Kladivko leads the way
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A Note from the Department Head

Welcome to our 2013 Purdue Agronomy Alumni & Friends Newsletter. We have continued on our theme of spotlighting some of our faculty, staff, and students. I hope you find these vignettes interesting and informative and also get a sense of what the agronomy department is accomplishing within Indiana, our region, the nation and across the world. In addition to these brief stories the department and the university as a whole have been busy over the past year.

Purdue University President, Mitch Daniels, and the Board of Trustees have seen the potential Purdue Agriculture can make by naming plant sciences research as one of the two research initiatives to increase Purdue's global impact. The agronomy department is going to be heavily involved in this initiative. Professor Mitch Tuinstra, was named the Scientific Director for the Plant Sciences Research and Education Pipeline (PREP).

On the international front, Dr. Gebisa Ejeta has been appointed to the U.N. secretary-general's newly created Scientific Advisory Board. He is the only agricultural scientist on the 26-member board which is composed of scientist representing various fields of natural, social and human sciences.

I’m pleased to share with you that Dr. Cale Bigelow was awarded the Richard L. Kohls Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award; the College of Agriculture’s highest teaching award. Cale gave an interesting presentation about the ways teaching is changing and evolving. Dr. Tony Vyn, along with several agronomy alumni, was named a Crop Science Society of America Fellow. This is the highest recognition bestowed by the Crop Science Society of America. Andy Linvill, field technician for the small grains and maize programs, was the inaugural recipient of the Service Staff Excellence Award given by the Clerical and Service Staff Advisory Committee and Samantha McFarland, departmental business manager, earned the 2013 Business Office Service Award.

I would also like to recognize three people who have been instrumental in the success of the department. Sandy Spitznagle, Bill Garner and Dr. Herb Ohm retired this past year. Sandy worked in the department for 46 years, most as administrative assistant to six department heads and was recognized as a Legend of Agronomy at our Centennial celebration in 2007. Bill Garner retired after 31 years of working at the Agronomy Center for Research and Education (ACRE) and was a key member of the team supporting the many researchers at ACRE. Dr. Herb Ohm retired after 41 years as a distinguished professor working in many aspects of plant breeding and genetics with a focus on small grains. He has left a tremendous legacy with an extensive list of research accomplishments, educating graduate students that have gone on to do great things across the world, advising undergraduates who are leaders in industry, and has played a key role in Purdue Agronomy being one of the top programs across the world.

There are a lot of new faces around the department. Dr. Bruce Erickson joins us as the agronomy distance education and outreach director, Jacob Cory and Bryan Gretencrod have both joined the ACRE team as farm technicians, Sayde Uerkwitz is the new communication specialist, Jenny Kelly is my administrative assistant, Tammy Goodale joined us as the turf events and program coordinator, Stephanie Loehr is a technician in Dr. Ejeta’s lab and Mary Wise is a business office clerk.

When I pass students in the halls I am proud to see the next generation of agronomists graduating with a strong fundamental and applied sciences background. They are entering a job market that is seeking to hire as many agronomic professionals as possible. The combination of a Purdue University degree, the education they have received in the agronomy department from our accomplished professors and staff, their internships and the array of experiences outside the classroom is transforming their future and the world.

I am positive that the upcoming year will again be filled with exciting accomplishments. I hope you find this newsletter keeps you in touch with Purdue Agronomy. Boiler Up!

Joe Anderson, Department Head
As you walk though Lilly Hall of Life Sciences you may notice some changes being made in the agronomy department. One of those changes you will find in the department head’s office. In June, Sandy Spitznagle retired after dedicating 46 years to the agronomy department. She is a Purdue Agronomy Legend, has served 84 percent of the undergraduates during her time and worked with six department heads. Sandy said although she studied education for two years at Purdue her specialty will always be agronomy.

Bill Garner

Many of you may remember visiting the Agronomy Center for Research and Education (ACRE), also known as the Agronomy Farm, for school field trips, research or educational training opportunities with the Diagnostic Training Center (DTC). If so, you probably remember Bill Garner. He retired after 31 years at Purdue. Twenty-six of those years were on the farm crew. In his career no one at Purdue has prepared more field plot ground for researchers than Bill.

Herb Ohm

After 41 years as a professor and advisor in the Purdue Agronomy Department, Dr. Herb Ohm retired in December. As a renound plant breeder and geneticist, Herb was part of many world-recognized research opportunities with a focus on small grains. During his time at Purdue he advised and mentored 65 graduate students, many of whom have had notable careers. Herb was instrumental in building relationships with many international small grains research programs, which helped grow the diversity of the agronomy department. In 2004 he was named a distinguished professor of agronomy and from 2009-2010 served as interim department head of the department of agronomy.
There have been many accomplishments since our last alumni newsletter! We are excited to share with you some faculty and staff honors, and undergraduate and graduate student recognitions on the following pages. However, we are not able to highlight all recognitions here, so please visit www.ag.purdue.edu/agry/alumni_friendsPages/default.aspx for a complete list of accomplishments.

Spirit of the Land-Grant

Ron Turco received the 2013 Spirit of the Land-Grant Mission Award. The Purdue University College of Agriculture award recognizes faculty for excellence in integrating and promoting the core mission: discovery, engagement, and learning. The purpose of the award is to highlight and celebrate faculty who have successfully developed an integrated, comprehensive program that benefits agriculture nationally and/or internationally.

Giving Back

This year the agronomy department had the opportunity to lead the college in the United Way Campaign. The department held two hot dog luncheons and supported many activities across the college. The college raised $76,711.34, which was 104.82 percent of the overall goal. During the United Way awards program companies and organizations that have set the standard for charitable giving and support in Greater Lafayette were honored. Purdue’s United Way Campaign was one of the honorees; receiving the Award of Merit for Best Overall Campaign for companies with employees numbering 500 and up. (Pictured below are several agronomy department volunteers at the first hot dog luncheon)

Welcome to Agronomy

This year several new faces have joined the agronomy family at Purdue. We are glad to welcome them and look forward to their future success. The new staff are: Jacob Cory a farm technician, Sayde Uerkwitz the communication specialist, Jenny Kelly an administrative assistant, Mary Wise a business office clerk, Dr. Bruce Erickson the agronomy distance education and outreach director, Stephanie Loehr a technician in Dr. Ejeta’s lab, Tammy Goodale the turf events and program coordinator, and Bryan Gretencord a farm technician.

