THE COLLEGE OF ACES AND PAUL A. FUNK
2013 RECOGNITION AWARDS

**Faculty Award for Global Impact**
Mohammad Babadoost was selected as the recipient of the Faculty Award for Global Impact in recognition of his international achievements and demonstrated excellence related to global engagement.

**Karl E. Gardner Outstanding Undergraduate Adviser Award**
Darin Eastburn was selected as the recipient of the Karl E. Gardner Outstanding Adviser Award in recognition of his demonstrated excellence in undergraduate advising and counseling.

**Louis V. Logeman Graduate Student Teaching Award**
Carolyn Bonin was selected as the recipient of the Louis V. Logeman Graduate Student Teaching Award in recognition of her significant contributions in teaching Diseases of Field Crops and Plant and Animal Genetics.

**Service Recognition Award**
Leslie Domier was selected as the recipient of the Service Recognition Award in recognition of his outstanding service to the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

**Professional Staff Award for Excellence**
Troy Cary was selected as the recipient of the Professional Staff Award for Excellence—Sustained Excellence—Research in recognition of his exceptionally outstanding and meritorious work over an extended period.

The recipients will receive their awards at the ACES Awards Banquet on April 15, 2013.
Nabor House Dedicated New Fraternity House

The Nabor House Fraternity was founded in 1939 on the U. of I. campus to give young men with a rural background an economical place to live. In October 2012, Nabor House welcomed back its alumni and supporters for a dedication of their new fraternity house on the corner of Lincoln and Iowa streets in Urbana. Among the many generous donors was 1959 Agronomy graduate Jerry Stoller, of Houston, who founded the company Stoller USA, a crop nutrient supplier based in Texas. Stoller pledged the leadership gift of $300,000, which was recognized through the Stoller Dining Hall in the new Nabor House. Jerry founded Stoller USA more than 45 years ago and continues to serve as this international company’s president and CEO. He is recognized globally as a leading authority on plant nutrition.

Illinois Corn Breeders’School

Remember to register for the Illinois Corn Breeders’ School being held March 4-5, 2013 at the I Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign, Illinois. For more information, visit the Illinois Corn Breeders web site at www.conferences.illinois.edu/cornbreeders. If you have questions, please email Patty Sarver at <pasarver@illinois.edu>, or phone her at 217-300-0517.

Remembering Richard “Dick” Lawson Bernard

Dick Bernard passed away on December 20, 2012 in Danville at the age of 86. Dick was an internationally-recognized soybean research geneticist and worked for 34 years for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Soybean Research Lab at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was curator of the USDA Soybean Germplasm Collection and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Crop Sciences. After his official retirement in 1988 from the USDA, he continued his work, switching his focus from field soybeans to developing improved vegetable-type soybeans known as edamame. His Gardensoy varieties were widely distributed to home gardeners and small vegetable farmers across the United States and overseas.

Remembering Marshal Dean McGlamery

Marshal McGlamery passed away on January 25, 2013, in Suffolk, VA at the age of 80. Marshal was a graduate of Oklahoma State University in 1958 and earned his Ph.D. in agronomy at the University of Illinois in 1965. He was on the faculty at the UI and worked for the USDA Extension Program until he retired in 2000. During his tenure, he received many prestigious awards including the USDA Superior Service Award in 1983, the UI-CES Sustained Excellence in 1984, the UIUC Funk Award in 1986, and was made an honorary member of the American Society of Agronomy in 1999. He spent two summers in India helping to establish soybeans as an edible protein and did sabbaticals at the University of Minnesota, North Carolina State University, and the University of Arkansas. Marshal served as "Santa Claus" for many years for the Agronomy Department.

