NCAC-1 Annual Report for 2019
Division of Plant Sciences (DPS)
College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CAFNR)
University of Missouri
January 7-8, 2020
Puerto Rico

Administration:

Rob Kallenbach was announced as the Associate Dean of Agriculture and Environment Extension for CAFNR. He served as interim in 2018.

Shibu Jose was announced as the CAFNR Associate Dean of the Office of Research on November 20th. He assumed the position as interim on January 1, 2019. Prior to this, he served as the Director of the MU School of Natural Resources.

Michell Enger was announced as the Director of the Office of Marketing and Communications.

James English retired as division director of Plant Sciences effective August 31, 2019 and Bruce Barrett was announced as Interim effective September 1, 2019. Bruce joined Plant Sciences in 1990.

Administrative Initiatives:
In December 2018, CAFNR completed a year of strategic planning that defines Programs of Distinction that reflect historical and ongoing strengths of the college. Programs selected for this designation will receive priority investments of resources for continued enhancements in performance. The college has designated seven existing programs as follows: Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute; Interdisciplinary Plant Group; Interdisciplinary Reproduction and Health Group; MU Forage-Livestock Group; MU Livestock Engineering Team; Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program; and University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry.

Facilities:
The East Campus Plant Growth Facility opened in 2019 with a ribbon cutting on November 15th. Built in less than two years, the facility is more than 41,000 square feet and provides a major expansion of state-of-the-art greenhouse and plant growth chamber facilities with controlled lighting, temperature, humidity and CO_2 environments.

Faculty:
The Division has 40 faculty members involved in research, teaching, and extension/outreach. Within the Division, the Crop Soil and Pest Management graduate program includes 19 faculty members, and the Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics graduate program includes 23 faculty members. The remaining three graduate program areas include Plant Stress Biology, Entomology, and Horticulture. Any faculty member may belong to more than one graduate program area.

Budget:
MU faced continuing budget reductions in 2018. Central administration assigned budget reductions to individual colleges solely on the basis of student credit hours. Budgeting ignored research productivity and extension/outreach accomplishments in remaining mission areas. On this basis, the Division of Plant

Sciences budget was reduced by 15%, leading to a cumulative budget reduction of 27% over the past two years. Average merit-based raises of 2% for faculty and staff were implemented via reallocation of Division resources, as part of its 15% budget reduction. Additional budget reductions are planned for the coming fiscal year.

Division Activities/Highlights:
Division Undergraduate student enrollment increased slightly from 111 in 2018 to 114 in 2019. Undergraduate interest in the Breeding, Biology & Biotechnology emphasis area continues to increase.

Graduate student enrollment is holding steady with 76 in 2018 and a slight increase to 77 in 2019. Crop, Soil, and Pest Management; Plant Stress Biology; and Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics remain the most highly enrolled among five graduate emphasis areas.

Numerous graduate and undergraduate students received awards for oral and poster research presentations at professional society meetings.

Christa Smith, executive assistant for the Division of Plant Sciences, received the Frederick B. Mumford Award for Outstanding Staff at CAFNR's 2019 Celebration of Excellence awards ceremony Thursday, April 11.

Michelle Brooks, greenhouse coordinator in plant sciences, received the Outstanding Staff Award at CAFNR's 2019 Celebration of Excellence awards ceremony, held Thursday, April 11.

Robert Sharp, director of the Interdisciplinary Plant Group (IPG) and professor of plant sciences, received the Brady J. Deaton Fellow in International Agriculture Award at CAFNR's 2019 Celebration of Excellence awards ceremony, held Thursday, April 11.

John Lory, extension associate professor of plant sciences, received the J.W. Burch State Specialist Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Award at CAFNR's 2019 Celebration of Excellence awards ceremony, held Thursday, April 11.

Lee Miller, associate professor in the Division of Plant Sciences, was honored with the 2019 Donald W. Fancher Provost Award for Outstanding Achievement in Extension and Continuing Education. The award recognizes a faculty member who has made outstanding contributions to Extension and in continuing education efforts of campus. Miller was recognized for his work providing disease diagnosis and control recommendations for turfgrass at the annual University of Missouri Faculty Awards Dinner in fall 2019.

Lesleighan Cravens, instructor of plant sciences, received the Outstanding Early Career Teaching Award at CAFNR's 2019 Celebration of Excellence awards ceremony, held Thursday, April 11.

The Mizzou Student Chapter of the American Institute of Floral Designers (Mizzou SAIFD) was named Outstanding Student Organization at CAFNR's 2019 Celebration of Excellence awards ceremony, held Thursday, April 11. The University of Missouri Student Chapter of the American Institute of Floral Designers (Mizzou SAIFD) is an organization that works to prepare those wanting to pursue a career or interest in the floral design industry.

Ed Coe, professor emeritus, plant sciences, was awarded the 2019 Peter H. Raven Lifetime Achievement Award at the 25th Annual Outstanding St. Louis Scientists Awards on April 4th.

Gary Stacey received the 2019 President's Award for Sustained Career Excellence. Each year, the UM System President's Awards are presented on behalf of President Mun Choi to faculty members across the four campuses of the UM System. These highly competitive awards recognize faculty who have made exceptional contributions in advancing the mission of the University. The Sustained Excellence Award recognizes faculty for distinguished career-long, sustained excellence in scholarship, research or creativity, for a period of 15 or more years.

Vicki Bryan, coordinator for the Interdisciplinary Plant Group at the University of Missouri, was selected for MU's International Engagement Award – Outstanding Staff category. The MU International Engagement Awards recognize outstanding work carried out by faculty, staff and students to internationalize MU. Recipients have made concrete impact on scholarship students or MU programs by their international work. Bryan's achievement was announced at the International Engagement Reception on Nov. 19.

Bob Sharp recently joined a prestigious group of University of Missouri CAFNR faculty as a Curators' Distinguished Professor, MU's highest and most prestigious rank. Sharp is a professor in the Division of Plant Sciences and serves as the director of the campus-wide Interdisciplinary Plant Group (IPG).