Years of Service

Clerical, service, and A/P staff were recognized recently for their years of service. Shubha Subramanyam, research associate, has been with Purdue for 10 years. Phil DeVillez, Purdue Variety Testing Director, has been employed at Purdue for 15 years.
Dawn Foushi, secretary for agronomy and the Natural Resources and Environmental Science Program, has worked at Purdue for 25 years. Suzanne Cunningham, research crop physiologist, has worked at Purdue for 30 years. Jim Beaty, Agronomy Center for Research and Education (ACRE) farm superintendent; Philip Hess, applications analyst programmer, and Brenda Warren, business office account clerk, have been at Purdue for 35 years.

Promotions

Faculty members who earned promotion in 2013 were: Dr. Jim Camberato to full professor, and Dr. Aaron Patton to associate professor.

Agronomy A/P staff who were advanced in rank include: Brad Eisenhauer and Patsy King to rank 4. Shubha Subramanyam to rank 5 and Corey Gerber to rank 6.

Recognitions

Each year the Purdue Agronomy faculty and staff are recognized for their accomplishments in their professional careers. This year has been no exception. Dr. Cale Bigelow earned the Richard L. Kohls Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award; Dr. Gebisa Ejeta was appointed to United Nations secretary-general’s newly created Scientific Advisory Board and is the only agricultural scientist on the 26-member board; Dr. Joe Anderson joined the Food Systems Leadership Institute; Dr. Tony Vyn became a 2013 Crop Science Society of America Fellow; Dr. Shaun Casteel earned the 2013 Purdue University Cooperative Extension Specialist Association (PUCESA) Early Career Award; Dr. Aaron Patton earned the PUCESA 2013 Special Award; Dr. Jianxin Ma led a team to identify two genes within the soybean genome that are highly resistant to a soil borne pathogen; Dr. Ron Turco won the College of Agriculture Spirit of the Land-Grant Mission Award; Dr. Linda Lee won the Purdue Graduate Student Government Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award; Dr. Richard Grant was recognized as a distinguished professor from the Mexico Academy of Science; Dr. Mitch Tuinstra was named the Scientific Director for the Plant Sciences Research and Education Pipeline (PREP); Midwest Cover Crop Council, including Dr. Eileen Kladivko, won the No-Till Innovator Award; Imprelis Team, including Dr. Aaron Patton, won the Purdue Agriculture Team Award; Imprelis Response Team, including Dr. Aaron Patton, received the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Award of Achievement; Purdue Extension Wheat Field Guide, including Drs. Jim Camberato, Shaun Casteel, Corey Gerber, and Charles Mansfield, received the ASA Outstanding Extension Educational Material Award; Purdue Extension Corn & Soybean Field Guide app for iPad including, Drs. Sylvie Brouter, Jim Camberato, Shaun Casteel, Corey Gerber, Brad Joern, and Bob Nielsen, received the ASA Outstanding Extension Educational Material Award; Samantha McFarland earned the 2013 Business Office Service Award; Lynn Bargfelt, Karen Clymer, Connie Foster, Agronomy Business Office, Ed Stath, Ron Steiner, Tom Pluimer and Alec Saare were recognized as Thumbs Up recipients; and Andy Linvill was the inaugural recipient of the Service Staff Excellence Award.

Above: Part of receiving the Richard L. Kohls Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award is giving a presentation before the ceremony. Dr. Cale Bigelow presented his vision about the future of teaching to Purdue Agriculture faculty, staff, and students.

Left: Andy Linvill was selected as the inaugural 2013 Service Staff Excellence Award by the Clerical Service Staff Advisory Committee. Andy was honored for consistently going above and beyond his job requirements, showing initiative, and demonstrating exemplary customer service.
Purdue Agronomy Student Planted Roots on Purdue Spirit Squad

By Sayde Uerkwitz

On a typical Purdue game day you might see fans tailgating before the game and preparing to cheer on the Boilermakers as they grab another victory. The game day preparation is slightly different for one dedicated fan. Casey Colbert is at the game three hours before kickoff. With adrenaline pumping through his veins, he is ready to get the crowd pumped and energized for another Boilermaker win.

As a captain of the Purdue Coed Spirit Squad, it is Colbert’s responsibility to make sure his fellow cheerleaders are ready to perform.

“Being on the Purdue Spirit Squad is nonstop fun,” Colbert said. “I don’t know if it is the competition or the excitement of preparing for a game, but I love performing and doing challenging stunts on the field.”

Steve Solberg, spirit squad coordinator and head cheer/mascot coach, said Casey is the type of person who leads by example.

“He is always on time and is always putting in extra time to make himself better for his team,” Solberg said. “I see Casey stunting all the time and his technique has shown as he’s improved a lot in the last two years. It’s obvious that his teammates saw the same thing as they voted him as one of their captains for the 2013-2014 season.”

Colbert is a junior from Tipton, Ind. majoring in Agronomic Business and Marketing. His choice of major follows the same path his parents made when they were students at Purdue.

“At a young age I knew I wanted to be involved in agriculture. It has been a huge part of my life. Both of my parents, Dave and Tina Colbert, were Purdue College of Agriculture graduates,” Colbert said. “My dad wanted to be an electrical engineer but when the program was not a perfect fit for him, he listened to my mom’s advice and transferred. My sister, Kelly, was also a College of Agriculture graduate and now works for AgReliant. My dad is a seed salesman and the agronomic side of his job has always interested me.”

Dr. Lee Schweitzer, Colbert’s academic advisor, said Colbert is an active, good student who is gaining momentum.

“I enjoy working with students like Casey,” Schweitzer said. “Casey has shown improvement from the beginning of his career at Purdue. He is the type of person you can expect to think ahead and take charge.”

Schweitzer can also remember Colbert’s parents while they were students.

