

Happy holidays and best wishes for the New Year to everyone in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources!

FACULTY & STAFF UPDATE

New Faculty and Staff Please welcome the following faculty and staff to our college:

- Fontella Taylor, Extension Agent I, New Castle County
- Maggie Brumit, Assistant to the Chair, FREC
- Benham Abasht, Assistant Professor, ANFS
- Erin Brannick, Assistant Professor, ANFS
- Laura Nemec, Lab Coordinator, ANFS
- Jeffrey Buler, Assistant Professor, ENWE
- Janet deMena, Research Associate I, ANFS
- Rodrigo Vargas, Assistant Professor, PLSC
- Angelia Seyfferth, Assistant Professor, PLSC

Faculty & Extension Announcements

- Titus Awokuse, Chair, FREC
- Laurie Wolinski, Director, Northeast Center for Risk Management Education and co-leader for the LEADelaware program

Searches in Progress The following searches are now underway:

- Extension Director – candidates interviewed
- 2 nutrient management positions – search in progress
- Dean's search – search in progress

GRANT FUNDING

CANR faculty continue to be extremely successful in competing for external grants. Active grants currently total approximately \$14.6M in funds, with an additional \$2.3M pending. Twelve of the grants of the current total are USDA AFRI awards.

The following comprise a large portion of the total:

- Dr. Pam Green (PLSC) – DOE \$1.1M
- Dr. Blake Meyers (PLSC) – NSF \$5.3M
- Dr. Harsh Bais (PLSC) – NSF \$1.8M
- Dr. Haigiang Chen (ANFS) – USDA AFRI \$1M
- Dr. Carl Schmidt (ANFS) – USDA AFRI \$1.8M
- Dr. Randy Wisser (PLSC) – USDA AFRI \$1.8M
- Dr. Randy Wisser (PLSC) – NSF \$1.4M

The University's Office of Communications and Marketing publishes two UD Research magazines per year. Article ideas and issue requests should be submitted to Katy O'Connell, CANR Communications Manager (kvo@udel.edu).

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

CANR hosted the fourth international symposium focusing on “**Global Issues in Nutrient Management: Science, Technology and Policy**,” from Aug. 21-24. The international symposium addressed global issues and trends in nutrient management and focused on how agricultural management practices, technological advances and global or regional policies affect both nutrient use efficiency in the food chain and the quality of the environment in different parts of the world. More than 100 participants from six different countries attended the symposium.

This winter, CANR (Steve Hastings-FREC) will partner with CEOE to offer a **new study abroad program to the Commonwealth of Dominica**. Courses include GEOG235 - Conservation of Natural Resources, and FREC150 - Economics of Agriculture and Natural Resources, all designed with the Caribbean in mind.

Matt Robinson, professor of business administration, was named Director of UD's Institute for Global Studies in September. <http://www.udel.edu/global>.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Current enrollment in CANR is approximately 705 undergraduates (majority ANFS) and 166 graduate students (majority FREC). We currently have 10 newly admitted transfer students for the spring 2012 semester and Undergraduate Admissions is still reviewing applications at this time. New Student Orientation for Spring admits will be held on January 20th.

Thirty students participated in this year's **Exploration Day** program held on Friday, October 28, 2011. Exploration Day provides prospective high school students with hands-on experiences in the areas of Food Science, Plant & Soil Science, and Poultry Science. During their time on campus, students had the unique opportunity to work in the laboratory; listen to student/alumni panels; and engage in seminar discussions. This year, the Animal and Food Sciences Department received a US Poultry Foundation grant for recruitment in Poultry Science, thus the Poultry Science component was added. Departments are encouraged to consider participating in Exploration Day to promote their underrepresented majors. On average, approximately 66% of participants apply to the University of Delaware; of those who apply, 83% are admitted.

The Current Students and Prospective Students portions of the ag.udel.edu **website** have been fully updated for design and content. Since the first week after deployment, both sections have seen increased web hits. If you notice any problems on the site or have suggestions, please contact Kim Yackoski, yackoski@udel.edu.

CANR continues expand **internship opportunities** by hosting employers on-campus, inviting companies and organizations to post positions with CANR in the Talk of Townsend blog and Blue Hen Careers database, and maintaining a close partnership with the Bank of America Career Services Center. In Fall 2011, the College welcomed its new liaison from Career Services, Joyce Henderson. Any internship/employment opportunities or suggestions for employer outreach can be forwarded to Ashley Fry at afry@udel.edu.

