The Department of Plant and Soil Science has made many valuable additions to the faculty roster for the current and future school years. Among the hires is respected forage researcher, Charles “Chuck” West.

Dr. Chuck West now occupies the Thornton Distinguished Chair in Forage Systems. He comes to us after spending 28 years on the faculty of the University of Arkansas where he was a Professor of Forages in the Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences department. His research concentrated on identifying strains of an endophytic fungus that promoted drought tolerance in tall fescue, but that lacked toxins that were deleterious to livestock. More recently, he was worked on simulation modeling of switchgrass as a biofuel crop. Dr. West taught undergraduate courses in forage management, a senior professional development course, and graduate courses in pasture research techniques and bioenergy crop production. He will be teaching the undergraduate and graduate forage courses at Texas Tech. His research will concentrate on quantifying the water use of forage crops and pastures as affected by grazing management in an effort to integrate forages into row-crop systems as a way to reduce use of irrigation water while sustaining profitable agriculture. Dr. West will also provide leadership in the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation, a consortium of agricultural producers, water districts, government agencies, and researchers to refine and transfer irrigation management technology to make most efficient use of water supplies.

Dr. West brought with him a doctoral student, Alexandre Rocateli, who is transferring his PhD degree program from Arkansas to this department. He’ll be continuing his work on simulation modeling of switchgrass for biofuel production.

We are very pleased to have Dr. West in the PSS family and look forward to his accomplishments as a Red Raider.

The Department of Plant and Soil Science has also made the following new hires:

- Dr. Theo Udeigwe, Soil Chemistry Professor
- Dr. Scott Longing, Visiting Assistant Professor of Entomology
- Dr. Ashley Elle, Horticulture Instructor
- Russ Plowman, Greenhouse Management Instructor.

Look for our future newsletters to see a highlight of new faculty members.
Chat with the Chair

While last year brought challenges to the Department of Plant and Soil Science, this year brings new opportunities to the department. Since our last newsletter, Dr. Wayne Hudnall, the B.L. Allen Chair of Pedology, passed away after a valiant battle with cancer. We are now advertising to fill that position. As part of this year’s homecoming festivities, our department celebrates the induction of Dr. George Tereshkovitch to the PSS Faculty Hall of Fame. This semester, our department welcomes four new faculty members—Drs. Elle, Longing, Udeigwe and West. Ashley Elle came to us from the South Plains Food Bank to be an instructor in our Horticulture Program. Scott Longing from the University of Arkansas has been hired to be a Visiting Professor in our Entomology Program. Theo Udeigwe comes to us from Louisiana State University Experiment Station to initiate a Soil Chemistry Program.

Last, but by no means least, is Dr. Chuck West who came from the University of Arkansas to be the Thornton Distinguished Chair in Forages. You will all have a chance to read their stories and learn about their expertise in future newsletters. Additionally, Dr. Joey Young has accepted a faculty appointment as a turf scientist beginning Spring semester 2013. Our student numbers remain strong with 133 undergraduate and 87 graduate students enrolled this Fall. So far this year our department has generated $2.5M in research funding. We continue to be a student oriented, research intensive department. Go Red Raiders.

Staff Roles

The PSS staff has recently made some changes. Listed below are the PSS staff members and the contributions to the department:

**Regan Anders:** Quaker Research Farm Manager

**Christy Barbee:** Unit Coordinator for the TeCSIS and TAWC projects

**Robby Carlson:** IT support and technician for PSS and FBRI

**Christi Chadwell:** Communications and Recruiting Coordinator for PSS and FBRI

**Teresa Davis:** Lead Account Processor

**Lou Ann Hillhouse:** FBRI Analyst II

**Kayla Lizama:** Administrative business assistant and Undergraduate Distance Education Assistant

**Diann Merriman:** Assistant advisor for on-campus undergraduate students and all graduate students

**Julie Sanders:** FBRI Administrative Assistant

**Lori Walraven:** Unit Supervisor for PSS
Faculty News

Dr. Chuck West published the following paper:


Dr. Eric Hequet published the following papers:


Dr. Peter Dotray was selected to receive the 2012 Educator Achievement Award in recognition of outstanding contribution to the Texas Agriculture Industries Association educational programs.

Dr. Dotray has also brought in a new PhD student, from Washington State University, Misha Manuchehri. They will be working on cotton breeding and technologies.

Several PSS Faculty members were recognized during the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources ceremony during the Fall 2012 Faculty Retreat. Among those recognized are: Dr. Noureddine Abidi, for the research award, and Dr. Jennifer Moore-Kucera, for the Junior Faculty Award.

PSS News

2012 Faculty Hall of Fame Reception

Honoring Dr. George “T” Tereshkovich

On Friday, October 12th, the Plant and Soil Science Department will be inducting their fourth member into the Faculty Hall of Fame. Dr. Tereshkovich will be honored that evening from 5:30p.m. to 7:30 p.m..

“Dr. T” was a valued faculty member during his tenure at Texas Tech University. He was involved in numerous activities, including advising, teaching, the Horticulture Society, and numerous other events.

The Faculty Hall of Fame Committee selected Dr. T as the 2012 recipient of this award because of his contributions. His service at Texas Tech spanned from 1968 until 1995. He still remains an active advocate for the department and dear friend to many of his colleagues.

Please join us for the reception honoring Dr. T:

Friday, October 12th, 2012
5:30-7:30, come-and-go reception.
Plant Science building 115, on Texas Tech University Campus
Lubbock, Texas

If you have any questions about this event please contact Christi Chadwell at 806-742-2838 extension 233.
Texas International Cotton School
August 6-17, 2012

The 32nd Session of the Texas International Cotton School just completed another successful year. The cotton school is a cooperative effort between the Lubbock Cotton Exchange and Texas Tech University Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute. The school provides a two-week intensive training course for industry professionals and graduate students. During the two weeks, individuals receive information about all facets of the cotton industry. Experts lecture on marketing, fibers, spinning, contaminants, exporting, and many other optics. The participants also attend several tours around the South Plains area including the American Cotton Growers Denim Mill, Lubbock Cotton Growers Gin, and Bayer Crop Science research stations. This year, the school was attended by 24 total participants. The participants came from the District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Texas, West Virginia, Brazil, Japan, Pakistan, and 14 Texas Tech graduate students. This session was one of the largest classes on record and was a valuable learning experience to all who attended. More information on the Texas International Cotton School can be found at www.texasintlcottonschool.com.

Student and Staff News

Jennifer Simek was recently elected to the position of Vice Chairman for the Association of Education and Research Greenhouse Curators at the annual conference in Toronto, July 2012.

Connor Wilmeth, a junior Environmental Crop and Soil Science major, was recently featured in a profile in the Southwest Farm Press. Connor has been involved in his family farm operation for several years, but has recently secured his own loan on a 134 acre tract of land. Connor plans to return to the farm life full-time once he graduates. You can read the full story here: http://bit.ly/PsL9HV

Melisa Muharam was awarded the Precision Agriculture Outstanding Graduate Students Award, 2012, at the International Conference on Precision Agriculture.

The Plant and Soil Science Graduate Student Council helped host the 2012 Texas Tech Annual Biological Sciences Symposium. PSS graduate student presented posters and research during the three day conference in Lubbock, Texas.

Reagan Anders and the Quaker Research Farm hosted the annual Quaker Farm Field Day. This event was attended by over 100 industry professionals. In addition to the faculty and researcher presentation, seven PSS graduate students presented their field research.

The Plant and Soil Science Department hosted a staff and faculty cook-out at the Quaker Farm, on September 21st. The department hopes to host more events throughout the year and increase involvement in all activities.