



Ohio State HCS News

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

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Gamma Sigma Delta Honors Pratt, Initiates New Members



Gamma Sigma Delta recognized Rich Pratt with the 2006 International Award of Merit for his research on African maize crops.

Ohio's chapter of [Gamma Sigma Delta](#) (GSD), the Honor Society of Agriculture, held its annual awards and new member initiation banquet on March 9, 2006 in the auditorium of the Agricultural Administration Building. Horticulture & Crop Science (H&CS) faculty, staff and students alike were recognized for exceptional achievement in agriculture.

Dr. Rich Pratt was recognized with the 2006 International Award of Merit. An associate professor in H&CS, Pratt is internationally known as a researcher on the advancement of host resistance strategies that minimize the vulnerability of sub-Saharan maize crops to infection by foliar pathogens. A leader in the development of the African Crop Science Society, Pratt has worked collaboratively with scientists from all over the world to strengthen international agriculture. As a testimonial to Pratt's contributions to fighting diseases that devastate corn, and his dedication to helping farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, he received the [2005 African Crop Science Society Award](#).

In addition to acknowledging the successes of faculty, GSD promotes and recognizes the high achievement and contributions of agriculture students. To be nominated for membership seniors must be in the upper 15% of their class. In addition, their personal qualities, including ability in leadership, must show promise of a successful career in agriculture. Graduate students must have outstanding personal qualities and exceptional abilities in scholarship and leadership. They must show promise in an agricultural endeavor whether it be teaching, research, or in another noteworthy service.



Weed Science Extension Specialist Jeff Stachler (center) was initiated into Gamma Sigma Delta Graduate Student category.

In 2006, five H&CS students met the GSD standards and were invited to join the society. **Mary Alexander**, **Melinda Hoffman**, **Emily Hill** and **Anna Leis** were initiated during the ceremony. Additionally, H&CS staff member and doctoral student **Jeff Stachler**, Weed Science Extension Specialist, was initiated as a graduate student.

GSD has recognized the contributions of many H&CS faculty during its long history. The Research Award of Merit was bestowed upon **Dr. John Streeter** (2003) and **Dr. John Finer** (2005). **Dr. Paul Henderlong** earned the both the Teaching Award of Merit and the International Award of Merit in 1994. **Dr. Kent Harrison** earned the Teaching Award of Merit in 2004. Lastly, the Extension Award of Merit was given to **Dr. Jim Beuerlein** (1991), **Dr. Dick Funt** (1993) and **Dr. Mark Loux** (2003).



[Gamma Sigma Delta](#) has its roots at The Ohio State University. Founded December 1, 1905, the society began as a professional agricultural fraternity called Delta Theta Sigma which included a chapter house at OSU. Eight years later, the Ohio chapter withdrew from the national group which was comprised of honorary chapters only and the society became Gamma Sigma Delta. In 1917, a merger with the Honor Society of Agriculture which had been founded in 1915 at the University of Minnesota formed the basis for today's international society, The Honor Society of Agriculture, Gamma Sigma Delta. This Ohio chapter was re-installed in 1928.

The Ohio State University will be hosting the 2006 Gamma Sigma Delta Conclave June 24 - 26 2006. To be held at the Holiday Inn in Columbus, Ohio, the opening reception this year will be the time the Society officially celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

Watch a narrated slideshow of this story with additional photos here: [Gamma Sigma Delta 2006](#)

[Slideshow](#). Quicktime software required to view slideshow.

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