A Note from the Department Head

The months of November and December are months to give thanks. I think it is important to take a moment and realize how fortunate we are to be part of living and sharing the Purdue Agronomy Experience. I am proud to say that we are passionate, driven and successful. Everyone in the department helps us grow nationally and internationally. I would like to identify some of those who have pushed us towards global excellence.

Dr. Gebisa Ejeta was appointed to the U.N. secretary-general newly created Scientific Advisory Board. The appointment by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon places Dr. Ejeta as the only agricultural scientist on the 26-member board. It is composed of internationally renowned scientists representing various fields of natural, social and human sciences. The board will provide advice on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development to the secretary-general and executive heads of relevant United Nations organizations. Some key objectives will be to strengthen the link between science and policy and to ensure that the latest scientific findings are reflected in high-level policy discussions within the U.N.

Two of our faculty were recognized for their scholarship with Jim Camberato being promoted to Full Professor and Aaron Patton to Associate Professor with tenure. Congratulations to Jim and Aaron! Dr. Tony Vyn was recognized as the 2013 Crop Science Society of America Fellow. He received this award during the Agronomy Society of America Annual meeting. Several of our alumni also became Fellows of the Crop Science Society, the highest award given by CSSA. The Purdue Cooperative Extension Specialist Association recognized two of our faculty with Shaun Casteel receiving the Early Career Award and Aaron Patton receiving the Special Award for their outstanding extension programs in soybeans and turf respectively. Aaron and his colleagues also received the Purdue College of Agriculture Team award. Cale Bigelow received from the College of agriculture Richard L. Kohls Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, the highest award given in teaching from the College of Agriculture. While I have highlighted a few of our faculty they are in a group that continues to make us one of the strongest Agronomy Departments nationally and internationally.

I am also pleased to announce several of our students were recognized for their achievements. Peter Kovac won the International Plant Nutrition Institute Scholar Award and received his Ph.D. this fall semester, several graduate students in the interdisciplinary Ecological Sciences and Engineering (ESE) program led by Director Linda Lee placed very well at the ESE Capturing Resilience Summit, five students received the George D. Scarseth Scholarship and our undergraduates in the Soils Team placed first in the Region 3 Collegiate Soils Contest. In 2013, we matriculated 39 Agronomy Bachelor of Science students, 30 MS and Ph.D. students and 21 students received their Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Agriculture interdisciplinary Natural Resource & Environmental Science Program (NRES) with John Graveel as the director. All of our students have been successful in finding a position following their degree completion in public or private institutions and we are certain they have a very bright future.

In addition to our outstanding students we are able to honor Tony Bailey, Don Biehle and Dr. Kim Polizotto with the Agronomic Achievement Award during this year’s Alumni Harvest Reunion. This award is given to alumni and friends of Purdue agronomy for their contributions to the profession or industry. These individuals exemplify this standard and they have also given generously of their time and talent to support our department. This generosity is also a feature of the Agronomy Department as shown by the very successful United Way Hotdog fundraisers which raised enough money for a final donation of $1,000 and was a big help in the College of Agriculture exceeding the 2013 goal. In the spirit of giving back to our community we also had a significant amount of food, clothes, and dollars donated by the Crops and the Soils folks at our Holiday reception and recognition. Thank you for your generosity to those less fortunate.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year and I am certain that 2014 will be another banner year for Purdue Agronomy.

All the best,
Joe
**Faculty and Staff Recognition**

**Ejeta Appointed to Scientific Advisory Board**

Purdue University distinguished professor of agronomy and World Food Prize laureate Gebisa Ejeta has been appointed to the U.N. secretary-general’s newly created Scientific Advisory Board. The appointment by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon places Ejeta as the only agricultural scientist on the 26-member board. It is composed of internationally renowned scientists representing various fields of natural, social and human sciences. To read more visit: http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2013/Q4/ejeta-is-appointed-to-u.n.-scientific-advisory-board.html

**Agronomy Department Head Joins Leadership Development Program**

Dr. Joe Anderson was accepted for the Fall 2013 Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI), an executive leadership development program for academia, industry, and government. The FSLI enhances personal and professional development by emphasizing leadership competencies, skills for organizational change, and a broad, interdisciplinary perspective of food systems. The FSLI experience prepares scholars for upper-level leadership roles in food system programs, and to assume broader leadership responsibilities within their organizations.

**2013 Crop Society of America Fellow**

Dr. Tony Vyn was recognized as the 2013 Crop Society of America Fellow. The Crop Science Society of America recognized and presented his award during the 2013 Annual Meeting at the Crop Science Society Breakfast on November 6th during ASA. This is highest award given by CSSSA.

