

SPOREPRINTS

Department of Plant Pathology & Environmental Microbiology

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONGRATULATIONS

2013 Outstanding Alumnus of the College of Agricultural Sciences David Carroll, President of Giorgi Mushroom Company



On October 21 and 22, the Department of Plant Pathology & Environmental Microbiology honored **David Carroll**, President of Giorgi Mushroom Company (plus several other companies), as the 2013 Outstanding Alumnus of the College of Agricultural Sciences. A departmental social was held in the James Tammen Room on October 21st. Later that day, he was honored at the Nittany Lion Inn with the Dean's Ceremony and Reception for all Outstanding Alumni Awardees. Dave earned his M.S. degree in Plant Pathology in 1973 working with Dr. Lee Schisler. Mr. Carroll is recognized as an international leader in the business of mushroom production. This recognition adds further evidence of the quality of the Plant Pathology degree programs in our Department, as Dave was the third recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award from the Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology department. Previous awardees were Dr. Laurence D. Moore in 2011 and Dr. James Moyer in 2012.

Congratulations to Beth Gugino and her faculty colleagues for a successful College of Agriculture Science Research Tour for industry and legislators on September at Rock Springs. Beth's presentation was on managing late blight in tomatoes and an attempt to reduce the need for fungicide applications to tomato plants.



Ilse Huerta and her husband Miguel were the **lucky winners** of the PSU football tickets donated by an alumnus of the PPATH Dept.



PPEM also had a display at the Ag tailgate to promote awareness about plant pathology. Pictured are Judy Sinn & Kim Paley at the display.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS...

The annual **APS Northeast Division** meeting was held in Southbury, CT on October 23-25. PPEM was well represented this year with seven members attending including **Gary Moorman, Beth Gugino, Sara May, Carla Lanze, Emily Pfeufer, Laura Ramos** and **Ilse Huerta**.

Three students participated in the Graduate Student Competition and gave the following research presentations:

- **Emily Pfeufer** – Influence of nitrogen fertility on bacterial rot incidence and overall yield of onion in Pennsylvania.
- **Laura Ramos** – The *rpoN* gene is essential for *Erwinia amylovora* bacterium to cause fire blight disease in apple trees.
- **Ilse Huerta** – The integrated use of host resistance, fungicides and disease forecasting for the management of late blight (US-23) on tomato in Pennsylvania.

All Department members are encouraged to attend! This is a great meeting for students to gain experience in presenting their research and networking in a professional yet more relaxed environment. Next year's meeting is tentatively planned for picturesque Portsmouth, NH (dates TBD)!

Randy Dreibelbis and **Judy Sinn** came up with the idea and took the initiative to organize the PPEM's fall picnic at the PPATH farm in Rock Springs. Burgers, wieners, side dishes, desserts, s'mores and a fire-ring were part of the fun-filled evening...ending with a hayride! Thank you to everyone who assisted with the setup and take down, or provided the food and desserts!



On November 1st, a combined **Halloween Party and October birthday celebration** was held in the Tammen Room. Votes were cast and following are the results...1st Place – Sarah Bardsley dressed as urediospore, 2nd Place – Eric O'Neal as pterodactyl, 3rd Place – Ilse Huerta as a Rosie the Rivitor. Here are a few pics from the party. Although Phil Jensen was unable to attend, due to class schedule, Colonel Sanders, visited on Halloween (pictured bottom right)!



Our own **Phil Jensen** "Col Sanders" took **third place** in the **Pilsner category** at the finals of this year's **National Home Brew Competition**. Two years ago, he won the Pilsner Urquell Master home brew competition and placed second at the same competition last year. Phil also placed first among 48 in the Buzz Off competition in West Chester for his low-alcohol version of an India Pale Ale. Could it be PPEM has its own upcoming "Brewmaster?" Way to go Phil! Let us know if you're ever looking for taste-testers!



NOTEWORTHY NEWS CONTINUED...

Dr. John Halbrendt was recognized as a **25 year award recipient** at the Nittany Lion Inn on November 6th. This was a special reception to honor those individuals who have given 25 years of service to The Pennsylvania State University. The program was open to all faculty and staff in the College of Ag, as well as family and friends of the recipients.

REMINDER...Holiday Party...December 12 @ Hilton Garden Inn...College Hall...4:30pm – 6:30pm

Pls. RSVP to Sandy Beck by December 4th @ sbeck@psu.edu

We'll also be honoring Dan Royse on his retirement!

Additional Reminders....

- Child Abuse Training – Required to be completed for 2013 and must be completed yearly (psuohrlearning.skillport.com)
- Any items that are newsworthy – Department-related (faculty/staff/student) events, awards, publications, trips... please send to Lori for inclusion on the website and in SPOREPRINTS. Photos from these events are appreciated, whenever possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- Nov 24 – 30 Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes
- Nov 28 Holiday – Thanksgiving
- Nov 29 University Closed
- Dec 2 Seminar Speaker - Rachel Melnick – USDA-NIFA – Program Specialist
- Dec 9 Seminar Speaker – Laura Ramos-Sepulveda - PPEM Graduate Student
- Dec 12 Holiday Party and Royse Retirement Celebration
- Dec 13 Withdrawal Deadline & CLASSES END
- Dec 14 - 15 Study Days
- Dec 16 - 20 Final Exams
- Dec 18 PPEM Faculty Meeting (9am in 208A Buckhout)
- Dec 19 PPEM Staff Meeting (1pm in 208A Buckhout)
- Dec 20 - Jan 1 HOLIDAY BREAK
- Dec 21 Commencement
- Jan 1 Happy New Year!
- Jan 2 - 27 Intent to Graduate Activation Period for Spring 2014
- Jan 11 Arrival New Students
- Jan 12 Student Registration Deadline
- Jan 13 Classes Begin

Name this Disease and Casual Agent...

If you are interested in competing, send both the common name of this disease and its causal agent to Sandy in an e-mail 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 Mailroom bulletin board one week after SporePrints is distributed. At the Dept. Award Ceremony (winter 2014), the individual with the most wins, will receive recognition and a travel award. **The disease pictured is fairly specific to hops, an up and coming crop in the Northeast.** Photo credits: NCSU and OSU.

