

# PLANT SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

September, 2009, Vol. 20, Issue 09

*Holding the Heartland Together*

*South Dakota State University*

## ***New Grad Student Scholarship in Plant Science . . .***

Steve and Fran Gylling of Brookings have established the “Doc” Arnold Grad Student Scholarship in Plant Science at South Dakota State University. Recipients shall be students pursuing a M.S. or Ph.D. degree and enrolled in a Plant Science graduate program. *Dr. Gene Arnold came to SDSU as an Assistant Professor of Plant Science in 1970. In 1974, he was promoted to Associate Professor, and received the rank of Professor in 1980. From 1988 until the time of his death on August 25, 1999, he served as Associate Dean and Director of Academic Programs for the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. Graduate students were a big part of Dr. Arnold’s academic life. During his career” Doc “ Arnold supervised many Plant Science graduate students; Steve Gylling was fortunate to be among the group.*

## ***Congratulations . . .***

The 2009 recipient of the McCarty Award for Academic Advising in the ABS College is **Arvid Boe**. The award will be presented at the ABS scholarship banquet on September 23.

The year **2009** marks the **30<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of the merger of three units, agronomy/plant pathology/entomology, into the Plant Science Department

**Peter Sexton** was appointed to Graduate Faculty status in September.

The 2009 recipient of the Entomology Foundation Integrated Pest Management Team Award is the Soybean Aphid IPM Team. **Kelley Tilmon** represents South Dakota on this team.

The following faculty received promotions/tenure in 2009: **Xingyou Gu** (promoted to Associate Professor), **Kelley Tilmon** (promoted to Associate Professor), **Sue Blodgett** (approved for Tenure).

The Plant Science Department was awarded \$4,168,977 in grants and contracts in FY09.

## ***Reduced Tuition for State Employees . . .***

The Legislature has granted reduced tuition for a large number of courses, but it does not fund all the courses offered at the BOR institutions. The costs of offering “self support” classes must be raised through the tuition charged on those courses. If monies are not sufficient,

lower enrollment self support courses need to be dropped or self-support tuition increased. Another group of courses are subsidized by state appropriated dollars. They are “state - support”. The Legislature has decided to only grant state employees a tuition reduction for the courses that it pays for-- state support courses.

## Fall 2009 Seminar Series

Presentations begin Mondays, 3PM @ NCARL  
Technology Transfer Center

### ***Speaker Schedule***

**Sept. 21: Gregg Carlson (SDSU Plant Science)**

**Sept 28: Joe LaForest (U. of Georgia)**

**Oct 05: Jixiang Wu (SDSU Plant Science)**

**Oct 19: Jamie Strange (USDA-ARS, Logan, UT)**

**Oct 26: Tamra Jackson (U of Nebraska-Lincoln)**

**Nov 02: Steve Shirliffe (U of Saskatchewan-CAN)**

**Nov 09: Pavel Saska – Crop Res Institute,  
Czech Republic**

**Nov 16: Ronald Alverson (Wentworth, SD)**

**Nov 23: Peter Sexton (SDSU Plant Science)**

**Nov 30: Carmen Fernholz (U of Minnesota)**

Seminars will be streamed over the Web. The URL will be  
[mms://media.sdstate.edu/plant\\_science](https://media.sdstate.edu/plant_science)

## ***Grant/Award Opportunities . . .***

The **Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council** is accepting pre-proposals for 2010. Deadline submission date is November 6. More information is available at <http://www.smallgrains.org>

The **SDSU Water Resources Institute (SD WRI)** is making plans for FY2010 announcing the State Water Resources Institute Program (SWRIP) request for pre-proposals. The tentative date for pre-proposal submission to SD WRI is October 15, 2009. Final selections will be identified by November 14, with full proposals due no later than December 26. More information can be obtained from [denise.hovland@sdstate.edu](mailto:denise.hovland@sdstate.edu) at the SDSU Water Resources Institute office.

**Academic and Scholarly Excellence Program** replaces the Mini Grant and New Idea programs. Deadline for application submission is November 1, 2009. The description and fillable forms have been posted to Inside State at: Academic and Scholarly Excellence.

