

PLANT SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

February 2009, Vol. 20, Issue 02

Holding the Heartland Together

South Dakota State University

Announcements . . .

The Weed Science Society of America honored **Sharon Clay** with the WSSA Outstanding Paper for 2007 at the 49th Annual WSSA Meeting held in Orlando, FL. Dr. Clay co-authored a paper, *"Heterologous Hybridization of Cotton Microarrays with Velvetleaf Reveals Physiological Responses Due to Corn Competition,"* that appeared in the Weed Science Society of America's journal, *Weed Science*. David Horvath, a USDA scientist from North Dakota, and with Danny Llewellyn, the sub-program leader of genomics and plant development at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Australia, also co-authored the paper. Dr. Clay's project group also presented two posters at the WSSA meeting:

Influence of Velvetleaf on Soybean Growth and Yield - S.A. Hansen, S.A. Clay, D.E. Clay and G. Reicks

Early Growth and Development Response of Corn to Canola Competition and Shade Stress - J.C. Moriles, S.A. Clay, D.E. Clay, S.A. Hansen and D.P. Horvath

SDSU Faculty Excellence Awards were presented February 24. **Michael Moechnig** was recognized with a Service Award for his paper entitled 'SDSU and Extension Improving South Dakota's Landscape.'

The Graduate Council approved the nomination of **William (Bill) Berzonsky** for membership to the Graduate Faculty at its January 20, 2009, meeting.

You will note from the revised staff rosters distributed earlier this month that **Kathy Grady** has relocated to SNP office 245B. **Kelley Tilmon** has relocated to SNP office 248B. Telephone numbers will remain the same.

New Winter Wheat Variety Release . . .

The SD Agricultural Experiment Station announces the release of a new hard red winter wheat variety named 'Lyman'. Lyman is similar to Arapahoe in maturity, height and winter hardiness but has slightly less straw strength. Lyman has performed well in SDSU crop performance yield trials, ranking first of 30 varieties and experimental lines in 2007 and 10th last year.

A Farming Systems Forum is scheduled for March 6, 2009, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in Volstorff Ballroom, University Student Union.

You are encouraged to be watching developments during the current legislative session regarding issues relative to SDSU and its employees. **You may contact your legislators by logging on to the legislative website:** <http://legis.state.sd.us/who/index.aspx>.

Joseph F. Nelson Undergraduate Mentorship . . .

The announcement and mentorship application form for the Joseph F. Nelson Undergraduate Mentorship Program for Summer of 2009 has been posted to the Academic Affairs website at:

<http://www3.sdstate.edu/Academics/AcademicAffairs/AwardsApplications/JosephFNelsonUndergraduateMentorshipProgram/>

Completed application forms are due to the Vice President for Academic Affairs Office by March 20, 2009. Questions regarding the mentorship and eligibility should be directed to Dr. Christopher Chase, Christopher.chase@sdstate.edu

Graduate Student Research Award Contest . . .

Applications for the Sigma Xi annual Graduate Student Research Award are due March 30, 2009. The contest is open to any graduate student who is conducting research and who is eligible for membership in Sigma Xi. For application information contact Volker Brozel, Department of Biology/Microbiology, Volker.brozel@sdstate.edu

Schultz-Werth Award . . .

The Schultz-Werth Award Committee awards up to \$2,500 individually to senior students who submit research papers judged outstanding based upon originality, scholarship, and creativity. This year's application deadline is March 31. Complete information and application forms are available from the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs or the website at: <http://www3.sdstate.edu/Academics/AcademicAffairs/AwardsApplications/SchultzWerthAward/>

Accounting Reminder . . .

If you receive an invoice for a purchase order, please be sure and send it to the Plant Science Main Office for processing.

