

HORTICULTURE/ PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCE NEWS

Volume 53 – Fall
2003

September,

Welcome – OR – Welcome Back!

It will be good to see many new and returning faces back in class. Hopefully all of you have had some time for rest and relaxation with family & friends over the past 3 months. My, how quickly it went by! See the back of this newsletter for some interesting “What I did on my summer vacation” stories.

For the new faces in the crowd, we all want to welcome you here. We know this is a big step and commitment for you and we are here to help you. Be sure to get signed up for your e-mail account, as that will be the way you will receive the department's quarterly newsletter and any other important information. Additionally to stay connected, find out who your advisor is and meet with them regularly, and try to get involved in **something** going on in the department or college. We have 4 student clubs who you will meet in early October. Check bulletin boards in the halls for meeting announcements.

This academic year will prove to be one of the most interesting years the department has seen in recent memory. On one hand, the State of California is faced with the

most critical fiscal situation in history. I know all of you felt that pinch as you paid your fee bills. This has led to decreasing numbers for our department and the University via an enrollment management program which will effectively close down admissions until next fall. It will lead to budget trimming exercises and reduced spending for educational initiatives.

On the other hand, this will be one of the most lucrative years in recent memory due to the acquisition of funding from the Alameda Corridor (ACE) Project. The Union Pacific Railroad will construct a “jumper” line across the Spadra Ranch requiring a little less than 5 acres of property. The \$2.2+ million dollar proceeds from that sale come directly to the department this year. Much of the funding will be used for:

- 20,000 ft² of new greenhouses at AGRIsclapes
- A head house and storage facility at AGRIsclapes
- 3600 ft² of new research laboratories at AGRIsclapes
- Retrofitting of barns at the Spadra Ranch
- A new well at the Spadra Ranch
- \$300,000 of new farm and landscape equipment

Sounds like just what we have been waiting for and needing!

In addition, a 10-year state agency lease agreement was signed with the California Department of Corrections, for our department to utilize 1076 acres of prime farmland in the Chino Valley. This will ease the pressure of buildings, parking lots, and everything else imaginable encroaching on farmland on the Kellogg Ranch. Many great projects will be available on this new acreage including several environmental initiatives. This property is the home to several burrowing owls, has dust mitigation problems, riparian habitats, and provides a great open space resource to the Chino Valley.

Stay connected during the quarter. If you have not done so, please stop by the department office in 2-209 and introduce yourself to Anna-Marie our department Administrative Coordinator. She is the department's greatest source of information and doesn't do too bad if you need an away from home mother, friend, or advisor.

Good luck this quarter. Just think, 11 more weeks and we are on Christmas break for 4 weeks. That's real hard to believe!

Welcome to Our New Students to the Department!!

Welcome to all of our new faces and major changes for Fall Quarter 2003. Here is a list of our new students for the fall; welcome to all of you.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Major</u> | <u>Hometown</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Paulina Woods | Agronomy | Pomona |
| Yvonne Gutierrez | LIS | La Puente |
| Jillian Gomez | Agronomy | Diamond Bar |
| Eric Gonzalez | LIS | Compton |
| Ashley Garrison | Horticulture | Alta Loma |
| Kevin Rey | Horticulture | Walnut |
| Terrance Saeman | Horticulture | Dana Point |
| Paul Broding | Horticulture | Santee |
| Neary Hou | Horticulture | Long Beach |
| Micheal Swingholm | Horticulture | Mission Viejo |
| Rebekah Banales | Horticulture | Claremont |
| Patric Belavic | Horticulture | Lakewood |
| Oscar Mercado | Horticulture | Temple City |

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Andrew Morris | Horticulture | Pomona |
| Amber Croteau | Ag Bio | Riverside |
| Joshua Morton | Ag Bio | Upland |
| Stacy Kavanaugh | Soils | Mission Viejo |
| Geoff Galindo | Horticulture | Placentia |
| Brent Peterson | Ag Bio | El Centro |
| Dustin Tatsumi | LIS | |
| Pai Suphantharida | Grad-H/PSS | Columbus |
| Toni Siebert | Grad-H/PSS | Bloomington |
| Shawn Overtstreet | Grad-H/PSS | Pomona |

Who is my Advisor??

