



AG SCIENCES 2008

A Monthly Newsletter for the College of Agricultural Sciences

September 2008

News in Brief

New Tractor for Students

Under a recently established partnership, New Holland is providing the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering with a new tractor equipped with the industry's most advanced features.

The T6060 tractor, which replaces the department's 20-year-old tractor, will be used for instruction by the agricultural systems management and biological engineering classes.

Huddle with the Faculty

Football fans can feed their minds at "Huddle with the Faculty," held at The Nittany Lion Inn before home games.

The lecture series will kick off Aug. 30 with a presentation by Penn State's first laureate Kim Cook, professor of music, who will discuss the cello and playing it around the world. Her lecture will begin at 9 a.m., with a free continental breakfast available at 8:30 a.m. To see the rest of the "Huddle with the Faculty" lineup, go to <http://live.psu.edu/story/33933>.

Mud Snails Are Here

Long a problem in the western United States, the tiny New Zealand mud snail currently inhabits four of the Great Lakes and is spreading into rivers and tributaries, according to Penn State researchers.

"These snails can be out of the water for longer than other snails and when fed to fish, are not digested and sometimes come out alive," said Edward Levri, associate professor of biology at Penn State Altoona. "This has a potential to alter the salmon and trout fisheries." For more, go to <http://live.psu.edu/story/33906>.

Natural Gas Impacts Area Draws Attention at APD



▲ From left, Bryan Swistock, extension water resources specialist; Margaret Brittingham, professor of wildlife resources; and Andrew Martin, extension educator in Mifflin County, answer visitors' questions about deep-well natural-gas drilling. Hundreds of people attended presentations on the subject.

As public worries have grown about the environmental and social impacts of the current boom in deep-well natural-gas drilling and production, Penn State Cooperative Extension has ramped up its educational offerings on the subject. The latest, an exhibit at Ag Progress Days, attracted lots of attention.

Located in the Ag Renewable Energy Tent near the intersection of West 10th and Main streets, the Natural Gas Impact Area featured faculty and extension educators, who offered expert advice on natural-gas issues.

"Cooperative extension has offered more than 100 workshops around the state on natural gas leasing and impacts of gas exploration and production since 2001," says Tim Kelsey, state program leader for economic and community development. "These workshops have been attended by more than 14,000 people—so

we know there is lots of interest out there. The crowds at our Ag Progress Days exhibit just reaffirmed that."

College experts not only offered advice and information about leasing property for natural gas exploration, but also on a variety of natural-gas-related issues. "The natural-gas boom in Pennsylvania is going to have wide-ranging effects in areas such as water quality and quantity, financial management, economic and community development, workforce development, forest fragmentation and wildlife habitat, housing, population changes, local government and infrastructure," he says. "Penn State has experts working on all these issues, and more."

Presentations on natural gas impacts were offered during Ag Progress Days in the nearby College Exhibits Building. They focused on financial management, leasing and water quality. ■

Familiar Faces

QUESTION: What role, if any, do you believe offshore drilling for oil should play in solving America's energy crisis?



Brandi Snook, staff assistant, Pesticide Education Program

"If it is going to make things better for us, yes it should play a role. But we should also look into anything else that's going to improve our situation."



A.E. Luloff, professor of rural sociology

"I don't believe it should play any role. The amount of offshore or unknown reserves in the United States amounts to a minimal amount of oil in comparison to our consumption. It will just continue our dependence on oil. Drilling has been our solution forever—using alternative sources, such as solar, wind, thermal or nuclear will get us off of this addiction."



Julie Watson, administrative assistant, Pesticide Education Program

"I think it should play a role, but a minimal one. It should be used as an option. We need to explore and use other less-harmful resources."



Robbie Swanger, staff assistant in agricultural economics and rural sociology

"If offshore drilling would lower gas prices, then we should invest in it. We should investigate all options for lowering our fuel costs."



Paul Backman, professor of plant pathology

"My feeling is it's a short-term fix for a long-term problem, and we need to consider alternative power, such as nuclear."



Naveen Chikthimma, instructor in food science

"There's no silver bullet. I think it could play a small role, but environmental concerns need to be addressed. If that's done, it should play a part."

