

Crop and Soil News and Views

Crop and Soil News and Views is an annual publication of the Department of Crop and Soil Science at Oregon State University.

Questions? Comments? Contact Russ at: Russell.S.Karow@oregonstate.edu

Check out our **NEW** webpage at: <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu>

~ FALL 2012 ~



FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

by Russ Karow, CSS Department Head

Greetings from the Department of Crop and Soil Science (CSS). What a change a year can bring. Some of the major events and activities in CSS and the College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) over the past year are given below.

In January 2012 we learned that our Dean, Sonny Ramaswamy, had formally been offered the position as the Director of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture. This is a White House appointed position and one of the key national leadership positions in agricultural research, extension and education. Dr. Ramaswamy accepted the position and began work in early May. Dr. Dan Arp, former head of the CAS Department of Botany and Plant Pathology and Dean of the Honors College, was named CAS Dean effective May 1. Dan was transferred into the position by OSU Provost Sabah Randhawa because of his success in the Honors College, knowledge of the ins and outs of administrative operations at OSU, and long ties to CAS. Dean Arp hit the ground running and is actively engaged on behalf of the College on numerous fronts.

A decision was also made in January to not proceed with the full merge of CSS and the Department of Horticulture. Experience over a 12-month period had shown that wholly combining the two departments would create a unit that would be difficult to effectively manage. The faculty governance model under which OSU tries to operate would have been nearly

"PICTURE THIS" TRIVIA QUESTION—

What is this a picture of?



(answer—and story—on page 9)

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

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NEWS ABOUT YOU, US, AND OTHERS

...and more!

impossible to achieve with nearly 100 faculty in the two units. We are instead pursuing a partial, curricular-only merger. Our plan is to create a single "school" degree with undergraduate options. Having a single umbrella degree would allow greater ease in creating and eliminating options over time. A new plant breeding and genetic option has already been created as a result of this proposed plan. Soil will maintain a separate graduate degree but the plant scientists and entomologists will also operate under an umbrella graduate degree with options. The OSU Faculty Senate just approved transcript visible graduate options in spring 2012 making this merger of programs possible.

As always, budgets are an on-going concern. We have been operating under a minus-19% budget in both 2011-12 and 2012-13. Income derived from distance education classes and use of reserve funds has made this possible within CSS but we cannot continue in this mode. There is some hope that in the coming Oregon legislative session the Statewide Public Service programs (Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension, and Forest Research Lab) will be treated similarly to the teaching part of OSU and the OUS (Oregon University System) and obtain an approximate 7% increase. Given anticipated increases in retirement and health insurance costs, such an increase would cover these costs and allow a small bit of flexibility in budgets but we'll see what the legislative session brings.

As you also know, federal budgets are a mess. A continuing resolution is in place for the first six months of FFY13 but it leaves many programs in limbo and, like other sectors of the US economy, essentially in suspended animation until Congress makes some decisions. The "fiscal cliff" is also problematic. Budget impacts on agricultural programs could be disastrous. Federal funds are a small but significant part of the College budget and also one of the major sources of grant funds for faculty (NIFA, ARS pass through funds, Specialty Crops Research, Sustainable Ag Research and Education, etc.). If we head over the cliff, OSU stands to lose \$15.2 million in federal research funds, according to a report issued by the OSU Government Relations Office.

Grants are the major means through which faculty obtain funds for program operation and in the case of many recent hires, a portion of the faculty member's salary. OSU grant funding totaled \$207M in 2011-12 – a third straight year of funding above \$200M. The College of Agricultural Sciences grant total in 2011-12 was \$54M, over one-fourth of OSU's total. While at significant levels, grant funding has declined just slightly over the past two years for both OSU and CAS. Reductions in grant funding may be due to reduced levels of federal grant dollars and/or saturation of existing faculty in terms of the number of grants they can handle as part of their workload. Grants are also a two-edged sword. While grants can provide valuable operational support, they also dictate the direction of research or extension activity that the faculty member must do. This can sometimes reduce the potential for faculty to take on new or emergency-need activities for which they do not have operational support.

OSU is setting records for funds contributed to the OSU Foundation to establish endowments and other funding mechanisms that are outside state and federal pools. Endowments will provide some level of on-going stability to those programs that have them. A number of grower/commodity groups are exploring the creation of endowments. The Oregon Potato Commission approved use of their 2011-12 fund balance (approx. \$68K) to provide seed money for a Potato Research endowment and has already obtained industry funds of over \$100K. The Oregon Wheat Commission is pondering additional endowments. More information about establishing an endowment can be provided to anyone interested. A number of individual endowments are also in place. I invite you to look through the list of these on the last page of this newsletter and encourage your contributions, small or large, to our future. More information about these specific endowments can be provided.

In the midst of all this uncertainty, our faculty and students, past and present, continue to do great work and be recognized for it. A number of faculty were promoted, several won College, regional or national awards. A full listing of awards and honors and student scholarship winners can be found in later articles in this newsletter.

None of our tenured faculty resigned or retired this past year but a number of support staff moved to other positions and Randy Knight, Seed Certification Specialist, retired. We have hired four new faculty at various locations across the state – Stuart Reitz at Ontario, Austin Hawks in the Ag Program at Eastern Oregon University, Sagar Sathuvalli at Hermiston, and Paul Marquardt in the Willamette Valley. A short bit of information about these individuals and others is in the "New Personnel" section of this newsletter.

We lost a number of CSS colleagues and friends this past year. Benno Warkentin died in July. He had been ill but active in departmental activities over the last several years. One of our graduate students, Elena Sanchez, fell ill on a trip she had taken to China to participate in an international weeds meeting. Several others died after long, productive lives. We mourn the loss of these individuals from our CSS family. Biographical information about each is presented in the "In Memoriam" section.

(From the Corner Office continues on Page 6)

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

ALUMNI/RETIREE DINNER

Over 40 people participated in the CSS alumni, retired faculty and staff and friends dinner that was held on June 15, 2012 in the Crop Science Building. Good food and conversation was enjoyed by all. Some people had not seen each other in decades, so memories flowed along with food and drink. Upcoming events for alumni, retirees, and friends will be our Spring Potluck at noon on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 and our spring student awards ceremony on the evening of Tuesday, May 28, 2013. We hope to see many of you there!

