

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 installation, etc.

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 the 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 (from left):
Matt Robinson, Nick Pennella, Jessica Martin & AJ Davis**



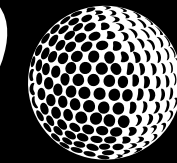
Horticulture Club Team at the Brickman Booth at the Student Career Days in Joliet, Illinois. From left: Brickman Representative, Nick Pennella, Matt Robinson, Jessica Martin, and AJ Davis.

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SUNY Delhi

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



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

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 freshmen team, who will be juniors at the next ESGIS (to be held in November 2012), promise to bring both bowls back to Delhi.

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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 consider 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."



Golf & Plant Science students receive New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) scholarships at the Empire State Green Industry Show. From left: **Timothy Williams**, **Adam Hicks**, **Benjamin Czyzewski**, & **Noah Tubbs**.

Turf Club Road Trip

During the Fall semester, SUNY Delhi Turf Club members visited Hamilton Farm Golf Club in Bedminster, NJ and the United States Golf Association Museum in Far Hills, NJ during their bi-annual field trip. Students were treated to a full tour of Hamilton Farm by Superintendent **Paul Ramina**. The golf club sits on the former 4000 acre working estate and fox hunting grounds of early 20th century financier **James Cox Brady**. The course was designed by **Dr. Michael Hurdzan** of Hurdzan-Fry design firm, and incorporates many of the estates barns into its design. Additionally, the grounds are shared with the United States Equestrian team. Paul gave an extensive tour of the facility (on a Saturday no less) and stayed to answer all of the students questions. **Julia Ward**, co-advisor to the Turf Club, says “I think that it is really important to expose our students to these types of opportunities. Seeing a course like this and meeting a superintendent like Paul just enhances their classroom education.”

The next stop on the day trip was the United States Golf Association (USGA) Museum in Far Hills, NJ, where students toured the four main rooms of the museum (all named for famous golfers) and saw memorabilia including USGA trophies and mementos from USGA events. “I was incredibly impressed by the Ben Hogan room,” said **Dr. Ben McGraw**, co-advisor to Turf Club, “the room really captured his spirit, and his perseverance to come back from a near fatal injury.” The final treat was the Pynes Putting Course, a replica of Himalayas Putting Course at the infamous St. Andrews. The course is extremely undulating, making it a real challenge to play, and even harder to figure out how it is maintained so well. Students competed in groups of 4 or 5 for the nine holes (and for the record **Dr. McGraw** was the low scorer!).

Stay tuned for the happenings from the Spring 2011 Club trip. “I can’t wait to see where the students decide to go for their spring trip,” said **Julia Ward**, “I think I have as much fun and get as much out of it as they do.”



Turf Club Road Trip Participants

From left: **Tim Bruno, Kevin Anderson, Tim Williams, Cam Cooper, Adam Hicks, Neil Krick, Mike Kincaid**

Golf and Plant Sciences Student Awarded \$1000 Norman Leising Memorial Scholarship

Benjamin Czyzewski, 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 Buffalo, who recently passed away. His family established a memorial scholarship 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 \$2,930, 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 grasping 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 required. “Our department is extremely grateful to NYSTA for continuing 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 professionals in our industry.”



Landscape Design & Management Alumni Update by Birgitta Brophy

The 37th Annual Festival of Places was where I found three of our alumni this past February. Philip Adams, Adam Olinski and Samuel Rogers were celebrating the grand finale of their semester abroad studies. All three students are were in the Landscape Contracting program at Delhi and then continued their education at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) in the landscape architecture program.

As part of the landscape architecture program at ESF, students are required to study off campus for a semester and are encouraged to travel to a foreign country. Students spend the last semester of their fourth year developing a project/study proposal for pursuit in the country of their choice. Our alumni spent a whole semester either in Barcelona, Spain (Sam); Rotterdam, Netherlands (Phil) or Siracusa, Italy (Adam).

After completing their studies both Phil and Sam will be looking for employment in their areas of interest while Adam has decided to continue on with his education looking to obtain a Masters in Landscape Architecture at ESF. All agreed that their education at Delhi greatly assisted them in being successful at ESF and better prepared than other students in the landscape architecture program. The hands on training and science background provided at Delhi allowed them to design with greater sensitivity to installation, maintenance and sustainability.



Delhi Alumni: (from left) Sam Rogers, Phil Adams, and Adam Olinski

Landscape Design & Management News:

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-off 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 arbor 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.