

AGRONOMY

Spring
2002

Our Roots

Glimpses
of History

From the
Land of Oz

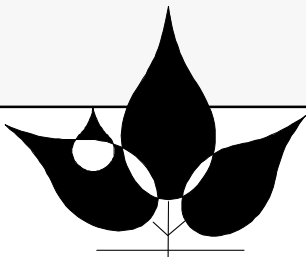
Around the
Halls

Student
Stuff

Horizons

FYI

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



Why not write
us?...

Headlines... "Purdue Agronomy"

Greetings all. This edition of the Agronomy Newsletter reflects a number of significant events in the department since the fall newsletter. We have had a couple of retirements, several faculty, staff, and student honors, receptions to honor special guests, and the passing of a dear friend and colleague of the Department, **Harry Galloway**.



One of the activities we have been feverishly preparing for is an external review of the department scheduled April 8-12, 2002. This has been a very intensive and exhausting endeavor, but one that will establish programmatic direction for the next 5 to 6 years. Faculty and staff have been working hard to envision and describe the issues facing agriculture and the environment in the next decade or so to develop a plan that best positions Agronomy to address these issues.

Planning for this review required that faculty and staff provide answers to the following three questions

concerning our educational and research programs: "where are we now?," "where do we want to be?," and "how do we get there?." These questions provided a framework to discuss and develop new and creative ideas about departmental direction. From these discussions has emerged a renewed mission statement for the department:

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.

This statement will be included in future issues of this newsletter to make public our commitment to enhancing the quality of life. We recognize that to accomplish our mission, we must get input from those familiar with the multi-faceted industry we serve and from those familiar with our people and programs. Your thoughts are welcome anytime but we would also appreciate your response to any or all of the following questions that address effectiveness of our programs, anticipated changes in the industry, and potential redirection of our programs to meet future needs:

1. When it comes to the Purdue Agronomy Department, what do you feel we do particularly well?
2. Are there unmet needs in the agricultural, urban and natural resource system that Purdue Agronomy should be addressing?
3. What is the biggest change that we will see in agriculture in the next 10 years? What educational needs will this change create?
4. What suggestions do you have to help us improve the effectiveness of our programs?

Please email your responses to me cbeyrou@purdue.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

Craig Beyrou

Our roots....

As an old timer, I like this type of winter. In the two months after the winter solstice, we have seen snowflakes a few times, once the soil froze to 3+ inches and snowdrops and aconites were blooming in January. For a week in January, Conor (age 12) from Fairbanks, AK (-40°F) got Grandpa Ahlrich's complete tour of Washington, DC (+40° to +70°F). Now he is back home (-15°F) and on

a scout outing 100 miles north to a hot-spring on the arctic circle.

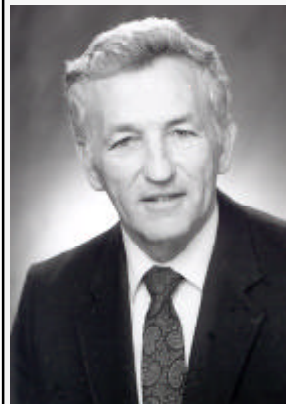
It was good to hear President Bush give a major speech on protecting the natural world on which we depend. His ideas may work, considering both the high level of environmental sensitivity we have developed in our country during this past generation and the hyperactivity of our legal system. Also the prosperity of recent years, and the great increase in agricultural productivity, make it possible to both preserve natural ecosystems and to revert sensitive land to natural areas. I'm impressed with the extensive acreage going each year into DNR, Nature Conservancy and local Land Trust oversight. There have been great positive changes during my life time that have been good to experience, and Agronomy provided many of the scientists and practitioners needed for leadership, so I'm an environmental optimist. Thus I enjoyed the recent book "The Environmental Skeptic" by Bjorn Lomborg.

The most interesting thing to watch unfold is the weather/climate-change puzzle. Interesting observations come continuously: My grandson sees ice breaking on the Nenana, yet ice thickens 8 ft./yr on the plains of Antarctica. Some high elevation glaciers grow while he sees sea level ones retreating and spruce beetles moving north with warmer climate.