**2013 PUCESA Special Award**

Dr. Aaron Patton was awarded the Purdue Cooperative Extension Specialist Association Special Award on November 7th.

**Distance Education and Outreach Director**

Dr. Bruce Erickson has begun a new position in the department as the Agronomy Distance Education and Outreach Director. He is developing new online outreach education tools and courses. Erickson was previously the Education Manager for the American Society of Agronomy and an adjunct professor in the department. He currently teaches Agronomy 105 and ASA’s Fundamentals in Applied Agronomy.

**2013 PUCESA Early Career Award**

Dr. Shaun Casteel was awarded the Purdue Cooperative Extension Specialist Association Early Career Award on November 7th.
Faculty and Staff Recognition Cont.

Purdue University Spirit of the Land Grant Award

Dr. Ron Turco was awarded the Purdue University Spirit of the Land Grant Award on December 5. The award consists of a plaque and $10,000 from Purdue Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension Service to support his overall program. In addition, he will receive an honorarium in the amount of $1500 from Robert Q. and Zelma C. Swaim Memorial Fund in recognition of his award.

Big Data Conversation

Purdue University researchers, including Agronomy’s Sylvie Brouder, are leading an effort to develop a nationwide, unified system for storing and making available to the public the abundance of research data that could help the agricultural industry and policymakers not only now but also many years in the future. The Smarter Agriculture workshop was held in the Washington, D.C., suburb in part to involve federal agencies. The Obama administration has mandated that the direct results of federally funded scientific research be made available to the public digitally. That would promote greater and easier access to data that could be used to help drive innovative breakthroughs in areas including health, energy, the environment, national security and agriculture. For more visit: http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2013/Q4/purdue-team-heading-effort-to-create-ag-research-data-system.html

Administrative, Professional, Clerical and Service Staff Recognition Luncheon

Several members of Purdue Agronomy were recognized at the Clerical and Service Staff Luncheon on December 12th. The Administrative and Professional Staff Recognition Luncheon is on January 16th.

Subramanyam Subhashree 10 Years
Sawn Foushi 25 years
Jim Beaty 35 Years
Phil Devillez 15 Years
Suzanne Cunningham 30 Years
Philip Hess 35 Years
Brenda Warren 35 Years
Faculty and Staff Recognition Cont.

Purdue Today Thumbs Up Recipients

**Agronomy Business Office**

I would like to recognize the Agronomy Business Office for their great success as a team. During August and September, I was out frequently for a surgery, vacation, and an international business trip. During this time, they pulled together and used their resources to make my absence nearly seamless to our customers (special thank you to those resources in AGAD and FREH as well). It just shows what a strong and supportive team we have become. Thank you for all you do! -- Samantha McFarland (Business Office - Agriculture)

**Tom Pluimer and Alec Saaré**

I would like to nominate Tom Pluimer and Alec Saaré, Agronomy’s IT support, for stepping up to help on a very important project. They dropped everything and worked extra hours to make sure the deadline was met. Thank you for going above and beyond to make this happen! -- Phillip Owens (Department of Agronomy)

**Ed Stath, Ron Steiner and Sherron Myers**

Ed Stath, Ron Steiner and Sherron Myers (all from Agronomy): I recently exchanged furniture with areas all over campus, Purdue Research Park, and Purdue Surplus. Sherron has done an amazing job coordinating everything. Ed and Ron have been troopers about picking up the bookshelves, cabinets, and such and helping us with reorganizing. Thank you all so much! -- Samantha McFarland (Business Office - Agriculture)

Student Recognition

**IPNI Scholar**

Purdue Agronomy Graduate Student, Peter Kovacas, is a 2013 International Plant Nutrition Institute Scholar Awardee. The award is available to graduate students in sciences relevant to plant nutrition and management of crop nutrients. His research focuses on shallow pre-plant anhydrous ammonia application direction effects on grain yield, N uptake, and plant-to-plant uniformity in both no-till and conventional tillage systems. Additionally, his research examines the effect of ammonia application timing and the associated horizontal placement on maize yield, N recovery efficiency and N use efficiency. Kovacs said it feels good to be recognized for simply doing his work. “I appreciate being recognized by others at a high level in the field I’m interested in.”

**Crop Physiology & Metabolism Poster Competition**

Jenae Skelton, Graduate Student studying EMS Induced Mutants in Dhur-rin in Mitch Tuinstra’s lab, placed second in the Crop Physiology and Metabolism poster competition at the Crop Science Society of America Meetings in Tampa.
Student Recognition Cont.

