

# SPOREPRINTS

Department of Plant Pathology & Environmental Microbiology

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

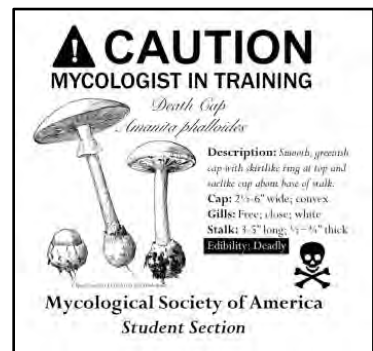
## CONGRATULATIONS



**Sarah Bardsley** (Ph.D. candidate in Plant Pathology), passed her comprehensive exam on February 26! One more step closer to graduation! Sarah is advised by Dr. Maria del Mar Jimenez Gasco. Congratulations Sarah!



**Kristi Fenstermacher** (Ph.D. candidate in Plant Pathology) won the MSA student section t-shirt design contest. In designing the image she tried to make it a Death Cap/Amanita Phalloides PSA. Here's the design ....



Starting April 13<sup>th</sup>, **Emily Pfeufer** (Ph.D. Plant Pathology 2014) will be joining the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Kentucky as an Assistant Professor with research and extension responsibilities for vegetables and tobacco. Her last day in the Department will be March 31<sup>st</sup>!

Good luck in the next phase of your career Emily!



**Sara Klee** (Ph.D. candidate in Plant Pathology) received an American Phytopathological Society Graduate Student Travel Award (\$500) during the recent APS Potomac Division Meeting held in Rehoboth, DE on March 11-13<sup>th</sup> for her presentation titled "Using fluorescent labeling to gain insight into fire blight disease development." Sara plant to use the award to support her travel to the Annual APS meeting in Pasadena, CA this upcoming August.

## NOTEWORTHY NEWS...

### **Microscopy 101: Turfgrass Disease Research Outreach Activities**

**Dr. Wakar Uddin** and his graduate students, **Gary Nolan** and **Brian Aynardi**, have been providing outreach opportunities for members of the turfgrass industry over the past 2 years. During their outreach activities, “Microscopic Diagnosis 101” workshops have been conducted throughout the Commonwealth, as well as to Baltusrol Golf Club in New Jersey. In addition to Baltusrol, Dr. Uddin and his team have conducted workshops at both the Eastern and Western PA Turf Conferences and Trade Shows, and workshops organized by Fisher and Son Company in Exton, PA, and Walker Supply, Inc. in Monroeville, PA.

The workshops included an introductory lecture by Dr. Uddin on topics in plant disease processes, an overview of turfgrass disease diagnosis, integrated management strategies, and fungicide resistance issues in turfgrass pathosystem. The introductory lecture is followed by a two-hour microscopic session in which participants were trained for use of microscopy in diagnosing turfgrass diseases and the study of diagnostic features of a variety of turfgrass pathogens. Following the laboratory session, Gary Nolan presented research results on application of systemic resistance-inducers in turfgrass system, and Brian Aynardi presented disease profiles and information on application of novel fungicides in turfgrass disease management.



*Dr. Wakar Uddin provides a lecture on plant disease processes to golf course superintendents in Monroeville, PA, on March 4, 2015.*



*Dr. Wakar Uddin, Brian Aynardi, and Gary Nolan conduct laboratory session on microscopic diagnosis of turfgrass diseases.*

### **PA Bureau of Forestry Winter 2015 Meeting**

**Drs. Don Davis** (left), **Tom Hall** (middle, state forest pathologist, Harrisburg), and **Bob Long** (right, USDA Forest Service, Warren: PhD, Penn State Plant Pathology, 1987), recently gave talks and participated in a panel discussion at the “PA Bureau of Forestry Winter 2015 Meeting” in State College. The topic of the panel was the current state of “Oak Decline” in Pennsylvania, which is a historic, but scattered, problem in oak forests across the Commonwealth. Don presented a lecture on oak wilt and its possible role in oak decline. Don also discussed helicopter trimming of oaks along the numerous utility (both gas and electric) lines that criss-cross the state, and the role of helicopter trimming in dissemination of the oak wilt pathogen. Bob gave a talk on Phytophthora root rot of white oak and discussed the possible role of Phytophthora root rots in oak decline. And finally, Tom Hall presented a historic overview of oak decline in the state and discussed the site-specific factors usually associated with oak decline in PA. Such factors include precipitation (both excess and deficit), prior and historic insect defoliations, tree age, soils, position on slope, aspect, and so forth. Similar factors are related to oak decline in Europe. The meeting was well attended by private and state foresters from across the state. Tom also presented a seminar to the Department, and Bob presented a lecture in Don’s forest pathology course.



## NOTEWORTHY NEWS CONTINUED...

**Dr. Yinong Yang** attended the XXIII Plant and Animal Genome Conference in San Diego, California during January 9-14, 2015. He presented two invited talks titled "Plant genome editing and precision breeding with CRISPR-Cas9 system" and "Direct phosphorylation and activation of MPK5 by membrane-associated CPK18 in rice", respectively.

**Building Renovation Updates....from Roxanne Lease, Facilities Coordinator** - keep a close eye on your emails regarding updates relating to the building renovations. Mark your calendar for the "Town Hall Meeting" this Friday – 3/20 @ 1:15pm in Room 112. *It is important everyone attend!*

**Additional Reminders....** Any items that are newsworthy – Department-related (faculty/staff/student) events, awards, publications, trips... please send to Sandy for inclusion on the website and in SPOREPRINTS. Photos from these events are appreciated, whenever possible.

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

- March 20<sup>th</sup> – Buckhout Building Renovation Mtg
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Dr. Patricia Millner – USDA – ARS – Seminar Speaker
- March 30<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Sheng Yang He – Michigan State University – RR Nelson Memorial Lecture
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – PPEM Annual Awards Ceremony
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Carly Summers – Cornell – Seminar Speaker
- April 6<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Chang Hyun Khang – Univ of Georgia – Seminar Speaker

## PPA FLEECE FUNDRAISER... order by March 31<sup>st</sup>!

- Crossland™ fleece jacket made with soft 13.8-oz 100% polyester fleece
- Color: **Navy** (No other colors will be available)
- Men and women sizes (XS to 3XL)
- Full front zip with chin guard and twill neck taping
- Interior pockets with front zippers
- Open cuffs and open drawcord hem
- Embroidered PPEM logo on left chest in white
- Orders AND payments are due March 31st - fill out order form in mail room
- Write checks out to "Plant Pathology Association"
- Give cash or checks to Sarah Bardsley, Anita Behari, or Chris Smyth
- Sample jackets are available to try on in Sandy's office (Room 211). If you have any questions, please let me know!

\$30 each

