



Environmental Horticulture

Department News

FALL 2015

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A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



DR. SANDRA WILSON, CHAIR

Congratulations Wilson Family!

On August 14th, the department welcomed Ella Danyang Wilson by hosting a 'Sip & See' in her honor. Dozens of attendees shared in refreshments and conversation to welcome the newest member of the Wilson family. On behalf the department, we wish Ella & the Wilson family many years of happiness to come!



The Environmental Horticulture Department has kicked off the Fall Semester with a bang and is fully in gear to advance our research, teaching and extension programs statewide. Many exciting things are happening in the department. Some of the highlights include:

- Recent hire of three new assistant professors statewide working in public horticulture, turfgrass science, and landscape management. An additional three positions have been approved and we are in the process of recruiting candidates
- 5-year record high enrollment of 44 graduate students advised by our faculty, half of which are earning doctoral degree
- New direction of our undergraduate plant science major (Environmental Horticulture, Agronomy, and Plant Pathology Departments) under the leadership of Dr. John Peterson
- Greenhouse production of over 7,000 poinsettia plants and 150 different cultivars for our annual environmental horticulture club sale
- Official formalization of the plant innovation center (PIC), Dr. Dave Clark is founder and director working to make plants look, smell, and taste better. Through these efforts, the brand 'Gator Glory' has launched and the first products are now commercially available
- First annual Grad Bash celebrating and rewarding our graduate students
- Planning for international student club trip to Ireland
- Approved plans for a new multi-user greenhouse complex and early planning for renovation of a growth chamber building
- Outstanding award recognition of our statewide faculty, staff and students

Needless to say we have been busy! In this newsletter, you'll read about some of our faculty and student accomplishments and our undergraduate/graduate student club travels abroad. We look forward to providing continued excellence with a team purpose of solving current and future horticultural issues and translating this knowledge through education and outreach worldwide.

Best regards,

Sandra Wilson

Dr. Sandra Wilson
Department Chair

STUDENT AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Scholarships

CALS Scholarships

- Leah Cobb Lee
- Nicholas Genna
- Christine Penman
- Candice Prince
- Tia Tyler

Richard Foster Memorial Award

- Michael Sciardi

J.N. Watson Memorial

- Victor Zayas
- Kristen Kempfert

SHARE

- Alexander Eaton

Charles & Thelma Palmer Award

- Christina Martinez
- Raymond “Ray” Odeh

Florida Rehabilitation Corporation

- Cody English

Sydney B. Meadows Endowment Fund

- Rinnie Rodenius
- Daniel Greenwell

Corliss Knapp Engle Scholarship

- Raymond “Ray” Odeh

Oral Presentations Recognized

Catherine M. Donovan (Meehan) won first place in the FSHS Student Oral Presentation Competition, with her presentation entitled, “Pytotoxic Effects of Chlorine, Chloramines, and Chlorine Dioxide in Irrigation Water Applied to bedding Plants.” Her presentation co-authors included Dr.Paul Fisher and Dr. Jinshen Huang. Victor Zayas also presented his work entitled “Evaluation of Container Grown Blueberry Cultivars and the Effects of Gibberellic Acid on Fruit Set and Fruit Quality” with co-author Dr.Paul Fisher.

Congratulations!

Penman Receives Honors

Christy Penman received the Ann Lane Mavromatis Scholarship on October 10th at the annual meeting of the American Horticultural Therapy Association in Portland, Oregon. Christy was nominated for the award by Ms. Leah Diehl, Director of Therapeutic Horticulture at Wilmot Gardens in the UF College of Medicine, and Leslie Fleming. Both Ms. Diehl and Fleming are registered Horticultural Therapists, and based the nomination on Christy’s outstanding academic record and volunteer contributions to the Therapeutic Horticulture program at Wilmot Gardens. Additionally they recommended Christy for the important interdisciplinary research she is doing, connecting the therapeutic benefits of gardening to patterns of brain functions. The \$500 scholarship is awarded annually to a student member of AHTA in recognition of academic achievement and to promote the growth of professionalism in the field of horticultural therapy.

Congratulations!

Congratulations Students!



FACULTY AWARDS & RECOGNITION

FACAA Honors Received

The UF/IFAS Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) program recently won two state awards and one national award for Extension program content and implementation. The Florida Association of County Agriculture Agents (FACAA) honored the GI-BMP program with two awards at the recent Extension Professional Associations of Florida's (EPAF) state meeting in Naples. The first award, FACAA's communications award, spotlighted the GI-BMP program's online learning module and website interface and, the second, its Search for Excellence in Horticulture award, recognized the development and implementation of an outstanding Extension education program.

Esen Momol, state director for the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) program, who oversees the GI-BMP program, accepted the two state awards on behalf of the entire GI-BMP implementation team. "The success we have achieved for the GI-BMP program can only be attributed to teamwork," Momol said. "All the Extension agents, FDEP coordinators, our GI-BMP state coordinator Don Rainey, the FFL office staff, and our industry partners statewide – everyone has put in countless hours for curriculum development and instructing hundreds of training classes. All should feel a great deal of satisfaction in the efforts these awards recognize. Florida is truly better off because of them."

In addition to the two state awards, Don Rainey, the state coordinator for the GI-BMP program, traveled to Sioux Falls, South Dakota this past July for the National Association of County Agriculture Agents conference where he accepted the national award for Excellence in Horticulture for his work with the GI-BMP program. As the national winner, Rainey was the keynote speaker at the Search for Excellence awards luncheon.

