Sonia Masih of Wooster wanted to dig deeper into science — even more than she was doing in high school and, she hoped, as a step toward studying human pathology in college.

She took that step through OARDC’s Research Internship Program (ORIP), which offers summer research internships to students — college undergraduates and high-school juniors and seniors — interested in careers in science. ORIP taught her, she said, “responsibility and independence, working on my own for the first time.”

Her mentor, plant pathologist Brian McSpadden Gardener of OARDC and OSU Extension, said ORIP’s benefits go both ways. “It’s good for my lab to have smart students who are motivated to accomplish something,” he said, “and it’s a great opportunity to show what OARD is doing for the larger community.”

ORIP director Parwinder Grewal said the program helps strengthen the teaching of the STEM disciplines — science, technology, engineering, and math — in Ohio’s schools. Participants work directly with OARDC scientists. ORIP gives students “experience that will set them apart from others for college applications and future career opportunities,” Grewal said.

Participation has nearly doubled from the program’s first year to its second: from 38 in 2008 to 75 this year.

OARDC’s P–12 Outreach effort targets STEM teaching, too. Students of all ages — more than 2,000 from 71 schools in 17 counties last year alone — visit for tours and workshops. OARDC public relations director Jane Houin, who leads the program, said it opens “all kinds of new possibilities for us to reach and interact with students. We want them to know science is fun.”

Ohio leaders call ramped-up STEM teaching key to the state’s economic future.

Learn more at http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/orip/ and http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/visitor/ (click on “P-12 Outreach”).

"ORIP taught me responsibility and independence, working on my own for the first time.”

— Sonia Masih, pictured right

Also Inside: Extension p. 4 Academic Programs p. 7 ATI p. 10 Development p. 12 Alumni p. 14
OARDC’s decision to invest in an in-vivo imaging system—a state-of-the-art digital device that shows in real time how pathogens infect and move through live plants and animals—has certainly paid off for the institution and the scientists using it for their research programs.

In only two years, the $130,000 equipment has attracted more than $700,000 in grants from agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and industry sources.

Food-animal health specialist Gireesh Rajashekar is using the imager to study Campylobacter jejuni, a leading cause of foodborne illness in humans that is prevalent in chickens. Aided by a glowing gene, the imaging system maps out the progression of bacterial infection, allowing researchers to determine which genes are responsible for the spread of disease.

Rajashekar and plant pathologist Sally Miller are also developing a bioluminescent strain of Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. michiganensis—the bacterium responsible for bacterial canker, the most important disease of greenhouse tomatoes.

“We are using this research tool to better understand how the pathogen infects and survives in seeds, moves from seeds to seedlings, and behaves during the tomato grafting process,” explained Miller, noting that greenhouse tomatoes now account for 35 percent of all fresh tomatoes sold in supermarkets.

A patent for the C. michiganensis subsp. michiganensis “lux gene” is pending. ■ MAURICIO ESPINOZA

If you build it, industries will come ...

Thanks to a $744,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration, Pounden Hall on OARDC’s Wooster campus is undergoing a major facelift. When construction is done, the building will offer office, lab, and prototype development space for private companies interested in partnering with Ohio State researchers—ultimately leading to technology development and commercialization, new business, and jobs. OARDC also partnered with the city of Wooster to improve Secrest Road (northern edge of campus) and provide utilities to the 95-acre future site of BioHio Research Park—an agricultural biosciences business and technology center. This project was made possible by a $3.4 million grant from the Ohio Department of Development’s Job Ready Sites program and matching funds from the city of Wooster.

When finished, Pounden Hall will provide office and lab space for businesses interested in partnering with Ohio State researchers. The renovated building is the first step toward establishing a unique agbioscience technology park in Wooster.
Convinced that modern infrastructure is key to addressing fast-evolving research and industry needs, OARDC has invested more than $8 million in four facilities throughout the state in the past two years that support a variety of research operations.

In August, OARDC dedicated its $5.5 million Feedstock Processing Research Facility on the Wooster campus — a state-of-the-art facility that replaced the outdated 1965 feedmill and will increase the quality, nutritional value, and mixing precision of feeds for OARDC’s internationally recognized livestock and poultry research programs. This facility also has capabilities for processing oils and proteins from crops for bioproduct applications. Funding came from state of Ohio capital dollars, the Third Frontier-funded Ohio BioProducts Innovation Center (OARDC), and gifts from Sweet Manufacturing.

Three of OARDC’s outlying agricultural research stations — Muck Crops (Huron County, July 30, 2009), Western (Clark County, July 8, 2008), and Eastern (Noble County, June 21, 2008) — also dedicated new buildings (an investment of $850,000 in each location), featuring offices, labs, workshops, greenhouses, and storage/pesticide-handling areas. Funding for these projects came from the state of Ohio through capital funds.