This is probably one of the most common questions that we get asked each year. Your advisor can sometimes shave quarters off of your stay at Cal Poly by steering you in the right direction. In addition, advisors often end up being great job references, brothers, sisters, and/or father/mother figures if you need them for that. Here is how most of you will find your advisor:

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--------|
| Landscape Irrigation - | Eudell Vis | 45-105 |
| Soil Science - | Dr. Shoumo Mitra | 2-210 |
| Fruit Industries - | Dr. Greg Partida | 2-118 |
| Horticulture - | Assigned by career interest- see Anna-Marie in dept. office for list | |
| Ag Biology - | Dr. Greg Partida | 2-118 |
| Agronomy - | Dan Hostetler | 2-209 |

If you find you are on a list of one advisor and working with another, we can update the list. Don't ever feel bad about changing advisors if you feel more comfortable working with someone else.

Pumpkin Festival/Insect Fair

If you have not attended this event, it is a must for you. This is really a great opportunity to get involved with a club and help make this festival a success. The Ag Bio Club commonly sells food and assists with the Insect Fair, located in the Ag building. Los Robles Horticulture Club has a mean reputation for the best tacos north of Mexicali while the Turfgrass Club also sponsors a Golf-O-Rama. Los Rancheros is active handling the cash for pumpkin sales. If you are still lost and wondering what you can do, just see Dan and he'll get you involved with something. We can really use the help!!

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How is the Pumpkin Crop?

Those of you that were here for Fall Festival last year know the disaster we went through as far as powdery mildew and other diseases. On 9/5 we saw the onset of this disease and it continued until we had no green vines left in the field. Our same variety (Jackpot) that we had used for the past 10-years finally let us down. Fortunately we had been experimenting with several new varieties, including two that were "powdery mildew resistant" from Harris Seeds called Merlin and Magic Lantern.

This year, we bit the bullet and paid triple price (\$120/lb) for these two varieties and planted 50 acres. If you have been by the field at Temple Avenue, you see some great vines this year because of this variety. The major planting at the Spadra Ranch is also progressing very well. We currently have 20-30 pound fruits just turning orange in time!!

Looking like we have an excellent crop; now what we need is help getting them out to the public. The Los Rancheros Club annually coordinates sales during the Festival. This year's dates are 10/18 & 19 from 8 AM – 5 PM. You can contact Chad Cleveland, President at 909.594.9084 if you would like to help.

New Vineyard Planted

Phase II of the vineyard installation took place in mid-August with the planting of the horse hill vineyard. This was planted to 1103P rootstock which will be grafted to Zinfandel next year. This fall the AGRIsapes vineyard will be grafted to Zinfandel with crews from Geyser Peak Vineyards. Looks like 2-3 years we should be in grapes!

Enough rootstock was also potted and set aside for a planting of approximately 125 vines around the wine cellar at the Collins Center. These will be planted in spring to give us time to develop the irrigation system needed on these steep slopes.

All of the vineyards were funded via a grant through the California State lottery. The basis of the funding was to establish a vineyard for experiential education. The Zinfandel used for budwood came from the DiAmbrosio Ranch in

Cucamonga at the corner of Foothill and Haven. It is believed to be over 100-years old.

Scholarships Available

Although scholarship season really starts in full swing after the holidays, several institutions offer deadlines during the fall. Last year, many of these went without an applicant.

The time is NOW to pick up 3 scholarship applications in the Department office.

- ❖ *Street Tree Seminar Scholarship* - Provides scholarships from \$500-\$1,000 to students interested in urban forestry and arboriculture fields. Award based on community & professional involvement, essay required, and oral interview.

Deadline: Mid-October

- ❖ *Robert Procsal/Jolly Batcheller Scholarships* – Two \$750 scholarships each to new students entering the program this fall quarter (one for a freshman, one for a transfer) based on interest in program, past extra-curricular activities, GPA, references.

Deadline: October 3rd to Department office

- ❖ *Study Abroad Scholarships*- American Society of Agronomy is offering a \$1500 scholarship to an undergraduate student participating in a University approved study abroad program. It is open to students pursuing studies in soils, crops, or other closely related sciences. The recipient should be affiliated with an active ASA Chapter (Los Rancheros Club). The Study Abroad Program must be for 4 or more weeks.

