Dan Anderson, Meredith Blumthald (ACE), and I have the wonderful opportunity to teach a study abroad class that traveled through Guatemala and Costa Rica during the winter break.

We spent 12 days learning about horticultural export crops and the peoples and culture of Central America. We co-learned and shared the experiences with eight great students, Amy Bredehoft, Larissa Cruz, Aubrey Kennay, Will Klein, Kayla Meyer, Jennipher Miller, Candice Miller, and Katie King.

We visited Ecke Oro Farms that produce cuttings for 70% of the poinsettia plants sold in the United States; Syngenta’s El Jocotillo Farm and Ball Horticulture’s Pan American Linda Vista Farm both produce hybrid flower seed. Have you ever tried to hand pollinate an impatients flower? The Linda Vista facility produces 5 billion flower seed yearly that are shipped to Ball Horticulture in West Chicago.

We had wonderful cultural experiences: shopping in the traditional market at Chichicastenango, doing a boat tour of the small Mayan villages of Santiago Atitlan, Santa Catarina, and San Antonio Palopo, and spending a night with host families in Costa Rica. My favorite memory was being wheeled down seemingly hundreds of steps through a wet mill at Buena Vista, a coffee cooperative in Guatemala. It gave me a very different perspective of the labor and work it takes to produce my morning cup of coffee.

We are already planning our next Study Abroad trip. We thank the Office of Academic Programs, the Study Abroad Office, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies for their generous support of our class.
Meet Suzanne Bissonnette

Suzanne was hired in August as the U. of I. Extension, Plant Clinic and IPM Coordinator. Her primary responsibilities are to centralize IPM educational outreach, diagnostics, and programming within the context of a virtual Center of Extension IPM outreach and provide program leadership for the NIFA Extension IPM (E-IPM) Illinois program, and the NPDN grant program as supports the Plant Clinic operation. She will provide leadership and deliver educational programming that includes the content areas of: plant disease and pest diagnostics and management; chemical, biological, cultural and physical pest control methods; rural and urban pest management. As coordinator, Suzanne is responsible for the supervision of the operation of the University of Illinois Plant Clinic.

Meet Stephanie Porter

Stephanie was hired in February as the Visiting Plant Diagnostic Outreach Specialist-Crop Sciences. She will serve as a plant diagnostician at the University of Illinois Plant Clinic, collaborate with departmental Extension Specialists to diagnose plant health problems and provide management recommendations, and manage the database for plant disease (NPDN), insect and weed identification, and interface with counterparts in the North Central Plant Diagnostic Network. Additionally, Stephanie will develop short courses and outreach for plant diagnostics as outlined in the NIFA-Extension IPM (E-IPM) grant.

Meet Kelly Pound

Kelley was hired as Account Technician II to work in the Business Office. I am married to Andy Pound and we have 3 boys: Trey, Will, Charlie. Andy is employed at Kraft as a line technician. I started at the University as extra help in February of 2001 at the Illini Union in the meeting room reservations office as a Secretary III. I became full time in August of 2001. I moved to Vet Med’s Business Office on 1/3/06 as an Account Technician I. A year later I upgraded to an Account Technician II. Now, on 1/3/11 I moved to Crop Sciences’s Business Office and am so glad I made the move. I really enjoy being here at Crop Sciences.

Meet Jeff Warren

Jeff Warren has been hired to fill the CSREC Farm Manager position vacated when Mike Kleiss retired in December, 2010.

Welcome to Zach Schnaufer, who is a student worker in the Business Office.

Visiting our Department

Michelle da Fonseca Santos, a visiting student from Brazil, arrived last November, and Bao Li, a visiting professor from China, arrived in October. Both will stay one year. They are here to learn about genomic technologies and will focus their research on the soybean response to stink bugs. ~ Steve Clough

Minggang Xu is a Visiting Scholar from the Institute of Agricultural Resources and Regional Planning at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science in Beijing, China. He will be working with Don Bullock through May 2011.
A $662,836 NSF grant to mentor Latino students titled “New Biology Fellows” was recently awarded to Gustavo Caetano-Anollés, Sandra Rodriguez Zas, Maria Villamil, and Jesse Thompson.

