



Undergrad Ed Updates

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OFFICE FOR
UNDERGRADUATE
EDUCATION

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USDA Deputy Secretary Merrigan to Visit Ag. Sciences

Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan, plans to visit Penn State on **Wednesday, October 10**. Secretary Merrigan would like to meet with students in the College that evening from **6:30 -7:30 PM** in the auditorium of the Forest Resources Building. Merrigan oversees the day to day operations of USDA's many programs and spearheads the \$149 billion USDA budget process.

Specifically, Secretary Merrigan will give a presentation on *Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food*, an initiative that highlights the importance of local foods and aims to strengthen the connection between farmers and con-

sumers. She will showcase the Know Your Farmer Compass (available here: www.usda.gov/kyfcompass) and discuss how local food systems strengthen rural economies. Deputy Merrigan will also discuss various career opportunities for students interested in local agriculture, not only on the farm, but also in government, business, and the non-profit sector.

The talk is free and open to the public. Please share with faculty, staff, and students.



Mentoring Workshop



The Ag Alumni Society will be hosting a Mentoring Workshop on **Tuesday, October 2 from 1:00-6:00 p.m. in 118 Agricultural Sciences and Industries Building.**

The Mentoring Workshop is an opportunity to prepare students for the future. Accomplished alumni and leaders in the agriculture industry will share valuable knowledge, offer expert advice and answer students' questions. Workshops include: Networking, Social Media, Internships, Resumes, Soft Skills, and Interviewing. Encourage students to register for a special opportunity to get a complimentary professional headshot photograph taken between 1:00-6:00 pm. Professional attire from the waist up is encouraged for the photo. Student registration is strongly recommended to secure a slot in one or more workshops and the photo session. Direct students to register online at agsci.psu.edu/alumni and call 865-2717 with questions.

Are Men the New At-Risk Student Population?

It has come as somewhat of a shock to me, Terry Musser, the extent to which men in our College of Agricultural Sciences struggle with academic success, more so than women. I have been tracking and supporting our students dropped for poor scholarship for several years, and it concerns me that although only 45% of the students in our college are male, 68% of the students dropped for poor scholarship are male. The literature is flooded with research and implications for many at-risk populations, but the male cohort has only recently been recognized as one of these populations. If you too are interested in this recent trend, read this article which explores the research related to why men are struggling and then offers some suggestions for working with our male students. <http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Clearinghouse/AdvisingIssues/male-students.htm>

Webinar on Creating Successful Award Packets for USDA

SAVE THE DATE –
November 28, 2012, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
 Eastern Standard Time

APLU, in coordination with Kirby Barrick of the University of Florida, will host a webinar on creating successful award packets for the USDA Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences. As you may know, these awards are open to faculty "teaching activities concerned with the production, processing, marketing, distribution, conservation, consumption, research, and development of food and agriculturally related products and services, inclusive of academic programs in agriculture, natural resources, forestry, veterinary medicine, human sciences / family and consumer sciences, and other, closely allied fields."

Participants will hear tips from successful nominees, successful nominators, and past

reviewers. There will also be an overview of the packet requirements and general suggestions from past lessons learned.

Additional information on the webinar, including registration information, will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions, contact:

Wendy Fink
*Associate Director of Food, Agriculture, and
 Natural Resources*
 APLU
 1307 New York Avenue, NW
 Suite 400
 Washington, DC 20005-4722
 Office: 202-478-6021

Email: wfink@aplu.org
 Web: www.aplu.org

IMPORTANT DATES!

Ag Career Day

Tuesday, Oct. 16th

9 AM to 4 PM

Bryce Jordan Center

College of Ag Sciences

Scholarship Banquet

Thursday, October 25th

5:30 PM

Penn Stater
 Conference Center

Annual Fall College Open House

The College will hold its annual fall open house for prospective students and families on **Monday, October 8**. The events get underway at the HUB auditorium at 8:45 AM. After the college overview and information on Undergraduate Admissions and student Aid, prospects choose to attend an

academic information session. Select facility tours are offered to participants throughout the day. Check with your Department Program Coordinator(s) to see how you can become involved. Information and registration is posted on the College website: <http://www.cvent.com/d/8cq2n>.

This event typically draws close to a hundred families. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Contact Marianne Fivek ma-fivek@psu.edu for additional information.

New Staff Member in the Office for Undergraduate Education

We are pleased to announce that **Howard Rupert** has recently joined the Office for Undergraduate Education. Howard will be serving as support for the College Scholarship Program, International Agriculture Awards (INTAG), Multicultural Undergraduate Student Programs, Spring Commencement Ceremonies, as well as general office support. Howard's email is her10@psu.edu.



