

## **THE JAMES AND HARRIET BEARD OUTSTANDING TURFGRASS GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD**

As the result of a generous gift from former Crop and Soil Sciences Professor James B. Beard and his wife Harriet, along with donations from colleagues, friends, and former students, The James B. and Harriet Beard Outstanding Turfgrass Graduate Student Award has been established. Dr. Beard served Michigan State University, the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, and the turfgrass industry of Michigan from 1961 until 1975. After leaving MSU, Dr. Beard continued his distinguished career at Texas A&M University until he and Harriet founded the International Sports Turf Institute in 1997. Jim and Harriet have been full partners in their dedication to students and the turfgrass industry.

Dr. Beard has been a leader in turfgrass research and teaching in stress physiology and culture. He pioneered investigations concerning turfgrass evapotranspiration, rooting, drought stress, heat stress, winterkill, chill injury, shade adaptation, wear tolerance, nitrogen-potassium stress, and thatch biodegradation. He has also made contributions in the ecology of grass communities, roadside establishment, winter overseeding, sod production, sports field mesh-root zone stabilization and safety, and weed control.

The James B. and Harriet Beard Outstanding Turfgrass Graduate Student Award Committee seek nominations and applications for this year's award. The award criteria are as follows:

- The recipient must be pursuing a graduate degree at MSU, in an approved program with concentration in an area within turfgrass science.
- The recipient must possess a strong desire to pursue a career in turfgrass science and management.
- The recipient must have achieved outstanding academic performance, with a suggested minimum GPA of 3.5 for graduate courses completed. Consideration will be given for the number of courses completed in the basic sciences, such as advanced biochemistry, biophysics, chemistry, mathematics and plant physiology.
- The recipient must demonstrate outstanding professional potential.
- The recipient must possess a natural inquisitive nature and demonstrate a capacity for creative and cutting edge research in the chosen field, including a thesis oriented to original research that adds to the fundamental principles of turfgrass science.
- The recipient must demonstrate communication skills, written and verbal. Additionally, strong leadership capacity must be a consideration.

Applications must include the following:

- Personal vitae
- Education background and transcripts

- A statement of long and short range goals for furthering education
- A statement of support from the Major Professor
- Names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of two other individuals who can provide support to the application

Based on these guidelines, The James B. and Harriet Beard Outstanding Turfgrass Graduate Student Award Committee seeks nominations of outstanding graduate students in turfgrass science for this award. The award shall consist of a \$2,000 cash award to the recipient, up to \$1,000 to present a paper of the thesis research before the C-5 Division of the Crop Science Society of America and \$2,000 support for the recipient's research activities.

**All recipients will be required to make a timely and appropriate acknowledgment to the donors at the following address:**

Dr. James and Mrs. Harriet Beard  
1812 Shadowwood Drive  
College Station, TX 77840

Nominations must to be submitted to: Sandie Litchfield, Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, A286-D PSSB, by 5:00 P.M. on February 20, 2015. Awards will be announced on or after April 1, 2015, with award scheduled for **Fall Semester, 2015**.