Symposium in Honor of Professor Shiu-ying Hu on the Occasion of Her 92nd Birthday

David E. Boufford, Assistant Director for Collections, Harvard University Herbaria

Shiu-ying Hu, botanist emerita of the Arnold Arboretum, was honored at the Chinese University of Hong Kong on February 19, 2000, with a special symposium and birthday celebration sponsored by the Ma Man Fai Chinese Medicine Education Foundation Fund.

Dr. Hu arrived in the United States from China in 1946 to enter graduate school at Radcliffe College. Her doctoral dissertation on the genus *Ilex* (Aquifoliaceae) was carried out at the Arnold Arboretum under the direction of E. D. Merrill, director of the Arboretum 1935–1946. Dr. Hu was an accomplished botanist before her arrival; she had conducted fieldwork in western Sichuan in the late 1930s and early 1940s, at a time when only a few men (notably, Armand David, Joseph Rock, and E. H. Wilson) had explored that region. By the time Dr. Hu obtained her doctorate, just three years after her arrival, the American Philosophical Society had granted her funds to write an account of the flora of China. In support of her application, Karl Sax, Arboretum director 1946–1954, described her as “one of the most competent and industrious students I have ever known . . . .” Those qualities have been obvious to all throughout Dr. Hu’s career and have not diminished in her “retirement,” which is now of 25 years’ duration. Nor has her interest in all aspects of plants, particularly those of China, waned. She entered the new century still working ten-hour days and reading proofs of her 900-page book on the food plants of China, which will be published within the next few months.

Harvard Heroes Named

Robert E. Cook, Director

Each June for the past five years, Sally Zeckhauser, Harvard's vice president for administration (VPA), has hosted a grand ceremony to honor as Harvard Heroes the individuals in her organization who have made a special contribution during the past year.

On June 14, I together with many other Arboretum staff attended this year's ceremony, at which three of our employees were recognized for their extra efforts over the past year. All three contributed time and energy to a special initiative organized by Sally
Campaign Participants Celebrate

Despite the twenty-degree drop in temperature on May 9, 2000, spirits rose high at the Arboretum's capital campaign celebration. The event acknowledged the commitment and success of those involved in the recently completed $8.25 million campaign. After a welcome from Arboretum director Robert E. Cook, guests were gratefully recognized for their good work by co-chair Noni Ames of the director's advisory board, campaign chair Francis O. Hunnewell, and Harvard provost Harvey V. Fineberg. Also recognized was Lisa M. Hastings who, as director of development during the campaign, spearheaded the fundraising.

Celebrating a successful campaign are, from left, Francis O. Hunnewell, Lisa M. Hastings, Robert E. Cook, Mary E. Wilson, and Harvey V. Fineberg.

Former Director Recognized

Richard A. Howard, former director of the Arnold Arboretum and professor of dendrology emeritus of Harvard University, has recently received two distinguished honors. One, the 1999 Allerton Medal, recognized his significant contributions to the conservation of tropical plant diversity. The medal is awarded by the National Tropical Botanical Garden based in Kalaheo, Hawaii; the citation acknowledges his "decades of heroic service in the advancement of tropical horticulture and the understanding of tropical plants."

More recently, Dr. Howard's botanical work in the Caribbean islands was acclaimed at a symposium on the flora of the Antilles held recently at the New York Botanical Garden. The tribute included a much-relished painting of Cubanola dominicensis by the NYBG's botanical artist Bobbi Angel.

Dr. Howard, photographed in 1971 on the somma of St. Vincent's Soufrière, preparing specimens of a plant new to botany and known only from this location. Just two years later the volcano erupted, giving Lindernia brucei, which Dr. Howard named for his son, a very brief tenure in botany.

Dr. Howard is the author of the six-volume Flora of the Lesser Antilles as well as many other works on tropical botany.
Arboretum Exhibit Awarded Two Medals

Julie Coop, Superintendent of Grounds

The Arnold Arboretum’s exhibit at the 2000 New England Spring Flower Show was honored with two medals. The Garden Club of America Bulkley Medal recognizes a special exhibit in the fields of horticulture, botany, or conservation that possesses exceptional educational merit and increases the knowledge and awareness of the viewing public. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society also awarded the exhibit a Gold Medal for Horticultural Merit.

