



HORT ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Agronomy and Horticulture Department

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Department Starts Appreciation Award Program

Last spring, the department initiated an awards program to honor faculty and staff for their contributions to the department. The award is unique in the College in that it includes a \$250 prize to accompany a plaque recognizing the contribution. The award is designed to recognize exceptional contributions to the department that go beyond the normal academic duties of teaching and research.

The first recipient was Dr. Greg Phillips. He received his award at the end of spring semester for his leadership in reinvigorating the department's graduate seminar series. This fall, Drs. John Mexal and Ian Ray received the award as well. John Mexal was recognized for his efforts in building the scholarship endowment and producing the Hort Alumni Newsletter. Ian Ray was recognized for serving on the Faculty Senate from 1999 to 2002. Congratulations to all and thank you for your efforts.



Dr. Greg Phillips



Dr. John Mexal



Dr. Ian Ray

QUOTES

"I honestly think it is better to be a failure at something you love than to be a success at something you hate."
George Burns

"Our chance begins today."
unknown

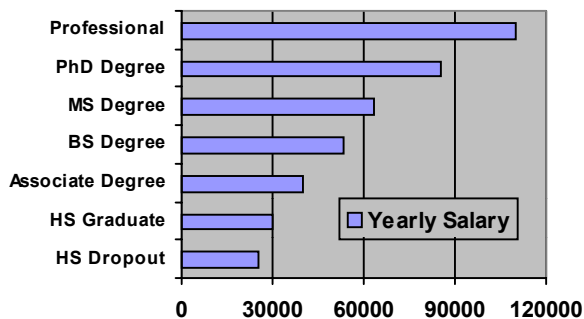
"A crisis is only a turning point."
Anne Lindthorst

Collegiate Scholars Honored

Newly instituted this year, this award honors the academic achievements of junior and senior undergraduates from horticulture or plant and crop science departments, who are majoring in horticulture. Students must be in the top 15% of their major, based on academic standing. ASHS congratulates this inaugural group of Collegiate Scholars.

Jean Allen
 Shanna H. Armenta-Sanchez
 Erin M. Balducci
 Steve M. Hogenmiller
 Karen E. Jenerette
 Ramon Molina-Bravo
 Margery Paroissien
 Alex L. Petermeier
 Elizabeth S. Sullivan
 Bryna R. Wilson
 Ann C. Wollmann

A College Education Is Worth More, But It Costs More!



Recently, the Census Bureau reported the value of a college education is more important today than ever. Over a 40-year working career, they estimate someone with a B.S. degree will have an average annual salary of \$53,000, compared to only \$25,000 for a high school graduate. The value of a HS diploma has increased 46% since 1992, while the value of a B.S. degree has increased 50% in the same period. A M.S. degree would increase the average annual wage by \$10,000/yr and a Ph.D. would increase it by \$32,000/yr. The report also noted that 84% of adults in the

US have a HS diploma and 26% have a B.S. degree. Both statistics are the highest ever, and point to the increasing need for an education in order to be competitive in the workforce.

While the economic return on investing in an education is high, the cost of obtaining an education is growing so fast that some students may find the door closed to them. A recent report by the National Center for Education Statistics reports that nearly 900,000 HS graduates in 2001-2002, or about 1/3 of all HS graduates that year, come from low to moderate income families. Of these 900,000 potential college students, 45% were unable to attend a 4-year college, and 19% could not afford to attend college at all! With the average cost of college tuition increasing at twice the rate of inflation, many of these students may never attend college. And never reap the rewards of higher education.

Fortunately, our students have it better than most. For this academic year, the department awarded 29 scholarships totaling over \$26,000 to 26 students. This does not include any other scholarships awarded by the college or university. This is what we are able to offer our best students to help them with their education. We would not be able to do this without your generosity and continued support of our program.

Currently, we have only one scholarship that is not yet endowed. That is the Darrell Sullivan Scholarship. We have over \$3,000, but that is well short of the \$10,000 necessary. We are optimistic that we will reach our goal within the next two years. Please continue to support the future generations of horticulturists, and thank you for all your support in the past.

