

From the Department Head



*Freddie A. Martin
Head*

The newsworthiness of accomplishments and achievements of our students, staff and faculty found in this newsletter were eclipsed by the catastrophic

events of the two major hurricanes that devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005. The impact of these storms will last for years, if not decades. The words "home," "family" and "gratitude" have taken on new meanings for many. Everybody in the region was and is being affected in some way or another. Because the majority of the funding for the Agronomy and Environmental Management Department is derived from state appropriations, there is considerable consternation over whether we will have the resources to sustain our efforts to develop and improve academic programs. One justification for at least sustaining program resources is the increased demand for Environmental Management graduates to address the recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Congratulations to Faculty Members

On February 7, 2005 Dr. Eric Webster was presented the Outstanding Early Career Weed Scientist

Award at the Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America. The award is presented to an early career scientist who has demonstrated originality and creativity and has made a notable contribution to weed science with potential for continued excellence. Also, effective July 1, 2005 Dr. Webster was promoted to rank of professor.



Dr. Eric Webster

Dr. Ed Twidwell was presented the Distinguished Service Award from the Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association in June 2005. This award is presented to recipients who have been employed in the Extension Service for at least 10 years.



Dr. Ed Twidwell

Dr. Jim Griffin was honored on November 15, 2005 by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Mississippi State University at the annual fall homecoming breakfast in Starkville, Mississippi. He was the recipient of the 2005 Alumni Achievement Award, which recognizes accomplishments and contribu-



Dr. Jim Griffin

tions made to MSU, the agricultural profession and the community. Jim is from Mississippi and received both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in agronomy from MSU.

Dr. Magdi Selim has been appointed technical editor of the Journal of Environmental Quality (JEQ), a leading scientific publication of the American Society of Agronomy.



Dr. Magdi Selim

On January 26, 2006 the following received awards at the LSU AgCenter's 2005 Annual Awards Ceremony:

Dr. Ben Legendre (B.S., Ph.D. Agronomy), sugarcane specialist at the St. Gabriel Research Station, received the Extension Excellence Award; Dr. Ron Levy (Ph.D.



Dr. Ben Legendre

Agronomy/Weed Science), county agent for Acadia and Lafayette parishes, received the Floyd S. Edmiston Award; and Dr. Eric Webster, agronomy professor, received the Rogers Research Excellence Award.

Faculty and Staff

Subudhi Awarded a Prestigious USDA-National Research Initiative Grant

Dr. Prasanta Subudhi has been awarded a four-year standard grant totaling \$381,351 from the USDA-National Research Initiative Competitive Grant Program. The proposal was placed in the outstanding category and ranked second in the Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species panel. In this project, Dr. Marc Cohn of the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant Physiology is a co-investigator, and Dr. T. Sasaki of the Rice Genome Program of Japan and Dr. D. S. Brar of the International Rice Research Institute, Philippines are collaborators. The project will develop and characterize an introgression library to discover genes for weedy characteristics using red rice as a model. The major focus will be on seed dormancy and seed shattering. The information obtained from this model organism can then be extrapolated to complex and polyploid genome species like smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), in which seed dormancy and seed shattering poses a great challenge to implement a seed-based propagation for marsh creation.

Board Part of Study in Brazil

Dr. Jim Board is participating in a \$315,000 international research grant funded by the USDA. The objective of the study is to provide guidelines to soybean farmers for fungicide applications for control of Asian soybean rust. The disease has arrived in the United States and is considered a major threat to the U.S. soybean industry, especially in the humid Southeast where weather conditions encourage spread of the disease. The program involves field studies in Louisiana, Kentucky and Brazil. Jim traveled to the EMBRAPA soybean station outside Londrina, Brazil in early February 2006 to instruct his Brazilian counterparts on how to obtain data from the field study there. He is shown in the photo demonstrating the use of the leaf area meter to determine leaf area. The study is expected to last three years, and Jim will be traveling to Brazil to assist with the research. The study has received additional funding from the Southern Soybean Research Program.



