

Profiles



Department of Soil Science
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

JUN 2021 VOL. 12 NO.2

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Spring is here and like every spring, we are glad to resume work, to go back to the field, and start something new. As part of the departmental mission, I will highlight two new activities that came to fruition despite the pandemic and budget cuts.

In August 2019, the college handed over the responsibility of the Soil and Forage Analysis Laboratory (SFAL) in Marshfield to our department. Testing and consultation services provided by the SFAL are important to many state agencies, agricultural producers, and the general public with an increased interest in soil health. I am pleased to report that SFAL will now be part of the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH) which is also within the UW-Madison. Given the strong relationship with Wisconsin State Agencies and its focus on human and environmental health, WSLH is a natural home for SFAL. The laboratory will move to Madison in September 2021 and no interruption in analytical services are foreseen.

Secondly, after more than two years of planning, we are launching a new MS program in Environmental Remediation and Management in the Fall of 2021. This program will prepare professionals to solve environmental contamination problems at commercial and industrial sites. These solutions improve environmental and community health and facilitate sustainable growth and revitalize urban centers. This MS program has been designed as a logical sequel to our successful BS in Environmental Sciences that now has well over 150 students enrolled. It further strengthens our research and education in environmental soil science.

From all of us in soils in Madison, we thank you for all your support during the past year, and we are looking forward seeing you in person when all is safe and sound. On Wisconsin soils!

Alfred Hartemink
Chair

LEO M. WALSH DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP



Left: 2021 guest presenter Dr. Jirka Simunek; Center: emeritus professor Leo Walsh;
Right: Dr. Simunek at Uhuru Peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania



Although things are not quite back to normal, the department was delighted to host, albeit virtually, the **Leo M. Walsh Distinguished Lectureship** after last year's hiatus. Dr. Jirka Simunek, Professor and Hydrologist in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of California-Riverside was our guest presenter. His presentation entitled, "Modeling vadose zone processes using HYDRUS and its specialized modules," was well received by the faculty, staff, and students in attendance.

The lectureship is made possible by the generosity of Leo Walsh and the Leo M. Walsh Distinguished Lectureship in Soil Science Fund.

ANTIGO SILT LOAM

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STAFF PROFILE: EDWARD BOSWELL

Ed Boswell is the program developer and manager for the new MS in Environmental Remediation and Management degree program in the Department of Soil Science. In this role, Ed designed and developed four new Soil Science courses (SOIL SCI 330, 430, 630, and 730) and taught SOIL SCI 430 in the fall of 2020. Currently he is marketing the program, recruiting students, and reviewing admissions for the fall of 2021. He has also taught SOIL SCI 230, 695, co-taught SOIL SCI 301 and has enjoyed partial appointments in BSE and the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture.

Ed earned a B.S. and M.S. from Penn State University in the 1990's, took a "short break" from academics, and returned to earn a Ph.D. in Soil Science with Nick Balster in 2018. In the interim, he was a stay at home dad for his 3 children (2 of which are UW-Madison students), ran a construction company, and got far too involved in multiple hobbies: Ironman Triathlon, fly fishing, and home brewing, to name a few. Nowadays, the list has been pared back to playing music in three local bands, never-ending home improvement projects, working on cars, and cooking.



STUDENT PROFILE: GLORIA AMBROWIAK



Gloria Ambrowiak grew up in Wisconsin and joined the Soil Science Department as an undergrad in 2009. Looking for a place to study science with practical applications to the environment, she felt right at home. After graduating, she went to Oregon State University for a master's degree in soil science, and stayed there for five years to work in, and eventually manage, the Crop and Soil Science Central Analytical Laboratory/Soil Health Laboratory. She always thought that phosphorus was more interesting than soil scientists on the west coast gave it credit for, so she was very excited at the opportunity to come back to UW-Madison to study phosphorus for a PhD. In particular, she is working with Francisco Arriaga and Matt Ginder-Vogel (Environmental Chemistry and Technology) on phosphorus speciation and bioavailability in agricultural soils and runoff through a Hatch-funded project. Though she will miss the waterfalls of Oregon, she is happy to be back in the Midwest, and is looking forward to getting reacquainted with all that Wisconsin has to offer.

RECENT GRADUATES

Dougherty, Sarah J. - BS, 2021

Stevenson, Annalisa R. - BS, 2021

Walters, Alexandra M. - MS, 2021

Soil Science (Ruark)

Quantifying biological N fixation in soybean on irrigated sandy soil.