FALL 2012 DEPARTMENTAL PICNIC

On September 19, the department hosted a "Welcome Back to the School Year" picnic/potluck at the Avery Park Thompson Shelter. The department provided fried and grilled chicken (and veggie burgers for a vegetarian option), while the faculty, staff, and students (including some new graduate students) brought potluck items. Here are some pictures of the event.



As the department's official greeter (and Department Head!), Russ Karow arrives early to talk to Barbara Rossbacher and (we think) Will Post.

(left to right) Sarah Wright (new M.S. graduate student in the soils program), Russ Karow, James Cassidy (Senior Instructor), and John Miskella (M.S. graduate student in the crops program)



Those with the papers in their hands are getting ready to start the "get to know other people" scavenger hunt, while Peter Bottomley and Will Austin enjoy the warm weather.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS (cont.)



(l to r) Yitian Lin (a new undergraduate student in the 2+2 program from Nanjing Agricultural University in China), Suphannika Intanon (Ph.D. graduate student in crops program), and Sujaya Rao (Professor of Entomogy)



John Miskella and Nate Tisdell (Ph.D. graduate student in the soils program)



James Cassidy talks with Herb Huddleston (Professor Emeritus of Soils), while Joan Sandeno fills out her nametag



(l to r) Martin Zimmerman (Professor Emeritus of Crop Science and former Jefferson County Extension agent), Arnold Appleby (Professor Emeritus of Crops), the back of Colleen Roseborough (new M.S. graduate student in crops program), and Sujaya Rao

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS (cont.)

A recent article in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, a journal from the Ecological Society of America, was talked about in a press release from the University of Santa Barbara Office of Public Affairs. **JENNIFER PARKE**, Associate Professor/Senior Research in CSS was one of the co-authors on the paper titled, "Live plant imports: the major pathway for forest insect and pathogen invasions in the U.S." The paper was also cited in an article for the *New York Times* by reporter Gale Zucker titled, "Who knows what bugs lurk in imported plants?" Jennifer's research in Sudden Oak Death, which is caused by the plant pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, was discovered to be introduced into the Bay Area and Big Sur regions of California via nursery plants.



In May of 2012, **SYLVIA RONDON**, an OSU Extension Entomologist for the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, was interviewed for LIFE@OSU, an on-line source of articles from OSU's News and Research Communications office. Sylvia talked about the effect of the tuberworm on Oregon and Washington potatoes. In the article titled, "Putting the kibosh on pests," Sylvia said it was a baptism of fire from her first day of work back in 2005, when a potato grower came knocking on her office door and wanted to do know what he and his fellow growers could do about the pest. Sylvia and her OSU colleagues discovered that the Oregon and Washington tuberworms were genetically different than those found in other parts of the U.S. Unfortunately, that means they might be here to stay. To read the complete article, go to <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ncs/lifeatosu/> and click on the May 2012 issue.



The department welcomed Alfred Hartemink in January 2012 as an honored guest and invited presenter of the first annual Harward Lecture. The Harward Endowed Lecture Series honors professor emeritus **MOYLE HARWARD**, who joined the OSU faculty in 1955 and is best known for his studies of volcanic ash in Oregon's soils. The Harward lecture series endowment was created by a group of his former graduate students, known as the Ash Crew. These OSU alums contributed nearly \$30,000 to honor "the fellow who made it all possible for us," said Del Dingus, one of the Ash Crew and a professor emeritus at California Polytechnic State University, who earned his doctorate under Harward. The CSS department will be hosting Dr. Peter Groffman of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY, for the next Harward Lecture scheduled for January 29, 2013. Dr. Groffman will present a seminar titled, "Ecological Homogenization of Urban America."



As part of service to their community, George Clough and **DON HORNECK** of OSU's Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, recently tested land to evaluate the soil condition and depth for the Hermiston Community Garden. As reported on the Oregon Public Broadcasting website, the land for the garden was donated by the Good Shepherd Medical Center; the garden will provide anyone with a 11' x 11' plot for a \$10 fee and an agreement that they will use no pesticides.



SABRY G. ELIAS, an Associate Professor of seed science and technology in the department, is the lead author of a new book titled, *Seed Testing—Principles and Practices*, published in June 2012. Said to be a "must have guide to seed testing and quality," the book is for sale for \$174.95 from www.msupress.org



As reported in the Feb. 16, 2012 issue of *Capital Press* (an Oregon newspaper for the Agribusiness marketplace), interest has grown for Pacific Northwest barley, especially a variety that was developed by **PATRICK HAYES**, a Professor of barley breeding in the CSS department. "Streaker" is the first winter hull-less barley variety adapted to the PNW and one of several new human food barley types entering the market, according to the article by John O'Connell. **ANDREW ROSS**, an OSU Associate Professor in the Departments of CSS and Food Science and Technology, has also offered samples of breads, pretzels, and pitas made with the Streaker flour, which he milled in his laboratory—it seems his Streaker pretzels were a hit in the president's box when then were served during an OSU football game in the 2011 season!

(From the Corner Office—continued from Page 2)

Many exciting things are happening across CAS. For more information about happenings in the College, you are invited to subscribe to the College's news magazine "Oregon's Agricultural Progress" (<http://oregonprogress.oregonstate.edu/index.php>) and to the College's monthly newsletter "The Source" (<http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/news/newsletters>). The latter also provides links to the newsletters of a number of departments in the College including CSS. CSS has a new web page at the same address [www. http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/](http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/) Check it out.

This is our seventh annual newsletter. It is your newsletter and we encourage you to provide personal updates and suggestions on how we can make our newsletter of greatest value to you. Information on how to provide updates and suggestions can be found on the cover of the newsletter.

I thank you for your interest in and support of CSS. May you have a joyous holiday season and may our world become a more just place for all in the year ahead.



Russ Karow
Head, OSU Crop and Soil Science

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS (cont.)

CLINT SHOCK, currently a Professor and the Superintendent of the Malheur Agricultural Experiment Station, wrote an article for the *California Agriculture* magazine titled, "Rebaudi's stevia: natural noncaloric sweeteners" (Vol. 36, Nos. 9 and 10, p. 4-5). Clint was interviewed on National Public Radio in February 2012 regarding his discovery. What? you ask. Stevia was discovered by an OSU scientist? Well, yes. Back in 1982, when Clint's article appeared in the magazine, he was an assistant professor at Louisiana State University but during his research assistant days at UC-Davis, he did research on the plant in Paraguay. Clint modestly says: "Stevia has been used in Paraguay for millenia. At best, I tried to cultivate what others already used. The first plants that I grew came from a garden of an acquaintance who lived in Pedro Juan Caballero, Paraguay. We made a plantation in 1975 based on plants from the wild and we had a lot to learn."