So do I think there is global warming? Probably. Is it CO₂? Maybe? I envy young scientists who will get to follow this over the next half century.

James Ahlrichs, Professor Emeritus

Congratulations...



There was no fish at the Ag Alumni Fish Fry but the pork chops were great, and, the Purdue Ag Alumni Association presented Certificate of Distinction awards to three recipients associated with Agronomy this year. This award is the group's highest honor:

William W. McFee, professor and former head, the Department of Agronomy (1991-2001); **Don B. Villwock**— '72, a Knox County grain farmer, adviser to Senator Richard Lugar, and leader in Indiana's Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, and the state's Farm Bureau; and **Rex J. Warner**— '64, who spent 31 years working in the Cooperative Extension Service. He retired in 1995 and worked with Indiana's 4-H office before establishing a youth ministry at Victory Christian Center.

Bill McFee was also inducted as a Fellow in the **Purdue University Teaching Academy** in October. He received this prestigious honor for excellence in teaching and counseling, for innovation in instructional techniques and materials in soil science, and for his leadership in the development of the Natural Resources and Environmental Science (NRES) program.

The American Society of Agronomy recognized several Purdue Agronomy people at its November annual meeting. ASA award recipients included: **Paul Schwab** elected SSSA Fellow, **David Sammons** elected ASA Fellow, **Lee Schweitzer** and **John Graveel** received the CSSA and the SSSA Education Awards.

Suresh Rao was recognized by the Institute for Scientific Information as one of the four Purdue faculty whose research was worldwide. The ASA 2001 Educational Materials Awards Program Certificate of Excellence recognized **Bob Nielsen, Sylvie Brouder, Keith Morris, Chris Johannsen, Paul Carter, Rich Grant, and Steve Hawkins.**

Graduates and those associated with Purdue who received ASA awards or recognition: **Donald Bullock, Terry Coffelt, Steven Fales, Daniel Sweeney, Dan Undersander, Dale Swartzendruber, Stephen Baensiger, Ronald Cantrell, and John Dudley.** Officer/Division Officers included: **Steve Mason, Harold Reetz, Myra Peak, Steve Baenziger and Henry Shands.**

Harry M. Galloway died in Lafayette, Indiana on February 23, 2002 at the age of 87. During his career in Indiana, Harry endeared himself to countless Hoosiers. He was a dedicated extension worker, conducting educational programs throughout the state on soil and water management and soil conservation in crop production. He pioneered extension involvement in land use, soil surveys for urban areas, and waste disposal. His clients included farmers, city planners, conservation districts and the youth of Indiana. He was the recipient of numerous awards.



**Harry Galloway,
Professor Emeritus
1914-2002**

Harry lived the extension workers creed. He was the embodiment of optimism with a cheerful word for all he met. His life was a model of selfless service for all that follow.

Agronomy Harvest Reunion
Put Sept. 28, 2002 on your calendar!

Bob Nielsen received the *Crop and Soil Merit Award*. It is the highest award given by the Indiana Crop Improvement Association. Bob received this award for outstanding service to Indiana Agriculture and the seed industry.

Around the halls...

Distinguished Ag Alum to be Honored April 12

Stephen Baenziger received his MS and PhD from Agronomy and is currently the Eugene W. Price Distinguished Professor at the University of Nebraska. Stephen was nominated for the Distinguished Ag Alumni Award by Agronomy and we will be hosting him April 19 when he comes to accept this prestigious recognition.



Bev Bratton

Terry Lemming



Beverly Bratton and **Terry Lemming** were honored as 25 year employees of the University in December. Bev works in the Turf Program and Terry works with the sorghum project. **Sandy DeVault**, who retired January 4, was honored for 20 years and **Paul Lorton**, with small grains performance testing, for 15 years of service.

