This spring has been a busy time for the department. Finishing classes, grading finals, starting field work and hiring summer employment— all very important signs to a successful ending and a strong beginning.

In this issue of the Bulletin Board, you will find many reasons why the agronomy department is one of the most successful departments on campus.

Many of our students were highlighted during the last weeks of the semester. A student of ours was recognized as one of Purdue's top students, the soils team competed very well at two national contests and many of our graduate students were honored with teaching, Extension and research awards. This semester 43 undergraduates, five masters and four doctoral students graduated. Congratulations to all these students and we wish them all the best as they move to the next phase of their career. Once again I am thrilled to tell you the placement of these students is 100 percent.

During this time of year, the faculty and staff are recognized. Four of our faculty members were promoted to full professor and one of our staff members moved-up a rank in classification. These promotions are an acknowledgement of the stellar scholarship of our faculty and the expertise of our staff.

Last, but certainly not least, is the exciting announcement of Beck’s Hybrids gift to the College of Agriculture. A portion of this gift along with matching dollars from the Purdue Plant Science Big Moves will fund the construction of a molecular genetics teaching lab in Lilly Hall. This a significant addition to our teaching laboratory space and enhances our focus on student centered learning. We will be designing this new space this coming fall semester with an anticipated completion date of August 2015.

As always, exciting and new things are happening in the agronomy department and I am proud to share these items with you.

Joe
Linda Lee awarded the Excellence in Review Award

In recognition of her service in providing scholarly and timely reviews to ES&T, Dr. Linda Lee was awarded the Excellence in Review Award. The names of each reviewer will be published in the November 4 issue of ES&T.

Making the case for evidence-based agriculture

At a Maryland meeting of agricultural scientists, practitioners, educators, and librarians last fall, Kay Dickersin of John Hopkins University related a cautionary tale from the field of medicine in which it took almost 30 years of repeated studies involving nearly 40,000 patients to determine the positive effect of thrombolytic therapy while an analysis of accumulated data would have discovered this effect in 1973, 17 years earlier and after only eight trials and 2,432 patients. Looking at all accumulated data in a systematic fashion (“evidence-based medicine”) is not only relevant to medicine but these same tools and processes can be readily applied to agricultural data. Read the rest of the article on the “Smarter Agriculture” workshop here: www.crops.org/publications/csa/articles/59/5/4

Faculty and staff recognized

From left: Qianlai Zhuang, Doug Smith, Cale Bigelow and Dev Niyogi all received faculty promotions to professor this year. Tom Pluimer (not pictured) moved-up in rank for AP advancement.

Samantha McFarland’s Reception

Congratulations to Samantha McFarland on her new position as Assistant Director of Financial Affairs with the College of Veterinary Medicine. A reception was held in her honor on May 28.

Brenda Warren retires after 36 years of service

Brenda Warren, Purdue Agronomy Business Office Clerk, retired June 30. She has worked at Purdue for 36 years, 28 of those years being in the College of Agriculture. Brenda holds a wealth of knowledge and has been a tremendous asset to the department. She will always be part of the agronomy family.

Brenda with her family.
Congratulations to the ‘champions’ of the fifth Annual College of Agriculture Food Drive benefitting Food Finders Food Bank. Carol Weaver (Agricultural and Biological Engineering); Carol Wood and Lou Ann Baugh (Agricultural Economics); **Connie Foster (Agronomy)**; Pat Jonas (Animal Science); Wendy Madore and Ruth Ann Weiderhaft (Ag Administration); Lisa Gross (Botany and Plant Pathology); Beth York (Entomology); Mitzi Barnett (Food Science); Erin Lane (Horticulture and Landscape Architecture); and Rebecca Clothier and Amy Highland (Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory). The combined monetary and food donations totaled over 42,000 meals for the more than 86,000 food insecure people in our 16-county area!

