



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Department of Plant
and Soil Science

OCTOBER 2010
SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER



RESEARCH AND
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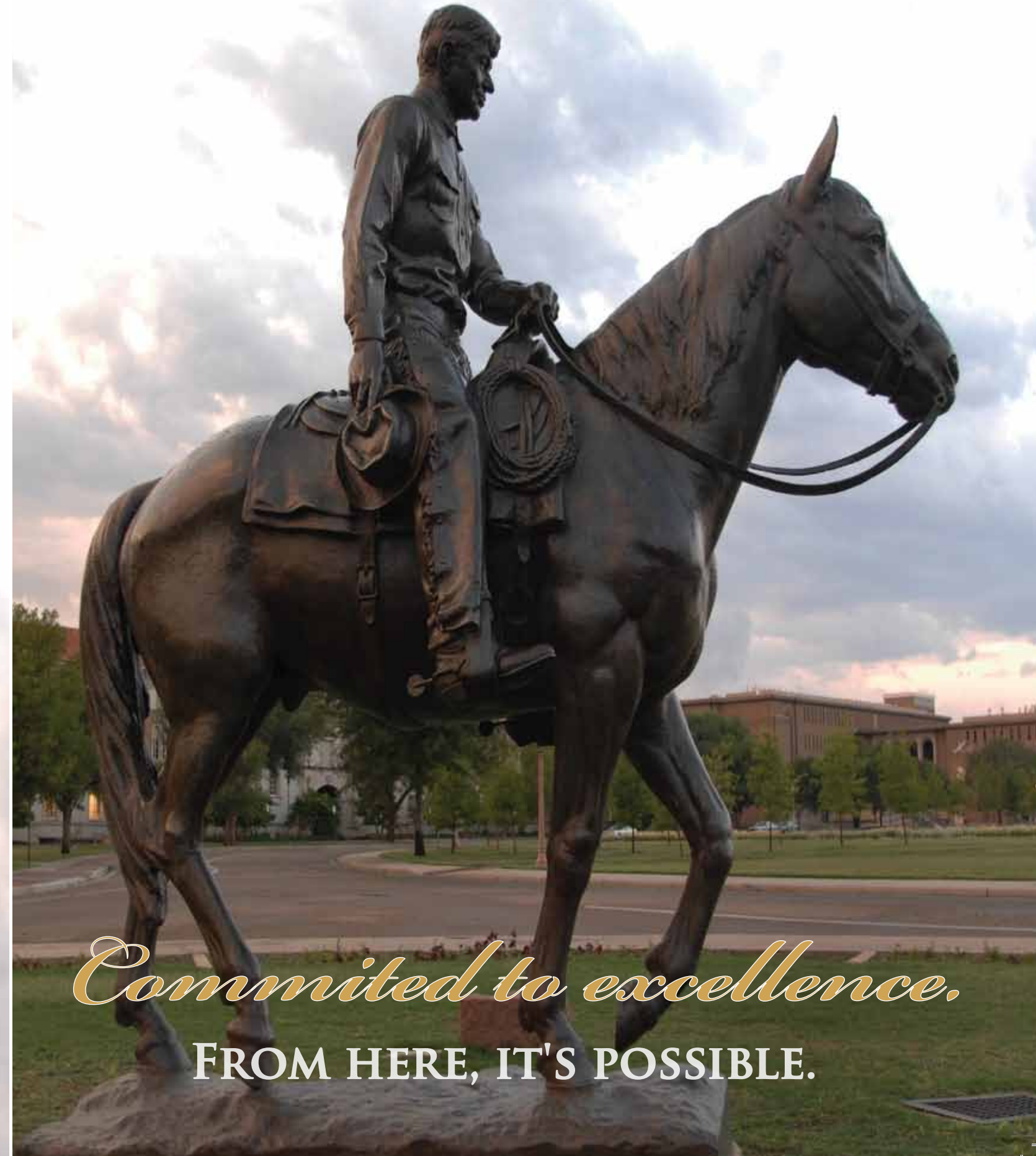
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Committed to excellence.

FROM HERE, IT'S POSSIBLE.

