

Live, Learn and Thrive.



Dr. Greg Mullins
PES Dept. Head
See Page 3

Measure of Man:

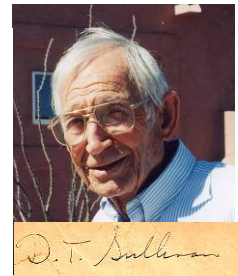
Experience is not a matter of having actually swum the Hellespont, or danced with the dervishes, or slept in a doss-house. It is a matter of sensibility and intuition, of seeing and hearing the significant things, of paying attention at the right moments, of understanding and coordinating.

Experience is not what happens to a man; it is what a man does with what happens to him.

Aldous Huxley

Dr. Darrell T. Sullivan **January 4, 1917 – September 9, 2005**

Darrell Sullivan, Professor of Horticulture from 1954 to 1982, passed away after a brief illness in September. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Sara; son, John; daughters, Kathryn English and husband Jerry; and Elizabeth Stinson and husband Terry. He also is survived by 6 grand-children and 7 great-grandchildren.



Darrell was educated at Mississippi State University (BS), University of Georgia (MS), and Ohio State University (PhD), before joining the faculty at NMSU in 1954. He taught practically everything (in his words), and conducted research on pecans and variety development. He developed ‘Chaparral’ the first fruitless, weeping mulberry, ‘Goldmint’ lantana, and ‘Mesa’ a Carpathian walnut. Arguably, he was best known and loved for his teaching. He was truly in his element at the Hort Farm, surrounded by students, often with his pipe firmly clenched between his teeth.

Darrell enjoyed many things—a good pipe, a quiet lake for fishing, and a not-so-dry martini (see poem). He also enjoyed his weekly lunch with Don Cotter and John Mexal at Chopec’s. In fact, about the only activity that interfered with the lunches was a chance to go fishing with Sandy Dick Peddie. After lunch, Darrell would often ‘sneak off’ a few minutes early to smoke his pipe. When Don and I would join him, he usually had a question for us; often related to horticulture. At first, we thought it like a Ph.D. qualifying question, and we would often wonder “Did we pass?” Soon, we began to look forward to his question, and expected him to have one every week. Once he brought the picture (see Page 2) of a Bonsai parsley plant. His question was: how did he do it? Of course, my question was: why would he do it? Obviously, the answer was: that was Darrell; always experimenting and wondering. He never lost that sense of wonder and excitement about horticulture. He was a student of horticulture to the end.

We hosted a memorial service in the Landscape Demonstration Garden after his passing, and in March 2006, we dedicated a ‘Bonita’ ash in the NMSU Landscape Demonstration Garden (see photos). The tree was donated by Sunland Nursery and friends of Darrell. We had some of Darrell’s co-workers in attendance, including President Emeritus Gerald Thomas (see photo).

Darrell will be missed, but his legacy lives on in the students he trained.



left to right: Don Cotter, Hank Hayes with Darrell



left : Kathryn Sullivan English with John Mexal at the Sullivan Memorial Tree
right : President Emeritus Gerald Thomas with Kathryn Sullivan English (March 2006)

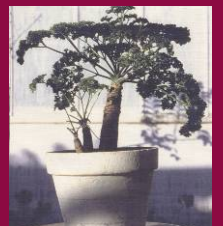


Darrell`s co-workers: (left) Emroy Shannon, Joe Corgan,(right) Don Cotter, Gerald Thomas



A Poem
By Darrell Sullivan

If I should die before I awaken
Please have the kitchen straighten.
And put on the coffee pot
So we may have cups piping hot.
But should I awaken in some God forsaken
place
And know not my own face,
When you say 'good bye'
Tell them I like my martinis not too dry.



NEWS FROM THE NEW DEPARTMENT HEAD



As the new Department Head of Plant and Environmental Sciences, this is my first column in our Departmental Newsletter. As many of you know, Jim Fisher retired last year and Paul Bosland served as interim Department Head prior to my arrival in September. Paul did a great job as interim, and the Department greatly appreciates his leadership during this important interim period.

I came to NSMU from Virginia Tech where I was a member of the soils faculty in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences. At Virginia Tech, I had extension and research responsibilities in the areas of nutrient management and water quality. I was the Extension Program Leader for the department from 2002-2005 and I was Faculty liaison for the Virginia Tech Soil Testing Laboratory from 2002-2005. Prior to moving back to my native state of Virginia in 1999, I was a member of the faculty in the Agronomy and Soils Department at Auburn University where I spent approximately 14.5 years in a research/teaching position, working in the areas of nutrient management and soil chemistry. My research program concentrated primarily on the chemistry and fertility of phosphorus and potassium in relation to Alabama field crops, and evaluation of industrial and animal waste as organic sources of nutrients. At Auburn, I taught General Soils and a graduate level course in Plant Nutrition, and was actively involved in undergraduate student advising.