For information contact Leann Malison at the American Society of Agronomy via e-mail at lmalison@agronomy.org or visit the general website at www.agronomy.org

Deadline: November 1, 2003

Keep your eye open for more scholarships as they come in.

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Looking for Work?

Here are a couple of leads for students in the department looking for good “hands-on” employment in the department: even if you have an afternoon per week, it is a great way to get involved and learn more about agriculture and the department.

•Farm Store at Kellogg Ranch- David is looking for customer assistant clerks starting now going through the holidays and possibly beyond. David will be willing to work with your class schedules, Saturday and Sundays are available. Contact David Carson at 909-869-4906 or via email at drcarson@csupomona.edu

•Agronomy Farm- George is looking for students to help him get through the irrigation season and getting winter crops started. The job requires a valid driver’s license to drive on campus vehicles and tractors. Hours will vary and there is possibility of Saturday work. Typical jobs including moving sprinklers, spraying weeds, tillage work, etc. Contact George Pool at 909-869-2061 or via email at ghpool@csupomona.edu

•Nursery- Monica is looking for students for culture, propagation and care of plants both at the nursery and at AGRIscales. You need a driver’s license to drive on campus vehicles. Typical jobs include propagation, weeding, watering and transportation of plants to the sales area. Hours will vary.

Contact Monica Salembier at 909-869-2299 or via email at mpsalembier@csupomona.edu

•Fruit Industries- Dan is looking for students to assist in orchards operations and the packinghouse. He needs some students to assist with Christmas gift packs that are featured at the Farm Store over the holidays. Contact Dan Hostetler at 909-969-2189 or via email at dghostetler@csupomona.edu.

Help Wanted!

October is Pumpkin Month at AGRIscales and we need your help. We will have invited elementary school children and pre-schoolers to come learn about pumpkins, corn, beans, and squash and to pick out their very own Jack O’ Lantern at our Pumpkin Corral. We need help with the following:

- Giving tours (we’ll show you what to talk about)
- Showing the Pumpkin Circle video
- Helping kids pick pumpkins
- Caring for our garden
- General assistance

Our field trips start on October 6 and go through the rest of October on weekdays including the Pumpkin Festival weekend. We can use you almost anytime between 8 and 5:00 each day. If you can help out for a few hours here and there, we’d love it. If you can work on a more regular basis, we can pay you or sign you up for units. But you must act quickly so we can sign you up! Please see, email or call Peggy Perry (psmclaughlin@csupomona.edu) at x5268 or Anna Sariol (amsariol@csupomona.edu) at x6722. We promise you’ll have fun!

Happy Job Hunting!!

Updates from the Farm Store

The Department will need Holiday help for the store beginning November 13 through Christmas Eve. This year, our goal for sales of Holiday Gift Packs and baskets of fruit & holiday merchandise is 500. We will need people to help process and pack the fruit & merchandise for these packs and process orders. The pay isn’t the best (\$7.33/hr) but it will help buy a gift or two for the holidays. If you are interested, please see Anna-Marie or Dan in the department office.

We are also looking for individuals who may be interested in assisting with on-campus sales of produce using our 1938 Ford truck. We will need people on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9 – 3 (we may be able to work shifts if

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you are only available part-time). For the fall we plan on selling fresh juice, oranges, avocados, small pumpkins, apples and a few other quick lunch items such as yogurt and other snacks. Once again see Dan or Anna-Marie in the department office.

If you have not done so, check out the new website for the store at www.csupomona.edu/farmstore, it lists all of our weekly specials, gives updates on upcoming events (such as the Pumpkin Festival) and has many other links we can build upon for future development. One of these includes a link for e-shopping from the store and delivery after the first of the year.

Some of the coming events at the store include:

October – Fall Festival, pumpkins & fall merchandise

November – 11/15 begins Holiday gift pack sales & Shelton’s fresh turkeys

December – Holiday Gift pack sales

January – 2nd annual guacamole bowl, win big prizes for the best guacamole recipe on campus

February – Valentine’s Day gifts, California Cheese Festival

March – Annual Citrus Festival

We need the help!! Let us know if you are interested.

