Jim Scott’s recruiting speech sounds like a commercial for the Peace Corps: “Build a golf course, it’s the toughest job you’ll ever love.”

Scott, BS ’87, had built just two golf courses before returning home to Purdue in 1995. As superintendent of the Purdue golf complex, he would oversee construction of what is to be the finest collegiate golf facility in the country.

But to complete the task and open the course by the summer of 1998, Scott needed to talk fast to assemble a work crew. He needed students willing to work very hard. Students who wanted to learn about building a course while putting a lot of sweat equity into course designer Pete Dye’s vision and Jim Scott’s dream. All before returning to classes in the fall of 1997.

“I told them that building this golf course would be the toughest job they would ever have,” Scott says. The golf course formerly known as North would become the Kampen Course in honor of its principal benefactor, Emerson Kampen, who died in 1996.

But this was not a change-the-name, put-up-a-sign-and-be-done-with-it type project. This was to be the Michael Jackson of facelifts. Last summer, the crew of 32 students built 22 greens by hand. It was hot, it was dry and was it ever dusty. Sod had been stripped off the course in November 1996, and most of the ground was bare. Speeding golf carts sent dust funneling into the and August sky like the wake rolling off the prow of a boat.

Scott was there this winter when 6,800 trees had to be planted in the muck of semi-frozen topsoil. And, still, he is amazed at what he has seen.

“We haven’t really moved that much soil (about 300,000 cubic yards of soil, compared to upwards of 1 million cubic yards for some course projects), but to see what was there, and to see what is there now is just mind-boggling,” he says.

But the work paid off. Of the 10 courses under construction in Indiana, the Kampen Course was the only one to be completely seeded in the fall.

“All the work was done by people right here at Purdue,” says Scott, who built Wellington Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Fla., and Juday Creek in Granger, Ind., before taking the superintendent’s job at Purdue in 1995.

“Guys on pay loaders, pavers, dozers, backhoes, rakes, shovels...work done by Purdue students. Those kids didn’t get a break. Some of them were putting in 90-hour work weeks. They can look back in 50 years and say, ‘Hey, I built this golf course.’ This wasn’t done by a construction company from Timbuktu. It was hard work and the days were long. But each of them can say ‘I did this.’ And there is a lot of pride in saying that.”

Any short list of the top course designers in the world would include the name Pete Dye. Golf World Magazine named him golf course architect of the year in 1994. Crooked Stick, Brickyard Crossing, the TPC at Jacksonville and PGA West are just four designer jewels that sparkle on Dye’s crown. Ryder Cups, U.S. Opens, PGA Championships and Tour events are held on his courses.

Some of his most notorious holes have even graced beverage cans and clothing apparel. Grown men and women plan vacations just to play his courses.

Dye also is noted for designing courses that are environmentally safe, utilizing native flora to protect surrounding lands and waters from herbicide and pesticide runoff.

“One of the thrills of working with a great university like Purdue is knowing that the course we build is going to be more than just a place to play golf,” Dye says. “It will be a teaching environment, a research laboratory and a nature preserve.”

The fact that Dye donated his $1 million design fee for the Kampen project has put Scott under the gun. He knows he is expected to produce the finest collegiate golf facility in the United States. That pressure has caused many a sleepless night.

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“All of the hype
and all of the expectations for the golf course are now resting on my shoulders to produce the course that Pete Dye wants, that the community expects,” Scott says.

Scott now keeps a notepad and pencil on the night stand to jot down middle-of-the-night ideas that refuse to wait until morning.

“Pete is a tough designer,” Scott says. “He is extravagant.”

During one 10-day stretch last summer, Dye changed the design of the 16th hole four times— whenever and wherever the mood struck him. Scott received some of the changes sketched out on the back of a restaurant napkin.

“Hold the phone,” Dye would say. “I got it! I got it!” And with the snap of a finger, a freeway bump and two greenside bunkers were added.

“We weren’t falling behind, but we still had 17 holes to do,” Scott says. “I want this to be the best. My parents told me, ‘I don’t care if you want to be a garbage man, just be the best garbage man you can be.’ I got a lot of pride and self-esteem from my parents to drive me that way, and that’s what I want for this course, to be the best it can be.”

Scott boasts that the new course will not only get a lot of publicity in golfing circles, but will change the geographic makeup of the Purdue campus.

“For so long, it seemed like this golf course was way out here on the edge of campus,” Scott says “It wasn’t involved, it wasn’t part of the university. But now, I feel that for a lot of people, this is a very big part of the university. This will be the focal point for a lot of students and for a lot of student activities.

“Students come out here for classes and walk the course, looking at things and understanding that there is more to golf than just going out and hitting a golf ball.”

In fact, it is Scott’s desire to get as many students interested in the golf complex as possible.

“Every department, every school at Purdue, could do something on the Birck Boilermaker (the name for the combined North and South course complex) golf courses,” he says. “Let’s put this back into a learning situation like it should be. I’ve opened it up and said you can do whatever you need to do.”

But he does draw the line.

“Just don’t kill my turf.”

The seventh hole features two separate fairways divided by a huge bunker. Course superintendent Jim Scott, walking by the tee box, says golfers will periodically switch fairways to accommodate ongoing research projects.

2

Purdue students build dream, one hole at a time

by Tom Campbell

Purdue junior Linda Oxenrider has never been much of a golf fan. She always considered golf an expensive, time-consuming and unproductive foray among the fairways.

“I always thought golf was a really stupid game, just chasing a ball around,” Oxenrider says. “I always thought I would be horrible at it. But now, after working on this project, I wish I were a golfer. When this course is completed, I would love to come back and try to play it.”

Her newfound interest in golf was kindled by a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity provided by the Landscape Architecture 325 (Planting Design) curriculum. Instructor Rene Heynssens challenged her students to develop a master planting plan for the Kampen Course project. One-third of their grade would depend on what kind of a planting plan they could develop for the golf course remodeling project.

The idea to incorporate the golf course into her curriculum sprang from a conversation Heynssens had with faculty member Bruno Moser, who served on a committee to discuss how researchers could use the Kampen course to their benefit.

