

Gifts Continued

connecting them with Soil & Crop Sciences students and faculty. To explore gift options, visit <http://giving.tamu.edu/how-to-give/>. When donating, select College, Soil & Crop Sciences Department, and Soil & Crop Sciences Development Account.

Awards & Recognitions

Dr. Tom Cothren, Texas Plant Protection Association Award for Academic Achievement

Dr. Jim McAfee, Dr. William H. Daniel Award for Excellence in Teaching, Research and Extension, National Sports Turf Conference

Sarah Lancaster, Slick Fellowship

Les Kuhlman, Slick Fellowship

Justin Scheiner, 1st Place and \$300, Poster Competition, Beltwide Cotton Conference

Justin Scheiner, 2nd Place and \$200, Oral Presentation, Beltwide Cotton Conference

Josh Bynum, 2nd Place and \$200, Poster

Competition, Beltwide Cotton Conference

Nilesh Dighe, 1st Place and \$200, Graduate Student Paper Competition, Beltwide Cotton Conference

Polly Longenberger, 2nd Place and \$100, Graduate Student Paper Competition, Beltwide Cotton Conference

Ronnie Schnell, 1st Place and \$500, Graduate Student Poster Competition, Texas A&M Agriculture Conference

Scott Stanislav, 2nd Place and \$200, Undergraduate Student Poster Competition, Texas A&M Agriculture Conference

Scott Stanislav, 2nd Place, Oral Presentation, Soil Survey and Land Resources Workshop

Max Batla, 2nd Place, Speech Contest, Southern Weed Science Society

Judy Young, Administrative Support Award, Soil & Crop Departmental Awards

James McAfee, Extension Award, Soil & Crop Departmental Awards

Changel Scheuring, Research Support Award, Soil & Crop Departmental Awards

Gary Nimr, Technical Support Staff Award, Soil & Crop Departmental Awards

Morgan Arnett, Undergraduate Student Support Award, Soil & Crop Departmental Awards

Brad Westmoreland, Graduate Teaching Award, Soil & Crop Departmental Awards

Gary Bomar, Collaborating County Extension Agent Award, Soil & Crop Departmental Awards

John Cosper, Mike McBee & Glenn Rod, Outstanding Collaboration with our Teaching and Turf Programs, Soil & Crop Departmental Awards

Lloyd Rooney, 2007 Presidential Award of Excellence for Faculty Service to International Students, Texas A&M University International Board

James Beard, Founder's Award, Turfgrass Producers of Texas

Mike Chandler, Outstanding Teaching Award, Weed Science Society of America

Polly Longenberger, 2007 Gerald O. Mott Meritorious Graduate Student Award in Crop Sciences

Hway-Seen, 1st and 2nd Place, Poster Design, Texas A&M University Writing Center, Student Research Week.

Benjamin Beyer, C. Everett Salyer Fellowship in Cotton Research

Friends & Former Students

NEWSLETTER

Soil & Crop Sciences

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AGGIES IN THE BIG EASY

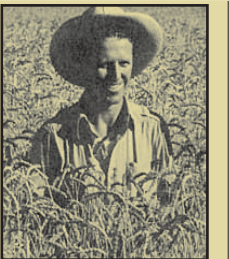
ASA-CSSA-SSSA Meetings

Make plans to attend the November 4-8, 2007 ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meetings at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Join other Aggies for the Annual Soil & Crop Sciences Aggie Mixer, Tuesday, November 6, 2007, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Mulates Party Hall, 201 Julia Street, New Orleans.

Borlaug Awarded Congressional Medal

Dr. Norman Borlaug, distinguished professor of international agriculture, grew up working on his family's 106 acre farm in Iowa. He attended a one teacher, one room school house up until the eighth grade and he actually failed his entrance exam into the University of Minnesota.



Looking back over the life of Dr. Borlaug, it is clear that life's many adversities, lots of hard work, pit bull determination and lifelong education, made the man -- the man who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom, the National Medal of Science and the Congressional Gold Medal. According to the 2006 Congressional Tribute, "Dr. Borlaug has saved more lives than any other person who has ever lived, and likely has saved more lives in the Islamic world than any other human being in history."

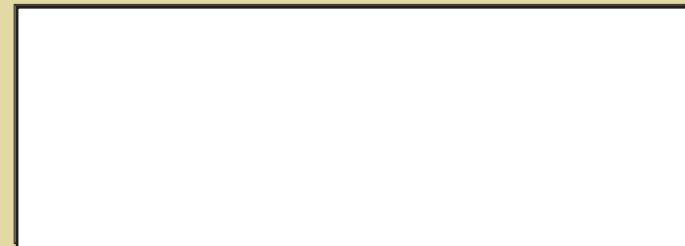
He has made such a dramatic influence on humanity that a stained glass "World Peace Window" built at St. Mark's Cathedral in Minneapolis, Minnesota, depicting "peace makers" of the 20th century, includes Dr. Borlaug. His story, of an American scientist who was able to save the world from hunger through the development of a new type of wheat, was featured on the popular television show, *The West Wing*. The breadth of his popularity has even reached young children who have grasped his story and put it into trendy rap music.

Recently, the \$2.5 million endowed Borlaug-Monsanto Chair was established at Texas A&M to support plant breeding and crop improvement. "We consider this a tremendous opportunity to continue Dr. Borlaug's legacy," said Elsa Morano, Vice Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture at TAMU, said. Texas A&M University System Board of Regents



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SOIL & CROP SCIENCES



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Bioenergy Invigorates Department

David Baltensperger, Department Head

Putting the “bio” in bioenergy has moved from talking to research and extension efforts across the country. This fall more than 50 soil and crop scientists in our department listed activity in bioenergy research or extension, up from five two years ago. Our ability to move rapidly to provide science-based answers to the many questions being asked has resulted in new corporate partnerships with Ceres and Chevron Technology Ventures, a focused seminar series on bioenergy (may be viewed at <http://soilcrop.tamu.edu/podcasts.shtml>), and a new demand for our graduates.

