

Plant and Soil Sciences



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From the Department Head

If you haven't been around the campus for a bit, you have missed some major changes in the local landscape. MSU personnel have been busy making tremendous progress on all of the major projects begun earlier this summer. New bermudagrass sod has been laid in front of our building and the new bookstore has opened over by the stadium.

Since our last newsletter, our faculty has grown by several, including Brian Trader, Mengmeng Gu, and Pamela Collins. All three are horticulturists, Brian mainly in teaching, Mengmeng mainly in Extension, and Pamela in

MAFES working with our gardens. Eric Laiche also joined us in the role of facilities coordinator during recent weeks. Off campus, Dr. Jason Bond began this summer in the rice-research position at DREC.



Mike Collins

I believe that these solid additions to our group, together with a rosier budget picture than we have had in recent years, put our department in good position to advance our research, teaching and Extension missions.



Mississippi State
UNIVERSITY

Student Awards & Scholarships

The Parham/Sargent Scholarship has supported the education of 72 Mississippi State Golf and Sports Turf Management students over the past sixteen years. Many of the recipients have received the awards more than once, and the total value of the scholarship funds awarded through MSGA and MSGA members that sponsor individual students on their own now exceeds \$121,000. We look forward each spring for their visit to campus when they have an opportunity to visit with the students they sponsor and enjoy a luncheon together.



The Mississippi Senior Golf Association Parham/Sargent Scholarship Award Recipients for 2006:

Jordan Carlisle	Grand Junction, TN, Senior, scheduled to graduate 2007
John Layton	Starkville, MS, Senior, scheduled to graduate 2007
David Leon	Vicksburg, MS, Senior, scheduled to graduate Dec. 2006
Wil Misenhimer	Lawrenceburg, TN, Senior, On Co-op at the Honors Course, Ooletawah, TN, scheduled to graduate May 2006
Brian McNeil	Enterprise, MS, Senior, scheduled to graduate 2007
Joseph Nelson	Hattiesburg, MS, Senior, scheduled to graduate 2008
Chris Pay	Greenville, MS, Senior, scheduled to graduate 2008
Jeremy Roth	Altenburg, MO, Senior, scheduled to graduate 2008
Layton Scott	Walls, MS, Senior, scheduled to graduate 2007

Ryan Wersal, Dr. John Madsen's Ph.D. student, was awarded the 2006 Research Scholarship from the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society in the amount of \$2,000.

At the recent Induction and Student Recognition Banquet held in Washington, DC, MSU was named Highest Scoring Overall School at this year's Symposium. Two PSS students, Mariah Baird and Jena Oh (pictured along with Lynette McDougald and Jim Del-Prince), participated in the design test and won the honor for MSU.



Student Awards & Scholarships continued:

Scholarship Recipients 2006-07

Name	Major	Scholarship
Timothy Phillips	Golf & Sports Turf Mgt.	Snell Endowed Scholarship and Robert H. Dunlap Scholarship
James Grisham, Jr. Ashley Andrews	Integrated Crops Mgt. Envr. Soil Science	Agron. Student Assistance Scholarship Agron. Society of America (MS) and H.B. Vanderford Scholarship
Cheryl See James Brewer Blessitt Brandon Broadus	Envr. Soil Science Agronomy Graduate Ornamental Horticulture	H.B. Vanderford Scholarship William L. and Jean P. Giles Scholarship Lester A. Estes Garden Clubs of MS and Robert H. Dunlap Scholarship
Ronald Keith Hayes	Ornamental Horticulture	MNLA Denny Phillips Scholarship and Horticulture Club Scholarship
Jessica Pike	Ornamental Horticulture	Overcash Hort. Scholarship and Joseph B. Edwards Scholarship
Meghan Schultz	Ornamental Horticulture	Ashley Girling Scholarship and Nan Watts Anderson Scholarship
Heather Wilson Marianne Cassisa	Ornamental Horticulture Retail Floristry Mgt.	Horticulture Club Scholarship Imogene Triplett Scholarship and Mississippi Florists Association Sch
Mallory Emison	Retail Floristry Mgt.	Jackson Council of Gardens Clubs and Freda Wallace Harrison Scholarship
Hayley Hannah	Retail Floristry Mgt.	Joseph B. Edmonds Scholarship
Total scholarship money awarded = \$24,250.00		

Faculty Awards and Activities

Rick Snyder received the ASHS Southern Region Blue Ribbon Publication Award for the Greenhouse Tomato Glossary.