“There would be no pressure that it would have to be built this way,” Heynssens says. “We could pick and choose the different aspects of the course we wanted to develop. I thought this was a great idea, the perfect scale for one of our projects.”

Heynssens spent hours on the golf course last summer. She walked the course hole by hole, scrambling over soil mounds, around the mud and through bunkers, taking photographs to share with her class. She borrowed every book on golf course design the library had to offer.

To get a better feel for what legendary course designer Pete Dye was trying to create with the Kampen Course, she read his biography, “Bury Me in a Pot Bunker.”

She provided her students a smorgasbord of information.

Heynssens called in School of Agriculture faculty to share their expertise. Forestry specialist Rita McKenzie provided a list of plants native to Tippecanoe County that helped students select trees and plants. Wildlife expert Harmon Weeks followed Pete Dye’s original plans by using trees and flowers would lead people into the course. They followed Pete Dye’s original plans by using trees and plants native to Indiana.

“We used native species around the clubhouse as well,” Oxenrider says. “Not everybody who goes to the golf course is going to play golf. The clubhouse will probably be the site of social activities, too. We wanted people to see how these native plants can be used in an ornamental setting as well as in the wild.”

Storey grew up across the street from a golf course. Watching the course change from one year to the next provided a perspective she carried over into her design plan. Storey wanted to utilize the six distinct ecosystems found within the golf course—woodlands, tall-grass prairie, meadow, short-grass prairie, wetland and oak savannah—then give them the time necessary to become established on the course.

“A prairie takes three to five years to start and another 30 years to see if specific species will develop,” Storey says. “It’s difficult for people to think that far into the future.”

“Purdue is going to be here forever. If it is an idea that people express excitement about, perhaps they will pass it on to the next generation of leaders. Purdue will be here, but it is the people here now who are going to have to do it. It is an
Ron Rice knew all along what he wanted to do with his life. He grew up working in his father’s creameries, first in North Manchester, Ind., and later in Kewanna, Ind.

As a boy, Rice remembers cleaning milk bottles by hand. In the days before paper and plastic containers and the neighborhood Village Pantry made the milkman a memory, cleaning bottles was a dangerous job. His fingers are still scarred from broken bottles retrieved from the bottom of the soapy wash tanks. But while his hands may have admired his honesty, but his answers, too. Rice got an offer for a job as a management trainee at the company’s State Avenue dairy in Cincinnati, Ohio.

“Kroger said they had some big plans in the dairy business, so I said I’d work there for about five years, get the experience, then move on to one of the big independent dairies, like a Borden’s or a Sealytest.”

At least that was the plan. But Rice says something kept getting in the way of his leaving. “They kept promoting me,” he says, laughing.

First to general foreman of Kroger’s Dayton, Ohio, dairy in 1960, then to production superintendent at their Springfield, Ohio, dairy in 1965. In 1967, Rice was promoted to plant manager of the old Indianapolis dairy. There he oversaw the construction of what was then the largest dairy in the United States.

In 1973, Rice was promoted to Kroger’s corporate offices as director of operations, dairy foods division. He became division vice president in 1974.

In 1986, Rice was promoted to president, dairy/bakery division. He became Kroger’s senior vice president and president of manufacturing in 1992. Rice travels two to three days per week, overseeing 28 manufacturing facilities in 24 states. “It’s like I told Purdue students recently when I was part of the Old Masters program,” Rice says. “I woke up one day and suddenly 40 years had passed by. And I’m still here.”

Through Old Masters and the School of Agriculture’s Distinguished Alumni programs, Rice maintains regular contact with the West Lafayette campus. He currently is chairman of the technology committee for ALLIANCE ’98, raising funds for the new 120,000-square foot Food Science Building, to be dedicated later this year.

ALLIANCE ’98 is the Food Science Department’s effort to secure funding for future needs and growth by forging alliances with alumni, the food industry and private foundations. All it took was a phone call from Food Science Department Head Phil Nelson to convince Rice to volunteer his time as a fund-raiser. “I guess he just figured I wasn’t doing enough,” Rice jokes. “So I said yes.”

Nelson says: “Ron exemplifies the commitment and loyalty of Purdue alumni who have achieved significant personal success and now wish to give back to Purdue.”

Rice’s committee has raised more than $700,000 in laboratory sponsorships for the new building. Rice attributes his success as a fund-raiser to his love of making a sale. It started back in Dayton, Ohio, in 1960. As sales coordinator, Rice helped some of Kroger’s 1,280 retail grocery stores set up sales promotions. That love of closing the deal carries on today, as Rice helps sell Purdue’s Department of Food Science to prospective contributors.

“In letters I’m sending out as a fund-raiser, I tell people Purdue has the biggest and the best food science program in the United States, and I firmly believe that,” Rice says.

Keith Neer believes that, too. Rice convinced Neer to join his ALLIANCE ’98 committee despite the fact that Neer is an Ohio State graduate.

“Ron is a high-energy individual with excellent managerial skills,” says Neer. Kroger’s vice president of corporate food technology and regulatory compliance. For a guy that’s closing on 63, he’s not very typical.

“He continues to pursue the new technology, personal computers and the widespread use of the Internet. Ron has been a driving force and an encouraging factor for a lot of people, and it has paid great dividends.”

Thanks to people like Ron Rice, everyone will be able to see those dividends when the new Food Science Building is unveiled this fall.

“It’s been fun, and I think it’s something we’re making progress on,” Rice says. “It will be something very satisfying and worthwhile when we get it completed.”

The Food Science Building, as seen from the roof of the Whistler Agricultural Research Building, is set for dedication ceremonies in September and October.
Internet: latest way farmers talk over the fence

by Steve Tally

Surveys show that farmers haven’t grabbed hold of the Internet to the extent that the general population has, but many in agriculture expect that to change as the benefits of linking rural farms and businesses electronically become more apparent.