NEW STAFF:

Cindy Copeland accepted the business assistant position in the Agronomy business office in December. Cindy came from Electrical & Computer Engineering business office. **Amanda Pendleton** joined the staff in January as account clerk III. We also welcomed **Lisa Metts** as secretary in Whistler for the genomics group, and **Angi Thomas** as Undergraduate Student Secretary and Schedule Deputy. **Nicole Thompson** is working with **Joe Anderson** in a Post-Doctoral position and **Katy Euliss** is working with **Paul Schwab** on an EPA project. **Trisha Swanke** and **Jason Koval** are working as lab assistants for Dr. Turco. **Nicole Fink** started as a technician for **Ellsworth Christmas** in August. **Kelly Marshall** is a lab technician for **Cliff Weil**. **Siobhan Bout** is lab manager for **Wilfred Vermerris**.

Alumni Newsletter Committee: Lou Jones, Sandy Spitznagle, Jim Ahlrichs, Don Franzmeier, Dan Weisenberger, Ed Stath, Tom Housley, Sherry Fulk-Bringman, Bill McFee, Bret Rush.



Ellen Offenbach, Business Office Assistant, retired January 4 after 20 years in the University (16 years in Agronomy). She and her husband Stu, plan to spend part of their year in the south and the rest in West Lafayette.

2001 AGRONOMY HARVEST REUNION

Gerald T. Gentry and **Randal C. Bellinger** were presented achievement awards for their financial and educational contributions to the University and the community at the Agronomy Harvest Reunion.

Gerald Gentry supports five scholarships in Agronomy and the Agricultural Economics departments. He has held a seat on the Board of Trade for more than 20 years and is active in a number of Naperville, IL community projects. The Purdue Agronomic Achievement Award recognized Gerald for his accomplishments in commodity marketing and the positive influence he has had on the community and on the lives of Purdue students.

Randy Bellinger, along with his wife Christine, founded Bellinger's Professional Grounds Maintenance in Lafayette. He also built West Lafayette's Coyote Crossing Golf Course (designed by Hale Irwin). He makes his firm's facilities available to Purdue and high school students so they can learn professional landscaping techniques and employs these students each summer. Randy is a frequent lecturer to University turf, landscape and horticulture classes. The award recognized him for his accomplishments and contributions to Purdue and the turf industry through his entrepreneurship, leadership and commitment to education.

Soil Science Registration

The 2001 Indiana General Assembly passed a soil science registration bill that specifies requirements to become a Registered Professional Soil Scientist. The registration is to protect public health and preserve soil and water quality. The law is administered by a Board through the State Chemist Office on the Purdue campus. Initial board members include **Lambda Mort**— '86, **Bill Hosteter**— '66, **Duane Burrow**, and **Don Franzmeier**. Consulting soil scientists do soil evaluations that are used in land use decisions. Most evaluations are for onsite home wastewater disposal. About one of three new homes in the state are beyond sewer systems and must use onsite systems. The suitability of a soil and the kind of system to be used depend greatly on soil and landscape properties. Failing systems can transmit disease and contaminate soil and water. The registry program will provide a list of soil scientists who have met certain education and experience requirements and who agree to follow a code of professional conduct. Potential clients can select a professional from the list. If you are interested in becoming registered, contact the Indiana Registry of Soil Scientists, Office of Indiana State Chemist, Purdue University, 1154 Biochemistry, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1154.



Student stuff...



The **Crops Judging Team** competed in Kansas City finishing very well with nine other schools. **Jeff Bradford** coached the Crops Team in Chicago in November and won the Grain Grading portion of the contest behind a 590/600 by **Krista Echterling** who finished first in Grain Grading. Krista became an All-American in Grain Grading because of her first place finish. The **Soil Judging Team** finished in Second Place in the Region 3 Collegiate Soils Contest held in Phillips, Wisconsin.