Four cohorts will receive one-year research experiences in quantitative biology and informatics starting in the summer of 2011 and continuing through 2015. Each cohort consists of seven college sophomore and junior students that have completed at least one introductory biology and one introductory math course from a Hispanic-serving institution in Illinois, including Northeastern Illinois University, Morton College, Triton College, Harry S Truman College, Waubonsee Community College, Wilbur Wright College and U of I.

For more info, read the article at www.aces.uiuc.edu/news/stories/news5518.html.

The Illinois Plant Breeding Center has received a donation from Dow AgroSciences for two Aid-to-Education (ATE) grants. One ATE grant (Rita Mumm, PI) will facilitate a summer internship program for two undergraduates to increase awareness of career opportunities in plant breeding/crop improvement among under-represented groups.

The other ATE grant (Fred Kolb, PI) will provide for a one-day multi-media symposium and field/lab tours, “Careers in Crop Science, Plant Breeding and Crop Improvement,” targeting community college students.

Johnny Pendleton (MS ’51 Agronomy, PhD ’55 Agronomy) has been selected by the College of ACES Alumni Association to receive the 2011 Award of Merit. He will be recognized during an Award of Merit Luncheon and during the annual Funk Awards Gala on Monday, April 18.

PhD candidate Joana Novais (Bohn) received the 2010 Graduate Student Plant Breeding Award from the NCCPB (National Council of Commercial Plant Breeders) in December at the ASTA meeting in Chicago. In addition to being recognized at the NCCPB Board Meeting, Joana was awarded a check for $2500. She made her advisor Martin and all of us in the Crop Sciences Department and the IPBC look very good. We are very proud of her!

This is the second year in a row that a graduate student in the IPBC at UIUC has received this prestigious award. Last year Carolyn Bonin (Diers) was awarded this prize.

~ Rita Mumm

Aaron Hager received the Distinguished Achievement Award-Education on December 15, 2010 in Lexington, KY from the North Central Weed Science Society.

The Edward Award recognizes outstanding educational achievements in weed science. Principle criteria include innovative or unique approaches that result in learning, ability to clearly communicate ideas, motivation of the intended audience and recognition of accomplishments by peers and the intended audience.

Adam Davis was presented the Early Career Outstanding Scientist Award on February 7, 2011 at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America in Portland, Oregon.

This award is for early career scientists who have demonstrated originality and creativity, have made a notable contribution to weed science, and have the potential for continued excellence. The award is presented to only one person each year.

Mohammad Babadoost has been chosen to receive the 2011 APS International Service Award.

Four undergraduate horticulture students—Joel Balentyne and Joe Juricic (both on-campus students) and Mike Jesiolowski and Tim White (both Chicago students) — traveled to Joliet, IL in October with Gary Kling for the Illinois Landscape Challenge Day sponsored by Joliet Jr. College and the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association.

There were 82 participants from 9 Illinois Schools. Our team members placed in the following events: Joel Balentyne, 1st Place in Landscape Cost Estimating; Mike Jesiolowski, 1st Place in Woody Plant Identification; Joel Balentyne, 2nd Place in Woody Plant Identification; Joe Juricic, 2nd Place in Sales Presentations.

Marvin Bauer (PhD ’70 Agronomy Crop Production) received the Pecora Award from NASA and U.S. Department of Interior in November 2010. This award is given to one person each year to recognize outstanding contributions in the field of remote sensing and its application to understanding Earth. The first Landsat satellite was being built by NASA when Marvin started his remote sensing work in 1970. Landsat has been the basis for much of his research on crop and forest inventory, land use mapping, and monitoring lake water quality.
A note from Larry Schrader: I retired on December 31, 2010. I still work part-time to finish some writing and other commitments. We will be staying in Wenatchee, as it has become home for us. We love the ready access to water and the mountains, and have access to excellent health care. FYI—I was Head of Agronomy from 1984-89, and moved to Washington State University in 1989 to assume responsibilities as Dean of the College of Agriculture & Home Economics. Larry Schrader, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Plant Physiologist/Horticulturist, Washington State University Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center, 1100 N. Western Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801, Office: (509) 663-8181, Ext. 265

Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated and will be remembered always. My years with the Crop Sciences Department are packed with fond memories of the faculty, staff, students & visitors I had the privilege of working with. I will always cherish the friendships & value the work experiences from the last 13 years. Thank you all for the great farewell party & the generous monetary gift. I will use it for a special purchase to remind me of the time in my career with the Crop Sciences Department. ~ Donna Downen

Recent Passings

Joseph Brines, 21, of Hudson passed away on Nov. 29, 2010. He was a senior at the University of Illinois in Champaign and was a member of the Farm House fraternity.