CSS AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

FACULTY AND STAFF

Nicole Anderson, OSU Extension Agent (Yamhill, Polk, and Washington Counties)

- 2011 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Extension Education Materials Award for publications (websites) for the Willamette Valley Field Crops Website
- OSU Extension Association Hoecker Newer Faculty Award

Dan Ball, Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center Weed Scientist

- Fellow, Western Society of Weed Science

Mylon Bohle, OSU Extension Agent (Crook County)

- 2011 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Extension Education Materials Award for publications (16 pages and under) for “Nutrient Management Guide – Irrigated Soft White Winter Wheat”

James Cassidy, Senior Instructor in Soil Science

- Promoted to Senior Instructor

Mary Corp, OSU Extension Regional Administrator (Region 3, East Columbia Basin)

- 2011 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Extension Education Materials Award for publications (16 pages and under) for “Nutrient Management Guide – Irrigated Soft White Winter Wheat”

Dan Curtis, CSS Weed Science Program

- Promoted to Senior Faculty Research Assistant

Maria Dragila, Professor of Soil Physics

- Promoted from Associate to Full Professor

Melissa Fery, Mid-Valley Small Farms Programs

- Promoted to Senior Instructor

Mike Flowers, Assoc. Professor, Cereals Specialist

- 2011 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Extension Education Materials Award for publications (16 pages and under) for “Nutrient Management Guide – Irrigated Soft White Winter Wheat”

David Hannaway, Professor, Forage Sciences

- Fulbright Distinguished Chair Award to China (from November 2012 on, he will spend eight months teaching forage-related topics at Sichuan Agricultural University and Nanjing Agricultural University)

John Hart, Professor, Extension Soils Specialist

- 2011 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Extension Education Materials Award for publications (16 pages and under) for “Nutrient Management Guide – Irrigated Soft White Winter Wheat”

Donald Horneck, Soil Scientist, HAREC

- Promoted to Full Professor
- 2011 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Extension Education Materials Award for publications (16 pages and under) for “Nutrient Management Guide – Irrigated Soft White Winter Wheat”
- CAS Excellence in Extension Education Award

Andrew Hulting, Assoc. Professor of Weed Science

- Promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor with Indefinite Tenure
- OSU Extension Association Hoecker Newer Faculty Award
- President, Oregon Society of Weed Science

Russ Karow, Department Head and Professor

- WERA 1009 Award of Excellence—Administrative Advisor

Markus Kleber, Assoc. Professor of Soil Science

- Promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor with Indefinite Tenure

Larry Lutcher, OSU Extension Agent and County Leader (Morrow County)

- 2011 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Extension Education Materials Award for publications (16 pages and under) for “Nutrient Management Guide – Irrigated Soft White Winter Wheat”

Sandy Macnab, OSU Extension Agent and County Leader (Sherman and Wasco Counties)

- National Association of County Agricultural Agents 2012 Western Region Hall of Fame Award

Jay Noller, Professor of Soil Science

- Promoted from Associate to Full Professor

Curt Onstott, Computing Systems Administrator

- 2012 Appleby Service Award

Sujaya Rao, Professor, Entomology

- Fulbright Award to Ecuador (“Native bee diversity and abundance associated with Ecuador agriculture” - Host Institution: Museum of Invertebrates, Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador, Quito)
- President, Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America

Sylvia Rondon, Associate Professor, Entomology, HAREC

- Gold Medal as the Outstanding Peruvian Scientist in the U.S. (from University of Piura, Piura-Peru)

CSS AWARDS AND RECOGNITION (cont.)

Sylvia Rondon (cont.)

- Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America Award for Excellence in Extension
- 2012 WSU CAHNRS Team Excellence Award (PNW Veg Group)
- 2012 OECD Fellowship
- 2011 IPM Team Award from the Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America

Andrew Ross, Assoc. Professor of Cereal Chemistry

- R.M. Wade Award for Excellence in Teaching (in the Departments of Crop and Soil Science and Food Science)
- 2012 American Association of Cereal Chemists International Excellence in Teaching Award
- OSU Research Office, Research Equipment Reserve Fund; Andrew's proposal "Brabander Quadramat-Senior Experimental Flour Mill" was one of seven proposals that was funded
- Registry of Distinguished Teachers

Clint Shock, Superintendent and Professor, Malheur Experiment Station

- Inducted into the Onion Hall of Fame, Idaho and Malheur County Onion Growers Association
- The Great Basin Native Plant Selection and Increase Program has been awarded the Forest Service/BLM

Joint Conservation Project Award for 2012 (Team award with Erik Feibert, Cheryl Parris, and others)

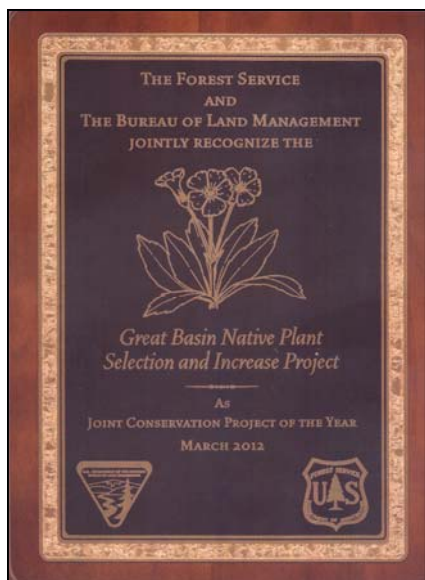
Don Wysocki, Assoc. Professor of Soil Science

- 2011 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Extension Education Materials Award for publications (16 pages and under) for "Nutrient Management Guide – Irrigated Soft White Winter Wheat"

~ The 25 Year Club ~

(founded in 1967 by OSU President James J. Jensen to honor those who had served as members of the university faculty or staff for 25 years or more)

- 2012 Inductee from CSS — Gary Kiemnec
- 30 Year Honoree — Tracy Mitzel



Plaque presented to Clint Shock and others on the Great Basin Native Plant Selection and Increase Project team.