Ecological Sciences and Engineering Capturing Resilience Summit

Congratulations to Purdue Agronomy Faculty and Students who were award winners at the 2013 ESE Capturing Resilience Summit, held October 21st and 22nd.

Graduate First Place: Sylvie Brouder, Jeff Volenec, D.R. Smith
Economic and Environmental Performance of
Three Cellulosic Bioenergy Pathways

Graduate Runner-Up: Monique Long, Jeff Volenec, Sylvie Brouder
Theoretical Ethanol Yield for Potential Bioenergy
Sorghum Genotypes of Differing Compositions

Peoples Choice Award: Michael Mashtare, Elizabeth Trybula
Promoting Engagement of LGBTQ Youth in
Interdisciplinary STEAM Topics

George D. Scarseth Scholarship Recipients

The Scarseth Scholarship, honoring Dr. George D. Scarseth, a former faculty member and head of the Agronomy Department, was established to recognize students who show promise to carry on the “Scarseth Philosophy” of solving practical problems through the application of basic scientific principles. The scholarship provides monetary compensation to subsidize the participation of qualified graduate students in the annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America, and/or the Soil Science Society of America. The Scarseth Scholarship will pay for travel expenses to the Agronomy meetings where the graduate students will not only represent themselves but also the Department. Recipients include; Donald J. Graper, John McMillan, Alex Renaud, Luis Rivera and John Scott.

Global Ambassador

Neha Ganesh, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences senior, has been named as an inaugural Global Ambassador through the Purdue Office of Global Affairs and Strategic Council. Neha’s fundamental premise in developing an interest in international activities is that “no matter which part of the world and culture we come from, we are all inherently good – what we need to do is understand each other better”. How to synergize and build off this “goodness” into a more peaceful, happier, productive and efficient world / business/organization/ is of interest to her. As a Global Ambassador she will work closely with Dr. Suresh Garimella and the Office of Global Affairs and have official meetings with the Purdue Strategic Advisory Council (http://www.purdue.edu/globalaffairs/about/council.html) to help Purdue in its global/international activities. The global ambassadors will help make Purdue more global in terms of getting students involved in international activities such as study abroad or internships and helping international students here at Purdue and make Purdue more inviting for prospective students.
Student Recognition Cont.

Soils Team
The Purdue Soils Team placed first in the Region 3 Collegiate Soils Contest in Stevens Point, WI on October 9-12th.

Individuals Placing:
- Tiffani Goodman- 1st
- Isaac Greeson- 2nd
- Arthur Franke- 5th
- Lori Nussbaum- 8th

Coaches:
- Cathy Egler
- Gary Steinhardt

Other Team Participants
- Katie Fagan
- Ariel Kucera
- Betta McGaughey
- Shams Rahman Rahmani
- Maggie Shoue
- Maddie Smith
- Nathan Vandermark

Alumni Focus

Soil Science Education Award
Dr. Rob Rhykerd, Purdue Agronomy Alumni and professor of agronomy and chair of the Department of Agriculture at Illinois State University, was awarded the Soil Science Education Award by the Soil Science Society of America.

Purdue Agronomy Alumni, Daniel Sweeney and David Weaver, along with Dr. Tony Vyn were announced as CSSA Fellows.

Updates in Agronomy

Purdue University Bioenergy Grass Field Tour
The Purdue University Grass Field Tour was held October 15th at the Throckmorton-Purdue Agricultural Center. The tour was held in conjunction with a tour of the Lafayette, IN Caterpillar Facility and bioenergy to gas presentation. Participants were able to learn about different bioenergy grasses through graduate student and post-doc research demonstrations.
Guy Brown Orders
Purdue employees can buy from Guy Brown directly and receive a discount. To do so, go directly to www.guybrownproducts.com to place your order. You will need to login with username purdueemploy and password 4omax. You will then receive Purdue pricing on your order.

Harvest Reunion
Three individuals were honored with the Agronomic Achievement Award from the Purdue University Department of Agronomy. This year’s recipients were Tony Bailey, Donald Biehle and Dr. Kim Polizotto. The awards were presented on October 19th during the Agronomy Harvest Reunion at the William H. Daniel Center. Other attractions at the 2013 Purdue Agronomy Harvest Reunion included guest speaker Dr. Fred Whitford, Director of the Purdue Pesticide Program, who spoke about the history of Purdue Agriculture and a tour of the Purdue Baseball and Women’s Soccer Fields.

