

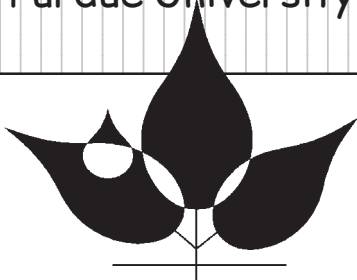
# AGRONOMY

## Spring 2003

We welcome any comments you have about your past experiences at Purdue and your recent experiences and adventures. We look forward to hearing from you and especially invite you to visit the halls of Purdue Agronomy to reconnect and to see if your old haunts have changed.

**Our Roots**  
**Around the Halls**  
**Student Stuff**  
**Glimpses of History**  
**Guest Columnist:**  
**Mike Vail**  
**FYI**  
**Horizons**  
**Philanthropy**

Published for Alumni  
and Friends of the  
Department of  
Agronomy  
Purdue University



**Why not  
write us?...**

## Headlines... "Purdue Agronomy"

The snow has melted, the daffodils are blooming, and students are wearing short pants; spring is here! Soon, we'll be celebrating student accomplishments at commencement exercises and recognition receptions. A number of our staff have recently received prestigious recognitions for their active work with students. **Sherry Fulk-Bringman** was recognized in the Department and in the School of Agriculture with the first Outstanding Service to Students Award. **Zac Reicher** was recognized in the Department as Outstanding Counselor and **Gary Steinhardt** as Outstanding Teacher. In addition, the School of Education will recognize **Ellsworth Christmas** in April with a Career Achievement Award. Other recognitions of our faculty, staff, and students are noted in this issue.



This past year we have spent considerable time discussing and reviewing our undergraduate and graduate curricula. Our commitment has always been to provide the best educational opportunities for students at all levels of their academic development. Curriculum assessment is an ongoing process and essential in ensuring a dynamic and state-of-the-art education. In mid April, the Faculty held a full day retreat where students were invited to share their thoughts about their educational experiences and offer suggestions for enhancing and enriching the educational opportunities in Agronomy and at Purdue. Our task ahead is to develop a strategy to incorporate many of the suggestions generated from the retreat to enrich our programs.

We are all saddened by the loss of Dr. Stan Barber and his wife Marion this past year. Both had such a tremendous impact on Agronomy and the many students, faculty, and staff who, over the years, had come to call them friends. They will always be in our thoughts and prayers.

*Craig Beyrouthy*



**Stanley A. Barber**, Professor Emeritus, died December 12, 2002 in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Barber joined the Purdue Agronomy Department in 1949, retiring in 1991. Among his many accomplishments. He was appointed **John B. Petersen** Distinguished Professor and became a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1987. His major research emphasis involved enhancing the understanding of the growth and development of plant roots, how they interact with the soil, and how they influence mechanisms that supply nutrients from the soil to the plant root.

**Marion Barber** followed her husband in death on February 19, 2003. Marion was known for her puppetry skills, and of course, her hats, to the delight of everyone. They are survived by two daughters, **Darlene Hilliard** and **Rebecca Reeve**.

### DEPARTMENTAL MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the Agronomy Department at Purdue University is to serve our broad-based clientele by providing progressive undergraduate, graduate, and extension education programs; conducting innovative and relevant research in the crop, soil, and environmental sciences; and interacting with partners in the public and private sectors.*



## Our Roots

—J.L. Ahlrichs, Professor Emeritus

In “days of yore” some things were simpler; for instance, the measurements of the natural world. We used only a few units: the ounce, pound and ton; the inch, foot, rod and mile; the pint, quart, gallon and bushel; the acre and section (1 sq. mi.); the percent for concentration; and the dollar for money. In those days the numbers used as prefixes to the units were modest (e.g. 2 tons, 100 bushels, 5 miles, 160 acres, 5%). We could all clearly visualize these. The corn husking wagon level full of ears was 50 bushels, the rod was the approximate distance between fence posts in the line fence. We all carried water to the chickens in a 3 gallon or 5 gallon bucket, plowed the “back forty” (acres) and spent our last \$1 bill.

In “days of now” we deal in sizes so very much smaller and very much greater, as well as use both common English and metric units. It is hard to visualize a PPB in a contamination study, or a billion dollars in a budget. One scholar said that any number over 1000 is hard for the mind to conceptualize. Yet, now we are down to parts per trillion (PPT) and up to trillions of dollars, so we common folks need new “frames of reference” to help us evaluate what scientists and politicians are telling us. The acre, 5% solution, and dollar bill are seldom adequate.

