department
Born in Holyoke, MA; raised in Watertown, NY

Dr. Mike Orzolek, aka "Dr. O" and occasionally "Ziggy" was born in Holyoke, MA in the year 1944,

which if you do the math, makes him eligible for early Social Security. His family moved to Watertown, NY when Mike was just a young "sprout", so Mike really considers Watertown as the place where he grew up. Others in Mike's family beside his mother and father were a brother and two sisters. One of Mike's fondest memories while growing up is of spending the summers when he was a teenager (12 to 15 years of age) at his maternal grandparents farm in Hadley, MA. It was a 250-acre general farm with dairy cows, huge (Mike's words) pigs, chickens, mixed field and forage crops, a large vegetable garden and assorted small fruits, fruit trees and flowers beds. Mike said his grandmother was an excellent cook and that these summer experiences are what eventually led him to a career in horticulture. Mike also noted that his grandparents on both sides were Polish.

This is not to say that Mike went right into horticulture - not by a long shot. Mike first studied Electrical Engineering at Northeastern University in Boston, MA for one year before he discovered that EE was not for him and he transferred to Alliance College where he obtained his B.S. Degree in Biology in 1967. He then went on to West Virginia University where he worked on a Master's Degree in Horticulture and also at obtaining a wife. Both were accomplished in 1969 when he was awarded his Master's Degree and also married Judy, his wife and partner for over 38 years.

Mike still was not on the Extension Specialist pathway so he taught biology for two years at a community college in upstate New York. Mike

3 classes towards a Ph.D. However, in the winter of 1991, he was offered the position of Manager of Ag Progress Days, and had to make a decision - "Classes and paperwork, or exhibitors and being outside." APD won out, and obviously, he rose to the challenge of managing this huge agricultural show, quickly accruing additional responsibilities as manager of the PA Timber Show and Secretary of the Farm Show Commission. "In all of this... I've thoroughly enjoyed the people, and the seasonal challenges. The changes in Ag have certainly kept it all interesting".

As if all this isn't enough, he's also represented the College in trips to the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia) and Sierra Leone, serving as an agronomic consultant.

So, what does Bob do in his spare time? "I still enjoy crop farming, and help on several dairy farms." He also enjoys water sports, including boating, scuba diving, and swimming. An interesting venture that took about a year and a half to complete was a from-the-frame-up restoration of a 1969 Mustang Mach 1, with the encouragement of friend and co-worker Ron Shuey. Bob likes spending time at home with his wife Dona of nearly 27 years, and with his Yellow Lab, Jessie, a faithful companion for over 14 years. (By the way, he met Dona through a mutual friend - an agronomy technician.) He also enjoys keeping up with Penn State football.

Bob's favorite quote - "You can only make a first impression once" - Something good for all of us to remember.

then enrolled at the University of Maryland to work on his Ph.D. degree in Horticulture/Botany, which he obtained in 1974. His first position after obtaining his Ph.D. was as an Extension Vegetable Specialist at the University of Delaware. Mike worked at Delaware until 1981 when he moved to Penn State and took his current position in the Horticulture Department as an Extension Vegetable Specialist. He currently holds a three-way appointment - 60% Extension, 22% Research and 18% Teaching. He teaches the Vegetable Crop Production course. Mike has done extensive research during his career on stand establishment, plastic mulches, high tunnels, weed management and tillage systems. He is also the current Director of the Penn State Center for Plasticulture and the High Tunnel Research and Education Facility located at the Horticulture Farm, Rock Springs, PA.

Mike has been active in the American Society for Horticultural Science as an Associate Editor for HortTechnology, and Chair of the Certification Board for the Certified Horticulture Professional Program. He also has been very active in the American Society for Plasticulture and has served as President (2000-2002) and in the Comite International des Plastiques en Agriculture - CIPA as President (1997-2000).

Mike and Judy are the proud parents of three daughters. Milissa is currently beginning her Master's Degree program in geography at the University of Washington located in Seattle. Tara currently lives in Spain with her husband David who is a medical doctor, and Mike's only grandchild and the love of his and Judy's life, Olivia. Erin lives in Golden, CO and works for an engineering firm. Mike always likes to visit the Coors Brewery in Golden when he is visiting Erin. Must be his Polish roots. Beer also goes well with the salsa that he loves to eat. Mike enjoys traveling, fishing, gardening and wine tasting.