**Connie Foster (Agronomy):** Your able assistance in helping us find rooms where we can spread stuff out and work on proposals over the last month has been very helpful. While this might seem relatively minor to some and go unnoticed, it is incredibly helpful to have the needed space and some amount of isolation so we can have quality time on these important tasks. -- Jeff Volenec (Agronomy)

**Ron Steiner and Matthew Fenton (both Agronomy):** Many thanks to Ron Steiner and Matthew Fenton for rearranging their schedules to help move furniture last week. I could not have done it without you! -- Jenny Kelly (Agronomy)

(Matt Fenton is not pictured)

**Student Recognitions**

**Purdue’s top students honored at spring commencement**

**Kelsey L. Tuholski**, of LaPorte, Indiana, who majored in crop science in the College of Agriculture received the Amelia Earhart Scholarship. This scholarship was reinstituted in 1999 after Doreen Buranich Simmons, a 1971 Purdue graduate, committed to see the scholarship return to Purdue after learning of its demise in the 1970s. Her gift became the catalyst for Joan Russell Dudding to honor the university and Amelia Earhart by funding the scholarship on an ongoing basis. The Amelia Earhart scholarship is awarded to a junior or senior with a GPA of 3.20 or higher who demonstrates leadership, determination, ability and potential in academic and/or community activities.
 Semester honors and Dean’s List announced

**Dean’s List and Semester Honors**
- Michael A. Busche, PGBB
- Valerie A. Cross, PGBB
- Brooke E. Dennis, CPSC
- Matthew J. Dudley, TUSM
- Arthur M. Franke, AMGT
- Kathryn M. Graf, AMBK
- Isaac T. Greeson, CPSC
- Cody C. Hornaday, AMGT
- Andrew M. Katz, PLGB
- Derek M. Middleton, CPSC
- Uday M. Mitsuyasu, PLGB
- Lori A. Nussbaum, SCRS
- Jada S. Powlen, TURF
- Jeremy Logrono, PLGB
- Brian Rice, PGBB
- Michael W. Samm, SHSC
- Matthew E. Shafer, AMGT
- Rachel Sim, SCRS
- William R. Sparks, SUAS
- Kelsey L. Tuholski, CPSC

**Dean’s List**
- Jae Chung, PGBB

**Semester Honors**
- Daniel Bechman, PLGB
- Jacob E. Bender, CPSC
- Janelle K. Burgin, ABMK
- Ethan L. Carpenter, ABMK
- Jeffrey S. Evans, IAGR
- Alex R. Helms, ABMK
- Jeremy Logrono, PLGB
- Xinyi Ma, PLGB
- Rachel H. Olson, PLGB
- Ashley M. Sheetz, AGBM
- Trevor R. Stacy, TURF

**Purdue Soils Team compete at two national contests**

The Purdue Soils Team competed at the American Society of Agronomy Collegiate Soils Contest in Doylestown, Pennsylvania March 30 to April 4. The team placed fourth overall out of 19, they also placed fifth in group judging. Team members are Tiffani Goodman, Lori Nussbaum, Maggie Shoue and Arthur Franke who individually placed fourth.

The team also competed at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Soils Contest in Maryville, Missouri (pictured left) on April 9-12. The team placed fourth out of eight. This team consisted of Maddie Smith, Isaac Greeson, Katie Fagan and Betta McGaughey who individually placed sixth. The team is led by coach, Gary Steinhardt; assistant coach, Cathy Egler; and special assistant coach, Shams Rahman Rahmani.
Graduate students honored for teaching excellence

Graduate students were honored on April 30 at the 16th Annual Celebration of Graduate Teaching Excellence, hosted by the Office of the Provost, Teaching Academy, Graduate School and the Center for Instructional Excellence. The Graduate School Excellence in Teaching Award is the highest honor Purdue gives to a graduate student. Selected students must show excellence in mentoring and teaching undergraduate and/or graduate students, and have proven leadership and accomplishments outside of the classroom in service and outreach as well as scholarly presentations and publications. Agronomy graduate students who were recognized include:

- **Quincy Law**, Teaching Academy Graduate Teaching Award
- **Sarah Reagan**, Graduate Instructional Development Certificate
- **Jason Roth**, Graduate Instructional Development Certificate

Purdue Agronomy is proud to say we have very talented students. Our students become industry leaders, academic professionals and are passionate about the future of agriculture. Here is a list of the 2014 graduate student award winners.

- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award – **Quincy Law**
- Outstanding Graduate Research Award (M.S.) – **Quincy Law**
- Outstanding Graduate Research Award (Ph.D.) – **Jieqing Ping**
- Outstanding Graduate Extension Award – **John McMillan**
- John D. Axtell Graduate Student Award in Plant Breeding and Genetics – **Amanda Easterly, Raymond Lindsey, and Alex Renaud**
- Wyman E. Nyquist Scholarship – **Alencar Xavier**
- Stanley A. Barber Memorial Scholarship in Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition – **Amanda de Oliveira Silva**
- Marvin and Barbara Phillips Scholarship – **Jason Geis**
- Joe L. White Graduate Student Award in Soil Chemistry and Mineralogy – **Joseph Martin**
- Wayne P. Rothgeb Memorial Scholarship – **Rima Thapa, Sara Reagan**
- M. O. Pence Graduate Scholarship – **Jason Geis**

Agronomy graduate student wins at 20th World Congress of Soil Science

Saerom Park, Ecological Science and Engineering Program graduate student, won the Best Poster Award at the 20th World Congress of Soil Science on June 12.
Agronomy graduate student representatives host silent auction fundraiser

In early May, the agronomy graduate student representatives hosted a silent auction fundraiser to raise money for graduate student activities. Members of the department brought in items for the auction. Bidding was open to the public. There were 25 items sold and the group raised $417.

ASA graduate student poster contest includes social media

This competition will be held during the American Society of Agronomy Annual Meetings in Long Beach, CA in November 2014. To compete in this competition, graduate students must submit an abstract and develop a poster presentation related to using social media in teaching or Extension programs. These ideas can be programs that are already implemented or ideas/steps for implementing the use of social media. The ideas can originate from programs in which the student was enrolled in or led. The top three poster presentations will each receive a monetary award of $300, $200 and $100 respectively. For more information contact Jason P. de Koff, Ph.D. at jdekoff@tnstate.edu or Twitter: @TSUBioenergy.

Updates in Agronomy

Agronomy Field Day at ACRE to be held September 5

The Agronomy Field Day at ACRE is being hosted this year on September 5 at ACRE. The Area 9 Extension Educators and several agronomy faculty and staff members have been planning this event for several months. This year the theme focuses on management practices of a variety of crops. The theme will change year-to-year. Participants will start with breakfast, listen to guest speakers, participate in five tour stops, and have the option to stay for additional PARP credits. If you have questions or comments please contact Bryan Overstreet, Jasper County Extension Educator, at boverstreet@purdue.edu. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Bryan by September 3.
Purdue Staff and Student Bowling League champions

The winners of the Purdue Staff and Student Bowling League was the Ag Experiment Station Team (this team has played in the league since the league’s inception in 1941). This is the second year in a row they have won. The Purdue league runs fall to spring following the Purdue semester calendar. Bowling takes place each Monday evening at Arrowhead Bowl, off Teal Rd., in Lafayette. All Purdue staff, student and their family members are eligible to bowl. The group always need new bowlers. They will have open spots for whole teams of five next fall. Contact Tammy Goodale, tgoodale@purdue.edu for more information.

The members of the Ag Experiment Station Team include: Matt Rudisill, and Bruce Bordelon, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture; Kevin Otto, Biology; Tammy Goodale, Agronomy; Liz Nunamaker, Kevin’s spouse and Shehyrar Humayun, permanent team sub.

Welcome to the agronomy family

Congratulations to Gary and Thinh Steinhardt on their new grandchild, Jolie Aimee Sobieski. Jolie was born April 21 weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces. She was 19 inches long. Proud parents are Jonathan Sobieski and Angela Steinhardt.

