This past September, taxonomist Jianhua Li and I traveled to Jiangxi Province in Central China to participate in a conference celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Lushan Botanical Garden. The Arboretum has enjoyed a long relationship with the Lushan Garden; many plants in our collection originated as seed sent from there during the 1930s and 40s. Professor Hu Xianxu, one of the garden’s founders, studied at Harvard’s Bussey Institution, where he formed close personal ties with Professors C. S. Sargent and J. G. Jack. After acquiring his Ph.D. in 1925, he returned to China, where he became one of that country’s foremost botanists and intellectuals. In several respects, the Arnold Arboretum, and especially its extensive research collections, served as a model for the Lushan Botanical Garden.

After presenting our papers at the conference, Jianhua and I took the opportunity to collect seeds and cones in the surrounding mountains, famous for a diverse flora that includes numerous conifers as well as deciduous trees such as *Liriodendron chinense*, *Pterostyrax corymbosa*, and *Diospyros glaucifolia*. Our collecting efforts focused on two species in the genus *Stewartia* that are found throughout the area. One of them, *Stewartia rostrata*, has dark, nonexfoliating bark and produces three-inch-wide white flowers in late spring, while the other, *Stewartia sinensis*, has beautiful, reddish, exfoliating bark with smaller white flowers that open later in the summer. The two species have been taxonomically confused ever since they were described; we hope that with the material collected on this trip, we will be able to resolve this confusion and successfully introduce new germplasm of these two rare trees.

**Landscape Institute’s 2004 graduation**

Twenty students received the Certificate in Landscape Design at the Landscape Institute’s 2004 graduation ceremonies. In addition, Institute director John Furlong (left) announced the selection of Kate Cardamone (center) as recipient of the Faculty Award for Excellence, recognizing her outstanding teaching. Pauline Cross Reeve (right) received the Outstanding Student Award and, as the chosen representative of the graduating students, gave a talk on the profession of landscape design.