New Plant Science Department Head

David Wright is the new Plant Science Department Head at South Dakota State University, pending approval of the Board of Regents. "David Wright brings with him extensive industry experience as well as a renewed commitment to relevance and high levels of productivity within the department," said Barry Dunn, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of SDSU Extension. "He will do a great job working with the faculty and staff of the Plant Science Department to provide outstanding education for students and serve stakeholders and producers."

The Plant Science Department is part of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at SDSU. It is a large, diverse department including faculty with expertise in soil science, plant breeding and genetics, genomics, horticulture, landscape architecture, entomology, plant pathology and weed science. Currently, 387 students are pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees within the Plant Science Department.

As department head, Wright will lead the faculty in fulfilling the department's mission to serve local, regional and national needs through integrated teaching, research, extension and technical service programs that promote excellence, adjust to changing needs and develop solutions. Along with this, Wright will also lead the Plant Science Department to develop and maintain strong, relevant research, teaching, and extension programs; foster strong working relationships between the department and its alumni, university stakeholders; including commodity groups and other such constituencies, employers and news media; develop and manage budgets; represent the department in communications with the college and the university; have a strong commitment towards faculty development and help promote the department's growth and success.

"I look forward to working with the faculty, students and SDSU Extension specialists and many stakeholders who are a part of the Plant Science Department at SDSU," Wright said. Wright received his PhD in Agronomy from Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas and his master's and bachelor's of Science in Agronomy from Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Throughout his career, Wright has been focused on solving production problems for the nation's grain farmers and has extensive experience in building stakeholder and farmer partnerships as well as, forming and leading multidisciplinary research teams.

Prior to joining SDSU, Wright was a visiting professor at Iowa State University in the Department of Agronomy. He was responsible for fostering strategic public/private research partnerships and multidisciplinary research teams for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Before this, Wright worked for 11 years as the Director of Contract Research and Strategic Initiatives at the Iowa Soybean Association. There, he managed a competitive grants program investing $8.3 million annually to support problem-solving research at Land Grant Universities around the United States and the USDA. He also provided national leadership to the soybean research and Extension community and several state, regional and national checkoff boards.

Announcements

New Employees

Pamela Bartlett began working as a Research Assistant for Ada Szczepaniec on June 10.

Karla Hernandez will serve as the Forages Extension Field Specialist in Watertown Extension Center.

Resignation

Sivananada Tirumalaraju has resigned from SDSU to accept a position at Bayer in North Carolina.

New Contact Info

Bill Berzonsky
Senior Wheat Breeder
Bayer CropScience LP
North American Wheat Breeding
3101 NW 12th Street
Lincoln NE, 68521
Ofc: 1-402-261-6683 ext. 104
**General**

Name: Martin N. Maca  
Title: Professor of Landscape Architecture  
Office: Hort & Forestry 102B

**Education**

High School: Lincoln Southeast High, Lincoln, NE  
University/College & major: Nebraska Wesleyan University Utah State University, Logan, Utah, B.S. and Masters of Landscape Architecture

**Work history**

Number of years at SDSU: 21 years  
Previous jobs held: Northwest Community College, Powell, Wyoming  
University of MN @ Waseca—managed the Tree Farm Nursery Landscape in Watertown for 4 years  
Future goals: Finish out my teaching career here at SDSU  
Continue development of McCrory Gardens

**Personal**

Spouse: Sally Jo Maca, Special Education Teacher at Medary Elementary School, Brookings  
Children: Rachel (Brad) Lowery, Speech Therapist, Denver  
Rebecca (Jesse) Rounds, Special Ed Teacher, Omaha  
Grandson Owen 18 months  
Jacob Maca, student at SDSU majoring in Natural Resource Management—Wildland Firefighter USFS and BLM  
Hometown: Lincoln, NE  
Places you have lived or visited: Visited: 45 states including Alaska, and 11 foreign countries  
Lived: 60 miles from Yellowstone for 7 years