According to a 1997 U.S. Department of Agriculture study, 31 percent of the nation’s farmers have computers in their homes, 20 percent use them for their farm businesses, and 13 percent use the Internet.

David Petritz, assistant director of Purdue University’s Cooperative Extension Service programs, says the Internet is rapidly becoming an important tool for farmers, thanks in large part to the cooperative spirit of farming.

“Farm producers have always learned from each other,” he says. “E-mail and chat boards are just another means of talking across the fence. The farmers will post queries online: ‘Where did you get those slats? How do they work? How do you connect this yield monitor in a cab?’ “Now the coffee shop table has extended to as far as the telephone lines stretch.”

Internet access among farmers ranged from a low of 4 percent in Louisiana and Mississippi to a high of 31 percent in New Jersey.

The survey reported that 37 percent of Indiana farmers have computers, but only 10 percent use the Internet.

Petritz says the rapidly changing world of the Internet makes such surveys difficult to interpret. “I sense a larger proportion of farmers are using the Internet than we suspect,” he says. “Things are changing so quickly that it can be difficult to get a snapshot of it. I suspect that the low price of computers in the past several months has led to a sharp increase in purchases.”

Petritz says that in the near future, farmers will find more reasons for using the Internet. “Agribusiness is increasing use of Web sites for ads and information,” he says.

The Internet also is changing how institutions such as the Cooperative Extension Service do their jobs. “The challenge for the Extension Service is to be part of the race to provide information,” Petritz says. “We’re working hard to see that research-based, scientifically reviewed material is available on the Internet along with all of the hype and spin.”
Purdue's Elliott Hall of most technologically advanced shows realized at Purdue.

Because all her dreams could be realized at Purdue, she no longer needed to go home.

Dorothy captured the golden pitchfork, the source of power for the Wicked Wench of the East, accompanied by the usual cast of characters for the visit to the Great Wizard of Oz.

The audience enjoyed one of the largest fish fry crowds in recent years.

Agriculture to promote food corn in southwest Indiana. His efforts led to the formation of the Gibson County Plot Committee, which hosts local field days and received a Value Added Grant from the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture to promote food corn in southwest Indiana.

In 1997, the committee sponsored the Northwest Food Corn Field Day, which brought nearly 200 food corn processors, specialty grain buyers and corn breeders to Princeton, Ind. Keeneth also supports local and district activities of the Purdue Ag Alumni Association, and in 1997 he secured an agreement with a local auto dealer to make a contribution to the Southwest District Ag Alumni when a local alumni purchases a vehicle from the dealership.

At the annual Purdue Ag Fish Fry, Jan. 23, at the Purdue Armory. While fish fry attendance figures are never exact, it was the largest crowd in recent years to see the show, titled "We're Off...To See the Wizard."

The audience enjoyed one of the largest fish fry crowds in recent years.

Projections and optical illusions were important elements of the show. The Wicked Wench melded into the stage. Improved sound and lighting also added to the audience’s enjoyment, highlighted by performances by Purdue Musical Organizations’ Varsity Glee Club and the Boiler Brass from Purdue Bands.

Dorothy captured the golden pitchfork, the source of power for the Wicked Wench of the East, accompanied by the usual cast of characters for the visit to the Great Wizard of Oz.

The audience enjoyed one of the largest fish fry crowds in recent years.
The Purdue Ag Alumni Association honored four leaders in agriculture by awarding them Certificates of Distinction at the annual Ag Alumni Fish Fry Jan. 23. Certificates were awarded to Bill Baumgardt, director of Purdue’s Agricultural Research Program; Pete Clark, a pork producer; Marvin Phillips, former head of Purdue’s Agronomy Department, and Vance York, a retired Pioneer Hi-Bred executive.

The Certificate of Distinction, the highest award presented by the Purdue Ag Alumni Association, has been given annually since 1938.

Bill Baumgardt

As associate dean and director of agricultural research programs at Purdue University, the recently retired Baumgardt provided leadership to 272 faculty with research expenditures of $45.5 million. Baumgardt earned degrees from Purdue (BS ’55, MS ’56) and Rutgers (PhD ’59) universities.

“Bill is a tireless, unselfish, state-of-the-art person,” says Jack L. Albright of the Indiana Commission of Farm Animal Care. “He epitomizes what the Certificate of Distinction represents by recognizing service to Indiana and our nation’s agriculture above and beyond the call of duty.”

Baumgardt came to Purdue from Penn State University, where he was professor of animal nutrition (1967-80), head of the Department of Dairy and Animal Science (1970-75) and associate director of the Agricultural Research Station and associate dean for research (1979-80).

Baumgardt is a past president (1984-85) and director (1978-81) of the American Dairy Science Association. The group honored Baumgardt in 1993 with its Award of Honor and again in 1997 by naming him a Fellow of the Association.

“Bill grew up on a dairy farm,” recalls H.L. Thacker, director of the Purdue Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories. “He has not forgotten his roots. He has shown remarkable dedication to honoring those roots through service to the agricultural community of this state.”

Pete Clark

Russell J. (Pete) Clark has worked on the family farm near Frankfort, Ind., since 1958, but his impact on agriculture is felt nationwide. Clark has shared his vast knowledge of the pork industry with fellow producers through numerous Extension and pork producer seminars, meetings, workshops and field days.

Clark graduated from Purdue in 1958. After a stint in the Navy, he returned to the 1,200-acre family farm to manage the family’s 200-sow farrow-to-finish operation.

“I know of no one in the state who is more highly respected among his peers,” says Wayne L. Singleton, professor of animal sciences at Purdue. “When tough decisions are needed, industry leaders still consult with him for advice. Simply put, when Pete speaks, people listen.”

Clark was named a Pork All American in 1973. In 1984, he served as president of the Indiana Pork Producers and was named Master Farmer by Prairie Farmer Magazine.

Clark helped organize the Clinton County Pork Producers and served as its president. He currently is a member of the Swine Advisory Committee to the State Animal Health Board, working with the State Veterinarian’s Office establishing animal health regulations for Indiana.

Clark helped establish the Clinton County Area Plan Commission and served on the APC for 12 years.