Dr. Bobby Harville and Warner Hall Retire

Two employees of the Agronomy and Environmental Management Department retired recently. Dr. Bobby G. Harville, professor, came to the department in July 1976 and retired effective September 30, 2005. Dr. Harville's research area was soybean breeding and genetics. He was responsible for the release of three soybean varieties and one patent while employed with the LSU AgCenter. We will miss Dr. Harville's keen sense of humor!!

Also celebrating his retirement is Mr. Warner Hall, who served as research associate for Drs. Bobby Harville,

Manjit Kang and Jim Board. Warner retired effective June 30, 2005 after 33 years of faithful service to this department and the LSU AgCenter. Warner was known for his kindness and willingness to help anyone in need and was also known for his delicious barbecues and crawfish boils!!!! A retirement celebration was held for Warner where more than 200 family and friends gathered at the LSU Mini Farm for an evening of delicious barbecue. Friends and coworkers shared their favorite "Warner Hall" stories, and a great time was had by all. We all miss Warner's friendly smile and gentle nature.



(l-r) Mike Lindsey, Byron Witty and Warner Hall.

Faculty and Staff

Several USDA Employees Housed in Sturgis after Katrina

Our department welcomes the following USDA employees who are currently being housed in Sturgis Hall in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina: Mr. Larry Boihem, Dr. Robert Brown, Dr. Ed Cleveland, Dr. Gillian Eggleston (wife of Dr. Gerald Myers), Dr. Kannab Rajasekaran, Mr. Edwin St. Cyr and Ms. Lynda Wartelle. It has been a pleasure having them in our building and also participating in our holiday celebrations!

Paco Returns from Iraq

Henry "Paco" Capello, systems analyst for the departments of

Agronomy and Environmental Management, Horticulture and Renewable Natural Resources, and his wife, Christina, returned in October from active duty in Iraq. Paco and Christina were part of the 256th Infantry Enhanced Separate Brigade of the Louisiana Army National Guard. As a result of Paco's meritorious service in a combat zone, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Needless to say, all of Paco and Christina's friends and family were thrilled to welcome them home.

Twidwell Served as President

Dr. Ed Twidwell served as president of the American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC) from June 2004 to June 2005. AFGC is a

national organization composed of 2,500 members, including producers, educators, scientists and industry personnel. It is dedicated to advancing forage agriculture and grassland stewardship. Dr. Twidwell also is involved with the Louisiana Forage and Grassland Council, where he serves as secretary.

Barbee Presents Poster

Dr. Gary Barbee attended the annual Society of Toxicology (SOT) meeting in New Orleans in March 2005, where he presented a poster, "*In Situ* Biomonitoring to Assess the Genotoxicity of PAH-Contaminated Sediments to Juvenile Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)."

Myers Visits India

Dr. Gerald Myers, associate professor cotton breeding and genetics, visits India's National Bureau of Plant Genetics Resources in Delhi along with other international delegates in October, 2004. Dr. Myers (2nd from left, back row) was in India attending the International Cotton Genome Initiative Workshop in Hyderabad where he gave a paper entitled, "An Intraspecific AFLP Map of *G. hirsutum*."



Board Invited to Japan to Present Talk

In September 2005, Jim Board was invited by the Crop Science Society of Japan to present a talk at its annual meeting in Morioka, Japan. Jim's talk, "Physiogenetics in soybeans: how to identify high-yielding soybean lines in a breeding program" dealt with using yield formation data to enhance the selection process for better yielding soybean varieties. During the trip, Jim and his wife, Carmen, toured agricultural research centers in Japan and met with many



Jim and Carmen Board with members of the Crop Science Society of Japan.

Japanese scientists. They both had a delightful time visiting this beauti-

ful country and enjoying the warm, friendly people.

Graduate Students

Zhang Receives Mott Meritorious Graduate Student Award



Nengyi Zhang

Nengyi Zhang was recently recognized with the 2006 Gerald O. Mott Meritorious Graduate Student award in crop science. Nengyi is a Ph.D. student studying under the direction of Dr. Jim Oard. His next step will be to compete against the other award winners for the Mott Scholarship.

Siebert Wins Award

Former agronomy student, Jonathan Siebert, placed second in his graduate student presentation at the 2005 Beltwide Cotton Physiology Conference held in New Orleans. Jonathan's presentation was entitled, "Plant Population and Within Row Planting Configuration Effects on Cotton Growth and Yield." Jonathan received his Ph.D. in December 2005.