OARDC HAS RECEIVED A $250,000 GRANT from northeast Ohio’s Fund for Our Economic Future to accelerate the development of an “agricultural biosciences industry cluster” as part of a regional economic action plan.

The project aims to ramp up northeast Ohio’s already strong sustainable food production to replace costly imports with local production; to transform it from producing lower-value commodities to higher-value specialty crops and bioproducts, including biofuels; and to grow locally owned and horizontally integrated businesses that propel the local food systems movement.

“We share a vision for building local economies in northeast Ohio starting with local food systems, leading to renewable energy and distributed manufacturing from the region’s agricultural lands,” said the project co-leader Casey Hoy, who leads OARDC’s Agroecosystems Management Program (AMP) and holds Ohio State’s W.K. Kellogg Foundation-endowed chair in agricultural ecosystems management.

The project will develop a comprehensive inventory of northeast Ohio’s agricultural resources; create an investment portfolio of at least 10 business cases to serve as models (the project’s second phase will add cases and move them toward businesses); establish an online infrastructure for networking and collaborating about opportunities in agriculture and biosciences across the region; convene a region-wide leadership council to guide further development; and outline a strategic planning process to build the cluster in the years ahead.

It will dovetail into the economic action plan called Advance Northeast Ohio, created and backed by some 90-plus regional partners, including OARDC, that launched in 2007. The new grant leverages an existing $2.26 million U.S. Department of Agriculture Regional Partnerships for Innovation grant to OARDC, also led by Hoy and AMP.

For more information:
Local Food Systems networking site, http://localfoodsystems.org/advance-northeast-ohio-partners
Advance Northeast Ohio, http://www.advancenortheastohio.org/

KURT KNEBUSCH

Land of opportunity
Project will build local food systems — and with them, northeast Ohio’s economy

The new Feedstock Processing Research Facility in Wooster (top left) will support research in both animal nutrition and bioproducts. New buildings will also boost Ohio’s diverse agricultural economy at research stations in Huron, Clark, and Noble counties (clockwise from top right).

New facilities across state boost OARDC’s research operations

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MAURICIO ESPINOZA
The number of producers and farmers who have registered for Ohio MarketMaker has increased nearly 35 percent since the free web-based service came online last year. Its success rests, in part, with the application of new innovations and technologies that make the resource easy to use to buy and sell food products and network with fellow food industry professionals.

“Due to demand for local foods, Ohio has the opportunity to gain more from the food economy by improving efficiencies in connections between food producers, buyers, and others in the food chain,” said Julie Fox, an Ohio State University Extension direct marketing specialist at OSU South Centers at Piketon. “Ohio MarketMaker makes that happen. The electronic infrastructure combines easy-to-use information that food businesses need, including demographic, food consumption, and business profile data that can be mapped to show concentrated markets and strategic business partners.”

Ohio MarketMaker (http://www.ohiomarketmaker.com) is for all businesses in the food supply chain and customers looking to buy locally grown foods. The program is part of a national network of state web sites that connect farmers with food retailers, grocery stores, processors, caterers, chefs, and other food supply chain contacts.

“MarketMaker works because of the good collaboration with instate organizations and the effort from the national network to focus on technologies so that producers and buyers can connect more efficiently,” said Fox.

New initiatives recently launched include improved food consumption content, census data, a buyer/seller forum, a blog, and a national newsletter. But the real success lies in food buyer/seller connections.

“Ohio MarketMaker is for the buyers and sellers and it’s your site. Tell us what’s most beneficial for you. Get involved, get registered, and search the site,” said Fox. “That’s the best way this service will be the most successful.”

Ohio MarketMaker is supported through the collaboration of Ohio State University Extension, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Farm Bureau, and the Center for Innovative Food Technology. CANDACE POLLOCK
Annie’s Project expands in Ohio in 2010

Anyone who has ever managed a farm operation knows it’s all about risk management. And this winter, Annie’s Project is taking that message to more Ohio farm women than ever before.

Named for the mother of an Illinois Extension educator who founded the program in 2000, Annie’s Project is focused on helping women to be an involved business partner in family farm operations. The six-week course helps participants increase their ability to manage and organize critical information, network with other women in their community, and improve communication skills within their family and business. Annie’s Project was first offered in Ohio in 2007, in only Delaware and Wood counties. In 2010, it will be offered in 13 counties in all corners of the Buckeye State.

“For women who are involved in farm operations, there’s a real desire to obtain information either to be better partners or to run the operation themselves,” said Doris Herringshaw, OSU Extension educator in family and consumer sciences. “Our hope is that for everyone who would like to attend, we’ll have a session offered in their county or a contiguous county.”