Dressing for Diversity Booklet Features Staff Member Models

Each year, the publications group in the college's Communications and Marketing Unit produces hundreds of booklets, circulars, pamphlets and brochures that cover topics relating to food and fiber production, rural community development and family living. And, while staff invest skills and energy in each publication, some require just a little more.

That's why "Exploring Clothes from Cultures from Around the World," the recent publication written by Patreese Ingram, professor of agricultural and extension education, and Jan Scholl, associate professor of agricultural and extension education, is full of familiar faces.

Rama Radhakrishna, associate professor of agricultural and extension education, appears in the publication modeling a traditional Indian dhoti while Peter Kauffman, manager of visual communications in communications and marketing, can be seen in a short, rounded Muslim cap called a "kufi," and Richard Kipp, associate director of information technologies, projects dignity in a long, flowing Muslim robe or galabiyya. Laurie Yearick, staff assistant in communications and marketing, looks surprisingly authentic in a deep-blue Amish wedding dress and prayer covering.



The 42-page publication uses clothing as an educational tool to foster an understanding of the rich and diverse cultural landscape that composes both Pennsylvania and America. It includes expla-

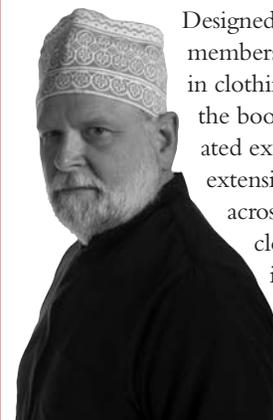


nations of the history and functions of the clothing, activities for youngsters to complete and step-by-step illustrations on wrapping Indian saris, Sikh Hindu turbans and African headdresses.

"Clothing styles and fashion are interesting to many young people and adults," says Ingram, "and I hope that interest will open the door to learning about and appreciating other cultures through our publication. It also attempts to present some of the religious, cultural and historical reasoning behind the styles of clothing with the hope that a study of clothing worn by people from different cultures will reduce misconceptions that many may have about these cultures."

And while every effort was made to find volunteers who matched or were close to the ethnic heritage of the clothing they demonstrated, college staffers were willing replacements in cases where actual ethnic group members were unavailable.

"There were some authentic models we simply could not get," Ingram says. "For instance, we could not, of course, get an Amish person to pose, since their religious beliefs would prohibit having their photos taken. So in those situations, we used staffers. In some cases, it created some interesting contrasts, while others proved the adage of the clothes 'making' the man or woman."



Designed for 4-H members who participate in clothing projects, the book has generated excitement among extension educators across the state to use clothing in teaching youth to understand, value and appreciate diversity, Ingram says. ■

From Dean Steele

The end of August marks the completion of another great Ag Progress Days event. We had great weather this year and we enjoyed very large crowds. We had strong attendance at our Tuesday Alumni luncheon and meeting of the College Alumni Society.

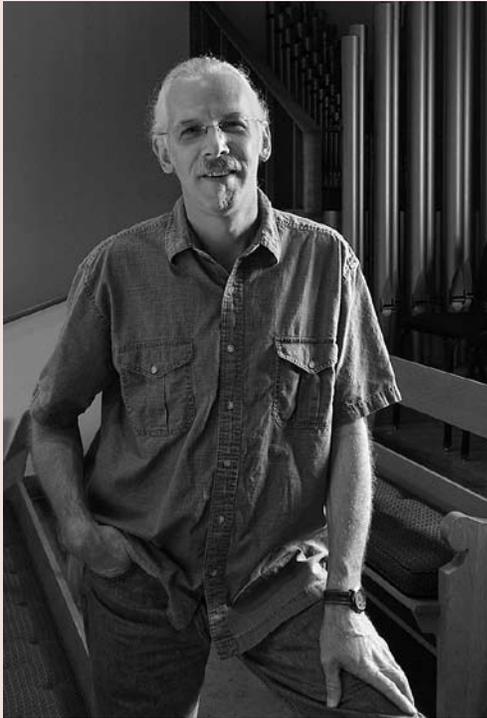
At our Wednesday luncheon, we had a full slate of university and elected officials, including Governor Rendell. We are very fortunate to continue to enjoy the interest and participation of such a strong cadre of university, government, and industry leaders in Ag Progress Days, year in and year out.

