



Ohio State HCS News

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

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Graduate Students Begin Advanced Studies



The Horticulture & Crop Science Graduate Studies Committee announces the arrival of twelve new scholars to the department.

With Fall Quarter 2006 underway, the Horticulture & Crop Science Graduate Studies Committee is pleased to announce the arrival of twelve new scholars to the department. Each of these top international, national and local students is beginning studies toward advanced degrees in the H&CS Graduate Program at The Ohio State University. Whether they are seeking a Master's degree or a Doctoral degree, a new academic journey has begun for four OSU educated Buckeyes, five international students and three graduate students from across the U.S.

During the student orientation, **Dr. Kent Harrison**, interim associate chair, welcomed the new students and offered advice. "Take advantage of the size and diversity of The Ohio State University, both here in Columbus and on the Wooster campus. Make use of the excellent resources we offer in the Horticulture & Crop Science Department, but seek help outside the department if you need access to equipment or help with a research technique. This department has a long history of collaboration and we are open sharing our expertise." Graduate Studies chair **Dr. JC Jang** echoed Harrison remarks and encouraged the students to learn from the departmental seminar series.

Through the help of a new initiative, the H&CS Graduate Studies Committee attracted two exceptional students from beyond the borders of Ohio. **Marcelo Pomeranz** and **Daniel Robarts** were each recipients of the 2006 Awards of Distinction in Plant Sciences. Each award provides financial support (stipend, and tuition and fees) using a new funding allocation from CFAES Associate Dean **LH Newcomb**. Initial funding is for 1 year and may be continued based upon demonstration of outstanding academic and research progress. These two outstanding students also earned University Fellowships.



Marcelo Pomeranz earned both the 2006 Award of Distinction in Plant Sciences and a University Fellowship to fund his studies.

Pomeranz, who earned his BS from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, will be pursuing a PhD researching plant genetics and use of GFP fluorescence and plant growth monitors under the watchful eyes of Dr. Jang and **Dr. John Finer**.

A native of New England with an interest in herbaceous ornamental plants, Robarts, who earned a BS from Bates College, is working toward a master's degree in the area of environmental horticulture and floriculture breeding and will be advised by **Dr. David Tay**.

Five international students have chosen The Ohio State University to pursue advanced degrees in the plant sciences. **Na Zhang**, of China will work with Jang and **Dr. Esther van der Knaap** in the genetics and breeding field. Two students are studying weed science under the tutelage of **Dr. Doug Doohan**, **Linjian Jiang**, a native of China and **Anita Kamboj**, from India. Another student from India, **Upender Somireddy**, came to OSU to study nursery techniques with **Dr. Hannah Mathers**. Brazilian **Giovani Fae** is pursuing a master's degree in forages by working with **Dr. Mark Sulc**.

Four Ohio State University educated students are making the leap from undergraduate studies to the H&CS graduate program. **Ryan Beeson**, is studying nitrogen fertility requirements for turfgrass with **Dr. David Gardner**. **Meghan Blake** is working on magnolia breeding with **Dr. Dan Struve**. **Nathan Smith** will pursue his master's degree studying wheat breeding and genetics with **Dr. Clay Sneller**. **Dr. Kent Harrison** will advise **Bruce Ackley** as he studies weed science.

Ohio native and Wilmington College graduate **Amanda Hensler** is studying forages and grazing with **Dr. David Barker**, who is also set to chair the H&CS Graduate Studies Committee beginning in January 2007.

The Graduate Studies Committee is also hosting its first [H&CS Graduate Research Retreat & Open House](#) on October 13 and 14. Any students who are interested in pursuing a graduate education are encourage to attend and learn about the exciting research happening in Horticulture & Crop Science. Available travel grants include a one-night stay at a local hotel (shared, non-smoking room), complimentary meals and gasoline assistance. The RSVP and travel grant deadlines are September 29.

Story, photo and web publishing by [Victor van Buchem](#). Pomeranz photo courtesy [John Finer](#).

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