Each program will be set up a bit differently, covering topics relevant to local farming operations. “In northwest Ohio, we will focus on grain markets, but in another part of the state, they might focus on livestock or produce operations,” Herringshaw said. All programs will start with the “Real Colors” personality inventory, which is focused on communications skills.

Julia Woodruff, co-organizer of the program and OSU Extension educator in agriculture and natural resources, said Annie’s Project is first and foremost a risk management program.

“Anyone who has ever taken this program has glowing things to say about it, whether they’re aged 18 or 89,” Woodruff said. “We’ve had young women who have married into a farm family, and other women who, because of an illness, death, or other situation, all of a sudden find themselves in charge of the land. I’m a farm wife myself, and it’s very helpful to know others who are going through the same types of things that you are.”

For more information on Ohio’s 2010 Annie’s Project sites, contact Herringshaw at herringshaw.1@caes.osu.edu or 419-354-9050 or Woodruff at woodruff.94@osu.edu or 419-627-7631. For more information on Annie’s Project, see http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Annie/.

Food Safety Hotline gets a boost

Consumers with food safety questions often don’t know where to turn for reliable answers. Now, thanks to The Kroger Co. and the Center for Innovative Food Technology (CIFT), consumers are being encouraged to contact Ohio State University Extension’s Food Safety Hotline by e-mail at foodsafety@osu.edu or 1-800-752-2751 (toll-free in Ohio), available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The phone hotline has been operated since 1985 by the college’s Food Industries Center. Now, a grant from CIFT, with support from Kroger, has allowed the university to hire a team of students to respond to consumer questions. The funding and hotline publicity from Kroger is part of the company’s Food Safety Awareness Campaign.

The students, all of whom have received food safety training, are backed up by personnel from Ohio State’s Food Industries Center and faculty experts from the Department of Food Science and Technology, the Department of Human Nutrition, and OSU Extension. After hours, consumers who call can leave a message and phone number to get a response.

The e-mail address, foodsafety@osu.edu, was recently added to the hotline as a service to people who prefer to use e-mail instead of the phone, said Stephanie Smith, food scientist with CIFT who is coordinating the effort. The hotline operation is housed in the Food Industries Center in Howlett Hall.

Lydia Medeiros, food safety specialist for OSU Extension, said the effort is helping food safety researchers from across the university work even more closely together than they have in the past. “We have people working the entire spectrum, from pre-harvest to retail to consumer food safety issues,” she said. “We’re all putting something on the table.”

MARTHA FILIPIC
Urban farming’s time, it seems, has finally come. As families in the United States try to stretch their food budgets during the current economic downturn, many have turned to their backyards or community gardens as alternatives to pricey — or sometimes unavailable — fresh produce at the store.

Seed companies reported a 25 percent to 30 percent increase in vegetable seed and plant sales last spring. A study by the National Gardening Association conducted in early 2009 expected 43 million American households to grow their own fruits, vegetables, herbs, and berries this year — up 19 percent from 2008, with one-fifth of gardeners reporting to be new to this activity. The same study found that 5 million households were “very interested” in joining a community garden — a five-fold increase in 2009.

In Ohio and other heartland states seriously affected by the recession and ongoing job losses, the rise of urban gardening also has a lot to do with land availability.

“Midwestern cities have undergone a population and economic decline that has resulted in a significant amount of vacant land within city centers,” said Mary Gardiner, an OSU Extension entomology specialist based on OARDC’s Wooster campus. “Within many cities, local citizen groups are redesigning these lots to construct urban farms. But we understand very little about the ecology of vacant lot sites and the many ecological, economic, and social effects that converting these sites to production will have.”

Gardiner is working with entomologist Parwinder Grewal, head of Ohio State’s Urban Landscape Ecology Program, to learn more about these effects. The researchers have partnered with the Akron Grows and Cleveland City Fresh programs — which promote community gardening and local food networks — to study both the ecological properties of urban farms and their socioeconomic impacts.

The initiative will also help city gardeners implement sustainable practices, such as reduced tillage or including plants that attract beneficial insects. Such practices are expected to enhance production and provide important environmental services to garden sites and surrounding areas.

MAURICIO ESPINOZA
In a downturned economy, free career services tool helps alumni stay on top

WHETHER FRESH FROM GRADUATION, entrenched in a career, or heading toward retirement, alumni with the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences have access to an invaluable resource to help them stay on the cutting edge of the workforce.

The Hireabuckeye program is a web-based career services tool that provides job postings, company profiles, interview requests, resume information, and career expos and workshops only for CFAES alumni and current students — for free, for life, accessible anywhere in the world, at any time.