Rick Snyder also received a national award for the All-America Selections Exemplary Education Display Garden.

Nancy Reichert has been awarded fellow of her society SIVB (Society for In-Vitro Biology).

John Madsen, Ryan Wersal, Brock R. McMillan, and Patrick D. Gerard published a paper in the Journal of Wetlands titled, "Environmental Factors Affecting Biomass and Distribution of *Stuckenia pectinata* in the Heron Lake System, Minnesota, USA." Volume 26 (2): 313-321

The Master Gardener Training Resources, publication M1368, CD won the American Society for Horticultural Science Extension Materials Award in the CD-ROM category. The competition was tough for these prestigious awards and everyone who contributed to this publication should be very proud! Teamwork does work!

K. Raja Reddy has been selected as a 2006 Crop Science Society of America Fellow. He will be recognized at the Crop Science Society of America awards program during the ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN in November.

Richard G. Snyder, Professor and Vegetable Specialist was the National Winner of the 2005 All-America Selections Display Garden Exemplary Education Award for Category II, which is for public gardens with between 5,000 and 99,999 visitors per year. The award is for the Fall Garden, part of the Fall Flower & Garden Fest. Dr. Snyder has been coordinator of the Fall Flower & Garden Fest since 1988. The Fest normally attracts 6,000 visitors over a 2-day period each October, and another 3,000 school children during Kids' Week.



Grants Received During 2006

Brian Baldwin and co-authors received a grant from Ocean Park, Hong Kong, China the Sino-US Consortium for the Conservation China's Biodiversity for \$27,000. The research will cover determining the changes in the biochemistry of bamboo across age and season.

Joseph Massey U.S. Golf Association (USGA). "Bridging the Gap: Effect of Plot Size and Warm-Season Grass Species on Turf Chemical Runoff." \$30,000.

Joseph Massey USDA CSREES. "Improved Irrigation Efficiency and Reduced Potential for Surface Water Contamination Using Intermittent Plus Irrigation in Rice Production."

Daniel Peterson National Science Foundation. "ISGA-PGR: Accelerating Pine Genomics through Development and Utilization of Molecular and Cytogenetic Resources." \$376,072

David Lang MS Lignite Mining Company. "Evaluation of Prime Farm Soil and Mixtures of Gray Unoxidized Subsoil and Red Oxidized Top Soil Substitute."

Alan Blaine Mississippi Soybean Association. "SMOA/Funding for three MSU-ES Research Associates and two Student Workers

Jixiang Wu Cotton Incorporated. "Yield and Fiber Trait Improvement Using Recently Developed Cotton Chromosome Substitution Germplasm Lines." \$21,642

James Taylor BASF Corporation. "Unrestricted Research" \$5,000

James Taylor Monsanto Company. "Unrestricted Research" \$12,000

John Byrd Valent. "Unrestricted Research" \$1,500

Wayne Philley Radix Research Inc. "Unrestricted Research" \$400

Scott Wright ISK Biocides, Inc. "Unrestricted Research" \$3,500

Gregg Munshaw Sepro Corporation. "Unrestricted Research" \$7,000

Joe Massey MS Rice Promotion Board. "Water-Saving Irrigation for Mississippi Rice Production." \$25,042

Al Rankins Drexel Chemical Company. "Grant-in-Aid" \$2,000

John Madsen Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation. "Endothall Combinations with 2,4-D and Triclopyr for Control of Eurasian Watermilfoil." \$20,000

Grants Received During 2006 continued:

Al Rankins Drexel Chemical Company. "GIA." \$2,688

Ted Wallace Cotton Incorporated. "Regional Breeders Testing Network." \$18,000

William Kingery Auburn University. "Understanding Plant-Soil-Livestock Interactions: A Key to Enhanced Sustainability in Southern-Pine Silvopasture Systems." \$10,000