Marvin Phillips

Marvin W. Phillips, BS ’53, MS ’58, was known for his enthusiasm, positive approach, fairness and dedication to those with whom he worked and for his ability to create and maintain a collegial and supportive environment for scholarly work.

Phillips joined the Agronomy Department at Purdue as assistant professor and Extension soil fertility specialist in 1961. He was promoted to associate professor in 1965, then to professor and assistant department head in 1969. Phillips served as department head from 1971 to 1991.

Phillips has been heavily involved nationally and internationally in the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America. Phillips was active in the United States Department of Agriculture Joint Task Force on Soybean Advancement, National Soybean Crop Improvement Advisory Board and served as a consultant on projects in Brazil, Burkina Faso and Niger.

Retirement in 1994 did not slow Phillips. He served three years as special assistant to the dean of agriculture, where he helped organize Executives in the Classroom, a seminar for seniors in agriculture.

“I cannot remember a single time he ever was too busy to provide our organization with guidance, counsel or any other assistance when we asked,” says Larry Svajgr, executive director of the Indiana Crop Improvement Association.

Vance York

After graduating from Purdue in 1952, York began a 42-year career with Pioneer Hi-Bred International as district sales representative in Mt. Vernon, Ind., From 1957 to 1963, York was the editor of KERNELS magazine. From 1963 to 1973, the Odon, Ind., native was Pioneer’s manager of agronomy services, conducting 30 to 50 meetings per year with farmers to discuss cornrowing techniques.

Until his retirement in 1996, he was manager of Pioneer’s product management group (1989 to 1996) in Des Moines. “Vance was a very dedicated Pioneer employee for 42 years. Besides his contributions to Pioneer, Vance made considerable contributions to Indiana agriculture and to the seed industry,” says Pioneer Vice President Bob Wichmann.

York is past president of three agricultural organizations, the Indiana FFA Foundation, Indiana Seed Trade Association and the American Forage and Grassland Council. He is also a past board member of the Indiana Crop Improvement Association and co-chair of the Indiana 4-H Foundation Corporate Development Council.

York received the Merit Award from the American Forage and Grassland Council. FFA honored his dedication and service with the Honorary American Farmer and Honorary Hoosier Farmer awards, as well as the Distinguished Service Award.

York is treasurer and manager of York Farms Inc. of Worthington, Ind.

Landscape architect earns stamp of approval

Scott Johnston, BS ’94, never wanted to be a starving artist. That’s why the Griffith, Ind., native passed up a scholarship at the prestigious Art Institute of Chicago to pursue a degree as a landscape architect at Purdue.

Johnson is working as a landscape architect for Southern Land Co. of Chattanooga, Tenn., but it is his artwork that is winning acclaim.

As the winner of the annual Albany (Georgia) Sertoma Club stamp contest, Johnston will receive a check for $2,000. Johnson’s drawing of a pair of deer in the Georgia woods will grace the 1998 to 1999 stamp issued to hunters by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Purchasing the $19 stamp allows Georgia residents to use the 1 million acres of Wildlife Management Areas maintained by the state.

“It was really kind of a fun picture to do,” Johnston says.

The Sertoma Club will make 251 prints of Johnston’s original artwork to sell at auctions.

The money raised will pay for hearing checks for children in Dougherty County, Ga.
Forestry and Natural Resources

John Moser, PhD '67, professor of forest biometrics, received the John A. Beale Award from the Society of American Foresters (SAF). The award recognizes Moser's outstanding service to forestry and to the SAF over a sustained period of time.

4-H Youth

Curriculum specialist Susan J. Barkman received the Eric G. Sharvelle Distinguished Extension Specialist award for 1997. The award, given in memory of a professor of botany and plant pathology, honors Barkman for her innovations and creativity as an Extension specialist.

Norman D. Long, BS '64, MS '72, is the winner of the 1997 Hovey Award for Excellence. The award goes to a Purdue staff or faculty member who has made outstanding contributions to the progress of rural Indiana. Long, who retired as associate professor of 4-H Youth March 31, also was named a Sagamore of the Wabash for his dedication to 4-H youth.

Animal Sciences

Jack L. Albright, professor emeritus, and Bill R. Baumgardt, BS '55, MS '56, PhD '59, retired director of Agricultural Research Programs, were named Fellows of the American Dairy Science Association at the annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn. Baumgardt was named Sagamore of the Wabash on Jan. 30.

Bob Elkin, PhD '81, received the American Feed Industry Association Nutrition Research Award at the annual meeting of the Poultry Science Association. Bill Muir, PhD '77, received the Merck Award for Achievement in Poultry Science.

Agricultural Communications

Marti LaChance is the department's instructional designer for the World Wide Web. LaChance had been an editor and Web developer at the University of Nebraska's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. She replaces Karla Embleton.

Randy Spears has been appointed distance learning coordinator. A video producer since 1989, Spears replaces Tom Lumba. Writer/editor Andrea McCann, BS '89, won a 1998 Golden ARC (Agricultural Relations Council) award for her article on food irradiation. The award was presented at the council's annual meeting March 11 in Las Vegas.

Oscar Nagler, BS '88, is an information specialist/editor, who serves the publication and communication needs of Agronomy, Agricultural Research Programs, Biochemistry, Botany and Plant Pathology, and Horticulture and Landscape Architecture. Nagler, who also edits Agricultures Magazine, was the director of communications and development for Area IV Agency on Aging.

Food Science

Philip E. Nelson, BS '56, PhD '67, has received the United States Department of Agriculture Secretary's Honor. Nelson was recognized for personal and professional excellence, acknowledging people who demonstrate an outstanding level of accomplishment in furthering the mission of the USDA and scientific research.

James N. BeMiller, BS '54, MS '56, PhD '59, has earned the Alshberg-Schoch Memorial Lectureship Award, sponsored by the Corn Refiners Association in recognition of superior contributions to fundamental starch science. BeMiller is director of the Whistler Center for Carbohydrate Research.