Paul Skeen (left), president of the Malheur County Onion Growers Association, honors David Shuff (center) and Clint Shock as the newest inductees into the Onion Hall of Fame. (photo courtesy of The Argus Observer)

CSS AWARDS AND RECOGNITION (cont.)

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Suphannika Intanon and **Alicia Leytem** were recognized by the College of Agricultural Sciences as Outstanding Graduate Students within the CSS department.

Bianca Martins received the Graduate Student Travel Award from the Oregon State University's Graduate School. This award was used to fund her travel to the 25th German Conference on Weed Biology and Control, held in March 2012.

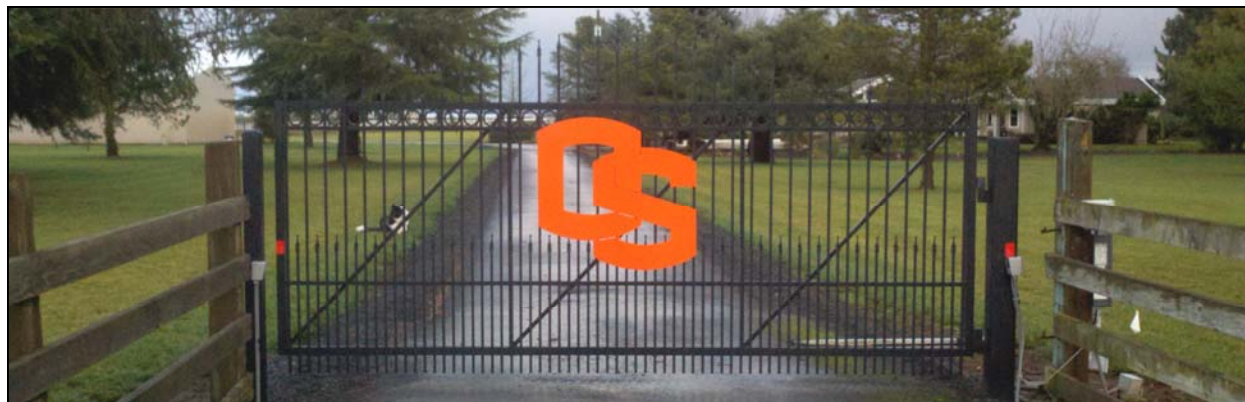
Bianca Martins and **Elena Sanchez** were both awarded travel grants to present their research during the VIth International Weed Science Congress held this past June in Hangzhou, China. Bianca and Elena were two of twenty-five graduate students from all over the world who were awarded these travel grants that were sponsored by the International Weed Science Society, the European Weed Researchers Society, and Weed Science Society of America. Bianca placed 2nd in the student paper contest, which is a considerable honor. For history buffs, the International Weed Science Society was one that **LARRY BURRILL** helped to establish and that flourishes today.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Alyssa Duval was recognized by the College of Agricultural Sciences as an Outstanding Undergraduate Student within the CSS department.

Last April, **Stephanie Jenck** was selected as one of the 2012-2013 Ambassadors for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources. The Ambassadors promote, support, and represent the College of Agricultural Sciences and the College of Forestry throughout the state at different functions and events.

PICTURE THIS TRIVIA—THE ANSWER!



So, if you guessed that the picture on page 1 was of the Oregon State's "new" logo then you're half-right. But the real answer is that it's a picture of the OSU logo attached to an entrance gate at F&B Farms.

As Heidi Geschwill explains, *"The logo was Billy's (Geschwill) Christmas present this year (2011)! Thought you could appreciate it."*

Okay, okay...this was kind of a tricky trivia question! Sorry about that. Better luck next year!

CSS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

STUDENT CLUBS

The Department of Crop and Soil Science is the host department for five student clubs. They are: Association of Graduate Soil Scientists, OSU Organic Growers' Club, OSU Crops Club, OSU BugZoo, and OSU Soil Judging. If you would like to contact any of the clubs or their advisors, please email Tracy at tracy.mitzel@oregonstate.edu and she'll forward your message on to the appropriate people.



The Association of Graduate Soil Scientists group poses with invited seminar speaker, Ray Weil (second from left), in May of 2011. The AGSS are responsible for arranging the Benno P. Warkentin Lecture held each spring.



Members of the 2012 OSU Soil Judging team participated in the National Collegiate Soil Judging contest, held in Morgantown, WV.



A view of the OSU Organic Growers' Club's farm, located off of Highway 34, east of Corvallis.



Future alum? The OSU Organic Growers' Club sponsors the Hoo-Haa Extravaganza at the farm each year on Earth Day.



OSU BugZoo members volunteer at Corvallis's DaVinci Days, during the summer of 2011.



The OSU Crops Club provides and cooks the food for lunch at the Hyslop Farm's annual field day.

CSS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (cont.)

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Department of Crop and Soil Science offers more than 25 student scholarships each year. For the 2012-13 academic year, \$39,500 in departmental scholarships were awarded, and an additional \$20,250 from other funds (including College of Agricultural Sciences, professional society, and industry sources) was also given to CSS students as either scholarships or awards for a total of \$59,750. The Student Honors and Awards Reception Night was held on May 8, 2012 at the LaSells Stewart Center on campus, where we also honored graduate and undergraduate students who had been awarded their diplomas throughout the academic year.



Department Head, Russ Karow, plays host to the 2012 Student Recognition and Awards Night. He is shown here greeting donor Leslie Burrill (in the middle) and her guest at the LaSells Stewart Center on campus

Roslyn Albee, Undergraduate Student

- *Robert H. Warrens Memorial Scholarship*
- *Soil Science Scholarship*

Shannon Andrews, Graduate Student

- *Robert & Carolyn Witters Travel Fund*

John Beitel, Undergraduate Student

- *M. Dale Chipman Memorial Scholarship*
- *William & Heidi Geschwill Scholarship*

Jed Cappellazzi, Graduate Student

- *Soil Science Scholarship*

Stephany Chacon, Graduate Student

- *2012-2013 Oregon Lottery Commission*

Alyssa DuVal, Undergraduate Student

- *Rod & Ruby Frakes Scholarship*
- *CSS Outstanding Senior Award*
- *Oregon Seed Growers League Scholarship*

