New Hire: Russ Plowman

Russ Plowman joins the department as a horticulture and greenhouse management instructor. Russ originally came to Lubbock in 1980, from his home town of San Angelo, Texas, to get a horticulture degree from Texas Tech. He says he never intended to stay in Lubbock, but now he doesn’t want to leave!

Russ graduated from Texas Tech in 1983 with a bachelor of science in horticulture. He stayed on at Texas Tech with Dr. Carol Robacher as a research/teaching assistant, getting a M.S. in 1985. He was always interested in horticulture, with early memories of digging and planting in the soil. He then went into the nursery business in high school working for a local San Angelo garden center. During his graduate program, a professor suggested that he complete a program offered by Texas A & M University, the Benz School of Floral Design. This provided the creative outlet he needed and bought an existing floral business in 1986. In 1999, he sold the business and started a landscape company, which he ran until 2010. Currently, Russ works with a landscape construction company as a designer, in addition to his teaching duties. Over the years, Russ has taught many classes and given countless seminars on floral design and nursery plants and products. Russ says he really enjoys teaching and the academic environment.

Since moving to Lubbock in 1980, Russ has planted some roots and family in the area, raising two sons, Joshua and Matthew.

Texas Tech Turf Club to host Golf Tournament

**Location:** Meadowbrook Golf Course in Lubbock, TX

**Format:** 4-man scramble with shotgun start at 1:00 pm on April 19, 2013

**Cost:** $50 per player and $200 per team payable onsite day of tournament

**Lunch:** Participants will receive lunch starting at 12:00 before starting golf

**Mulligans:** 1 for $5 and 5 for $20

**Prizes:** Gift certificates for top 2 teams along with on course competitions

**Hole sponsorships:** $100 and a sign with company logo will be displayed on course

**Deadline:** Sign up for sponsorship or golf by **April 12, 2013**

**Contact:** To sign up for golf or sponsorships, contact Dr. Joey Young ([joey.young@ttu.edu](mailto:joey.young@ttu.edu)) or by phone at (806) 742-2838 ext. 238.
Chat with the Chair

The world is very rapidly changing. I use my iPhone as an alarm, calculator, calendar, camera, clock, compass, dictionary, encyclopedia, flashlight, level, road map, soils map, web browser and telephone. I say all of that to indicate the academic institutions are also changing. The PSS department has long since evolved from a “bricks and mortar” entity to one that embraces distance education to serve place-bound students around the globe. Another change is our increasing use of part-time instructors. This issue’s featured faculty member, Russ Plowman, is an excellent example of one of these part-time instructors. Russ did his B.S. and M.S. degrees in PSS and put to practice what he learned in private sector as a greenhouse manager and small business owner. This year Russ taught Garden Center Management in the Fall and is teaching Floral Design this semester. Mr. Plowman brings actual real-world business experience to the students in these classes that pure academicians could not. The examples and skills he brings to our students enrich their educational experiences. Another change is our commitment to more basic research as evidenced with the hiring of Dr. Venugopal Mendu, a cell-wall biologist. Venu will work closely with our faculty at FBRI on the cell wall biology of cotton fibers. As Texas Tech University morphs to a Tier one institution, our Department must change. The ability to augment our full-time faculty with part-time instructors will allow us to meet the rapidly changing student needs. The ability to hire basic research faculty will allow PSS to meet the rapidly changing research needs. “The road goes on forever and the party never ends.”

PSS News

The PSS Greenhouse and Gardens was featured in the Texas Gardner Magazine recently, on a story about the new Earth-Kind Rose Demonstration Gardens. In the Spring of 2012, TTU Turfgrass students tilled the garden area, Master Gardeners worked to load compost in the garden area, and the Greenhouse staff planted the roses. Landon Bell, a landscape architecture student, designed the garden layout. This garden will provide teaching, research and learning opportunities for students and the Lubbock community. This garden will be the furthest west the Earth-King cultivars have ever been planted.
**Faculty News**

Dr. Peter Dotray received the 2012 Extension Award from Texas A&M Agrilife Research and Extension.

Drs. Norman Hopper and Vivien Allen have been named emeritus faculty members of Texas Tech University.

**Student News**

Kevin Evenson, an undergraduate horticulture student, was named the 2013 Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Horticulture by the American Society for Horticulture Science (ASHA). The following students where also nominated for ASHS Collegiate Scholars: Rebecca Acrey, Laney Bateman, Moorilee Edwards, Rena McNeil, Katherine Setterbo, Anna Volger, Amy Volz, Cassie Welker, Holly Wilson, Marvin Borth, Caroline Barza, Spencer McCasin, and Crystal Melendez. These students are in the top 15% of their respective classes and met criteria set forth by ASHS for recognition.

Jacob Price, PhD in Plant and Soil Sciences student, received the Friends of the Southern IPM Graduate Student Award for 2013.

Chenhui Li, a master of science in crop science student, received the CH Foundation Doctoral Fellowship. This prestigious fellowship will allow Ms. Li to continue on to her PhD starting in Fall 2013 with Dr. Moore-Kucera.

Marko Davinic, 2012 PhD graduate, accepted a position as Research and Development Coordinator for Western Ag Innovations in North Dakota.

Lisa Fultz, 2012 PhD graduate, accepted a post-doctoral position in Dr. Moore-Kucera’s lab managing the CRP projects.

Misha Manuchehri, a PhD in Plant and Soil Sciences student, placed second in the Texas Tech Annual Biological Science Symposium Oral Division with her paper: “Understanding the Impacts of Water Quality on Glyphosate Efficacy in the Texas High Plans.”

Andrew Alleman, an undergraduate Environmental Engineering student, was recognized as a 2013 Student of Integrated Scholarship by the Texas Tech Provost. Andrew works in Dr. Moore-Kucera’s lab in soil and environmental microbiology.

The Department of Plant and Soil Science has three graduate students that were recently appointed to positions on the university Graduate Student Council. Brendan Kelly and Misha Manuchehri will serve as representatives from the department and Addissu Ayele will serve on the Graduate Student Commission.

The Department of Plant and Soil Science has created new graduate student awards. Each year, doctoral and master students will be selected as an outstanding graduate. This year, the committee was chaired by Dr. Robert Wright and review and selection of candidates was completed by Drs. Scott Longing and Jason Woodward. We are pleased to announce our first awardees are: Dr. Jacob Reed, as 2012 Outstanding Doctoral Student, and Mr. Jon Cotton, as 2012 Outstanding Masters Graduate.
Student and Faculty Presentations

The following presentations were made at the American Society for Horticultural Science, February 2013, in Orlando, Florida:


The following publications have been accepted and published:
