

# SporePrints

June 28, 2007



Department of Plant Pathology  
The Pennsylvania State  
University

## Universidad de Guanajuato Visit

The Departments of Plant Pathology, Food Science, Horticulture, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, as well as Animal Sciences co-hosted a visit by Drs. Luis Perez Moreno, Rafael Ramirez Malagon, and J. Eleazar Barboza-Corona, faculty members from the Universidad de Guanajuato, Mexico on May 7th. Drs. Ramirez Malagon and Barboza-Corona presented a two-part seminar entitled *1. Biological Development of Inbreed Agaves for Guanajuato State, Mexico* and *2. Study of Bacterial Proteins that Could Have a Biotechnological Potential Value* at the Food Science Building. In addition, Dr. Perez Moreno, Professor of Plant Protection, visited Buckhout Laboratory to discuss the integrated management of vegetable diseases, particularly those caused by viruses and fungi, with various members of the Department. Dr. Gary Moorman, served as our coordinator for the visit.



**Dr. Gary Moorman** (left) and **Dr. Luis Perez Moreno**  
Photo by Nancy Wenner

## Southern University Visit

Thank you to all who assisted in hosting our visitors from Southern University in Louisiana, especially Fred Gildow who put together the program and drove them to the PDA, FREC, and Fort Detrick, Maryland. Also, thanks to the presenters: Donald Davis, Fred Gildow, Scott Isard, Gretchen Kuldau, Seogchan Kang, David Geiser, John Peplinski, Gary Moorman, Grace O'Keefe, Dennis Decoteau, John Pecchia, Wakar Uddin, and John Halbrendt, as well as to Aaron Brown, who served as a driver for a day. Finally, special thanks to Cathy Lyons who sponsored a dinner for the visitors.



Visitors from Southern University

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Barb Christ**, the newly elected Vice President of the American Phytopathological Society (APS).

**John Pecchia** (Ph.D. 2000) who was named Manager of the Mushroom Test-Demonstration Facility and Mushroom Research Center, effective May 15, 2007.

## Welcome!

**Shannon Rose**, a senior from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Shannon is visiting Dr. Yinong Yang's lab for ten weeks as a participant in the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates. During her stay in Dr. Yang's lab, Shannon will be studying the molecular biology of rice-fungus interactions.

## Student Achievements

Congratulations to **Aaron Brown** (Plant Pathology; advisor, David Beyer) and **Jeremy Zidek** (Ecology; advisor, Scott Isard) for successfully passing their M.S. thesis defenses.

Kudos to the following students who have received Graduate Student Travel Assistance awards from the Department:

- **Hye-Seon Kim**, for travel to the Delaware Biotechnology Institute to study the pathogenicity mechanism of fungi using a confocal microscope.
- **Maria Velez Climent**, for travel to the North Florida Research and Education Center at Quincy, Florida, to conduct soybean rust research.
- **Rachel Melnick**, to conduct research on fungal and bacterial endophytes of cacao with Dr. Bryan Bailey at the Sustainable and Perennial Crop Lab at the USDA-BARC, Beltsville, MD.

**Alma Rodriguez Estrada** received the Sinden Scholarship from the American Mushroom Institute (AMI). She also received funding to attend the upcoming *Conference on Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture Education* at Cornell University.

## 49<sup>TH</sup> MUSHROOM INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

The 49th Mushroom Industry Conference was held June 10-12, 2007 at the Nittany Lion Inn. Another successful conference was attended by growers and researchers

from throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as from Nepal, South Korea, Hungary, Germany, the Netherlands and Venezuela. We are looking forward to next year's conference, which will be the 50th Mushroom Industry Conference, June 8-9, 2008. The conference is designed to promote the exchange of ideas for mushroom production, research, technology and marketing.

## Annual Meeting of NC-1025 Mycotoxins: Biosecurity and Food Safety

Gretchen Kuldau hosted the Annual Meeting of NC-1025 Mycotoxins: Biosecurity and Food Safety on May 22, 2007 at Buckhout Laboratory.

## *Aerobiology 2007 and Spore Camp*

The Department of Plant Pathology hosted *Aerobiology 2007: Symposium of the Pan-American Association of Aerobiology* on June 8-11, 2007. Fifty participants, representing university departments and private laboratories in the United States, Puerto Rico, France, Hungary, India, Kuwait, Poland, Spain, and Switzerland attended the symposium. In addition, the Fusarium Research Center hosted the Pan American Aerobiology Association's *Spore Camp* on June 12th and 13th.

## In Memory

Condolences are extended to the family of Peg Blair, who passed away on June 1, 2007. Peg was a member of the office staff for nearly 20 years, until her retirement in 1988. Peg was an expert manuscript typist and during her time in the department also served as receptionist and extension secretary. Peg is remembered for her great sense of humor and her kind and caring nature.

*SporePrints* is the monthly newsletter of the Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agricultural Sciences, University Park, PA; <http://www.ppath.cas.psu.edu/>. Please send newsletter items and photos to Marsha Ann Tate at [mat1@psu.edu](mailto:mat1@psu.edu).