

SPOREPRINTS

Department of Plant Pathology

JUNE 4, 2012

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRATULATIONS

May 2012 PPATH Graduates:

- **Congratulations** to Dr. Joe Smith, DVM the first graduate of the Master in Professional Studies in Homeland Security option in Agricultural Biosecurity and Food Defense! Dr. Smith is a large animal veterinarian working in western Pennsylvania and northeastern Ohio. He will be starting a livestock surgery residency at UC Davis this summer and will be taking along his newly found knowledge and appreciation for plant biosecurity and food defense as well as animal biosecurity as he begins his residency. Congratulations and best of luck, Dr. Smith!



This milestone of the program also calls for a big thanks to Dr. Gretchen Kuldau who has served as Option Director since its inception. Gretchen also led the creation and development of the option.

- **Congratulations** ... Dr. Steven Lee graduated with a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology and is currently a Post-Doc Researcher at Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, NY. He is working with Marci Scidmore, Associate Professor of Microbiology, on disease mechanism of Chlamidia bacterial species in humans. Steven was a student of Dr. Timothy McNellis, his thesis was titled...*Virulence of Erwinia amylovora: Hunting Down Its Determinants Using Transposon Mutagenesis of a High Virulent Strain, HKN06P-1*
- **Congratulations** ... Lindsay Wittmer, undergraduate in Dr. Timothy McNellis' lab from August 2010 until May 2012, graduated in May with a B.S. degree in Microbiology. Lindsay did research on fire blight and onion center rot. She has landed a job at the Genewiz Company in South Plainfield, NJ and started her new position on May 14, 2012.

Additional congratulations due...

- **Congratulations** to the following PPATH students, who have passed their Written Candidacy Examination....Brian Aynardi, Caroline Black, Kristi Fenstermacher, Grace O'Keefe and Doug Whalen. Kudo's for a job well done and achieving this rite of passage onto the Oral Candidacy Examination!

Additional congratulations due...

- **2012 Outstanding Alumni Award...Dr. James Moyer**

Dr. James Moyer a M.S. (1973) and Ph.D.(1976) *graduate of the Dept. of Plant Pathology at Penn State University* has been selected as an Outstanding Alumni of the College of Agricultural Sciences for 2012. Dr. Moyer is a recognized leader nationally and internationally in Plant Pathology for his work in Plant Virology. Dr. Moyer received his M.S. degree working with Dr. Herb Cole on air pollutants and pesticides on ornamentals. He earned his Ph.D. working with Dr. Sam Smith and was one of the first to purify and produce antibodies for detecting viruses infecting mushrooms. Dr. Moyer currently serves as the Head of the Department of Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University. In 2001 he was made a Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society and served as President of APS in 2009. The award ceremony is planned for October 19, 2012. More details to follow in the Fall.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Plant Pathology Department...New Name Effective July 1, 2012

The Plant Pathology Department's name will change as of July 1, 2012. Our new name will be...

Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology

- **54th Annual Mushroom Short Course** – June 10-12, 2012
Will be held at the Nittany Lion Inn – State College, PA
David Beyer, John Pecchia...plus Pete Romaine, Dan Royse and Emmie Warnstrom will be presenting at the short-course.
- Dr. Gretchan Kuldau will begin her sabbatical on July 1 continuing thru January 1,2013
- ***New Faculty Assignments for PPATH...***
 - Seogchan Kang – Ag Biosecurity Coordinator for CoAS
 - David Geiser – Interim Graduate Program Coordinator and Chair for Recruitment Committee
 - Maria del Mar Jimenez-Gasco – Advisor to the Minor in Plant Pathology

FARWELLS

- Drs. Peter Romaine (l) and Daniel Royse (r) will be retiring on June 30th. Pete and Dan contributions to our department over the past 35 years have been substantial and we will certainly miss their presence and input. A retirement celebration will be held in the fall.



CALENDAR/UPCOMING EVENTS

- **54th Annual Mushroom Short Course** – June 10-12
- **Ag Progress Days – August 14 – 16**
Volunteers Neededwatch for sign-up sheet to be posted in Mailroom!
- **PPATH Graduate Student Orientation** – August 27

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 turfgrass. Photo courtesy of Jill Pollok.



