Thanks to Don Richards for taking time from his schedule to travel to Stillwater and participate in the “Oh, the Places You May Go” panel discussion, brainstorming with faculty over ideas and opportunities for the program, encouraging students to expand their career possibilities and so much more.

Richards is president and senior consultant for Applied Horticultural Consulting Inc. in Lake Oswego, Oregon, partner at Sauvie Island Ornamentals LLC. and owner of the Plant Patent Network in Portland, Oregon and Tokyo, Japan.

While Richards’ career has taken a path different than his initial vision, it has been an exciting, diverse career providing him with many opportunities such as serving on the consulting team for the Beijing Olympics, being a U.S. contractor to the Agricultural Trade Office/Plant Trading Network, serving as president for both the Horticulture Research Institute and Oregon Nursery Association, and most recently purchasing and securing plant materials for major studios on location around the world. And as a proud graduate of OSU . . . “GO POKES!”

Stay Connected:
OSU Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University
Oklahoma Gardening
Landscape Architecture at Oklahoma State University
Landscape Management Program at Oklahoma State University
Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
Cole Named Department Head

Wow!! What a difference a year can make in our lives! If somebody had told me a year ago that I would be the head of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, I would not have believed them. And now, here I am, and what a great department we have!

Like all academic programs, we face challenges of recruiting new students, funding our programs, and keeping up with technology, but together as a team, we will address and work through these issues. We are continuously looking for creative or different approaches, so please feel free to contact me with your suggestions. On a high note, we also help people learn how to grow and manage food crops; design, install, and manage inviting outdoor environments; help youth understand science and obtain life skills; and so many other things. These are the things that make being a part of this department exciting and fulfilling!

We want to thank our many alums and friends for their donations to our programs. Some have donated money, while others have donated time and supplies that have helped us continue to offer quality programs to our students and constituents. On that note, we look forward to Don Richards’ return to campus and his willingness to share his career story with students in the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Don’s consulting business has taken some twists and turns that have allowed him to be involved in projects that we don’t typically consider with a horticulture degree. Who would guess that a 1979 OSU Horticulture graduate with an emphasis in Nursery Production would someday help Warner Brothers obtain props for their movies? Our graduates have so many stories to tell, and we love hearing from each of you. Please keep in touch and let us know what is going on in your life and career!

Shelley Mitchell

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the many companies and individuals for donating to the six endowed horticulture scholarships. The goal of $50,000 was reached for each one and thus each scholarship will receive a $75,000 match later from Boone Pickens estate to result in a $125,000 scholarship fund. Once fully funded, each will provide $6,250 in annual scholarships to deserving young people to assist their efforts as they pursue college degrees. Contributions are ongoing and will be placed in the specified endowment fund.

- Carl Whitcomb
- Marjorie Moesel
- Richard Moesel
- Jim Motes
- Richard Payne
- Charles and Linda Shackelford

A huge thanks to Kim Toscano, Oklahoma Gardening host for her dedication to The Botanic Garden the last couple of years! Kim has successfully advocated activities and events in the garden making the garden more prominent for Stillwater visitors and the community! In March, Kim began a new career adventure as she combined her passion for gardening with traveling and writing.

Kim Toscano

A big thanks to Shelley for her efforts in getting a fun wellness initiative called “Where’s Pete? Discovery Trail” to campus! The trail is 2.15 miles long and winds through the core of campus. Participants will use hints from the “map” to visit 15 hidden Pistol Pete emblems, and answer questions about each site. This is part of the wellness initiatives for America’s Healthiest Campus.

Thank You!
Guatemala—Teaching Agriculture

Guatemala gained two horticulturists when Dr. Lynn Brandenberger, researcher and educator with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and horticulture student Laura Shand stepped up to become part of the team on June 6-14. Joining with Hunger Relief International (HRI), Mission Guatemala is all about helping local families increase and stabilize their food security and food supply. Classes were taught on gardening, soils, composting, water conservation as well as nutrition through cooking classes and other hands-on learning experiences.