2002 Scholarship Recipients

Aldershot Scholarship--	Alex Petermeier	\$500
Aldershot Scholarship--	Rebecca Padilla	\$500
Emmett Chapman Memorial--	Andrea Gonzales	\$900
Emmett Chapman Memorial--	Erin McSherry	\$900
Joe Corgan Endowed Fund--	Heather Adragna	\$650
Bernard Corley--	Jorge Benitez	\$750
Dr. & Mrs. Cotter --	Laura Haverstraw	\$920
Dr. & Mrs. Cotter--	M. Ryan Work	\$1,525
Desert Project--	Angela Greene	\$700
Environmental Science--	Hilary Brinegar	\$500
J.V. Enzie Memorial--	Julie Emery	\$700
Dora Blossom Gile Memorial--	Robin Foldager	\$1,000
Dora Blossom Gile Memorial--	Shari Selch	\$350
Kringle the Cat--	Dayna Drollinger	\$500
Bonnie Lowenstein Memorial--	Genieve Sanchez	\$1,500
Bonnie Lowenstein Memorial--	Bryna Wilson	\$1,500
Lowenstein Lecture Series--	Cathy Feser	\$500
Lowenstein Lecture Series--	Ashely Hagen	\$500
R.W. Ludwick Memorial--	Ashley Hagen	\$470

Richard K. Marek Memorial--Toby Roanhorse	\$525
Betty McGrath Memorial-- Andrea Chavez	\$500
Billy Melton Memorial-- Claudia Galvan	\$3,000
Roy Nakayama Memorial-- Tamara Davis	\$1,450
Roy Nakayama Memorial-- Sandra Potvin	\$1,450
New Mexico Seedman's-- Sandra Potvin	\$ 500
John and Ruth Overpeck Memorial--Robin Foldager	\$290
Joe Parker-- Steve Hogenmiller	\$2,500
Shannon Family-- M. Ryan Work	\$1,000
Darrell Sullivan-- Laura Haverstraw	\$500
Watson-Williams Memorial--Vanessa Sanchez	\$850
Marvin Wilson Graduate-- Hem Singh Bhendari	\$450



Karl E. Olson Honored

Karl E. Olson (B.S. Agron '74) was named the recipient of the Taylor A. Borradaile Award, which is given to selected Phi Kappa Tau alumni for outstanding achievement in a chosen field. The award carries with it a certificate of recognition and a \$1000 grant from the Phi Kappa Tau Foundation to a college or university of his choice. Mr. Olson selected New Mexico State University College of Agriculture and Home Economics. Dean Schickedanz has allowed the gift to be used to help fund the department's Appreciation Award program.

Karl is a certified member of Golf Course Superintendents Assoc. of America, is listed as a member of "The Leader's Circle".

Alumni Updates

Craig Cusack (B.S. Hort '89) is a farmer who sells his brown eggs Saturday at the Farmers' Market in the Downtown Mall. He said the chickens that lay the eggs are raised at his Las Cruces home and are "well cared for."



Craig Cusack

Marcus White (M.S. Hort '88) is currently working for Civano Nursery (www.civanonursery.com) which is located in the Civano Community (www.civano.com) on Tucson's eastside. The nursery is getting geared up to expand its growing facility to approximately 80 acres in Sahuarita. Marc is also teaching native plant ID and pathology courses at Pima Community College.

"Our family lives in Rita Ranch located in east Tucson. We have four children. Together, we enjoy playing/coaching/watching our kid's various soccer games, basketball, volleyball, band and winterguard competitions, as well as attending tiger cubs functions and lots of school events. We just started construction to add a fifth bedroom onto our house for baby Bailey. Our yards are a continual work in progress, but of course, the most interesting, attractive landscape in our area! Our extended family includes Rollo and Sally, our miniature dachshunds (yes, they are two real dogs!), and our Desert Tortoise who we fondly call 'Turtle' (for lack of a better name)."

His address is: Marcus White, 9793 E. Paseo Del Tornasol, Tucson, AZ 85747, phone number is (520) 664-0366

Joe Nelson (M.S. Hort '56) lives in between La Vina and the Nutcracker Suite here in Alta Vista-La Union-Anthony-whatever name you want to put on this area. "Josh Enzie was my advisor. One of my first jobs as a freshman was doing statistics on the old, old calculators. I had no idea what I was doing—just doing the numbers for Darrell Sullivan. I believe it was on apples....."