Congratulations to President’s Honors List Students – Spring 2003

Congratulations to all off our students who made the President’s Honor List at the end of Spring Quarter 2003. This list honors students who maintain a 3.5 grade point average in three out of four quarters during a full academic year. Keep up the hard work!

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Major</u> |
|-------------|--------------|
| Paul Nurre | Agronomy |

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Shawn Overstreet | Agronomy |
| Andrew Gaer | Landscape Irrigation Science |
| Devin Alderton | Horticulture |
| Petra Baldovino | Horticulture |
| Anat Lerttanaphiboon | Horticulture |
| Margaret Rios-Sanborn | Horticulture |
| Christy Graham | Horticulture |
| Toni Siebert | Horticulture |
| Robert Walton | Horticulture |
| Jason Gihring | Ag Biology |
| William Jolley | Ag Biology |
| Kathleen Mejia | Ag Biology |

Congratulations to Dean’s Honors List – Summer 2003

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Major</u> |
|---------------|--------------|
| Geoff Galindo | Horticulture |

Club News

This space is reserved in the next newsletter for news from the following clubs:

- Los Robles
- Los Rancheros
- Golf Course Superintendents
- Ag Bio
- Landscape Irrigation Science

Deadline for submissions is October 15. How about a report on activities and officers?

What I did on my Summer Break!

Fred’s (Roth) summer

I began my summer by flying to Belize for a week with the Los Robles club and Joan, my wife. We had a great time in the Mecal River Jungle Camp viewing Toucans and sleeping with cockroaches and 5 inch spiders. Neither are very cuddly. We visited at least three Maya sites, one of which was in Guatemala, which was its own adventure.

Joan and I then flew to Portland, OR where I began a weeklong bike ride down the unbelievably beautiful Oregon coast. It was one of the best rides I have ever done for sheer mind-blowing scenery and fellowship. Why I everyone ride bikes?

I did a second ride in late July from San Francisco to Santa Barbara with Joan (in the support van) and 11

other riders. This is a ride I have now done 14 times but I never tire of it.

I also found time to kill a few albacore, move Joan into a new classroom at Upland High School and replace 26 year-old carpet throughout the house. We are still in boxes from that experience.

Dan Hostetler

For our 25th wedding anniversary my wife and I spent 7 days in Kauai relaxing. In addition we got to go to Lake Shasta and Lake Mojave to do a ton of water skiing. We also got to go to the NASCAR race in Bristol, Tennessee in August (only 89° & 100% humidity) but it was all worth it. Otherwise I spent the summer slaving away at good old CPP.

Shoumo Mitra

This summer I had a wonderful opportunity to attend the 1st International Conference on Turfgrass Management and Science for Sports Fields in Athens, Greece. I presented a research paper on using biochemical methods to detect

herbicide injury to turfgrasses in sports fields. We visited some of the actual sites for the next summer Olympics to be held in Athens. Athens is a wonderful city with a lot of history. The formal welcome reception of the conference was held in the Agricultural University of Athens, Greece. Rest of the summer I have been busy working on different research projects.

Russell Plumb

In the imaginary world of job applications & résumés I managed the turf plots for our Monsanto & Scott's Research programs – but in the real world I was *cheap graduate labor* for Shoumo who worked my tail off!!

Anna Marie Barlet

I had a very pleasant summer while still working in the dept. office compared with other hectic summers here at CPP. Dan cut me loose for a couple of weeks in late August, which proved to be a costly break. I purchased a brand new camper for my truck and headed for the hills – Huntington Lake that is (2 hours NE of Fresno, western Sierra's). It was a short and sweet shake down trip for the new rig, but enjoyable just the same. Looking forward to taking it out again real soon.

Joe Dominguez

I hung around campus and worked for Dr. Still throughout the summer. Pretty routine except for the accident I got into that totaled my truck.

Chad Cleveland

I spent my summer working on the farm once again. However, I managed to take some time off and visit Hawaii, Mexico, and the lake and go on a road trip with Lucas where we saw 10 states in 10 days! So my last summer vacation was very busy.

Brent Peterson

My first few months of summer were taken up by summer school. I took some classes to get ahead in school. After summer school my Dad put me to work at this shop. Summer went by fast and now I am here at Cal Poly Pomona.