Sierra Engler, Undergraduate Student (EOU)

- *Donald D. Hill Memorial Scholarship*

Art Fisher, Graduate Student

- *John & Jean Krautscheid Scholarship*
- *Robert & Carolyn Witters Travel Fund*

Austin Fricker, Undergraduate Student

- *Henry & Dorothea Rampton Memorial Scholarship*

Fumiaki Funihashi, Graduate Student

- *Soil Science Scholarship*
- *Robert & Carolyn Witters Travel Fund*

Mike Gallegos, Graduate Student

- *Larry C. Burrill Memorial Scholarship*

Jason Hayes, Undergraduate Student

- *Wilbur Powers Memorial Scholarship*

Suphannika Intanon, Graduate Student

- *J. Ritchie Cowan Memorial Scholarship*
- *Grace Armah-Agyeman Travel Award*

Melissa Jenck, Undergraduate Student

- *Leo L. Anderson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship*
- *Harry & Dorothy Schoth Memorial Fund*
- *Rod & Ruby Frakes Scholarship*

Stephanie Jenck, Undergraduate Student

- *Arthur King Memorial Scholarship*
- *Don Burlingham Scholarship*
- *CAS Student Ambassadorship*

Stacey Kuhn, Undergraduate Student

- *John Flanagan Memorial Scholarship*

Dylan Larkin, Undergraduate Student

- *Johnny R. & Helen H. Thomas Scholarship*
- *Wilson H. Foote Memorial Scholarship*

Alicia Leytem, Graduate Student

- *Robert & Carolyn Witters Travel Fund*

Mingyang Liu, Graduate Student

- *J. Ritchie Cowan Memorial Scholarship*
- *Thomas L. Jackson Memorial Travel Fund*

Bianca Martins, Graduate Student

- *J. Ritchie Cowan Memorial Scholarship*
- *Thomas L. Jackson Memorial Travel Fund*

Christy McCarthy, Undergraduate Student

- *John Flanagan Memorial Scholarship*
- *Rod & Ruby Frakes Scholarship*
- *Oregon Seed Trade Association Award*

CSS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (cont.)

Scholarship Winners (cont.)

Brigid Meints, Graduate Student

- *Sheldon Ladd Memorial Scholarship*

John Miskella, Graduate Student

- *Larry C. Burrill Memorial Scholarship*
- *Robert & Carolyn Witters Travel Fund*

Gabriel Noller, Undergraduate Student

- *McGuire Crop Science Scholarship*

Nelson Peterson, Undergraduate Student

- *Oregon Seed Cleaning Scholarship*

Kelsey Potter, Undergraduate Student

- *Stanley L. Starr Scholarship*

Colleen Roseborough, Graduate Student

- *Wm. Kent Wiley, Jr. Memorial Scholarship*

Elena Sanchez Olguin, Graduate Student

- *Robert & Carolyn Witters Travel Fund*
- *OSU Graduate School Student Travel Award*

Katherine Smith, Undergraduate Student

- *Timothy Scott Wirth Memorial Scholarship*

Kenneth Smith, Undergraduate Student

- *John Flanagan Memorial Scholarship*
- *Walter J. & Florence J. Jaeger Scholarship*
- *Johnny R. & Helen H. Thomas Scholarship*
- *Alpha Gamma Rho Foundation*

John Yeo, Graduate Student

- *John & Jean Krautscheid Scholarship*
- *Robert & Carolyn Witters Travel Fund*

CSS GRADUATES 2011-2012

Undergraduate Students

Michelle Anderson (W'12)
 Ronald Byrum (EOU, W'12)
 Peter Cersovski (Sp'12)
 Alyssa Duval (Sp'12)
 Carl Evans (Sp'12)
 Erica Fernbach (EOU, Sp'12)
 Daniel Goettel (Sp'12)
 Meghan Krueger (W'12)
 Leslie Michel (Sp'12)
 Colleen Roseborough (F'11)
 Katharine Taormina (Sp'12)

Graduate Students

Yada Chutimanitsakun PhD
(major professor: Patrick Hayes)
 Ryan Costello MS
(major professor: Dan Sullivan)
 Scott Fisk MS
(major professor: Patrick Hayes)
 Lisa Gitelman MAg
(major professor: Maria Dragila)
 Natalie Graham MS
(major professor: Patrick Hayes)
 Jessica Haavisto MS
(major professor: Andrew Hulting)
 Alicia Leytem MS
(major professor: Jennifer Parke)
 Zomenia (Zeza) Zomeni PhD
(major professor: Jay Noller)

Dean's List 2011-2012

Nathan Azevedo (F'11, W'12, Sp'12)
 John Beitel (Sp'12)
 Alyssa Duval (F'11, W'12, Sp'12)
 Carl Evans (F'11, W'12, Sp'12)
 Jennifer Hang (W'12, Sp'12)
 Jason Hayes (F'11, W'12)
 Melissa Jenck (W'12, Sp'12)
 Stephanie Jenck (W'12, Sp'12)
 Stacey Kuhn (Sp'12)
 Christy McCarthy (F'11, W'12, Sp'12)
 Anna Sandau (Sp'12)
 Peter Swenson (F'11, W'12)
 Katharine Taormina (Sp'12)



CSS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (cont.)

SOIL JUDGING CLUB NEWS

Will Austin, advisor/coach of the OSU Soil Judging Club, reported that the students competed in the National Soil Judging Contest held in Morgantown, West Virginia, this past spring. Four of the five team members competed on three different pits in a forested area near a Boy Scout camp, where a sneaky fragipan foiled plans for perfect scorecards.

However, it was in the team judging where OSU made its way onto the scoreboard, accurately describing a fine-loamy hapludalf and fragiudalf. This placed OSU 10th in the team judging round, beating our West Coast counterparts and many of the East Coast regionalists.



The 2012 National Collegiate Soil Judging Team consisted of (from left): Austin Suing, Will Austin (advisor and coach), Roslyn Albee, Gabriella Coughlin, Leslie Michel, and Carl Evans.



Presentation of 'Senior Shovels' to the graduating OSU Soil Judges

Pictured: Leslie Michel, Carl Evans, Will Austin (accepting for Michelle Anderson), and Austin Suing. Each shovel has a custom design as a memento of the contribution to the 2011-2012 team year.

CSS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (cont.)

