



April 2010

Calendar of Events

- April 5-20:**
Advanced Registration for Summer and Fall 2010
- April 21:**
Open Registration Begins
- April 21:**
Earth Day
- April 23:**
Arbor Day
- April 29:**
Final Day to withdraw from the University
- May 4:**
Last Day of Classes
- May 6-11:**
Final Exams for Spring 2010 Semester
- May 11:**
Spring 2010 Semester Ends
- May 14-15:**
Commencement
- May 31:**
Memorial Day Holiday
- June 2:**
Summer I Classes Begin
- June 7:**
Last Day to drop a course and receive a refund
- June 22:**
Final Day to drop a course
- June 29:**
Final Day to withdraw from the University
- July 1:**
Last Day of Classes
- July 2-3:**
Final Exams
- July 3:**
Summer I semester ends
- July 5:**
Independence Day Holiday
- July 7:**
Classes begin for Summer II
- July 12:**
Last Day to drop a course and Receive a refund
- July 27:**
Final day to drop a course
- August 2:**
Final day to withdraw from the University
- August 4:**
Last Day of classes
- August 5-6:**
Summer II Final Exams
- August 6:**
Summer II Ends

Faculty & Staff

Thomas Thompson, PhD
Department ChairCynthia McKenney, EdD
Distance Program LeaderPeter Dotray, PhD
Professor and Academic AdvisorKatie Leigh
Recruiting Coordinator

Plant and Soil Science Student works in Greenhouse

Welcome!

This is the first in a series of messages to students enrolled in degree and certificate programs at a distance in the Department of Plant and Soil Science at Texas Tech University. Our purpose is to keep you well-informed about what is going on in the department and resources available to you as students. We will send several of these to you each year, and we always appreciate your feedback. You can also stay up-to-date with happenings in PSS by visiting our website at www.pssc.ttu.edu. Our quarterly newsletter is also posted on the website.

Dr. Cynthia McKenney named Distance Program Leader for PSS

Dr. Cynthia McKenney, Associate Professor of Horticulture, has been named Distance Program Leader for PSS. In this role, she is responsible for coordinating advising and distance course offerings to support our three degree programs and four graduate certificate programs offered at a distance. Dr. McKenney teaches several graduate and undergraduate courses offered at a distance. Her research includes working with native plants, focusing on wildflower enhancement to increase drought tolerance, plant architecture, and length and intensity of floral display. She received all three of her degrees from TTU, and has been a faculty member of PSS since 1984. She has a nationwide reputation as a leader in distance education. She can be reached at cynthia.mckenney@ttu.edu.

Distance Program Enrollments Increasing

Enrollment in PSS degree and graduate certificate programs offered at a distance has more than doubled since fall 2008. In the current semester, 64 students are enrolled in our distance degree programs.

Dr. Peter Dotray to advise Crop Science M.S. students

Dr. Peter Dotray, Professor of Weed Science, will be academic advisor for all Crop Science M.S. students, effectively immediately. Dr. Dotray teaches Weed Science (PSS 4421), Advanced Weed Science (PSS 5429), and Mode and Mechanism of Herbicide Action (PSS 5324) at a distance. Dr. Dotray has an active research program examining weed control systems in cotton, peanuts, corn, and a variety of other crops. He will soon contact all of his advisees, but feel free to contact him any time at peter.dotray@ttu.edu.

Changes in Enrollment Procedures

Beginning with Summer 2010, students will no longer need permission of the instructor to enroll in PSS distance courses. Undergraduate students will continue to need permission of their academic advisor to begin the registration process, but permission is not needed for each individual course. Students are always encouraged to stay in close contact with their advisors, to stay on track for graduation. You may register for your courses through Raiderlink. For questions, please contact your advisor or Sylvia Garcia at sylvia.garcia@ttu.edu.

