

# SPOREPRINTS

Department of Plant Pathology

MAY 1, 2012

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Congratulations...

- **Dr. Fred Gildow**, PPATH Department Head has been named the Unit Leader for the Department of Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology by Dean McPheron. This is part of the new department structure within the College of Agricultural Sciences.
- **2012 Penn State University Graduate Research Exhibition**



Over 260 graduate students from all disciplines in the University participated in scientific poster displays and visual arts presentations. Emphasis of the poster presentations was to communicate scientific information and research results and significance to the general public. Plant Pathology participants in the area of Health and Life Sciences included: Brian Aynardi, Vasileios Bitas, Sarah Bardsley, Emily Helliwell, Yinfei Li, Alamgir Rahman, and Anna Testen. Cash prizes were awarded in 6 areas of sciences, engineering, and arts & humanities. Congratulations go to Anna Testen, a M.S. degree candidate working with Dr. Paul Backman, for her third place award in the Life Sciences division which had 67 entries. Judges representing Plant Pathology included Xiaodong Bao, Tim McNellis, Laura Ramos, Marilyn Roossinck, Emmie Warnstrom, and Fred Gildow. The Department appreciates the efforts made by these students and faculty to support the Graduate Exhibition and to represent the Department of Plant Pathology at this University-wide event.



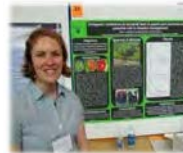
Anna Testen



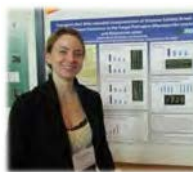
Brian Aynardi



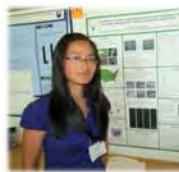
Vasileios Bitas



Sarah Bardsley



Emily Helliwell



Yinfei Li

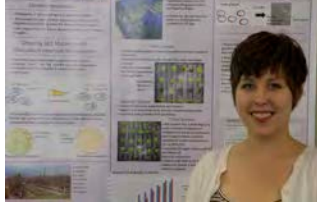



Alamgir Rahman

- **Dr. Scott Isard**, Professor of Aerobiology, has been awarded the International IPM Award of Excellence at the 7<sup>th</sup> International IPM Symposium held March 27-29 in Memphis, TN. The award was in recognition of the soybean rust PIPE (Pest Information Platform for Extension) program and for exemplary collaborations with International Agencies, Land Grant Universities, and the Soybean Industry. A well-deserved award resulting from a lot of hard work. **Way to go Scott!!!**



## Additional Congratulations...

- **Katy Baldwin**, an undergraduate researcher working with Dr. Tim McNellis, won “best overall” at the Undergraduate Exhibition poster session, held on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Her poster was titled “Exploring the genetics of fire blight from *Erwinia amylovora*” and may be viewed in Old Main until the end of the Spring semester. **Congratulations to Katy, Judy Sinn and Dr. Tim McNellis!**
- 
- **Seogchan Kang** has been selected as a 2012 **Penn State Institute for CyberScience (ICS) Faculty Fellow** based on the proposal entitled “iFungi: A Comprehensive Cyberinfrastructure Supporting Data Management and Utilization and Knowledge Sharing on Fungi” and will receive \$25,000. The ICS Faculty Fellows Program is designed to support ICS faculty in their development of interdisciplinary collaborations for cyber-enabled discovery and innovation. It provides support for initiating new research collaborations that could lead to a program of significant research scholarship and competitive proposals to external agencies.
  - **Brian Aynardi** was nominated and elected by the Graduate Student Association – as a Faculty Senate Representative. Brian looks forward to representing the graduate students...please let him know if you have any issues you would like the GSA to address. **Way to go Brian!!!**
  - **Dr. Paul Backman** has volunteered to act as the departmental coordinator for the INTAD dual major program. Any students interested in INTAD should meet with Dr. Backman to discuss opportunities in the Plant Pathology / International Agriculture and Development major. (See additional information below). **Thank you Paul!**
  - **Joe Smith was the first AGBIO & Food Defense graduate (Spring 2012)**...with Dr. Gretchan Kuldau, as the Advisor. **Congratulations Joe and Gretchen!**
  - **Dr. Matt Kasson**, Ph.D. in Plant Pathology (Advisor: Dr. Don Davis) passed his dissertation defense on April 24<sup>th</sup> for his research on the managing the invasive tree, *Ailanthus altissima*, in Pennsylvania **Congratulations Matt** (pictured right)!
- 