Rick Millane is currently serving on the U.S. National Committee for Crystallography, as part of the National Research Council's Commission on Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Applications.

Paul Cornillion has joined the staff as an assistant professor. Cornillion earned his PhD in chemical engineering from the University of Lyon, France. Cornillion is developing in-line and off-line applications of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to food science and food engineering.

John Floros has been selected to receive an Honorary Research Professorship in the Biotechnology Department at the Denmark Technical University in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Bernie Dahl, MS '74, has been elected to the board of directors of Sigma Lambda Alpha Inc., the national honor society for landscape architecture. Dahl will serve as a member at large.

Rob Eddy, BS '89, MS '94, has been appointed plant growth facilities manager. Eddy, responsible for plant quality for all greenhouse research, had been a horticulturist for Dow AgroSciences (formerly Dow Elanco).

Biochemistry

Jill Hutchcroft and Joe Ogas, have joined the staff. Hutchcroft's research focus is signal transduction and immune regulating by T-cell costimulatory receptors. Ogas specializes in plant molecular biology and developmental regulation.

Agronomy

The American Society of Agronomy recently honored three staff members. Gebisa Ejeta, PhD '79, received the International Service in Agronomy Award. His research focuses on genetic characterization and development of sorghum breeding strategies for traits associated with drought tolerance, resistance to diseases, and the parasitic weed, striga.

David Mengel, BS '70, MS '72 and Diane Scott were elected Fellows for superior achievement in research, education or profession. The award honors public service and meritorious service to one or more of the societies and a minimum of 10 years of membership.

Entomology

Abdulahi O. Ameen, has joined the department as manager of sponsored product research in the Center for Urban and Industrial Pest Management.

Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Rick Ritchey, is the agriculture electronics and instrumentation technologist, assisting professors and grad students with locating and/ or designing and manufacturing of electronic equipment needed for various projects.

Stephanie Ball, BS '97, is developing and implementing a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based process for creating rapid and accurate basemaps, satellite imagery, photography and multi-spectral scanner imaging to support EPA decision-making at superfund sites.

Agricultural Economics

Cindy Lawley has been appointed assistant to the head of agricultural economics. Formerly the assistant to the dean in the College of Education, University of Illinois, Lawley is responsible for coordinating daily office duties, supervising staff and handling various projects for the department head.
opportunity most people don’t get. Planting a forest that may take 50 years to develop, well, no commercial venture is going to do that. But Purdue just might.”

Their presentation was met with stone silence. Perhaps the jury could be excused for being tired. After all, they had been bombarded with a steady stream of presentations since 8:30 a.m. Consultancy work that cost Jim Scott, well, certainly more than he could afford, had been laid in his lap. He could use all of it, some of it or none of it, as Oxenrider and Storey were beginning to fear.

Scott had been overwhelmed by the depth of their presentation. After a long pause, Scott punctured the awkward silence.

“They hate it,” she remembers thinking. They were beginning to fear. Scott had been overwhelmed by the depth of their presentation. After a long pause, Scott punctured the awkward silence.

“You’re both hired! When can you start?”

“Your presentation was met with stone silence. Perhaps the jury could be excused for being tired. After all, they had been bombarded with a steady stream of presentations since 8:30 a.m. Consultancy work that cost Jim Scott, well, certainly more than he could afford, had been laid in his lap. He could use all of it, some of it or none of it, as Oxenrider and Storey were beginning to fear. Scott’s face turned red with embarrassment.

“Quite the contrary. Scott had been overwhelmed by the depth of their presentation. After a long pause, Scott punctured the awkward silence.

“You’re both hired! When can you start?”

They will be working on what easily could be termed the largest laboratory on campus. “Now we are going to put research out on the golf course,” says Throssell, co-director of the Turfgrass Research and Diagnostic Center. “Building a golf course is really something you could never replicate or duplicate in a classroom setting. You could talk about principles—you start here and end up there—but the steps in between, it’s hard to convey that.”

The turfgrass research center is located just south of the Kampen Course. But it is the access to the course itself that thrills Throssell. “With the golf course right there, it makes that step real easy,” he says. “We feel very fortunate to have that close connection. How many colleges are fortunate enough to have two golf courses a mile from campus? This is just fantastic.”

The seventh hole, a par 4 that borders the historic Pioneer Village. The Ag Alumni Association’s vast collection of agricultural antiquities will be on display. Numerous craftsmen demonstrate their skills throughout the day, and scheduled shows demonstrate old-time farming chores such as threshing.

Contact Mauri Williamson, (765) 463-9829.

Area IX Golf Outing and Steak Fry Rocky Ridge Golf Club, Darlington, Ind.

Participants can attend either or both events. Proceeds support scholarships for students participating in international agricultural study programs.

Contact Gary Standiford, (765) 477-7106.

The turfgrass research center is located just south of the Kampen Course. But it is the access to the course itself that thrills Throssell. “With the golf course right there, it makes that step real easy,” he says. “We feel very fortunate to have that close connection. How many colleges are fortunate enough to have two golf courses a mile from campus? This is just fantastic.”

The seventh hole, a par 4 that borders the western edge of the course, has two separate fairways cleared by a waste bunker. One fairway is for golfers, the other for researchers. Rotating the fairways affords researchers the luxury of observing their projects under real conditions, and not just on a test plot.

“We have very high expectations in what we do,” says Throssell. “We want to deliver good, quality research that makes a difference—research that helps people.”

Throssell hopes the course and the research center will help lure top-notch high school students to Purdue.

“This will be a tremendous recruiting tool,” he says. “The golf industry is going very strong, and at Purdue we have the opportunity, with this facility, to make a real strong link with academics. Students see what we have here and say, ‘Yeah, I want to be a part of this.’”

Throssell says there is a great deal of self-pride involved. “We have very high expectations in what we do,” he says. “We want to deliver good, quality research that makes a difference—research that helps people do their jobs more efficiently. When our graduates go out and get jobs, we want them to be well-respected and sought after in their fields.”