2009 State of South Dakota HOLIDAYS

January 01 New Year's Holiday
January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 16 President's Day
May 25 Memorial Day
July 03 Independence Day (Observed)
September 07 Labor Day
October 12 Native American Holiday
November 26 Thanksgiving Day
December 25 Christmas Day

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January 01 New Year's Holiday
January 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the proceeding Friday is observed as the paid holiday for state employees. If a holiday falls on a Sunday, it is observed on the following Monday.

Project Leaders and Employee Supervisors . . .

Please remember to always email Anita Wells and Denise Pike whenever student positions have ended or when student employees resign.

Plant Science/NCARL Spring 2009 Seminars . . .

Regular Monday seminars will be held 3:00-4:00 p.m. in SAG room 100B. Speaker schedule is as follows:

- Mar 02 - Sharon Clay, SDSU Plant Science
Mar 09 - R. Jay Goos, NDSU
Mar 16 - Michael Lehman, USDA-ARS NCARL
*Mar 23 - Tom Caspar, USDA-ARS NSTRL (Ames)
Mar 30 - Susan Moser, Iowa State University
Apr 06 - Matt Liebman, Iowa State University
Apr 13 - Easter Monday - NO SEMINAR
Apr 20 - George Heimpel, University of Minnesota
Apr 27 - Zuhair Masri, ICARDA

*Dybing Lecture

Staff Changes . . .

Md. Munshi Kamruzzaman of Bangladesh joined the Seed Molecular Biology project as Research Associate I effective 02/02/09. Dr. Munshi's research emphasis at SDSU will be positional cloning and molecular characterization of seed dormancy genes in rice.

New Research Associate II with the small grain and crops pathology project is Krishna Bondalapati. Krishna obtained her M.S. degree from SDSU in December 2008 and began her new position 02/09/09.

Visiting Research Scientist Jinfeng Zhang arrived 02/10/09 to conduct research in molecular mechanisms regulating seed dormancy in cereal crops. Mr. Zhang is advised by Xingyou Gu.

Peter Sexton, Crops Specialist at the University of Maine, has accepted the Alternative Agricultural Systems position in Plant Science effective July 1, 2009.

Thank you . . .

'Plant Science Department: Thank you for your generous contribution to the Brookings Area Food Pantry. Your support is greatly appreciated!'

Council on Emergency Services

'SDSU Plant Science: Likely most of you have heard that I fell on the ice and broke my leg. I sincerely appreciate all of the support, thoughts, prayers, and the wonderful basket of goodies you sent. All is going well; my leg (and pride) are healing quite nicely. I hope to be back in the office soon. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness.'

Kurt Reitsma

(Kurt continues to recover from his injury but he indicates progress has been slower than expected. Get well wishes may be sent to 601 S. Mary Drive, Tea, SD 57064.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY . . .

'A great attitude does much more than turn on the lights in our worlds; it seems to magically connect us to all sorts of serendipitous opportunities that were somehow absent before the change.'

-- Earl Nightingale (1921-89)--

Job Listings . . . (posted at each building)

- Ducks Unlimited - Agronomist, BS degree, 03/15/09
Kansas State - Assistant Scientist-Weed Sci, BS/MS, 03/01/09
SDSU Plant Science - Grad Res Asst-Entomology/Agron, BS/MS, Spring 09

Calendar Dates . . .

- Feb 26 Pres. Chicoine mtg w/ABS faculty, 3:00 pm, DM 100
Feb 27 PS Faculty Meeting, SAG 111
Mar 02 PS Executive Committee, SAG 238
Mar 03 PS Office staff meeting, SAG 238
Mar 06 Farming Systems Forum - SSU Volstorff
Mar 09-13 SPRING BREAK
Mar 09 Career Service Spring Mtg, 1:30-3:30 pm, PAC
Mar 19 Monsanto Reception, Innovation Campus
Mar 30 PS Faculty Meeting, SAG 238
Apr 10 Last day to take Oral Exams for graduation
Apr 24 PS Recognition Banquet, Volstorff
May 9 Commencement Ceremonies:
Undergrad, 10:00 am, Frost Arena
Grad, 2:30 pm, PAC