LAND AND FACILITIES

In addition to store sales, the **UDairy Creamery** is now distributing ice cream to six locations on a weekly basis: Harrington, Rodney and POD Markets, the UD Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Russell Dining Hall, and the UD Courtyard by Marriott. Since doors opened on April 30, 2011, over 4500 milkshakes and 56,000 ice cream cones have been sold. The Creamery has produced 24 flavors with 4 new holiday flavors now available in pints, half gallons and bulk 2.5 gallon containers. The Blue Hen Flavor Contest, held this fall, was a success in terms of both raising awareness of the Creamery and getting the UD community involved in creating our first official signature ice cream flavor. The Creamery will be at all home basketball games. "Dare to Bee Honey," from the UD teaching apiary, was sold for the first time this fall with the supply (250+ jars) selling out in just over a month. Holiday order forms for bulk ice cream are currently available online. Blue Hen Blankets & Yarn, made with the wool from our flock of Dorset ewes are also available at the Creamery or online. See the website for store hours; the Creamery will be closed during the holiday break but open during Winter Session. <http://ag.udel.edu/creamery>.

The **Garden for the Community** produced more than 8800 pounds of fresh produce for the Food Bank of Delaware over the 2011 growing season. In August, the annual Evening in the Garden was held, raising addition funds to benefit the Food Bank's hunger relief efforts. The Food Science Club baked over 200 pies for the Food Bank prior to Thanksgiving using sweet potatoes from the Garden. <http://ag.udel.edu/communitygarden>

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - Highlights of Accomplishments in 2011

Agriculture Funding from DelDOT resulted in the creation of a state fair display (including a real garden and computer game) to showcase **sustainable landscape practices** and develop a game to help educate fairgoers about the benefits of sustainable landscaping. The **Delaware Livable Lawns** was launched in January by DelDOT and DNREC and will be administered through the DNLA. **Specialty crops funding** was received by DNLA and DCE to test the feasibility of producing 10 different native plants and a liner, container and field nursery in DE. In order to create demand for these plants, a new brochure was produced in the Livable Delaware series entitled "Livable Ecosystems: A Model for Suburbia." Delaware Cooperative Extension held 17 **short courses** developed by the Ornamental Taskforce. (6 in New Castle, 7 in Kent County and 4 in Sussex County). **Outreach to Citizens with information on Accessible Gardening** was designed to keep people gardening for life. The main emphasis is to provide suggestions to overcome short-term or long-term physical limitations. In 2011, the accessible gardening committee in conjunction with the horticulture agent developed a series of fact sheets called Garden Smart, Garden Easy. **IPM Educational Gardens** were established in all 3 counties and used to educate landscape contractors and Christmas growers about IPM strategies, proper use of pesticides, selection of plants that assist in pest management, and alternative pest management methods. As always, the **Master Gardener** programs in the counties have been active training new volunteers and conducting workshops, talks and demonstrations throughout the state. **Natural Resources Extension** focused on the Forest Landowner Program, Outdoor Woodland Classroom Programs in Sussex County for grades 1-3, Backyard Wildlife, Backyard Composting, and Experiencing the Outdoors With Children programs. The **Weed Management Program** began transition of fields for organic certification for future research and demonstrations, and began working with the industry to identify the severity of a new weed, palmer amaranth. The **UD Plant Diagnostic Clinic** processed an average of 600 plant samples in 2011. A pilot program to assist farmers in writing **produce food safety** plans began this year. A cooperative agreement with the Delaware Health Department Laboratory was implemented to provide low-cost water testing for microbial indicator organisms to Delaware vegetable growers. The **agronomy extension program** trained over 100 equine managers in an easy pasture management procedure to determine pasture health and quality with respect to soil erosion and nutrient runoff. **Agriculture IPM** programs focused on slug management in no-till corn systems, brown marmorated and native stink bug research and extension activities, and grower demonstrations evaluating seed treatments for nematode management in vegetables. A strong **irrigation extension program** focusing on soil moisture monitoring was established this year. Efforts in the lima bean breeding program over the last five years have resulted in the potential for small, mechanically harvested field scale trials of some varieties in 2012. The program continues to partner with PLSC scientists on downy mildew research. Extension professionals have worked with 14 farmers to implement soil health plans on their vegetable and fruit farms as part of a **vegetable IPM program**. Educational programs on soil health for vegetables have reached over 250 producers. The **apiculture program** collaborated with DSU on a beginning beekeeping workshop. The program also began a collaboration with growers in the development of BMPs for bumble bees in watermelon, strawberries, and pickling cucumbers. The "Peter Rabbit Team" has performed a **home vegetable gardening** skit at over 50 performances from Demonstration Garden Open Houses, Seaford Ag Festival, Sussex County Farm Tour, Farmers Markets, Pre-K and second grade school tours, and local libraries.

