



Ohio State HCS News

HORTICULTURE & CROP SCIENCE IN VIRTUAL PERSPECTIVE - THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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David Barker Earns Pomerene Teaching Award



H&CS Associate Professor David Barker earned the Pomerene Departmental Teaching Excellence Award for 2006.

In recognition of his outstanding teaching achievements, **Dr. David Barker**, an Associate Professor in the Horticulture & Crop Science Department, has earned the 2006 Pomerene Departmental Teaching Excellence Award from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

Dr. L.H. Newcomb, Senior Associate Dean and Price Chair in Teaching, Advising and Learning, congratulated Dr. Barker and thanked him for his outstanding contributions to the college during an impromptu class visit on October 12, 2006. H&CS Interim Chair **Mark Bennett**, who nominated Barker for the award, joined Newcomb at the surprise announcement. Made possible by the Warner and Lora Pomerene Faculty Enhancement Fund, the award recipients receive \$1,000 into a department operating account for their use.

"Dave Barker is one of our most dedicated, prolific, and effective teachers," explains Bennett. "He is a respected teacher dedicated to student learning. He has a solid record of teaching engagement and excellence and is a shining example of CFAES faculty member who is making a difference as a teaching ambassador on behalf of the college and the department."

A forage physiology and ecology researcher, Barker has taught five different courses during the last two years. He taught [H&CS 612 \(Principles of Grassland Management\)](#), [H&CS 604.01 \(Experimental Approaches in Plant Physiology\)](#), H&CS 602 (Crop Ecology), H&CS 412 (Forage Crops), and H&CS 200 (The Science of Growing Plants). He also coordinates the graduate student colloquia and departmental seminars.

Bennett notes that Barker recently took the initiative to revise H&CS 200 with the goal of making it more relevant to a broader range of students. "Dave's revision of the course was introduced in 2006 and the average enrollment has increased 27% over its prior three-year average. The enrollment in 200 has been increasingly comprised of non-CFAES students since Dave took leadership of the course. He selflessly volunteered to teach the class this summer and 27 students enrolled, with over 90% non-CFAES."

An advisor to Crop Science majors, Barker earned the 2005 Price Advising Award from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences in recognition of his dedication to outstanding student advising. He has served as the faculty advisor to the Crops and Soils Club since 2001.

Previous winners of the Pomerene Teaching Excellence Award include David Gardner (2005), [Steven Still](#) (2004), [Michael Knee](#) (2003 & 2000), Jim Metzger (2002), Mark Bennett (2001), Pablo Jourdan (1998), and Tim Rhodus (1997).

Story, photos and web publishing by [Victor van Buchem](#).
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