

Plant and Soil Sciences

Plant and Soil Sciences
Mississippi State Univ.
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From the Department Head

Final preparations for a new school year are being made this week. Current estimates are for a stable enrollment in the College of Agriculture here at MSU but final numbers are not yet available.

Across the state, rainfall has been highly variable during the 2005 growing season thus far with most areas receiving adequate moisture but with some being very dry.

One highlight I am proud to mention is the recent second place showing by the Plant & Soil Sciences Horticulture Club in the student competition at the American Society for Horticultural Science national meeting in Las Vegas,

NV. Our horticulture club has an amazing history of dominance in national as well as regional competitions (See Page 4).

Our faculty continued their success in grant funding during recent months (See page 7). As federal formula funds stagnate and state funding declines, this success in obtaining grant funds is essential to the continued success of our research & Extension programs.”



Mike Collins

Mississippi Hosts the Southern Pasture & Forage Crop Improvement Conference



our campus. Drs. Lang and Watson are shown discussing their research with conference attendees.

Forage research scientists and Extension specialists from all over the southeastern U.S. attended the Southern Pasture and Forage Crop Improvement Conference in Philadelphia, MS. In addition to the professional meeting presentations in Philadelphia, the group participated in a tour that brought them to



Mississippi State
UNIVERSITY

Faculty Awards and Honors

Promotions

Congratulations to :

Joe Massey on his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure,

Al Rankins on his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure,

Mark Shankle for his promotion to Associate Research Professor,

Patricia Knight for her promotion to Research Professor

John Braswell for his promotion to Extension

Professor

Larry Oldham for his promotion to Extension Professor

All promotions were effective on July 1, 2005. Each faculty member should certainly be proud of the achievements upon which these promotions were based.

Congratulations also to Dr. Cade Smith for his promotion from Research Associate II to Research Associate III, effective July 1, 2005.

Awards & Activities

Dr. Bisoodat Macoon, Mac to most of us, was among four award recipients from the American Society of Agronomy as outstanding journal reviewers for the year.

Mac's award was announced in the CSA Newsletter. This recognition demonstrates the quality of the research team we have in Plant and Soil Sciences.



Dr. Frank Matta was invited to Guyana, S.A. to provide information on West Indian Cherry production. Dr. Matta's activities were sponsored by

University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, Partners of the America's Program.

Dr. Raja Reddy is shown receiving the 2005 Alumni Award for Excellence, Sri Venkateswara University, Sri Venkateswara University College Alumni Association, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India from the President of the university.

Raja presented a lecture titled



"Climate Change and Crop Productivity: Challenges and opportunities".

New Faces & Graduates

Graduates

Dr. Sameera Bafeel completed the Ph.D. Degree in August 2005. Frank B. Matta is Samera's Advisor.

Dr. Ken Hutto and Dr. Cody Gray, both Ph.D. candidates in Weed Science, finished their programs here at MSU. Cody accepted a position conducting aquatic weed control in south Florida and Ken accepted a postdoctoral position in North Florida.

Visitors

Mr. Loetchai-Chit-Aree recently returned home after spending the summer as Visiting Scholar from the Department of Horticulture, Maejo University, Chiangmai, Thailand during the summer.

Research/Extension Associates

Mr. Ben Spinks joined PSS as an Extension Research Associate I in July 1, 2005. Ben is working under Dr. Alan Blaine with the S.M.A.R.T. program. He is a native of Clarksdale, MS. Ben, his wife (Nicole), and their daughter (Emma) are now residents of Starkville.

New Students, Fall 2005

New Undergraduate Students

David Abel - GSTM

Thomas Benners - GSTM

Jeremy Brown - GSTM

Richard Deweese - GSTM

Frederick Fulton - GSTM

Bryan Holland - GSTM

John Layton - 2nd BS - GSTM

Curtis Lindsey - GSTM

Thomas Newell - GSTM

Justin Nipper - ICM

Marinne Cassisa - Retail Floristry

Justin Estes - Floriculture Ornamentals

Haley Hannah - Retail Floristry

Tegan Pettis - Floriculture Ornamentals

Future Plant & Soil Scientists:

May 5th, Luke Simcox Ward arrived weighting 7lbs. and 14oz. Luke is the son of Brian "Bozo" and Rachel Ward. Brian is an Extension Research Associate I in our department working with the S.M.A.R.T. program.