Melynda Holm

Between summer school and working in the department office, I was able to take a 2 week vacation to Washington State. After 2 days of driving the slower paced life of rural Washington was welcomed. Rain, cool temperatures along with horse back riding and replacing a clutch made a great finish to summer.

Peter Lain

Over the summer I worked full-time on the Cal Poly farm. I also went on some rather short excursions; such as going ocean fishing at Catalina Island and going dove hunting in Palmdale.

Bianca Good

This summer was really exciting for me because my best friend is getting married. I had fun with all of the wedding plans. We are going to Hawaii for her wedding, so I am really looking forward to it. Besides that, I have just been hanging out at the beach with friends. One more class and I graduate! (Yeah!) I am so happy.

Peggy Perry worked at AGRIsapes during the summer along with Brian Osman to get the Lifecycle Garden ready for our fall field trips. I also helped my son get ready to go away to Chico State where he is a freshman majoring in Communications Design. Our family spent some time in the Sierras at a friend's cabin where we fished, hiked, swam in the Kings River, and rode horses through the Giant Sequoias. Great summer!

Fall BBQ

Natsuyo Aoyama: I spent the summer working in Dr. David Still's laboratory. I worked on developing a gene expression assay by using a Luminex system. Basically, I had to develop RNA extraction methods, first-strand and second-strand cDNA synthesis, and finally, in-vitro transcription assays. These data are being used to develop gene expression assays to determine gene function in our herbal-medicine and lettuce gene expression. Also, while I was resting, I went to the National Plant Biology meetings in Hawaii and gave a poster on my research!

David Still: I spent the summer working in my lab, writing papers and grants! I spent a lot of time thinking about how to improve my classes so that students would be clamoring to take them. I went to a couple of meetings which were, of course, a lot of fun. I look forward to the new school year and another year of torturing, I mean, teaching students.

James Kim: I spent the summer working in Dr. Still's laboratory. Also, I grew some choice A mushrooms. Doing so has helped me step closer to the completion of my Master's project. Also, I learned much about molecular biology from Dr. Hayashi, Dr. Still's post-doc. All in all, it was a very productive.

Matt Quist: I spent the summer working in Dr. Still's laboratory. I also went to the beach and went sailing once. I had fun playing paintball once too, until a friend accidentally shot me in the *&\$.

How I spent my summer
By. Ryan Mudry

I spent my summer working for Dr. Still and putting off writing my senior project. It was a pretty relaxing and uneventful summer. I would have to say the highlight of the summer for me was a paintballing trip where I shot Matt in the *&\$. I also took the Ag Ethics class, I guess that was good too. All in all I guess it was a pretty productive summer.

Mark your calendars now for **Thursday, October 9** from **11:45-1:00 PM** for our annual Fall Call Out. Here is a great opportunity to meet new friends and colleagues over a free BBQ tri-tip and chicken lunch. We know that many of you may have classes up to that time or immediately after so we will keep the program short. This will be immediately behind the Ag building (Bldg. 2) near "Cowboy Corner." Please try to make it so everyone can meet YOU!

Great New Book Available in Department Library:

The Department has received a copy of Native Plants for High Elevation Gardens. Ms. Janice Busco, a 1985 graduate of Ornamental Horticulture, co-authored the book with Nancy Morin. It is a beautifully photographed book completed in conjunction with the Flagstaff Arboretum in Arizona. The book is based on plants that grow in the 4000 – 12,000 foot elevations of the west.

Peggy Sears-Perry holds the departmental copy for use and check-out by students. If you are interested in obtaining a copy the ISBN # is 1-55591-475-6. Fulcrum Publishing is the publisher. Website address is www.fulcrum-books.com.

Going to Vegas??

The Western Expo Trade Show for Horticulture is scheduled (after Pumpkin Festival) for October 22-23 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. This is sponsored by the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers (formerly CAN) and is one of the largest Horticultural shows on the west coast. Many members of Los Robles are traveling to the show as well as other students. It is a great way to get connected to the nursery and landscape industries. Some special behind the scenes tours have been arranged.

Registration is free through September. See Fred Roth for details.