Hotdog Luncheon
The Department of Agronomy hosted a Hotdog Luncheon on October 31st, Halloween. We raised an additional $233 for United Way.
Updates in Agronomy Cont.

Agronomy Chilli Cook-Off

1st place Chilli: Peter Kovacs (3rd consecutive time)
2nd place Chilli: John and Sarah Scott
3rd place Chilli: Linda Lee
1st place Dessert: Shaylyn Wiarda
2nd place Dessert: Jason and Amber Geis
3rd place Dessert: Linda Lee

Department of Agronomy Reception and Student, Staff & Faculty Recognition

The Department of Agronomy Reception and Student, Staff & Faculty Recognition was held on December 13 at the Beck Agricultural Center. Social Time and Games started at 3 p.m. Activities included: Corn Hole, Bingo, Fun Holiday Pictures and much more. New or gently used winter apparel, canned goods or monetary donations were donated Food Finders and the Lafayette Urban Ministries. The annual competition between the crop and soil areas also continued this year with crops leading in food items and soils leading in clothing and monetary donations. There were 82 food items, 51 clothing items and $338 donated.

Newlyweds

John Scott and Sarah Huser were married on September 28th. John is a graduate student working on his M.S. with Dr. Shaun Casteel and Sara is a teacher. The couple met in high school.

Amanda Leafgren and Dwight Easterly were married October 19th near Capay, CA. The couple met in Lincoln, NE while they were both studying at the University of Nebraska. Dwight is a product manager for Trimble Navigation, and Amanda is a graduate student in plant breeding and genetics working on her M.S. with Dr. Gebisa Ejeta.

In Loving Memory

Marcus Alan Lucas, 68, of Lafayette, passed away on November 18, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth East Hospital. Marcus was born on May 1, 1945 in Shelbyville, IN to Carris (Theobald) Lucas and James Lucas of Knox, IN both survive. After graduating from Knox High School, Marcus completed three degrees in soil chemistry, including a PhD, from Purdue University. Marcus served honorably as a Major in the US Army, Retired. He married Susan L. Schultz in 1967, she survives. Together they had four children. Marcus worked as a software developer, an information technology manager, and later, an educator for Ivy Tech and Indian Wesleyan. Recently, he dedicated himself to exploring organic farming and alternative medicine. A great man of faith, his greatest loves were Jesus, his family, and his grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.
Bulletin Board

Updates in Agronomy Cont.

New Arrivals
Lillian Grace Carroll was born on October 11th to Lindsey and Mark Carroll. She weighed 9 lb. 6 oz. and was 21 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Bill and Diane Foster.

Harmon Thomas was born on October 12th around 10:17 p.m. He weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20 inches long. He and mom are doing very well! Proud parents are Andrew and Elizabeth Westfall.

Kathryn (Katie) Elizabeth Patton was born on November 1st at 9:54 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was 20 inches long. Parents are Aaron and Ella Patton.

At 12:07 a.m. on November 5th Lynn’s daughter welcomed Kerrigan James into the world! The future Purdue linebacker weighed 9 lbs. 6 oz. and was 21 ¾ inches long.

Liam Frederick Jacobs was born on Sunday November 10th. He weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long. Proud parents are Eil Karlson and Doug Jacobs.

Congratulations to David Schlueter and Katy Martin Rainey on the birth of their son Henry Scott. He was born November 21st. He weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20 ¾ inches long.

Welcome to Agronomy
Tammy Goodale joined the Agronomy Department of November 7th. She is the Event and Program Coordinator for the Purdue Turfgrass Program and also serves as the Executive Secretary for the Midewest Regional Turf Foundation.

Conference Room Pictures
Two new pictures were hung in the small conference room. These pictures will highlight students within the Agronomy Department. New pictures will be rotated in each semester.

In Loving Memory
Walter L. Stirm, 87, of Westminster Village, West Lafayette, died on Tuesday, November 5, 2013. Schooling began at a one room rural school at Shady Grove, Iowa, then Brandon High School and a B.S. degree from Iowa State University. Advanced degrees followed with a Masters and PhD received from Purdue University in 1970 and 1986. Professional employment for Walt was initially with the U.S. Navy Hydrological Office as a marine meteorologist and oceanographer. Then as a 38 year career employee with the National Weather Service, he worked five years in Defense Meteorology in Battle Creek, MI, five years in Kearneysville, WV in Agricultural Meteorology serving a four state Fruit Growers program and the balance of the years in West Lafayette, IN with a similar five state program as the Meteorologist. While in West Lafayette, he was closely associated with Purdue University as a lecturing staff member of the Agronomy Department.