“It is always a great joy to see two generations excel in the College of Agriculture,” Schweitzer said. “When I work with students I take the approach to know their background and their families if I can. In Casey’s situation the positive values I saw in his parents have carried through to him and his sister Kelly who was also a leader on campus and is now a successful professional with AgReliant.”

Colbert was heavily involved in leadership roles growing up.

“Two of my favorite leadership roles have been in 4-H,” Colbert said. “I was the junior director at 4-H Camp, where I would oversee the counselors and direct information to the adult leaders. I also enjoyed being a Junior Leader Conference counselor. During my time as a 4-Her I was the only person in my county who went to the conference. I try to go back every year and stay involved. My dad and I deejay the dance at the end of the conference and it is amazing to see so many dedicated 4-Hers having fun and making friends.”

Colbert said when he was in high school he had the opportunity to join the cheer squad. After going to a Purdue game and watching the cheerleaders, he knew cheer was a sport he wanted to continue.

“Tryouts for the Purdue squad were an eye-opening experience,” Colbert said. “I did not realize how many advanced stunts there were. In high school three guys would lift one girl; at Purdue we hold them up by one hand. I think stunts like that are really cool. My partner and I struggled to make it through cheer camp, but we made it. At the end of my freshman year I was amazed at how much I advanced.”

As the end of a football game approaches, Colbert and one of the Purdue Coed Spirit Squad members help bring energy back into Ross-Ade Stadium.
Solberg added that Colbert has become a more vocal leader, which is what his team needed from him.

“One of Casey’s strongest qualities is his consistency, he’s always on time and rarely has an off day,” Solberg said. “I know exactly what I’m going to get out of him at every practice and game. This year being a captain I can see his team looking to him for guidance.”

Dedication is a word that is not taken lightly as a Purdue cheerleader. Being involved in an organization that dates back to the 1890s, members have a reputation to uphold. Colbert said each week the squad practices three times with an additional two morning workout sessions. “We cheer at all of the home and away volleyball, football, and men’s and women’s basketball games. We also cheer at the NCAA and Big Ten games. Normally, before each game we attend an event and are present at most of the athletic banquets. We really don’t have an off-season.”

Solberg can remember a time when Colbert’s dedication pulled through for his team.

“We were at summer cheer camp last year in Milwaukee, and Casey was doing a stunt. He walks over to me and says, ‘Hey coach, I think I hurt my finger.’” Solberg said. “I look at it and it’s all bent wrong and swollen. I told him, ‘Yes, I think you did too, let’s get a trainer.’ A trainer looked at it and didn’t think it was broken, so Casey just taped it up and continued on with camp. Turned out it was broken and he needed to get steel plates inserted.”

Being on the cheer squad does not come without challenges. Colbert said the hardest part is being quiet during the game. “We are all sports fans,” Colbert said. “When we are standing on the sidelines, it is hard to keep your energy contained when something exciting is happening. The whole crowd can see you and keeping your actions contained is important. On the flip side, entertaining the crowd can be just as much of a challenge. If we don’t hit our stunts just right or our performance does not look good, the crowd won’t be entertained. Performing in front of so many people can make that task a challenge.”

Colbert does not know where his life will lead after graduation, but he thinks the future is bright.

“I feel like I have a little bit of time before I need to make a final career decision,” Colbert said. “I am excited about having another year to intern and gain a new perspective of what it means to be a professional in the agriculture field.”

Solberg and Schweitzer both said Colbert has a bright future ahead of him.

Solberg added that Colbert has grown tremendously as a person the last two years as part of the Purdue Cheerleading Program. “Being voted as a captain as a junior doesn’t happen very often, this is a testament to how respected Casey is by his peers. I can’t wait to see what he’s able to do in the future.”

Schweitzer said Colbert will have endless opportunities in the future. “When I look at his pattern of great leadership roles, it is not hard to predict that he will go far personally and professionally.”

Colbert said being in a group like the spirit squad is like being in a family. “It may be a slightly dysfunctional family but for me it was a great way to become acclimated and make friends. Being with a group like this is my favorite part about cheer, other than the cool stunts I get to do.”

Visiting the Agronomy Center for Research and Education (ACRE) is part of the agronomy undergraduate experience. Colbert is on a field trip where he and other students are learning about soil properties.
There are not many career fields today that can nearly guarantee 100 percent placement and the bonus of picking and choosing from more than one job offer, but many agronomy graduates find themselves in just this enviable scenario.

Welcome Freshmen
Each year the agronomy department enjoys welcoming new students to the agronomy family. This year some of our incoming students participated in Student Transition, Advising and Registration (STAR) and Boilermaker Gold Rush (BGR).

During STAR, 22 agronomy and 12 natural resources and environmental science (NRES) students were introduced into the department and established their first semester class schedule. During BGR students had the opportunity to interact with incoming students across the university. The College of Agriculture also hosted a welcome carnival where the agronomy department slushie booth was a hit, giving away nearly 200 sno-cones.

Scholarships
One of the department’s proud points is the number of scholarships our undergraduate students apply for and receive. This year the department awarded 23 scholarships to 52 students. Read more about undergraduate and graduate scholarships on pages 11 and 12.

Welcome-Back
At the beginning of each academic year the agronomy department and the NRES program each host a welcome back gathering for students, staff and faculty. These gatherings are a great way to meet new people, interact with old friends, and network. The Agronomy/NRES ambassadors also help prepare for the gatherings.

Soils Judging Team
Each year the Purdue Soils Judging Team compete at several competitions across the country. Historically the team’s hard work pays off, placing very well. This year at the Region 3 Collegiate Soils Contest in Stevens Point, Wis., the results were no different. The team placed first overall with individuals placing first, second, fifth, and eighth.

Online Opportunities
Purdue Agronomy has began a formal effort to develop online courses for working professionals, undergraduate students and other audiences. Online learning is a rapidly changing field that opens many new opportunities for instructors as well as learners, especially for those away from campus and constrained by work or family obligations. For more information, contact Dr. Bruce Erickson at berickso@purdue.edu
Our graduate students are always on the go. In the summer their field work is a priority. After harvest you can find many of them in the lab or working on research papers. The agronomy department is fortunate to have talented graduate students who have the potential to be leaders in their fields.