Our college theme buildings were again a great success, enjoying a steady stream of visitors throughout the three days of our event. All in all, by any measure, we had another spectacular event. A hearty congratulations to the many, many individuals who made this year's Ag Progress Days such a big success.

Special thanks go to Bob Oberheim, our show manager, for his hard work in making this such a hallmark event for our college, Penn State, and for our commonwealth.

The beginning of September means the new academic year is upon us. Once again, our enrollment is up over last year. The students are getting comfortable with their new class schedules, and getting oriented or re-oriented to their campus environment.

Each year our campus continues to change in appearance but the quality of our student body remains outstanding. Please take a moment and say hello to our new and returning students and offer them a helping hand and encouraging words as they settle in for the new academic year. ■



Name: Keith Diehl

Hometown: State College, Pa.

Grew up: Hopwood and surrounding area (Uniontown, Chalk Hill, Farmington, Ohio, Somers). "I was born in Connellsville, Pa."

Job title: Publication production assistant. "I handle college publication reprints, secure competitive bids through the university's Print Portal and maintain publication files and archives."

Office: The Art Shop, 421 Agricultural Administration Building.

Working at Penn State: "I have worked for Penn State for nearly nine years, first at Printing Services (now Multimedia and Print Center) from 1987 to 1994, and the College of Health and Human Development from 2006 to 2007."

Pets: "Sidney, a very miniature schnauzer, and Buster, a retired racing

greyhound. He loves to pull the fuzz off of soft, fluffy, squeaky toys and enjoys lounging on the couch."

Last book read: "The Philosopher's Apprentice," by State College resident Jim Morrow.

CD currently in your car's player: "None. On occasion I'll listen to the news on public radio, but I rarely have a CD in the car. I'm very happy to drive in silence."

Favorite musician: "These days I don't listen to much popular music, confining my interests more toward classical, especially organ. But way back when, my favorite group was the B-52's."

Favorite movie: "The Grapes of Wrath, though Star Wars is right up there. Plus, I really like the Lord of the Rings trilogy."

Favorite restaurant: "I don't really have a favorite restaurant in State College, probably because so many of them are big national chains, which I avoid like poison ivy."

Hobbies: "I love to cook, read, camp, hike, play the piano and organ, and enjoy the company of my dogs. I earned a private pilot's license in 1994, but have done little flying lately because of something called a mortgage!"

How you relax: "Nothing like a good book, a quiet place in the woods, and a rack of good barbeque ribs! Or a couple of hours at the piano playing some Brahms, Mozart, or Chopin, or at the organ playing Bach, Buxtehude, or Franck."

Favorite part of job: "I enjoy seeing documents on my computer screen become hold-in-your-hand printed publications and have great satisfaction in knowing my work helps to educate Pennsylvanians."

New Scholarship Honors School of Forest Resources Director Strauss

A new Trustee Scholarship to assist students in Penn State's School of Forest Resources will honor the school's retiring director, Charles Strauss.

Patricia Kocjancic of Kane and her family have committed \$50,000 to endow the award.

"Our family has been connected with the forestry industry for many years, and Chuck Strauss has earned our admiration

and respect," Kocjancic said. "We decided to establish this scholarship as a way of honoring him and, at the same time, helping to make sure that students who want to make forestry their career have the means to do so."

Patricia Kocjancic and her late husband, Edward F. Kocjancic, a 1954 Penn State graduate in forestry, were principals in the family's consulting firm, Edward F.

Kocjancic Inc., which has been providing forest-management assistance to landowners for 40 years. Their eldest son, Edward S. Kocjancic, who graduated from Penn State with degrees in forestry and business management, is now the firm's president.

Strauss has been a faculty member of the School of Forest Resources since 1961, three years after he earned his bachelor's degree from the university. ■

Up and Coming...

September 1. Labor Day holiday—no classes.

September 2-4. Fall Statewide In-Service. The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, UP. Contact Mary Ann Harvey, (814) 863-9846.

September 21. Paws Pet Extravaganza, Ag Arena, UP. Contact David Abler, (814) 234-0363.

September 23-26. Cultured Dairy Products Short Course, University Park. Contact Bob Roberts, (814) 863-2959.