Agronomy Club officers for 2002: **Corey Green, Frank Helt, Westin Rink, Kellan Kershner, Geneva Rawlins, Andy Pitsstick, Ryan McAninch, Kristi Kahlenbeck, Ryan McKinney, Genny Mosher**

Turf Club:

Eight Turf Club members drove to Orlando, Florida to participate in the student activities that took place at the 2002 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America International Conference and Show. There were two teams competing in the 8th Annual Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition. This was the first year that a team from Purdue entered the competition. The teams finished 4th and 23rd out of 58 total teams. The students also attended the Student Chapter Officers Forum to exchange ideas with other chapters, and a forum to encourage networking with superintendents. The students attending were **Jonathan Baker, Steven Biehl, Maureen Clark, Christi Craven, Andy Eble, Matthew Eggenpiller, Rachel Fischer, and Cliff Meyer.**

Turf Club Officers for 2002: **Rachel Fischer** (President), **Cliff Meyer** (Vice President), **Josh Cage** (Treasurer), **Maureen Clark** (Secretary), **Matthew Eggenpiller** (Chapter Liaison).



Sherry Fulk-Bringman interacts with elementary school children during an Outreach Program in Agronomy.

Sherry Fulk-Bringman and **Suzanne Cunningham** continue to be involved in various Agronomy outreach programs around the state. The varying audiences include the general population; elementary, middle, and high school students; and teachers. Programs include workshops, special conferences, off-campus and in-house field trips, and training seminars. Three grade school programs (Zionsville, Brookston, and Glen Acres) have incorporated their classroom visit to the Agronomy Department into their curriculum. Hands-on experiments are continually being developed for K-12 students and web site development has begun for link ups to other distance learning programs in North America.

Sherry Fulk-Bringman just completed her term as National Advisor for the Student Activities Subdivision of the ASA. The Student Meetings were held in North Carolina along with the ASA meetings and 13 of our Agronomy Club members participated in the meetings. **Geneva Rawlins** won the media presentation contest and we found we were the most social club in the U.S by receiving a first place award for our student activities and placed 2nd and third in the leadership, education, archival and financial divisions.

The ever busy Agronomy Club is hosting a club alumni panel discussion, getting ready for the regional student meetings in Colorado and Kentucky, helping Happy Hollow Park with erosion control and Eli Lilly with their wildlife habitat area. They may be working with some of you at Ag Day at the Tippecanoe Fairgrounds and invite you to our Agronomy Tent at Spring Fest, April 13th and 14th in front of Lilly Hall.

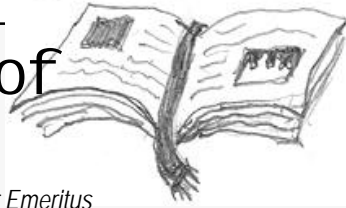
Student Chapter Soil & Water Conservation Service

Students interested in conservation have formed the Purdue Student Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society. The group includes Agronomy students and Natural Resources and Environmental Science majors. A constitution was adopted and in February a slate of officers were elected. Officers include: **Tara Wessler** (President), **Jeff Spicer** (Vice President), **Kristi Kahlenbeck** (Secretary), **Nathan Dammeyer** (Treasurer) and **Genny Mosher** (Hossier Chapter Representative). The chapter plans to meet the first Tuesday of every month for a professional program and to engage in at least one conservation related project per semester. **Gary Steinhardt** is the faculty advisor for this group.

Xinhua Yin, PhD candidate with **Tony Vyn** won the Phosphate and Potash Institute (PPI) Fellowship in 2001 and received the Larsen/Hydro Memorial Scholarship at the ASA Meetings in November. **Ignacio Colonna, Steven Green, Mercedes Murua, Derek Nussbaum-Wagler, Chris Baxter** and **Bojan Stipesevic** were the 2001 Scarseth Award recipients.

Glimpses of history...

by Fred Patterson, Professor Emeritus



United States is providing food relief for refugee people of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Bulgar is likely part of the food relief, a food of the region mentioned in the Bible. Bulgar is manufactured from any wheat in the US for government food programs overseas. There is little consumption in the USA. I don't understand

why bulgar is not part of our food assistance programs in the US.