His family requests that in lieu of gifts, memorial donations be given in his name to Alzheimer's Association (alz.org) or the PABC Building Fund (600 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Urbana, IL 61801). Condolences may be registered at www.rwbakerfh.com.
After graduating in May 2006 with a Ph.D., Tatiana Tatum obtained a teaching position at St. Xavier University in Chicago, IL. On June 5, 2010, Tatiana married David Michael Parker after they had known each other for a short 12 years. (They were both a little slow on the uptake on this one!) On their honeymoon they hiked the Inca trail to Machu Picchu in Peru. Then Michael moved from Washington DC to Chicago so that Tatiana could continue on the tenure track at St. Xavier University, where she was awarded tenure in June 2012. They are now expecting a baby in April 2013.

Linda Wessel-Beaver and Jim Beaver have been professors in the Department of Crops & Agroenvironmental Sciences, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico since 1981. Jim obtained his Ph.D. with Dr. Dick Bernard in soybean breeding in 1980. Linda finished her Ph.D. in 1981 with Dr. Bob Lambert in corn breeding.

The Mayaguez Campus is the only Spanish-speaking university in the U.S. landgrant system. Mayaguez is located on the far western part of the island, about three hours from San Juan. The campus has about 12,000 students. Most of Jim and Linda’s day-to-day work, and all of their teaching, is conducted in Spanish. Their department offers B.S. and M.S. degrees in agronomy, soils, horticulture and crop protection to about 300 undergraduate students and 60 graduate students.

Linda’s responsibilities include teaching plant breeding, statistics and experimental design. Her research focuses on breeding vegetable crops for the tropics, with an emphasis on tropical pumpkin (a winter squash). Pumpkin is the most important local vegetable crop. It is eaten daily in Puerto Rico with rice and beans. Linda’s varieties are grown throughout the island.

Jim’s work focuses on dry bean breeding and genetics, especially breeding for disease resistance. For over 30 years he has been the Principal Investigator in collaborative projects supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development working primarily in the countries of Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. These projects have developed and released small red, black and red mottled bean varieties that are widely used throughout Central America and the Caribbean. Recently he has begun work in Africa (Angola) as well. Jim also teaches an undergraduate course in Crop Ecology.

Together, Jim and Linda have been advisors to over 75 graduate students from Puerto Rico, the U.S., Latin America and Africa. During the past three summers, eight undergraduate students from the University of Puerto Rico have participated in summer internships in plant breeding through a collaborative effort between Linda and Dr. Rita Mumm. UPR students with experience in plant breeding find ample opportunities in Puerto Rico: all of the major seed companies, as well as companies like Illinois Crop Improvement, have off-season nurseries on the island.
Awards & Recognitions

North Central Weed Science Society Annual Meeting
Laura Chatham received 2nd place in the graduate student poster contest at the North Central Weed Science Society annual conference held in St. Louis in December. The title of her poster was "Association of EPSPS gene amplification with glyphosate resistance in waterhemp," and it was co-authored by Chance Riggins, Michael Owen, and Patrick Tranel.

At the same conference, Nicholas Steppig placed 2nd in the undergraduate student poster contest. His poster was "Tolerance of seed corn inbreds to postemergence applications of rimsulfuron + mesotrione + isoxadifen-ethyl or nicosulfuron + isoxadifen-ethyl," and it was co-authored by Larry Hageman, Helen Flanigan, and Patrick McMullan.

Illinois Farm Bureau 2012 Eagle Award
Recently retired from the Department of Crop Sciences, William “Bill” Shoemaker was awarded the Illinois Farm Bureau 2012 Eagle Award at their annual meeting in December. Bill worked at the university for nearly 30 years as a food crop research specialist. His research and outreach programs, including those on plasticulture, mulching, drip irrigation, row covers and high tunnel systems, revolutionized the way food crops are produced.

When receiving the award, Bill credited his colleagues in Horticulture, NRES, Crop Sciences, and Extension for making it possible for him to serve the specialty crop community and for teaching him professionalism. He was especially pleased that Dr. Easter and Dr. Hoeft were there to congratulate him on the award, as well as old farmer friends from Champaign County.