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Connections

ClassNotes

1930s
Joseph W. DeWees, BS’35, Nashville, Ind., is staying active by walking his dog in the woods, escorting tour groups through Brown County State Park, square dancing, planting Christmas trees every spring and traveling when possible.

1940s

George A. Johannessen, MS’48, is institute director emeritus with California Tomato Research Institute Inc. He resides in Danville, Calif.

1950s
Clayton C. Wright, BS’50, works for B&G Co. and resides in Rio Hondo, Texas.

Charles E. Taylor, BS’59, MS’60, PhD’72, Evansville, Ind., retired Jan. 3 from the Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Department of Interior. He had been with them since January 1979 as a reclamation specialist and inspector of coal mines in Illinois and Indiana.

1960s
David Vannice, Clinton, Ill., is owner of Salt Creek Longhorn Ranch, where he breeds quality longhorn cattle.

Walter J. Armbruster, BS’62, MS’64, Darien, Ill., is managing director of Farm Foundation in Oak Brook, Ill. He is president of the American Agricultural Economics Association, past president of American Agricultural Law Association, and chairman of the National Farm-City Council.

Robert B. Fulton, MS’63, is a retired college principal and resides in Lame, Northern Ireland.

William R. Reilly, PhD’65, is retired and living in Crystal, Minn. He was appointed to the board of directors of University of Minnesota’s College of Agriculture Alumni Society in the fall of 1996. He will be in the Ukraine in January 1998 for Volunteers Overseas for Cooperative Assistance (VOCA) helping the Ukrainian government establish several commodity exchanges in the country. From February to December 1998, he will be at the University of Fort Hare in South Africa on a faculty development project for educators in Africa.

Robert James Hillier, MS’66, PhD’68, Stillwater, Okla., is owner of Hillier Angus, CEO of H&H Cattle, and international cattle consultant. He is a member of the board of directors of the American Angus Association and vice president of NE Angus Association. He was honored in 1996 as a major contributor to the success of Certified Angus Beef.

Mark J. Reesor, BS’67, is professor of pharmacology and toxicology at West Virginia University in Morgantown, W. Va. He recently received recertification as a Diplomat of the American Board of Toxicology.

1970s
Ronald J. Bell, BS’70, St. Joseph, Mo., is refuge manager with Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Mound City, Mo. He received a Star Award for outstanding outreach effort in communications to local communities about Squaw Creek and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Douglas R. Ware, BS’70, received a PhD from Iowa State University in 1976. He founded Nutrition Physiology Corp. in 1993. His company was featured in the June 1995 issue of Forbes Magazine. He lives in Indianapolis with his wife and two daughters.

David A. Easterla, PhD’72, Maryville, Mo., is distinguished university professor of biology at Northwest Missouri State University. He was selected as the Missouri 1996 Conservation Educator of the Year by the Conservation Federation of Missouri.

Jennifer F. (Hartje) Jones, FRMR’72, is a controller with Alpha Computers in Lafayette, Ind. She lives with her husband Mark and their six children in a country home in Carroll County. She enjoys designing and planting new flower gardens.

Robert E. Shelton, BS’72, Crawfordsville, Ind., is sales representative for PBI/Gordon Inc., in Kansas City, Mo. His territory includes Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky.

George Randall Armstrong, FRMR’74, has recently moved to Seymour, Ind.

Roger W. Hadley II, BS’75, Woodburn, Ind., was voted vice president of the American Soybean Association in charge of membership services and corporate relations.

Robert Skirvin, PhD’75, is recipient of the Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences Award sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and NASULGC. This award honors him for his work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, citing him as an internationally recognized researcher who focuses on tissue culture of fruit crops, and as a popular and effective teacher.

Donald W. Edgecomb, BS’76, MS’78, assumed a new position in April 1997 as regional research and development manager–Western U.S., Agricultural Crop Protection Products, Rohm and Haas Company. He relocated to Fresno, Calif., from the Philadelphia, Pa., area.

Marguerite Lowell Crum, BS’78, West Lafayette, Ind., is working as a certified emergency nurse for the St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

Thomas C. Paulson, BS’79, Oakland, Calif., got married in Nov. 1996. He received an MBA in Finance and International Business during June 1997 from California State University, Hayward. He is an associate with Hilton Farnkopf & Hobson, LLC in Fremont, Calif.

Doug Weisheit, BS’79, Rockville, Ind., is general manager for Billie Creek Village & Inn. He was awarded the 1997 Josephine Hauck Award by the Indiana State Festivals Association for significant contributions to all Hoosier festivals.

1980s
Amy (Lemen) Chase, BS’81, is enrolled at IUPUI working on a high school science teaching certificate. She resides with her husband Rick in Franklin, Ind.

Deborah Shouffer, BS’81, is editor/communications director for the Indiana Beef Cattle Association in Indianapolis. She resides in Greenwood, Ind.

Jeanne Broderick Vana, BS’81, Millilani, Hawaii, married Steven Vana in January 1997. She is participating in Class VII of the Hawaii Agricultural Leadership Program. She is currently overseeing all phases of agricultural operations and commercial development of Dole Food Company and rapidly expanding new tropical fruit orchard and flower ventures.

Jeffrey T. Walters, BS’88, Woodland Park, Colo., is a pilot with United Airlines. He and his wife Nichole welcomed a baby boy on Christmas Day 1997.

Tim Nannet, BS’82, Crawfordsville, Ind., welcomed the arrival of his second child, Andrea Elizabeth, on Jan. 24.

Keith Delaplaine, BS’83, Bogart, Ga., is assistant professor of entomology at the University of Georgia. He and his wife Mary welcomed Eva Claire Marie on Dec. 2, 1997.

Toni R. Smith, BS’84, is arboreal inspector for City and County of Denver Forestry Office. She is a member of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), past co-editor of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the ISA’s publication Tree Leaves, and candidate member of The American Society of Consulting Arborists. She resides in Denver, Colo., with her husband Paul and their two sons.

Shelley R. (Hobson) Johnson, BS’85, is a partner at Allman & Company CPAs in Indianapolis, Ind. She has been selected to be one of 25 young executives to participate in the 1997-98 Stanley K. Lacy Executive Leadership series (SKL).

