March Birthdays

Ali Zarrabi  March 1
Kate Montgomery  March 3
Sharon von Broembsen  March 4
Zachary Royko  March 5
Hannah Dodd  March 7
Haley Butler  March 10
Kyle Risser  March 10
James Danso  March 13
Robin Cooper  March 15
Zachary Rocha  March 15
Elise Howard  March 18
Andrea Salazar  March 18
Brady Welch  March 19
Emma Claiborne  March 25
Bailee Posey  March 29
Callista Vandegriff  March 29
Carmen Greenwood  March 31

Sensilla
Editor: Edmond Bonjour

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March Calendar of Events

Seminar – Dr. Tilmon  Mar 3
Wellness Day – No Classes  Mar 4
Seminar – Dr. Balaban-Feld  Mar 10
Seminar – Dr. Weiser-Erlandson  Mar 17
Seminar – Dr. Yoo  Mar 24
Seminar – Dr. Krell  Mar 31

April Calendar of Events

Seminar – Dr. Masson  Apr 7
Wellness Day – No Classes  Apr 13
Seminar – Dr. Jones  Apr 14
Seminar – Dr. Feng  Apr 21
Pre-finals Week  Apr 26-30
Departmental Seminars

Seminars are held at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom this semester.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 3</td>
<td>Dr. Kelley Tilmon</td>
<td>How Ladybeetles Respond to Variation in Aphid Prey Density</td>
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<td>Mar. 10</td>
<td>Dr. Jesse Balaban-Feld</td>
<td>How Social Interactions and Prior Experiences Influence Male Reproductive Decision-making in Drosophila melanogaster</td>
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<td>Mar. 17</td>
<td>Dr. Laura Weiser Erlandson</td>
<td>Working at a Small University – Can you have it all?</td>
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<td>Mar. 24</td>
<td>Dr. Heejin Yoo</td>
<td>Multi-Layered Security Systems in Plant Immunity</td>
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<td>Mar. 31</td>
<td>Dr. Rayda Krell</td>
<td>From the Home of Lyme Disease: Challenges and Progress in Tickborne Disease Prevention</td>
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Necrology

Dr. William McCray Johnson, age 70, a well-known and respected horticulturist, teacher, and county extension agent in Galveston, Texas, died February 12, 2021. He had been the administrator of the county’s AgriLife Extension Office since 1997.

William was born March 17, 1950 in Pittsville, Virginia to Matthew McCray and Clara B. Martin Johnson. He gave his life to Christ at an early age at Ridgeway United Methodist Church in Pittsville. He graduated from Northside High School in Gretna, Virginia in 1968. William received his B.S. degree in Biological Sciences and a minor in French from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in 1972, and his B.S. degree in Botany in May 1976 and his Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology in July 1976, both from OSU. His dissertation was titled, “Susceptibility, Symptomatology and Formation of Microsclerotia in Selected Crop Cultivars and Weeds Inoculated with a Pathogenic Isolate of Verticillium dahliae Kleb. from Cotton” under the direction of Dr. Lloyd Brinkerhoff. He then moved to Texas.

In Galveston, he helped guide tremendous growth of the county’s extension programs. He was the County Extension Agent for Horticulture (CEA-HORT) from July 1989 to August 1997, CEA-HORT and County Coordinator from September 1997 to August 2001, and CEA-HORT (Level IV) and County Coordinator from September 2001 until his death, all in the Galveston County Office. In 1989, he became the Master Gardener Program Coordinator for Galveston County, with nine participants. In recent years, there have been over 200 active certified master gardeners, who volunteer over 30,000 hours annually. He also led teams of experts diagnosing tree and plant problems on the Gulf Coast after hurricanes, floods, and freezes.

In 2011, Dr. Johnson received the Superior Service Award for Distinguished Career from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, that is given “based upon outstanding professional growth, program effectiveness, leadership ability, loyalty to Extension work, and civic and community involvement.” In 2017, he was honored by the Galveston City Council with a proclamation and honorary holiday. Former Mayor Jim Yarbrough said, “Every corner of the county has benefited from his programs, expertise, and dedication to efforts and details.” He also said that Johnson’s motto was, “Knowledge not shared is knowledge lost.” In 2018, he received the Regents Fellow Service Award from Texas A&M University that recognizes system employees who have provided exemplary professional service to society that has created large and lasting benefits to Texas and beyond.

Dr. Johnson was an accomplished horticulturist and authority in entomology and plant pathology. His weekly column, Green Thumb, in The Galveston County Daily News ran the gamut on topics from planting advice to the danger of stinging caterpillars, to differences in plants that make a tree a tree and a shrub a shrub. He was known for his motivational sayings, including insisting everyone in his classes get along with each other and treat their colleagues and classmates with respect. One of his favorite sayings was, “Everybody needs to bring something to the table.” He never retired. His final column was published on February 9, 2021.

William was proceeded in death by his parents, one brother, an infant sister, and his first wife Kay (Bee). He is survived by his wife Nyoka Hayes-Johnson, two stepsons, one stepdaughter, one step-grandson, one brother, and five sisters. Funeral services were held on February 22, 2021 at Carnes Funeral, Texas City, Texas.