Bulgar was traditionally made in homes in the Middle East by soaking wheat in water, parboiling, and drying in the sun. Wheat was rubbed to remove some of the bran and then crushed into meal. The coarse meal was cooked and consumed much as rice was. Bulgar is parboiled (partially cooked until starch is gelatinized) and takes little additional preparation. (Parts from the *Soft Wheat Monograph 1981*.)

Food preferences of people in Afghanistan and Pakistan are summarized from the *Soft Wheat Monograph, 1981*. The staple food of both nations is wheat. They produce a soft wheat similar to that grown in Indiana or the Pacific Northwest. Their main use is for chapatias oman, a version of chapati. Wheat is milled for a whole-wheat flour, atta, or for about a 91% extraction meal for making chapatias or nan. Both countries prefer soft wheat, which is thought to produce more tender chapatias. Both countries import soft wheat mostly from Australia or the western USA. Afghanistan produced about 3% white flour and 97% whole-wheat meal in their large mills.

Wayne Keim wrote regarding softball, reminding me of the time **Dr. Peterson** hit a home run and slid in at a close play at home plate. We all envisioned broken bones, but all was well. A second worry time was when a graduate student from biochemistry deliberately ran over him at first base. He received a few bruises and threatened to attend the student's oral exam to worry him a little. Biochem came to compete. One year they enrolled a non-student in a summer seminar to make him eligible to play ball. **Rudy Hilst** was our star short-fielder and home run leader, but there were many outstanding players for Agronomy.



From the Land of Oz

I GO Way Back! This kid, **Patterson**, and the **Ahrlrichs** kid, came new on the block many years later. I remember greeting **President Elliott** on "Hello Walk" several times (this was a great early Purdue tradition). I started working in the agronomy department when **Chief Wiancko** was head, and **John Skinner** was Dean of Agriculture. **Martin Luther Fisher**, from the Agronomy faculty, was Dean of Students. I had agronomy teachers like **Robbins, Allison, Seaton, Cutler** and **LaForge**. **Daddy Akinhead**, Head of Ag Engineering knew all agriculture students by their first names.

We soil mapped Blackbird Pond and Celery Bog areas. **George Spencer** had a surveying project going nearly to **Bill McFee's** house. It took me so long, to complete the survey, the benchmark on Ag Hall steps sunk a half-inch. **Doc Scarseth** hired me to work under **Joe Steckel** doing soil and limestone testing and making up Purdue test kits. Before Doc gave me the job, he had me visit him four times, I believe to see if I had a little of the persistence he was so well known for. A real treat was going out with him and **Doc Hoffer** to explore and analyze a corn field. **Al Ohlrogge** and **Bert Krantz** took me under their wings to do heavy fertilization (for that time) of corn. I did the same with **Doc Frank** on sugar beets and with **Roscoe Frazer** on tomatoes. Back then, Agronomy had two bowling teams in the 30-team league. **Jack Wilbur** and **Cris Irion** did our records by hand.

After WWII, **Helmut Kohnke** took pity on me. With the generosity of Mitchell Farms and **Rome Findling**, we did the first irrigation of corn in Indiana (doubled the yield of WF 9 inbred). **Doc Peterson** claimed I was the first staff member he hired. Professors **Mulvey** and **Miles** tried to train me to manage a field research station. I believe I worked under seven agriculture deans and six agronomy heads.

I count rich blessings every day for being able to live my long history, and for the privilege of working in such a tremendous period of agriculture.

by Ozzie Luetkemeier, Superintendent Emeritus of the ARC



Craig Beyrouthy presents **Sandy DeVault** a certificate of appreciation. Sandy retired January 4 as Undergraduate Student Secretary and Schedule Deputy for Agronomy.

HORIZONS

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

FYI . . .