Announcing Fall 2012 Undergraduate Program Coordinator Meeting Schedule

The Fall 2012 Program Coordinator Meetings have been scheduled on the following days, **1:30-3:00 PM**:

- ◆ Tuesday, **October 23**, Room 118 ASI
- ◆ Monday, **November 19**, Mann Assembly Room, Paterno Library
- ◆ Wednesday, **December 19**, Room 504 ASI

Meeting notices with tentative agenda items will be emailed to Program Coordinators before each meeting. We welcome your input and ideas for agenda items, so please feel free to contact us at any time to add an item for discussion.

Jim Dunn	AG BM, and 2 AGB
Dennis Decoteau	HORT
Stephanie Doores	FD SC
John Ewing	AEE and AG SC
Tarrah Geszvain	AGECO
Les Griel	VB SC
Leland Glenna	CED
Pamela Hankey	IID
Jude Liu	A S M
Ellen Manno	FORSC, W F S, and W P
Megan Marshall	B E
Robert Mikesell	ANSCI
Rob Shannon	E R M
Dan Stearns	LSCPE
Jack Vanden Heuvel	TOX
Andrew Mc Nitt	TURF



Backpack to Briefcase



2012 Ag Career Day

Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2012
Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Location: The Bryce Jordan Center



Please encourage your students to attend and network with our agribusiness partners. Select companies will be interviewing students on campus in the days and weeks after career day. Company registration, list of employers attending, and more detailed information about the event is available online at the [Ag Career Day web site](#).

Traditionally, Ag Career Day has been a vital asset to students identifying internship, research, and full-time opportunities. Please help us make this event a success.

Faculty and Staff are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Request Funds for Student Activities

Spring 2013 Semester: Proposals are due December 7, 2012

New forms and revised procedures are in place for the 2012-2013 academic school year. It is important to carefully follow new procedures and accurately complete the forms to ensure the proposal will be reviewed and considered for funding. For details and proposal forms, go to <http://students.cas.psu.edu/RequestingFundsforStudentAct.htm>

Office for Undergraduate Education Campus Visits

Once again the Office for Undergraduate Education will hit the road and visit several Commonwealth campuses this fall. Department participation is welcome! If you or a colleague would like to jump in the van, please email Debbie Little, dxm16@psu.edu or phone 814-867-0383.

Wednesday, October 10	Penn State Altoona
Friday, October 12	Penn State Mont Alto
Wednesday, October 24	Penn State Berks
Thursday, October 25	Penn State Erie



College of Agricultural Sciences Instruction & Curricular Affairs Committee Calendar 2012-2013

Proposals Due to College Administrator in CSCS system**	Send to ACUE Deans (if necessary) Post in ANGEL & notify committee for review	College Curricular Affairs Committee Meeting Dates and Location	Revisions Due back in CSCS and begin final approval process	*Proposals due to Faculty Senate	*Curriculum Report Publication Date (on Blue Sheets for 30 days)	*Senate Committee Curricular Affairs (SCCA) all day meeting
Friday Sept. 7, 2012	Sept. 10-11-12	Thurs. Sept. 27, 2012 1:30 -3:00 p.m. 244 Ag Eng. Bldg.	Oct. 12, 2012	Oct. 26, 2012	for the Nov. 13, 2012 Issue	Dec. 4, 2012
Friday Oct. 26, 2012	Oct. 29-30-31	Thurs. Nov. 15, 2012 1:30 -3:00 p.m. 244 Ag Eng. Bldg.	Nov. 30, 2012	Dec. 14, 2012	for the Jan. 15, 2013 Issue	Jan. 29, 2013
Friday Dec. 14, 2012	Dec. 17-18-19	Thurs. Jan. 17, 2013 1:30 -3:00 p.m. 244 Ag Eng. Bldg.	Jan. 25, 2013	Feb. 6, 2013	for the Feb. 19, 2013 Issue	March 12, 2013
Friday Feb. 8, 2013	Feb. 11-12-13	Thurs. Feb. 28, 2013 1:30 -3:00 p.m. Room TBD	March 8, 2013	March 22, 2013	for the April 9, 2013 Issue	April 23, 2013
Friday April 5, 2013	April 8-9-10	Thurs. April 25, 2013 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Room TBD	May 13, 2013	May 24, 2013	for June 11, 2013 Issue	August 20, 2013

* Dates posted by Faculty Senate.