The big forest fires last year, were generally reported in ‘acres.’ I chose the ‘square mile’ for my unit of reference. It was hard to visualize 30,000 acres, but in square miles (about 50) it was easy to put in perspective. It was about 50 times the size of the campus. Money is nicely referenced to either movie tickets or population. The movie ticket sales in America for a typical week, approximates \$100 million. Thus, when the President proposes this amount for a special relief fund, it is one weekend of our movie money. Or each one million dollars referenced to our population of nearly 300 million, equals 1/3 of one penny per citizen; thus the 100 million is 33 cents/citizen. Thought of in this frame of reference, a million dollars isn’t much. But, it does get large very rapidly where we speak of billions or trillions. With the multiplier of  $10^3$ , a billion is \$3.00 and a trillion \$3000 per citizen.

Reading that there are plans to store 70,000 tons of nuclear waste in the Yucca Mountains repository was quite impressive. But if 6 inches of soil is 1000 tons per acre (Agr. Soils 255), then referenced to the Purdue mall by the flagpole (3 acres) then 70,000 tons really isn’t very great; a hole 12 feet deep could hold it all!

The message? When we hear numbers reported in the news of common events or science, it is wise to convert them to units whose size is meaningful to our minds; and, to do this before we get too impressed with the amount or the possible hazard. This was a smaller problem in “days of yore.”

## Around the halls...

**STAFF CHANGES:** **Ed Heckman** joined the department, Soil and Water Quality Education Conservation Program Specialist Team in November. He is taking the place of **Brian Gauck** who was called to active military service for one year. Ed is a recent CES Wayne County retiree who promoted grassland and pasture educational programming in cooperation with **Keith Johnson**.

**Jan Hosier** began in December as Hoosier Riverwatch Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator for the volunteer stream monitoring and education program. She has an office at Ft. Harrison Park in Indianapolis. She is part of the Soil and Water Quality Education Team and will be working with **Lyn Hartman**, Hoosier Riverwatch Coordinator.

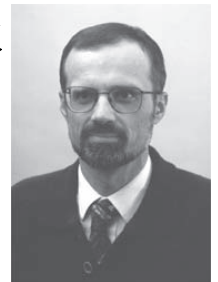
We welcome **Jill Hufford** in the business office as an account clerk handling travel issues and regulations. Jill lives in Rossville, IN with her husband and children.

**Andrea Bongen** is an outreach assistant doing work on carbon sequestration under **Sylvie Brouder**. She has previously directed or coordinated watershed and general environmental programs in Alaska and Indiana.

**Heather Miller** recently joined the staff as a research technician for **Linda Lee**. She lives in Brookston with her husband and two children.

**Corey Gerber** comes to Agronomy as Interim Director of the Diagnostic Training Center. He PhD is in Entomology. He has a wealth of experience with the DTC and is very familiar with the educational aspects of the Center.

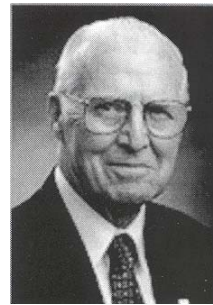
**Tony Vyn** accepted a three year appointment as Extension coordinator in Agronomy in January. Staffing and programmatic changes are afoot at the department and school levels. Some include: development of a coordinated, multi-department Extension curriculum in crop production systems; enhancing the educational effectiveness of, and the participation in, the Diagnostic Training Center; communicating consistently and effectively with county educators; and developing an interdepartmental staffing plan to address Extension needs and issues.



**Alumni Newsletter Committee:** Lou Jones, Sandy Spitznagle, Jim Ahlrichs, Dan Weisenberger, Karen Clymer, Phil DeVillez, Sherry Fulk-Bringman, Bill McFee, Bret Rush and Craig Beyrouly.

Thanks to **Bob Nielsen** for having served as Extension Coordinator for over a decade. Under his leadership, Agronomy Extension has maintained a very strong state-wide and regional presence through program development and is viewed very favorably by our constituents. This occurred in a time when the relevancy of Extension was being questioned throughout the nation.

**Retirement:** **Lou Jones**, known for her artistic contributions to the department for over 20 years, retired on Dec 31. She is shown here with several of her "friends," *Bob the Bacteria*, and *Freddy Forage*. Lou will continue to work on special projects (such as this newsletter) on a limited basis.