“Hireabuckeye is a great place to start a job search, or simply to upload a resume. It helps to narrow your job search and gives you more options, especially for careers related specifically to our college,” said Adam Cahill, Ohio State University career services coordinator for the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. “And the best part is it’s free. Other job search sites may charge you a fee to get access to job openings.”

The Hireabuckeye program was launched in 2001, and since then more than 3,000 employers have registered on the site, with over 6,500 jobs listed. Users can search for information by major, location, company name, internship, seasonal, full-time status, or other criteria.

While nearly 85 percent of the over 4,500 registered users are students and graduating seniors, alumni only represent a fraction of registered users.

“A lot of alumni don’t know that we offer this service, although we have seen an uptick in registration from alumni in recent months,” said Cahill. “Once they know that it’s here, I think more people will use the site as a resource, especially during the current economic downturn.”

CANDACE POLLOCK

BIG DAY ON CAMPUS

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences offers several college visit days hosting potential students. Join us!

SATURDAY, FEB. 20
Experience ATI @ATI campus (all majors)

SATURDAY, MARCH 27
BASE (Buckeye Animal Science Experience) Day (Department of Animal Sciences)

SATURDAY, APRIL 17
Pre-Vet Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 24
Experience ATI @ATI campus (for high school juniors)

In addition, “Experience OSU for a Day” visits are offered any day on which we have classes.

Learn more and sign up at http://www.cfaes.osu.edu/visit
Leadership attributes can be useful for anyone, whether holding a management position, participating on a cheerleading squad, or volunteering at a local church. But learning how to become a more effective leader can be a challenge.

A course offered through the Department of Human and Community Resource Development is designed to help students assess their leadership strengths and to hone their leadership skills that can be applied to any life situation. And it has attracted students from across campus.

“Whether in our jobs, churches, schools, or other situations, we often find ourselves in positions where we need to exert a leadership influence. However, many people do not necessarily see themselves as an effective leader,” said Robert Birkenholz, a professor in agricultural and extension education. “The purpose of this course is not to ‘certify’ students as leaders, but rather the education and training is provided to help students better understand the elements that can contribute to improved leadership.”

Although countless leadership courses are offered across Ohio State University’s campus, what makes “Fundamentals of Personal and Professional Leadership” (Agricultural and Extension Education 342) unique is that it’s one of the few courses on campus that teaches leadership principles and theories that can be applied across various personal and professional spectrums.

“I used to give the generic answers of, ‘I’m a good speaker,’ or ‘I’ve been president of my FFA chapter,’ until I took 342,” said Dustin Homan, an agricultural leadership major from Kettlersville, Ohio. “This class felt almost like an independent study course where the professor and curriculum were solely dedicated to the personal leadership of Dustin, and only Dustin, and not dictated by some textbook. This class helped me discover my innate and unique strengths, develop my personal leadership philosophy, and set short-term and long-term goals.”

Ohio State University students beyond the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences are also recognizing the value of the course and working it into their curriculum. The class has attracted students from pharmacy, engineering, and social and behavioral sciences.

“Students often ask, ‘Do I need to know this?’ And they take the course and a light bulb comes on and they realize that they can use what they are learning in their personal and professional lives,” said Marlene Eick, an OSU student services coordinator who taught the course on the Agricultural Technical Institute campus in Wooster last year.

The AEE 342 course is one of the foundational leadership courses that will be included as part of a proposal for an interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in Leadership Studies. The minor will be open to all students across the Ohio State campus.
Ohio State University’s chapter of Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) is proud of its recent successes — and the awards that go with it.

At the 2009 National ACT Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, last August, the 20-student organization won the Outstanding Chapter of the Year award (for the second straight year) and awards of excellence in educational activities, fundraising, social activities, leadership, and membership.

“We are the first school ever to sweep all the categories and also win the national chapter of the year award,” said advisor Emily Rhoades, an assistant professor of agricultural communications in the Department of Human and Community Resource Development. “ACT’s achievements over the last two years have made me very proud. I’m excited that people across the country are getting to see what great ag communication students we have here at Ohio State.”

One of the chapter’s most successful and recognized programs is the Ag Comm Bootcamp for high schoolers, which helps connect the college with prospective students.

The national recognitions also impact recruitment.

“When we are at recruiting events, these awards assist us in showing parents that the skills our students are learning are helping them to be the best in the country,” Rhoades concluded.

Learn more at http://act.org.ohio-state.edu.

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CFAES AG COMM CHAPTER SWEEPS NATIONAL AWARDS

DID YOU KNOW?

The CFAES Student Council was named as one of the university’s Outstanding Student Organizations in 2009 by the Ohio Union and the Office of Student Life.
When he had the opportunity this summer to return to teaching for a quarter, Nameth sought to break down some barriers and take advantage of a great resource right in ATI’s backyard—Extension specialist and plant pathology colleague Jim Chatfield. Nameth asked Chatfield to team-teach Plant Diseases of Ornamentals and Turf.

