

27 May 2010

SporePrints



Congratulations

Dr. Wakar Uddin was recently promoted to professor.

Spring 2010 graduates **Rachel Melnick** (Ph.D.) and **Alicia Spangler** (B.S., AGECO, Minor, Plant Pathology)

Maria Velez-Climent received a \$500.00 College of Agricultural Sciences travel award to attend the *Fifth IUFRO Meeting on Phytophthora Diseases in Forest and Natural Ecosystems*. The meeting was held 7–14 March 2010, in Rotorua, Auckland and Victoria, New Zealand.

Congratulations to the 19 March Cookie Contest winners:

Sarah Bardsley
(Most Delicious Cookie)

Matt Kasson
(Most Unique Cookie)

Emily Pfeufer
(Most Attractive Cookie)

Thank You to Everyone Who Helped Make the Plant Disease Diagnosis Workshop a Great Success

Congratulations to **Sara May** and all of her assistants for organizing and presenting the recent Plant Disease Diagnosis Workshop. Thanks especially to:

- **Beth Gugino**, Sara's number one supporter, intimately involved in all aspects of organizing and planning the workshop.
- **Randy Dreibelbis** and **Ryan Boonie** for helping set up the physical layout for the workshop and dinner at the farm.
- **Amy Perryman**, **Maria Velez-Climent**, **Maria Burgos**, and **Michelle Mansfield** for helping prepare materials and TA'ing.
- **David Geiser**, **Gretchen Kuldau**, **Elwin Stewart**, **John Halbrendt**, **Gary Moorman**, and **Jean Juba**, for volunteering their time to serve as instructors for the Workshop Classes.



Dr. Barbara Christ Receives Faculty Honorable Mention at 5th Annual WISE Reception

On Friday 19 March, **Dr. Barbara Christ** received Faculty Honorable Mention at the 5th Annual Women in the Sciences and Engineering Institute (WISE) Reception held at the Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum. The awards, co-sponsored by WISE and Norfolk Southern, recognize faculty who have helped women and girls excel in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.



Nick Dufault Hired by University of Florida

Dr. Nick Dufault (Ph.D. 2008), a post-doc who earned his Ph.D. in our department, has accepted a tenure-track Extension and Research position with the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Nick's extension responsibilities will include diseases of peanuts, cucurbits, and potatoes. He currently works with **Dr. Scott Isard** in the Computational Epidemiology and Aerobiology Lab and plans to assume his new responsibilities in November.

2010 Richard R. Nelson Memorial Lecture



Dr. Barbara Valent, Distinguished Professor of Plant Pathology at Kansas State University, delivered the 2010 R. R. Nelson Lecture "**Battle Inside a Rice Cell: Effector Dynamics During Biotrophic Invasion by the Rice Blast Fungus, *Magnaporthe oryzae***" on 5 April. Dr. Valent studies rice blast disease, one of the most explosive diseases threatening rice production worldwide. She led the establishment of this disease as a model for understanding the molecular and cellular mechanisms underpinning host specificity and pathogenesis.

The **Richard R. Nelson Memorial Lectures** were established in memory of Dr. Richard R. Nelson (1926-1991). The annual lectures focus on host-pathogen genetics.

"Students' Choice" Seminar Lecture

Dr. Anne Dorrance, this year's Students' Choice Seminar Speaker, presented "Best Disease Management Practices for the Eastern Soybean Belt" on Friday, 2 April. Dr. Dorrance, a professor in the Plant Pathology Department at Ohio State University, was the recipient of the 2009 APS Excellence in Extension Award and is currently serving as an APS Councilor at Large.



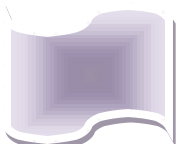
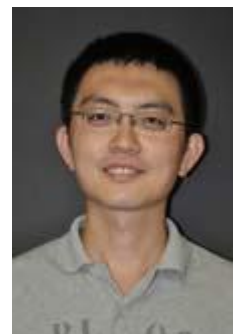
Guest Seminar Lecture



On 29 March, **Dr. Michael Goodin** (Ph.D. 1995), a faculty member in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Kentucky and alumnus of the Department of Plant Pathology presented a guest Plant Pathology Seminar entitled "Tracks Out of the Nucleus: How Rhabdoviruses Move Cell to Cell."

Bin Tian Receives AgSci Grant

Bin Tian, a PhD candidate in Plant Pathology was recently awarded a competitive grant in the College of Agricultural Sciences Student Grant Competition. The grant, entitled "Host Adaptability and Genetic Diversity in Soybean Dwarf Virus," will evaluate the risk of an increasing incidence of SbDV in U.S. soybean fields by exploring the relationship between virus genetic diversity and adaptability to host plants. Bin's thesis research, conducted under the direction of **Dr. Fred Gildow** and **W. Schneider** (USDA-ARS, Foreign Disease and Weed Lab), examines the adaptation of clover strains of SbDV to soybeans and to the soybean aphid, recently introduced from Asia.



Benjamin Woolston Wins 1st Place Award at the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

Congratulations to **Benjamin Woolston**, an M.S. degree candidate working with Pete Romaine, for receiving the 1st Place Student Award at the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland on 17 April 2010. Benjamin received the award for his presentation, "Towards the Development of a Mushroom-based Platform for the Large-scale Production of Heterologous Proteins". Ben will compete at the national conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah this November. He is a Schreyer Honors College student who is studying protein trafficking during organogenesis in *Agaricus bisporus* with co-advisors **Pete Romaine** and **Wayne Curtis** in pursuit of an M.S. degree in Chemical Engineering.

International Potluck Luncheon

The Plant Pathology Social Committee and The Pennsylvania State University Plant Pathology Association (PPA) co-sponsored an International Potluck Luncheon on Friday 7 May. Participants shared their favorite ethnic foods, recipes, and photos of their home countries and hometowns.



Graduate Students Enjoy Award-Winning Semester

The following PPath students won awards in recent Professional Poster competitions and Professional Meetings.

University Graduate Exhibition held Sunday, 28 March

Category: Health and Life Sciences

- First Place Awards: **Steven Lee** and **Lili Zhang**
- Second Place Award: **Vasileios Bitas**
- Third Place Award: **Maria Velez-Climent**

Gamma Sigma Delta / College of Ag Sciences Poster Exposition held 17 March

Category: Environmental Sciences

- Second Place: **Vasileios Bitas**

Category: Biological Sciences

- Fourth Place: **Emily Pfeufer**

Potomac Division of the American Phytopathological Society held 24 March

- First Place Graduate Student Presentations: **Matt Kasson**

Please submit items and photos for *SporePrints* to Marsha Ann Tate at mat1@psu.edu.

Upcoming in the June Issue of *SporePrints*

- A feature article on the Plant Disease Workshop
- A report on the *Symposium on Oomycete Pathosystems*
- Reports on spring and summer 2010 competitions and professional meetings