Agronomy Harvest Reunion **Put Sept. 28, 2002 on your calendar!**

Spring Fest----April 13-14
Distinguished Ag Alum----April 19
Commencement (Agriculture)----Saturday, May 11 at 2:30 pm
Parents Day----Sept. 14
Homecoming----Sept. 28
Agronomy Harvest Reunion----Sept. 28

Rodney Bertramson— '46-49 wrote to compliment the last Headline column. He says 1. 'Purdue is the best'— an unquestioned truism! 2. The Purdue Agronomy Department is the embodiment of "All of Agronomy" (What an invaluable concept. What an excellent mind-set for all who served at Purdue and have gone to other Agronomy, Crops Science, or Soil Science departments!) 3. "Teamwork and Family" pervades the atmosphere. 4. The Hoosier spirit of gentility and friendliness sincerely accents every word and action of Purduites. Thanks, Rod!

James Robertson— '63 PhD wrote from Edmonton Alberta to say how much he enjoyed seeing familiar names and pictures in the newsletter. After retirement in 1996 he taught the soil fertility course for two years on a volunteer basis. He still has an office and goes in nearly every day to consult with students and technical staff. He was co-author on two papers in the SSSAJ this year. His main effort is in the management of, and seeking funding for, the 70 year old Breton Plots. He is trying to keep the plots alive, and establish an endowment fund whose interest could work for the plots.

M.V. Rao— '66 PhD under **Fred Patterson** wrote 'When I returned to India in 1966 and took over the work on wheat, the production was again hovering near 11 to 12 million tonnes. Today, we are producing 75 million tonnes of wheat and we have a buffer stock of 60 million tonnes of food grains out of which wheat alone accounts for 40 million tonnes. The wheat revolution in India, which subsequently led to the Green Revolution, is considered to be one of the greatest achievements of independent India. In spite of the huge buffer stocks of food grains, still 300 million Indians are below the poverty line because they do not have enough purchasing power. This is a paradox and we are trying to distribute extra food grains for work programs to build permanent assets like village roads, schools, hospitals, clean drinking water facilities, etc.

Bob Harter— '66 PhD wrote that he has been retired for two years and busier than ever. He and his wife invested in a motor home and have traveled extensively since. They spent several months volunteering for the Mobile Missionary Assistance Program (MMAP) and the Ecological Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO). Bob was assigned the task of writing a technical bulletin on soil acidity in the tropics for distribution to missionaries in the field. He encourages anyone in the Fort Myers vicinity to visit the ECHO farm to see what they are attempting to do in the fight against hunger.

Don Holt— '67 PhD retired on February 1, 2002 as Senior Associate Dean at the University of Illinois. Don is a former member of our staff and Head of Agronomy and Director of the Experiment Station at the University of Illinois. He thinks it will take him several years to clean out his office.

Morris Bitzer— '68, MS, BS retired after 30 years from his Grain Crops Extension position at the University of Kentucky. He is in a program entitled Phased Retirement and will continue his research on a half-time basis. He spends much time developing sweet sorghum for syrup around the country and world. Morris was a student of **Fred Patterson**.

Jim Bole— '69 PhD wrote to say that **Sam Weaver**— 71 PhD, MS retired from Quaker Oats last fall. Jim wanted to acknowledge the tremendous contributions that Sam (and Quaker Oats) made to oat research across the North Central states and Canada over the past 20 years. He will miss the bad jokes, fishing story lies, and Sam's laughter on the annual oat tour visit. Jim is still with Agriculture Canada's Research Branch where he is director at the Cereal Research Centre in Winnipeg Manitoba.

Agronomy Harvest Reunion **Put Sept. 28, 2002 on your calendar!**



2001 Agronomy Harvest Reunion

HORIZONS

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

In Memoriam

Keith Kesler passed away in January 20, 2002. Keith was a technician in corn breeding in the department for 32 years.

Harry Galloway died February 23, 2002. Harry retired in 1976 after serving many years as an Extension Agronomist.

Gene Matzat— '77 was elected president of the Hoosier Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) in November. The gavel was turned over to Gene by **Mark Evans** (— '77 MS) past president. The Hoosier Chapter is hosting the 2002 SWCS International Meeting in Indianapolis, July 14-17, 2002.

