The creation of an outdoor space that features green infrastructure solutions but is also a place to work, gather, learn, and inspire has allowed four South Dakota State University students and assistant professor of landscape architecture Dr. Matthew James to win an award for their design. James and students Booker Tieszen, Tyler Landry, David Rutherford and Virginia Torzewski were recently honored at the American Society of Landscape Architects Great Plains Chapter meeting in Sioux Falls on September 13. The SDSU team received a merit award in the professional Category II “Design, Un-built” division. They were one of six merit award recipients.

Their project created an environmentally sustainable landscape project for the area between the Northern Plains Biotess Lab and the Horticulture and Forestry building on the SDSU campus. “It’s designed to be an outdoor laboratory to educate the passerby and the campus community on environmentally sustainable landscaping,” James said. “It’s innovative in its solutions and yet is functional for that space.

“Our push for environmental sustainability is that we retain as much storm water on-site as we can,” he continued. “We designed bio basins to catch the water and let it naturally infiltrate back to the water table. We also capture the rain water for irrigation and use drought tolerant plant material.”

James said they are making presentations on campus and will also present the project at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Conference in Nashville Oct. 7, and do a briefing “The Campus Landscape: Turning Site Problems into Green Infrastructure Solutions” Oct. 8.

James said the next step would be to revise the plans and create construction documents while the project generates funding to be implemented.

LA Team Receives Merit Award from ASLA

Announcements

New Employees

Anthony Bly assumed his position as the Soils Field Specialist in Sioux Falls on September 3.

Anitha Chirumamilla began her position as the Entomology Field Specialist in Rapid City on September 16.

September Employee-of-the Month Michelle Schaefer

Thank you for attending her party on Friday!
First report of spotted-wing drosophila in South Dakota

The first specimen of spotted-wing drosophila (Drosophila suzukii) was identified in South Dakota on August 28, 2013. The specimen was collected in a vinegar trap set in Yankton County. Trapping and preliminary identification was conducted by Buyung Hadi, SDSU Extension Eurban Entomology Specialist. The identification was confirmed by Paul Johnson, Professor of entomology and director of Severin-McDaniel insect collection at SDSU.

"Unlike other vinegar flies that are considered nuisance due to their habit of laying eggs inside cracked or damaged fruits, female spotted-wing drosophila has serrated ovipositor capable of laying eggs inside healthy ripe fruits," Hadi said. "Consequently, developing larvae (small white maggots) can often be found within the harvestable fruits."

Hadi said this is especially true for raspberry, blueberry and blackberry. Due to this, spotted-wing drosophila is considered a potentially damaging pest for small fruit production.

SDSU Extension is currently organizing a volunteer-based trapping effort in collaboration with fruit growers across the state to assess the spatial distribution of the potentially damaging insect pest.

Featured Employees

General
Name: Cory Smith
Title: Laboratory Technician
Office: SAG 309

Education
High School: Burke High School
University/College & major: B.S. Chemistry—SDSU

Personal
Spouse: Megan
Hometown: Burke, SD
Places you have lived: Lived in Omaha, NE, while at Cargill

Work history
Number of years at SDSU: 4 yrs
Previous jobs held: Chemist at Cargill
Future goals: Become a professional fisherman

Just for Fun
Favorite book: Cabela’s Christmas Catalog
Favorite TV show: Duck Dynasty
Favorite movie: Anchorman
Hobbies or interests: Fishing and Hunting
If you could have three wishes, what would they be?
1. I wouldn’t have to drive from Sioux Falls to work every day.
2. Spend more time with family and friends.
3. Win the Powerball so I can accomplish my future goals.