Agronomy Awards
This was another successful year for many of our grad students. Awards are just a small, but important, portion of the graduate student experiences. This years awards include: Xiangye Xiao received a scholarship to attend the 18th Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics (SISG 2013) at the University of Washington last July. This scholarship includes a tuition award to cover a three-module workshop and a $450 travel award. Xiangye also was a team member of the Top Winner Team in the 2013 Greater Lafayette Startup Weekend. Jenae Skelton placed second in the Crop Physiology and Metabolism poster competition at the Crop Science Society of America Meetings in Tampa. Peter Kovacs was a 2013 International Plant Nutrition Institute Scholar Awardee. Quincy Law placed second in the oral presentation competition at the International Turfgrass Research Conference in China and the Outstanding Graduate Extension Award. Edwin Suarez received the Outstanding Graduate Research Award (MS). Ronald Navarrete-Ganchozo earned the Outstanding Graduate Research Award (Ph.D.). Rima Thapa and Patrick Ongom received the John D. Axtell Graduate Student Award in Plant Breeding and Genetics. Tracy Tudor and Quincy Law received the W.H. Daniel Graduate Scholarships. Raymond Lindsey and Tyler Tiede received the Wyman E. Nyquist Scholarship. Jon Trappe received the Marvin and Barbara Phillips Scholarship. Jennifer Burks received the 2013 Gerald O. Mott Award. Michael Mashtare received the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award, the ASA Environmental Quality Section Outstanding Graduate Student Award, USDA AFRI NIFA Postdoctoral Fellowship Award (2014-2015), People's Choice Award (2013 ESE Summit Poster Symposium), Committee for the Education of Teaching Assistants (CETA) Teaching Award, Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research, Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship, the Joe L. White Graduate Student Award in Soil Chemistry and Mineralogy and the Andrews Environmental Travel Grant. John Mcmillan, Luis Rivera, John Scott, Alex Renaud, and Donald Graper received the George Scarseth Scholarship.

Chili and Dessert
Agronomy graduate students not only know how to work hard, they know how to have a good time! Shaun Casteel, assistant professor and soybean extension specialist, hosted a chili cook-off at his house for graduate students, faculty, and staff. The winning chili chef was honored with his or her name engraved on a large chili spoon. The 2013 winners were Peter Kovacs (first place), John and Sara Scott (second place), and Linda Lee (third place). This year a desserts competition was added. The winners were Shaylyn Wiarda (first place), Jason and Amber Geis (second place), and Linda Lee (third place).

Grad Students on the Web
There is a new way to reach our graduate students. This summer a website was designed to help centralize and highlight our graduate students research topics, education and personal interests. Find out more at ag.purdue.edu/agry/Pages/graduate_students.aspx

The Global Partnership in Plant Breeding and Genetics website has a new look. In this program, graduate students are provided opportunities to participate in classroom and out-of-the classroom learning activities. Students in the program will complete an off-campus internship with industry, government, or non-governmental organizations. To find out more visit ag.purdue.edu/agry/plantbreeding/Pages/Default.aspx
Sara Alford, Master’s Student  
Major Professors: Eileen Kladivko and Jim Camberato

Briefly describe your research.

I am working on a project funded by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on the effects of no-till and cover crops on soils across Indiana. The use of cover crops and no-tillage is becoming more popular in Indiana. A project was begun on 17 sites in Indiana to look at the effects of cover crops and no-tillage on overall soil health. This project is a collaboration of Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) staff, farmers, private and industry consultants, and researchers. The soil characteristics being tested are soil nitrate and ammonium, moisture content, penetration resistance, aggregation, temperature, and soil health testing. Other tests include cover crop biomass, chlorophyll meter readings on corn tissues, corn stalk nitrate, and corn and soybean yield. Farmer mentors participate in on-farm trials and in outreach to other farmers through regional workshops.

Why do your feel your area is important to research?

Soil health is a concern because better soils are needed for sustainable agricultural systems. Healthy soil has a balanced biological community and high organic matter with the capacity to retain and cycle nitrogen through a living and functioning ecosystem. No-till contributes by keeping residues on the soil surface and allows for better soil structure. Cover crops contribute by providing more residues on the soil surface, taking up nutrients, and allowing for better soil structure.

What are your future plans? What do you want to do after you graduate?

My future plans are to find a job in agronomy and have a family. Becoming an agronomist has been a huge goal of mine for years and I would love to work with farmers to better their agricultural systems. Family is also very important to me and I cannot wait to start one of my own.

Peter Kovacs, Doctoral Student  
Major Professors: Tony Vyn and George Van Scoyoc

Briefly describe your research.

Anhydrous ammonia (NH₃) as a nitrogen (N) fertilizer is widely applied to corn fields in Indiana. A “shallow” NH₃ applicator has recently been introduced to the market offering numerous advantages for farmers during application. My research involves a three-year field study investigating the impacts of different fertilizer placement, N rate, and N timing methods with this new NH₃ applicator on corn yield levels and fertilizer use efficiency. I was investigating whether plant-to-plant uniformity and corn grain yield level can be improved with precision-positioned fertilizer placement using current GPS technologies. Precision NH₃ placement parallel to the corn row increased grain yield compared to the traditional NH₃ placement diagonal to the row, especially at the lower N rate. Parallel N placement is likely to provide an opportunity to decrease applied N rates without major corn yield penalties. Yield gains with parallel NH₃ application originated from a slight shift to higher mean grain yield per-plant, and grain yield distribution of individual plants, but not from improved plant-to-plant uniformity as we originally hypothesized.

Why do you feel your area is important to research?

Future agriculture has to produce more food on smaller total available land due to an increasing world population. In addition, agricultural production also faces increasing environmental sensitivity from society. Field research that investigates ways to improve yield levels and decrease the risk of environmental pollution are very important for sustainability. So finding ways to improve nutrient use efficiency through utilizing the latest technology for nutrient placement would be one step forward.

What are your future plans? What do you want to do after you graduate?

