A Note from the Department Head

The fall semester is in full swing and we have another excellent group of freshman students. The opportunities for them to enhance their education through department and campus activities has never been better. Our current students returned with an array of internship experiences that enhanced their agronomic skills. The month of September has been full of memorable events that are sure to make Purdue Agronomy grow. One very important event that happened in September is the plant sciences at Purdue being one of the 10 Impact areas President Mitch Daniels is focusing on.

A truly transformative event occurred when President Daniels announced that The College of Agriculture will receive over $20 million in university funding for plant sciences research and education. This is one of 10 targeted programs designed to enhance research, education and broaden Purdue’s global impact. As this initiative progresses, the college will add 10 new faculty members, establish new facilities and remodel existing facilities. This will have a very significant impact on the department and will continue to push us towards being the leading Agronomy Department in the country.

Part of our current success is largely due to the employees who work to make the department shine. Andy Linvill received the 2013 Service Staff Excellence Award. He continues to go above and beyond and we appreciate the work he does. Three of our clerical staff employees were also recognized for their outstanding work. Connie Foster, Karen Clymer and Lynn Bargfeldt were all Thumbs Up Recipients in Purdue Today. It was also a very exciting time for Dr. Cale Bigelow. Cale was honored this month for being an outstanding undergraduate teacher. He was awarded the Richard L. Kohl’s Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award the highest award in Learning given by the College of Agriculture. He gave a very insightful presentation about what he sees the future of teaching being and how technology will play an increasing important part.

In conjunction with the promising growth potential in the plant sciences area, I am excited about what is happening this month in our department. On the 11th we are hosting a university wide hotdog cookout on the steps of Lilly Hall to help raise money and awareness for the United Way. The 19th is the annual Harvest Reunion, it will be held at the William H. Daniel Center. We hope to see everyone at these events.

All the best,
Joe
Faculty and Staff Recognition

Service Staff Excellence Award

Andy Linvill was selected as the 2013 Service Staff Excellence Award by the Clerical Service Staff Advisory Committee. Andy is the inaugural service award winner! He received his award at a luncheon in September. The CSSAC Excellence Award consists of a plaque and $1,500. Andy is being honored for consistently going above and beyond his job requirements, demonstrating exemplary customer service and showing initiative. Andy said “Jim Beaty once told me that our job is to make the grad students successful and the professors look good. Working with Dr. Ohm and Dr. Tuinstra and their research groups have been many long hours, but has rarely felt like work as we have all shared the load. I am grateful to work with such talented and outstanding people in the whole department.”

Richard L. Kohls Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award

Dr. Cale Bigelow received the Richard L. Kohls Undergraduate Teaching Award. During his presentation he discussed how learning and teaching styles are changing as technology is becoming a more common part of the classroom.

Purdue Today Thumbs Up Recipients

Lynn Bargfelt  Karen Clymer  Connie Foster
Purdue Plant Sciences Initiative

Purdue's College of Agriculture will receive more than $20 million in university funding for plant sciences research and education to strengthen Purdue's leadership in developing new and novel ways to help feed a rapidly growing world population. Read more here [http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2013/Q3/purdue-ag-to-receive-major-funding-for-plant-sciences.html](http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2013/Q3/purdue-ag-to-receive-major-funding-for-plant-sciences.html)

Bill Garner Retirement

Bill Garner is retired after 31 years at the farm, 26 were on the farm crew. In his career no one at Purdue has prepared more field plot ground for researchers than Bill.

Jennifer Biehl Taking a New Position

Jennifer has accepted a new position as Assistant Director, Global Supply Chain Management (GSCM) Masters Program. She is leaving Agronomy after 10 years of service, first as crops teaching secretary, then as Turf Events and Program Coordinator.
Bulleting Board

Updates in Agronomy Cont.

Digital Presentation Tool

There is now a Samsung SDP-860 Digital Presenter available for departmental use in 2-425 Lilly. It connects through the laptop cable and is source #3 on the computer projector (source #2 being the desktop computer in the conference room). It also has capability to be useful as a video feed to computer for distance learning applications through the internet.

United Way Hot Dog Cookout

![United Way Hot Dog Cookout Poster]
Updates in Agronomy Cont.

African Partnership

Tesfaye Mengiste, Samantha McFarland, and Deb Hula traveled to Ethiopia and Tanzania to conduct business meetings in each country to hold a review of the ISC project. Financial management, challenges and establishing proper practices were discussed. Bringing together the two cultures will enhance our ability to improve the lives of the African farmers, learn from one another and discuss the challenges and barriers. The Purdue Team felt the meetings were very productive and will have a strong positive impact on the mission of Dr. Gebisa Ejeta's grant titled, 'Integrated Striga Control Activity in Sorghum in Ethiopia and Tanzania', which is sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Joann Vorst Recognized

The YWCA of Greater Lafayette YWCA will be hosting a reception on Tuesday, October 15 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the YWCA 604 building (604 N. 6th Street, Lafayette), to honor JoAnn Vorst for her years of dedication to the Lafayette Adult Resource Academy (LARA) and its connection to the YWCA. To find out more information visit http://www.glpi.org/news/2013/10/01/public-reception-honor-joann-vorst-s-legacy-lara-and-connection-ywca-greater-lafayet