June 9th, Ansley Faith Wardlaw arrived weighing 9lbs. and .3oz. Ansley is the daughter of Mitt and Kerri Wardlaw. Mitt is an Extension Research Associate I in our department working with the S.M.A.R.T. program.

June 14th, Emma Grace arrived weighing 9lbs. and 5oz. Emma is the daughter of Trey and Stacey Koger. Trey is a Scientist with the Southern Weed Science Research Unit, Stoneville, MS. Also, he is a former graduate student under Dr. Shaw and Stacey is a former student worker with PSS.

Student Awards & Honors

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY HORTICULTURE CLUB

American Society for Horticultural Science American Collegiate Branch Student Competition

<u>National Competitions:</u>	<u>MSU Rank</u>
1994 (Corvallis, OR)	First Place
1995 (Montreal, Canada)	First Place
1996 (Lexington, KY)	Third Place
1997 (Salt Lake City, UT)	First Place
1998 (Charlotte, NC)	First Place
1999 (Minneapolis, MN)	First Place
2000 (Orlando, FL)	First Place
2001 (Sacramento, CA)	Third Place
2002 (Toronto, Canada)	Second Place
2003 (Providence, RI)	Second Place
2004 (Austin, TX)	First Place
2005 (Las Vegas, NV)	Second Place

Southern Region Competitions:

1994 (Nashville, TN)	Second Place
1995 (New Orleans, LA)	First Place
1996 (Greensboro, NC)	DNC*
1997 (Birmingham, AL)	First Place
1998 (Little Rock, AR)	Third Place
1999 (Memphis, TN)	Second Place
2000 (Lexington, KY)	DNC*
2001 (Fort Worth, TX)	DNC*
2002 (Orlando, FL)	Third Place
2003 (Mobile, AL)	Second Place
2004 (Tulsa, OK)	First Place
2005 (Little Rock, AR)	Third Place

*DNC — Team did not compete.

“Our horticulture club has an amazing history of dominance in national as well as regional competitions.”

Scholarship Funds Are Important to Our Students

The Plant and Soil Sciences Undergraduate Scholarship Committee, Chaired by Dr. Richard Harkess, awarded 19 scholarships totaling several thousand dollars for our students during the 2005-2006 school year. The high-quality students in our programs make the decisions tough for our Scholarship Committee.

New Scholarship Announced

The Horticulture Club voted to set up a new scholarship for horticulture students. The Horticulture Club Scholarship will be awarded annually to an undergraduate student in Ornamental Horticulture who has a minimum of a 2.5 GPA and with preference given to an active member of the Horticulture Club or an incoming freshman student. The amount for 2005-06 academic year will be \$1,000. The recipient will be selected by the PSS Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship Awards

Safwan Shiyab received the Howell Memorial Scholarship. Safwan is a Ph.D. student in Horticulture with Dr. Matta.

American Society for Horticultural Sciences Collegiate Scholars for 2005

Daisy Goodman, Carina Haines, Jessica Pike, Tressa Presley, and Candie Turnipseed have been recognized as Collegiate Scholars for 2005. To receive this recognition, junior and senior students must be in the top 10% of their class.



Tressa Presley



Carina Haines



Candie Turnipseed



Jessica Pike

Grants Received During Summer 2005

By Principal Investigator:

Kingery, William L., \$20,000, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Admin (NOAA) (DOI). 2004-2006.

Barber, Lon T., \$3,000, Monsanto Company, March 2005-April 2006.

Larson, Erick J., \$1,000, Syngenta Seed Inc., June 2005-May 2006.

Blaine, M. Alan, \$1,500, Cheminova, Inc., June 2005-May 2006.

Oldham, James L., \$2,141, American Dehydrated Foods, Inc. June 2005-May 2006.