After graduation I would like to work in the precision farming, nutrient management, soil fertility area where I can utilize both my education and past practical experiences. I would like to take part in either further improving the technological side of precision farming tools and input delivery systems, or in assisting in the widespread utilization of these tools through collaboration with growers or university personnel. I would also like to utilize my teaching experiences in my future role by providing training for crop consultants, farmers, or fellow co-workers.
Each year, Purdue Agromony is fortunate to be able to give scholarships to many students. In 2013-2014, the department awarded approximately $65,624 to its students. Below you will find a list and descriptions of all the scholarships awarded by the department of agromony with names of the most recent recipients. If you have questions about the scholarships please contact Karen Clymer at 765-494-4775. For information about donating to a scholarship contact the Agricultural Advancement office at 765-494-8672.

**Undergraduate Student Scholarships**

William H. Daniel Scholarship (for undergraduate or graduate students majoring in turf science):

- **Andrew Wilhelm**, Turf Science

Golf Course Superintendent Association Scholarships (awarded to undergraduate students in turf science by Regional Superintendents Associations):

- Michiana awarded to: **Clark Miller**, Turf Science & Management

Ozzie Luetkemeier Endowment in Agronomy (for the study abroad program and professional development activities):

- **Daniel Sweeney**, Plant Genetics, Breeding & Biotechnology

Charles and Rosalee Schmidt Scholarship (for students in the College of Health and Human Sciences or Agronomy):

- **Casey Colbert**, Sustainable Agronomic Systems: Agronomic Business & Marketing

Beck Foundation Scholarships (awarded to the top overall freshman, sophomore, and junior in Purdue Agronomy): (Pictured below with Scott & Sonny Beck)

- **Kathryn Graf**, Sustainable Agronomic Systems: Agronomic Business & Marketing
- **Maggie Shoue**, Soil & Crop Management
- **Daniel Sweeney**, Plant Genetics, Breeding & Biotechnology

James J. Vorst Cropping Systems and Soil Science Scholarship in Agronomy (for students in cropping systems and soil science):

- **Brandon Ertel**, Soil & Crop Management

Keim Scholarship (awarded to a sixth semester junior majoring in Agronomy with professional interest in plant genetics):

- **Daniel Sweeney**, Plant Genetics, Breeding & Biotechnology
- **Uday Mitsuyasu**, Plant Breeding & Genetics

Fassnacht Scholarship:

- **Clark Miller**, Turf Science & Management

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Golf Day Scholarship presented by Syngenta:

- **Brock Miller**, Turf Science & Management

W.H. Daniel Sports Turf Scholarship:

- **Matthew Dudley**, Turf Science & Management

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Scholarship (MRTF) (for turf science majors):

- **Zachary Ferguson**, Turf Science & Management
- **Keegan Gray**, Turf Science & Management
- **John Hoban**, Turf Science & Management
- **Andrew Marking**, Turf Science & Management
- **Cameron Rice**, Turf Science & Management
- **Matthew Shafer**, Turf Science & Management
- **Andrew Wilhelm**, Turf Science & Management

F. E. Robbins Scholarship (for juniors and seniors majoring in Agronomy or closely related fields):

- **Melanie Jones**, Agronomic Business & Marketing
- **Allison Streeter**, Applied Meteorology

Kenneth and Mary Cohoe Crop and Soil Science Award (for juniors and seniors studying crop and soil sciences and who are interested in pursuing a career in the crop production industry):

- **Jae Chung**, Plant Genetics, Breeding & Biotechnology
- **Brandon Ertel**, Soil & Crop Management
- **Lori Nussbaum**, Soil & Crop Science
- **William Ritter**, Soil & Crop Management

Hardy Scholarship (for Indiana residents studying crop science in Agronomy):

- **William Ritter**, Soil & Crop Management
Kenneth B. and Mary Cohee Scholarship in Agronomy (for Agronomy students):

- **William Denton**, Sustainable Agronomic Systems: Agronomic Management
- **Matthew Dudley**, Turf Science & Management
- **Arthur Franke**, Sustainable Agronomic Systems: Agronomic Management
- **Isaac Greeson**, Crop Science
- **John Hoban**, Turf Science & Management
- **Cody Hornaday**, Crop Science
- **Martha Kille**, Soil & Crop Management
- **Nathan Kingma**, Crop Science
- **Caleb Lattimer**, Soil and Crop Management
- **Matthew Price**, Applied Meteorology
- **Maggie Shoue**, Soil & Crop Management
- **Kelsey Tuholski**, Crop Science
- **Jon Wilson**, Applied Meteorology
- **Aaron Young**, Sustainable Agronomic Systems: Agronomic Business & Marketing

Hilst Scholarship (for students enrolled in Agronomy with an interest in soil and crop science):

- **Martha Kille**, Soil & Crop Management
- **Kelsey Tuholski**, Crop Science

Carol A. Thiele Memorial Scholarship (for women studying soil and water conservation, engineering, or agriculture):

- **Elizabeth Williams**, Soil & Crop Science

Max E. Slack Memorial Scholarship in Turf Management (for turf students):

- **Cameron Rice**, Turf Science & Management
- **Andrew Wilhelm**, Turf Science & Management

Mary Frances Seever Award (for freshman students from Sullivan, Vigo, or Knox counties):

- **Austin James**, Animal Science

Emerson J. Kuhn Scholarship (for undergraduates seeking a degree in the Department of Agronomy or Animal Science):

- **Casey Colbert**, Sustainable Agronomic Systems: Agronomic Business & Marketing
- **Maggie Shoue**, Soil & Crop Management

Bruce and Katherina M. Maunder Scholarship Honoring Dr. Wayne Keim in Agronomy:

- **Michael Busche**, Plant Genetics, Breeding & Biotechnology

The following scholarships were not awarded this year:

Gerald and Joan Gentry Scholarship (for students in agricultural science).

Koknke Junior Award in Soil Conservation (covers travel expenses for juniors in soil sciences who participate in national professional meetings).

Maurice B. Woodward Memorial Scholarship in Agronomy (for undergraduate Agronomy students).

M.O. Pence Scholarship (for both an undergraduate and graduate student with a career interest in agronomic extension or in applied agronomic research).

Steve Frazier Memorial Scholarship.

