

# SPOREPRINTS

Department of Plant Pathology

FEBRUARY 20, 2012

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

## CONGRATULATIONS

### *DECEMBER 2011 PPATH GRADUATES:*



- **Dylan Short**, PhD in Plant Pathology (Supervised by Professor David Geiser)-Widespread Occurrence and Evolution of Human Pathogenic *Fusarium*. Dr. Short currently works as a post-doctoral associate in the laboratory of Dr. Krishna Subbarao at the University of California, Davis.



- **Li Guo**, PhD in Plant Pathology (Supervised by Professor Gretchen Kuldau)-Molecular Genetic Analysis of Development and Pathogenicity in the Filamentous Fungus *Fusarium verticillioides*. Dr. Guo has accepted a position as a post-doctoral associate at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst working with Dr. Li-Jun Ma.



- **Dharmendra Singh**, PhD in Plant Biology (Supervised by Professors Siela Maximova and Timothy W. McNellis)-Characterization of Fibrillin4 Protein Function in Plants. Dr. Singh currently works as a post-doctoral associate in the laboratory of Dr. Sorina Popescu at Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Ithaca, NY.



### *AWARDS*

- *Congratulations* to **Emily Helliwell** for being selected to represent the Penn State Department of Plant Pathology and present her research at Cornell as part of the graduate student exchange!

## GOODBYE



- Goodbye **Becky** - we will certainly miss you a lot. After 40 years of service to the department as Administrative Assistant, Becky Peplinski, has retired. Becky's radiant smile and always-helpful efforts to address the needs and problems of her colleagues were recognized by a celebration at the annual Holiday Party. We thank Walter Albright, Jean and Jim Bloom, Herb Cole, Barb Christ, Win Hock, Ken Lutz, Jean Juba, Bob Nuss, John Peplinski, Teresa Shirk,

and Lee and Linda Schissler, as well as everyone else who contributed to this special occasion.

- Goodbye and best wishes to Maria Velez-Climent, she has moved to join Nick in Florida. Thank you Maria for the Valentine treats!

## WELCOME



Welcome **Diane** – In January, Diane Yoder joined our unit as Administrative Support Coordinate to manage the daily operations of the department. Diane comes to us from the Department of Meteorology where she worked for over 10 years. She is very excited to be part of such a wonderful department and is proud to be here.

## THANK YOU

On behalf of everyone who participated in the Plant Pathology Department's 2011 Holiday Party, I want to thank Judy Sinn for her efforts in arranging this year's celebration. For the past several years Judy has played a major role in making sure we have a very nicely arranged Christmas party. We also want to thank Sandy Beck, Debra Clemmer, Lori Long and Kim Paley for assisting Judy by helping decorate and organizing donations. So, when you see them about, please take the opportunity to let them know how much you appreciate their efforts. – *Fred Gildow*



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### **Dual-title degree program in International Agriculture and Development (INTAD)**

**PPATH graduate students** (both M.S. and Ph.D.) who are interested in strengthening their plant pathology degree by incorporating international experiences and credentials should consider applying to this dual-title degree program in the College of Agricultural Sciences. Students must apply and be accepted into INTAD. Please note that Ph.D. students wishing to enroll in this Program must do so prior to taking the Candidacy Exam as a representative from INTAD is required for the exam. To learn more about INTAD and admission requirements and process, please visit the program web site:

<http://agsci.psu.edu/international/graduatestudents/intad>

**Renaming of 208A Conference Room – Buckhout Lab...** The 208A Conference Room in Buckhout Lab has been renamed Dr. James Tammen Room

**News/Info for SPOREPRINTS**...Reminder to Faculty/Staff/Students – Please provide information or news for SPOREPRINTS to Sandy. SPOREPRINTS will be issued monthly.

## CALENDAR/UPCOMING EVENTS

### Dept. Award Ceremony

- 2/28 – 3:00pm – 4:30pm

### Faculty Mtgs

- 3/14 – 2:30pm – 4:00pm

### Seminars (PPATH)

- 2/27 – 3:35pm (Christine Smith – Lambert Spawn, Inc.)
- 3/12 – 3:35pm (Maria Burgos-Garay – Penn State, Plant Pathology)
- 3/19 – 3:35pm (Dan Royse – Penn State, Plant Pathology)
- 3/23 – 3:35pm (Frank Wong – Bayer Environmental Science)
- 3/26 – 3:35pm (Krishna Subbarao – University of California, Davis)

### Spring Break

- 3/5 – 3/9 (Monday thru Friday)

### Staff Mtgs

- 3/15 – 3:00pm – 4:00pm

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- STAP (Summer Tuition Assistance Program) – Applications being accepted thru 6/30/12.... visit website <http://www.gradsch.psu.edu/current/funding/programs/summer.html>
- 2/22—last date for a spring graduate to upload a draft of the master's thesis to the eTD Web site for format review [http://www.eta.libraries.psu.edu/index\\_maint.html](http://www.eta.libraries.psu.edu/index_maint.html)
- 4/1 —applications for the Academic Computing Fellowship and the AT&T Graduate Fellowship due in 209 Kern Bldg. For more information visit <http://gradsch.psu.edu/fellowships/programs.html>
- 4/5—last date for a spring graduate to pass final doctoral defense (department must return report form to Graduate Enrollment Services immediately)

## NAME THIS DISEASE AND ITS CAUSAL AGENT

This contest will appear in each issue of SPOREPRINTS. If you are interested in competing, send both the common name of this disease and its causal agent to Sandy in an



email with “SPOREPRINTS Contest” on the Subject line. Only contestants who submit entries with both answers correct will be considered winners. Winners will be determined and their names posted on the Mail Room bulletin board one week after SPOREPRINTS is distributed. At the Department Award Ceremony next year (winter 2013), the student with the most wins, will receive recognition and a travel award. We will also recognize a faculty/staff winner.

Host: crab apple