Joe Nelson's home phone is (505) 882-2258.

Vicki Richards (B.S. Agron/Hort '88) runs a landscape water conservation program (called Low 4) for the UA/PCCE through grants from Tucson Water and the Arizona Department of Water Resources. The program has been in existence for 13 years and is very popular. Low 4 stands for: Low Maintenance, Low Energy, and Low Water!

"I was the program coordinator for two years but my boss retired so I run the show now. I work under the umbrella of the Extension Horticulture department but my offices are in the Water Resources Research Center. It is a very fun job!"

"I have an industry program which includes Smartscape (a training program for industry professionals: 9- two and a half hour workshops); turf irrigation classes; and classes for personnel that landscape large properties; and water audit licensing classes through the Irrigation Association. I'm also an arborist and was previously licensed with the Arizona Structural Pest Control Commission (when I worked for Palo Verde Landscape) so I try to help personnel in Tucson keep their CEIs current by organizing arborist training classes and applying for CEUs for different conferences. Smartscape is the program where

Mark White teaches. Look on our website: www.ag.arizona.edu/pima/low4 and you'll see all that we do! It will explain it better."

"I also have a homeowner training program called Watersmart which I do on the weekends and a few week days throughout the year. In those classes I teach landscape maintenance and xeriscape design in Desert Landscaping, Drip Irrigation, Irrigation Timers, and Water Harvesting.

Most of our classes fill up within days (they are all FREE) and people really enjoy them. I would love to help someone in Las Cruces set up a Smartscape program. If you are interested, let me know! Albuquerque is seriously looking at it and several cities in California and Texas are already doing their versions of the program."

"Solweig Palanek (M.S. '89) is currently teaching classes at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Sometimes we are there teaching on the same day! They charge a fee for their classes though so it is usually a smaller crowd. She told me she may stop teaching there for awhile and look at starting something at the Community College."

Vicky Richard's e-mail address is (vickrich@ag.arizona.edu)

Sandra Smith Crout (B.S. '85) has three in her second year floral design class and help run our flower shop called Awesome Blossoms. "If you get a sec check out our gift basket offerings. <http://programs.sisd.net/careertech/flowers/index.html> Anyway, the flowers are just a-flying around here. To give you some idea of our sales volume...we only sell to faculty, staff and students of the Socorro Independent School District...our 2 day Valentines Day sale netted \$7500.00. All the \$\$\$ goes back into the program...we are self supporting and the only thing the district pays is my salary."

Sandra Crout's e-mail address is (scrout@sisd.net)

Hort Alumni Quotes Scholarship Recipients

1. "The thought of having an impact on conserving and protection the environment gives me a great deal of motivation for performing well in college." Hilary Brinegar - Environmental Science Scholar, 8/21/02
2. "Your gift will enable me to contribute to the program (Chile breeding) in a much more substantial fashion, while giving me a first hand introduction to the world of academic research." Laura Haverstraw - Cotter Scholar. 5/27/02
3. "Even though I want to do landscape architecture, I will always be a horticulturist first." Ryan Work - Cotter Scholar 7/31/02

4. "At the garden, I hope to construct a medicinal pueblo which is funded by research for medicinal plants. It will be a beautiful addition to the garden." Ryan Work - Shannon Scholar 7/31/02.

5. "This scholarship helps me and my family to enjoy my education without worrying about money.... This means a lot to me to receive such a gift." Julie Emery - Enzie Scholar 8/2/02.

6. "Thanks to people like yourself, students such as me have these wonderful opportunities to receive an excellent education." Genieve Sanchez - Kringle the Cat Scholar 8/15/01.

7. "I come from a large family of ten...without some kind of financial assistance, it would be difficult to pursue an educational endeavor that would benefit my future." Pamela Vasquez - Dora Blossom Gile Scholar 7/18/01.

8. "It is to people like you to whom I am eternally grateful.... The generosity of individuals such as yourself is what has and continues to get me through." Shanna Armenta - Enzie Scholar 7/7/01.

9. "I believe that receiving scholarships has helped me to succeed in school. It keeps me motivated and makes me feel that people want me to do well." Robin Foldager-Overpeck Scholar 2001.