September 28. Ag Hill Olympics, Ag Arena, UP. Contact Cory Chalco, (724) 316-4685.

October 2. 15th Annual PNC Bank/United Way Day of Caring, Bryce Jordan Center, UP. Contact Randall Bock, (814) 863-2300.

October 4. Great Insect Fair, Ag Arena, UP. Contact Steve Jacobs, (814) 863-3963.

NEW FACES

Craig Blose, staff assistant IV in Clearfield County

Carrie Bowman, associate extension educator in McKean County

Kirsten Dubbs, associate extension educator in Tioga County

S. Tianna DuPont, associate extension educator in Northampton County

Ryan Elias, assistant professor of food science

Leah Good, program associate in Franklin County

Jacqueline Grant, senior lecturer in the School of Forest Resources

Barbara Hill, staff assistant VI in agricultural and biological engineering

Subhashinie Kariyawasam, assistant professor in veterinary and biomedical science

Mark Leach, assistant professor of rural sociology and demography.

Theresa Lorentson, staff assistant VI in Philadelphia County

Michael Mahney, instructor in horticulture



▲ Rachel Perry, staff assistant in cooperative extension and outreach administration, stains a railing at the Skills of Central Pennsylvania Group Home in Bellefonte as part of the college team participating in last year's United Way Day of Caring. The 2008 Day of Caring is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 2, and the college will again assemble a volunteer team to provide landscaping, painting and repair services for a nonprofit agency in Centre County. More information on the Day of Caring is available at <http://www.ccunitedway.org/pncdoc.html>; to sign up for the team, contact team leader Randall Bock at (814) 863-2300 or by e-mail at rgb@psu.edu.

Anouk Patel, assistant professor of rural sociology

Christopher Raines, assistant professor in dairy and animal science

Cathy Walker, staff assistant IV in dairy and animal science

Edward Zueck, information technology manager in information technologies

PARTINGS

Nicholas Barger, research support technician II in crop and soil sciences

Merideth Humphries, research associate in entomology

Benjamin Nolt, extension assistant in agricultural and extension education

Ann Smith, assistant extension educator in Bradford County

RETIREMENTS

Beatrice Isola, accounting assistant III in horticulture

Margaret Malehorn, extension educator in Cumberland County

Richard Stevenson, senior research assistant in plant pathology

PROMOTIONS

Cathie Graham, staff assistant VII in agricultural and extension education

Kimberly Swistock, conference coordinator in conferences and short courses

ACTS Promotions

Gamma to Beta

Randall Dreibelbis, coordinator of farm and greenhouse operations in plant pathology

Dwight Lingenfelter, program development specialist in crop and soil sciences

Beta to Alpha

Charles Gill, news coordinator in communications and marketing

Steven Jacobs, senior extension associate in entomology

Paul Rebarchak, coordinator of farm and greenhouse operations in crop and soil sciences

Kerry Richards, senior extension associate in pesticide education

Stephen Shala, system administrator in information technologies

DEATHS

Jean F. Keefer, nutrition education adviser in Montour County from 1969 until her retirement in 1994, died June 2 at the age of 76.

MORE ABOUT US

Noteworthy

Maria Navarrete-Olvera, 4-H youth/diversity educator in Chester County, was recently presented with an award at the Kennett High School's Seventh Annual Multicultural and Diversity Awareness Conference in appreciation of her "diligent efforts in making a difference in the lives of so many youngsters in the Kennett Square Community."

Burton Staniar, assistant professor of equine nutrition in dairy and animal science, recently gave a lecture on "Care and Nutrition of the Young Growing Horse" at the three-day Southern Maryland Conference on Equine Nutrition in Lexington Park, Md. Also, he recently provided a talk on equine nutrition and gastrointestinal physiology at Wiscoy Pet Store in State College.

Dave Mortensen, professor of weed ecology, received the Edward Bellis Award from the university's Ecology intercollege graduate degree program in recognition of significant faculty contributions to the program and dedication to educating and training graduate students in the program. Mortensen chaired the program for a four-year term, actively advises ecology graduate students and teaches several courses in the program. The award is in honor of Bellis, professor emeritus of biology, who chaired the program from 1980 to 1989.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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