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Since many of the Environmental Horticulture alumni are also Growing Points readers, I would like to also assure you that we are looking at improving our teaching curricula as part of this reorganization effort. We have already determined that we can find new synergies among our teaching programs that can result in improvements in our various undergraduate majors.

All in all, this reorganization is a good thing for us and for you, our clients. While the current four departments are all excellent in their separate ways, and continuing in our traditional ways would not be a bad thing, it is clear that as an integrated unit we will be even stronger and able to be of far greater benefit to you in all the things we do for you (teaching, research and extension). We already know that this approach will allow us to be considered for investment on campus, as well as from off-campus sources, as we expect to be the very best.

GP

Notes From the Chair... by Heiner Lieth

In the midst of all the campus activity regarding reorganization of the plant sciences, the Environmental Horticulture department continues to deliver programs:

Recent Outreach Activities

The International Cut Flower Growers Association held their annual meeting at Lake Tahoe from September 9-13. I organized a three-day educational program that included sessions for growers on water quality, irrigation and fertilization for greenhouse cut flower production. A tour of EH, Entomology and the new Plant Sciences Teaching Facility on the UCD campus was also part of the program. Assisting me with delivery of the program were Drs Richard Evans, Raul Cabrera (EH alumnus) currently at Texas A & M University and EH alumnus Cliff Low of Perry Laboratory in Watsonville. My graduate students Neil Mattson and Robby Flannery also gave presentations of research results that were pertinent to the subject matter. Participants came from many US states as well as other countries (Canada, Colombia and Ecuador).

UCCE Landscape Specialist Loren Oki organized a Horticulture Research and Education Conference at UCD’s Mondavi Center on September 23. The event was sponsored by the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers as well as ANR, CAES and EH. The day was divided into several informative sessions addressing current issues affecting the nursery industry including pathogens in recycled water systems, pesticide runoff, new propagation systems and updates on disease and pest control. Of particular interest to participants were presentations on complying with the conditional agricultural waiver for runoff, given by state officials and water quality control board representatives.

During the first weekend in November, Richard Evans attended the International Farmers’ Aid Association annual meeting in Yosemite. Among the attendees were students from Japan, Brazil and Korea participating in farm internships here. Richard spoke about current economic and production trends for ornamental horticulture.

Faculty Pursuits

From October 20-23 Linda Dodge and I attended an IR4 Oramentals Workshop in Connecticut. This was the first time we participated in this annual national meeting of researchers and chemical industry representatives. We learned a great deal over four days about how the IR4 process works and hope to incorporate this new knowledge in our fledgling IR4 program here in California.

Don Durzan received a 2003 NASA Innovation Award for his work on the recovery of taxanes and drugs by cell and biosynthetic surface enrichment with anti-drug magnetic antibodies. Don also served as a member of NASA’s Scientific Working Group for the biotechnology facility on the International Space Station.

Alison Berry was named director of the UC Davis Road Ecology Center (http://johnmuir.ucdavis.edu/road_ecology/). This center brings together researchers from the John Muir Institute of the Environment (JMIE) and the Institute of Transportation Studies (ITS-Davis) to assess the impacts of roads and transportation systems on natural landscapes and human communities. They plan to create analytical methods, professional practices, and institutional processes to support sustainable transportation systems and to disseminate this information broadly to professional communities, to students and environmental scientists, to agencies, and to public interest groups.

USDA Recruitment of Research Horticulturist

The Agricultural Research Service is currently recruiting for a research horticulturist to be housed on the UCD campus. This position will focus on greenhouse-based floriculture crop production research. Our EH faculty are looking forward to working with this scientist on collaborative projects that will benefit the floral industry in the state and nation-wide.

Future Events

January and February are the months for local green industry trade shows and there are several coming up in 2004 in which EH faculty may be participating. January 14 is the Sacramento Valley Landscape and Nursery Expo (www.sacvalexpo.com). Dr Loren Oki and I will be making presentations and the EH Club will be manning a booth. The NorCal Show in San Mateo is on January 22 and its sister event, the Southern California Spring Nursery and Landscape Show, is on February 4 in Pomona.

As featured in the previous issue of Growing Points, the 27th Annual Society of Ethnobiology Conference will take place on the UCD campus March 24-27, 2004. NRCS ethnobiologist and EH affiliate, Kat Anderson, is organizing the event entitled “Living Landscapes: Linking Ethnobiology and Restoration Ecology in the Revival of Native Systems”. Registrations are currently being accepted; if you wish to attend one of the tours, register soon as these are almost certainly going to fill up.