“I’ve done a lot of guest lectures, of course,” Chatfield said, “but this is the first time I’ve had the kind of sustained contact with students that comes with a course that meets twice a week for five weeks. I loved it.”

Nameth and Chatfield designed the course together, allowing each to make the best use of his areas of expertise. While both are plant pathologists, Nameth specializes in viral and bacterial diseases of herbaceous plants, while Chatfield’s specialty is foliar diseases in woody plants and trees.

The students in the class were from a variety of majors—from greenhouse management to landscape to nursery and turf. Chatfield said it was particularly rewarding to get to know the students individually and understand how they might be using what they were learning in the classroom in their careers. “I’m out working in the green industry all the time,” Chatfield said, “so I see the day-to-day disease issues that growers are dealing with and help them develop practical solutions. These are the kinds of issues ATI students will soon be facing as professionals.”

The class was Nameth’s return to teaching after a six-year hiatus, which began when he became ATI’s director. “Most administrators I know say they would love to be able to teach again, but there’s just not enough time,” Nameth said. “Team-teaching made it easier for me to make time for the class, and I think the students really benefited from my and Jim’s complementary styles and specialties.”

FRANCES WHITED

Extension specialists do a lot of teaching—at industry conferences, at public programs, and in the field—but rarely in a traditional college classroom. “It’s kind of a shame, really, because there is a lot of teaching talent and expertise out there,” said Stephen Nameth, ATI director and former Extension specialist himself.

Stephen Nameth, ATI director, and Jim Chatfield, OSU Extension specialist, point out an example of powdery mildew on zinnias to ATI student Nathan Donley. Nameth and Chatfield collaborated on a plant pathology course at ATI this summer.
High-tech at ATI
The future is now thanks to $1.82 million technology grant

A professor steps into a classroom, clicks a remote, and a large image of a graphing calculator appears on a screen. Touching the projected image, he programs in a formula for a parabola. With a marker, he writes new coordinates on the screen, and the parabola changes shape to reflect the new coordinates.

It may sound like a scene out of some futuristic movie, but it’s happening right now on Ohio State ATI’s campus, thanks to technology purchased through a Title III grant.

ATI was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education under the Strengthening Institutions Program of Title III in 2005. Over the five-year grant, ATI will receive more than $1.82 million to enhance instruction through technology.

Technology currently being used in ATI classrooms includes computers and ceiling-mounted projectors that allow faculty members to use PowerPoint for lectures or access resources on the Web and document cameras that can project real-time images of any static or moving object, such as insects or specimens of plant diseases.

Some of the technology being incorporated into classes is specific to a particular industry, such as radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology to track livestock and software that monitors feed mixtures for dairy cattle.

Laura Deeter has developed four horticulture classes that are delivered completely online, right through to the final exam. “My goal was to make our classes available to people who couldn’t take them in the traditional format,” Deeter said.

She makes the online resources available to her face-to-face classes, too. “Students can take practice quizzes online. I have put videos of plants on YouTube. It allows me to connect to students’ different learning styles,” she explained. “If they’re visual learners, they can read it or watch the videos. If they’re auditory learners, they can hear the narration I record.” And because the materials are online, students can access them whenever and wherever they like.

ATI Associate Director Steve Neal is principal investigator of the Title III grant. He noted, “Our main objective with this grant was to create a contemporary learning environment for our students.” Neal continued, “ATI faculty have made this happen by implementing web-enhanced instruction and by incorporating the latest technology into their courses. The improvements we have been able to make over the last few years have revolutionized the way we deliver instruction and greatly enhanced the student experience.”

What makes an outstanding dairy program? Outstanding students and excellent animals are surely two important factors, and ATI can boast of both this year.

ATI’s dairy judging team, consisting of Sabrina Eick (Carrollton), Brent Hostettler (Wooster), Rob Watercutter (Anna), and Shawn Winner (Yorkshire), competed in a number of judging events in September. The team is coached by Royce Thornton, assistant professor and coordinator of ATI’s dairy programs.

At the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts, the team took first place overall, with Eick scoring as first individual and Winner as third individual. Team members also took home a fistful of awards in the individual breed categories and oral reasons. At the Invitational Youth Dairy Cattle Judging Contest at the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the team swept the Ayrshire breed category, with the team taking first overall, and Eick, Hostettler, and Winner placing first, second, and third in individual scoring.

But those were just warm-ups for the big one—the 2009 World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. ATI placed first overall out of 17 teams, chalking up another national championship for an Ohio State team. Eick, Hostettler, and Winner qualified as All-Americans by finishing in the top 10 in individual overall scoring.

