

Dr. Kent Kurtz - STMA Historian and Southern Illinois University 2001 Outstanding Alumnus

Dr. Kent Kurtz, STMA Historian, was recently named Outstanding Alumnus at the 50th Annual All Ag Banquet of the College of Agriculture at Southern Illinois University.

Kurtz has been an STMA member since the beginning, being appointed as the first Executive Director in November 1984. He is an Honorary Life Member of the Association, was the recipient of the Harry C. Gill Memorial Award in 1986, sportsTURF Magazine's Man of the Year in 1993 and received the Excellence in Research (now known as the Dr. William H. Daniel) Award in 1996.

He is a long time faculty member (since 1969) in the Horticulture/Plant & Soil Science Department at Cal Poly Pomona. He received a B.S. in Horticulture from the SIUC College of Agriculture in 1963. His Masters degree is from Western Michigan University and his Ph.D. is from the University of Arizona.

Prior to his appointment at Cal Poly, Kurtz worked for the Welch's Grape Juice Company as Viticulturist and O.M. Scotts & Sons as a golf course consultant.



Dr. W. David Schoup (l), Dean of the College of Agriculture and Dr. Kent Kurtz

His accomplishments in the field of turfgrass management include serving as a consultant for Wrigley Field, Anaheim Stadium, Dodger Stadium and Sun Devil Stadium as well as helping to prepare for six Rose Bowls, two Freedom Bowls, two Fiesta Bowls, one Super Bowl and two Major League Baseball All Star Games.

Kurtz also has been instrumental in implementing and guiding the nationally recognized turfgrass management curriculum at Cal Poly that includes courses in turfgrass management, sports turf/advanced turfgrass science, history of garden art, horticultural practices, park policies and procedures and introduction to horticulture.

Besides his STMA related honors, he also received the International Achievement Award from the Institute of Groundsmanship in London (1988), the Meritorious Service Award from the California Recreation and Parks Society (1989) and the 30 year Distinguished Service Award from the Southern California Turfgrass Council.



Professional Development: Thank your Boss!

by Connie Rudolph, CSFM, Midway Stadium

Thank you matters. Remember that positive feeling you had at the end of the last STMA Conference? Remember those ideas you were just itching to incorporate into your program? The cost-cutting technique you worked into your budget? The great contacts you made? No wonder your schedule includes the 2002 Conference in January!

But wait - who else knows how much you gained?

Did you thank your boss for making it possible for you to attend? Did you let him (or her) know how your attendance impacted your program?

I appreciate the opportunity for professional development the Conference provides, and I want my boss to know it. So, I write a thank you note.

I understand that my Conference attendance is an investment in me and my program. Included in that thank you note is a brief summary of the Conference highlights with special emphasis on site visits to facilities similar to my own and on educational sessions that could apply to my

situation. I spell out how I could apply that information to my work. I also include tips I picked up that could save money at my site. I take a camera and include photos with the note if they can help illustrate an idea I'm planning to incorporate. I also mention some of the key contacts I've made at the Conference, and note all the opportunities for networking it provides.

I make sure to say thank you a few times for allowing me to take the trip and that I think it was money well spent.

My boss has told me that he really appreciates this feedback. He has control over many people and makes the final decision on which Conferences and other educational opportunities each should attend. All too often, he has no idea how that function went and whether or not it was beneficial to the individual and to our overall program. Knowing that the investment was worthwhile makes a difference in his decision for allocation of funds and personnel time for the next Conference.

Thank you matters!

