

Over the Garden Wall

The e-newsletter from the U Maine Environmental Horticulture Program

Lois Stack Returns to Teaching Faculty



We're happy to welcome Dr. Lois Berg Stack back to the horticulture teaching team. Beginning this year, Dr. Stack will teach Plant Science (PSE 100), and will develop an additional horticulture class that will be offered in alternate years. The horticulture students will surely benefit from Dr. Stack's Extension experiences and gracious teaching style.

Awards and Recognition

We are glad to have had the opportunity to award several scholarships to deserving undergraduate and graduate students this spring. We thank our generous donors for supporting the UMaine environmental horticulture students! We were able to award over \$20,000 to undergraduates to support their educational endeavors.

The following students received scholarships for the upcoming academic year:

Mark Adams – Barrett Scholarship
Jennifer Bailey – Maine Landscape and Nursery Association Scholarship
Kevin Douglas – Barrett Work Grant
Gabe Farrell – Landscape Horticulture Scholarship
Nicole Fici - Maine Iris Society Scholarship
Michelle Jordan – Clayton Scholarship and New England Farm and Garden Scholarship
Jamie Kelly – Payson Scholarship
Meghan McPhee – Lyle Littlefield Prize and Landscape Horticulture Scholarship
Ben Rehmeyer – Clayton Scholarship and Landscape Horticulture Scholarship
Francis Sewell - Eastern Maine Orchid Society Book Scholarship, Clayton Scholarship, and Landscape Horticulture Scholarship
Jessica Sleeper – Landscape Horticulture Scholarship and Clayton Scholarship
Martha Thomas – Landscape Horticulture Scholarship and Clayton Scholarship

Our students were also recognized at the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture Scholarship banquet. Further, we were pleased that mums grown by the students in greenhouse management were on display at the college scholarship banquet this year.



Nicole Fici (left) receives an award from the Maine Iris Society.

Students Attend PLANET Competition

For the third year, UMaine has sent a horticultural team to the Professional Landcare Network Student Career Days (PLANET). This year, students from horticulture programs throughout the United States participated in PLANET in Pomona, California. Our team included: Arielle DeRice (Landscape Installation, Irrigation Assembly), Meghan McPhee (Landscape Design, Annual and Perennial ID), Jaime Kelly (Paver Installation, Skid Steer Operation), Lucas van Vught (Paver Installation, Truck and Trailer Operation), Laura Cooper (Landscape Installation, Irrigation Assembly), Michelle Jordan (Computer Aided Design, Woody Plant ID), Miranda Winter (Landscape Installation, Wood Construction), Chris Skerritt (Annual and Perennial ID, Interior Plant ID), and Steve Rodrigue (Wood Construction, Truck and Trailer Operation). The team represented Maine well and also had the unique opportunity to learn some warm climate plants in California. Go Blue!



(Left) Lucas van Vught competed with Jaime Kelly (not shown) in the Paver Installation Competition (Right) Laura Cooper and Arielle DeRice competed in Irrigation Assembly

We thank the following businesses and organizations for donating \$100 or more to the students' trip:

American Awards
Boothbay Region Garden Club
City of Augusta Tree Board
D.A. Mitchell's Landscaping
Downeast Turf Farms
Longfellow's Greenhouses
Maine Arborists Association
Roy Auto Parts
Safe Lawns
Triple M Trucking
Westside Nurseries
Whitney Tree Service
Windswept Gardens

Special thanks also to Paul Tukey for generously donating time and books at a special fundraiser and to Hilda Burnett for making the UMaine horticulture team flag.

UMaine Student Internships

Two of our students spent the summer interning at Skagit Gardens in Skagit, Washington. One of the students, Kevin Douglas, is first UMaine student to receive the prestigious Vic and Margaret Ball Intern Scholarship for his internship. He's been in Washington since January and was recently given the responsibilities of assistant grower. This summer, he was joined by Mark Adams.



(Left) Kevin Douglas at Skagit Gardens with one of his favorite plants, Gaura. (Right) Skagit Gardens is located in the Skagit Valley in Washington.

Eric Newton, a senior in the science concentration, participated in a new summer research program at Cornell's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, NY. The program was a Plant Pathology Summer Research Scholars Program in which Eric and ten other undergraduate students learned to conduct laboratory and field research. Eric's research project studying resistance mechanisms to Grapevine fanleaf virus in *Nicotiana benthamiana*.

Congratulations on wonderful opportunities, Kevin, Mark, and Eric.

Barrett Work Grant Recipient Landscapes Deering Hall

This spring, Gabe Farrell, a senior in the horticulture program, designed and installed a new landscape in front of Deering Hall with the support of a Barrett Work Grant.

The following people donated assistance or materials to this project: Brad Libby, Ben Rehmyer, Mark Adams, Harold Dal, Cam Pierel, and Greg McDaniels.



Mark Adams (left) and Gabe Farrell (right) install a small patio in front of Deering Hall



The finished landscape includes a patio, octagonal picnic table, and many plants to be used in future plant identification classes.

Hort Students Grow for Brewer Children's Garden

In addition to growing mums that were at the scholarship banquet, the students in greenhouse management also grew a crop of annual flowers and vegetables for the Brewer Children's Garden. The crops were grown organically and included: tomatoes, nasturtium, marigolds, asters, zinnias, and many more species. Some of the vegetables have also been planted at Plant-A-Row-for the hungry at Roger's Farm.



The student's plants were featured in a cut flower garden, several display beds, and a vegetable garden at the Brewer Children's Garden. Photos compliments of Laurie Cronin.

Thanks to Johnny's Seeds for donating the seeds and environmental horticulture graduate student Katherine Garland for coordinating the project.

Alumni News:

Recent graduate, Jeffrey Hake, was accepted into graduate school at Tufts University. Congratulations, Jeff!

Congratulations to our newest graduates: T.J. Baldwin, Eric DiTomasso, Ruth Keister, Christopher Nichols, Robert Paradis, Stephanie Shaw, Christopher Skerritt and Miranda Winter, We wish you the best of luck!

Alumni and Friends, would you like to receive the e-newsletter directly via e-mail? If so, please subscribe to by contacting Stephanie Burnett (sburnett@maine.edu or 207-581-2937) to let her know you'd like your name added to the e-subscription list. The newsletter will still be posted on the website each semester for those of you who'd rather not receive it via e-mail.

If you have any news, please send it to Stephanie Burnett (sburnett@maine.edu or 207-581-2937) and we'll include it in the next newsletter.