Like all ATI dairy students, the judging team members take classes in genetics and get first-hand experience in evaluating animals for breeding. “We select mate all our cows and are continually working to improve our herd,” said ATI dairy herd manager Gary Crocker. This year marked the 11th straight year that ATI’s Holstein herd was recognized by the Holstein Association USA as one of the top 500 genetic herds in the United States by receiving the Progressive Genetics Award. “Students see how we pick bulls to try to get as sound an animal as possible,” Crocker explained. “We teach them what we’re striving to achieve and how we get there. Every dairy farmer wants to breed cows that will make him the most money.” Down the road, that’s a skill students can put to use in their careers in the dairy industry. And it’s part of the recipe for success for a championship dairy judging team.

- FRANCES WHITED
Ohio State professor honored; begins endowment

Karl Danneberger, PhD, at Ohio State University’s Department of Horticulture and Crop Science and frequent contributor to Golf Course Management’s research section, has won the university’s 2009 Global Turfgrass Award, given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the global turfgrass industry. Danneberger, an alum of three well-known turf schools — Purdue (bachelor’s degree), University of Illinois (master’s) and Michigan State University (PhD) — joined the faculty at OSU in 1983 and has focused his research in turfgrass pathology and stress physiology.

He also received the Fred V. Grau Award from the American Society of Agronomy in 2004 and was named a Fulbright Scholar in 2008. At Ohio State, Danneberger has pioneered the turfgrass program’s web site, podcast series, and online golf management certificate. Most recently he has taken the program to an international level with the introduction of podcasts and web sites in Spanish, Portuguese, Czech, and Polish, and the launch of the Global Turf Network. He regularly travels abroad to speak to students and industry professionals. His travels have included England, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Dubai, Australia, South Africa, Japan, China, Chile, and Canada.

Professional Golf Management Program
“A unique opportunity”

Golf has been a large part of Michael Hurdzan’s life since childhood. He learned the sport from his father, a teaching pro, and his affinity for golf has turned into a tremendously successful career. In 1966, Hurdzan graduated from The Ohio State University with a BSc in Turfgrass Management and in 1974 he earned his PhD in Environmental Plant Physiology Studies at the University of Vermont. He returned to the Buckeye State and became president of a golf course architecture firm, today known as Hurdzan/Fry Environmental Golf Design. Hurdzan/Fry has created environmentally friendly golf courses all over the world.

Hurdzan has recently become closely involved with Ohio State’s Professional Golf Management (PGM) Program. PGM, designed to prepare students for careers in the golf industry, is a four and a half year interdisciplinary program with classes in turfgrass management, business, and hospitality management.

In May 2009, Hurdzan visited the proposed PGM driving range site at the Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory. He offered to contribute the drawings for a new practice range, practice holes, and training facility for the PGM program — a gift valued at more than $50,000.

“The PGM program, along with the new practice facility, is a way for the university to distinguish itself,” Hurdzan said. “Ohio is a great location for this type of program to grow when you look at total resources,” including Ohio State’s golf courses, the history of Ohio State’s golf team, and the location of Hurdzan/Fry headquarters in central Ohio.

To Hurdzan, it was important to give back to his alma mater and to PGM. “I couldn’t think of another alumnus that wouldn’t do the same thing. It was a natural fit for me to donate the drawings. I am happy to bring any positive attention to a program that has such potential.” — SARAH GRAFNER

Brothers offer scholarship at ATI

THREE BROTHERS WHO GRADUATED from Ohio State University’s Agricultural Technical Institute have created an annual scholarship for ATI turfgrass management students. Eric (’92), Nick (’99), and Kurt (’02) von Hofen, who all work in the golf course management field, started the von Hofen Turfgrass Scholarship for a student at the school majoring in turfgrass management.

“We really wanted to give back, we all went to school there, and we always wanted to work with some of the turf students,” said Eric von Hofen, the oldest of the brothers and director of agronomy at Riviera Country Club in Coral Gables, Florida.

Nick von Hofen is superintendent at Collier’s Reserve Country Club in Naples, Florida, and Kurt von Hofen is superintendent at the Hills Course of Jupiter Hills in Tequesta, Florida.

“When I attended Ohio State I did not receive any scholarships, so summer jobs were my source of college funding and resume building. After graduating from Ohio State ATI and becoming one of the alumni family, you realize how many people in the business are at your fingertips to help you. Hopefully the students will realize to take the initiative and go for it and the scholarship is there to start that process,” said Kurt von Hofen.

Scholarship recipients must be a U.S. resident, a first- or second-year student, and have a grade point average of 3.0 or better. The scholarship’s advantages aren’t limited only to giving students in their field financial support. The involvement of the von Hofens also opens up the opportunities of advancing their careers for students during and after graduation.