**Graduate Student Scholarships**

Joe L. White Graduate Student Award in Soil Chemistry and Mineralogy (recognizes outstanding M.S. and Ph.D. students in soil chemistry and mineralogy):

- **Michael Mashtare**

Dr. Wyman E. Nyquist Scholarship (recognizes graduate students in the disciplines of genetics, plant breeding, plant genomics, and/or related agronomic sciences that include a significant genetics component):

- **Raymond Lindsey**
- **Tyler Tiede**

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By Sayde Uerkwitz

When Dr. Eileen Kladivko was young growing up in suburban New Jersey, her dream job did not consist of soil, worms, or crops; but she thought teaching or becoming a scientist would suit. She knew at a young age she was talented in math and science and that she loved the outdoors. Her parents saw the potential to put her two loves together.

“When I was young I never thought I would be a professor in agronomy,” Kladivko said. “I did not grow up on a farm or know a lot about agriculture. I knew I liked being outside and science was fun for me. I grew up during the modern environmental movement. I planned to ‘save the earth environmentally.’ My parents helped set me on the course that I started many years ago.”

Kladivko started her undergraduate career at Purdue University in the Natural Resources and Environmental Science (NRES) program.

“Purdue began an interdisciplinary program that studied environmental science and it happened to be in the College of Agriculture,” Kladivko said. “I started to look into electives and saw a soil science course. I thought to myself ‘how can someone study soil for a whole semester?’ The course looked interesting, so I took it.”

After Kladivko took AGRY 255 and fell in love with soil science, she decided to continue her academic career past her bachelor’s degree.

“At the time, most undergraduate students did not know about graduate school,” Kladivko said. “I was encouraged by my professors to continue my education. During that time sewage sludge on agricultural land was a popular topic. Part of my master’s work was at the Purdue research farms. I worked with a technician who was a retired farmer and he taught me a great deal about agriculture.”

After completing her master’s degree, traveling to Germany on a scholarship, and finishing her doctoral degree in Soil Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Kladivko accepted a position as a professor in the agronomy department at Purdue University. She started her position in January 1982.

“I was the first female faculty member in the department, but I always felt respected, encouraged, and supported,” Kladivko said. “There were not many female professors during this time. To be a faculty member in the agronomy department at Purdue you needed to be open-minded, competent, and professional—those were the criteria, not if you were male or female. When I was searching for a job, I hoped one would be open at Purdue because the agronomy department is a very collegial department and I wanted to be part of that. There were some awkward times, of course. During professional meetings outside of the university I would be the only woman in a large group of men, but I never felt out of place.”

Dr. William McFee was a colleague of Kladivko’s and former Purdue Agronomy Department Head. He said Kladivko fit right into the department.

“At the time there were not a lot of women with a degree...
in agronomy, especially not at Eileen’s level,” McFee said. “A soil class might have 70-80 students with only one or two being female. She was hired to teach soil physics. Her work broadened the department’s horizon in the area of soils by exploring different areas such as earthworms and soil drainage. Although she did not have an extension appointment she pursued those opportunities. Due to the great work she had done and continues to do, she has paved the way for other Purdue Agronomy female faculty members.”

Kladivko’s position has changed from the day she taught her first class.

“The largest change in my position is I now have an extension appointment,” Kladivko said. “When I was hired, I had a teaching and research appointment. The overall goal of my research is to improve environmental quality, soil health, and crop production for long-term sustainability. Some of the topics I used to research separately are now coming together. Because of this, a lot of my research is tied into my extension work.”

Although many changes have happened during her 30 years at Purdue, her drive to continue to learn and improve hasn’t.

“Taking care of the soil and trying to improve its ability to grow food and protect the environment over the long term is what I’m involved in every day,” Kladivko said. “There are problems that need answers. The answers are not found over a short period of time. We won’t see dramatic changes in the soil right away, either positive or negative. It takes a long time to make changes, but it does not mean the changes are not important.”

Dr. Laura Bowling, professor of agronomy, said Kladivko reached out to her in a very real way soon after she arrived at Purdue.

“In my opinion Eileen exemplifies the heart and soul of the agronomy department, not only because she has been around long enough to know much of the history of the department, but because of her loyalty and dedication. Eileen demonstrates the idea of being a good departmental citizen, simply by doing things that benefit the department as a whole. Despite the fact that she was surprised to discover that the search committee hired an engineer while she was away on sabbatical, she made a point of inviting me on field trips to show me around and get me attuned to the real Indiana. I have an appreciation for the first sign of corn growing in the spring that I never would have had if I hadn't listened to Eileen's glowing description. Ten years later, I am working on issues of agricultural drainage because Eileen invited me along to a proposal meeting in my first months here.”

One of Kladivko’s proudest moments in her career is helping establish the Midwest Cover Crops Council (MCCC). The MCCC seeks to significantly increase the amount of continuous living cover on the Upper Midwestern agricultural landscape.

Kladivko said in 2005 five professors were at a meeting and started discussing the need to increase the awareness about cover crops.

“In 2006 the MCCC was founded. We formed the group with input from Ontario and five states including Iowa, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Minnesota,” she said.

Dr. Joe Anderson, agronomy department head, said because of Kladivko’s research and leadership in cover crops the department has become more diverse. “Cover crop usage in the state has greatly increased, contributing to better soil health and utilization of nitrogen. When faculty seize an opportunity like this, the department programs grow and become much more attractive to prospective students.”

Kladivko can look back on her career and think of many proud moments. It is the future she looks forward to.

“I have had many great moments and proud points in my career,” Kladivko said. “I am excited and optimistic about what the future has to bring. Agronomy is a very important and critical part of the agriculture industry. In this area there are many professionals answering questions and solving problems to global issues. I’d encourage young people to consider the rewarding career opportunities in agronomy.”

