



Blizzard Watch

NDSU – Department of Plant Sciences

April 2002



Belated Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for a successful 2002 from all of us in the department. I thought I would start out with a weather report as weather seems to be one of the things that North Dakotans like to talk and complain about. This Blizzard Watch will probably be a little shorter than normal as I have nothing spectacular (blizzards, record cold temperatures, large snowfall and drifts) to report or anything else to whine about relative to the weather scene. This winter has been the easiest I can re-

member in my 30+ years in North Dakota with very little snow and very mild temperatures. All the new hires are wondering why there is so much commotion about North Dakota winters. I am not going to tell them, but let them find out for themselves.

It was good to see and visit with those of you that attended the ASA meetings and the Blizzard Party in Charlotte, North Carolina. It is always a pleasure to see all of you. We had a total of nine faculty and 10 research specialists and graduate students that attended the annual meetings. We also had a number of undergraduates attend and one, DeAnn Galde, was elected Recording Secretary for the Student Activities Subdivision of ASA. We had 20 faculty and

graduate students attend the North Central Weed Association meetings in Milwaukee in December. There were seven faculty who attended the National Weed Science meetings in February in Reno, Nevada. Eight faculty and graduate students recently returned from the Western Society of Weed Science meetings in Salt Lake City, Utah. Two graduate students, Ken Deibert and Shannon Oltmans, received first place awards for their presentations.

Overall it was a good cropping season in North Dakota, but those prices – “uff da” (I hope this is spelled correctly — my computer was not built in Norway so my spell check does not have this word in it). This year scab of wheat and barley was a problem for the first time in the

- The year in review —
- Alsen HRSW still a “winner”
 - Richard Froberg Endowment
 - New faculty and staff
 - Release of several new varieties
 - Update on graduate students
 - “Congrats” to award winners
 - Other departmental happenings
 - Greetings from Dr. Carter

northwestern part of the state. Currently much of the state has not had much significant precipitation since about the middle of July. Generally the subsoil moisture is good but the top couple of feet are quite dry. It will be interesting to see what next year brings.

As indicated, scab in wheat and barley continues to be a problem. Alsen HRSW, which was released by NDSU a couple of years ago, has

the best combination of scab resistance with good milling and baking quality available to producers. Alsen will become the predominant variety in the state this coming summer. A couple of years ago the department established endowments to support the spring wheat and durum breeding programs. The principle funds will be left intact and the interest used to support operating costs, GRA stipends, etc. in these projects. During the initial year of a new variety production, the state and the county crop improvement organizations collect a small fee from each bushel of registered seed produced. The state organization gifted all of their funds from Alsen to the Richard C. Frohberg Endowment. The gift totaled over \$230,000 and will be added to the endowment. There are a couple of counties still to pay the portion of the fees they collected to the state organization, so it should be a little larger when all is said and done. A letter from the state organization has recently been sent to the county organizations to ask for their support and some additional funds are being received. They are, of course, like the state organization and under no obligation to give anything but it illustrates, I believe, the support we have among seedsmen and producers. I know some of the county checkoffs from Alsen in the Northeastern part of the state have gone toward the building of a new facility at the Langdon

"Everywhere I go I have had people tell me about the economic impact that Alsen has had on their production and on their communities."

Research Extension Center. I think that is great. Everywhere I go I have had people tell me about the economic impact that Alsen has had on their production and on their communities. Other NDSU varieties predominate in most of the other major crops in the state and some predominate nationally.

While I am on the subject of gifts, the NDSU Agricultural Experiment Station has received a durum mill as a gift from Nestlé in Switzerland. Nestlé was interested in the pasta industry for a few years and did some cooperative research with Dr. Elias in our department and even funded a former M.S. graduate, Ann Heinze, who did part of her research in Switzerland. Nestlé has decided not to continue working in pasta and called Dr. Elias to ask if NDSU and the experiment station would like the durum mill as a gift. The mill, which is relatively new, arrived in Fargo on March 12th and has a value of about \$.5M, but if purchased brand new, would cost in excess of \$1.0M. The experiment station accepted the gift and is now trying to find or build a place where it can be housed. It is a state-of-the-art mill and will make our durum quality research facilities the finest in North America.

There has been a significant faculty turnover in our department

due to retirements and resignations. Dr. Maan retired in February, 2001 and Dr. Frohberg retired on April 5, 2002. In addition, I have accepted the resignations of Jim Lorenzen, potato geneticist; Mike Peel, extension agronomist; Denise McWilliams, extension weed specialist (joint appointment with Minnesota); ZongMing Cheng, woody plants physiologist; and Marcus Jackson, extension forester. It seems like all I am doing is attending retirement and resignation coffees or interviewing replacement faculty.

Dr. Frohberg has received so many awards and standing ovations from the producers and producer groups that the rest of the faculty are teasing him about having to add a room to house all his trophies. Dr. Frohberg, however, remains as modest as ever and sometimes seems embarrassed by all the accolades. Dr. Frohberg has had a long productive legacy of research and



service to North Dakota and its wheat industry. All told, he has

been involved in the release of 25 wheat varieties from NDSU - most of them as the lead researcher. I think Dr. Frohberg can look back in pride at what he has accomplished and all North Dakotans owe him a big "thank you and a job well done."

"Dr. Maan can look back with a great deal of satisfaction on what he has accomplished during his career and to the level of respect he has earned from our faculty and students and from his fellow scientists — worldwide."

Dr. Frohberg's replacement is Dr. Mohamed Mergoum, who formerly was a wheat breeder for the International Maize and Wheat Center – CYMMT in Turkey. Dr. Mergoum has a M.S. from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. from Colorado State University. He arrived at Fargo in mid-January. Since Dr. Frohberg retired in early April, there was, as planned, a short overlap



Dr. Mohamed Mergoum

between the two. This provided Dr. Mergoum the opportunity to learn about this important program.

Likewise with Dr. Maan, who was one of the most famous and well-known wheat geneticists in the world. Dr. Maan can look back with a great deal of satis-

faction on what he has accomplished during his career and to the level of respect he has earned from our faculty and students and from his fellow scientists -- worldwide.