“This scholarship is rewarding on so many different levels. We are focused on helping students pursue their career goals and strive for academic excellence. We look forward to giving our scholarship each year,” said Nick von Hofen.

“His really going to give us a lot of access to students and try and help them out, whether it’s an internship with one of us or a job after they graduate,” Eric von Hofen adds. — SHAWN CLEVELAND
For a week in August, Kelleys Island on Lake Erie was home for 227 campers participating in the Operation: Military Kids (OMK) program, which held its 5th annual camp this year. The camp, a joint effort of Ohio 4-H and the Ohio National Guard’s Family Readiness program, is for youths who have parents in any branch of the military who have been deployed, are currently deployed, or are preparing to deploy overseas.

New this year, OMK held two camps simultaneously, one for 9- to 11-year-olds at the Erie County 4-H Camp, and another for teens at Camp Patmos, a mile down the road. This expansion, made possible by additional funding from the Office of the Secretary of Defense as well as cash and in-kind donations, enabled slots for nearly 100 additional campers. This year’s teen camp included a community service project in which campers painted tables at the local VFW post and laid a paver sidewalk to improve access to the local veterans’ memorial.

A unique aspect of the camp is the participation of military service members. Each day, “Military Moments” is devoted to military values such as honor, loyalty, courage, commitment, integrity, and selfless service. A highlight of the week was when Major General Matthew Kambic, Assistant Adjutant General, Army, led a team of military leaders from all five branches of the service in landing in a Chinook helicopter on the camp field.

Closing ceremonies included a delegation of seven state legislators, the mayors of Kelleys Island and Marblehead, and several donors, including Bob Joseph, a graduate of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. In addition, checks totaling $11,500 were presented from new donors Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Cash America International, Check Smart Financial, Meijer, Proggemeyer Design Group, Nucor Steel Marion, Inc., and Tom Pappas & Associates.

State Representative Peter Ujvagi described the bill that he and Representative Ross McGregor sponsored to make August “Ohio Military Family Month.” On behalf of the legislators, Rep. Ujvagi presented camp directors — Theresa Ferrari, the Project Director of Operation: Military Kids and youth development specialist with Ohio 4-H, and Sue Ann Carroll, State Youth Coordinator with the Ohio National Guard — with a certificate congratulating Operation: Military Kids Camp on its fifth anniversary and for its “remarkable record of service to the community.”

The OMK program is a partnership with Army Child, Youth, and School Services; National 4-H Headquarters; and Ohio 4-H Youth Development. For information on Ohio’s program, see http://operationmilitarykids.ohio4h.org.

Many thanks to all of the individual donors who support OMK as well as these donors:

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For information on how to donate to Operation: Military Kids, contact the 4-H Foundation office at 614-292-6943.

CHRISTY GEORGE
The CFAES Alumni Society proudly announces the 16 recipients of the 2010 Alumni Awards for Meritorious Service, Distinguished, International Alumni, and the Young Professional Achievement Awards to be presented on March 6, 2010, at their annual Alumni Awards Luncheon Program. The ceremonies will begin at 11 a.m. with a reception, luncheon at noon, and the program to follow at approximately 1:15 p.m. at the Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road on the campus of The Ohio State University. Alumni are welcome to attend and to assist in recognizing your friends, family, mentors, and teachers.

Please register using the reservation form on the next page. Cost is $26 per person. They would be pleased to have you in attendance on this occasion.

Meritorious Service to the College

Harry L. Barr (BS, Dairy Science, 1954; MS, Dairy Science, 1955; PhD, Dairy Science, 1960), Plain City, Ohio, is recognized for his meritorious service as a teacher, extension specialist, and mentor to hundreds of students in the college over his career.

J. Robert Warmbrod (Non-Alumni, University of Tennessee and University of Illinois), Dublin, Ohio, is being honored for his significant contributions to the administration of the Department of Human and Community Resource Development, The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, and as an OSU Distinguished Professor, Teacher, and Service award recipient.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Todd L. Beckwith (BS, Agricultural Economics, 1983), Louisville, Ky., is being recognized for his noteworthy accomplishments for 26 years in agricultural finance with AgriCapital Corporation, KeyBank NA, CoBank ABC, and TelMark, Inc/Agway, Inc.

Brent W. Eichar (BS, Food Technology – Meat Science, 1987), Wooster, Ohio, is being honored for his effective career with the Certified Angus Beef LLC, rising to the position of Senior Vice President, managing their multimillion dollar budget in all areas of the corporation.