## APRIL EVENTS...

- On Tuesday, April 17 an International Luncheon for the PPATH department was held in the Tammen Conference room. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped with the setup!



- **Ag Day 2012** ... The following students worked the PPATH booth at the Hub Robeson Center Alumni Hall...Sarah Bardsley, Caroline Black, Maria Burgos, Hilary Cheesman, Jill Demers, Kristi Fenstermacher, Illse Huerta, Grace O'Keefe, Laura Ramos, Anna Testen and Emmie Warnstrom...plus a “special” thank you to Dan Cheesman (Hilary’s spouse) who helped with the takedown!
- **Dr. Gary Moorman** was interviewed for Penn State LIVE, on April 13th, for the probing question: *What causes trees to be diseased?* Read the entire article at <http://live.psu.edu/story/59157#nw63>
- The Plant Pathology Department SP' 12 seminars concluded in April with guest speakers...Gautam Shirsekar (Ohio State Univ.), Betsy Arnold (Univ. of Arizona), Venkatesh Muktali (PPATH/IBOS - Penn State Univ.), Yinefei Li (PPATH - Penn State Univ.) and Matt Kasson (PPATH – Penn State Univ.).

## 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>

- STAP (Summer Tuition Assistance Program) – Applications being accepted thru 6/30/12... visit website <http://www.gradsch.psu.edu/current/funding/programs/summer.html>
- 5/5 – *Spring 2012 Commencement for College of Agricultural Sciences (Undergraduates)- at 9:00am in the Eisenhower Auditorium*
- 5/5—*Spring Graduation Brunch – provided by Ag Alumni Society... graduates and guests invited... must pre-register*
- 5/6—*Graduate School Commencement Ceremony at 4:30pm... Bryce Jordan Center*
- Drs. Don Davis and Fred Gildow will be offering and teaching the PPATH 502 – Plant Disease Diagnosis course this summer. Students will learn the signs and symptoms of various plant diseases in field settings and general plant pathology techniques in the laboratory/classroom. The course is designed to be an intensive, yet low-stress, graduate-level course. The course will start July 2, continuing thru July 30 (with field trips and lab days). Other instructors involved include Drs. Beyer, Gugino, Moorman and Uddin. If you have already taken PPATH502 and still wish to sign-up for this course, you may register for PPATH 596 (3 credits).

**\*\*\*\*REMINDER...Registration Deadline – May 13<sup>th</sup> - for 1<sup>st</sup> Six-Week Summer Session. Also please remember to file your semester bill in eLion.**

**.....News/Info for SPOREPRINTS** – Please provide information or news for SPOREPRINTS by sending to S. Beck. SPOREPRINTS will be issued monthly.

## CALENDAR/UPCOMING EVENTS

### **NEW DATE and TIMES!**

#### **Faculty Meetings**

- 5/21 – Faculty Meeting – 10:00am – 12:00pm Tammen Conference Room

#### **Staff Meetings**

- 5/24 – 3:00pm – 4:00pm Tammen Conference Room

## NAME THIS DISEASE AND ITS CAUSAL AGENT

This contest will appear in each issue of Spore Prints. If you are interested in competing, send both the common name of this disease and its causal agent to Sandy in an email with “Spore Prints 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 Spore Prints is distributed. At the Department Award Ceremony next year (winter 2013), the individual with the most wins, will receive recognition and a travel award. The host range for this pathogen is cucurbits.