Department of PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCE

WELCOME



This is a time of unprecedented change for Texas Tech University, with the drive to achieve National Research University (Tier 1) status and to grow enrollment to 40,000 by 2020. The transition to a new budgeting model - "Responsibility Center Management" next year will also result in far-reaching changes in resource allocation at TTU. Through all of these changes and challenges, PSS is growing with the university and doing its part. The 2009-2010 academic year has been outstanding for PSS, and the coming year looks promising as well. During the past year, we have seen even more growth in student numbers - in fact, during the past three years the numbers of undergraduate and graduate majors in PSS has grown by 60%, the highest in CASNR. We now have more than 60 students enrolled in our distance degree programs, fully 25% of all student enrollment in PSS. During the 2010 fiscal year, which just ended, our faculty brought in \$6.1 million in sponsored research funds, the highest ever for PSS and 2nd among all departments in TTU. We received a \$7.5 million contribution from Bayer CropScience, and \$7.5 million in state matching funds. This has created a new research partnership with Bayer and will provide funds toward a new PSS building.

Although many changes are upon us, and the budget climate is less than promising, we remain committed to providing the very best in education and individual attention for our students. Our department is stronger than than ever, and our faculty will, as always, "do whatever it takes" to move the department forward.

Tom Thompson
PSS Department Chair



2010 HIGHLIGHTS...

PSS RECEIVES 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.

Of the \$15 million received, \$10 million will be allocated to support research, focusing on developing cotton with improved fiber properties. The remaining \$5 million will go toward a new Plant and Soil Science building that is still in the planning stages.

MORE EXCITING ACOMPLISHMENTS FOR PSS

- 139 undergraduates majoring in Environmental Crop and Soil Sciences and Horticultural and Turfgrass Sciences
- 99 graduate students (62 M.S., 37 Ph.D.)
- 60 students enrolled in distance degree programs
- Competitive grants by PSS faculty during FY 2010: \$6.1 million
- Horticulture Club, 2nd Place at Southern Region Horticulture Society meetings
- Agronomy Club, National Agronomy Quiz Bowl Champions for the third year in a row!
- Only undergraduate and graduate programs in Viticulture and Enology in Texas
- A new Distinguished Lecture Series began in Sept. 2010
- The Dr. George Tereskovich Outstanding Dissertation Award will be given annually to the best dissertation by a PSS graduate (\$5,000)



GETTING TO KNOW US...

NEW PEOPLE

Lori Walraven,
a Lubbock area native, joined PSS in April 2009 as Lead Account Processor.

Teresa Davis,
also a Lubbock area native, joined PSS in December 2009 as Senior Business Assistant.

Diann Merriman,
a Texas Tech graduate who recently moved back to the Lubbock area, joined PSS in December 2009 as Administrative Business Assistant.

Jennifer Simek,
a Lubbock native and Texas A&M graduate joined PSS in February as Manager of the Greenhouses and Gardens.



SOME NUMBERS

- Scholarships awarded 2010-11: \$76,000
- Endowed Chairs and Professorships: 6
- Grant funding for PSS during fiscal year 2010: \$6.1 Million - A NEW RECORD!
- Ranking among TTU departments for research grant funding: 2nd.
- 27 Faculty, 23 scientific and administrative staff, 139 undergraduate and 99 graduate students.



FUTURE PLANS...

Our strategic plan can be found at: <http://www.pssc.ttu.edu/strategicplan/PSSStrategicPlan.pdf>.



GOALS

- Grow student enrollment to 150 undergraduates and 85 graduate students.
- Increase scholarship endowment by \$1,000,000.
- Award more than \$100,000 in scholarships each year to PSS students.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Let us hear from you! It means so much to us to know that our friends and alumni are thinking of us.
- Give! We rely on the generosity of friends and alumni for scholarships and other special initiatives. Current tax-deductible giving opportunities include:
PSS Scholarship Fund:
www.pssc.ttu/giving/PSS_scholarship.com

MORE INFORMATION...

- To receive our bi-monthly newsletter, please call 806-742-2838 or email: thomas.thompson@ttu.edu.
- Find out the latest news and information about PSS at www.pssc.ttu.edu
- Please come by our departmental office at the Plant Sciences building on campus in room 263. We will be glad to show you around.