Kahn Named ASHS Fellow

Trisha Gedon, Agricultural Communications Services

Brian Kahn, a professor of vegetable crops in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, was named as a Fellow within the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS). “I’m very humbled to be selected for this honor and to be part of such a select group,” Kahn said. “This is definitely a career accomplishment, and it has been a long-term goal of mine to be an ASHS Fellow.”

ASHS bestows this honor in recognition of truly outstanding contributions to horticulture and to the society. Kahn joins more than 475 ASHS members who have been named Fellows since the award’s inception in 1965.

Kahn joined the faculty at OSU in 1982, and although the majority of his appointment is research, he has shown great dedication to teaching and student mentorship and said his heart is with the students.

Lori Steffy knows first-hand of Kahn’s dedication to his students. She was one of his students and said he had a big impact on her college career. Steffy said at one point she had just about given up on herself and her dream of a college degree while attending OSU. “Dr. Kahn checked in on me and encouraged me, and he never gave up on me,” said Steffy, who graduated with a degree in horticulture. “He had the biggest influence through my college career, and I wouldn’t have made it without him. I owe my success to him.”

Kahn said, “Being able to be a mentor and a positive influence with my students is a huge thing. I have gotten tremendously heartwarming feedback from my students. It’s nice to know I’ve made a positive impact.”
Departmental students Katy Layman and Matthew Southall were awarded the Chelsea Flower Show Travel Scholarship and in May traveled to London to attend the show. Every year for a week the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea are transformed into show gardens, inspirational small gardens and vibrant horticultural displays for the world’s most famous flower show. Southall said, “My favorite parts of the flower show were the Laurent-Perrier Chatsworth garden, a beautiful wildscape, and the Sentebale garden, featuring plants from Southern Africa.” He spent the remainder of his trip visiting small, funky locals gardens as part of the “Chelsea Fringe” - an Alternative Garden Show. Layman said, “It was incredible to see so many people who love horticulture and gardening gathered together in one place.” She enjoyed seeing everyone dressing up for the show and continued her trip by traveling to Paris, Antwerp and Amsterdam. The Royal Horticultural Society is determined to reduce waste, and this is especially evident at the world’s famous Chelsea Flower Show. Materials used in the exhibits are resold, donated to community groups across London or recycled. Some gardens are transplanted in their entirety with many ending up in public spaces.

Above: Sentebale - Designed to raise awareness of Sentebale’s mission to tackle the stigma of HIV in adolescents, the Hope in Vulnerability Garden received the People’s Choice for Best Show Garden. Upper right: Matthew Southall touring Kensington Palace gardens. Middle right: The Laurent-Perrier Chatsworth garden shares the heritage in gardens and nature, and family dwellings in beautiful grounds. Bottom right: Designed by city architect Horace Jones in collaboration with John Wolfe Barry, Tower Bridge was completed in 1894, and is one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world.
Courtney Keck, Justin Moss and Mike Schnelle were honored during the Southern Region American Society for Horticultural Science’s meetings in Atlanta, Georgia for their extension publication, Drought Tolerant Plant Selections for Oklahoma E-1037.

The SR-ASHS Extension Communications Award was bestowed upon the team February 1, 2015, for their efforts in educating the residents of Oklahoma in making better plant selection choices in light of drought conditions and impending water restrictions for the last several years.
Congratulations to Mike Albert, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture alum, for receiving the OSU Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Early Career Achievement Award at the 2nd annual Alumni Gala on Saturday, May 2, 2015! Mike is a partner at Design Workshop in Aspen, Colorado, and became a partner at the age of 32, the youngest employee to do so in the firm’s 45-year history. In his short career, he has received numerous professional and design awards, including being named one of Colorado’s Top Five Designers Under 40. Mike is pictured with his advisor, Professor Emeritus John Ritter.

