



December 2010

Calendar of Events

- January 7:**
Full payment of tuition due or payment plan due
- January 11:**
Last day to register or withdraw from University without penalty
- January 12:**
First day of class for Spring
- January 17:**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- January 18:**
Last day to add a course
- January 28:**
Last day to drop a course without penalty and receive refund
- February 1:**
Scholarship deadline
- February 2:**
Payment Plan Required or will be dropped from courses
- February 9:**
Last day to withdraw from TTU and receive partial refund
- March 12-20:**
Spring Break Holiday
- March 23:**
Last day to drop with penalty
- April 28:**
Last day to withdraw from TTU
- May 3:**
Last class day for Spring 2011
- May 5-10:**
Final Exams
- May 13-14:**
Commencement
- May 27:**
Full payment for Sum 1 due
- May 30:**
Memorial Day Holiday
- June 1:**
First day of class for Summer 1
- June 2:**
Last day to add a course
- June 6:**
Last day to drop without penalty
- June 21:**
Last day to drop with penalty
- June 28:**
Last day to withdraw from TTU
- June 30:**
Last day of class for Summer 1
- July 1-2**
Final exams

Faculty & Staff



Thomas Thompson, PhD
Department Chair



Cynthia McKenney, EdD
Distance Program Leader



Thayne Montague, PhD
Undergraduate Program Leader



Peter Dotray, PhD
Outreach Program Leader and Advisor



Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe it's already the end of the year! We hope you've had a great semester and have successfully finished all of your finals. 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.

New Proctoring Policy in effect starting Spring 2011 semester

The Department of Plant and Soil Science now requires that each distance student choose a proctor for the current semester before the end of the 1st week of classes.

"Proctors must be approved by the instructor. A list of college test centers that proctor exams is available at www.ncta-testing.org/cctc (click on find a participant; click on the state in which you need to find a testing location). Additional professionals eligible to proctor exams are academic counselors, librarians, military education officers or other pre-approved full-time education professionals. All proctors have a responsibility to facilitate fairness and maintain the academic integrity of the testing process. Therefore, the proctor may not have a personal relationship with the student. Any proctoring fees are the responsibility of the student and these fees will vary. However, the average range is \$20-\$40 per exam."

Degree Plan required for Masters students

Each Graduate student is required to submit a Degree Plan to the Graduate School before the end of their first semester. A degree plan is a list of classes that you have already taken and plan to take before you graduate from Texas Tech, this should be 36 hours, not including leveling classes. You should contact your major advisor about the classes you should take in future semesters. You can find the guidelines and template here <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/current/DegPlanDeadlines.php> Sylvia Garcia will also need a copy of the degree plan for your folder Sylvia.garcia@ttu.edu, Phone: 806-742-2797, Fax: 806-742-0775

Don't forget to apply for scholarships!!!

Every Texas Tech student; undergraduate, graduate, distance and on-campus is eligible to apply for scholarships. If you are an entering freshman with zero hours you need to apply at the applytexas.org website before February 1st, if you are a transfer student you have till March 1st and all current undergraduate and graduate students have till February 1st. Please visit our website for more detailed information <http://www.pssc.ttu.edu/ProspStudent/financial.php>

Plant and Soil Science Distance Student Scholarship Policy

All students must apply for scholarships by their designated date and take at least two PSS classes in the Fall and Spring semester, or classes that are directed by your advisor.

How do I access my class?

Once you are registered for classes you will need to access Texas Tech's online Blackboard system www.blackboard.ttu.edu Blackboard is an online resource for each class you will take, posting things such as the syllabus, quizzes, assignments and lecture videos, individually for each class. You should be able to access Blackboard on the first day of class January 12, 2011, classes will not be available before this date!

If you are having a problem with any of your classes and haven't heard from your professor by the first week of class, please contact Cynthia McKenney cynthia.mckenney@ttu.edu

Want to Study Abroad?