**Just for Fun**

Favorite book: There are many but if I have to list just one, it would be Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold  
Favorite TV Show: Master Piece Theater on PBS  
Favorite movie: Not much of a movie person—I like a variety of movie types  
Hobbies or interests: Traveling, hunting, ice fishing, gardening, cooking & photography

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**General**

Name: Connie Tande  
Title: Diagnostician  
Office: SDSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic

**Work history**

Number of years at SDSU: 15 years in Plant Science  
Previous jobs held: Grower at Tagawa Greenhouses (one of the largest in the nation), Head grower at Gurney Seed and Nursery, Grower at Red Oak Greenhouse  
Future goals: Learn patience and to find a balance between work and a happy life.

**Education**

High School: Arlington High School  
University/College & major: SDSU College of Ag—Horticulture Major

**Personal**

Spouse: Brian  
Children: Jennifer and Trevor  
Hometown: Arlington, SD

**Just for Fun**

Favorite book: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Pillars of the Earth, Relic  
Favorite TV Show: NCIS, The Big Bang Theory, Criminal Minds

Favorite movie: Anything with Jackie Chan, Gran Torino, Blazing Saddles, Ice Age  
Hobbies or interests: Gardening, wine making, cook books, people watching  
If you could have three wishes, what would they be?  
1) Spend as much time with family as possible  
2) My children find as much enjoyment in their lives as I have had  
3) Good health for myself, my wife, our family and friends

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**Featured Employees**

Name: Martin N. Maca  
Title: Professor of Landscape Architecture  
Office: Hort & Forestry 102B

Name: Connie Tande  
Title: Diagnostician  
Office: SDSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic
Plant Science Golf Outing

The golf outing will be held on Friday, August 9th at 4:00 at Six Mile Creek Golf Course in White. Sign up at the golf course at 3:45 and we will draw for teams for a scramble. Feel free to bring along family members or friends. We had 19 people participate last year and we’re hoping for more this year. Even if you’re not a golfer, it’s a great time to get together with your fellow employees outside of the workplace. Pin prizes will be awarded so if you would like to donate a prize, let us know. If you have questions, please contact Tracia at 688-5123 or Lisa at 688-4599.

Interesting Links

Native Perennial is Important Food Source for Butterflies
Sudden Death Syndrome of Soybeans Has Been Detected in South Dakota
Corn and Soybean Survival in Waterlogged Soils
Lilacs Looking Good This Spring
Potato Leafhopper Scouting In Alfalfa Is Critical Now
Participate in the Backyard Biodiversity Project – Looking for Volunteers
Treat at risk Trees for Mountain Pine Beetle Soon
Ticks In South Dakota
Harvest Conditions on Newly Seeded Alfalfa
Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus Appearing In Some Fields At Significant Levels
Effect of Weed Competition on Corn
Begin Scouting for English Grain Aphids in South Dakota Wheat Fields

2013-2014 Plant Science Department Scholarships

Continued from the May newsletter

| Lawrence O. Fine Scholarship in Agronomy | Abby Evans |
| Dr. Clatus M. Nagel Memorial Endowment for Scholarships in Plant Science | Josie Fischer |
| Shirley Peebler Luther Freshman Scholarship in Horticulture | Casey Snyder |
| James and Joan Likness Scholarship | Eric Forrette |
| Dr. Paul Prashar Memorial Scholarship | Courtney Lenort |
| | Cody Wersal |
| | Rodney N. Richardson Endowed Scholarship |
| | Edward and Catherine Williamson Scholarship |
| | SD Seed Trade Association Scholarship |
| | Parker Family Scholarship in Support of the Jackrabbit Guarantee 2006 Challenge |
| | Outstanding Senior Award |
| | Matthew Van Grootheest |
| | Justine Meis |
| | Caleb Buysse |
| | Tyler Vreugdenhil |
| | Eric Magnussen |
| | Tyann Slepikas |