Oral presentation winners Nicole Asproditis and Jonathan Siebert are flanked by Dr. Sandy Stewart, far left, and Dr. Gerry Dill, Monsanto.

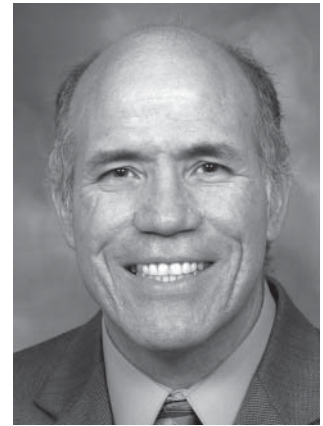
Etheredge Wins 1st Place Award

Luke Etheredge, Ph.D. student of Dr. Jim Griffin in the Department of Agronomy and Environmental Management, was awarded first place for his presentation, "Interference of Purple Nutsedge (*Cyperus rotundus* L.) in Sugarcane" in the graduate student paper competition at the Southern Weed Science Society annual meeting held in San Antonio in January 2006.

Also, at the meeting, Dr. Griffin was recognized as the Weed Scientist of the Year.

Ma and Delgado Selected as Society Fellows

Dr. Liwang Ma (Ph.D. 1993 in Soil Physics) and Dr. Jorge Delgado (Ph.D. 1988 in Soil Chemistry) have been selected as one of the 2005 ASA and SSSA fellows, respectively. The awards were presented at the annual meeting of the ASA-CSA-SSSA, November 6-10, 2005. The Fellow's award is the highest the society bestows on its members. The Agronomy & Environmental Management Department is extremely proud of the achievements of these former LSU agronomy students.



Dr. Jorge Delgado



Presenting Dr. Liwang Ma with his award is ASA President Lee Sommers.

Graduate Students

Johnson and Zumba Receive Degrees

Craig Johnson and Jimmy Zumba received their M.S. degrees in Agronomy in December 2004. Craig received his M.S. under the direction of Dr. Ron Delaune and is currently employed as a soil scientist for the NRCS in Birmingham, Alabama. Jimmy received his M.S. under the direction of Dr. Gerald Myers and is currently employed as a research associate under Myers here in the Agronomy and Environmental Management Department.



(l-r) Craig Johnson, Dr. Chuck Kennedy and Jimmy Zumba.

Congratulations

M.S. Degrees:

Jie Arro- 5/2005
 Craig Johnson- 12/2004
 Wilson Judice- 8/2005
 Brian Naquin- 5/2005
 Tyson Phillips – 5/2006
 Derek Scroggs – 5/2006
 Robert Shadow- 5/2005
 Theophilus Udeigwe- 8/2005
 Han Xu – 5/2006
 Jimmy Zumba- 12/2004

Ph.D. Degrees:

Sterling Blanche- 8/2005
 Dustin Harrell- 8/2005
 Manoch Kongchum- 5/2005
 Joohyun Lee- 5/2005
 Christopher Leon- 5/2005
 Jonathan Siebert- 12/2005
 Weiqiang Zhang- 8/2005

Kadaru Co-authors Article

Mr. Suresh Babu Kadaru was listed as one of the co-authors recently in the prestigious journal, *Nature*, in August, 2005. The article, which dealt with rice genome sequencing, was entitled, “The Map-based Sequence of the Rice Genome.” Mr. Kadaru is currently a Ph.D. student studying under the direction of Dr. James Oard. His area of research is identification of molecular markers and association mapping of selected loci associated with agronomic traits in rice.

Students



Students in EMS 3040, Applied Environmental Management, visited the BFI municipal recycling facility to learn about collection and sorting of material collected in Baton Rouge. From left to right are Pamela Netteville, Mark Scioneaux and Jannina Iglehart.

Undergraduate Student Joey Boudreaux Recognized

Joseph (Joey) M. Boudreaux was one of 40 outstanding seniors recognized by the 2006 National Student Recognition Program of the American Society of Agronomy. This program recognizes outstanding seniors enrolled in agronomy, crop, soil or environmental science departments that have active clubs affiliated with the Students of Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Sciences. Joey received a plaque as part of the recognition and is now eligible to apply for the Frank D. Keim Fellowship when he enrolls in graduate school.