This summer the Department of Plant and Soil Science is offering a Study Abroad opportunity to all of you Horticulture and Garden enthusiasts. Dr. Cynthia McKenney will be taking a group to Spain during the Maymester. Participants will fly to Madrid where we will stay 4 days visiting the Sabatini Gardens, Royal Botanical Gardens and the old town of Segovia and its Aqueducts which have been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. We will then travel to Granada to visit the World Heritage Site of Alhambra and the beautiful gardens near the Darro river. Next the tour will travel to Seville to see the Real Alcazar de Seville and its gardens end with a trip to Cordoba where we will visit an olive oil production facility. Come join us on this not to be missed garden tour! <http://www.pssc.ttu.edu/gardens/default.php>





Richard Zartman, PhD
Associate Chair and Advisor



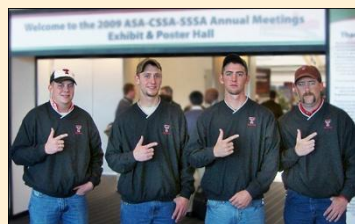
Katie Leigh Meeks
Recruiting Coordinator



Sylvia Garcia
Assistant Advisor



Floral Design project by our students



2009 Agronomy Quiz Bowl National
Championship Team



Cotton research tour



Wildflower Seed Project and
Horticulture Masters student



Open boll of Cotton

Don't by-pass Ethics!

Please refer to the "Code of Student Conduct" for further information regarding cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts and others.

http://www.depts.ttu.edu/dos/docs/2010_2011_Handbook_and_Code.pdf

Need books..... no problem

Visit the Texas Tech Bookstore for all textbooks related to class
www.texastech.bkstore.com

Bayer CropScience Research Contribution

At a press conference held on May 4, 2010, Bayer CropScience announced a contribution of \$7.5 million to the Department of Plant and Soil Science. The contribution is to support new research on cotton fibers and to facilitate construction of a new Plant and Soil Science building. The contribution is eligible for a full funding match through the Texas Research Incentive Program, doubling the amount of funds received by the department. Thus, the total funds coming to PSS were \$15 million, the largest in the department's history.

More Exciting News for PSS

- 139 undergraduates majoring in Environmental Crop and Soil Sciences and Horticultural and Turfgrass Sciences
- 99 graduate students
- 60 students currently enrolled in distance degree programs
- We offer the only undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Viticulture and Enology in Texas, offered online, beginning Fall 2011
- Competitive grants by PSS faculty during FY 2010: \$6.1 million
- Ranking among TTU departments for research grant funding: 2nd
- Scholarships awarded 2010-11: \$76,000
- In the last 3 years PSS enrollment has grown by 60%, highest in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Chat with the Chair

As our department continues to grow in student enrollment and in research productivity, our degree programs at a distance will continue to be important for our department's future. Currently, one of every four PSS students in enrolled in a distance degree program. Based on current rates of admission, I expect this percentage to grow. Two-thirds of PSS faculty members are directly involved in distance education, and this number continues to grow! Recently, our department received a \$65,000 grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture that will help us to put most of our Viticulture and Enology courses online, beginning Fall 2011. I want every "distance" PSS student to know that these programs are important for the future of our department, and we are committed to providing superior educational programs at a distance. Please contact me if I can be of assistance!

Dr. Tom Thompson

Success as a Distance Student

Hi my name is Vicki and I live in Missouri... but because of the miracle of technology, I am a distance education student at Texas Tech University! There are several reasons why I chose the on-line Master's in Horticulture degree program at Texas Tech. I love that the Tech program concentrates on horticulture, not just on soil science, like some of the other distance learning programs. I love how responsive the faculty and staff have been to my countless questions as I went through the application process and then as I have enrolled as a student. I love the fact that Tech is participating in the new "Ag Ideas" consortium of horticulture schools so I can take course work at other universities without having to enroll at those different institutions and it will count towards my master's program. I love the flexibility of an online program so I can fit lectures and course work around my complicated life. I also love that if my family needs to relocate, I can continue my education as long as I have an internet connection. I am excited to be a part of Texas Tech and how furthering my education will help me attain my long term career goals.



Distance Courses Offered this Spring, Summer and Fall 2011

Spring 2011: PSS 2312, 3421, 4314/5317, 4336/5335, 4411, 5231,5371,5377,6301

Summer 2011: PSS 1411,3309

Fall 2011: 1411, 2314, 2330, 3310, 3323, 4335/5331, 4313/5316 4421/5329, 5334, 5376

Class descriptions: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/officialpublications/courses/PSS.php>

PSS Contacts

- Contact Katie Leigh Meeks (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 Meeks



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