JAMES CASSIDY and a dedicated group of students from his soil science class provided a special gift to a local woman last spring. As reported in the Corvallis' newspaper, *The Gazette-Times* by reporter Gail Cole, Jeanie Bassett had planned to create a garden when she moved to Corvallis two years ago. A longtime gardener and cook, she looked forward to beginning the gardening project but the care of her special-needs grandson came first.

Through personal connections and channels, James met Jeanie and that's when the wheels began turning in his head. As part of a service-learning project for the students of his SOIL 205 class, James is always looking for a worthy recipient for a "garden makeover" and Jeanie fit the bill perfectly.

After a few hours of work on a Sunday morning, the students (under James' guidance) had transformed Jeanie's backyard into a fertile garden space. The 15 students dug into the grass and piled it into a compost heap by hand, shaped the garden beds and added compost and fertilizer to the soil, before planting different varieties of tomatoes, tomatillos, herbs, hot peppers, summer squash, and other vegetables in the garden. They also planted flowering plants to attract beneficial insects. Most of the planted vegetables were starts from the OSU Greenhouse or the OSU Organic Growers Club.

In the newspaper article, Jeanie is quoted as saying, "What they've done here is incredible." You can appreciate the group's work by looking at the before, during, and after pictures below (all pictures are from *The Gazette-Times*).



CSS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (cont.)

Gazette-Times reporter, Gail Cole, also wrote an article on the annual Earth Day Hoo Haa event that is sponsored by the OSU's Organic Growers Club of which **JAMES CASSIDY** is the club's faculty advisor. The event is held each April on or near Earth Day. The public is invited to go to the student farm, located just east of Corvallis off of Highway 34, and help plant some crops (including 10,000 onions grown in the OSU greenhouses over winter). The attendees can also tour the farm, listen to live music, enjoy the weather (fingers crossed that the sun makes an early Spring appearance), and, if they've brought their own bowls and utensils, consume some of the vegetarian chili that has been made with the vegetables grown at the farm. The 2012 Hoo Haa had chili made from vegetables that were donated from vendors at a local farmers' market plus the student farm's tomatoes frozen after the end of the previous season. James was still a graduate student in the department when he first organized the event ten years ago so that he could bring awareness to agriculture's impact on the world.

NEWS: FROM YOU TO US, FROM US TO YOU

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

We said good-bye and good luck to the following people:

Kale Haggard, FRA with the Cereals Extension program, has moved to Massachusetts with his wife, where she has obtained a university teaching position.

Randy Knight, a Seed Certification Specialist, has retired and moved with his wife to central Oregon to live near his daughter and grandchildren.

Eddie Simons, FRA with the Wheat Breeding program, accepted a position as a field representative in western Washington. He and his family moved there to be closer to family.

Laura Tilley worked with the Seed Certification Service until she transferred to a position in the Department of Music at OSU at the end of October.

Vijay Tiwari accepted a post-doc position at Kansas State University, where his wife also holds a research position.

NEW PERSONNEL



Jennifer Bergh

JENNIFER BERGH, formerly an Entomology graduate student with **Sujaya Rao**, will begin a Faculty Research Assistant position in January 2013 with Sujaya. Jennifer is currently an instructor teaching an on-line version of the integrated pest management class (ENT 311) and will begin work on a NIFA SCRI grant investigating native bee and blueberry interaction.

AUSTIN HAWKS – Austin was hired as an instructor in the OSU Ag Program at Eastern Oregon University at the beginning of the current school year. He is teaching some of the classes taught by Andy Huber who retired at the end of the last school year. Gary Kiemnec, Austin and Tim DeCurto (the Ag Program leader at EOU) are strategizing at this time as to what classes Austin will teach and how we might build an electronic class bridge between Corvallis and EOU.

This past summer, KRISTIN KASSCHAU was hired as a Faculty Research Associate for **Dave Myrold's** group and will work as his laboratory manager. Kristin will also become involved with the work sent to the Stable Isotope Research Lab.



Kristin Kasschau

TEEPAKORN (TK) KONGRAKSAWECH began a post-doctoral scholar position with **Andrew Ross**. TK received his PhD in Crop and Soil Science. TK will help with routine wheat project sample processing and a special project on falling numbers, a measure of grain quality in wheat.

DEANNA LLOYD was hired as an Education Program Assistant 2 and will perform duties as a service learning coordinator on a part-time basis with **Julie Pett-Ridge** and **James Cassidy**. She will manage over 700 hours of student service time each school term.

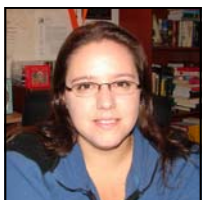
PAUL MARQUARDT – Paul has been hired as the South Willamette Valley field crops extension faculty member. His primary office will be in the Linn County Extension Office in Albany. Paul will have responsibilities to work with growers to address grass seed cropping and entomology issues throughout the southern Willamette Valley. Paul will begin on March 1.

JOSHUA PHILLIPS has started a Biological Science Research Technician 2 position in the potato program, under the supervision of **Solomon Yilma**.

STUART REITZ – Stuart has been hired as a field crops extension/research (75/25) faculty member in Malheur County. Stuart comes to us with very strong horticultural and field crops background from work with ARS in Florida and California. He will work predominantly with onion and potatoes in Malheur County. He began work in late August.

CHRIS RINGO recently began working with **Jay Noller** as a Faculty Research Assistant. Chris will be doing GIS and statistically based land type association work under a large grant obtained from the US Forest Service by Dr. Noller.

SAGAR SATHUVALLI – Sagar has been hired as the new potato breeder for OSU. He will be stationed at Hermiston and began December 1. He will work closely with the other members of the OSU Potato Variety Development team (Solomon Yilma, Brian Charlton, and Clint Shock) to release new potato varieties and will also begin a program of basic breeding and genetics work in potato.



Melissa Scherr

MELISSA SCHERR has been hired as an instructor and will be teaching **Sujaya Rao's** Entomology courses while she is in Ecuador on her Fulbright award. Melissa was a former graduate student of Sujaya's and received her master's degree in 2010.

NEWS: FROM YOU TO US, FROM US TO YOU (cont.)