My wife, Iris, and I are still transitioning from the humid east to the desert Southwest, but we are delighted to be at New Mexico State University. In particular, I am excited to be part of a dynamic, energetic and forward thinking group of faculty. During 2005 the department had several new additions to our faculty including a turf specialist, an assistant state climatologist, soil physicist, and a crop stress physiologist. We are currently looking for an environmental scientist to replace Bobby McCaslin, who retired in February 2005. Working in collaboration with the Department of Health Science we added Environmental Health as an option under our Environmental Sciences Major. As the new department head, I think we have a bright future ahead of us and we will continue to educate students and serve the needs of New Mexico.

2006 – A Time of Change – Including the Departmental Newsletter.

In addition to securing a new department head, the department has experienced a number of significant changes during the past year including the name and look of our departmental newsletter. How many of you can remember back in 1986, when the college combined the departments of Horticulture and Crop and Soil Science to become the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture? Well, we have changed our name again. In January 2006 the name of the department changed to Plant and Environmental Sciences. Also, President Martin implemented a One University concept requiring all university newsletters to use a similar format.

With these recent changes our departmental newsletter will be a little different including a new look and a new name. These changes will include a new name for the newsletter to encompass all alumni in the department. We are still looking for the “right” name for the newsletter, and if you have any suggestions please email those to me (gmullins@nmsu.edu). In the future we hope to publish two newsletters/year.



THE DEPARTMENT HAS ANOTHER REGENT'S PROFESSOR

Dr. Mary O'Connell was named Regent's Professor at the January 2006 Convocation. She joins Dr. Paul Bosland, giving our department the distinction of being the only department on campus with two Regent's Professors. Mary joined the faculty in 1985. She was promoted to associate professor in 1991 and a full professor in 1996. Among the courses she teaches is Introduction to Plant Science (HORT 100) which she successfully developed into a general education science course.

Dr. O'Connell has served as director of the National Institute of Health-sponsored Minority High School Student Summer Internship Program. She also has been involved with the NIH-sponsored Minorities Biomedical Research Support Program and the Bridges to Native Americans in Community Colleges Program, as well as the RISE Medicinal Plants of the Southwest project as the lead investigator, all of which support research and training activities for ethnic minority undergraduate and graduate students.

In 1997, Dr. Mary A. O'Connell received the college Outstanding Research Award for her work on somatic cell genetics research, including elucidating the biosynthetic pathway involved in chile pungency.
CONGRATULATIONS!

Friends of the Department

The following donors have generously supported the department, and were recently recognized in the 2004-2005 NMSU Foundation annual report:

- Circle of Excellence-Bronze
 - Salopek Foundation
 - Dr. and Mrs. Johnny R. Thomas
- Circle of Excellence - Crimson
 - Leland H. Gile
 - Dr. Bernie Lowenstein
- Regents Associates
 - Don and Fran Cotter
- Presidents Council
 - Emmitt and M.T. Chapman
 - Roy and Rose Nakayama
- University Ambassadors
 - Aldershot of NM (Mr. and Mrs. P. VanderLugt)
 - Randy and Cindy Farmer
 - NM Dry Onion Commission
 - Seeds West
 - Shannon Family (Emroy, Rod, and Alma)
 - Southwest Turfgrass Association
- University Partners
 - Arden and Elsie Baltensperger
 - Joe and Daisy Corgan
 - John and Barbara Mexal
 - National Council of State Garden Clubs
 - Joe and Barbara Parker
 - Valley Gardeners
 - Western Pecan Growers Association



ANGADI TO LEAD WATER STRESS RELATED RESEARCH IN EASTERN NEW MEXICO

Sangu (Sangamesh) Angadi joined New Mexico State University as a crop stress physiologist at the Clovis Ag. Science Center. He brings with him a vast experience working in diverse agroclimatic regions of the world. Dr. Angadi is a native of southern India, where the predominant crops are cotton, sorghum, peanut, chile (spelled chilli), sunflower and wheat. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in India and worked for seven years before moving to Canada to pursue doctoral studies. He received the prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship for doctoral studies. His Ph.D. research focused on the water relations of different stature sunflower cultivars.

After completing his Ph.D., Dr. Angadi worked for Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (Canadian equivalent of USDA, ARS). His focus was to introduce alternative crops in predominately wheat-fallow cropping system of the semiarid prairie and to develop viable cropping options to improve precipitation use efficiency. Research included understanding water and heat stress responses, below and above ground resource use patterns, and using new technologies in crop response studies. He also worked on no-till management options to improve adaptability of crops such as canola and mustard to the region. His final project in Canada focused on quantifying the influence of growing season weather on visual, biochemical and processing qualities of spring wheat grown in the entire Canadian prairie.