The intent of the exhibit was to illustrate the collaborations of some of the many talented people associated with the Arboretum, both past and present. These gifted people work to bring plants from the wild to the Arboretum grounds and beyond, perhaps even to the viewing public’s own backyard. Lilies, dawn redwoods, and other plants introduced into cultivation by the Arnold Arboretum were featured along with informative text, illustrations, and herbarium specimens. The focal point of the exhibit was a large group photograph taken in 1916 of Sargent, our first director; Wilson, renowned plant collector; Faxon, botanist and illustrator of *Silva of North America*; Rehder, taxonomist extraordinaire; and Camillo Schneider, a German plant collector and dendrologist who, forced to abandon fieldwork in China, sought asylum and employment at the Arboretum during World War I.

Arnold Arboretum staff, past and present. The Arboretum’s New England Spring Flower Show exhibit was designed, installed, and maintained by, from left, Jack Alexander, Julie Coop, John Olmsted, Keiko Satoh, and Tom Por. A poster-sized photograph of illustrious past Arboretum staff is behind them.

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Candace Julyan, John DelRosso, Sheila Connor

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to improve the quality of the workplace for all employees of VPA. John DelRosso is one of the exceptional arborists who helps maintain the high quality of our collection of woody plants. Sheila Connor is our research archivist and heads our horticultural library in Jamaica Plain. Candace Julyan heads up all our educational programs for adults, children, and visitors to the grounds.

At the ceremony all three individuals were personally thanked by Neil Rudenstine, president of Harvard, for their dedication to the University and its mission, and for the special contribution that the Arboretum makes to research and education. On behalf of the entire staff, I express my personal appreciation to John, Sheila, and Candace for a job well done.

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Arboretum Staff Changes

David Russo, facilities supervisor, came to the Arboretum last March from Harvard's planning and real estate department, where he served as building superintendent for faculty and graduate students.

He brought with him to Harvard twenty years' experience as a carpenter, five of those years in his own carpentry business. As facilities supervisor, Dave manages all of the Arboretum's buildings, both in Jamaica Plain and at the Case Estates in Weston. Much of his job involves finding, scheduling, and overseeing contractors, but from time to time he finds an occasion to keep up his cabinet-building skills as well.

Sheryl Barnes joined the Arboretum in April as web project manager. In this new position Sheryl will manage the websites of the Arnold Arboretum (www.arboretum.harvard.edu) and the Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies (www.icls.harvard.edu). Sheryl's previous position was with the Center for Health and the Global Environment of Harvard Medical School, where among other responsibilities she managed the center's website. She has also worked for the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group. Sheryl is a graduate of Cornell University with a double major in biology and society and in government.

The newest member of our grounds crew is Bethany Grasso, who started work as gardener in early June. Most recently Bethany worked for Perennial Gardens, a garden design and installation company in Roslindale. Earlier, she gained a good deal of practical experience through internships served at the Hampshire College Farm Center, the Arnold Arboretum, and Longwood Gardens. Bethany earned her bachelor of science in plant and soil science, with a concentration in sustainable agriculture, from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is a Massachusetts-certified arborist.

Also of note on the grounds is Tom Por's move from gardener to arborist. Tom, who hails from St. Thomas, Ontario, served as an Arboretum intern in 1997 and as our apprentice in 1998.

Joe Melanson, who has been a visitor information assistant in the Arboretum's education department for the past four years, recently acquired his professional library degree. He will use his skills and knowledge in his new position as assistant archivist in the library.

Within the education department, Ellen Bennett has been promoted from manager of horticultural information to assistant director of education. In her new role, Ellen will oversee the adult education program, children's education program, and visitor services. Though she will continue to oversee horticultural information, many of the tasks associated with her past position will move to the visitor services assistants.

20th Annual Fall Plant Sale

Please join us for the 20th Annual Fall Plant Sale, to be held this year on Sunday, September 17, 2000, at the Case Estates in Weston.

An enticing variety of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials selected by Arboretum staff will be sold in and around the barn. The barn will open to members at the sustaining level and above at 8:00 a.m., to all members at 9:00 a.m., and to the general public at 10:30 a.m.

Other events of the day include a live auction featuring rare and choice plants; a specialty sales tent with unusual plants donated by generous individuals and nurseries; and Society Row, where representatives of more than 20 plant societies will sell plants and offer advice. Knowledgeable plantspeople will be on hand to answer questions.

For more information about the plant sale or to become a member of the Friends of the Arnold Arboretum, please call Karen O'Connell at 617/524-1718 x 165. Members will receive the plant sale catalog in August and will receive free plants and a discount on plant purchases in the barn on the day of the sale!