"It was quite a thrill for our Florida GI-BMP program to receive such national recognition," Rainey said. "But, more importantly, it points to the leadership role our UF/IFAS Extension programs play nationally. Many states look to Florida for ideas and follow our lead when developing their own natural resource protection programs."

As part of the UF/IFAS Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program, the GI-BMP program trains landscaping professionals in proper fertilization, irrigation, and pest management practices that protect Florida's water resources. To date the program has trained over 41,000 individuals using in-person and online classes given in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. **Congratulations!**



FACULTY AWARDS & RECOGNITION

UF/IFAS Researcher Receives Honors

A UF/IFAS scientist, Andrew Koester, who has helped design a tree risk-management app and is co-writing tree identification books, has been named as a co-recipient of the International Society of Arboriculture's Early Career Scientist Award. The award is given to professionals showing exceptional promise in arboriculture research.

Andrew Koester, an assistant professor in Environment Horticulture at the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Wimauma, is also a faculty member at the UF/IFAS Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology.

Congratulations!

Dr. Sandy Wilson Receives ASHS Award

The American Society for Horticultural Science recently announced Dr. Sandy Wilson as an elected Fellow of the society. Wilson is now a member of the 52nd Annual Class of Fellows to receive this distinction in recognition of outstanding contributions to the science, profession, or industry of horticulture. Wilson was formally recognized on August 4th at the ASHS Awards Ceremony.

Congratulations!

Dr. Dave Clark Receives Patents

Dr. Dave Clark recently received patents for the following coleus varieties: 'Gator Glory', 'UF11-74-5', 'UF12-6-2', 'UF12-35-9', 'UF12-62-2' & 'UF12-87-9'

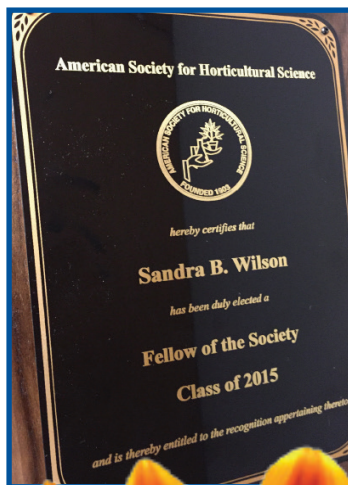
Congratulations!



Dr. Michael Kane's Lab Recognized

For the second year in a row, the high caliber of research from the Kane lab has been recognized. Two graduate students were recognized by the Society of In Vitro Biology at their annual meeting. Hoang Nguyen received the first place Outstanding Research Award for his poster *Comparative Asymbiotic and Sybiotic Seed Germination of the Ghost Orchid, Dendrophylax lindenii*. Paulina Quijia received the third place Outstanding Research Award for her poster *Factors Influencing Dormancy and Sprouting of In vitro Produced Sagittaria latifolia Corms*.

Congratulations!



TRAVELS ABROAD



Ecuador

Dr. Colquhoun and the Environmental Horticulture Graduate Student Association traveled to Ecuador this August to visit the Galapagos Islands. During their trip, students learned about the research and ecological restoration currently being done by the Charles Darwin Research Station and the Galapagos National Park. The club also had the opportunity to learn about the conservation efforts for several species of Galapagos tortoises, swim with seals, see blue-footed boobies and penguins and identify many endemic plant species.



TRAVELS ABROAD

France

From May 4th through the 11th, 20 undergraduate students from Gainesville, Ft. Lauderdale, and Apopka participated in the annual Undergraduate Environmental Horticulture Club International Trip. Students, along with Drs. Jim Barrett, Gail Hansen, Sydney Park-Brown, and Brian Pearson, traveled to France to visit a wide diversity of farms, greenhouse production facilities, chateaus, and public and private gardens. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. John Peterson, the trip started off with a personalized tour of a wide array of public gardens throughout Paris. The tour of parks and gardens, provided by city managers and park specialists, provided an outstanding perspective into management of greenspaces within one of the world's largest and most densely populated cities. The trip continued with travel to Normandy to visit food and wine production facilities as well as world-renowned gardens. Students traveled to Giverny to visit the home and gardens of Claude Monet as well as the awe-inspiring formal gardens at Château de Villandry and Château de Chenonceau. The trip included a stop at Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery and Memorial



where students learned from the Head Gardener about maintenance issues at one of the most historically significant locations of World War II. Visits to a fromagerie, winery, and cider production facility were incorporated into the trip to facilitate a greater understanding of production practices and sensory evaluation of some of France's most popular agricultural products. The weeklong trip provided students with a unique international experience interacting and engaging with horticulturists, garden managers, and agricultural food producers to facilitate an enhanced understanding of local and global agricultural challenges and perspectives.



GRAD BASH '15
October 22, 2015
Kanapaha Botanical
Gardens
4-8pm

Upcoming Dates
FALL 2015

EH Faculty Meeting
 November 3
 @ 10:00am

Hort Club
 Poinsettia Sale
 December 10 & 11, 2015

New Arrivals

John C. Peterson, PhD has joined the faculty as a Professor, Public Horticulture. Part of his assignment will be working with faculty, staff and students in all the departments that are linked to the Plant Science Major.

Travis Shaddox will begin as Assistant Professor, Environmental Turfgrass Science, on November 15. He will be housed at the Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center (FLREC).

UF



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