Guidelines for the **F. O. Butler Faculty Awards Program** are posted at:

<https://insidestate.sdstate.edu/presoffice/Documents/FO%20Butler%20Faculty%20Awards%20Guidelines.pdf>  
Nomination deadline is November 20, 2009.

The **2010 NSA Research Forum** will be held in Fargo, ND, January 13-14, 2010. Faculty interested in presenting a paper/poster at the Forum should refer to the September 11 email from Paulette Heesch which contains registration information and forms. Call for Papers registration deadline is November 15, 2009. Further questions should be directed to [lkroh@sunflowernsa.com](mailto:lkroh@sunflowernsa.com) or call 1-888-718-7033 x4.

#### *Staff Changes . . .*

Mike Catangui and Louis Hesler (USDA-ARS) are jointly advising new M.S. entomology graduate assistant **Ginger (Hewson) McNickle**. Ginger began her duties August 25 and has her office at NCARL along with other PS graduate students Pamela (Johnson) Bartlett and Danielle Brandt.

**Greg DeRynck** was appointed to a MS assistantship 08/31/09 and will be advised by Peter Sexton. **Vincent Obade** is a new PhD graduate assistant working in soil and water research with Dave Clay; he began his duties 09/09/09. **Matthew J. Hansen** entered a MS assistantship study program effective 09/01/09; he will be advised by Vance Owens and Dwayne Beck.

Former graduate assistant **Tabithia Christner** is transferring to pursue a MS degree program in Animal and Range Sciences effective 09/08/09.

Postdoctoral Research Associate **Neeja Tyagi** has completed her term contract and her last day of employment with Plant Science is September 21, 2009.

Student Tech Fellow **Colin Zent** is assigned to the Plant Science Department for Fall 2009.

#### *In Remembrance . . .*

Memorial services for **Cynthia 'Cindy' Silva** were held September 4, 2009, at the Brookings Wesleyan Church in Brookings, SD. Cindy passed away at her home on August 31 after a long, valiant fight with cancer. She had

been employed with the Plant Science Department since 1987 and trained hundreds of seed analysts during her career at SDSU.

Sympathy is extended to **Shannon and Larry Osborne** on the recent loss of Shannon's grandmother; and to **Peggy and Jim Egeberg** on the death of Jim's mother.

Retired professor, researcher and PS department head **Maurice (Maury) Horton**, of Brownsburg, IN, passed away on September 3, 2009, at the age of 78. Dr. Horton spent 27 years at SDSU, and from 1990-2000 he worked for the US Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC. He and his wife, Betty, continued to return to their Lake Poinsett family cabin for summer vacations and enjoyed visiting with many former colleagues and friends in the Brookings community. Memorials can be directed to: The Maurice and Betty Horton Research and Education Scholarship, SDSU Foundation, 815 Medary Avenue, Box 525, Brookings, SD 57007.

Or: to the Calvary United Methodist Church Building Fund, Brownsburg, IN.

#### *QUOTE OF THE DAY . . .*

*"Life engenders life. Energy creates energy. It is by spending oneself that one becomes rich."*  
-- Sarah Bernhardt --

#### *Job Listings . . . (posted at each building)*

**SDSU Plant Science** – Ag Res Mgr/Specialist, Small Grains Pathology, 09/24/09

**SDSU Plant Science** – Grad Res Asst – Insect taxonomy/ecology background desired, MS/PhD, Open until filled  
Texas A&M – Professor/Endowed Chair in Cotton Ent., PhD-Entomology or related biological science, 01/01/10

#### *Calendar Dates . . .*

Sept 23 ABS College Scholarship Banquet  
Sept 28 PS Executive Committee, SAG 238  
Oct 12 Native American Day HOLIDAY  
Oct 13 PS Executive Committee, SAG 238  
Oct 13-16 CES Annual Conference, Brookings (Swiftel)  
Oct 21 Ag-Bio College Careers Day  
Oct 23 PS Faculty Meeting, SAG 238  
Oct 24 Hobo Day (Northern Iowa)  
Oct 26 PS Executive Committee, SAG 138  
Oct 28 Pres/Provost mtg w/ABS Faculty, 3:15pm, SDM 100  
Nov 2-4 SDSU NC Accreditation Site Visit  
Nov 11 Veteran's Day HOLIDAY  
04/30/10 PS Recognition Banquet-Volstorff

