Reported Deaths

James Edward Brewer

Dr. James Brewer passed away on 27 July 2009. He was born in Philadelphia, PA, and received a two-year certificate in ornamental horticulture from Penn State University before entering the Navy in 1941. After World War II he completed a BS degree in horticulture from Penn State and spent four years in production and sales with DeKalb Nurseries, Inc., before obtaining a MS degree at the University of Rhode Island. He spent four years in the Department of Horticulture teaching courses in plant propagation and nursery management. Dr. Brewer returned to Penn State in 1958 as an instructor of ornamental horticulture and, upon receiving a PhD, was promoted to assistant professor in 1963. During his career at Penn State, Dr. Brewer taught courses in arboriculture, nursery management, garden center management and special problems in horticulture. He advised all the students in the nursery management option in the 2-year Winter Course program.

Dr. Brewer introduced innovative teaching techniques, such as the auto-tutorial method of teaching plant materials, and developed tape recordings along with specimens of live material combined with 35-mm color slides to supplement traditional lecture/laboratory teaching methods. He also performed research on the time, frequency, and method of pruning ornamental evergreens and studied the relationship of hardiness and nutrition of woody ornamental plants related to shade conditions. He also taught courses at the New View program of the Rockview Correctional Institution. In recognition for his teaching, research, advising, and service to the Penn State Hort Club, the 1975 Hort Show was dedicated to Dr. Brewer.

Dr. Brewer was a member of the American Society for Horticultural Science, American Institute of Biological Science, International Society for Horticultural Science, International Plant Propagators Society, American Horticultural Society, Botanical Society of America, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Pi Alpha Xi, Phi Epsilon Phi, and Gamma Sigma Delta.

After 25 years of service to Penn State University, Dr. Brewer retired in 1983 and remained in State College, PA. He is survived by his wife, Florence, and three daughters, Lucinda B. McHolme, Ann Brewer, and Eva B. Hunerlach. Memorial contributions may be made to the Horticulture Alumni Group Scholarship, The Pennsylvania State University, One Old Main, University Park, PA 16802. Please write "In memory of James Brewer" in the memo line on your check.

RICHARD P. MARINI

Department of Horticulture
Pennsylvania State University
University Park

Greg Mullins

Gregory L. Mullins, 53, passed away on 18 July 2009. Greg was an inspirational and deeply appreciated Head of the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences in his tenure at New Mexico State University. His leadership will be sorely missed within the college as well as the department.

Greg's life was devoted to church, family, and profession. He was born 12 Dec. 1955 in Manassas, VA. He graduated from Berea College with a BS in agriculture in 1979, Virginia Tech with a MS in soil chemistry/fertility in 1979, and Purdue with a PhD in soil chemistry/fertility in 1985.

From 1985 to 1999, Greg was a professor of nutrient management and soil chemistry at

Auburn University, where he focused on the P and K fertilization of a variety of crops as well as basic and applied aspects of waste application to soils. Greg enjoyed teaching the undergraduate basic soils course and a graduate fertility course as well as the advising of both graduate and undergraduate students. Most meaningful to Greg was the awards presented to him by students for Teacher of the Year in the department and Teacher of the Year in the college.

Greg joined the faculty of the Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences Department of Virginia Tech as a professor and nutrient management specialist in 1999, where he assumed a joint extension and research appointment. At Virginia Tech he took on new responsibilities and administrative roles as the extension leader and coordinator in the department and faculty liaison/supervisor of the Virginia Soil Testing Laboratory.

In 2005, Greg became the Department Head of the Plant and Environmental Sciences Department at New Mexico State University because of his appreciation, leadership roles, and experiences in all three missions of a land-grant university.

Greg was a fellow in both the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America, where he was well known and highly respected. He held several leadership roles within the activities of S-4 and S-7 divisions, including past chair of S-4 and technical editor of S-4 and S-7 divisions of the SSSAJ.

He is survived by his wife, Iris; his mother, Winnie; daughter, Sarah, and her husband, Nathan; son, Tenil, and his wife Lauren; three sisters and two brothers.

G.A. PICCHIONI

Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences
New Mexico State University, Las Cruces