New Graduate Students
Jesper Nielsen (MS) - Ron Gelderman & Howard Woodard
Brianna Wegner (MS) - Sandeep Kumar
Heidi Meyer (MS) - Sharon Clay
Cody Oswald (MS) - Karl Glover
Mani Awale (MS) - Anne Fennell
Fatma Ismail (PhD) - Xingyou Gu
Rebecca Slatt (MS) - Nathan Mueller
Yagoob Thurston (PhD) - Jose Gonzalez
Tiana Shuster (MS) - Kelley Tilmon
Alexander Kena (PhD) - Xingyou Gu
**General**

Name: **Kurtis (Kurt) Reitsma**  
Title: Extension Associate  
Office: SAG 212

**Work history**

Number of years at SDSU: 6 yrs  
Previous jobs held:  
SD Department of Agriculture (1995-2007)  
Future goals: Obtain a PhD

**Education**

High School: Worthington Senior High (Class of 1981)  
University/College & major:  
SDSU 1989-1993 BS, SDSU 2007 MS  
Other (military, tech school, etc.):  
Pipestone Area VoTech, Building Center Management and Drafting

**Personal**

Spouse: Chris (Hupf) Reitsma 1992  
Children:  
- Megan (19)  
- Mitchell (18)  
- Michelle (13)  
Hometown: Bigelow, MN  
Places you have lived or visited:  
Lived in Hawaii—4 years, Billings, MT—2 years; visited 40 of the 50 states

**Just for Fun**

Favorite book: Dirt by D.R. Montgomery, 1984 by G. Orwell  
Favorite TV Show: Big Bang Theory, Pawn Stars, Antiques Roadshow

**Favorite Movie:** True Grit & Rooster Cogburn, John Wayne

**Hobbies or interests:** Woodworking; local, US and World History; Gardening; Canning; Ornithology

If you could have three wishes, what would they be?  
- For me: A weedless lawn & garden  
- For my family: Success and happiness  
- For all: Many pleasures, few troubles and good health

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**General**

Name: **Thandiwe Nleya**  
Title: Associate Professor, Cropping Systems  
Office: Ag Hall 308

**Education**

High School: Aberdeen College of Commerce, Aberdeen, Scotland  
University/College & major: B.S. Agriculture University of Zimbabwe; M.S. from Southampton University, UK; PhD from University of Saskatchewan

**Work history**

Number of years at SDSU: 9.5 years  
Previous jobs held:  
Research Associate, University of Saskatchewan; Research Scientist, Zimbabwe  
Future goals: Develop and teach an Organic Farming course

**Personal**

Children:  
- Bonani—27  
- Silibaziso—23  
Hometown: Bulawayo, Zimbabwe and Saskatoon, Canada  
Places you have visited: Lived in Zimbabwe, Scotland, England, and visited Cali, Colombia and many other places.

**Just for Fun**

Favorite Book: To Kill a Mockingbird

**Favorite TV Show:** The Cosby Show  
**Favorite movie:**

**Hobbies or interests:** Long walks, Spending an afternoon reading a good book  
If you could have three wishes, what would they be?  
1. World Peace  
2. That every human being is treated equally, has basic necessities, and is happy.  
3. That I have more time to spend with family and friends.
It’s Bean Season: Harvesting and Choosing The Best
SDSU Evaluates Corn Silage Hybrids for Feed Quality
SDSU Announces New Hard Red Winter Wheat Variety Released
U.S. Corn Yields Increased, Soybean Yields Decreased
SDSU Extension Hosts Drought Risk Management Workshops Beginning Oct 8

Interesting Links

Other Department News

The research proposal “silencing of naturally occurring genes controlling seed dormancy to reduce fitness of transgene-contaminated weedy rice” was funded for about a half million dollars for four years by USDA-NIFA to develop a novel approach to mitigate the risk of gene flow from genetically modified crops to wild/weedy relatives.

Arvid Boe and Paul J. Johnson recently participated in the Switchgrass II conference in Madison, WI. This was a gathering of the top scientists of Canada and the United States working on switchgrass breeding, genomics, and biology in relation to its use as a biomass crop. Johnson gave the invited presentation "Insect Associations and Switchgrass Biomass Production" and prairie cordgrass, while Boe gave the poster "Genetic Variation for Phenotypic Plasticity in Switchgrass"

The Woodard family expresses deep appreciation to our department colleagues and friends for the cards, gifts, and especially for the communications of concern and affection shown in the last few weeks surrounding Jo’s illness and passing. Thanks for your generosity and care. It has been so helpful to assist us with our recovery.

Howard J. Woodard family