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continued from page 9

Kigen William Ekeson, BSLA ’86, Mt. Baldy, Calif., left professional life to become a monk with the Mt. Baldy Zen Center. He continues to do occasional landscapes, including various small gardens and a Zen garden for the Laguna Beach Art Museum.

Vickie Maris, BS’86, Battle Ground, Ind., is launching a new club for horse-crazy kids called the Dawn of Promise Pony Pals Club. She also owns and operates Dawn of Promise Connemaras. Connemara is the native pony of Ireland.

Jeffery A. Kolp, BS’87, Murfreesboro, Tenn., is regional sales manager for American Truckers in Indianapolis, Ind.

Daniel Kluchinski, MS’87, Franklin Park, N.J., works as a regional field crop extension agent in central New Jersey since graduating from Purdue. He has recently been promoted with tenure to associate professor at Rutgers University.

Deanna K. Albaugh, BS’89, Baton Rouge, La., is an elevator superintendent with Cargill Inc. She is on the board of directors of the Louisiana Capital Area Chapter of American Red Cross. She enjoys hot air ballooning and running.

Wendy Graffam Carlson, BS’89, MS’92, is a associate nutritionist at the Wildlife Conservation Society (Bronx Zoo). She resides in City Island, N.Y.

1990s

Rick Farris, BS’90, Sac City, Iowa, is a pork production consultant with Land O’ Lakes. He welcomed a son Nathan on Oct. 10, 1997.

Brian Spencer, BS’90, is parts and service manager for Case Corp. in Racine, Wis. He and his wife Libby (Warfield) celebrated the birth of their first child, Andrew Keith, on Sept. 23, 1997.

Scott Strong, BS’90, Lafayette, Ind., is president of Strong Information Services, Inc. He was recently named president-elect of the Indiana Chapter of the National Speakers Association and has released his third book entitled “Strong Stories of Faith.”

Nola Bernard, BS’91, Slough, United Kingdom, has been working for M&M/Mars in New Jersey. She has recently accepted a temporary assignment with the Mars unit in England.

Chuck Long, BS’92, Mt. Vernon, Ill., is manager at Consolidated Grain and Barge. He and his wife Robin welcomed a baby boy on Jan. 4.

Anastasia Pantera, MS’92, Karpenissi, Greece, is assistant professor in the Forestry Department at the Technological Education Institute in Karpenissi.

Jennifer L. Vogel, BS’93, is a soil conservationist with Natural Resources Conservation Service in Versailles, Ind. She resides in North Vernon with her husband, David, and their two daughters, Ashley and Allison.

Derek H. Elwood, BS’94, Naperville, Ill., is an investment executive with Paine Webber in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill. He married his wife, Wendy, in May of last year.

Linnea Floyd, BS’94, Indianapolis, Ind., is an environmental protection specialist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources/Division of Fish & Wildlife in Indianapolis. She was recently selected for the International Who’s Who of Professionals.

John Edward Nagle, BS’94, Greensburg, Ind., is a swine manager with Lofer Acres. He and his wife, Melissa, welcomed Adrianna Michelle on Dec. 22, 1997.

Matthew Sell, BS’94, Belton, Mo., has completed his master’s of science in Bible and Theology from the Calvary Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He and his wife Joy will be relocating to Spain to work with church ministries on the southern coast.

Gina (Smith) Silverthorn, BS’94, Cutler, Ind., is a sales representative with Merical Limited (formerly Merck Ag Vet). She and her husband, Scott, welcomed a baby boy on Oct. 10, 1997.

Nathan Zenser, BS’96, is a graduate student at the University of California, Davis. He resides in Davis, Calif.

Paul E. Rockhill, BS’97, has a new position as district sales manager for west central Indiana for Campbell Seed Inc., in Tipton, Ind. He resides in Lafayette with his wife, Cheryl, and their two daughters.

DEATHS

Harrison M. Brown, BS’40, Savannah, Ga., passed away Sept. 29, 1997.

Eight named Distinguished Ag Alumni

Eight School of Agriculture alumni will be honored as recipients of the 1998 Distinguished Agricultural Alumni Awards during a special ceremony on the West Lafayette campus April 24.

Award winners from six states, the District of Columbia and one foreign country will be honored at a convocation, luncheon and reception hosted by Purdue Dean of Agriculture Vic Lechtenberg.

Award winners and their hosting departments (in parentheses) include:

Dr. Melissa Ashlock, BS ’80, investigator, acting chief of the vector development section of the laboratory of gene transfer, National Center of Human Genome Research, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Md. (Biochemistry)

Robert Baltzell, BS ’68, MS ’69, president, Baltzell-Agris-Products, vice president, Gladwin Advertising Inc., West Des Moines, Iowa (Animal Sciences).


Jill Gisèle Greene, BS ’78, vice president and team leader, Meyocks and Priebe Advertising Inc., West Des Moines, Iowa (Animal Sciences).

David New, BS ’73, vice president for timberland resources, Boise Cascade Corp., Boise, Idaho (Forestry and Natural Resources).

John Oelslager, BS ’66, president, automation group, Parker-Hannifin Corp., Cleveland, Ohio (Agricultural and Biological Engineering).

Julio Penna, PhD ’74, head of the Department of Economics, Catholic University of Argentina, senior economist, National Institute of Agricultural Technology, Buenos Aires, Argentina (Agricultural Economics).

Thomas Roney, BS ’68, president, Tuttle Orchards Inc., Greenfield, Ind. (Horticulture and Landscape Architecture).

Stay in Touch

ClassNotes is a great way to keep up with fellow Ag Alumni. Send us your news and we’ll share it with readers of Connections. Let us know about honors or awards, changes in your job or family status, or your community activities. Be sure to include your degree, year of graduation and phone number in case we have any questions. Contact Donya Lester, Purdue Agricultural Alumni Association, 1140 AGAD, Room 1, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1140. You may e-mail information to Donya at: dcl@admin.agad.purdue.edu
Indiana’s agricultural production rankings among the states showed few fluctuations in 1997, according to Ralph Gann, state statistician for the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service.