Course proposals need to be completely through all CSCS consultation and ready to be sent to the college administrator (K. Pletcher) by this date to be reviewed at the college committee meeting. **Hard Copies are not required for the Course Proposals submitted via CSCS. Once a course proposal has passed through the College's Instruction and Curricular Affairs Committee review process and been approved for submission to the Faculty Senate, the appropriate hard copies will be made by the college administrator and sent to the Senate for their review process. **A Hard Copy original and a PDF copy is required for all Program Proposals**—since they are NOT submitted via CSCS yet.

Senate Newsletters are posted to their website at: http://www.senate.psu.edu/senate_activity/newsletters.htm

Fall 2012 Student Recruitment and Enrollment Committee

The Student Recruitment and Enrollment Committee (SREC) meetings have been scheduled on the following dates at **9:00-10:00 AM** in the conference room of 101 Ag. Admin. Building.

- ◆ Wednesday, November 7
- ◆ Wednesday, October 3
- ◆ Wednesday, December 5



World Language Requirement on Degree Audits

In February 2012, ACUE approved a change to procedure A-1 (First-Year Student) for students admitted to the University who are deficient in the world language (formerly foreign/second language) admissions requirement.

In the past, the credits that were used to meet this deficiency were not allowed to count towards degree requirements for graduation. Effective Fall 2012, the credits that meet this deficiency are allowed to be counted toward degree requirements for graduation. **This change will be effective for newly admitted and currently enrolled students.**

Graduate Record Exam (GRE): A Low-Cost Test Preparation Course

Nature of the course: This is a *complete* preparation course for the *Revised* Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Participants will receive 14 hours of expert classroom instruction and extensive handouts. Only real GRE questions are used. Because the GRE is a test of general reasoning ability, the test-taker needs a clear understanding of the types of reasoning tested and a sensible procedural approach to the test.

Registration fee: \$350.00

Location: Bank of America Career Services Center, Penn State University, University Park.

The course is offered through Career Services. For more information, please contact (814) 865-5131 or at CareerWorkshops@sa.psu.edu.

Dates and times: One weekend: October 20-21, 2012

Classes are from 9:00 to 5:00 with an hour for lunch. (Registration opens 3-4 months prior to the start of each class.)

Instructor: James Yoho, J.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Yoho has been teaching test preparation since 1996 at the request of such institutions as Penn State, La Salle, Lehigh, Marist, Binghamton, Rutgers, and Temple. Now a full-time standardized test coach, he taught for 12 years at colleges and universities, including graduate and professional school. (Questions may be directed to Dr. Yoho at yohoprep@aol.com)

Bring to Class: Note-taking materials and a simple calculator. For more information on this course and to register, please visit: <https://psu-csm.symplicity.com/events/YohoGRECourses>

USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum Student Diversity Program Participation



USDA's Agricultural Outlook Forum provides producers, policymakers, business, government, and industry leaders with a unique opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and discuss timely issues at the forefront of America's agriculture. In

an effort to increase the present and future diversity participation in the Forum, USDA created a program that provides sponsorship opportunities for junior-senior baccalaureate and this year has been expanded, for the first time, to include graduate students to attend this annual event.

The 2013 Agricultural Outlook Forum will be held Feb. 21-22 in Arlington, Virginia, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel. USDA will host an introductory briefing and discussion of career opportunities on Feb. 19. On Feb. 20 students will tour USDA's Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the National Plant Materials Center. The USDA Outlook Forum Diversity Program is designed to expose students to contemporary agribusiness, future trends, scientific research, and agricultural policy in today's real world environment.

TARGET: The program targets 30 agriculture, agricultural economics, agricultural communications, agricultural business, nutrition and food science or pre-veterinary junior or senior and graduate students. Students (20 undergraduate and 10 graduate) will come from Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources institutions.

UNDERGRADUATE SELECTION CRITERIA: Students first submit their one-page essay titled "Agriculture as a Career" to their respective institution representative (i.e., aca-

ademic dean/department chair). Each institution performs a "pre-selection" process by choosing the final best two essays among the applicants selecting two undergraduate students. **Undergraduate essays** are submitted with individual letters of recommendation from the institution's dean to Lisa Purnell (lisa.purnell@osec.usda.gov) by Nov. 9, 2012. Ms. Purnell and Ms. Brenda Chapin, Information Officer with USDA's Office of the Chief Economist, will make the final selections.

GRADUATE SELECTION CRITERIA: Students first submit their essay (2-page maximum) titled "The Greatest Challenge Facing Agriculture Over the Next 5 Years" to their respective institution representative (i.e., academic dean/department chair). Each institution performs a "pre-selection" process by choosing the final best two essays among the applicants.

Graduate essays are submitted to Lisa Purnell (lisa.purnell@osec.usda.gov) with individual letters of recommendation from the institution's dean to by Nov. 9, 2012.