Cover Page: Environmentalist, conservationist, or agronomist? All of these terms could describe Dr. Eileen Kladivko. She reflects on what it was like to be the first woman Purdue Agronomy professor and what the future has in store.
Please briefly describe your research.
I work in "urban agriculture" and my emphasis area is Turf Science. My research group works to find practical solutions to frequent problems for any turf area (lawns, athletic fields, golf courses, etc.). I view it a bit like solving puzzles. First, we evaluate the problems or concerns related to the system (user expectations and use intensity, growing environment plus intended management inputs). Then we consider an alternative to what has not been working, test those new systems (grass species/cultivar), and find what does and doesn’t work. Then we make suggestions for what might be appropriate for that system in the future. For example, what should be planted in a low-maintenance lawn that the homeowner does not want to mow much or apply irrigation? We evaluate different grasses that might fill those needs and survive in our climate. Another example might be dealing with reduced fertilizer inputs.

How did you get involved with that research?
I have always liked the outdoors and the idea of working with plants was appealing from a very young age. Working with turf was a natural fit.

Describe how your research has changed over the years. What will it look like in five to 10 years?
Early on, much of my research was golf-oriented as that is what the turf industry financially supported most. Now there is much more emphasis on low-input turf systems. My research program has always had some emphasis on turf nutrition, but now I find myself looking for ways we can be able to provide high-quality turf areas with the fewest nutrients possible. The other area that has become very important is turfgrass water use. Our efforts in evaluating grasses that do well with little or no supplemental irrigation is very key. In five or ten years I hope to be continuing to find ways that people can produce turf areas with the fewest inputs.

What do you wish other people knew about your area of research?
Turf is in many ways the Rodney Dangerfield of the crop world. Meaning “It doesn't get much respect.” Certainly not as much as it deserves, based on how much the public comes in contact with it on a regular basis. Turf is often taken for granted, especially the benefits of the crop. Filtering water in urban environments, providing green space, oxygen, etc., are often overlooked.

With this in mind the research funding for this crop is very limited. In this discipline it is difficult to find funds, particularly for what many would think are very basic projects. Examples might be, what is the best grass for my child’s athletic field, etc.? How much fertilizer should I apply? Why does my lawn do poorly in the shade? There are many questions that the public has and frankly we just don’t have all the resources to properly and fully answer many of these kinds of questions.

What is a proud point in your career?
Probably first was earning my faculty position at Purdue University, but more recently and regularly, I enjoy seeing my students and advisees succeed, both professionally and personally. This might be in terms of scholarships, or a great job that will lead to a long satisfying career. Further, recognition from my colleagues such as the College Counselor and Teacher Awards are also proud moments.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?
I am actually quite capable of using construction equipment. Back when I used to “work” for a living and got my hands dirty while working outdoors as an assistant golf course manager I always enjoyed hopping on the equipment and building and shaping things. Turning over soil and making it “turf-ready” was fun and I do love the smell of Actinomycetes in the morning! Also, I really don’t much care for snakes.

What do you do when you are not researching?
At this point in my life I enjoy spending time with my wife, children, and our pets and we enjoy going to new places.

Find out more about the opportunities you have as an alumni or friend of Purdue Agronomy at:
www.ag.purdue.edu/agry/alumni_friends/Pages/default.aspx
Please briefly describe your position.

I envision my job to be one that helps producers, agribusiness personnel, extension and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees and students become more proficient with the understanding and use of “best management practices” associated with the production, utilization, and marketing of forages.

How did you get involved in the extension aspect of your position?

As a senior studying agronomy and animal science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln I was asked by Dr. Lowell Moser to teach the laboratory associated with the forages class. I enjoyed interacting with the students and liked the subject matter, too. When I became interested in attending graduate school, I was most interested in teaching assistantship opportunities. I was offered a teaching assistantship at Purdue University and worked with Dr. Vorst as a teaching assistant and graduate instructor in Agronomy 105. Dr. Vic Lechtenberg was my research advisor through my master’s and doctoral degrees and forage crops were my interest. I interviewed for two jobs as I was completing my doctoral degree and was offered both positions. These jobs were of interest to me because most of the time was extension responsibilities, and the job at Purdue was my top choice because forage crops was the responsibility. My interest in education remained through the graduate training years, but I wanted to work most closely with producers and their service providers. More recently, I am interacting with students in the forage management class and a seminar class for graduate students that emphasizes communicating agronomic science to the public. This has added a dimension to my job that I enjoy as well.

What do you wish others knew about your extension outreach?

The greatest joy I have is when someone says “You were of much help to me in the past with a concern, and I need your help again.” Individuals may ask a similar question, but the approach used to answer the question will differ because people have varying backgrounds and thus, differing starting points of understanding. I strive to not only answer the question with a phrase, but to provide research-based details as to why this is the best answer for the question posed.

Describe how your position has changed over the years. What will it look like in five to 10 years?

Core information delivered about forages is fundamentally the same, although milestone achievements of forage researchers are added to the portfolio of information. The use of personal computers certainly changed the approach of how documents are created, stored, and shared. I began my career writing longhand and giving the roughshod pages to my secretary so she could type the documents. Questions now come by email as compared to face-to-face or over the telephone. Use of social media has not been adopted by me directly, but it has a place when used appropriately in a professional way. There will remain a need for someone to deliver extension information related to forages in Indiana and the region in future years. The approach to delivery will continue to be refined and improved upon. Folks want immediate access to information. The reality is there are fewer well-trained forage experts in the industry as compared to corn and soybeans, because these crops dominate the landscape. The need for education about forages remains. There will likely be more discussion in the future about forages as a bioenergy fuel resource.

What is a proud point in your career?

Probably the proudest point of my career was the release of the first Forage Field Guide. Thousands of these guides have been sold and the process of version three development is now happening. I also am proud to say that I chaired the committee that brought Corey Gerber and Richard Huntrods to Purdue University. I am also pleased that I served on the committee that selected Chuck Mansfield as the agronomy instructor, academic advisor, and Purdue regional agronomist that is based at Vincennes University.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

Lesser known fact - I am the father of four children; old enough to be their grandfather by age, but blessed that they keep me thinking younger than most my age.

What do you do when you are not working?

When I am not being an agronomist, I enjoy my children’s school-related activities and helping the younger three with their 4-H experiences.
Please briefly describe your teaching position.