Alumni Focus

Two agronomy alumni announced as Mott Award recipients

Congratulations to Rima Thapa (Ph.D. ’14) and Eric Miller (B.S. ’09 M.S. ’12) on being recipients of the 2014 Gerald O. Mott Meritorious Graduate Student Award in Crops Science. This annual award recognizes top-notch graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in crop science disciplines. Departments select students based on academic achievements, research and teaching contributions, leadership accomplishments, service activities, and personal qualifications. The award is named for the first CSSA President Gerald O. Mott who trained 75 graduate students during his 45-year career at Purdue University and the University of Florida. Many of his students have become eminent forage scientists in the United States and Latin America. The award is offered by CSSA. See all recipients here: https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/csa/pdfs/59/5/36
Agronomy alumni donate to College of Agriculture, improve education and research

By Keith Robinson

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - A gift from Beck's Hybrids will provide for remodeling part of the Krannert Building and a Lilly Hall laboratory on Purdue University’s campus to improve facilities for College of Agriculture faculty, staff and students.

The improvements will advance Purdue’s work in education, research and outreach in agricultural economics and agronomy.

“We see the passion of Purdue’s faculty to bring an even higher level of education, communication and connection to people involved in agriculture,” said Scott Beck, vice president of the Atlanta, Indiana-based Beck's Hybrids, the nation’s largest family-owned retail seed company. “With several of our own employees being Purdue graduates, we are thrilled to be a part of this world-class university and, specifically, the College of Agriculture, with our investment in the areas of agricultural economics and agronomy.”

The Beck family has long provided Purdue with needed resources to help ensure the university remains a world leader in agricultural research and education, said university President Mitch Daniels.

“The Becks continually demonstrate their desire to keep Purdue at the forefront of innovation and education in agriculture,” Daniels said. “The need for leadership to make agriculture more productive is greater now than ever before as the world's population grows at a rapid pace. This gift helps to further Purdue's leadership in this vital mission.”

The gift includes $1.4 million for remodeling on the seventh floor of Krannert to provide improved student learning space, a distance education studio, and faculty and staff offices for the agricultural economics department. The remodeling is needed in part because the department has outgrown its existing space, said Jay Akridge Glenn W. Sample Dean of Purdue Agriculture.

“This is a project that will provide some important new face-to-face classroom space and distance-learning capabilities for the department and the college,” Akridge said. “The investment will allow us to reach off-campus students, farmers and Extension audiences in innovative ways through distance-delivered education.”

Another $300,000 will be used to match that amount from the plant sciences Purdue Moves investment to create a molecular genetics teaching lab in Lilly Hall. This represents the first facility investment in the Purdue Moves plant sciences initiative, Akridge noted.

Purdue Moves is a range of initiatives introduced by Daniels to broaden Purdue’s global impact and enhance educational opportunities for its students.

The Beck family has strong ties to Purdue, dating to 1937 when Lawrence Beck and his son, Francis, each planted three acres of hybrid parent seed corn offered by Purdue’s Botany Department. The crop became the first of Beck's Superior Hybrids.

Sonny Beck, president of the company, earned his bachelor’s degree in agronomy (1962) and master’s degree in agricultural economics (1964) from Purdue. In 1992 he was one of the inaugural recipients of the Distinguished Agriculture Alumni Award, the College of Agriculture’s highest honor. Gov. Mike Pence in June 2013 appointed him to a three-year term on Purdue’s Board of Trustees.

Scott Beck is a 2005 recipient of the DAA Award. He received a bachelor’s degree in agronomy from Purdue in 1987 and in 2012 completed the Purdue-Kelley MS/MBA dual-degree program. Son of Sonny Beck, Scott is the oldest of the third generation of Becks involved in the family seed business.

The family in 2006 provided the lead gift for construction of a training and research facility, dedicated in 2007 as the Beck Agricultural Center, at Purdue’s Agronomy Center for Research and Education.