Family & Consumer Sciences "All My Money" programs reached 88 individuals with 10 hours of financial literacy education, covering budgeting, credit, money personality, insurance, saving and estate planning info. Five, 1.5 hour programs were conducted for facilities personnel at UD reaching 120 individuals. **Two Cent Tips** received a regional award at NEAFCS and a poster session on the topic was presented. *(continued on next page)*

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (cont.)

FCS (continued) The **Master Food Educator** Program presented awards to 18 individuals who have contributed more than 900 hours in the last two years. Extension professionals presented a concurrent session at NEAFCS on the MFE program. **Healthy Habits, Healthy Start** won a national award and was part of a poster session at the NEAFCS conference. A 24 session **Strong Women, Healthy Hearts** research project was completed in conjunction with Tufts University. **Debtor education, DineSafe, ServSafe, and childcare classes** continue on a regular basis. FCS was awarded a **Military Childcare Grant** with funds from the Department of Defense in partnership with the University of Nebraska CES and Penn. State to reach childcare providers who care for military children.

4-H Delaware 4-H continues to thrive in an era of economic uncertainty. The focus of the 4-H program on its mission mandates of Science, Healthy Living and Citizenship/Leadership as well as its reputation for delivering quality research based programs continue to appeal to a wide variety of audiences. Delaware 4-H has embraced the new national marketing tool for the 4-H movement, the **Revolution of Responsibility**, a movement for positive change in every community in America. In terms of **enrollment**, Delaware 4-H engaged 43,828 different youth in quality educational programs. Of that total, 993 lived on farms and about 2300 lived in Wilmington. The remainder were scattered throughout the state. The bulk of the 4-H program reaches youth in grades K-4 but over 4000 youth are in grades 9-12. About 9% of all Delaware 4-H members are of Hispanic ethnicity and 29 % are African-American. Nearly 2000 4-H **volunteers** serve in a variety of capacities. Over 35,000 **science projects** were completed by Delaware 4-H members with the largest portion of that in environmental sciences. Delaware 4-H members entered over 10,000 exhibits in the 4-H Department at the **Delaware State Fair**, a record that has been broken each of the last 4 years. This number does not include animals entered in the various departments. A very significant portion of the 4000 animals at the State Fair are 4-H project animals.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Ag Day The 2012 Ag Day celebration will be held on Saturday, April 28th from 10a to 4pm. The overwhelming majority of changes made in 2011 will return and even more improvements will be made to this annual event. We are striving for even more complete participation from college departments, institutes and programs. Registration will open in the spring and will be available at <http://ag.udel.edu/agday>.

Alumni In November, the college hosted its annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Luncheon at which time the following alumni were honored: Steve Castorani (PLSC '77), Rick Darke (PLSC '77), Goodwin Cobb IV (FREC '99), and Joshua McGrath (PLSC '04 PhD). Also recognized were Joanne Whalen (PLSC '83 MS), the 2011 George M. Worrilow Award winner, and Andrew Schwartz (FREC '93), who was bestowed a Presidential Citation for Outstanding Achievement by the University.

Adobe Connect web conferencing CANR has purchased 10 Adobe Connect licenses for college and extension use. Adobe Connect is a web conferencing solution for meetings, eLearning and webinars. It provides easy access for meeting coordinators and attendees. You can reach thousands through the Adobe Connect Webcast option. Events can also be recorded for later viewing. Cameras, microphones and headsets are available for your use. Please see one of the following departmental contacts to set up a demonstration or plan a meeting: ANFS, Cindy O'Donnell; ENWC, Tina Koskinski; FREC, Maggie Brumit; PLSC, Charlotte McDermit; New Castle, Maria Pippidis; Kent, Jan Unflat; Sussex, Michelle Walfred. For general inquiries please contact Yohannes Tesfaye, CANR IT yohannes@udel.edu.