In the past I have taught a range of courses related to soils and environmental sciences. I currently teach soil science, senior seminar, environmental studies, the Natural Resources and Environmental Science (NRES) internship course and environmental science learning community. After four years in agricultural administration as the assistant and associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Agriculture, I returned to the agronomy department in 2012 where I have reassumed my duties as co-coordinator with George Van Scoyoc for the soils resource center and as director of the NRES program. I have been the NRES director for sixteen years.

How did you get involved in teaching?

It was about being in the right place at the right time. When I finished my bachelor’s degree in NRES I was going to work with the Tennessee Valley Authority, but the job lost funding. When I was preparing to apply to other jobs, a graduate student stopped by the NRES office and asked if I ever thought about graduate school. He passed my name to Dr. Darrell Nelson and after we talked I decided to continue my education as a GRA at Purdue working on land application of sewage sludge for my master’s degree. While completing my master’s degree William McFee, director of the NRES program (now retired agronomy faculty member) went on sabbatical and I was asked to advise the NRES students. Interacting with students in the NRES program spurred my interest in teaching. I asked Jim Ahlrichs, coordinator for the Soil Study Center, if I could be a teaching assistant (TA) in the soil science class and started my teaching career in 1979. I stayed at Purdue for my doctoral degree working on fate and transport of aromatic amines in the environment, advising students in the NRES program, teaching soil science at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), and serving as a TA in soil science and soil physics.

What do you wish others knew about your position?

Teaching is rewarding. There are many activities that are coupled with teaching. I advise 50 students and serve on numerous committees at the university, college, and department level including faculty senate, athletic affairs, student affairs, active learning center, curriculum and student relations committee, scholarship, and many more. I attend four to five committee meetings per week, along with teaching and advising students. I conduct teaching research, write papers, and give presentations about teaching. I am always improving and changing my courses to make them more engaging and better classes.

Describe how being a professor has changed over the years. What will it look like in five to 10 years?

Thirty years ago a professor would stand in front of the classroom and give information to the students and they took notes. About twenty years ago professors started using PowerPoint and the art of taking notes by many students was lost. I have always strive to get students involved in the lectures by posing problems, doing demonstrations, inviting guest speakers, or going on field trips. I started using clickers 10 years ago to gauge student understanding of the material during lecture and have evolved into using SIGNALS and Comparative Peer Review (CPR). What is the future of the classroom? I think we are already seeing this at Purdue with the Instruction Matters Purdue Academic Course Transformation (IMPACT) program. Classrooms are being redesigned to incorporate more discussion type formats, team teaching, and problem solving. Students will view their lectures before they come to class, the professor will address any difficult concepts and then pose several questions to the small groups of students who are sitting at round tables with a computer.

What is a proud point in your career?

A proud point in my career is when I was awarded the National Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award at the University of Tennessee. The award is based on student evaluations and a committee who observed my teaching. I am also very proud to have been inducted into Purdue’s Book of Great Teachers and received the Charles B. Murphy Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award. However, my proudest moments are when past student graduates come back and tell me how they appreciated my interaction with them, how much they learned in my courses, and how they use that material in their career.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

I’m 100 percent Flemish and am proud of my Belgian heritage. I like building rock walls and I’m kind of good at it. I enjoy participating in most sports. I have been running and playing basketball and softball most of my life.

What do you do when you are not teaching?

I enjoy working on home renovation projects and working in our vegetable garden with my wife Sheila.
Soybean Showcase
The first Soybean Showcase was held on July 26 at the Purdue Agronomy Center for Research and Education (ACRE). The goal of this showcase was to bring industry professionals and academic researchers together to discuss the progress of the soybean industry. Six field stops were offered with topics ranging from managing SCN and SDS with host resistance, genetic yield potential, translational genetics, history and future of soybeans, genetics of seed composition, and advancing soybeans for production for 72 years.

Crop Diagnostic Training and Research Center
The Purdue Crop Diagnostic Training and Research Center (DTC) conducted 30 workshops and trained 870 individuals on several agronomic topics including weed management, corn growth and development, soybean stand establishment, fertilizer additives, disease identification, insect identification and management, nitrogen management, and forage management. In 2013 the Wheat Field Guide and the Corn and Soybean Field Guide app were released. Total publication sales for 2013 were over 71,000.

Turf and Landscape Field Day
The Purdue Turf Program and the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation hosted the Turf and Landscape Field Day, Indiana’s largest green industry field day. A first at this year's field day was the addition of landscape research tours, where specialists from four different departments in the College of Agriculture shared their findings and recommendations to Green Industry professionals. The field day featured 38 exhibitors and 474 attendees. Mark your calendars for next year’s Turf and Landscape Field Day, July 15, 2014.
Three individuals were honored with the Agronomic Achievement Award from the Purdue University Department of Agronomy. The award was established in 2000 to recognize and honor alumni and friends of Purdue Agronomy for contributions to the profession or industry. This year’s awards were presented on October 19 during the Agronomy Harvest Reunion at the William H. Daniel Center. This year's recipients from left to right were Tony Bailey, Donald Biehle, and Dr. Kim Polizotto.

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: www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2013/Q4/ejeta-is-appointed-to-u.n.-scientific-advisory-board.html

Several College of Agriculture faculty members, four from the agronomy department, traveled to India this spring to establish stronger relationships with three Indian agricultural institutions. Dr. Mitch Tuinstra, professor of plant breeding and genetics, was one of the faculty members who traveled to India. He said the group visited several different universities in northern and southern India but highlighted the discussions with the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore; University of Horticulture Science (UHS), Bagalkot; and Punjab Agriculture University (PAU). Although the Purdue College of Agriculture already has a relationship with these institutions, growing the relationship in areas of joint research, educational programs, private sector participation, and joint workshops were a priority.
Many agronomy students and alumni have a special appreciation for Sherry Fulk-B B r in g man. She works with more than 160 students in AGRY 255 / AGRY 270 each semester as the coordinator in the Soils Resource Center. She also is involved with the Agronomy Club and Agronomy Ambassadors. She is a great example of a momentum maker. Learn more about Purdue’s Momentum Makers here: www.purdue.edu/momentummakers/2014_01/bringman.html

To learn more about Purdue Agronomy visit:
www.ag.purdue.edu/agry

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