**Norman Borlaug**, recognized as a spokesperson on the need to resolve issues of world population and hunger, was the keynote speaker at the 2003 Ag Fish Fry in February. Dr. Borlaug is a wheat breeder recognized for his work in breeding widely adapted, high-yield wheat cultivars and for developing improved grain production techniques for use by the poor of the world. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work. Dr. Borlaug explained, "Unfortunately agriculture seems to be taken for granted in most of the world. But if you want peace and security, I daresay that we'd better not forget a good share of the world that's hungry. When they're hungry and miserable, they're explosive also."

**Ben Carter** has left his position with the Diagnostic Training Center to take a position as Extension Soil Conservation Program Specialist with the Soil & Water Quality Education Program.

**Bruce Maunder** will be awarded a School of Agriculture Honorary Doctorate in May. Dr. Maunder received his PhD and MS from Purdue in 1960 and 1958, respectively. He is a highly respected leader among sorghum research scientists in the United States. He is widely recognized as an eminent international authority on issues of sorghum breeding, global germplasm utilization, and seed industry development. He is a scientist of immense personal integrity who has worked tirelessly in improving the productivity of US agriculture. He has also made unparalleled international contributions in sorghum breeding and genetics.

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**Turf Conference:** Over 1600 professionals attended workshops and educational sessions covering all areas of turf, parks, and recreation industries held at the 2003 Midwest Turf Expo in January at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

The sold-out tradeshow consisted of over 100 companies exhibits. The Midwest Regional Turf Foundation presented a check to Agronomy for over \$210,000 for support of turfgrass research and education.

**Gwen Daniel**, widow of **Bill Daniel**, was awarded the 2003 MRTF Distinguished Service Award for her many years of support to the Turf Program, it's students, and the industry.



### Staff Recognized for Service

In December staff celebrating 10, 15, and 20+ years of service to Purdue were honored. These people exemplify why Agronomy is such a great department.

Staff honored include: Faculty—**Herb Ohm, Darrell Schulze, Bob Nielsen, Eileen Kladviko, Darrell Norton, John Dickey, Don Franzmeier, Ellsworth Christmas, Chris Johannsen, and Rick Vierling.** A/P Staff—**Sherry Fulk-Bringman, Clay Landreth, Marianne Bischoff, Sandy Spitznagle, Terry West, Mark Evans, Ken Eck and Harold Doremire.** Service Staff—**Steve Zachariah, Bill Foster, Dan McFatridge.**

### Congratulations...

At the meetings in November, the ASA presented awards to the following staff: Division Officers—**Dave Sammons**, Board Rep., A-6; **Sylvie Brouder**—Chair-Elect, Div. A-8; Alumni Recipients: Agronomic Extension Education Award—**Emerson Nafziger**, PhD; Agronomic Research Award—**James Quick**.

**CSSA** awards included: Alumni Recipients—**CSSA President-Elect 2002-2003, Ken Moore**; Fellow: **Donald G. Bullock**; Frank N. Meyer Medal for Plant Genetic Resources, **Allan Stoner**.

**SSSA** Division Officers: **Paul Schwab**—Chair-Elect, Div. S-11; Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Soil Science Award—**Cliff Johnston**; International Soil Science Award—**Anthony (Tony) S. R. Juo** (PostDoc with Dr. Barber); **SSSA Fellow—Cliff Johnston**.

Congratulations to **Darrell Schulze** elected president of the Clay Minerals Society. We also congratulate **Ellsworth Christmas** who received the 2002 Epsilon Sigma Phi Regional International Service Award presented at the national meeting in October.

**Chris Johannsen** was elected Fellow, Indiana Academy of Sciences in October. Congratulations to Chris for being honored with this prestigious distinction.

### In Memoriam

**Stanley A. Barber** died December 12, 2002.

**Marion Barber** passed away on February 19, 2003.

**Bernie Liska**, Dean of Purdue Agriculture from 1980-1985, died November 10, 2002.

# Student stuff...

## ASA Student Awards

**Congratulations!** Club Achievement Awards, Category 1, Education Award, Purdue - 3rd place; Category IV, Social Award, Purdue, 1st Place; Category V. Archival Award, Purdue —2nd Place; Outstanding Senior—**Elizabeth Popowski**.