During the spring of 2013, the UI Arboretum will be adding new perennial plantings on the south side of the Miles C Hartley Selections Garden to complement the new landscape beds of native plantings around the ponds adjacent to the Kari walkway. Please visit us to learn and watch as we grow our collections.

The UI Arboretum is a popular venue for weddings and receptions, picnics, family reunions, and athletic activities. If you are interested in reserving space at the UI Arboretum for your event, please call 217-333-7579.

CONGRATULATIONS to December 2012 Crop Sciences Graduates!

- Mark R. Beamer, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Jordan E. Beyke, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Mary A. Boyle, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Katherine A. Dole, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Yanyu He, M.S. (S. Clough, advisor)
- Ashley M. Jordan, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Andrew G. Jurgens, M.S. (M. Babadoost, advisor)
- Kathleen M. Keating, Bioinformatics M.S. (M. Hudson, advisor)
- Wenting Li, M.S. (F. Zhao, advisor)
- Michael L. Price, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Derek Shiao, M.S. (G. Hartman, advisor)
- Justin J. Suhre, M.S. (B. Diers, advisor)
- Jose M. Terasawa, M.S. (B. Diers, advisor)
- Bradley J. Tomasek, M.S. (A. Davis and M. Williams, III, co-advisors)
- Fan Yang, M.S. (F. Zhao, advisor)
When the UIUC approached me about leading the establishment of the Illinois Plant Breeding Center (IPBC) and conducting research in maize breeding, I had to pay attention. The acute shortage of plant breeders was an issue garnering much concern in the U.S. and worldwide. With a fast-growing global population and limited land and water resources for crop production and greater risk due to climate change, it was clear that plant breeding would take a more essential role in providing for mankind’s needs for food, fuel, fiber, and flora. UIUC would need to play a major role in meeting this need, given its great legacy in plant breeding and world-class faculty. My career had been focused in establishing programs and systems to enable new technology/biotechnology applications to crop improvement; however, this IPBC opportunity meant establishing a program in the educational arena, something new to me given my previous focus in the seed industry, yet exciting and full of potential.

It has been a tremendous experience to work with IPBC faculty, students, and industry partners to achieve important milestones in furthering graduate education in crop improvement. It has been rewarding to interact with students to conduct research and to impart knowledge through teaching. I am very proud of the IPBC students and very hopeful for the opportunities that are before them to be productive, innovative, and ground-breaking in serving mankind in their careers ahead.

In retirement, I hope to continue a major focus in education, both with future generations of plant breeders (plant breeders always look forward into the future!) as well as continuing education for current scientists. I also look forward to involvement in product development through consultation with the seed industry. Although I wish to remain active professionally, I do plan to scale back on hours (less than 40 hours per week for sure!) and to spend more time with my delightful grandchildren.
Painting the Barn Red

Being a part of the ACES family doesn’t end with graduation or even with retirement. On Feb. 4 several former students of much beloved agronomy professor, Dr. A.W. “Tom” Burger (who taught from 1953 to 1986), came back to campus to announce their fundraising initiative to renovate a Turner Hall classroom honoring Dr. Burger and his wife Phyllis. Flying, driving and Skyping from four states, Mike and Cara Hardinger, Bill Kirk, Jerry Brookhart and wife Mary, Mark and Becky Baxa, Harold Reetz, Barb Schumacher, Sue Gray and Larry Hageman shared stories of how this dedicated teacher and his wife shaped their careers and impacted their lives. Through the classroom and through leadership of Field and Furrow for 30 years, Dr. Burger’s high standards, frank guidance and passion for excellence made their mark. As Dr. Burger would say, we “painted the barn red!”

Editor’s Note: As the newsletter was going to press, we learned that Dr. Burger passed away at the age of 89 on Friday, February 15, 2013. Visitations will be on February 22 (5-7 p.m.) and February 23 (9-10 a.m.) at Renner Wikoff Chapel, Urbana. Mass will be held on February 23 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Patrick’s Church, Urbana.

