

# SPOREPRINTS

Department of Plant Pathology & Environmental Microbiology

NOVEMBER , 2012

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

## WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS

### CONGRATULATIONS -

- **Dr. James Moyer** – was recently honored with the **College of Agricultural Sciences 2012 Outstanding Alumni Award** by Dean Bruce McPherson at an award ceremony on October 19<sup>th</sup> – held at the Nittany Lion Inn. Before being honored at the ceremony Dr. Moyer and his wife Mary visited the Plant Pathology Environmental Microbiology Department – where he spent time with the faculty, enjoyed lunch with the PPENVMB grad and post-doc students, along with a departmental social. He also presented a seminar entitled “A Conversation about Leadership in a Changing World” ... Dr. Moyer received his M.S. degree in Plant Pathology from Penn State and earned his Ph.D. in Virology under the direction of Dr. Sam Smith – he is currently the Head of the Department of Plant Pathology at NCSU.
- **Dr. Daniel Klessig** presented the **2012 Richard R. Nelson Memorial Lecture** on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Klessig’s lecture entitled “SOS-too many mobile signals in systemic acquired resistance?” was presented in 112 Buckhout Lab, after which a reception with light refreshments was held in 208A for students, faculty, and staff. While here, he spent time with various faculty members and students. Dr. Klessig is from the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research/Cornell University.
- **Congratulations...Anna Testen!** Anna passed her Master of Science Degree Thesis Defense on October 9<sup>th</sup> – following her excellent research seminar entitled “Microbial strategies for sustainable quinoa production”, October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **Congratulations extended to Laura Bartlett**, who successfully completed the Homeland Security Agricultural Biosecurity and Food Defense Graduate Certificate program in 2012. Laura is the first student to complete this program.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & HAPPENINGS

- Candidates for the Assistant Professor in Tree Fruit Pathology visited with the department and presented seminars during October/November ...
  - Dr. Kari Peter – Oct. 15 & 16
  - Dr. Achour Amiri – Oct. 22 & 23
  - Dr. Ramesh Pokharel – Nov. 5 & 6
- **PPENVMB** had a **Birthday/Halloween** celebration. Everyone attending had a great time! Following are the costume prize winners – who also received gift cards...
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place (\$50) – Grace O’Keefe (Spirit of Buckhout)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (\$30) – Ilse Huerta (Grape with Botrytis)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (\$20) – Lori Long (Witch)
- **REMINDER**-- Penn State has designated **November 23 (Friday after Thanksgiving) as “campus closure”** – remember to turn off all equipment when leaving Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> (where appropriate).
- **Pesticide Education has moved out** of 113-116 Buckhout as of Oct. 2 to Special Services III Bldg.
- A few employees of the **PA IPM program have moved into** 113-116 Buckhout as of Oct. 29

## **PPA Happenings...**

- **PPA Troubleshooting Sessions...**

- Graduate students in our department will be meeting once every month to share the problems encountered with our research and help each other find solutions. The discussions will improve our scientific and collaboration skills. The first meeting was on Friday, 11/2 at Noon. Everyone is welcome to participate! (For more information contact Sara May [srm183@psu.edu](mailto:srm183@psu.edu) or Ilse Huerta [iah106@psu.edu](mailto:iah106@psu.edu).)

- **PPA Graduate Cup Team...**

PPA is making a team to participate in the Graduate Cup on April 6, 2013. The event is organized by the GSA. Teams from different colleges/departments will spend the day competing in various field and sporting events including the follow:

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| -Track and Field Races | -Tug of War                                     |
| -Potato Sack Races     | -Rhythmic Gymnastics (a prepared dance routine) |
| -Dodge Ball            | -Three-legged race/wheel barrel race            |
| -Capture the Flag      | -Hot Lava                                       |

Only graduate students can participate. If you want to join our PPA team, please contact Ilse Huerta ([iah106@psu.edu](mailto:iah106@psu.edu)). More information on the event here: <http://www.pennstategsa.com/graduate-cup.html>

## **CALENDAR/UPCOMING EVENTS**

- November 5 – PPATH 590 Colloquium - Dr. Christopher Gee – Asst. Professor of Biology – Penn State Erie-Behrend
- November 12 – PPATH 590 Colloquium - Dr. Bruce Logan – Evan Pugh/Kappe Professor of Engineering-Penn State - UP
- November 15 – PPATH Faculty Mtg
- November 16
  - PPATH Staff Mtg
  - Check sheets to be returned to Graduate Enrollment Svcs (*Graduation Deadline*)
  - Final Thesis/Dissertation and Supporting Materials Submitted (*Graduation Deadline*)
- November 22/23 – Thanksgiving and Campus Closure
- November 26 – PPATH 590 Colloquium - Dr. Kelli Hoover, Professor of Entomology, Penn State – UP

## **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. This pathogen has a very wide host range. Photo courtesy of Jill Pollock.