Dr. Xiwen Cai, Assistant Professor, replaced Dr. Maan in wheat genetics. Dr. Cai has a 60% research - 40% teaching appointment. Xiwen is teaching PLSC 315 - Genetics and PLSC 315L - Genetics Lab one semester per year. Dr. Cai has a Ph.D. from Washington State University.



Dr. Xiwen Cai

Dr. Mike Christoffers, Assistant Professor, began his duties as a weed geneticist in May. Dr. Christoffers is responsible for teaching PLSC 315 - Genetics and PLSC 315L - Genetics Lab alternate semesters with Dr. Cai. Mike is from Lake Park, MN and received his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri. He had been working as a postdoc in Plant Sciences for about 1 ½ years before being hired following a national search.



Dr. Mike Christoffers

Dr. Asunta 'Susie' Thompson, Assistant Professor, has replaced Dr. Richard Novy as North Dakota's potato breeder. Dr. Novy left about 1½ years ago to join the USDA as a potato researcher in Aberdeen, ID. Susie is a native of Barnesville, MN and has a B.S. and M.S. from NDSU. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Idaho and worked with the Colorado State University potato breeding program prior to accepting the position at NDSU.



Dr. Susie Thompson

A search is currently underway to replace Dr. Cheng, who accepted a position at the University of Tennessee. A search is also underway to replace Marcus Jackson, our extension forester who left NDSU to join the

USDA Forest Service in Missoula, Montana. In addition to his/her extension duties, the replacement hired will teach PLSC 219—Introduction to Prairie and Community Forestry alternate fall semesters. The North Dakota Forest Service will hire a plant health specialist, who will be housed in the Department of Plant Pathology. The person hired for this position will also take over some of the duties Marcus had previously been assigned.

A search is also underway to find a replacement for Dr. Mike Peel, who returned to his native Utah to work as a USDA forage breeder at Logan, Utah. Interviews will begin in April. Dr. Denise McWilliams, who had a joint appointment with the University of Minnesota, resigned to take a position at New Mexico State University. Because of budget shortfalls in Minnesota, this position will not be refilled. Dr. Jim Lorenzen resigned the potato germplasm enhancement position to take a similar job at the University of Idaho. The search for that position has not yet been initiated, but I continue to press higher administration for a search start date for this important research and teaching position.

"I have very high hopes for this program and think that it will be a major attraction and increase our undergraduate student enrollment."

The department is also advertising for a faculty position for the new Sports and Urban Turfgrass Management program. The new faculty member will have a 80% teaching, 20% research appointment. The program was approved by the last legislature and is working its way through the various stages of approval at

NDSU. We already had 10 students sign up when rumors of the new program began to circulate. I have very high hopes for this program and think that it will be a major attraction and increase our undergraduate student enrollment. We currently offer a couple of classes that involve turfgrass or are turfgrass related. The addition of several new classes will make this a strong program.

We also have a number of new office staff. Arla Malmedal, who was formerly on time slip, is now one of two office staff in the state pesticide certification program, which is housed in our department.



Arla Malmedal

Lisa Johnson, who spends most of her time working with the extension faculty, is our new nine-month office staff member. She has the ideal job in that she can have summers off. I have been looking for that type of job my whole life – no such luck. Lisa



Lisa Johnson

replaces Char Perrin, who now works full time with grants in the department. Our department brings in a lot of grants and the paperwork with each grant seems to have a life of its own and grows exponentially each year. We simply could not handle all the grants on a part-time basis anymore.

Jennifer Moe has recently left us to join her husband, who had been transferred to Sioux Falls, SD. We will be redirecting part of the efforts of Jennifer's position to involve more graphics and web design. Letha Catnach, who had been handling the bookkeeping duties, transferred to the Library as an Administrative Secretary. Her duties were taken over by Melissa Welter, who, along with Michelle Blaskowski, now handle

bookkeeping duties for extension, research, and teaching. The “M & M team” is doing a good job and the arrangement seems to be working out well. Robin Aanstad joined us in January, 2002 and has taken over Melissa’s former responsibilities of all travel reimbursements and time slips.



Robin Aanstad

Other new support staff include Scott Meyer, who works with Dr. Marcia McMullen from the Dept. of Plant Pathology and will also work with Dr. Peel’s replacement. Jerry Ries joined Dr. Zollinger’s team, replacing Scott Fitterer. Shauna Pederson, a recent CWS graduate, is working with Dr. Christoffers as a Research Specialist. Zhingkai Zhou has joined Dr. Messersmith’s project. Victoria Jacques, a research specialist who began working with the woody plants biotechnology program, will have a new supervisor when Dr. Cheng’s position is filled. Dr. Hatterman-Valenti’s new research specialist is Paul Mayland, replacing Wayne Larson, who returned to the Physical Plant as the campus arboretum director.



Scott Meyer



Jerry Ries



Shauna Pederson



Zhingkai Zhou



Victoria Jacques



Paul Mayland

Dr. Jose Gonzalez Hernandez, a recent Plant Sciences Ph.D. graduate, worked briefly at the University of Minnesota and has re-joined our department as a postdoc research fellow with Dr. Kianian. Dr. Paul Downey from Australia



Dr. Jose Gonzalez Hernandez

was a postdoc research fellow with Dr. Messersmith this past summer. We have two new visiting scientists – Dan Mullin from Australia, who is working with Dr. Berzonsky’s wheat breeding project, and Zhi Xia Niu from China, who is working with Dr. Elias’ durum breeding project. Steve Sebesta has been hired to replace Galen Schroeder as the Assistant Seedstocks Director. His appointment will be 1/2 time with the NDSU Deve-



New employees in the Dept. of Plant Sciences



Dan Mullin



Zhi Xia Niu



Steve Sebesta

opment Foundation and 1/2 time with NDSU Foundation Seedstocks.