His research at Clovis will focus on understanding water use and yield relationships in existing and potential crops for the region. Water management to improve forage biomass production and introducing legume crops to improve forage quality will also be studied. Crop management practices to improve water and nutrient use efficiencies of cropping systems will be evaluated. The overall objective of his program is to develop sustainable cropping systems for rainfed and limited irrigated conditions in eastern New Mexico.

DR. MANOJ SHULKA JOINS SOILS GROUP

Dr. Manoj K. Shukla is the new Assistant Professor of Environmental Soil Physics.



Dr. Shukla received his B.S. in Agricultural Engineering and M.S. in Soil and Water Engineering from J. N. Agriculture University, India, and his Ph.D. in Soil Physics from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Vienna, Austria. Dr. Shukla has worked at several different universities around the world. He was a Research Scientist at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Vienna, a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a Research Scientist at the Ohio State University, Columbus prior to his joining the department. While at Columbus, he was a co-recipient of a large research grant (\$706,000) on carbon sequestration potential of reclaimed minesoils in Ohio, funded by Department of Energy.

Dr. Shukla has co-authored a textbook on “Principles of Soil Physics,” 30 peer-reviewed journal articles and 11 research reports. The major research interests of Dr. Shukla are on the assessment of physical, chemical and thermal properties of soil, and the chemical fate and transport in the soil.

Dr. Shukla has taught graduate and undergraduate students in several universities. His teaching assignments in the department of Plant and Environmental Sciences include Environmental Soil Physics (SOILS 477), Advanced Soil Physics (SOILS 552) and Introductory Soils (SOILS252).

Since joining NMSU, Dr. Shukla has served on the department’s curriculum and award committees. He serves as an associate editor and editorial board member of Soil Science Society of America Journal and as a reviewer for Soil Science Society of America Journal, Journal of Environmental Quality, Vadose Zone Journal, and Journal of Soil and Water Conservation



BOB D. MCCASLIN RETIRES

Bobby D. McCaslin, professor in Agronomy and Horticulture, retired Feb. 1 2005 after almost 28 years at NMSU. McCaslin taught classes in soil management and fertility, soil and plant chemical analysis and advanced soil fertility.

McCaslin received the Distinguished Service Award from the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. He served as assistant department head and liaison for the Soil, Water and Air Testing Lab and the WERC engineering consortium. He was a member of the University Research Council, Graduate Council and Faculty Review Board.



**DR RYAN GOSS NAMED TO NEW
NMSU TURF POST**

Ryan Goss, a turf scientist from the University of Nebraska, is a new assistant professor in the Plant & Environmental Sciences Department. Goss expects to study liquid fertilizer application. "We've strategies for New Mexico."

Dr. Goss expects to conduct research on campus, and take advantage of the NMSU's 12 far flung agricultural Science centers, located from Farmington to Artesia.

Another of Goss' goals is to strengthen NMSU's academic turfgrass program, bringing in more students. Today, there are a growing number of careers for graduates specializing in turf, such as running professional lawn-care businesses, designing and maintaining parks, athletic fields and golf courses.

Dr. Goss is a native of Atlanta, GA. He earned his bachelor's degree in landscape architecture at Ohio State University and master's degree in crop and soil science at Michigan State University. His doctorate, which focused on turfgrass weed control, was from the University of Nebraska.

**AGHT STUDENT
SPEAKS AT
DEAN'S BREAKFAST**



Travis Knoop, a College Ambassador, spoke to the donors and scholarship recipients at the Dean's breakfast during Homecoming, Oct. 29 2004. Travis was an Agronomy major with an emphasis in crop breeding and greenhouse management. He transferred to NMSU in January 2003 and completed his degree requirements in May 2005. In his speech, Travis said when he came to NMSU, he had no money and eventually had to sell his car to pay for tuition. Fortunately, he has benefitted from the generosity of our donors who have helped him with his tuition through our scholarship program. Travis has received the Stahmann's scholarship from the College, as well as \$1000 from the Southwest Turf Association. He ended his presentation by quoting a Malayan proverb: "one can pay back the loan of gold, but one dies forever in the debt to those who are kind." We are forever in debt by your kindness and support.



