Those of you who keep close tabs on the EH department know that my first year as chair is now behind me. I feel compelled to honor the occasion with some reflections on the situation. One thing that I found very interesting (foreboding) was that whenever I mentioned to someone that I am the new EH chair, they would invariably express condolences first, followed secondly by congratulations. This was the case even before the grim budget situation started presenting itself. It took me a while to figure out what that was about.

I have to honestly say that I love the job and am having a great time. The department has its problems, just like every other department, but I feel that it has tremendous potential and an excellent prognosis for the future. We have excellent staff and faculty (far better than most, in my opinion) and everyone is working hard to sustain our high level of productivity. The Dean has assured me that EH would be targeted for growth and he has been very happy with my efforts to lead the department and to encourage the various Environmental Horticulture industries to support us.

At this writing we are still waiting for the State Budget to be passed, but the belt-tightening has already started. We in EH have no intention of shutting down; and possibilities for finding greater efficiencies have already all been exploited. Thus our main recourse is to seek additional income via other sources to offset the reduction in public funds. This means that we must be more vigilant in finding financial support from our production and landscape industries. I feel confident that we will be successful, because we have an excellent track record in doing research that is responsive to the needs of clientele are increasing and we are optimistic about our future. Thus as chair I am happy with the state of things at the end of my first year.

In other news...

**EHUF grads on their way**

On June 14th, the EH Department celebrated the graduation of EHUF’s Class of 2002. As usual, the staff (under the guidance of Lisa Brown) provided a delicious buffet while individual students were recognized by the courtyard gathering for their academic achievements. Michael Jalili, Mike Kabler, Carolyn Norris, Rose Pearl, Jason Perko, Dan Staley and Nancy Strahan (Fall 2001) were all congratulated for completing their degrees. In addition, Melissa Rathje graduated with High Honors and Kate Keck graduated with Highest Honors. Also recognized were graduate students who received their degrees during the 2001-2002 academic year: Loren Oki - PhD, Ecology; Ling Sun - MS, Horticulture & Agronomy; and Nancy Tamayo - MS, Horticulture & Agronomy. Congratulations, everyone!

**Grad Student News**

Tom Rambo just received a $3000 grant award from the UC Davis Public Research Program’s “Challenges to California’s Natural Resources” RFP. This money will help support his forest canopy epiphyte research in conjunction with the Teakettle Ecosystem Experiment (teakettle.ucdavis.edu).

Ellen Martin received a grant award from the American Orchid Society to support her research.

**Faculty Activities**

Tom Ledig received a grant from the University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS) for a study entitled Recent Glacial and Postglacial History of Spruce (Picea) in Northern Mexico. In collaboration with Celestino Flores López and the Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro, Saltillo, Coahuila, and Steve Jackson, paleoecologist from the University of Wyoming, Tom will study populations of an endangered spruce, Picea mexicana. The team will explore the palynological evidence to try and extend our knowledge of the movements of spruce during the late Pleistocene and Holocene eras. We know that spruce occurred around the basin of Mexico City as recently as 9000 years ago, but then it suddenly disappeared and is now only found in remote, isolated pockets 500 to 700 km north of Mexico City.

**Visiting Scholars**

Former EH postdoc, Dr. Athar Tariq, has been working for the past several years as an Associate Agricultural Biologist with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Dr. Tariq was recently recognized as the “International Personality of the Year” by Cambridge (UK) for his contributions to agricultural research. His work on exploring...
new nodulated flora is a major effort in utilizing natural resources for increasing soil fertility.

Staff News

Greenhouse crew member Mitch Bunch was recently promoted from senior nursery technician to principal agricultural technician in recognition for his increasingly valuable role in the department. Joining the greenhouse crew for the summer are Devin Jennings, Ning Lee and Jon McGuire. One of their principal tasks will be to renovate the famous EH putting green for a turf study to be conducted by Dave Burger. Linda Dodge will spend two months in Xiongyue in the Chinese province of Liaoning (northeast of Beijing) conducting a horticulture short course in English for students at an agricultural vocational institute. Look for an account of her adventures in the next issue of Growing Points.

Alumni News

Ellen Zagory (M.S. 1981), project manager for new garden installations at the UC Davis Arboretum, co-authored an article in the July/August/September 2002 issue of Pacific Horticulture along with Diane Cary, the arboretum’s communications director. Entitled “Central Valley Gardening, Mediterranean Style”, the article features the newly-developed Arboretum Terrace home demonstration garden, located in a shopping center at the east end of the arboretum. On display are new plant introductions suitable for the Central Valley climate as well as the “Arboretum All-Stars”-plants known to be reliable and easy-to-grow.

Sara Junghlut, a Spring 2001 EHUF graduate, is now a certified arborist in the Midwestern chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.

Urban Forestry News

Summer interns Ara Erickson and Christian Torres have joined the staff of the Center for Urban Forest Research. Ara is researching the costs associated with implementing firewise landscapes in South Lake Tahoe and assisting with the redevelopment of the center’s website. She is pursuing an M.S. in Forest Resources with an emphasis in urban forest planning and management at the University of Washington. Ara graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.S. in Resource Management, where she spent her summers as a student and then as a teaching assistant at Forestry Summer Camp and as a field technician for the silviculture lab. Christian is participating in an internship program through the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and the USDA Forest Service. He is working at the Center for six weeks, assisting with the website and gathering contact information for urban forestry organizations across the country. Christian will also be working with the Sacramento Tree Foundation, Oakland ReLeaf, CalPoly, and Shasta-Trinity District during his ten-week stay in California. He is pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Horticulture from the University of Puerto Rico.