This year saw a number of children from the NDSU breeding programs leave their nest. These include Dilse durum. Dilse was named after Frank Dilse, a former member of the North Dakota Wheat Commission. Nornatto and Nannonatto small-seeded speciality soybeans for the foreign food market and York flax were also released. York is named after the community of York in Benson County. This summer we will release Nekoma flax, named after the community in Cavalier County. All of these varieties have yield or quality characteristics significantly above previous releases. This year also saw the release of RG200RR, the first soybean variety with tolerance to

"This year saw a number of children from the NDSU breeding programs leave their nest — including Dilse durum, Nornatto and Nannonatto soybeans, York flax and RG200RR soybean."

the herbicide Roundup. This will be the first of several over the coming years. Transgenic varieties will have a number designation rather than a name in order to avoid any confusion. The RG stands for Roughrider Genetics, which is the trade name that the NDSU Research Foundation will use to market transgenic crops. The first numeral designates the year of release 2 (for 02), 00 designates the maturity of the variety, and RR designates resistance to Roundup. The variety will not be distributed through the North Dakota Crop Improvement system as most of our varieties have been. Seed will be distributed to selected growers in North Dakota and Minnesota who will

produce seed that will then be sold as certified seed in 2003. This type of an arrangement is a new area for all of us at NDSU. We have tried to anticipate all of the pitfalls and hope to learn from any mistakes that we might make along the way.

For a couple of years NDSU scientists, along with those in Canada, South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana, have been involved in initial stages of the development of transgenic wheat varieties. Again, the gene involved provides resistance to the chemical Roundup. There have

been major concerns voiced about this project because much of our wheat is exported and there is currently some resistance to importing transgenic crops. There is also concern from those producers that grow organic crops. Their concern is the contamination of NDSU seedstocks, either because of seed mixture or pollen drift. I currently have on my desk a petition signed by about 600 people in North Dakota (with a few from South Dakota) demanding no transgenic research on any research center or state facility that produces seed in any of the four states. Similar petitions are being circulated in Montana, South Dakota, and Minnesota. It is a real sticky situation and some major decisions are going to have to be made by the ND Agricultural Experiment Station. Many producers support the research on transgenic crops but do not want to have a transgenic variety at this time. NDSU is still several years away from a potential release and hopefully things will be resolved. The solution in my mind is really quite simple as transgenic and non-transgenic crops will need to find a way to co-exist. This is, of course, much easier said than done. A lot of the time I wish my job was a little more boring. First, it was the scab issue, which is still a problem -- now it is transgenic crops and other issues. Our department always seems to be the focal point on

many of these tough issues. I realize now how nice I had it when I was young and could just sit on a tractor all day and dream about other things . . . those days are forever gone!

Two newly introduced hardy trees from Dr. Dale Herman's woody plant improvement program were available commercially in the nursery trade for the first time in 2001. Prairie Radiance® Winterberry *Euonymus* (*Euonymus bungeana* 'Verona') produces very attractive deep pink to red fall leaf coloration with an abundant pink to red fruit capsule display. Northern Acclaim™ Honey-locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* 'Harve') has proven to be a hardier cultivar than any currently available in the nursery trade for planting in the Northern Plains region.

We are currently searching for a new ND Agricultural Experiment Station Director. Three candidates were brought in for interviews. As indicated previously, there are some real tough decisions that will need to be made relative to transgenics, animal cloning, animal welfare, etc.

Our undergraduate enrollments in horticulture and in crop and weed sciences continue to decline. Part of the problem is that we do not have the steady influx of students from throughout the state and western Minnesota that

want to be in agriculture. The agriculture population is decreasing and many of the younger rural generation have watched their parents struggle and work hard on the farm and want something else for their lives.

This past summer we had four interns participating in our Undergraduate Fellowship program. Ten students will be involved with the departmental program the summer of 2002. This program has proved to be a good feeder program for future graduate students.

A list of our graduate students is provided at the end of our Blizzard Watch. Our graduate student numbers continue to increase slightly, with 45 students at present. We seem to have plenty of M.S. students, but have difficulty in recruiting Ph.D. students, although our assistantships are competitive and our faculty superb. We are receiving pressure from higher administration to increase the number of Ph.D. students. It is a real dilemma for me. If any of you know a good potential Ph.D. graduate student, please let me know so that we can contact them. I have state funding for only five partial assistantships – all for Ph.D. students. The rest of the assistantships are funded by grants or gifts. We have a number of faculty that have an

interest in having graduate students, but funding is a continual problem, in part because many of our grants from SBARE, commodity groups, and even federal grants are short term — one to two years. Faculty are therefore reluctant to make a long term commitment. This year we received funding from the North Dakota Crop Improvement and Seed Association for a Ph.D. student to work on durum scab. We have also received funding for a Ph.D. student to work on six-row barley scab research. This assistantship is supported by Busch Agricultural Resources in honor of Dr. Mel Anderson, a NDSU graduate and President of Busch Agricultural Resources.

New students since last year and their advisors are: Lisa Bergh from Forman, ND (Rich Horsley); Suresh Bhamidimarri (Ph.D.) from India (Shahryar Kianian & Elias Elias); Mathew Carlson from Cleveland, ND (Kirk Howatt); Clarissa Carvalho from Brazil (Marcelo Carena); Ryan Casavan from Red Lake Falls, MN (Ted Helms); Bryan Gebhard from Edgeley, ND (Bill Berzonsky); Karri Haen from Iola, KS (Justin Faris); Alyson Hyrkas from Ely, MN (Marcelo Carena); Laurie Janzen from Grand Forks, ND (Rod Lym); Ken Lamb (continuing on for his Ph.D.) from St. Paul, MN (Rich Horsley); Marcelo Melani from Argentina

"If any of you know a good potential Ph.D. graduate student, please let me know so that we can contact them."

