

SPOREPRINTS

Department of Plant Pathology & Environmental Microbiology

DECEMBER, 2012

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
MERRY CHRISTMAS



CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME

- **Brian Aynardi** – On November 27th Brian passed his oral candidacy exam for the Ph.D. degree program. *Congratulations!*



- **Matt Kasson** – Will be graduating with his Ph.D. on December 22nd. *Congratulations!*



- **Yinfei Li** - Passed her doctoral thesis defense on November 26th. *Congratulations!*



- **Anna Testen** – Will graduate on December 22nd with her Master of Science degree. *Congratulations!*



- **Dr. Yinong Yang** – Congratulations to Dr. Yinong Yang on editing and publishing a new book titled "Methods in Molecular Biology: Rice Protocols", [hardcover] 347 pp, Humana Press, Springer Science Business Media.



- **Bastian Minkenberg** recently joined Dr. Yinong Yang's lab as a Plant Biology PhD student following his lab rotations. Bastian received his BS (2010) and MS (2012) degrees in Biology from RTWH Aachen University in Germany. His undergraduate research was to clone and analyze soybean promoters induced by soybean rust infection whereas his master's thesis focused on quantitative analysis of flagellin-induced phosphoproteins in *Arabidopsis*. For his PhD research, Bastian is interested in studying the crosstalk between the mitogen-activated protein kinase cascade and calcium-dependent protein kinase signaling and its significance in rice biotic and abiotic stress tolerance.



Xiangling Shen is a new postdoctoral research associate working in Dr. Yinong Yang's lab. Dr. Shen received his BS (2004) in Biotechnology and PhD (2010) in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Huazhong Agricultural University in China. His PhD research focused on characterizing the mitogen-activated protein kinase cascade and its role in rice disease resistance. His postdoctoral research is to characterize rice proteins and signaling pathways targeted by rice blast effectors and to elucidate the mechanism of rice disease susceptibility and resistance.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & REMINDERS

- **Pesticide License Holders – Pesticide Update – Jan. 3.**- Let Rox know by Dec. 11 if you will be attending.
- **CPR/AED Training (Faculty/Staff) – Jan. 16** – Let Rox know by Jan. 9, if you plan on attending.

- **[Holiday Shutdown \(12/22 – 1/1\) ...Reminders/Info](#)**

'Tis the season. In preparation for the University holiday closing, and to keep the flies/roaches from taking over (ugh)...please keep the following dates in mind, as we get closer to the break.

- **Compost Bin** (blue bin in Room 13): *The compost bin will be set out Tues., Dec. 18. Any compostable materials generated after that date will need to be taken outside to the bins located at the end of the Botany greenhouse.*
 - **Bio-Waste** (white bins in Room 13): *The last bio-waste pickup will be Mon., Dec. 17. Anything after that date – will need to be held in labs until after Jan. 2*
 - **Janitorial:** *Depending on which week your lab/office is on the cleaning schedule (check with Phil if you are unsure), the last of the office/lab garbage pick-up will be either the week of Dec. 10 or Dec. 17. Between those dates and Dec. 21 you will need to take your garbage to the trash cans in the hallways. After Dec. 21, if you have garbage that will decay over break, please take it to the dumpsters located at the southwest end of the Botany greenhouse.*
- **Power Down** – *Please remember to turn off any unneeded equipment over the break. This will help reduce energy waste, as well as help protect the equipment in the event there are power issues (surges, outages) with the building.*
 - **Building Temperature Shut Backs** – *Starting Dec. 20-21 the building temperatures will start to drop back to 60F, except in exempted rooms. If you will be working in Buckhout over the break, please plan accordingly. **The use of space heaters is prohibited, unless given permission by OPP.***

CALENDAR/UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 10 - PPATH 590 Colloquium – Dr. Ed Dudley – Casida Development Professor of Food Science and Assistant Professor of Food Science – Food Science Dept. – Penn State, UP
- December 12 - PPATH Faculty Mtg.
- December 13 -
 - **Holiday Party – Hilton Garden Inn, 3:30p – 6:00p**
 - **7am – 11am – Buckhout Lab's Heating/Air Conditioning will be shutdown – plan accordingly**
- December 14 - Classes End
- December 17 - 21 – Final Exams
- December 22 - Commencement
- **December 22 thru January 1 – Holiday Break and Campus Closure**
- January 6 - Registration Deadline (only available on e-Lion)
- January 7 - Classes Begin

Have a safe and happy holiday!