**Agronomy's Crops Judging Team**, coached by **Tom Housley**, was again successful this season. The team finished 4th and won a \$200 scholarship from the Kansas City Board of Trade on November 19. The team competed in Chicago on November 23 and placed 3rd overall.

**The Soil Judging Team** finished in first place in the Region III Soil Judging Contest in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois on October 19, 2002. The team beat teams from seven universities. The team is coached by **Gary Steinhardt**, and assistant coaches **Loree Johnston**, and **Cathy Myers**. Soil judging is used for many agricultural and urban uses— where septic systems should be placed and where roads and bridges should be built. The team will attend two national contests, one in Texas and one in Tennessee later this semester..



## Turf Students Quickly Rising to the Top Nationally

In only their second year of competition, a team of Purdue Agronomy students placed second out of 71 teams from all over the world at this year's Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition. Three teams of four students each traveled to Atlanta, GA for the International Golf Course Conference and Show. The competition included identification of soils, seed, grasses, disease, insects, and weeds as well as mathematics, plant physiology, and growth and development. The students were coached by **Aaron Patton** and members included **Russ Apple**, **Todd Armbruster**, **Jonathan Baker**, **Steven Biehl**, **Joe Blumke**, **Josh Cage**, **J.D. Cash**, **Maureen Clark**, **Cristi Craven**, **Andy Eick**, **Cliff Meyer**, and **Adam Peercy**. Students are already looking forward to next year's competition in San Diego.

Officers of the GCSAA (Golf Course Superintendents Association of America) Turf Club are as follows: President: **Christi Craven**; Vice President: **Greg Goecker**; Secretary: **Jed Fedor**; Treasurer: **Steven Biehl**; Chapter Liaison: **Todd Armbruster**. The club's first speaker was **Kevin Potts**, former superintendent of the Ravines. He spoke about the golf course during the winter months when the students are in school and don't have the chance to work. The second speaker was **Randy Bellinger**, who is the current president of MRTF (Midwest Regional Turf Foundation). He shared the importance of belonging to professional organizations. Future activities include attending a Purdue men's basketball game, a golf scramble, and speakers from all aspects of turf. Meetings are held every other Wednesday at 5:30 pm in 3-409 of Lilly.

A student chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, under the leadership of **Gary Steinhardt**, meets the first Tuesday of every month to have supper and an informal program. Officers are **Tara Wesseler**, **Geneva Rawlins**, **Jeff Spicer**, **Kristi Kahlenbeck** and **Frank Heldt**. The meetings are kicked off with a supper cooked by the students and Gary. Knowing that Gary Steinhardt acquired his cooking skills in college and in the army, some of the dishes have been especially creative.

# Grad Students.....

**Kess Berg** was chosen recipient of the 2003 Gerald O. Mott Meritorious Graduate Student Award in Crop Science.

**Nerilde Favaretto**, **Seunghun Hyun**, **Ann Kline**, **Pablo Mercuri**, **Heide Stout**, **Troy Stock** and **Jeremy Sweeten** were the Scarseth Award winners. They were presenters at the ASA meetings in November.

A diverse and well balanced group of graduate students represent the department for the 2002-2003 year—**Amy Berg**, **Don Livingstone**, **Darek Bulinski** and **Tommy Sors**. Amy is a master's student working with **Brad Joern** on soil chemistry, plant nutrition and nutrient management planning. Don is working on his doctorate degree under **Niels Nielsen** and is concentrating on plant molecular biology with the aim to understand soybean seed development. Darek is a PhD student directing his research towards identifying soil flora to elucidate microbial-plant relations with **Cindy Nakatsu**. Tommy is working on his doctorate degree with **Jeff Volenec** focusing on alfalfa stress physiology and molecular biology.

Several fun activities have been organized to allow for student interactions within and outside the department. These activities included the annual canoe and camping trip at Turkey Run State Park. Even though the tents were wet and socks were soaked due to the downpour of rain, the excursion was enjoyable and will be repeated this year. Another entertaining activity organized recently was the chili cook-off hosted by **Craig Beyrouy**. In a friendly competition, students were able to demonstrate their chili-cooking abilities and tolerance for spice. The party was a delectable success!

For the upcoming year a seminar series has been organized that will include speakers hosted by the graduate students. There are also plans for a trip to the bowling alley for a fun night of drinks and bowling. As usual, the graduate students will be provided refreshments in this year's Spring Fest.