DR. ERIN SILVA

I am delighted to be at New Mexico State University as an Assistant Professor of Vegetable Physiology. Las Cruces is a bit of a change from the places where I've spent most of my life. I grew up in town in the suburbs of Boston, MA. Although there was not much large-scale agriculture, I was raised in a house where gardening was very important; every year my mother had a large backyard garden with an unusually large diversity of vegetables. When I was in high school, my family moved to Wisconsin, and it is there that I completed my undergraduate degree in Biology at the University of WI-Stevens Point. Summer internships with the Department of Horticulture at the University of WI-Madison sparked my interest in applied plant biology, and I decided to pursue a graduate degree in Horticulture at Washington State University. My research at WSU focused on improving onion seed yields through understanding pollinator-floral relationships. This was an exciting, interdisciplinary study that used elements of both basic and applied plant biology. This research was conducted at the Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Prosser, WA. Many people think of Washington as the "Evergreen State" but in reality the eastern half of the state is extremely dry; the Columbia and Yakima Valleys, located in the rain shadow of the Cascade Mountains, receive about the same amount of rain as Las Cruces. These regions, however, contain some of the nation's finest vineyards and wineries, one of which I had the opportunity to work at as a grad student. Following the completion of my Ph.D., I began a post-doc at the USDA Vegetable Crops Research Unit at the University of WI-Madison. My research focused on two areas, improving the post-harvest storage quality of potatoes and characterizing the pigment compounds in purple carrots.

I am very happy to be living in Las Cruces with my daughter Isabella, our cat, and our dog. We can often be seen sunning or hiking around the area .

Unfortunately, Erin and her husband Dr. Mark Renz have both recently accepted positions at the Univ. of Wisconsin. We wish them well.

2004-2005/2005-2006 SCHOLARSHIPS NOMINEES

Scholarship	2004 Nominee	Award \$	2005 Nominee	Award \$
B. Lowenstein Grad.	Kim Fields	3750	Not awarded	3750
B. Lowenstein	Victoria Frietze	2500	Melody Harkright Libby Leask Cie'na Schlaefli	1300 750 500
Billy Melton	Ricardo Hernandez Libby Leask	1500 700	Sarah Gonzales Felix Barron Toby Kitzes	1200 600 300
Roy Nakayama	Cie'na Schlaefli Marcia Carter Libby Leask	800 700 700	Milagra Weiss Ramona Cuaron Libby Leask	1300 1200 550
Joe Parker	Megan Conner Marcia Carter	1000 800	Jose Najera Erin Perkins Lewis Beck	650 600 500
Emmett Chapman	Ramon Cuaron Melody Harkright	650 650	Toby Kitzes Ricardo Hernandez	800 600
Dora B. Gile	Austin Eldrige Justin Riggs	600 300	Cheyenne Watts Sarah Ricketts	550 525
Darrell Sullivan	Frances Miller Cie'na Schlaefli	350 300	Frances Miller Luz Hernandez	950 400
Watson-Williams	Justin Riggs	600	Justin Riggs Michaela Mattes	325 325
Bernard Corley	David Batista	550	Brian Samson	625
Josh Enzie	Heather Adragna	500	Luz Hernandez	500
Desert Project	Pamela Vasquez	500	Pamela Vasquez	625
Joe Corgan	Megan Conner	500	Ricardo Maestas	725
Kringle the Cat	Sandy Potvin	500	Jessica Corrie	500
Herrera Grad.	Luke Simmons	500	Clare Bowen-O'Connor	525
Keep NM Beaut.	Kevin Lombard	500		
Baltensperger Grad.	Jose Makk	500	Jose Makk Yoshi Ikemura	375 350

Environ. Sci.	Hilary Brinegar Lora Perkins	250 250	Angela Allred	750
Marvin Wilson Grad.	Jeff Kallestad	350	Ousmame Sy	375
R.W. Ludwick	Kerry McKierney	300	Cie'na Schlaefli	350
J&R Overpeck	Austin Eldridge	200	Ricardo Hernandez	300
Betty McGrath	David Ribble	500	Martin Sanchez	500
Aldershots	Dayna Drollinger Kerry McKierney	500 500		
Cotter	Victoria Anne Chris Ewen	1600 800	Matt Barrow Cheryl Rosel	800 838
Shannon Family	Not awarded		Not awarded	
ALCA	S. Potvin	1000		
Seedsman's	S. Potvin Travis Knoop	1000 1000	Sarah Gonzales	2000
SWTGA	Casey Johnson Yoshiaki Ikemura Travis Knoop Libby Leask Jose Makk	1000 500 500 500 500	Yoshiaki Ikemura Mike Schaaf Frances Miller Casey Johnson William Bosland	750 750 500 500 500

Alumni Info. Form

Alumni Name: _____
Spouse Name: _____
Address: _____
Children/Ages _____

Return Address:
John Mexal, NMSU
jmexal@nmsu.edu
PES Dept.
MSC 3Q, Box 30003
Las Cruces, NM 88003

Year Graduated: _____
Yes, I want to support the ___Bruce Erhard Endowment___Debbie Widger Endowment___Mary F. Mexal Endowment
I have enclosed: ___\$20, ___\$40, ___\$75 ___other.

Please make checks payable to: **NMSU Foundation** & specify scholarship name on check

Brief paragraph on recent events in your life: professional or personal (feel free to include a recent photo):

Visit us on the web at <http://aghort.nmsu.edu>

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