Larson, Erick J., \$2,000, Monsanto Company, June 2005-May 2006.

Wallace, Teddy P., \$52,250, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) (USDA). March 2005-November 2005.

Blaine, M. Alan, \$60,100, Mississippi Soybean Association. May 2005-September 2005.

Barber, Lon T., \$9,000, Monsanto Company, March 2005-April 2006.

Byrd, John D., \$195,000, MS Dept of Transportation (MDOT). June 2005-September 2007.

Blaine, M. Alan, North Central Soybean Research Program, Sentinel Plots to Monitor the Spread of Soybean Rust. \$18,000.

Byrd, John D., MS Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Cogongrass Management in Coastal Counties, \$14,167.

Byrd, John D., DuPont Crop Protection, \$5,000.

Harkess, Richard L., University of Arkansas, Virtual Field Trips for Improving Undergraduate

Training. \$4,716.

Wallace, Teddy P., Cotton Incorporated, Cotton breeding. \$11,430.

Byrd, John D., \$368,945.00, MS Dept of Transportation (MDOT). Developing Vegetation Management Program. 2005-2009.

Peterson, Daniel G., \$584,909.00, National Science Foundation (NSF). ISGA-PGR: Accelerating Pine Genomics

Blaine, M. Alan, \$25,000, Bureau of Plant Industry / (MAC). Memorandum of Understanding. May 2005-December 2005.

Blaine, M. Alan, \$561,000, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA) (APHIS). Applying Fungicide at Varying Rates. May 2005-May 2006.

Edward Heard and Frank B. Matta. The North American Bramble Growers Research Foundation (NABG-RF). Establishment of 'Apache' and

'Chickasaw' Blackberries, Monitoring, Detection, and Prevention of Raspberry Crown Borer".

Reddy, K. R. and V. G. Kakani. 2005. Responses to climate change of C4 and C3 species native to South-central region. National Institute for Global Environmental Change as part of DOE.

Reddy, K. R and S. Koti. 2005. An approach to positively shift the production of rainfed soybean by foliar application of glycine betaine. Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board.

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http://www.msstate.edu/dept/pss/public_html/

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences



Undergraduate Studies	Graduate Research Studies	Courses Offered	Location & Contact Information
Faculty	Professional Staff	University Florist	Extension Areas
	Agronomy Notes	Mississippi Lawns & Gardens	Scholarship Applications

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Centrals Forum is the application of research to the integrated management of plants, soil, and climate for high-quality production of food, fiber, and ornamental plants. Centrals is the source of study & consultation for growers, scientists, and others in our environment. Dr. Frank Mathe serves as the head of the department.

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Upcoming Events

The North Mississippi R&E Center will host the 9th Annual North Mississippi Garden Expo here in Verona on Saturday, September 17, 2005 from 9:00 - 1:00.

Oct 14 & 15 - Fall Flower & Garden Fest, at Truck Crops Experiment Station, Crystal Springs, MS.
 Info: www.msucare.com/fallfest or call 601-892-3731.

The [4th National Small Farm Conference](#) -- "Enhancing Opportunities for Small Farmers and Ranchers" -- to be held October 16-19, 2005, at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel/Koury Convention Center at Four Seasons in Greensboro, NC. This conference will provide a forum to:

Develop strategies to maximize existing resources for the prosperity of small farmers and ranchers; enhance the ability of producers to maximize marketing opportunities; provide an effective and adequate income safety net for small farmers and ranchers; develop and strengthen programs to meet small farm specific needs; enhance the development and use of risk management tools; promote size specific rather than scale neutral technology; pro-

vide support for agricultural research, education, and outreach; and promote programs designed to maximize results and emphasize measurable outcomes.

Mississippi Crop College, February 6-10, 2006, Starkville, MS, Bost Conference Center, Contact Dr. Larry Oldham.

Mark Shankle and the staff at the Pontotoc



Station hosted the Agronomic Practices Research and Demonstration Tour (field day) on August 4th, 2005. The sweet potato crop is coming along well.