# Glimpses of History

Fred Patterson, Professor Emeritus

**Stanley A. Barber** spent his entire professional career at Purdue from 1949-1991. Dr. Barber died December 12, 2002.



One basic question of the time was what would happen to long-time production trends and to soil erosion levels if the sod crop, typically timothy and red clover, were dropped out of the rotation in favor of commercial fertilizers? A four crop rotation of corn, soybeans, wheat and bromegrass was chosen. Yield trends were measured by hand-harvest of the center two rows of corn. Technician **Bob Austin** (retired) conducted much of the fieldwork, did some of the chemical analyses in the laboratory, and some of the statistical analysis. Other plots were established for specific studies of P and K nutrition. These plots served the field portion of Dr. Barber's research on plant nutrition for nearly 40 years.

Dr. Barber used the principles of physiology, chemistry, and physics to analyze the process of soil nutrient uptake by plant roots. He studied, separately for P and K the mechanisms of movement of nutrients in the soil, the mode of nutrient uptake, and the role of surface area and length of roots, soil water and temperature in the overall process of nutrient uptake. He showed that processes were unique for each nutrient and that rate of nutrient uptake increased with root growth. He then combined the individual analyses into an overall mathematical equation to be solved by computer that describes nutrient uptake in the complex root-nutrient-soil-crop interactions. He showed the equation explained nutrient uptake equally well for diverse crops and for some additional plant species. He also found corn hybrids and soybeans cultivars varied as much as three-fold for root size, a valuable variation for the attention of plant breeders.



Stan Barber, as a younger man, working in the fields.

The late "**Champ**" Tanner, Professor, University of Wisconsin, said "Dr. Barber's impact on nutrition concepts in soil-plant systems exceeds that of any living scientist." Purdue is known world-wide for Dr. Barber's research on nutrient uptake from soils.

# "The Little Ole Wine Maker"

Mike Vail—'86



In August, 2002 **George and Jane Van Scoyoc** had the opportunity to visit one of our 1986 alums, **Mike Vail**—'86, at Snows Lake Vineyard where he was recently promoted from Viticulturist to Director of Wine Growing. "Mike is a fantastic person," says George. As a student I remember Mike always asking the most probing questions related to soil fertility and production practices. It is not surprising that he has become one of the most respected viticulturists in California." Snow

Lake Vineyard produces winegrapes for Cakebread Cellars, Hess Collection, Beringer, and other wineries. The vineyard is located in a fairly new grape growing region north of the Sonoma and Napa Valleys. Its different environmental conditions from the other vineyard areas in California provide a rewarding challenge for Mike. Mike received a masters degree from University of California-Davis in plant pathology and has been responsible for discovering eleven new fungi that cause wood decay of grapevines, none of which had ever been reported in California.

Prior to moving to Snows Lake Ranch, Mike served as a viticulturist for over 10,000 acres in northern California. The Snows Lake Ranch is a 2,400 acre ranch that produces 800 acres of winegrapes. In his new position as Director of Wine Growing, Mike will be responsible for the 2003 production and delivery of 2,700 tons of grapes. The soil conditions are totally different than in the Sonoma and Napa regions. As a result, Mike works with locations in Australia and other areas of the world to collect information that is then translated into potential use and adaptation at Snows Lake Vineyard.

Mike is a noted speaker and a facilitator at many functions on the topic of viticulture. He recently returned from a seminar in Paris where he gave a presentation on *Precision Agriculture in California Vineyards*.



As Mike says, "Viticulture is constantly changing and if you want to be on top, you need to be on top of everything not just what appeals to you." Purdue is proud to have Mike as one of our Alumni!

Mike can be reached at [mevail429@cs.com](mailto:mevail429@cs.com).

# HORIZONS

...alumni news, this and that, and miscellaneous

## FYI...

Commencement.....May 17, 9:30am  
Honorary Doctorate- Bruce Maunder.....May 15-17

**Charles Douglas**—'61 PhD wrote, "I just enjoyed the latest issue (of the newsletter) with its updates, especially the rich history which you are allowing the historians to provide. It is great to see them still a part of the Department. That does not happen everywhere."

**Marion Baumgardner** (*Professor Emeritus*) addressed a luncheon gathering of emeritus staff about "My Purdue Journey" on March 6. Baummy retired in 1997 after 39 years of service.