Marvin Carbonneau, 77, died on Jan. 1, 2011 at Carle Foundation Hospital. He earned a bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. degree from The Ohio State University in 1963. Then he joined the faculty at the University of Illinois as a Federal Extension specialist and served as a longtime adviser to the UI Horticulture Club. For many years, he was active in the Illinois State Florist Association and a founder of the Illinois Budding Plant and Pot Plant Schools. Professor Carbonneau was a highly respected coach of the Collegiate Floral Crop Quality and Evaluation Competition sponsored by Pi Alpha Xi. He retired from the University of Illinois as professor emeritus in 1995.

Josh Heeren, 27, of Lanark died on Nov. 2, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria as a result of a farm accident. He received his Masters Degree here in the Dept. of Crop Science in 2008.

Janet Jackson, 52, died on Nov. 21 at Carle Foundation Hospital after a brief struggle with liver cancer. She graduated from the University of Illinois in 1980 with a major in horticulture. After graduation, she was employed first by the university in the Departments of Plant Biology and Agronomy (now Crop Sciences) and later by the USDA at the Maize Genetics Cooperation Stock Center on campus as a maize geneticist, conducting field studies at the University's South Farm.

Gene Oldham, 72, of Venice, FL, formerly of Champaign, died on Sept. 30. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1959 with a degree in agriculture, where he eventually served as an agronomist.

William Oschwald, 84, of Champaign passed away in his sleep on Nov. 18 at Champaign-Urbana Regional Rehab, Savoy. He received the B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University. He was professor of agronomy extension at the UI and director of the Cooperative Extension Service of Illinois from 1980-88, retiring in 1988. He truly loved his work and the people he worked with in Extension.

Bill Rinne (Robert W. Rinne), 78, passed away on Oct. 14. He earned his Ph.D. in horticulture at Purdue University, and in 1964 accepted a position as plant physiologist for soybean research with the USDA on the University of Illinois campus. He received a dual appointment with the UI with tenured professor status. Dr. Rinne was especially proud of his graduate students over the years, many of whom achieved notable acclaim for their professional excellence. He retired from the USDA in 1991.
Mosbah Kushad was interviewed on January 20 on the RFD Radio Network about the new Food Safety Modernization Act (bill S-510). The program was broadcast on 15 channels across downstate Illinois. Listen to the interview at www.farmweeknow.com/radio.aspx.

### Recent News

Congratulations to 2010 Graduates!

**May**  
Eunsoo Choe, Ph.D.  
Amanda L. Eads, M.S.  
Michael D. Meyer, M.S.  
Rodney E. Moran, M.S. Online  
Kate A. Thinglum, M.S.

**August**  
Sukhvinder Singh, Ph.D.  
Sarah M. Potts, M.S.

**June**  
Stephanie L. Rousonelos, M.S.  
Steven M. Still, M.S.  
Wendy G. White, M.S.  
Junmyoung G. Yu, M.S.

**July**  
Charles Hendrix, Ph.D.  
Nathan Karplus, M.S.  
Hyoun Seok Kim, Ph.D.  
Christine Lucas, M.S.

**September**  
Kate A. Thinglum, M.S. Online  
Amanda L. Eads, M.S.

**December**  
Eric Anderson, M.S.  
Michael Bell, M.S.  
Michelle Bork, M.S. Online  
E. Bradley Edwards, M.S. Online  
Stephanie L. Rousonelos, M.S.

Consolidated Computer Support Group (CCSG)  
http://cropsci.illinois.edu/csg/

The Consolidated Computer Services Group provides computer support, network and server administration, web development, and miscellaneous IT consulting for the Departments of Crop Sciences, Human and Community Development, Food Science and Human Nutrition, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, as well as CCRS.