ESSAY SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 9, 2012: Essays must include student's name, student's major, year in school, address, phone number, and e-mail. Final selections for undergraduates will be made by Lisa Purnell, USDA/1890s Program Liaison, University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Graduate students will be selected by Harry Baumes, Director, USDA Office of Energy Policy and New Uses.

Additional information can be found at: http://www.usda.gov/ose/forforum/diversity/diversity_program.htm

Registrar Updates from 2012 Enrollment Management Conference

ISIS Replacement Project

To provide the Penn State community with a more efficient and cost-effective resource for conducting student-related business, the University's outdated Integrated Student Information System (ISIS) is slated to be replaced after 30+ years of being in service. After an extensive needs assessment (several years), the ISIS Replacement Executive Committee has decided to move forward with the purchase and implementation of a vendor-provided student information system. Currently PSU is consulting, looking into other Big 10 Universities, and it will take another 9-10 months to decide on which product to purchase. Meanwhile, they are working on mapping out all their current processes and then envisioning how they really want these processes to work. University Policy changes may need to happen along with this project. A vendor will be selected (summer 2013 time-frame) and then it will take 2-3 years to implement. The new product will most likely be rolled out in pieces. The new system will be flexible with ability to change as policy changes (unlike ISIS with all the programming issues).



Update on Instructional Space Task Force and RFP Committee

This committee was tasked with reviewing current scheduling practices, asking the questions, does our current system for scheduling 1) maximize faculty convenience? 2) maximize student opportunities? or 3) maximize classroom use? The new system will set a maximum of courses offered in the core hours and will have more offerings outside core times. The committee will have a recommendation to the Provost, and once approved, a new scheduling system product (one system for both academic and event scheduling of rooms) will be purchased.

Changes to University Academic Drop Policy being reviewed at the Faculty Senate

A dramatic change to the current drop policy is being presented to faculty senate from a university subcommittee. This new system would eliminate the "non-degree conditional" status and use the 1) Academic Warning 2) Academic Probation and then 3) Dismissal status that is more understandable for the student and is what other university use as their system of student status. This move would also eliminate deficiency points and allow student to come back sooner after "Dismissal" (one year). There could be a dozen policy changes that go along with this.

New eLion format will rollout October 2 for the students and then spring semester for advisors. Faculty and parents will see the new format sometime after that.

New Official Transcript ordering system (via eLion)

Mid-November is when the new official transcript ordering system will go on-line for the students. Paper or fax orders will no longer be available or accepted at the Registrar's office. eLion will connect the students directly to the new system (Avow) and it will handle the ordering and payment process for Penn State.

Degree audit system update

The Degree Audit system upgrade will be almost seamless for you. The change is occurring in the database and programming environment of the application. There will be no changes to the screens in eISIS or eLion where degree audits are submitted/viewed and exceptions entered.

The degree audits in the upgraded system will look the same as the current degree audits however it appears that the upgraded degree audit system processes the courses in a better way than the current system. Some courses might change between sub-requirements (especially between General Education, Electives, Bachelor of Arts requirements, etc). However sub-requirements that are complete in the current system are complete in the upgraded system but different courses might apply to the sub-requirement.

The upgrade will start at midnight on October 3rd and the degree audit screens will be disabled on eLion and eISIS. No audits will be able to be requested, viewed, or exceptions entered. It is anticipated that the degree audit system (on eLion and eISIS) should be available by 10:00 a.m. on October 3rd.

Due to the upgrade, any degree audits that have been run and are in the viewing list area on eLion and eISIS (screen ERISDN) will be deleted during the upgrade process. If you need to have degree audits available for specific students on the morning of October 3rd, please run and print the degree audit on October 2nd.

Request for Proposals—Student Engagement in Pittsburgh

Faculty are invited to apply for a mini-grant of up to \$5,000 to support a student engagement project in 2012-2013, in partnership with the Penn State Center – Engaging Pittsburgh. Between 10-15 projects will be selected, depending on funding availability.

About the Penn State Center:

The Penn State Center began work in 2009 as an effort to demonstrate a new approach to engaging urban areas and bringing university resources to bear on critical regional issues. We actively build partnerships with local individuals and organizations to identify needs and develop key strategic relationships to connect Penn State research and programming with these partners.

Who may apply for funding:

Faculty from any college may apply for funding, with the approval of the department chair. Projects must involve students from the University Park or World Campus.

Types of projects to be supported:

There is no pre-conceived outline for a successful project; creativity is welcomed and encouraged. Proposed projects must include a meaningful engaged learning component that brings students to Pittsburgh and takes advantage of the unique assets of the city. Projects may include (but are not limited to) on-site research, service learning, community-based research, studios, consultative projects with local organizations, etc. The project may be part of a course or a free-standing initiative.