Students

Congratulations to the Recent Graduates

B.S. Degrees:

Gabriel Anderson- 5/2005
 Jeffrey Bacon – 5/2006
 Stewart Beard- 12/2005
 Sandra Bogan- 5/2005
 Adam Borden- 12/2005
 Renelle Borne- 12/2005
 Joseph Boudreaux – 5/2006
 Valerie Boudreaux- 5/2005
 Kevin Bruton- 12/2005
 Brian Chustz- 12/2004
 Randal Daigle- 12/2005
 Aaron Deglandon – 5/2006
 Jeremey Farque- 5/2005
 Jennifer Flash- 12/2004
 Kyle Fontenot – 5/2006
 Michael Fruge- 5/2005
 Ashley Garber- 12/2004
 Lauren Goldfinch- 8/2005
 Andrew Guempel- 12/2005
 John P. Hebert- 12/2005
 Jannina Igelhart – 5/2006
 Robert Kees – 5/2006
 Joseph Kraska- 12/2005
 Brennan Landry – 5/2006
 Ryan Laurent- 12/2004
 John Lee- 5/2005
 Andrew Linton- 8/2005
 Katherine Magoun – 5/2006
 Pamela Netterville- 12/2005
 Edwin Pippin- 8/2005
 Blaine Petite – 5/2006
 Nicholas Rasmussen- 5/2005
 Ryan Rome- 12/2004
 Katherine Rush- 5/2005
 Mark Scioneaux – 5/2006
 Stephen Smith- 5/2005
 Ashley Thompson- 12/2004
 Byron Tomlinson- 5/2005



Environmental Management System students received their B.S. degrees in December 2004. From left to right are Ashley Garber, Jennifer Flash, Ashley Thompson, Ryan Laurent, Ryan Rome and Brian Chustz.



May, 2005 graduates in Plant and Soils Systems: Michael Fruge, Gabriel Anderson and Nicholas Rasmussen. Not pictured: John Lee, Katherine Rush.



May, 2005 graduates in Environmental Management Systems: Sandra Bogan, Valerie Boudreaux, Jeremy Farque, Byron Tomlinson and Stephen Smith.

With Sympathy

On Saturday, March 19, 2005, Dr. Joseph E. Sedberry Jr., a U.S. Army veteran and retired professor of agronomy, passed away. He is survived by his wife, Rose, two daughters, one son and five grandchildren. Dr. Sedberry was a member of many organizations, including the ASA, SSSA, American Legion, Louisiana Retired Teachers Association and Gamma Sigma Delta. He served on the President's Advisory Committee of Centenary College in Shreveport, La., as well. Dr. Sedberry also was co-founder with his wife of the International Teaching & Research Foundation for Agricultural Sciences and of the T.D.S. Memorial Foundation for the Handicapped. Dr. Sedberry will be sadly missed by this department.

Alumni

Alumni - Where Are You Now?

Tell us what is going on with your life and career. Classmates like to know what other classmates are doing! Here's your chance to share your news with the Department Alumni and Friends. This information will appear in an upcoming *Agronomy and Environmental News*.

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E-MAIL : _____ CLASS OF: _____

FAMILY MEMBERS: _____

NEWS: _____

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Crawfish Boil Was a Huge Success

This past year the Agronomy & Environmental Management department celebrated the "much loved" Louisiana treat, boiled crawfish. It was attended by students, faculty, staff, research associates and retirees. The crawfish were beautiful and delicious, and we are all eagerly awaiting our next departmental crawfish social!!!!



(l-r) Suman Andru, Sridhar Alwala, Sabita, Sanny and Prasanta Subudhi and Brian Naquin.



(l-r) Dr. Jack Jones, Ann Miller, Dr. Russell Miller, Mildred Caldwell, Dr. Magdi Selim, Liz Selim, Carmen Board and Dr. George Caldwell.



(l-r) Ivan Dickson, Hector Zapata, Alicia Ryan Zapata, Jimmy Zumba, Jeremy Farque and Nick Rasmussen.

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