Assistant Professor Qing Luo and her students in LA3894: Landscape Architectural Construction II, partnered with Dr. Justin Moss to help OSU-Oklahoma City campus develop concepts for their southern campus open space in Spring 2015. After a series of site visits, investigations, meetings with OSU-Oklahoma City professors, site analysis, in-class design critiques, and interim presentations, students provided seven design options for the final presentations at the end of the semester. Students explored both sustainable stormwater management design opportunities and sustainable hardscape materials for the site design and space making.

Greenscape Inc. created a unique way to generate excitement and engage with landscape and horticulture students through a contest called CEOcamp. The lucky winner – Scott Mendenhall of Oklahoma State – was flown into Raleigh, North Carolina, in April. “I learned so much from my time with the Green Team,” says Mendenhall. “As far as my career path goes, I discovered I need to spend some more time learning about the business and financial side of things because my knowledge in those areas is lacking.” Mendenhall job shadowed Daniel Currin for the day learning the ins and outs of a CEO position as well as learning more about the different facets in the industry.

GO POKES! Departmental students celebrated the 2014 Homecoming with a little horticultural flair! Photos of the Homecoming Living Sign reached approximately 29,000 people and multiple shares on our departmental Facebook site. People were seen stopping by to get their photo taken at the living sign throughout the homecoming celebration. A big “Thanks” to the HORT 2513 Herbaceous Plants class, Tim Hooper and Dr. Lou Anella, for creating this unique way to celebrate “America’s Greatest Homecoming Celebration!”
The Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF) inducted Emeritus Professor Dr. Greg Bell into the Oklahoma Turfgrass Hall of Fame during the opening of its 69th Oklahoma Turf Conference and Trade Show on December 2, 2014 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Turfgrass Hall of Fame recognizes exceptional achievement and long service to the members of the OTRF and the state's turfgrass industry. The OTRF is a non-profit organization that focuses on raising funds for turfgrass research and provides annual education for the Oklahoma turfgrass industry.

Greg Bell grew up in a small town in western Pennsylvania. He began his turf management career working in golf course construction and maintenance at Mohawk Trails Golf Club, Edinburg, Pennsylvania, on evenings, weekends, and summers while attending high school. After honorably serving in the U.S. Army, Bell was involved in industrial management from 1976 to 1983, holding management positions in both manufacturing and service industries with responsibility for up to 100 employees at a time. He built a profitable golf club repair business, Gregory Bell Golf Club Co., during 1983–1993. Bell earned a bachelor's degree (1993), master's (1995), and doctorate (1997) with specialization in turf management/science from The Ohio State University and won the prestigious Gerald O. Mott Meritorious Graduate Student Award in Crop Science in 1997 as well as the James Watson Fellowship in 1998.

Bell joined the Oklahoma State University (OSU) faculty in December 1997 as an assistant professor of Turfgrass Research and Teaching. In 2001 he was recognized with the Outstanding Advisor Award in the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. In 2002 Bell and the GreenSeeker Research Team at OSU won the USDA Secretary of Agriculture's Honor Award for developing a revolutionary approach to fertilizing crops with GreenSeeker computerized sensor equipment that reads crop needs and applies treatment accordingly and immediately. Bell was awarded the OSU Faculty Phoenix Award in 2003 by the OSU Graduate and Professional Student Government Association. He was awarded the Wayne W. and W. Jean Huffine Endowed Professorship in Turfgrass Science in August 2004 and served in that capacity until his retirement in July 2014.

During his time at OSU Bell taught nearly 600 green industry students in four undergraduate turf/horticulture courses and was advisor or co-advisor or mentor to over 130 undergraduates in the OSU turfgrass management program. He was the major advisor to seven completed master’s and doctoral students. His graduate and undergraduate alumni today fill major leadership roles in the turfgrass industry across the US. Bell also served as director of education for the Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation for three years. He provided over 60 oral presentations at various turf industry workshops and conferences across the U.S.