Al Rankins Monsanto Company. "Grant-in-Aid." \$11,072

John D. Byrd Bureau of Plant Industry. "Tropical Soda Apple Program." \$15,000

Richard Watson Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation. "Variety Evaluation Agreement." \$10,000

K.R. Reddy Colorado State University. "USDA UV-B Monitoring and Research Program." \$56,618

Alan M. Blaine North Carolina State University. "National Legume Risk Management Tool Development Project." \$89,250

Tom Barber Eden BioSciences. "Grant-in-Aid." \$1,800

Tom Barber Bayer CropScience. "Grant-in-Aid" \$7,000

Tom Barber United Agri Products. "Grant-in-Aid." \$3,000

Tom Barber Monsanto Company. "Grant-in-Aid." \$3,000

Tom Barber Monsanto Company. "Grant-in-Aid." \$3,000

Tom Barber Beltwide Cotton Genetics, LLC. "Grant-in-Aid." \$3,000

Tom Barber TEVA Corp. "Grant-in-Aid." \$1,500

David Shaw Monsanto Company. "Assessing Long-Term Viability of Roundup Ready Technology as a Foundation for Cropping Systems." \$880,000

David Lang USDA Ag Research Service (ARS) (USDA). "Material Transfer Agreement for 1 pound of Rapid C-4 Bahiagrass Breeder Seed."

Ted Wallace USDA Ag Research Service (ARS) (USDA). "Material Transfer Agreement for 227 grams of Seed of Each of Four Cotton Germplasm Lines."

Turfgrass Management

The Ground Has Been Broken!

Ground was broken during the Turf Research Field Day on a 25,000 square foot sand-based research green at the MSU North Farm Turf Research Complex. This new green will provide the much needed facility necessary to conduct research that applies to intensively managed turf found on golf greens, especially the ultra dwarf Bermuda grasses and seashore paspalums. The layout of the green (50' x 500') will allow it to be segmented (50' x 50' with irrigation independent for each segment) for different types of cultural practices research dealing with

fertility, mowing and thatch management, pest management, irrigation, etc. Turf species and cultivar evaluations will also be included.



Dr. Mike Collins, Head PSS Dept.; Ken Edwards, MTA President; Dr. Vance Watson, Vice President DAFVM; Dr. Rueben Moore, Assoc. Dir./Operations MAFES; and Dr. Jonathan Pote, Interim Dir./Research Planning MAFES turn the first shovels of soil during the groundbreaking ceremony.

PSS Business Office Staff

New Arrivals

Congratulations to **Richard Watson** and his wife on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Watson. Abigail was born on June 12, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz.

Also, congratulations to **Pattie Hartness** on the arrival of her new granddaughter, Kyla Christian Camille Hartness. She was born on May 18, 2006 at 10:45 p.m. She weighed 7 lbs.

PSS Staff pictured with Ellie Mae Clampett



Pictured after their 1st Annual Plant and Soil Sciences Support Staff Seminar, which they call (PSSSSS....), which was held at Lake Tiak O' Khata, July 19-20, 2006.



New Faculty and Staff



Dr. Brian Trader came to MSU this summer after completing the PhD degree in horticulture at VPI. Brian's main duties will be in teaching our Plant Materials courses and in doing ornamental horticulture research.



Dr. Mengmeng Gu arrived at MSU late this summer after finishing the PhD degree in horticulture at the University of Arkansas. Mengmeng is the horticulture specialist serving the nursery industry in Mississippi and is teaching the Greenhouse Management course.



Dr. Pamela Collins joined Plant and Soil Sciences during August as Assistant Research Professor to serve as Director of Gardens for our department. Pamela will work with the newly-developed MSU Veterans Memorial Rose Garden and the Arboretum. Dr. Collins earned the PhD degree in Horticulture from Mississippi State University.



Dr. Jason Bond came to MSU from Louisiana State University. Dr. Bond received the PhD degree from the University of Arkansas, in Weed Science and is working on weed management in rice.