For assistance please email the Helpdesk: ds-ccsg@illinois.edu or contact us via phone at 217-244-6407 (M103 Turner) or 217-244-2883 (161 Bevier).

Provided services include computer setup for Macintosh and Intel based PC's including the installation of anti-virus software, Internet services software, word processing software, Adobe products, VPN services, SAS, and ArcView/GIS. Ongoing support and service is provided for these key tools. Software will not be installed without proof of license. Additional peripheral installation and software assistance is possible. Other operating systems are not supported at this time though we encourage users of Unix to contract with CITES Workstation Support Group (WSG) if they cannot manage their own machines as we offer only limited Linux support at this time.

We provide hardware trouble shooting for departmentally owned computers only. In general, we don't do printers, scanners, cameras, VCR's and so on. When possible, we will ask you to call about warranty issues. Most printers and scanners can be serviced by Central Stores Computers. Student help is limited!

Backup services are not generally provided though we will help you find a solution for yourself or your group. Retrospect Remote or similar can be used very successfully if you want a group solution. A variety of tools exist though external hard drives are among the best small group solutions. A good backup policy is encouraged.

As Microsoft and Apple have dropped support for older technology, we only provide support for machines capable of running Windows XP or better or on the Mac side, OS 10.2 or better.

We do not provide support for personally owned computers. Non-office computers are necessarily of lower priority as well. Exceptions are made for those bringing their own laptops, in which case we will provide minimal help with configuring Internet access and access to all software provided under valid license by the University (see related department computer policy) at a small setup charge. All such machines must have current antivirus software installed and operating system critical updates. Arrangements can be made with staff for personally owned computers and on-site visits. Any personal machines using campus network services must abide by all campus and department level usage and security policies.

We provide USB drives and CD's with current software on a periodic basis. CITES provides extensive download services for site licensed and for purchase software including Microsoft and Adobe products. These can be found at the CITES Webstore located at http://webstore.illinois.edu.
March 7-8: Illinois Corn Breeders School
March 11-12: ExplorACES
March 13: Daylight Saving Time Begins. Turn clocks forward one hour.
March 19-27: Spring Break
April 4: Registration for Summer and Fall begins.
April 8: Last day to take final exam for May doctoral degree and to add name to May degree list
April 18: College of ACES & Paul A. Funk Awards
April 22: Last day to deposit May doctoral dissertations
April 29: Last day to deposit May master’s thesis
May 4: Last day of classes
May 5: Reading Day
May 6-13: Final Exam Week
May 15: Commencement

Visit the Crop Sciences web site for more information: http://www.cropsci.illinois.edu

Birth Announcements

Gear, the grandson of Jenny and Greg Noel, was born on January 5, 2011, weighing 8 lbs 9 oz, 22 inches long. He was named after Greg’s mom’s maiden name, an old name from England.

Johanna Avery Kolb, granddaughter of Fred Kolb, was born on November 23, 2010, weighing 8 lbs 8 oz, 20¾ inches long. She has blue eyes and brown hair.

2011 Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, and Organic Conference

The 2011 Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, and Organic Conference was held January 5-7 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield and included programming for the Illinois Specialty Growers Association (with program tracks devoted to fruits, vegetables, herbs, and irrigation), the state’s agritourism industry, and organic growers. The overall effort featured four all-day workshops on January 5 devoted to high-tunnel production systems, pumpkin production and pest management, GAP certification (Good Agricultural Practices for food safety), and expanding farmers market opportunities. These were followed by seven tracks of concurrent sessions on Thursday and Friday, January 6-7. Attendance for the workshops plus the main conference topped 700. Faculty and staff members from the Crop Sciences Department and University of Illinois Extension who contributed to the program included Mohammad Babadoost, Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Adam Davis, Zachary Grant, Jack Juvik, Jeff Kindhart, Mosbah Kushad, Phil Nixon, Dianne Noland, John Pike, Jim Schmidt, Bill Shoemaker, Chuck Voigt, Elizabeth Wahl, and Rick Weinzierl. PowerPoint files from many of the presentations given at the conference are available on the home page of the Illinois Fruit and Vegetable News at http://ipm.illinois.edu/ifvn/.