Bell's major research contributions to the turfgrass industry included identification of specific nutrient deficiencies, and effects of restricted air movement, root competition, and shade on turfgrass health. He played an instrumental role in furthering the use of the normalized difference vegetative index (NDVI) in assessing turfgrass health as well as optical sensing methods for assessing turfgrass health. He developed management techniques that reduce nutrient and pesticide runoff from turf as well as identified experimental bermudagrass types with improved shade tolerance that are being used in developing the next generation of improved turf bermudagrasses. Bell tells us he enjoys every day of retirement. He and his wife, Diana, will continue to call Stillwater their home during his retirement.
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

New Departmental Faculty

Qing Luo

Bo Zhang

Assistant professor Qing Luo is a new landscape architecture assistant professor with a 20% extension appointment. She is a Registered Landscape Architect with 17 years of experience in design practice and education. Her projects have received multiple international design awards for landscape architecture planning and design. She has practiced in several prestigious international firms for over a decade and has been in a lead designer and key management role.

Bo Zhang, assistant professor of landscape architecture, also joined the department and College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources the Spring 2015 semester. After moving over Christmas break he began teaching two landscape architecture courses the Spring 2015 semester. Zhang has previous teaching experience at Ball State University in Indiana and at Harbin Institute of Technology in China. He received his doctorate in landscape architecture from the University of Florida.

Did you know?

OSU developed turfgrasses can also be found on...

- Tennessee Titans’ Nissan Stadium - Latitude 36
- Portions of National Arboretum in Washington D.C. - Latitude 36
- SandRidge Energy feature lawn, Oklahoma City - NorthBridge
- Baltimore Ravens practice fields - Latitude 36
- University of Virginia Cavaliers football field - Latitude 36
- Bradley University’s football field - Latitude 36
- Globe Life Park, home of the Texas Rangers - Latitude 36
- Summer 2015 Latitude 36 installations include Wallace Wade Stadium at Duke University and to the Kyle Field of Texas A&M University

40th Annual Awards Program
August 22, 2015

Distinguished Horticulture Service
Herman Dittrich

Distinguished Landscape Architecture Service—Brett Mann

Distinguished Horticulture Alumnus
Steve George

Distinguished Landscape Architecture Alumnus—Joe Howell

Margaret Romshe Outstanding Undergraduate Student
David Reese

Franklin A. Romshe Memorial Outstanding Graduate Student
Magdalena Vinson

Outstanding Departmental Staff
Stephanie Larimer

2015-2016 Endowed Scholarship Recipients

Robert C. & Doris Rae Arens
Xochilyn Davis
Jonathan Gregory
Emily Smith
Sara Wallace
Zhiyuan Yang

Jerry Francis Benton Memorial
Brett Johnson
Katy Layman
Cathy Lopez
Danielle Rich
Laura Shand

Marjorie Horner Andrews Graduate Student in Honor of Mrs. Marjorie Horner Andrews
Chrissie Segars

Harrison Walnut Redevelopment Corp.
Trevor Grant

Huffine Memorial Distinguished Graduate Fellowship
Manoj Chhetri
Lakshmy Gopinath
Dustin Harris
Shuhan Yu

Huffine Memorial Presidential Distinguished
Jacob Cheatham
Verity Cox
Payton Wynes
Anna Zander

William Raymond & Charlotte Wheatley Kays
Sara Wallace
Steven George

Steven George, a native Oklahoman, was selected to receive the Distinguished Horticulture Alumnus Award from the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at OSU.

George holds a doctorate in plant pathology from North Carolina State University as well as a Bachelor of Science in zoology and a Master of Science in horticulture from OSU.

For 27 years, George has served as the landscape horticulture specialist for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service headquartered in Dallas, Texas. He created the Earth-Kind® Environmental Landscape Management System—techniques designed to combine organic and traditional landscaping principles to create effective and environmentally responsible horticultural systems—and the Earth-Kind® Rose Program.

George’s work with roses has had a worldwide impact. Five countries and 27 states take part in cooperative testing for Earth-Kind Rose research and field trials have been replicated at more than 70 sites. Many esteemed publications have reported on George’s work and the Associated Press released a nationwide article devoted to Earth-Kind Roses.

Joe Howell

Joe Howell received the Distinguished Landscape Architecture Alumnus Award from the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture.

In 1992, Howell founded and presides as principal-in-charge of the Howell & Vancuren landscape architecture firm. Howell stands out in the industry as a leader and collaborator and emphasized project innovation and client satisfaction in his work. During his 35 years of experience, Howell has designed and managed projects at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the University of Tulsa, Tulsa Botanical Garden and the Linnaeus Teaching Gardens.
Other Departmental Teaching and Extension Activities

Congratulations to the Horticulture Commodities Judging Team! They placed third as a team in Greenhouse Crops and in Fruit and Nuts at the Southern Region American Society for Horticulture Science Conference in Atlanta, GA on January 30 - February 1. Stephanie Stoner placed third in Fruit and Nut judging. Great job!!! Team members are Dr. Janet Cole, advisor, Betty Eden, Stephanie Stoner, Matthew Southall, and Austin Gimondo.

Building Your 4-H Legacy was the 94th 4-H Roundup theme held on the Oklahoma State University campus. On July 21-24 our department participated with several workshops such as “Designing Landscapes,” “Mason Jar Terrariums” and “Pecan Grafting” to introduce students to horticulture and landscape architecture projects and future careers. Programs such as Oklahoma 4-H and Oklahoma Master Gardeners are a part of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.

Professional/Student Design Charrette: As a part of the Spring 2015 Professional Advancement Committee Meeting, professionals joined landscape architecture students for a design charrette. The charrette was organized by Mike Sottong (BLA 2003) of Tap Architecture, Oklahoma City. Students worked beside professionals to develop concepts for a city park.

The 2015 Tuesday Gardening Series is held at The Botanic Garden each month. It is a hands-on program designed to walk gardeners through the complete gardening experience. Topics such as garden planning, raised beds, soil testing, turfgrasses, managing weeds, water conservation, supporting pollinators, vegetable pests, and xeriscaping were a few of the areas covered this year.

Calendar of Events

October 29 | Tree Care Conference, Wes Watkins Conference Center, Stillwater, OK
December 3-4 | Poinsettia Sale, Teaching Greenhouses, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Stillwater, OK
January 8-9, 2016 | Horticulture Industries Show & Conference, Tulsa Community College NE, Tulsa, OK
July 14, 2016 | Shackelford Lecture Series—Save the Date!

Student Awards

Jimi Underwood
third place poster, Oklahoma Invasive Species Conference
March 13, 2015

Brett Johnson
OSU Udall Scholarship Nominee
The Udall is one of the nation’s most prestigious honors for undergraduate students.

Morgan Hopkins
“People’s Choice” and third place in the DASNR 3MT® Competition, March 2015
On June 11-13, the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association held its 85th Annual Conference in Ardmore with the Orchard Educational Tour at Hauani Creek Ranch on Saturday. A big thanks to Savage Equipment Company for sponsoring the tour and the equipment demonstration on Saturday! Dr. Mike Smith, professor and researcher (right) discusses new and novel fertilizers and applications for trees and pecan orchards.

We want to hear from you!

We would like to include you in our alumni success stories and “News” updates. Please send us your contact information, any professional and personal information you would like to share as well as a current electronic photo. Information can be emailed to: donna.dollins@okstate.edu

On June 2-3, 2015, the Oklahoma State Turf Science program hosted the Southern Extension and Research Activities 25-Turf Conference at the Bricktown Inn and Suites in Oklahoma City.

According to the SERA, the objective of the SERA 25-Turf activity is to foster the exchange of information concerning current research, teaching and extension activities and discuss future directions and needs for turf programs throughout the region.

Over the course of the two days, SERA conference attendees saw presentations on a variety of turf-related topics including turf pathology, nematodes, water usage, and sports safety. State reports were given by representatives from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Participants in the conference took a tour of the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, where they learned about the construction and maintenance of the memorial grounds, the Survivor Tree and the series of events that took place on April 19, 1995.
Grandparent University

The Department held three Grandparent University sessions this past summer, Flowers in the Garden; Landscape Architecture; and Plants and People. The Landscape Architecture participants learned to draw plants and complete a colorful landscape design that shows both hardscape—paths, buildings, seating and softscape—plant choices. The horticulture sessions covered learned plant biology, nutrient requirements, what constitutes a fruit or vegetable along with how to make corsages and gnome gardens.
2015 Distinguished Service Awards
Herman Dittrich

Horticulture has been a part of the Distinguished Horticulture Service Award recipient, Herman Dittrich’s life for many years. Upon returning from service, Dittrich opened a floral shop while attending college classes at night. Over the years, Dittrich’s career turned to becoming a wholesaler traveling the U.S. and Mexico; an instructor teaching floral design and retail; and lastly a grower, researcher and lecturer with Johnston Seed Co. in Enid, Oklahoma.

Congratulations to our graduates!

Fall 2014—Undergraduates
Dustin K. Harris
Jamie P. Ivers
Kyle S. Landers
Andrew M. Lewis
Tyler Maly

Fall 2014—Graduate
Naba Amgain
Rania Basyouni

Spring 2015—Undergraduates
Nicholas A. Blakely
Matthew C. Bowlan
Joel H. Crouch
Courtney D. Dekalb
Haley M. Dugger
Jack R. Dunn

Brett Mann

Upon earning a bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture in 1994, Brett Mann traveled and expanded his professional knowledge and connections.

After opening several offices he opened his own studio—Studio B. Mann—in 2012.

Mann’s focus on urbanism, context and sustainability shines through in his work. He says he finds the most satisfying awards to be happy clients and being able to give perspective and lessons to the next generation of landscape architects.

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Traveling opens your eyes and heightens your senses. Your world becomes larger as you grow smaller in the grand scheme of things. Departmental students Jaden Rich, Irene Davis, Lauren Davis, Huston Hoelscher, Austin Gimondo, and advisor Dr. Bruce Dunn started their adventure May 11 touring horticultural facilities emphasizing greenhouse horticultural production. Tours highlight global and Dutch agricultural development, trends, marketing, sustainability, product and social responsibility. Summing up his experience, Huston Hoelscher said, “Overall, I cannot believe that I was granted the opportunity to undergo such a life-changing experience. The fact that I was able to travel halfway across the world to see the world famous sites that you hear, learn about, and see on TV is something I will remember and share stories for the rest of my life. All while being exposed to and learning about what I have an immensely deep passion for, which is the study of horticulture.” 

Photos of Study Abroad Program on page 15.
Kanter Strawberries used bumblebees as pollinators.

Greenroof from atop the famous Rhine Tower.

Brightbox LED growing lights, Eastern Netherlands.

Notre Dame along the Seine River, France.

Park located in downtown Dusseldorf, Germany.
Left: In November 2014, Dr. Lou Anella who joined the department in 1997, took on the role as The Botanic Garden Director in addition to his teaching responsibilities. He and his team are actively working to make TBG more welcoming to visitors, and working to form partnerships with departments and organizations to utilize the facilities thereby increasing programming. A new organization, Friends of The Botanic Garden, is being formed to assist with fundraising efforts and promotion. Currently, they have developed a plan for a paved entrance and parking in the hope of making the garden more accessible for everyone.

Right: On April 8, Michael Holmes, Landscape Architecture Program director and professor received the Outstanding Service Learning Faculty Award from Oklahoma State University President’s Leadership and Service Recognition Reception. During his 11-year tenure, he has been involved in dozens of service learning and community assistance projects on campus and across the state. He believes in the value of getting students out of the classroom and engaging in hands-on experiences with the community and professionals. Congratulations, Michael!

Please complete this form and return to:
HORTICULTURE & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
Kara Parsons
358 Agricultural Hall
Stillwater, OK  74078
ph. 405-744-5416

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VISIT: www.hortla.okstate.edu/about-us/giving

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