Turner Hall Transformation Project Moving Ahead

This summer will bring the sights and sounds of construction as the 200+ windows in Turner Hall will begin to be replaced. This is just the first in a series of planned improvements for the Turner Hall Transformation Project. Fundraising was officially launched last September with an initial goal of raising $5 million in private gifts to match $5 million in state funding. The focus of the project is renovation of teaching labs and classrooms. A 13-member alumni fundraising committee has been deeply engaged. Committee Co-Chair Jerry Brookhart (Ag Science ’63) and his wife Mary recently contributed a significant gift of $350,000 to renovate a Turner Hall Classroom, with a goal of incorporating classroom technology to facilitate collaboration between institutions and distance learning. For more information go to: http://advancement.aces.illinois.edu/turner.

Mid Am Horticulture Alumni Gathering

Horticulture alumni and faculty gathered at Harry Caray’s in Chicago during the January 2013 Mid America Horticulture Trade Show. Dr. Germán Bollero (Crop Sciences Department Head) and Crop Sciences faculty members Sarah Taylor-Lovell, Sam Wortman, and Andrea Faber Taylor shared news from the department with a crowd of about 40 alumni. University of Illinois had a strong presence at the show. Other speakers at the educational sessions of this multi-day conference included Rich Tobiasz, Stephanie Porter, Phil Nixon and Greg Stack. Gary Kling and Dave Williams also attended the reception. (The event was co-sponsored by ACES Advancement and Crop Sciences.)

Picture from left to right: Scott McAdam, B.S. ‘80, Ornamental Horticulture; John Block, B.S. ‘12, Horticulture; Joe Juricic, B.S. ‘11, Horticulture; Scott McAdam Jr., B.S. ‘10, Horticulture.
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Other campus buildings with Crop Sciences offices:
- Edward R. Madigan Lab (ERML)
  1201 W. Gregory Drive, MC-051
- Institute for Genomic Biology (IGB)
  1206 W. Gregory Drive, MC-195
- National Soybean Research Center (NSRC)
  1101 W. Peabody Drive, MC-637
- Plant Science Lab (PSL)
  1201 S. Dorner Drive, MC-634

Spring 2013 Calendar

March 4-5: Illinois Corn Breeders School
March 8-9: ExplorACES
March 16: Spring Vacation Begins
March 25: Instruction Resumes
April 3: Crop Sciences Donor Appreciation Reception
April 5: Last Day to Take Final Exam for May Doctoral Degree
April 12: Last Day to Add Name to May Degree List
April 12-14: Moms Weekend (with Horticulture Club Open House)
April 19: Last Day to Deposit May Doctoral Dissertations
April 26: Last Day to Deposit May Master’s Theses
May 1: Last Day of Instruction
May 2: Reading Day
May 3-10: Final Examination Period

Welcome to New Employees!

- Natalie West, Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Davis Lab, starting 12/3/12
- EunSoo “June” Seong, Visiting Scholar in the Lee Lab, starting 1/16/13
- Devin Quarles, Visiting Research Specialist in Agriculture in the Babadoost Lab, starting 2/4/13
- Tiyakhon “June” Chatnaparat, Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Zhao Lab, starting 2/4/13

Birth Announcements

Aishwarya Chapara is the daughter of Anitha Chirumamilla and Venkataramana Chapara. Aishwarya was born on Jan. 15, 2013, weighing 6 lbs. 8 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Alma Winona Riggins was born on Nov. 23, 2012, weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. and was 19-3/4 inches long. She was welcomed home by her parents Maria Villamil and Chance Riggins and brother Lucas.

Ashlyn Elizabeth Estes was born on Jan. 11, 2013, weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. and was 20 inches long. Ashlyn was welcomed home by her big sister Kaylee and parents Ron and Kelly Estes.

The next departmental newsletter will be distributed in the fall. If you have any news for the Fall 2013 Crop Sciences Newsletter, please email the information to Marcia Johnson at majhnsn@illinois.edu