Costs eligible for support:

Any direct costs that would be incurred in the course of the project are eligible, including transportation or materials. Proposals with matching resources are encouraged. This may include graduate assistant support and other forms of effort. When a project has been awarded, a cost center will be created so that expenses can be tracked. A monthly status report is required by the fifth of the following month with brief details in both activities completed and funds expended. A simple reporting form will be provided upon grant award.

Timeline:

Proposals for activities scheduled for the **current fall semester are due by 4:30 pm on October 15, 2012**; all applicants will be notified no later than 4:30 pm October 22,

2012. Proposals for activities scheduled for the **2013 spring semester are due by 4:30 pm on November 30, 2012**; all applicants will be notified no later than 4:30 pm on December 7, 2012. Projects must be completed within the 2012-2013 year and can span one or more semesters but must be completed by June 15, 2013. Successful recipients will be also expected to work with Penn State Center staff to share their work to other faculty and interested stakeholders. The intent is to begin creating a community of interest around engaged scholarship in general and urban engaged scholarship in particular.

Application Guidelines:

Please submit a brief proposal (3 pages maximum) via email to ean14@psu.edu. The proposal should be a PDF attachment to the email and must include:

- the name of the project or course
- learning objectives
- rationale for a Pittsburgh setting for the project
- the number and level (e.g., first-year, graduate, etc.) of students to be involved
- how outcomes will be measured/documented
- budget and budget narrative
- who will oversee the project and relevant contact information

If the project involves any partners other than the Penn State Center, letters of support must be attached. Matching funds other than faculty time will enhance the possibility for funding. A letter or email of approval from the applicant's department chair must be included with the proposal.

Questions?

Email Liz Nilsen, Coordinator of Special Initiatives, at ean14@psu.edu.

THE
PENN STATE
CENTER
ENGAGING PITTSBURGH

2012 College of Ag Sciences Teaching Recognition and Awards

To recognize and promote excellence in teaching, we invite you to nominate faculty (tenured, tenure-track, and instructors) from your units for our three college-wide award programs: The *Community of Teaching Excellence Award* (est. 2000), the *NACTA Teaching Award of Merit* (reinstated in 2007), and the *Paul R. and Joan M. Shellenberger Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching* (est. 2010).

Nominations and applications are based on accomplishments during the past academic year (comprising the summer, fall, and spring semesters of 2011-12) in formal undergraduate and graduate instruction, including resident instruction and online instruction.



The *Community of Teaching Excellence Award* is offered solely through the college and can have multiple recipients on any given year. This recognition can also be received by an individual for multiple years, potentially leading to the induction of the individual into the Academy of Teaching Excellence.

The *NACTA Teaching Award of Merit* is awarded by the college to one individual each year as part of our institutional membership in the NACTA Association. In an attempt to properly recognize and encourage excellence in teaching in faculty early in their careers, tenure-track faculty and instructors with less than five (5) years of teaching experience at Penn State will be considered for the *NACTA Teaching Award of Merit*.

The *Paul R. and Joan M. Shellenberger Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching* is awarded by the college to one individual for one aca-

ademic year. This award is to honor and recognize a full-time instructor who is an outstanding teacher contributing significantly to undergraduate education in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Consideration for this award shall be given to all full-time instructors with teaching appointments (non-tenure and not on tenure track) in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Complete nomination packets for these teaching awards are available from your Unit Leader and must be submitted to Tracy S. Hoover, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, College of Agricultural Sciences, 101 Ag Administration Bldg. by **5:00 PM on Friday, October 19, 2012.**

Please feel free to contact Tracy Hoover (tsh102@psu.edu or 865-7521) if you have any questions. All programs carry financial award and recognition.



Office for Undergraduate Education

College of Agricultural Sciences
The Pennsylvania State University
101 Agricultural Administration Building
University Park, PA 16802-2602

Phone: 814-865-7521
Fax: 814-863-7277
<http://agsci.psu.edu>

ThinkAgain

FALL 2012 COLLEGE & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

<p>October 1 - 21</p> <p>November 16</p> <p>November 18 - 24</p> <p>December 14</p> <p>December 15 - 16</p> <p>December 17 - 21</p> <p>December 22</p>	<p>Final Exam Conflict Filing Period</p> <p>Late Drop Deadline</p> <p>Thanksgiving Holiday - No classes</p> <p>Classes End</p> <p>Study Days</p> <p>Final Exams</p> <p>Commencement</p>
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