

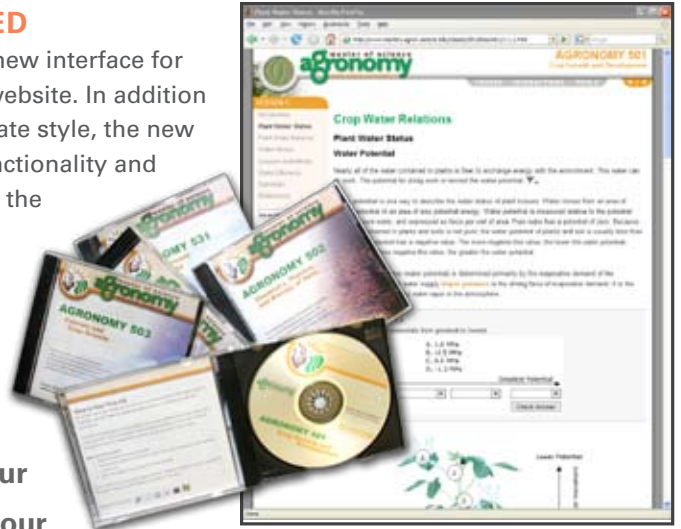
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRONOMY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

A YEAR IN REVIEW: 2007

As we bring another year to a close, we want to share with you the exciting developments in the Master of Science in Agronomy Program. Our goal with this newsletter is to keep past, present, and future agronomists connected, and we invite you to keep in touch with us as well.

NEW INTERFACE UNVEILED

This fall, the program unveiled its new interface for course material and the program website. In addition to creating a cleaner, more up-to-date style, the new design offers more streamlined functionality and simplified icon system. In addition, the system integrates a student feedback system to allow swift changes to course materials. The next stage of development will include a new login system to simplify course and information access.



A new course interface as well as an updated visitor site provide the program with a fresh look to take it into its next decade.

“The occasion of our 10th anniversary is a time to celebrate our success, reflect on our past and also a time to look ahead to our future. Thinking back to those early days when the Agronomy M.S. program was simply an idea reminds me how far we have reached beyond our early aspirations.”

—DR. KEN MOORE,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF STUDENT SUCCESS

An evening of celebration was held July 26 in the Agronomy courtyard in honor of the 10 year anniversary of the Master of Science in Agronomy program. Despite the heat and humidity of summer in Iowa, there was no less enthusiasm for its decade of success. The celebration coincided with the Agronomy 594 Workshop and new student orientation to allow as many students as possible to attend. The festivities included a social hour, dinner, and a presentation congratulating faculty, staff, students, and administrators for their years of hard work. Several students were also honored with scholarship awards. Department Chair Dr. Kendall Lamkey shared his support for the program, “It is unique to find one program that supports university and college strategic themes so completely, while meeting the needs of unique students who otherwise would not be served. This exemplary program is truly worthy of celebrating.”





AGRONOMY WORKSHOP FEATURES FIELD TRIPS, PRESENTATIONS

Students enrolled in the Agronomy 594 workshop found themselves traveling beyond the Ames campus for some hands-on learning. Students visited the Prairie Moon Winery, a nearby vineyard that practices organic viticulture, to learn about the emerging viticulture industry in Iowa. Students were taken on a guided tour of the vineyard, processing, and winemaking areas, and were given an opportunity to sample the wines produced. Students were also guests at the BECON (Biomass Energy CONversion Facility) in Nevada, Iowa. Here they learned about the processes used in converting organic material into fuels and chemicals. Their final stop was the Newton Biodiesel Plant in Newton, Iowa. In addition to field trips, students also heard presentations by Dr. Kathleen Delate, Dr. Ken Moore, Dr. Steven Fales, and Dr. Elwynn Taylor.



NEW STUDENT AWARD ESTABLISHED

This year was the first for the presentation of the Deborah A. Muenchrath Award, given to the Master of Science in Agronomy student with the most outstanding creative component completed during that academic year (summer - spring). The award is named in honor of Dr. Deborah Muenchrath who contributed significantly to the development of the program. She served as a course developer, faculty member, and dedicated student mentor. Deb is remembered for her incredible creativity, amazing intellect, abiding commitment to students, and indefatigable spirit. This year's award recipient is Matthew McKenzie, whose creative component was titled "Water Stress Timing Effects in Hybrid Maize."



2007 Award recipient Matthew McKenzie with Department Chair Dr. Kendall Lamkey



WELCOME TO NEW INSTRUCTORS

Two new instructors have joined the program this year: Dr. Byron Sleugh, left, who has been teaching Agronomy 531 this fall, and Dr. William Beavis, right, who will teach Agronomy 513 this spring. Welcome!



THANK YOU TO DR. RON MOWERS

We want to thank Dr. Ron Mowers for his dedicated service as an instructor for the program. Dr. Mowers has taught Agronomy 513 for 4 years. He will no longer be teaching in the program in order to focus on his other responsibilities. He will be missed, but we wish him the best in his new endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS

We wish to congratulate the following students who have earned their Master of Science in Agronomy degrees this year:

Fall 2007:

Todd Coffelt
Tyler Grove
David Nelson
Amanda Tolbert

Summer 2007:

Dennis Holland
Steven Pageler

Spring 2007

Rhett Kerby
Carol Martin
Robert Pesek
John Schuppert

CURRENT STATS

As of this fall, the program boasts 38 graduates. There are currently 118 active students enrolled for the spring semester, with 37 new students admitted for the 2007-2008 academic year. The chart to the left shows enrollment since 1998.