(Marcelo Carena); Angela Muscha from Harvey, ND (Harlene Hatterman-Valenti); Mary Osenga from Bejou, MN (Shahryar Kianian); Manasa Panda from India (Mike Christoffers); Andrea Travnicek from Minot, ND (Rod Lym); Ju Wang (Ph.D.) from China (Phil McClean); Xin Xu from China (Elias Elias); and Anitha Yerrabelli (Ph.D.) from India (Prem Jauhar).

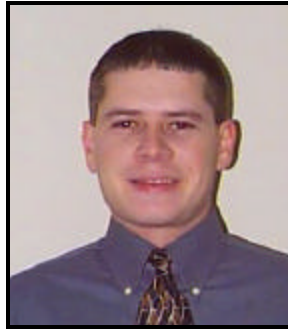
Ph.D. students who completed their degrees this year and their advisors are Wenhao Dai (Dr. Cheng), Jose Bruniard (Dr. Miller), Venugopal Kalavacharla (Dr. McClean), and Gonzalo Rojas-Cifuentes (Dr. Novy).

M.S. students who completed their degrees this past year and their advisors are John O'Barr (Dr. Zollinger), Carla Otto (Drs. Kianian/Elias), Trevor Dale (Dr. Dexter), Mary Wentz (Dr. Horsley), Justin Hegstad (Dr. Kianian), Kenneth Lamb (Dr. Johnson), Kris Mahoney (Dr. Kegode), Daniel Melaas (Dr. Deckard), and Kristin Simons (Dr. Kianian).

Our faculty, staff and students continue to garner a lot of awards – both here on campus and elsewhere. Many of them are listed below; however, there may be some we have missed and we apologize for those oversights.

The department's recipient of the Gerald Mott Meritorious Graduate Student Award from

the Crop Science Society of America was Kirk Hartel from Watford City, North Dakota. Kirk received his B.S. from NDSU and is currently a M.S. student in plant breeding and genetics. He was also awarded the Astronaut Scholarship for the 2nd time and is one of only 17 recipients nationwide.



Todd Wehking, graduate student of Dr. Howatt, received a first place award at the Western Society of Weed Science annual meeting held in March, 2001 at Coeur d'Alene, ID for his presentation of the poster "Evaluation of Wild Mustard Resistance to Acetolactate Synthase Inhibiting Herbicides."

Malay Saha, a Ph.D. graduate student under Dr. Lorenzen, presented a paper, 'Mapping of Genes Associated to Late Blight,

Verticillium Wilt and Cold Sweetening Resistance in

potatoes, at the 80th annual meeting of the Potato Association of America held April 22-26, 2001. He placed 4th in the graduate student competition.

The Graduate Student Symposium was held March, 2001 at

NDSU. Winners from our department were Ryan Moeller - 1st Place - Agronomy & Physiology; Don Vincent - 2nd place - Plant Protection; and John Davies - 1st Place, Breeding. The 2002 Graduate Student Symposium was held this past month at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan with six of our graduate students attending. Five were presenters and Ken Lamb took 1st Place in the Plant Breeding and Genetics Section. For the first time the students flew to the meetings. I believe this is the 18th consecutive year this get-together with students from Manitoba and Saskatchewan has taken place. Probably many of you participated in this event. There is some interest from Alberta in becoming involved.

Four Technology Transfer Graduate Traineeships (TTGT) were awarded to graduate students Shana Forster, Sarah Gehhar, Kirk Hartel, and Ken Lamb from The Center for Advanced Technology Transfer and Traineeships in July. Each graduate student who is using advanced technology in on-campus thesis/dissertation research is awarded a \$2,400 supplement to their assistantship and receive training in intellectual property and technology transfer. There were only 16 traineeships available so our department did very well.

Shana Forster won the poster competition at the Bean Improvement Comm. meeting in Fargo in November with her presentation "Evaluation of

"Our faculty, staff and students continue to garner a lot of awards – both here on campus and elsewhere."

Seed-Zn Concentration in Navy Bean.”

We are, of course, also very proud of our undergraduates. The CWS undergraduate team received 3rd place at the North Central Weed Science Society’s Collegiate Contest held July 19 & 20 at the Monsanto Research Farm in Monmouth, IL. Contest categories were: weed identification, unknown herbicide identification, sprayer calibration, farmer problem solving. Members of the team were Greg Mostad, Kristie Clark, Brian Michels and Jay Hansen. Others who competed were graduate students Todd Wehking, Brad Fronning, Shannon Oltmans, Don Vincent and Mathew Carlson.

Carrie Schumacher, a horticulture undergraduate, received the North Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs Scholarship in the amount of \$3,500 for the 2001-2002 academic year.

Lenny Luecke was the recipient of the Sugarbeet Distinguished Service award for his dedicated years of service in weed management research and extension activities.



Lenny works with Dr. Al Dexter.

Five individuals from our department were selected as Fellows of the Faculty Institute for

Excellence in Learning (FIEL) – Drs. Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, Burton Johnson, Marcelo Carena, Bill Berzonsky, and Brenda Deckard. These individuals were recommended by the Next Generation Interactive Classrooms (NGIC) Committee and in April, 2001 about 40 faculty were inducted. The FIEL was created with the help of a Bush Foundation Grant to provide support and training for NDSU faculty interested in enhancing the way they teach and consequently how students can learn more effectively.

At the 2000 Faculty/Staff Award Ceremony sponsored by the College of Agriculture, Extension Service and Ag Experiment Station, Jim Lorenzen was awarded the Larson/Yaggie Excellence in Research Award, Early Career.

Dr. Richard Frohberg was presented a plaque from the producers in Cavalier, Benson, Grand Forks, Walsh, Towner, Ramsey, Rolette, Nelson and Pembina Counties in Northeast North Dakota during Field Days in recognition of his contributions in the development of 25 HRSW varieties and for 37 years of service at NDSU as a wheat breeder and wheat geneticist. He also received an award at the North Central Research and Extension Center this past summer and from the North Dakota Crop Improvement Association this winter.

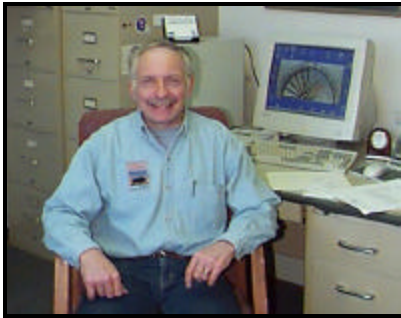


Dr. Richard Frohberg

Dr. Frohberg received the “Agricultural Award” from the Greater North Dakota Association (GNDA) at its Champions of Change annual awards program in October. He was nominated by the Chamber of Commerce of Fargo-Moorhead. This award “recognizes North Dakotans who have shown outstanding leadership in a particular field or endeavor. Their efforts should enhance the image of North Dakota, be instrumental in new job creation, contribute to the development and expansion of new or existing business and industry, demonstrate leadership in the use and management of the state’s natural resources, contribute to a better understanding of business and the free enterprise system through education, or contribute substantial tourism development.”

“This award recognizes North Dakotans who have shown outstanding leadership in a particular field or endeavor.”

Dr. Rodney Lym was the recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award for outstanding ef-



forts in leafy spurge research and education at the June meeting in Medora, ND of TEAM Leafy Spurge, Spurgefest II.

Dr. Melvern Anderson was honored as an Alumni Achievement Award Winner during Homecoming 2001. Mel received his bachelor's degree in agronomy from NDSU in 1965 and a doc-



torate in agronomy and plant breeding from NDSU in 1969. He is president of Busch Agricultural Resources, Inc., St. Louis. Dr. Anderson presented a seminar on "Agribusiness Management" to the College of Agriculture on October 19th. Last year, another graduate of our department, Dr. Ian Edwards, received this award.

The 2001 Faculty/Staff Awards program was held March 19, 2002. The William J. and Ange-

lyn A. Austin Advising Award for Excellence was presented to Ed Deckard; the H. Roald and Janet Lund Excellence in Teaching, Senior Career was presented to Phil McClean; and the Larson/Yaggie Excellence in Research Award, Early Career was awarded to Shahryar Kianian.



Ed Deckard



Phil McClean

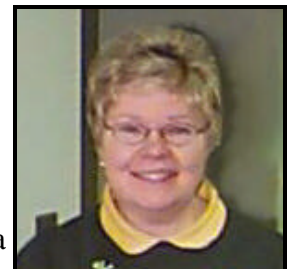


Shahryar Kianian

The NDSU Extension Spring Conference was held March 19-22, 2002. Team members Ron

Smith and Barb Laschkewitsch (Plant Sciences), Jerry Larson (Ext. Agent - Stark/Billings Co.) and Kris Ringwall (Dickinson Research Extension Center) received a Program Excellence Award - Small Team for the Horticultural Research Demonstration Site at the Dickinson REC. "New Training Concept" team members Terry Gregoire, Area Ext. Specialist, and Marietta Kemmet, Secretary, from Devils Lake and Andrew Thostenson, Extension Specialist, Pesticide Program, also received a Small Team award. One of the Program Excellence Awards - Large Team went to the group that puts together the NDSU Crop and Pest Report of which Alan Dexter, Richard Zollinger, Ron Smith, Duane Berglund, Marcus Jackson, and Mike Peel from Plant Sciences were members.

Louise Heinz from our office staff was initiated into Ceres Women's Fraternity, a NDSU student organization, as an Associate Member.



A recognition coffee was held in April, 2001 to honor the following employees for their years of service: Brenda Deckard, Char Perrin - 5 years; Mary Beth Odegaard, Galen Schroeder - 10 years; Wayne Larson - 15 years; Lenny Luecke and Jody VanderWal - 20 years.



Jody VanderWal, Wayne Larson, Galen Schroeder
Mary Beth Odegaard, Char Perrin, Brenda Deckard
Not pictured: Lenny Luecke.

Two of our faculty were inducted into the Quarter Century Club – Burton Johnson and Michael McMullen.



Burton Johnson & Mike McMullen
Several of our graduate students (and faculty members Harlene Hatterman-Valenti and Richard Zollinger!) were the 2001 Softball Champions - Fargo Rec League at the Fargo Park District 2001 Coed Softball Tournament held in August. The team was sponsored by Jeremy Frie of BASF, a Department of Plant Sciences alumnus. In September, the team went on to receive the Consolation Runner-Up title - CoEd - Division III, North Dakota State Amateur Softball Association.

Dr. Richard Zollinger successfully defended his crown as the “Heir of Air” as he was the repeat winner of the second annual Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest sponsored by our department.



Rich Zollinger defending his title—

His record distance this year was 37 feet, 4 inches!

At the annual College of Ag Faculty meeting held this March, Dr. Susie Thompson was elected to the University Senate; Dr. Dwain Meyer to the University Senate Academic Affairs Committee; Dr. Ed Deckard to the University Senate Program Review Committee. Dr. Herman continues on the College PTE Committee and Dr. Kirk Howatt continues as the COA Graduate Council Rep.

The “First Virtual Conference on Genomics and Bioinformatics” was held October 15-16, 2001 in the Century Theater of the Memorial Union at North Dakota State University, as well as 50 to 60 other locations around the world. Conference organizers were undergraduate student Willy Valdivia Granda, Dr. Ed and Brenda Deckard, along with

technical support specialist and node operator, Marty Hoag. The goals of the conference were to 1) transcend geographical and economical factors limiting researchers around the world, 2) increase the exchange of ideas and establish new ways of collaborating with others and 3) establish new ways to excite the K-20 community about today’s multidisciplinary science. The goals were partially achieved by providing the conference with a zero registration cost and various ways to participate virtually. We believe that this was a start for changing the way many conferences are held in the future. And, it began at NDSU in 2001!

Our departmental fall picnic was to be held on September 12th at the Yunker Farm, but was canceled due to the tragic events of September 11th. Our 1st annual “Ethnic Lunch” was recently held – with our annual pie social and chili feed also continuing to showcase the great cooks we have in our department. We appreciate the efforts of those employees who organize these events.



Mike Christoffers trying to decide which pot of chili to try first!

The Winter Social was held at the Speedway Event Center in West Fargo. Once again the Social Committee asked for nominations for the various awards and chose the recipients. Dr. Richard Horsley won the coveted "Bison Chip Award." The Community Service Award recipients were Dr. Jim Hammond and Lyle Lindberg. The Technical Staff Award was presented to Wayne Norby – with a special "appreciation award" going to his wife, Carol. Dr. Richard Frohberg received the Distinguished Service Award and Louise Heinz was presented with the Office Staff Award. In recognition of outstanding contributions to the well being of the department by a student(s), Sarah Gehlhar and Shana Forster were the recipients of the 2001 Student Award. Both of these young ladies answered the call not once, but twice, when we needed help teaching some of

the sections of our PLSC 315L - Genetics Lab class.

Our departmental faculty, staff and graduate students have wel-

Both of these young ladies answered the call not once, but twice, when we needed help teaching some of the sections of our PLSC 315L- Genetics Lab class.

comed many new babies into their homes this past year – among them, Mike & Collette Christoffers are the proud parents of quintuplets born November 30th at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. Jacob, Bethany, Alyssa, and Kevin have joined their 3-year-old sister, Emily, at home in Moorhead. Bobby is still in the hospital in Minneapolis. The most recent births are a son, Garrett, born March 8th to Sara Kleven, a research specialist with Dr. Berzonsky, and her husband, Tom, an alumnus of Plant Sciences; Madeline Grace, daughter

of former office staff member Jennifer Moe and her husband, Mitch, born on March 28th; and Brady William born April 11th to Arla Malmedal, secretary with the pesticide program, and her husband, Tristan.

Last, but certainly not least, Wayne Norby retired February 1st after 37 years as a research technician with Dr. Dwain Meyer's forage program.



Wayne and Carol Norby

Please keep us posted on information that may be of interest. My e-mail address is albert.schneiter@ndsu.nodak.edu. Our departmental fax number is 701.231.8474 and our phone number is 701.231.7971.

*Al Schneiter
Professor and Chair
Louise Heinz
Administrative Secretary*



Winter Social Award Recipients
Richard Frohberg, Jim Hammond, Shana Forster, Lyle Lindberg
Louise Heinz, Sarah Gehlhar and Rich Horsley
Not pictured: Wayne Norby

We're on the web:
<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/plantsci/>

Jack's Corner



Dr. Jack & Imogene Carter
60th Wedding Anniversary

First, thank you for the holiday messages that came from you to the department or to us personally. We appreciate them very much and wish to “keep track” – please tell us more about yourself and your families. Send pictures, even if you may have aged since we last met – we all do! I passed 82 years last October 2001! Imogene is not far behind, passed 39 for sure!! Some of you donated to the Jack Carter Endowed Professorship fund, too, and thanks, or if not, it’s not too late to give. Send to the NDSU Development Foundation, 1241 North University Drive, Fargo, ND 58105.

Our significant “milestone” for 2001 was the celebration of our 60th wedding anniversary on October 19th. All of our children were home for a celebration and reception. We hope to achieve a few more years!

The bad news is that I have a health problem of malignant cells which is “imminently treatable,” I read. I had radiation in July and August and see “too much” of the medical profession, but fortunately, I feel good and continue usual activities. Imogene continues to be troubled by an imbalance problem that is not treatable.

I’m still President of the Flax Institute. The 59th Flax Institute was held March 21-23, 2002 at Fargo with 32 papers in a 1 ½ day program. I also serve as a “flax consultant” to the North Dakota Oilseed Council and supervise the research that they fund. Flaxseed provides healthful omega 3 fatty acid, lots of dietary fiber and anticarcinogenic lignans in human nutrition, and for other animals. I recommend your eating 30 grams of ground flax per day in orange juice,

baked foods, or whatever. People in the countries of some former international students may have consumed flaxseed for hundreds of years.

Mostly at home I have been doing more cooking than formerly, some maintenance, gardening, and fishing. I grafted 7 apple trees to multi-variety trees to sell at Bidder’s Bowl, and for special friends, and attended Bidder’s Bowl (raises funds for NDSU Development Foundation) in October. Also, we attend home games of Bison football and basketball, especially the lady basketball Bison.

In retrospect, many of you have influenced our work and lives favorably, and we yours, we hope. We are unlikely to attend future agronomy meetings and the Blizzard Party so please stop to see us as you pass this way and best wishes for a HAPPY and HEALTHFUL 2002.

*Dr. and Mrs. Carter
(personal e-mail: imysm@aol.com)*



Groundbreaking for Loftsgard Hall, August 17, 1989
Don Hanson, Dr. Earl Foster, Dr. Art Boe, Senator Quentin Burdick, President Jim Ozbun, Dr. John Nalewaja, and Dr. Roald Lund

← *A trip down Memory Lane*



Loftsgard Hall — Home of the Dept. of Plant Sciences

Plant Sciences Faculty

Schneider, A. A. Prof. & Chair (*crop production*)
 Berglund, D. R. Prof. (*ext. agr., row crops, specialty crops*)
 Berzonsky, W. A. Asst. Prof. (*HWS, spec./sawfly wheat brdg.*)
 Cai, X. Asst. Prof. (*wheat genetics*)
 Carena, M. J. Asst. Prof. (*corn breeding and genetics*)
 Christoffers, M. J. Asst. Prof. (*weed science/genetics teaching*)
 Deckard, E.L. Prof. (*crop physiology*)
 Dexter, A. G. Prof. (*ext. weed phys., sugarbeets*)
 Elias, E. M. Assoc. Prof. (*durum wheat breeding*)
 Franckowiak, J. D. Prof. (*2-row barley breeding, genetics*)
 Froberg, R. C. Prof. (*HRS wheat breeding, genetics*)
 Grafton, K. F. Prof. (*dry bean breeding*)
 Hammond, J. J. Prof. (*flax/crambe brdg, computer prog.*)
 Hatterman-Valenti, H. Asst. Prof., (*high value crop production*)
 Helms, T. C. Assoc. Prof. (*soybean breeding, genetics*)
 Herman, D. E. Prof. (*woody plants, ornamentals*)
 Horsley, R. D. Assoc. Prof. (*6-row barley brdg, genetics*)
 Howatt, K. A. Asst. Prof. (*weed science-annual weeds*)
 Johnson, B. L. Asst. Prof. (*sunflower, minor, new crop prod.*)
 Kegode, G. O. Asst. Prof. (*weed biology & ecology*)
 Kianian, S. F. Asst. Prof. (*HRS, durum wheat germ. enhanc.*)
 Lee, C. W. Assoc. Prof. (*ornamentals, turf/biotech.*)
 Lym, R. G. Prof. (*perennial weed control*)
 McClean, P. E. Prof. (*dry bean genetics, biotechnology*)
 McMullen, M. S. Assoc. Prof. (*oat breeding and genetics*)
 Mergoum, M. Assoc. Prof. (*HRSW breeding*)
 Messersmith, C. G. Prof. (*weed science, physiology*)
 Meyer, D. W. Prof. (*forage prod. and physiology*)
 Smith, R. C. Prof. (*extension horticulture/turfgrass*)
 Thompson, A. L. Asst. Prof. (*potato breeding*)
 Thostenson, A. Ext. Spec. (*pesticide program spec.*)
 Williams, M. D. Seedstocks Director
 Zollinger, R.K. Assoc. Prof. (*extension weed control*)

Adjunct Professors

Anderson, J. V. USDA (*plant biochemistry*)
 Campbell, L. G. USDA (*sugarbeet genetics*)
 Carr, P. M. Dickinson Res/Ext Center (*sustainable ag.*)
 Chao, W. S. USDA (*molecular biology/weeds*)
 Dahleen, L. S. USDA (*barley genetics, biotechnology*)
 Faris, J. D. USDA (*wheat molecular genetics*)
 Foley, M. E. USDA (*weed biology*)
 Henson, R. A. Carrington Res/Ext. Center (*crop prod.*)
 Horvath, D. P. USDA (*perennial weed physiology*)
 Jan, C. C. USDA (*sunflower cytogenetics*)
 Jauhar, P. P. USDA (*wheat cytogenetics*)
 Klotz, K. L. USDA (*sugarbeet physiology*)
 Lulai, E. C. USDA (*potato physiology*)
 Miller, J. F. USDA (*flax and sunflower genetics*)
 Seiler, G. J. USDA (*sunflower/sugarbeet germplasm*)
 Sowokinos, J. R. USDA (*potato physiology*)
 Suttle, J. C. USDA (*potato physiology*)

Professor Emeritus/Retired

Askew, R. G. Prof. Emeritus (*extension horticulture*)
 Boe, A. A. Prof. Emeritus (*veg. brdg/tissue culture*)
 Carter, J. F. Prof. Emeritus (*flax utilization*)
 Cross, H. Z. Prof. Emeritus (*corn genetics, breeding*)
 Duysen, M. E. Prof. Emeritus (*cellular regulation*)
 Foster, A. E. Prof. Emeritus (*barley brdg., biometrics*)
 Galitz, D.S. Retired Prof. (*physiology*)
 Holland, N. Prof. Emeritus (*fruits, woody plants*)
 Joppa, L.R. Retired Adj. Prof., USDA (*res. gen., durum*)
 Lund, H. R. Prof. Emeritus (*potato brdg./genetics*)
 Maan, S. S. Prof. Emeritus (*wheat gen., cytogenetics*)
 Nalewaja, J. D. Prof. Emeritus (*weed sci., physiology*)
 Nelson, D. C. Prof. Emeritus (*potato physiology*)
 Smith, G.A. Retired Adj. Prof., USDA (*sugarbeet gen.*)
 Smith, G. S. Prof. Emeritus (*wheat breeding*)
 Spilde, L. A. Prof. Emeritus (*seedstocks director*)
 Whited, D. A. Prof. Emeritus (*genetics teaching*)

Postdoc. Research Fellow/Visiting Scientists**Project leader, Country, Area of research**

Gu, X. Foley (PRC - *weed biology*)
 Gonzalez, J. Kianian (Spain - *scab resistance/spr wht*)
 Hossain, K. Kianian (Bangladesh - *wheat genomics*)
 Kalavacharla, V. Kianian (India - *wheat genomics*)
 Manoharan, M. Dahleen (India - *barley gen./biotech.*)
 Mengistu, L. Messersmith (Ethiopia - *weed mol. biol.*)
 Mullin, D. Berzonsky (Australia - *wheat breeding*)
 Nadella, D. Foley (India - *weed biology*)
 Nandula, V. Messersmith (India - *weed physiology*)
 Niu, Zhi Xia Elias (China - *durum breeding*)
 Ramsdale, B. Messersmith (*herbicide applic. tech.*)
 Szeleznia k, E. Messersmith (Poland - *adjuvants for herb.*)
 Woznica, Z. Messersmith (Poland - *weed sci/herb adj.*)

Research Specialists/Technicians

Anderson, Chad (HRSW breeding)
 Baumann, Robert (oat breeding)
 Bellon, Mike (seed processing)
 Birdsall, David (wheat breeding/USDA)
 Bresnahan, Gail (weed science)
 Carlson, Kay (wheat cytogenetics)
 Chaput, Larry (woody plants)
 Christianson, Katheryn (perennial weeds)
 Ciernia, Mark (weed control)
 Davidson-Harrington, Janet (weed science)
 Deckard, Brenda (student services director)
 Erickson, Ann (potato breeding/genetics)
 Faller, James (HRS wheat breeding)
 Faller, Jason (barley breeding)
 Farnsworth, Bryce (potato breeding)
 Genoch, Roger (barley breeding)
 Green, Marci (barley breeding)
 Gregoire, Pete (crop physiology)
 Hauf, Darrin (dry bean breeding)

Research Specialists/Technicians Continued

Hegstad, Justin (wheat germplasm enhancement)
 Hodous, Bill (HRSW)
 Jacques, Victoria (woody plants biotechnology)
 Johnson, Gerald (durum wheat breeding)
 Kercher, Kreg (durum wheat breeding)
 Kimberlin, Cheryl (plant physiology/USDA)
 Kleven, Sara (HWSW)
 Klindworth, Daryl (wheat genetics/USDA)
 Lafta, Abbas (potato physiology)
 Laschkewitsch, Barb (vegetables & perennials)
 Leach, Gene (hard spring wheat)
 Lee, Rian (dry bean genetics/biotechnology)
 Lindberg, Lyle (flax breeding)
 Luecke, John (sugarbeet weed control)
 Maianu, Josef (seedstocks)
 Mark, Sandra (weed science)
 Martin, Larry (soybean breeding)
 Mayland, Paul (high value crop prod)
 McArthur, Rachel (barley genetics/biotech/USDA)
 Meyer, Scott (extension small grains)
 Miller, Jeffrey (potato physiology/USDA)
 Pederson, Jeremy (barley breeding)
 Pederson, Shauna (weed science)
 Petersen, Paula (crop production)
 Rehder, Dale (sunflower breeding/USDA)

Ries, Jerry (weed survey)
 Roach, Ron (weed control)
 Schwalbe, Mike (potato breeding)
 Sebesta, Steve (seedstocks)
 Stancyk, Stan (durum breeding)
 VanderWal, Jody (dry bean breeding)
 Wanner, Duane (corn breeding)
 Wijetunga, Theja (molecular markers)
 Zhou, Zhingkai (weed science)

Office Staff

Aanstad, Robin
 Blaskowski, Michelle
 Buringrud, Eileen
 Erdmann, Tammy
 Heinz, Louise
 Johnson, Lisa
 Malmedal, Arla
 Odeggaard, Mary Beth
 Perrin, Char
 Welter, Melissa

**Agriculture is in our roots****Graduate Students and Advisors—Fall 2001 Semester and Spring 2002 Semester**

Bergh, Lisa	Horsley	Larson, Tim	Johnson
Bhamidimarri, Suresh (India)*	Kianian/Elias	Liedberg, Jerad	Hatterman-Valenti
Boehm, David	Berzonsky	Lockhart, Sam	Howatt
Bruniard, Jose (Argentina)*	Miller	Mahoney, Kris	Kegode
Carlson, Mathew	Howatt	Melaas, Dan	Deckard
Carvalho, Cesar (Brazil)*	Lorenzen	Melani, Marcelo (Argentina)	Carena
Carvalho, Clarissa (Brazil)	Carena	Moeller, Ryan	Meyer
Casavan, Ryan	Helms	Muscha, Angela	Hatterman-Valenti
Dai, Wenhao (PRC)	Cheng	Oltmans, Shannon*	Zollinger
Davies, John (Australia)	Berzonsky	Osenga, Mary	Kianian
Deibert, Ken	Lym	Panda, Manasa (India)	Christoffers
Erickson, Ann	Lym	Roehl, Joel	Messersmith
Forster, Shana	Grafton	Rojas, Gonzalo (Chile)	Lorenzen
Fronning, Bradley	Kegode	Rothe, Ines (Germany)*	Dexter
Garcia, Gioconda (Ecuador)*	Horsley	Saha, Malay (Bangladesh)*	Lorenzen
Gebhard, Bryan	Berzonsky	Simons, Kristin	Kianian
Gehlhar, Sarah	Kianian	Travnicek, Andrea	Lym
Gelin, Robert (Haiti)*	Elias	Van Becelaere, Guillermo (Argentina)*	Miller
Haen, Karri	Faris	Vignaux, Nathalie (France)*	Kianian
Hartel, Kirk	Berzonsky	Vincent, Don	Dexter
Hyrkas, Alyson	Carena	Walker, Richard	Messersmith
Ingeman, Chad	Berzonsky	Wang, Ju (China)	McClellan
Janzen, Laurie	Lym	Wehking, Todd	Howatt
Karthikeyan, Manju (India)	Franckowiak	Xu, Xin (China)	Elias
Kim, Joo Young* (Korea)	Cheng	Yerrabelli, Anitha (India)*	Jauhar
Krasheninnik, Nadejda (Russia)*	Franckowiak	Yu, Guotai (China)*	Franckowiak
Lamb, Kenneth*	Horsley	*Ph.D. student	



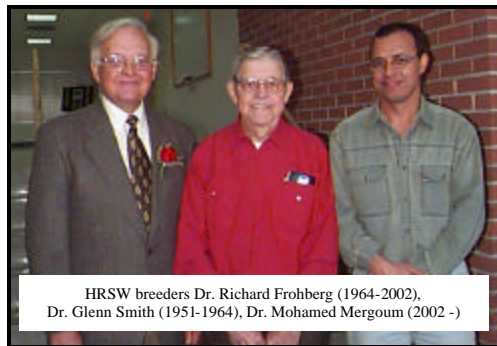
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Special people — Special times — Special memories . . .



Dr. Frohberg at one of many Field Days



HRSW breeders Dr. Richard Frohberg (1964-2002), Dr. Glenn Smith (1951-1964), Dr. Mohamed Mergoum (2002 -)



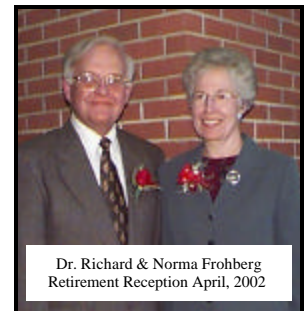
Shana Forster, Dr. Grafton, and Sarah Gehlhar at our Winter Social



Enjoying the chili feed - Brad Ramsdale, Don Vincent, Sam Lockhart, Todd Wehking



Dr. Deckard, Dr. Frohberg, and Dr. Schneiter at the Celebration of Faculty Excellence—April, 2001



Dr. Richard & Norma Frohberg Retirement Reception April, 2002