WELCOME

Gloria Ambrowiak

(Research Assistant, Arriaga)

Kate Burgener

(Research Assistant, Pedersen)

Lucas Chamberlain

(Research Assistant, Freedman and Ruark)

Emmanuel Vazquez-Rivera

(Research Associate, Freedman)

OUR SUPPORTERS

12/01/2020 to 5/15/2021

Dr. and Ms. Beaver

Dr. and Mrs. Bowling

Professor and Dr. Brown

Dr. and Ms. Checkai

Mr. Cole

Dr. and Ms. Comfort

Mr. Daniels

Mr. and Ms. Davies

Mr. and Mrs. Duffy

Dr. and Ms. Frazier

Ms. Gallagher and Mr. Shadis

Professor Hartemink

Dr. Hobson

Professor Hoefft

Mr. Hole

Dr. and Ms. Iskandar

Mr. and Ms. Kapp

Dr. Kalenak and Ms. Muldowney

Mr. Karlen and Ms. Beck

Mr. and Ms. Kauffeld

Professor and Mrs. Kelling

Professor Kirkham

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Ms. Laszewski

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Mr. Mulcahy

Ms. Olson

Dr. Saeed

Professor Soldat

Professor Emeritus Sommers and Dr. Sommers

Dr. Stites and Ms. Beverstock

Dr. and Professor Swan

Professor Ventura and Ms. Krome

Mr. Wenzel

Wisconsin Agri-Business Association

Dr. Yuan and Hao

Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Will Bleam is set to retire this August. Will joined the UW-Madison, Department of Soil Science faculty in August 1988. Over the years he has taught numerous courses in the area of soil chemistry and mentored numerous students. All will miss his expertise and easy-going, friendly disposition. We wish Will the very best in retirement!

Carrie Laboski will be completing her Soil Science Society of America role as the the Agricultural Soil and Food Systems Group Representative to become the President-elect beginning January 1, 2022. The department applauds her dedication and commitment to this society.

The S. A. Wilde Early Career Achievement Award was presented to **Thea Whitman**. The award recognizes significant accomplishments in forest, range, or wildland soil research by an individual up to seven years post completion of a terminal degree program. Her presentation was titled, "Burning questions: Investigating the effects of fire on soil microbes."

Jingyi Huang has been awarded a 2021 Summer Agricultural Research Stations (ARS) Internship Award for "Soil moisture monitoring at the Hancock Agricultural Research Station using novel sensor technologies." This internship program fosters relationships between CALS departments and station personnel while providing UW-Madison undergraduate students an opportunity to become involved in research and station activities as they consider their career path.



Dr. Jingyi Huang and Associate Research Specialist Miranda Sikora in the field.

This year's recipient of the CALS Excellence in International Activities Award is **Alfred Hartemink**. The award recognizes an individual engaged in international research, instruction, outreach, program development, or service.

The **Lloyd A. Anstutz Scholarship in Soil Science** was recently established by the Lloyd A. Anstutz Trust. The scholarship honors its namesake's life work on his family farm in Deerbrook, WI and provides two awards to current graduate students studying for a soil science MS or PhD degree. The recipients of these scholarships are XXXXX XXXXX (MS/PhD, ADVISOR) and XXXXX XXXXX (MS/PhD, ADVISOR).

Emeritus professor **John Harkin** passed away on January 6, 2021. His illustrious career as an organic chemist, educator, and researcher began in 1954. He joined the UW-Madison, Department of Soil Science and Water Resource Center faculty in 1973, and served for 26 years. Additionally, he served as the Associate Director of the Environmental Toxicology Center from 1983 until his retirement in 1999.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Karl Jennrich (BS, 1990) and **Mary Rasmussen (BS, 1988)** will be celebrating 30 years of marriage after having met in soil science and speech classes. Mary has retired from the USDA Forest Service after working there for 32 years. She continues to fight fires and is a public information officer for a Type I Incident Command team.

Shannon Plunkett (MS, 2018) received an NSF Graduate Education Fellowship. She is working at the USEPA Corvallis Research Facility now and will start graduate school for her PhD in the Fall 2021.

Department of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

I/we wish to join other students/alumni, industry, and friends in enhancing the teaching, research, and outreach programs in the Department of Soil Science by contributing as indicated below.

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Online donation is available on our website <http://soils.wisc.edu/alumni-friends/>

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Alumni Update

We'd love to hear from you! Please complete and return this form
or send your updates via email to: jgarvin2@wisc.edu

Name: _____

Degree(s) and Year(s): BS () MS () PhD () _____

Home Address: _____

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