Dr. Eric F. Hequet Steps into Department Chair Role

A new leader has been named the new chairman of Texas Tech University’s Department of Plant and Soil Science. Eric F. Hequet took the helm of the highly successful agricultural academic unit on Sept 1.

In the past, the multi-lingual Hequet has focused his research efforts on providing international leadership in research on measurement of cotton fiber properties and contaminants, including the impacts of these on textile processing performance. He is now focused on collaborative research with the cotton breeding and cotton biotechnology community to help develop improved properties in cotton fibers.

Dr. Hequet has served as a professor with Tech’s Department of Plant and Soil Science, in addition to having a joint appointment with Texas A&M AgriLife Research. He also served as associate director of the university’s Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute. Hequet joined Texas Tech’s faculty in 1997, after serving in a variety of research positions including head of the Cotton Program and head of the Cotton Technology Laboratory at CIRAD-CA in Montpellier, France. In addition, he was head of the Bebedjia Agronomic Research Station and head of the Cotton Breeding and Cotton Technology Programs for CIRAD in Bebedjia, Chad.

Hequet earned a Diploma of Higher Education in chemistry-physiology from Orsay, Paris XI; a Master of Sciences in genetics from Orsay, Paris XI; and a Diploma of Applied Advanced Studies in plants genetics from Orsay, Paris XI. His doctorate in engineering sciences is from the Université de Haute Alsace (France).

Recent awards for Hequet include: Texas Tech Parents Association Barnie E. Rushing Jr. Faculty Distinguished Research Award (2012); and the Chancellor’s Council Distinguished Research Award (2011). He is a member numerous scientific organizations including the International Committee on Testing Methods, and the Editorial Board of the Journal of Cotton Science.
Fence Work and Construction Set for New Building

The fences have been put up for work on the new wing addition to the Bayer Plant Science Building on Texas Tech campus. The fences are up around the area that construction will take place, with the small marker flags being put out within the next few weeks. Actual dirt work is set to begin on September 15th.

We will keep you updated with the construction progress! This is a very exciting time for the department and the university, and we are so excited to see it start!

Dr. Richard Zartman Honored at Retirement Reception

After 40 years of service to Texas Tech University and the Department of Plant and Soil Science, Dr. Richard Zartman has officially retired, effective August 31st. Dr. Zartman was honored at a retirement reception on Thursday, August 28th. With over 100 people in attendance, we were able to celebrate his career contributions and his success in the department. He was joined by his wife, Donna, and their children and grandchildren at the reception.