IN MEMORIAM



Most of you have probably already heard the news about the passing of Dr. **Benno P. Warkentin** this past summer. Benno became ill several years ago and, although he continued to participate in as many departmental seminars and events that he could, he was becoming more frail with each visit. We last saw him at the Retiree Dinner in June, where he actively engaged in conversation with colleagues.

At Benno's life celebration, which was held in August 2012 at the United Unitarian Fellowship Hall, Russ Karow spoke the following to a large gathering of family, friends, colleagues, and co-workers, and especially admirers of the gentle soul that was Benno.

Benno Warkentin was truly a gentleman and a scholar. In preparing to speak today on behalf of my colleagues in Crop and Soil Science and at OSU, I invited people to send short notes of remembrances of Benno. The words that consistently appeared in submitted comments were warm, kind, understanding, insightful, a person with whom it was a joy to work. And these same descriptors were used whether the person was a secretary in the office, an administrative assistant, a local, national or international colleague. Benno saw all people as equals and to the best of his ability tried to help everyone reach their full potential.

Other words that appeared several times were honesty and forthrightness. Dave Myrold remembered when he was interviewing for his position at OSU. Discussion had turned to Oregon's rainy winters and Benno told Dave that it really didn't rain in Corvallis, that it was more like a mist and one almost didn't need an umbrella. This is the only time Dave can remember Benno stretching the truth ever so slightly.

Benno was a scholar extraordinaire. He was involved in foundational events in soil science and was ahead of his time in thinking about soils and how they interacted with our world. He was among the pioneers in exploring soils in relation to environmental science and ecology and to water resources. In addition to being Soil Science department head for more than a decade, Benno was Director of the Oregon Water Resources Institute for several years and taught classes in water resources.

Benno was well-respected by his peers and recognized the benefit of service to his profession. Over his career, he served as a member, chair or elected officer of more than 40 committees, boards, panels or organizations including the presidencies of the Canadian Society of Soil Science and Oregon Chapter of the Soil Science Society of America; vice-chair two times of the International Society of Soil Science; member and chair of the Soil Science Society of America Budget and Finance Committee; Editor of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science and Associate Editor for the Soil Science Society of America Journal. He also served on numerous panels and boards in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

*Benno had a strong sense of history and understood that you need to know where you have come from to make best decisions on where you are going. His love of history and soil science is embodied in the book of which he was the editor – *Footprints in the Soil – People and Ideas in Soil History*. This Elsevier book published in 2006 has 18 chapters and 27 authors. It leads the reader from Roman through modern times in a conversation about understandings and approaches to soil science around the world.*

Another comment that I received from several people was the Benno had the best graduation regalia of anyone in our department, and perhaps college, and that he brought a real sense of solemnity and celebration to graduation ceremonies. He was a scholar who recognized not only the importance of scholarship but also that pomp and circumstance creates a connection between today's graduates and those of centuries past.

To support Benno's love of learning, a Warkentin Seminar has been held the last several years and will be continued into the future. In this seminar, graduate students decide whom they would like to hear from on the national scene and that person is invited to interact with students and faculty at OSU. As you may have seen, a fund is also being established in the OSU Foundation in Benno's name to support teaching activities in soil science at OSU. Benno's love of learning will live on.

Benno Warkentin, the gentleman and scholar, has left footprints for us all to follow in science and in being a gracious, thankful person who looks toward benefiting all of human kind.



NEWS: FROM YOU TO US, FROM US TO YOU (cont.)

IN MEMORIAM (cont.)



This past June, we sent several professors and graduate students to the International Weed Science Congress meeting held in Hangzhou, China. One of our students, **Elena Sánchez**, became ill and had to be hospitalized June 19, 2012. She died on July 28, while still being treated at the hospital in China. Elena was a PhD candidate in weed science and her major professor was Carol Mallory-Smith.

Elena Raquel Sánchez Olguin was born in Costa Rica and graduated with honors from the Universidad de Costa Rica. While at Oregon State, she was active in the Association of Latin Students. This student organization held a remembrance and a gathering for raising funds for Elena's family this past August.

Elena is survived by her mother (Leticia) and brother (Gerardo), who had been able to fly to China and stay near her throughout her hospitalization. She will be missed tremendously by those who knew and loved her.



James Burr, alumnus and the father of **Terry Burr** (a Certification Specialist in the Oregon Seed Certification Service of the Department of Crop and Soil Science) died June 29, 2012 from injuries following an automobile accident. James came to Oregon State University in 1947 and graduated with a degree in soil science in 1951. He worked at OSU Hermiston Research Station for several years before he relocated to Tucumcari, NM, to work at the Agricultural Research Station there. Missing Oregon, he and his family (wife and four children) came back and he worked for the Soil Conservation Service in LaGrande and then on to the Extension Service in Madras, before settling in as the OSU Extension Onion Production Specialist in Ontario, Oregon, in 1973. He was honored many times throughout his career for his contributions to Oregon agriculture, including being inducted into the Onion Hall of Fame. He was awarded professor of emeritus status for his "excellent contributions to growers and farmers and for his amazing hands-on knowledge of his profession."



Alice Rae Stoltz, the wife of **Michael Stoltz**, passed away on October 12, 2012. In her obituary, it is said that Alice was the inspiration for Mike, and all four of their children, to complete their college education. Mike worked for many years as an Extension agent throughout Oregon and eventually served as an Extension Regional Director. Mike and Alice met and were eventually married in Montana, and they had recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. During their retirement, they spent the winter months in Arizona, living out of their RV, although they called Albany, OR, their home.



This past April, Esther Anderson, wife of retired Polk County Extension agent **Nels Anderson**, passed away at their home in Dallas, Oregon. Esther and Nels originally moved to Heppner, where he served as the county extension agent for 19 years. The Andersons were sponsors of the department's Leo Anderson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship and would attend the Crop and Soil Science's annual scholarship and awards night as often as they were able to do so.



