



Ohio State HCS News

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Turf Students Benefit from Gifts, Endowments



Ohio State Turfgrass Science students are benefitting from increased industry donations and endowment contributions.

The Ohio State University Turfgrass Science program has begun a fundraising campaign for its nationally-recognized Turfgrass Science and new Professional Golf Management (PGM) programs. The turfgrass industry, Ohio State alumni and OSU faculty have responded favorably to this new campaign through generous equipment donations and endowment contributions. Current and future Ohio State students are sure to benefit from this initiative to strengthen the Turfgrass Science teaching and research programs at OSU.

The Toro Company and Nicklaus Marketing and Communications have made their first gift toward a pledge of \$100,000 to provide scholarships for undergraduates whose families work in the turfgrass industry. "We're pleased with this gift," said **Dr. Karl Danneberger**, Turfgrass Science Professor in the Horticulture & Crop Science Department, "in part because it demonstrates Toro's and the Nicklaus company's support of the science behind the more visible sports and golf and landscaping aspects of turf."

Toro has also donated several much-needed pieces of equipment: a baseball infield groomer, a line drawer, and a rotary mower specifically developed for use on athletic fields. "This equipment will have a very practical impact on our students' work and research," Danneberger said.



The OSU Turfgrass Science team thanks James and Harriet Beard for their generous contribution to support a graduate fellowship in turf research.

Several years ago, Ohio State alumnus **Dr. James Beard** (BS 1957 Agronomy) [created an endowment](#) to fund a graduate fellowship in turf science. The James B and Harriet Beard Graduate Fellowship Fund in Turfgrass Physiology/Biochemistry will support a high quality master's or doctoral student studying turfgrass stress. Dr. Beard's contribution was matched by the Scotts Company, and a number of other donors pledged to give to the fund. By July 1 of 2006, the fund will be sufficiently endowed at \$400,000 to provide its first fellowship. [The Beard Fellowship](#) is unique because 100% of the Turfgrass Science faculty have contributed to it.

Several faculty are creating their own endowment funds to benefit various aspects of the Turf program. Dr. Danneberger has established a fund to support undergraduate turfgrass science activities. With the funds, special learning opportunities can take place that otherwise would not be funded such as club activities, travel for students to attend professional meetings, field trips and other opportunities that arise. In addition to serving as Turf Club advisor, **Dr. David Gardner** is also a contributor to this fund.

Plant Pathology Associate Professor **Dr. Michael Boehm** and Program Specialist **Joseph Rimelspach** have established a Turfgrass Disease Endowment Fund to support the teaching, research and extension-outreach efforts at the Ohio State University related to the study of the biology, ecology and integrated management of turfgrass pathogens.



Ray Miller, PGM Director

Dr. Ray Miller, director of the PGM program, recently expressed his gratitude to the Golf Centre of Dublin, the closest year-found public golf practice facility to the OSU campus, for donating use of its facilities to students enrolled in the Pre-PGM major. "I feel the support from the GCD was critical to the success of our proposal to the university for the new Pre-PGM major and will be even more important as we seek accreditation of the program by the PGA," said Miller. If the program is accredited by the PGA of America, students will become PGM majors and take courses in finances, marketing, plant science, lesson planning, teaching, as well as honing their golf skills.

Generating more than \$1.1 billion of revenue each year in Ohio alone, the turfgrass industry requires educated and well-trained students in the areas of grounds, sports turf, commercial sod, and golf turf management. Ohio State's Turfgrass Science Program is a leader in research and education and helps provide those needed professionals to the industry. For more information about the College of Food, Agriculture & Environmental Sciences (CFAES) Turfgrass Science and Professional Golf Management programs and to learn how you can support the students participating in these programs, contact Karen Frees, CFAES Assistant Director of Development, at frees.2@osu.edu or (614) 292-0473.

Watch a narrated slideshow of this story with additional photos at: [Turf Students Benefit from Gifts, Endowments Slideshow](#). Quicktime software is required to view slideshow.

Story by Karen Frees and Victor van Buchem. Web publishing by [Victor van Buchem](#). Photos by courtesy OSU Turfgrass Science.
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