Doug Taylor— '78, after 16 years, has resigned as the first executive director for Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette to become the first executive director of an Indiana support organization that will assist the state's 70 Habitat affiliates. His tenure at the Lafayette Chapter was marked by an increase in the number of volunteers from 15 to hundreds, the number of houses built, and an increase in the budget to \$1.3 million.

Eric Stoner— '79 PhD, MS, former graduate student of **Marion Baumgardner** is still with USAID at the embassy in Brasilia. He hopes to renew his contract for another five years— "the work is too challenging to give up." In October Eric was awarded the Distinguished Honor Award from USAID.

Kirk Otto— '84 PhD, wrote that he is still alive and baking. He worked in wheat quality at Purdue while in school. After working in industry he developed an allergic reaction to management and computers (writing reports) and bought a bakery on Marco Island, FL. Now he is CEO, COO and dishwasher. Many Purdue alumni come into his bakery to visit.

Bart Lofton— '98 MS, his wife and two children, moved to Coatesville, IN when he was promoted to Technical Service Manager for Golden Harvest.

the Ambrioles
"Indiana Farm Family
of the Year"



Two hula dancers (**Jeff Volenec** and **Brad Joern**) help **Ellen Offenbach** celebrate her retirement.



the Ambrioles

"Indiana Farm Family of the Year"

Gary and LuAnn Ambriole, along with their children Amy (16), Andy (13), Ashley (10) were named Indiana's Farm Family of the Year. The family lives near Roanoke in Huntington County. This annual award is presented by Beck's Hybrids, the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture and *Indiana AgriNews*. The award is aimed at increasing awareness of the valiant efforts of farm families in Indiana.

The Ambrioles farm about 1,800 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat. Previously they raised 2,000 hogs a year, but now raise 900,00 earthworms a year as Down to Earth Industries. The decision to leave the pork business came as a financial attempt to save the family farm when the prices fell out of the hog market.

This innovative family was honored at a reception by the Agronomy Department in March.



"Philanthropy and the Department of Agronomy"

The Department of Agronomy at Purdue University has enjoyed strong philanthropic support over the years from alumni, friends, companies, and organizations. One shining example is the tremendous support of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation (MRTF) for the Turfgrass Science Program. The MRTF was established over 50 years ago to support and guide the Turfgrass Science program. Twelve years ago MRTF set a high priority on raising support and since then the industry has given over \$1,000,000 to the Turfgrass Science program. Equally important, the MRTF Board of Directors and organization members have provided leadership and guidance to the Turf program in areas such as curriculum development, guest lectures, student workshops and more.

Philanthropic support also played a major role in establishing the Purdue University Department of Agronomy as a center of excellence in undergraduate and graduate education. Donors have established scholarships for outstanding students, support for research, enhanced facilities, funds for students to attend professional meetings and national judging competitions, and many other enhancements that make Purdue Agronomy special.

You can help today, as well! There are many opportunities to establish a powerful legacy through philanthropy. Contributions directed to areas of high priority can advance the department, positioning it for national leadership in exciting and emerging areas. In addition to the enormous satisfaction that comes from advancing higher education, wise planning can provide donors with personal income tax benefits, avoidance of capital gains taxes, and even retirement benefits. Some of the giving options available to donors include: gifts of cash or securities, gifts of farms or other real estate, gifts with income retained for life, gifts in kind, will bequests, and more.

The Department of Agronomy asks your involvement in philanthropy, as well as in gifts of talent and time. Please help continue the tradition of generous support that has helped establish Purdue as the standard by which so many others are gauged. It will be my pleasure to answer your questions or assist you in any way. It is difficult to overstate the positive impact of such support for a state assisted university. It has been profound.

-Bret Rush, Assistant Director of Development, Department of Agronomy, (800) 718-0094, rushb@purdue.edu

1150 Lilly Hall of Life Sciences
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1150

PHONE: 765-494-4773: FAX: 765-496-2926
E-MAIL: sspitz@purdue.edu

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