We were also recently informed of the following alumni who have passed away:

Stanley R. Christensen ('44)

Barrie "Bud" Gassett ('52)

Thomas Harrison ('53)

Chester L. Robinson

David Stevenson

Kenneth E. Waud

ALUMNI NEWS

SETH SHERRY, class of '09, wrote an email to Russ Karow this past April to update us on his whereabouts. Here's an excerpt of that email: *"As you know, I was working for CPS in the SW desert, but in spring 2011, I was approached by a Zambian based fertilizer blending company to see if I would be interested in organizing a proper R&D department as well as several other projects. We decided it was a good move for us and we moved here in August last year. We live in Lusaka, the capitol city of about 2 million people. Life is challenging in some respects, but we are settling in and figuring things out. ... I work all over the country and regionally as well. In fact, I'm writing you from South Africa where we are working as a distributor for a few SFP products. I spend quite a bit of time working with the research community in this part of the world, encouraging them to look at our products and give support on how best to evaluate their performance, etc. I do a lot of our own trials and demos too, and work closely with growers to disseminate information through field days and the like. All in all, the quality of ag here is quite impressive and surprisingly, there are lots of very progressive farmers. I also work heavily with our small scale farming division. Zambia is positioned to be the "bread basket" of the region, much like Zimbabwe used to be. ... In reference to the photos I included, I was driving down a random side road the other day and this guy's Beaver shirt caught my eye. I went back and explained I had attended that school in the USA and asked for a picture, not sure he really got what I was saying, but let me snap a shot nonetheless."*



HANS von AMSBERG (Ph.D., '65) wrote to Russ last December: *"You may not remember me, but we met a few years ago, when I visited Dave Chilcote, my ex-major prof at the Dept. of Farm Crops. We chatted then about our common origin in the state of Mecklenburg, Germany. My compliments to you about the very well written article in the CSS News... . None of you has an enviable task to create more with less resources available, but I admire your positive approach finding solutions. Thus I'm proud to be one of those Oregon Staters who seem to be always on the go, creating a highly educational atmosphere for ALL students."* Hans also commented about a great trip that he had with the OSU Alumni group in October 2011 to the Amalfi Coast in Italy.

CAMERON BERGEN (M.S., '06) sent us an update about his life: *"Our biggest news was the move from our long-time home in Eugene (OR) to Logan, Utah. It has been quite a shift for us in so many ways. We live in town now, which is probably the hardest part for us and especially the dogs. Though we have a big backyard, it is certainly not the wooded acres that the dogs are used to. ...We still call Oregon 'home' and are trying to figure out what the next year holds for us."* Cameron works as a consultant and is completing field work and wrapping up reports from his time in Oregon.



NEWS: FROM YOU TO US, FROM US TO YOU (cont.)

LAUREL KLUBER (Ph.D., '10)—After Laurel received her doctorate, she accepted a Postdoctoral Research Associate position at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio and was a Visiting Scientist at Holden Arboretum near there. However, in an email correspondence from July 2012, she tells us that she's now working as a Research Microbiologist for the USDA-ARS at the Coastal Plains Research Center in Florence, SC. *"We just moved from Ohio to Florence, South Carolina. I'm now doing a postdoc with the USDA-ARS looking at soil microbes in Ag systems. It's a bit of a change to be sampling in cotton fields rather than forests, but I think it will be a great experience for me. ...I am also looking forward to being part of a larger, more active research group again. ...I'm just so thankful for all the connections I've made in grad school and really reinforces what a great department I came from."*

LEONARD SINGHOSE (Crop Science, 1963) is enjoying retirement! He told us that he retired from Asgrow Seed Company in 1994 and followed that with a consulting business in the agricultural crop and seed businesses.

JACK WARREN (friend of the department) is a retired Field Research and Product Development Representative for Bayer Crop Science. He spent 38 years working with OSU Experiment Station personnel.

TOM KIRSCH (Crop Science, 1968) is the manager of Madras Farms Company in Madras, Oregon.

JOEL PRICE (Farm Crops, 1969) operates a farm in Eastern Oregon near Adrian.

JESSICA HAAVISTO (M.S., 2011) became the new PARC Coordinator as well as a Pesticide Investigator for the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Pesticides Division (Salem, OR).

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Fred Kaser of Mollala, OR, was selected as a member of the College of Agricultural Sciences Diamond Pioneer Registry. The initiation luncheon for Diamond Pioneers was held in October 2012 at OSU.

HYSLOP FARM FIELD DAY—MAY 2012

If you were to compare last year's Hyslop Field Day to this year's, it's like apples and oranges but in the meteorological sense! As evidenced by the pictures below, the faculty presenting their research had to wear sunglasses and hats to protect them from the rare spring sunshine. This year field day topics covered four basic research areas, including **Cereals** (winter wheat varieties, barley breeding, disease management, agronomic and fertility studies), **Clover and Grass Seed** (energy use in tall fescue and perennial ryegrass, alternatives to diuron in perennial ryegrass, plant growth regulators in red clover), **Entomology** (barley yellow dwarf virus, clover crown borer), and **Oil Seeds** (flax production, weed management in winter and spring flax, meadowfoam breeding).



Flax flowers soaking up the sunshine



Bob Zemetra standing amidst his wheat plots



Jennifer Kling presents her research on meadowfoam



Carol Mallory-Smith talks about weed management.

HYSLOP FARM FIELD DAY—MAY 2012 (cont.)



Mike Flowers presents information on new wheat varieties



Cindy Ocamb (Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology) presents a poster on her research of "Yellow Dwarf in Perennial Ryegrass Seed Fields" (with Andy Hulting serving as the easel!)



Pat Hayes enthuses about the barley breeding program at OSU



Nicole Anderson talks about plant growth regulator use on red clover



Chris Mundt (Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology) talks about stripe rust on wheat



Tom Chastain talks about energy balance in grass seed crops



Sujaya Rao presents her research on the clover crown borer



Tom Silberstein presents a report on flax production

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Please complete this form and send it with your check to The Oregon State University Foundation, 850 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, OR 97333. Make checks are payable to the **OSU Foundation**.

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- Henry Rampton Memorial Scholarship
- Appleby Service Award – A CSS faculty and staff award for above and beyond service to the department
- McGuire Crop Science Scholarship Fund
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For more information on ways to support OSU and the Department of Crop and Soil Science through your estate planning, please contact:

Todd Bastian, CAS Director of Development
Oregon State University Foundation
850 SW 35th Street
Corvallis, OR 97333-4015
todd.bastian@oregonstate.edu
(541) 737-8724 Office
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From the OSU Main Page—Click Option #1 and enter a donation amount. Under the “Designation” section, click on the “Select your gift designation” radio button and select “Other 1” then click the continue button, then type in the name of the fund you would like to support in the “Other 1” box, then follow the remaining instructions.

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What's new? _____

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