New Faculty Hire: Dr. Terry McLendon

Dr. Terry McLendon, an experienced ecologist, specializing in ecohydrology and ecological modeling, joined the PSS department September 1, 2013. Dr. McLendon joins the department as a Research Professor.

Dr. McLendon is currently developing computer simulation models for the ecosystems of the San Antonio Bay, San Antonio River and Upper Llano River watersheds, and expects to continue that work. He’s also interested in continuing his research on sources and amounts of water-use by vegetation.

Dr. McLendon has more than four decades of research and consulting experience in the United States, Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Mexico and Peru in plant ecology, restoration of disturbed lands, ecological modeling, ecological risk assessment, range and land management, vegetation sampling, watershed dynamics and statistical ecology.

During his career, Dr. McLendon created and co-developed what is known as the ‘Ecological Dynamics Simulation Model,’ a computer model that’s been applied at 35 locations in the United States, Australia and Indonesia. Separately, he’s authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific and technical publications, and has been a faculty member at four universities, including Texas Tech, University of Texas-El Paso, Colorado State University and Texas A&I University.

He also worked as a principal scientist at MWH Americas and KS2 Ecological Field Services, in addition to serving as a vice president of Shepherd Miller Inc. In addition to his bachelor’s degree in range management and doctorate in range science from Texas Tech, McLendon earned his master’s degree in range science from Colorado State.
Chat with the Chair

Forty Chances is a book by Howard G. Buffett whose title comes from the statement that a farmer has about forty years of chances to make a crop on their own. This number is poignant to me as I complete my fortieth year as a faculty member. While this is my last “crop year,” the calendar says that we are nearing the planting season for those annual crops that form the backbone of the plants about which we teach and on which we research. Coming into this planting season we are very dry, but hopes for a good crop year are ever present in our producers. The book’s subtitle is “Finding Hope in a Hungry World” which is what we in the Plant and Soil Science Department are all about. We provide educational opportunities to our students, research answers for our funding agencies and applied information to our community. As the next generation of PSS students, faculty and alumni begins their forty years of chances; they will have a strong foundation on which to build. In April there will be a groundbreaking for a new wing on the current Agricultural Plant Sciences Building. Those state-of-the-art facilities will ensure a positive educational atmosphere for our students. In an educational institution such as Texas Tech University, it is always about investing in the next generation of students. Their forty chances will come in a time with less land and water resources available to feed, clothe and provide plant beauty to a burgeoning population.

Last week I attended the Ogallala Aquifer Program meetings in Lubbock at which we were told to expect about 20% irrigation water in the near future. Improvements in site-specific -agriculture and crop genetics will be needed to improve agriculture in this region. This is what we do. We are Plant and Soil Science.

PSS New Building Groundbreaking

Chancellor Kent Hance, President M. Duane Nellis and Dean Michael Galyean invite you to a groundbreaking ceremony for a new addition to the Bayer Plant Science Building Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.

Bayer Plant Science Building
Texas Tech University
2709 15th Street, Lubbock, Texas

Business attire - Guest parking map on reverse

RSVP to ia.events@ttu.edu or 806.742.0479
Faculty News

Dr. West gave an invited presentation to the Nebraska Independent Crop Consultants Association in Nebraska City on February 13, titled “Texas Alliance for Water Conservation,” to help train producers and crop consultants in online tools for managing high crop water use efficiency.

Dr. Dotray was awarded the 2014 Outstanding Teacher Award from the Weed Science Society of America.

Dr. Hellman is an invited speaker for the Winemaking for Challenging Environments Symposium at the 65th National Conference of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture to be held June 23-27 in Austin, Texas. He will speak on “Dealing with Environmental Challenges in the Vineyard: Delivering the Best Product to the Winemaker.”

Dr. Hellman and Texas A&M colleagues, Dean McCorkle and Rebekka Dudensing of the Department of Agricultural Economics, have been awarded a grant from USDA-NIFA for $462,002 over three years to assess viticulture production practices for robotic technology development.

Dr. Weindorf has received a 50% appointment with the CASNR Dean’s office as associate Dean for Research. Dr. Weindorf will split his time between this new appointment and his research and teaching duties in the PSS department.

Dr. Weindorf has been awarded $57,000 by Bayer CropScience for high resolution soil survey activities.

Dr. Weindorf hosted two visiting scholars in January, Dr. Somsubhra Chakraborty from the IRDM Faculty Center at the Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University and Dr. Titus Man from the Babes-Bolyai University in Romania. He will also be hosting Dr. Dandan Wang from Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology for the next year.

Dr. Weindorf has been selected to serve as Chair-Elect of the Soil Pedology Division of the Soil Science Society of America. His position with SSSA will continue through 2017.

Dr. Hequet had the following presentations:

Student News

PSS Graduate Student, Deepika Mishra, was awarded the Shri Anantrao Panjabrao Deshmukh Gold Medal for the highest GPA and the best scientific writing from India for her work here at Texas Tech.

PSS Graduate Student, Daniel Cunningham, was awarded the 2014 Texas Tech Helen DeVitt Jones Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award.

The PSS Graduate Awards Committee selected Ms. Sumedha Liyanage as the outstanding M.S. student and Dr. J.D. Booker as the outstanding Ph. D. student for 2014.

The Soils Judging Team competed in the national contest at the beginning of April. Team members include PSS students Trey Roach, David Brockman, Trent Smith, and Reed Johnston. The team is coached by Dr. Weindorf.
The Turfgrass Science program will be hosting their Turf Field Day at the Quaker Avenue Research Farm!

**When:** Monday, July 21, 2014. Registration will begin at 7:15 a.m.
**What:** Topics presented will range from turf management to water conservation on golf courses, athletic fields, commercial and residential lawns.

Attendance is free for all participants. Lunch will be provided to attendees. Please contact Dr. Young, joey.young@ttu.edu, if you have any questions.

The Texas Tech Turf Club is hosting their annual Fundraiser Golf Tournament!

**When:** Friday, April 25th, shotgun start at 1:00 p.m.
**Where:** Meadowbrook Golf Course in Lubbock, Texas.
**Cost:** $50 per player or $200 per team.
**Mulligans:** $5 for one, $20 for five.

Lunch will be served at 12 noon. Prizes awarded for longest drive and closest to the pin competitions. For more information or to sign-up, please contact Dr. Young, joey.young@ttu.edu or (806) 834-8457.

The PSS Greenhouse is excited to announce their annual Plant Sale & Floral Show!

**Plant Sale:**

**When:** Friday, May 2nd, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
**Where:** In the PSS Horticultural Greenhouse (right across from the United Spirit Arena)
Cash or check only!
Please contact Jennifer Simek, with any questions, jennifer.simek@ttu.edu

**Floral Show:**

**When:** Friday, May 2nd, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
**Where:** PSS Horticultural Greenhouse

The students will be making their final floral arrangement on May 1st at 3:00 p.m. in the Greenhouse. This final floral design project will include flowers, design, and presentation techniques solely determined by each student. The arrangements will on display and available to purchase on May 2nd. Everyone is encouraged to watch the design on May 1st and purchase arrangements on May 2nd.

Please contact Russ Plowman with any questions, russell.d.plowman@ttu.edu.