Eric Laiche joined the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences as Facilities Coordinator this summer. Eric earned the B.S. degree from MSU in Industrial Technology during the late 80's.

Graduates

Undergraduate Degrees Awarded Fall 2005

Agronomy:

Kizer Clemmer - Golf and Sports Turf Management- Stewart/Munshaw
 Michael Fuoco - Golf and Sports Turf Management - Stewart/Munshaw
 Bobby Joe Greene - Golf and Sports Turf Management - Stewart/Munshaw
 Andrew Saft - Golf and Sports Turf Management - Stewart/Munshaw

Horticulture:

Aisha Booker - Retail Floristry Management- DelPrince/McDougald
 Mollie Fant - Retail Floristry Management - DelPrince/McDougald
 Carina Haines - Floriculture Ornamentals - Harkess
 Russell Hamilton - Floriculture Ornamentals - Harkess
 Margaret Holder - Floriculture Ornamentals - Harkess
 Tressa Presley - Retail Floristry Management - DelPrince/ McDougald
 Rachael Sullivan - Retail Floristry Management - DelPrince/McDougald

Graduate Degrees Awarded Fall 2005

Samina Qureshi - Agronomy - Ph.D. - Luthe
 Mohammed Salem - Agronomy - Ph.D. - Reddy
 Keith Burnell - Weed Science - Ph.D. - Byrd
 Ben Beavers - Agriculture/Agronomy - Master of Science - Cox
 Bryan Peyton - Agriculture/Weed Science - Master of Science - Byrd

Undergraduate Degrees Awarded Spring 2006

Agronomy:

Stephen Bourne - Golf and Sports Turf Management- Stewart/Munshaw
 William Chittom - Golf and Sports Turf Management - Stewart/Munshaw
 Rex Davis - Golf and Sports Turf Management - Stewart/Munshaw
 Jeremy Ely - Golf and Sports Turf Management - Stewart/Munshaw
 David Horton- Integrated Crop Management - Baldwin
 Michael Lefler - Golf and Sports Turf Management - Stewart/Munshaw
 John M. Looney - Integrated Crop Management - Kingery
 Francisco Gabe Matta - Integrated Crop Management - Matta
 Ryan Moore - Integrated Crop Management - Baldwin
 Joseph Young - Golf and Sports Management - Stewart/Munshaw

Horticulture:

Hilliary Cotten - Retail Floristry Management - DelPrince/McDougald
 Daisy Goodman - Floriculture Ornamentals - Harkess
 Jeremy Peck - Floriculture Ornamentals - Harkess

Graduate Degrees Awarded Spring 2006

Kerry Johnson - Ph.D. -Agricultural Sciences/Horticulture - Tatum/Matta
 Matthew Kirkpatrick - Ph.D. -Agricultural Sciences/Weed Science - Reynolds
 Mary Love Mortimer Tagert - Ph.D. -Agricultural Sciences/Weed Science - Shaw
 Brian Burns - Agriculture/Weed Science - Master of Science - Byrd
 Daniel Haire - Agriculture/Agronomy - Master of Science - Jenkins
 Ronald Wright - Agriculture/Weed Science - Master of Science - Byrd/Coats



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**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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General information on the application of research to the diagnosis, management of plants, soil, and climate for high-quality production of food, fiber, and ornamental plants. Contact in this course of study is for information purposes, and does not constitute an endorsement. Dr. Frank White, success director and of the department.

[Plant & Soil Sciences](#) | [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#)
[1400 Sherman Street](#) | [Mississippi State University](#) | [P.O. Box 302](#)
 For information on the program, contact Dr. Barry L. Stewart, last modified January 20, 2004.
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Rose Garden Progress

Below, Dr. Barry Stewart operating a large roll sod installer installing MS Pride Bermudagrass donated by Mr. David Rainey of Rainey Sod Farm in Corinth, MS around the Rose Garden at the North Farm. The lawn area surrounding the Rose Garden will feature two MSU patented bermudagrasses, MS Pride and MS Choice.