D. Todd Kranz (BS, Dairy Science, 1982), Dublin, Ohio, is being recognized for his outstanding professional involvement with the A.I. industry as Director of Sales, Eastern US of Senior Vice President, managing their multimillion dollar budget in all areas of the corporation.

International Alumni Award

Luis Noel Alfaro (MS, Agricultural Economics, 1993; PhD, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, 1996), Managua, Nicaragua, is being recognized for his career achievements as a scholar, consultant, and entrepreneur in Central and South America, and for his continued relationships with Ohio State in his research efforts.

Shih-Torn Ding (PhD, Animal Science, 1996), Taipei, Taiwan, is being recognized as an international professor, teacher, and scholar in animal biotechnology, and for his active encouragement of undergraduate and graduate students to develop as scientists and students.

Adipala Ekwamu (PhD, Plant Pathology, 1992), Kampala, Uganda, will be honored for his extensive role in agricultural development in East Africa and the transformation of Sub-Saharan African agricultural research through plant disease control, plant health management programs, and collaborative relationships among universities.

Young Professional Achievement Award

Aaron Arnett (BS, Animal Science, 2000), Marysville, Ohio, is being honored for contributions as Beef Genetics Specialist for Select Sires, Inc, through his research and the establishment of online marketing, and trait selection sorts, to allow producers better information for herd improvement.

Kris Corbin (BS, Animal Science, 1999), New Cumberland, Pa., currently Co-Manufacturing Manager for New World Pasta, and formerly Operations Manager with ConAgra Foods, is being recognized for his high level of corporate responsibility in a short amount of time. He has built facilities, managed strategic initiatives, and developed profitable business plans.

Rebecca Lowry (BS, Crop Science, 2002; BS, Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering, 2003), Van Wert, Ohio, is being honored for her work in the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Field Engineer, leading several initiatives, and maintaining active involvement in professional societies.

Puntarka Ratanatriwong (MS, Food Science, 2001; PhD, Food Science, 2004), Pitsanulok, Thailand, Assistant Professor, Naresuan University in Thailand, is being recognized for exceptional development as a food scientist and food researcher in her country and in Southeast Asia.

Amy Studebaker (BS, Agribusiness and Applied Economics, 1997), Arcanum, Ohio, will be honored for her early achievement as Regional Vice President, Farm Credit Services of Mid America where she manages five offices, thirty staff, and $670 million loan and lease portfolio.

Congratulations to all of our alumni award recipients for 2010. Join us on March 6 to salute your friends, family, mentors, or teachers.
It is a great pleasure to represent you at various functions on campus. With over 36,000 living alumni of agriculture, natural resources, and the Agricultural Technical Institute, we have a voice that is heard far and wide.

Your membership in the CFAES Alumni Society has been earned and paid for by your attendance and completion of your degree: Our college extends free membership to all of our graduates. In return, we encourage you to support the college with your time, talents, and contributions at a level you can afford. Perhaps you can serve on a college or department alumni or advisory committee, or in a leadership position in a local alumni society. Paying forward through financial assistance can also be rewarding. The CFAES Alumni Society Undergraduate Scholarship Endowment is growing daily through the contributions of alumni across the state. I know I was thankful for the scholarship support I received as a student and I have made a practice of providing support for future students. It only takes a few dollars from all alumni to make a big impact.

Please join with me to continue to make CFAES a great college now and into the future. Contact me (miller.64@osu.edu) about alumni service opportunities and supporting current and future students. I hope to hear from you soon!

GO BUCKS!

From Ray Miller,
CFAES Alumni Society Coordinator

Fallfest 2010 will be September 4, 2010, when we will return to the renovated French Field House. Watch the CFAES web site and Continuum for information. As a reminder, football ticket packages will be available only to paid members of the OSU Alumni Association. Log on to http://www.ohiostatealumni.org/membershipservices/ to join the OSU Alumni Association.
We have another reason to tune into the Winter Olympics this February. Our own Shirley Brooks-Jones, a long-time employee, friend, and supporter of the college, was able to create something remarkable from a terrible tragedy and will be featured in an NBC television spot during the Olympics. Shirley was returning from a conference in Denmark on Sept. 11, 2001, when her airplane was redirected to Newfoundland. The “Newfies” of the small fishing village of Lewisporte opened their homes and hearts to the stranded passengers of Delta Flight 15, and treated the heartbroken Americans with warmth and kindness. To honor and thank the people of the Lewisporte area, the passengers launched a scholarship program for young people of the area. With Shirley leading the effort, the fund is closing in on $1 million and has sent 111 students on to college or vocational/technical training. In addition to its work in Newfoundland where Shirley was interviewed by Tom Brokaw, NBC has also visited the Columbus campus. The Olympic spot may be turned into a longer documentary. Shirley, once again, you make us proud.

Bobby D. Moser
Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences