Horticulture Club News:

By Birgitta Brophy, RLA, Associate Professor

AJ Davis, Jessica Martin, Nick Pennella and Matt Robinson of this year’s Horticulture Club participated in the annual Student Career Days (SCD) at Joliet Jr. College of Joliet, Illinois. Joliet is the oldest community college in the country located about one hour west of Chicago. Over 880 students, faculty and staff attended this magnificent event, participating from 80 schools, all of which were from the United States except Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture who came from Canada. This is a specialized conference geared toward further educating and engaging students in the green industry through professional networking, workshops, tours and special events. The main highlight of the SCD are the competitions developed to challenge students against themselves and their fellow students in green related jobs, i.e. exterior landscape design, irrigation, students in green related jobs, i.e.

In addition to participating in as many events as possible, the students were treated to sightseeing with co-advisors Birgitta Brophy and Julia Ward. Chicago style pizza was trialed at Giardiano’s, the city was viewed from the Skydeck on the 103rd floor of the Willis Tower (formerly known as the Sears Tower), Millennium Park, and last but not least was a tour of a Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago. On the trip to Chicago the group was also able to take a short break from their driving to experience the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Did you know that Lake Michigan is 307 miles long? Special thanks to the Brickman Group for a donation that helped make this trip possible.

Horticulture Club Team at the Brickman Booth at the Student Career Days in Joliet, Illinois. From left: Brickman Representative, Nick Pennella, Matt Robinson, Jessica Martin, and AJ Davis.

 Alumni We Love To Hear From YOU!! Please Contact us on the web: www.delhi.edu/academics/bachelor_degree/gcms2/staff.php
Our address is Golf & Plant Science, Farnsworth Hall, SUNY Delhi, Delhi, NY 13753.

Noah Tubbs (left) and Ben Czyzewski pose with the Turf Bowl. Team member not in picture: Seth Kohler

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Golf & Plant Science Students Awarded Scholarships

Students representing SUNY Delhi’s Golf & Plant Sciences were recently awarded top turfgrass scholarships at the Empire State Green Industry Show (ESGIS) in January. Six of the nine scholarships were awarded to Delhi students in Golf Course Management: Superintendent and Golf Course Operations degree programs. Senior Timothy Williams was awarded the prestigious John Corman Scholarship ($1,500), senior Jeffrey Ferguson the S.V. Moffett Scholarship ($1,000), sophomores Noah Tubbs, and Benjamin Czyzewski New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) Scholarships ($850), and sophomore Ian Wilson and junior Adam Hicks were awarded the Hahn Memorial Scholarship ($500). Scholarships were awarded to students who have maintained a grade point average of greater than a 3.0, were engaged in extra-curricular activities, and displayed leadership potential. According to Dr. Ben McGraw, assistant professor in the Golf & Plant Sciences departments “this is truly a great accomplishment for our students. It demonstrates that our students and program are well respected within the region. It was amazing to see our students not only get a majority of the scholarships, but scholarships that usually go to students at other institutions. Our department is truly proud of our students.” To be considered for a scholarship, students must write a letter of intent and obtain a letter of recommendation from their past internship employers. “The extremely rigorous and formalized internships that Delhi Golf & Plant Science students partake in prepare our students well for, not only going on internships, but excelling in the field” said Dr. McGraw. “Usually the letters of recommendation letters that the students receive from their internship supervisors make Delhi students most competitive.”

SUNY Delhi

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SUNY Delhi Successfully Defends 2-year Turf Bowl at Empire State Green Industry Show

In January, SUNY Delhi students representing the Golf and Plant Science department descended upon a snowbound Rochester to compete in the annual Turf Bowl, a turf-based knowledge competition held at the Empire State Green Industry Show (ESGIS). The SUNY Delhi team of sophomores Ben Czyzewski, Noah Tubbs, and Seth Kohler successfully defended the 2-year Turf Bowl, beating back rival SUNY Cobleskill. The team compiled a score of 264 points, and Ben Czyzewski (90 points) took home overall top honors for a 2-yr competitor. The 4-yr team of seniors Tim Williams, Jeff Ferguson, Ryan Abbate, and Kevin Anderson (257 points) narrowly missed out on the chance for Delhi to take both bowls. Other students competing in the Turf Bowl included juniors Chance Sullivan, Adam Hicks, and Cameron Cooper (219 points) and the freshman team of Mike Kincaid, Nick Pennella, Tim Bruno, and Ben Dewan, (128 points). The Turf Bowl co-advisor Julia Ward said “I was very proud of how our students prepared to compete in the Bowl. They spent several nights reviewing different subjects such as turf weeds, diseases, and insects with Dr. Ben McGraw and myself.” The freshman team, who will be juniors at the next ESGIS (to be held in November 2012), promise to bring both bowls back to Delhi.
Golf and Plant Sciences Student Awarded $1000
Norman Leising Memorial Scholarship

Benjamin Czyzynski, a sophomore Golf Course Management: Superintendent major, was awarded the 2010 Norman Leising Memorial Scholarship this past Fall. Mr. Leising was Superintendent at the Country Club of Buf- falo, who recently passed away. His family established a memorial scholar- arship in his honor and contacted SUNY Delhi to find a deserving student. Several students were nominated, though Ben’s essay and application stood out amongst his peers. Ben was awarded the first scholarship ($1000) in what hopes to be a long association between SUNY Delhi and the Leising family.

Golf & Plant Sciences Awarded $2930 Grant

SUNY Delhi’s Golf and Plant Sciences Department was recently awarded a competitive educational grant from the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA). The grant, totaling $2,935, will go towards purchasing an interactive student response systems for the classroom. The system, commonly referred to as “classroom clickers” allows for students to be engaged in the classroom exercise by “buzzing in” their responses on keypads. Clickers have been used in the classroom since the 1960s, though current systems have been streamlined to give instantaneous or “real-time” results. Dr. Ben McGraw, assistant professor in the Golf & Plant Sciences Department, says “I intend to integrate the technology in several of my classes. I foresee the technology being particularly helpful to me, as the instructor, to know instantly, whether students are grasp- ing the concepts or not. If not, I can adjust my approach. Also, by occasionally integrating a question here and there throughout the lecture, students must remain focused.” The technology has many advantages for the type of classes offered in the Department. For one, clickers can be seamlessly integrated into traditional PowerPoint lectures. Additionally studies have shown that clickers can improve student performance in scientific courses where memorization is re- quired. “Our department is extremely grateful to NYSTA for continu- ing to support us through educational and research grants, as well as awarding our students scholarships,” says Dr. McGraw. “We hope that educational grants like these can improve our effectiveness of teaching, and complement our extremely strong practical, hands- on education here at Delhi, and continue to produce top profes- sionals in our industry.”

Delhi Alumni: (from left) Sam Rogers, Phil Adams, and Adam Olinski
Landscape Design & Management Alumni Update by Birgitta Brophy

As part of the recently developed Campus Master Plan our students in Advanced Landscape Design and Management are furthering the idea of a campus map pull-down area. Three concepts are being designed to illustrate three locations, various layouts, alternate hardscape materials along with site specific plantings for further consideration by the Beautification Committee and President Vancko. It is anticipated that once the final design has been created that students from the construction technologies program will more completely survey and then begin the installation process. This multi-disciplinary approach to the design and construction of such a project again strengthens the college’s commitment to hands-on learning that we pride ourselves in.

The on-campus project for this semester will be the installation of plantings to flank the Foreman Hall stairway and form the main campus corridor. The planting design was developed as part of a larger project which will ultimately include an outdoor sitting area with benches, a wall sculpture on a large retaining wall and screening of structural walls along Alumni Hall. All together this newly designed area will become a more welcoming area for students visiting the student health center located in Foreman Hall.

Off-campus we may be working with St. Peters Church in the Village of Delhi. Rejuvenating the existing foundation plantings and new pavers will improve pedestrian circulation and enhance the entry. This will be a great project for the students to give back to the Village and a wonderful addition to their portfolio.