New Graduate Course Offered this Fall

Advanced Crop Physiology will be offered as a distance course for the first time this fall semester. It will be a 3-credit graduate course and will be initially offered as PSS 6001-D01 (CRN 26474). The course will be taught by Dr. Craig Bednarz. Upon successful completion of the course, it will be listed as "Advanced Crop Physiology" on the student's transcript. If you have questions about this course, please contact Dr. Bednarz (craig.bednarz@ttu.edu), Sylvia Garcia (sylvia.garcia@ttu.edu), or your advisor.

Viticulture and Enology Courses Coming Online Soon!

The Texas grape and wine industry is growing by leaps and bounds, with more than 200 wineries now operating in the state. Texas is now the 5th-leading wine-producing state in the U.S. The Department of Plant and Soil Science has the only B.S. degree option in Viticulture and Enology offered in the state of Texas. This program became available on campus in fall 2009, and has already generated significant interest among current and prospective students. Beginning in the fall 2011 semester, we will be offering graduate and undergraduate Viticulture and Enology courses at a distance. Soon, students enrolled in the B.S. in Horticultural and Turfgrass Sciences at a distance will be able to pursue a specialization in Viticulture and Enology. This new initiative of PSS is made possible because of a grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture. For more details, contact Katie Leigh at katie.leigh@ttu.edu.



Sylvia Garcia
Assistant Advisor



On-campus greenhouse and gardens facility



Plot of research sunflowers



Graduate student research



Cotton Seedling



Faculty and Graduate Student Research

New Scholarships Available for Students in Distance Programs

The University College of TTU is now offering scholarships for Texas residents wishing to pursue a B.S. in Horticultural and Turfgrass Sciences at a distance. The deadline for application is May 1. For more details go to <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/agriculturalsciences/news/?p=709>.

Using Communicator

Microsoft Office Communicator 2007 is the client application for real-time (synchronous) communications using instant messaging (IM), voice, and video. It includes Live Meeting (conferencing tool) that integrates with Outlook to share applications, desktop, documents, as well as video & voice - giving you many different ways to communicate with others using a consistent and simple user interface. You may use Communicator to communicate with anyone with valid eraidr credentials (e.g. course instructors, advisors, fellow students) using IM, voice, or video (with a webcam). Communicator is licensed by TTU and anyone with valid eraidr credentials can download and use it. Instructions can be found here: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ithelpcentral/announcements/OCS2007R2.php> . For more details contact ITHelp Central at 806-742-HELP (4357) or ithelpcentral@ttu.edu.

Chat with the Chair

Our department is committed to quality teaching and advising in all of our academic programs. Our goal is the continuous improvement of the delivery of our academic programs. Our department chair, Dr. Tom Thompson, is always willing to visit with any PSS student regarding his/her program of study by phone (806-742-2838), email (thomas.thompson@ttu.edu), or video calls through Communicator. He has set aside time on April 27 (3-6 pm Central time) and April 29 (3-6 pm Central time) for conversations with distance students (by phone or Communicator on a first-come, first-serve basis).

Distance Courses Offered this Summer and Fall

Summer I: PSS 1411

Fall 2010: PSS 1411, 2313, 2330, 3323, 4335, 5331, 5232, 6001

PSS Contacts

- Contact Katie Leigh (katie.leigh@ttu.edu, 806-742-1627) for questions related to admission
- Contact Dr. Cynthia McKenney (cynthia.mckenney@ttu.edu, 806-742-2854) for questions related to degree program structure
- Contact your advisor or Sylvia Garcia (sylvia.garcia@ttu.edu, 806-742-2797) for advising or registration questions.
- You may also contact Dr. Tom Thompson, Department Chair (thomas.thompson@ttu.edu, 806-742-2838)

If you wish to be removed from this Mailing list please contact Katie Leigh



Department of Plant and Soil Science
PO Box 42122
Lubbock, Texas 79409-2122
806.742.2838 phone
806.742.0775 fax

www.pssc.ttu.edu