**Harold Pattee**—'62 PhD wrote, "As a former graduate student of Merle Teel, who cut and weighed the field plots for him, it was especially enlightening to read of his reminiscing in the *Teel Time* section of the Agronomy Newsletter. Now I spend my time on peanuts." Dr. Pattee is a research chemist, ARS Market Quality and Handling Research Unit, Raleigh, NC, and Professor, Botany and Food Science, North Carolina State University. He received the Advancement in the Application of Agricultural and Food Chemistry Award at the American Chemical Society meeting in Boston. He recently received the honor for outstanding contributions in the field of agriculture and food chemistry.

**Steve Simmons**—'68 was on campus to participate in a workshop seminar on capstone course development. He visited in the department on February 7. Steve is from the University of Minnesota.

**Terry Riordan**—'70 PhD from the University of Nebraska, is the first recipient of the Cyril Bish Professorship in Horticulture. The award honors Riordan for being a productive scientist and dedicated teacher.

**Mel Robey** — '71 MS, La Quinta, California is the author of *Golf History Unusual Facts, Figures, and Little Known Trivia, Book One, from 1400 to 1960*. This is the first in a series of books he is planning on the sport of golf.

**John Williamson**—'75 wrote **Bill McFee** that he will be teaching a botany course at Hyles-Anderson College in Crown Point, IN. He plans on spending several sessions studying soils. Bill was his counselor when he was a freshman. He is pleased to see, "that Bill is still on the staff and sharing his experience and wisdom which should be invaluable to current students."

**Joe Yahner** (*Professor Emeritus*) reported from Hawaii that now that they know he is a soil scientist, he is off in search of a soil survey for Kauai. He also reports that all the soils look red! The Yahners were in town recently to attend the reception of Lou Jones.

**Dave Mengel**, Head, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State, and former Purdue professor, shows off his 8 lb. walleye caught in Canada.

Dave reports that like many states, Kansas is having a financial crunch that is impacting KState pretty severely. He spends his weekends playing farmer to relax. They are back in the sheep business again with a small flock of Suffolks and put up alfalfa hay and straw. If the deer stay away, Dave and Sue should have some fruit this spring from the newly planted orchard.

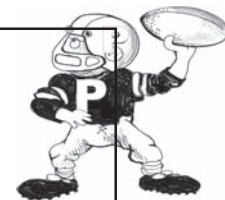


**Jim King**—'75 accepted a commendation for the commendable efforts of Eli Lilly and Co. toward the restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat. To abate erosion of the streambank and surrounding area, Lilly installed a riparian buffer strip along 1.75 miles of the Wabash River. King is working with the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water District which has issued a challenge to county residents to complete riparian zone restoration along the entire length of the Wabash River.

**Ken Moore**—'83 PhD, MS began his term as the 2002-2003 CSSA President-elect; outgoing ASA President **Stephen Baenziger**—'75 turned over his gavel at the recent ASA Meetings.

**Shizhong Xu**—'89 PhD, now at the University of California-Riverside wrote, "The quantitative genetics and statistical genetics handouts you gave have become my bibles. Most of the techniques you provided cannot be found anywhere else. When I taught my students these things they were amazed how I was able to know so much."

**Harvest Reunion**— Purdue Homecoming is October 4. Group football tickets will be available for \$26/each. Look for further information.



# HORIZONS

...alumni news, this and that, and miscellaneous

**Julie Burns-Semon**—'98 wrote **Jim Vorst** she is applying to grad school as she really wants to be a professor. She remembers Jim as saying, "It's not the memorization of facts and numbers that you try to instill, because you'll forget those. " Instead, you were trying to teach us different ways to think."

**Miguel Reichert**—'93 PhD, and **Elena Blume**—'95 PhD are back at Purdue, now married and with two sons. Both work at the Federal University of Santa Maria where they teach and do research. They took a year's sabbatical and Miguel is working with soil physics under **Chi-Hua Huang**, Elena is working with biological control of plant diseases in Ron Turco's lab..



The week before spring break the Agronomy Club hosted its third Alumni Panel. **David Gehring**—'99 MS, NRCS Field Agronomist, Plymouth, Ind. and **Justin Schneider**—'98, appellate law, Indianapolis, both past club presidents did an excellent job answering questions and giving the

members insights into life outside the university setting, and preparation for future employment.

This newsletter and back issues are available on the Web:<http://www.agry.purdue.edu/newsletter/index.html>

## Welcome New Alumni!

We welcome the following December graduates to the status of alumni. Congratulations!