We are adjusting our linkages to interact with the Department of Energy, Department of Transportation and other agencies with efforts in bioenergy. Between corporate and agency participants and internal funding, the department has taken the lead in grants exceeding \$10 million. This 3-5 year commitment is more than was invested in the previous 20 years and we are currently negotiating for increased activity in broad partnerships.

Borlaug Continued

also approved renaming the University’s Office of International Agriculture to the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture.

At 92 years young, Dr. Borlaug is still working and inspiring others to ask questions and realize what is possible, even when you come from the most humble of circumstances.

Bioenergy has led to increased demand for Texas crop production and virtually every Texas commodity is at a higher price level than seen in the past five years. This demand for increased production has led to increased activities in the input industry and further spurred demand for Aggies. If you know of potential students – the opportunities have never been better. Please have them contact, Mark Hall, mhall@ag.tamu.edu for more information.

Our graduate programs are expanding as well and we are currently offering assistantships for several top science students. Contact Wayne Smith, cwsmith@tamu.edu , for further information. You may also visit <http://ogs.tamu.edu/> .



Ralph Waniska Passes Away

Ralph Waniska passed away on June 25, 2007. Waniska was born in rural Nebraska. He received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Nebraska in 1972. Shortly after graduation he began work as an analytical chemist in Omaha, Nebraska.

He received a master’s degree from Texas A&M in food science and technology and a Ph.D. degree from Cornell University in 1982.

In 1984 he accepted a position at Texas A&M University, where he was later promoted to professor of food science and technology. Waniska was known as an international expert on sorghum phenols and tannins as well as proteins in cereals. He is survived by his wife Shahla and his sons, Nason and Raymond.

Former Students Needed For Recruitment

The Department is updating its mailing list for former students and they want to know what you are doing these days. Please email Kathy Ferguson, KFerguson@ag.tamu.edu, and give her your current address and occupation. Also, Soil & Crop Sciences is always looking for great stories about former graduates and what they are doing to use for recruiting endeavors.

New Faculty and Staff

In a budget conscious era, the Soil & Crop Sciences Department has been very fortunate to fill many positions. Please welcome the following people to our Department:

Ambika Chandra, Assistant Professor and Turf Breeder, Dallas

Paul DeLaune, Assistant Professor and Environmental Soil Scientist, Vernon

Youjun Deng, Assistant Professor, Soil/Clay Mineralogy, College Station

Danny Fromme, Assistant Professor, Extension Agronomist, Uvalde

Staci Frerich, Academic Advisor II, Recruitment

Tiffany Green, Administrative Secretary, Instructional Office, College Station

Amir Ibrahim, Associate Professor and Small Grains Breeder, College Station

Jon Snider, Lecturer for AGRO 430, Turfgrass Maintenance

Available Positions

Extension Forage Specialist, Overton.

Ways You Can Give

Former students and friends of the Soil & Crop Sciences Department may now contribute resources that help faculty excel in their fields and students become confident professionals. Pledges of current gifts may be made or ones to be fully funded in the future. Methods of giving, now or in the future, vary. Companies may also make corporate gifts

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A&M Golf Invitational Postponed

The 10th Annual Texas A&M Invitational Fundraiser was scheduled for September 10, 2007, but a rainout has forced a rescheduling. The tournament will be now be November 12, 2007, at Brookhaven Country Club in Dallas, Texas.

Founded in 1988, the Invitational supports research, education and scholarships in the turfgrass program in the Soil & Crop Sciences Department. Proceeds will be added to the Texas Turfgrass Research, Education and Extension Endowment.

Dr. Milt Engelke, Turfgrass Researcher, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Dallas, said, “The Texas A&M Invitational is the only sustainable revenue generator that we have to grow the endowment.” He also said, “Turfgrass is one of the few agricultural commodities that directly affects all of the people all of the time. Grass in general is what holds this planet together.”

If you missed your chance to play in the first scheduled tournament, and want to play, contact Kat Belew, Tournament Coordinator at 972.952.9649 or email her at texasaminvitational@tamu.edu.



Join more than 200 Aggies and friends to support this cause.

Former Students Pins

The Aggie Turf Club is seeking contributions to help support club activities. They have designed a lapel pin for former students of the TAMU Turfgrass Program. For any contribution of \$40 or more, former students will receive two lapel pins. Their goal is to grow the Aggie turf network to benefit

former, current and future students. To order your pin today, go to <http://turf-club.tamu.edu/> and click on Former Student Pin and Contribution.

New Soil & Crop Sciences Recruiter

It’s good to be back! My name is Staci Frerich, Class of ‘93 undergraduate and ‘95 graduate of Plant Breeding. I have the opportunity to share with prospective students the great things that the Soil & Crop Science Department and Texas A&M University have to offer. It is amazing how the things you enjoy most in life come full circle, and now I am back in Aggie-land (luckily not chopping cotton in the bottoms anymore). What a great opportunity I have been given to represent the department as an Academic Advisor for recruitment. I hope to share with potential incoming freshmen and transfer students the education and career opportunities the department has to offer. Within the walls of Heep, we know that the department is global and affects every individual who consumes food and is clothed, but I want to share our message with urban and inner city students who have not made that connection. The nontraditional agricultural students are waiting for us to show them that they have a place in our department and in agriculture. I will be traveling across the state to bring these students to our department and allow them to understand the impact they can make as individuals in agriculture.