10. "I really appreciate your generosity and will not waste the education this affords me." Sandra Potvin - Nakayama Scholar 6/3/02.

11. "It is because of people like you that make the college experience a fun and rewarding adventure." Bryna Wilson - Ludwick Scholar 8/26/01.

12. "I cannot tell you how much your generous donation means to both my family and myself. Paying for a college education is difficult, but with your help, it has become easier." Heather Adragna - Corgan Scholar 2001.



Dr. Esteban Herrera Retires

Esteban Herrera, horticulture specialist with Extension Plant Sciences, retired on July 31, 2002. Since coming to NMSU in 1978, Herrera has worked as an entomologist, graduate program coordinator, agricultural loan officer and expert on pecans, grapes, apples and pistachios. He was president of the New Mexico Vine and Wine Society and helped

start New Mexico's wine festivals to bring attention to New Mexico agriculture.

Obituaries

Dr. Bernard Lowenstein



Dr. (Col.) Bernard Lowenstein (Ret.) a veteran of the U.S. Army, 94, passed away June 26, 2002. Born in 1908, Dr. Lowenstein was raised in Manhattan, NY. He then went on to go to medical school at University of California in Berkley/ San Francisco, obtaining his M.D. in 1933 and joining the U.S. army Medical Reserve as a First

Lieutenant, with his devoted wife, Bonnie, who devotedly supported him. Wishing to go into obstetrics he applied for one of seven positions nationwide that year in the Corps. Unfortunately, he was not awarded one of the positions, instead becoming a physician with the Civilian Conservation Corps. While in that position, he was assigned to posts in northern California, Montana, and southwest Utah. He then joined the US Indian Service in 1936 and was assigned to the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota for 2 years. In 1938 he was transferred to the Indian Hospital in Rapid City and obtained comprehensive training in pulmonary/chest medicine, which would then become his ultimate specialty. In 1941 he was recalled to active duty going to Randolph Field in San Antonio for flight surgeon training. In 1942 he came to Albuquerque, then on to Glendale, Arizona, Italy, Corsica, France and Germany. In 1946, as a Lt. Colonel he left active duty and rejoined the USIS in Shawnee, OK. In 1952, another career choice brought him back to Albuquerque to the VA Medical Center. He was with the VAMC as a chest/pulmonary specialist until 1966 when he chose to retire because the VA denied 2 months off for a cruise he and his wife had long cherished. Upon returning he joined the staff at University Medical School and was contracted back to the VA as a Chest Film Specialist until health problems forced him to retire again in 1988. His wife, Bonnie preceded him in death in 1992. Dr. Lowenstein was one of the donors to the scholarship program of Agronomy and Horticulture Department due to his wife's interest in garden clubs.

William J. Wiltbank (B.S. '50)

William J. Wiltbank, a professor emeritus at the University of Florida, died in May, 2002 at the E.T. York Care Center Hospice House of cancer. He was 75. Dr. Wiltbank was born in Clifton, AZ, and moved to Gainesville 38 years ago from San Jose, Costa Rica.

Dr. Wiltbank served in the Navy from 1944 to 1946. He graduated from New Mexico State University in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in horticulture and in 1967 earned a doctorate in horticulture from UF.

He worked as an instructor for the New Mexico Board of Vocational Education, was an extension horticulturist for New Mexico State University and was a horticulture adviser for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Costa Rica.

Dr. Wiltbank was hired by the UG Dept. of Fruit Crops in 1967 and was a visiting professor at a Brazilian college before retiring from UF in 1989.

Professional associations included the Florida State Horticultural Society, the American Society for Horticultural Science, the InterAmerican Society for Tropical Horticulture, and Gamma Sigma Delta.

Ed Steffek (B.S. '71)

Mr. Ed Steffek, 54, of Durham, NC died on Oct. 27, 2001 at Raleigh Community Hospital. Mr. Steffek, born in Boston, MA. He was employed at Duke Gardens for the past 24 years as a horticulturist with a specialty in native plants of the southeast. Mr. Steffek also enjoyed freelance landscaping on the weekends, because he could not get enough of working outside with plants. He enjoyed many walks and hikes in beautiful Durham Co., NC with his wife, Nancy Oliver.