### Graduate Degrees:

	Degree	Major Professor
Brian Ball	M.S.	T. Vyn
Ousmane Boukar	Ph.D.	H. Ohm
Jeffrey Bradford	M.S.	G. Steinhardt
Katerina Dontsova	Ph.D.	L.D. Norton
Nerilde Favaretto	Ph.D.	L.D. Norton
Brenda Hofmann	M.S.	S. Brouder
Byron Jenkinson	Ph.D.	D. Franzmeier
Eric Kohler	Ph.D.	T. Jordan/C. Throssell
Akilah Martin	M.S.	C. Johannsen
Viktor Polyakov	Ph.D.	M. Nearing
Kimberly Ralston-Hooper	M.S.	Z. Reicher
Dirk Rieke-Zapp	Ph.D.	C. Huang
Xiaorong Shen	Ph.D.	H. Ohm
David Taylor	M.S.	R. Nielsen

### Undergraduate Degrees:

James Alwine	Jason Jones
Kevin Breit	Jeremy Kelly
Julie Carter	Jared Kosta
Matthew Eggenpiller	Jordan Myers
Sara Florine	Jason Neidigh
Matthew Grady	Andrew Oeding
Luke Hancock	Thomas Palmer
Lenni Harrison	Kristi Schroer
Adam Jones	Jeremy Warner
	Patrick Wells

## Farm Family of the Year

We are proud to announce that the Schlatter Family has been chosen as the Farm Family of the Year. **Steve and Gail Schlatter**, and their three adult children and their families (**Chad and Tammy, Kenny and Cherie, and Matt and Jamie**), now mark five generations on the farm. They farm about 2,600 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat. They also raise about 22,000 pigs each year as part of Schlatter Stock Farm in Woodburn, Indiana (Allen County). This award is presented by Beck's Hybrids, the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture, and Indiana AgriNews. "We are very surprised and very honored," Gail Schlatter said, "the family is all smiles." The departments of Agronomy and Animal Sciences honored the Schlatters at a reception on March 7.



## Philanthropy and the Department of Agronomy

### Scholarships / The Bindley Life Sciences Scholarship Challenge

Last fall Purdue University unveiled "The Campaign for Purdue" a seven year \$1.3 billion fund – raising effort to advance Purdue toward our goal of preeminence. Thanks to the generosity of those people who believe in Purdue, we have raised over \$600 million and are well on our way to reaching our goal. One of our main priorities in this endeavor is to provide more opportunities for education by increasing our scholarship endowments. The importance of scholarships is ever present because too many talented young people lack the financial means to further their education. This dilemma is compounded by the current economic instability.

Our quest in the Agronomy Department is to grow our endowed scholarships in order to attract the most talented students, augment graduate student support and enhance the cultural diversity in our department. By establishing endowments both the department and the donor are provided many benefits. The donor is given the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy and honor an individual, friend, loved one or colleague as well as the ability to influence the character of the department. The Agronomy Department is provided the means to help strengthen and secure its financial destiny. I cannot think of a better example of an endowment than the recently established Dr. John Axtell Memorial Endowment in Plant Breeding and Genetics. Through the generous contributions from family, friends, colleagues, alumni and corporations the Axtell endowment will help support graduate students working in plant breeding and genetics. Through their research at Purdue and their subsequent careers, these students will help to carry on Dr. Axtell's profound legacy.

Through a generous gift from Bill and Mary Ann Bindley we are provided with a unique and tremendous opportunity during the campaign for Purdue. The Bindley family has established a deferred gift that will be used to match endowments of \$20,000 or more for academic scholarships in the life sciences. The minimum cost to endow a scholarship at Purdue is \$20,000 and this investment can be pledged and made through installments over a 5 year period. By establishing an endowed scholarship in Agronomy, a matching scholarship endowment from the Bindley Life Sciences Scholarship Challenge will be established in Agronomy at a later date using the same criteria. Another exciting feature of the Bindley challenge is that the match will also be eligible for multiple cash donors who would like to pool their money and establish a scholarship. This provides a great opportunity to leverage your investment in the future of Agronomy at Purdue University.

If you, your family or your business would like to help support academic scholarships or any other initiative in the Department of Agronomy please contact me. I would be delighted to visit with you and answer your questions and assist you in any way. Thank you for your support  
*Bret Rush, Director of Development, Department of Agronomy, 800 / 718 – 0094, 765 / 494 – 4785, [rushb@purdue.edu](mailto:rushb@purdue.edu)*

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