Indiana’s ranking improved for tobacco, winter wheat, oats, rye, potatoes and hay. The ranking dropped for fresh-market tomatoes and peaches. As for livestock, Indiana moved up in milk cows and lamb crop and dropped in cattle on feed, beef cows, sheep and pig crop.

“Livestock numbers have dropped somewhat,” Gann says, “while they’re increasing in other states. There’s been a shift in where these enterprises are.”

“Illinois producers decreased farrowing by 35,000 sows during the first half of the year.”

Purdue Extension agricultural economist Chris Hurt says overall hog production in the primary Midwestern states has been declining throughout the past decade, and there has been a redistribution of the industry toward North Carolina and the southwestern and western fringes of the Corn Belt. Concern about the environment has caused production to grow in more sparsely populated areas, where there are fewer disagreements about land use.

“There’s a great deal of concern about conflict between hogs and people in our region—more so than in other areas,” Hurt says. “Our trend in Indiana has been to remain stable.”

Indiana’s higher ranking in tobacco production was due to increased acreage and a return to near-average yields, which led to the largest total production of tobacco since 1992, Gann says.

“Winter wheat acreage was reduced, but yield returned to the fourth-highest on record. There was a 20-bushel-per-acre increase over the ’96 crop,” he says. On Indiana’s 23,200,000 total acres, there are 62,000 farms with 13,366,000 acres in crop. Total land in farms equals 15,900,000 acres. The average farm size is 256 acres. Most farming operations—85 percent—are individually owned.

Indiana’s ag production rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Leading State)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First</strong></td>
<td>Popcorn, Ducks, Egg-type chicks hatched</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Third</strong></td>
<td>Tomatoes for processing (Calif.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fourth</strong></td>
<td>Soybeans (Iowa), Chickens-excluding broilers (Ohio)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fifth</strong></td>
<td>Hogs (NC), Corn for grain (Ohio), Cantaloupes (Calif.), Peppermint (Ore.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sixth</strong></td>
<td>Pig crop (NC), Ice-cream production (Calif.), Watermelons (Calif.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Seventh</strong></td>
<td>Turkeys (NC), Blueberries (Mich.), Snap beans for processing (Wis.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eighth</strong></td>
<td>Tobacco (NC)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ninth</strong></td>
<td>Cucumbers for processing (Mich.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>14th</strong></td>
<td>Winter wheat (Kan.), Sweet corn (Pa.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>15th</strong></td>
<td>Cattle on feed (Texas)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>16th</strong></td>
<td>Tomatoes for fresh market (Pa.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>17th</strong></td>
<td>Milk cows, Milk production (Wis.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>18th</strong></td>
<td>Commercial apples (Wash.), Orbs (Wis.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>20th</strong></td>
<td>Rye (Ga.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>22nd</strong></td>
<td>Lamb crop (Texas)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>24th</strong></td>
<td>Freestone peaches (Calif.), Potatoes (Idaho), Wool production (Texas)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>27th</strong></td>
<td>Hay (Tex.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>28th</strong></td>
<td>Sheep and lambs (Texas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30th</strong></td>
<td>Beef cows (Texas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>33rd</strong></td>
<td>All cattle and calves, Calf crop (Texas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>34th</strong></td>
<td>Honey production (Calif.)</td>
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So you want to build a putting green in your yard. Not only will it make your yard more functional, but it also will give the neighbors something to talk about. They will immediately assume you won the lottery and quit your job, because you will need plenty of money and time for membership in the exclusive home-putting network that boasts satisfied customers like Shaquille O'Neal, Will Smith and Bill Clinton.

Purdue golf course superintendent Jim Scott, 'BS 87, has a recipe guaranteed to keep you putting around the house for years to come. Scott says construction costs for an average-sized green (7,000 square feet) start relatively cheap, but quickly take off like a Tiger Woods tee shot.

For starters, 760 feet of 4-inch drainage tile would cost about $145. Cover the tile with 4 inches of pea gravel. At $7.70 per ton, 142 tons will cost $1,093.40. Top that off with a mixture of sand (70 percent) and peat moss to a depth of 14 inches. At $29 a ton, 324 tons adds another $9,396 to the bill. Hey, no cutting corners, spend the kids' inheritance and do it right.

We're just getting to the fun part. Fourteen pounds of Pennlinks Creeping Bentgrass seed at $6 per pound costs $84. Fertilizer to make it grow (16-28-10 starter and Millorganite Organic) will cost about $16 for your green. Your tab, and the title of Mr. Putt-Putt that goes with it, is now in the $11,000 neighborhood. And that doesn't include labor. Scott estimates that could add another $8,000 for a total cost of about $19,000.

Idea: Get your friends to work in exchange for putting privileges on your green. Win money back later in putting contests. Under the stroller, off the skateboard, nothing but the bottom of the cup.

If all of this work has worn you out, Scott says you can get a riding mower for about $7,000. Otherwise, a walking mower will cost about $3,000. Cups, flags and flag sticks will run about $25 per set. Multiply this by 18 and you get an idea of what 1997 was like for Scott. Each green on the new Kampen Course had to be built to the exacting specifications of the United States Golf Association (USGA), which made a video of green construction to distribute to golf courses throughout the world.

If all of this still hasn't dampened your green dream, perhaps Zac Reicher can talk you back to reality.

Reicher, co-director of Purdue University's Turfgrass Diagnostic and Research Center, suggests you leave this highly specialized turf project to the professionals. "What most people end up with is a big mess," he says. "Too many people think all you have to do is mow your grass really short, but that doesn't work. Cutting grass to a height of three-sixteenths of an inch invites all sorts of turf problems."

For one thing, as with all real estate, location is everything, and most yards just don't have what it takes, which is plenty of sunshine and proper air circulation. "The worst thing you can do is locate the green in a shady area bordered by trees," Reicher says. "Unfortunately, that describes a lot of yards."