

# SporePrints

Department of Plant Pathology



The Pennsylvania State University

October 9, 2005

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Dr. Michele Mansfield, who passed her final oral examination on September 28, 2005.

## *New Arrivals!*

Congratulations to Julio Molineros and Carla Garzon-Molineros on the birth of their first child, a daughter, Isabel Alessandra, born on September 21, 2005.

Congratulations also go out to Chad and Jenn Moore on the birth of their son, Wyatt Eugene, on September 27, 2005.

## Mycological Society of America News

Several Penn State Plant Pathologists participated in the annual meeting of the Mycological Society of America held this year in conjunction with the Mycological Society of Japan in Hilo, Hawaii. Pete Romaine and Nik Zitomer gave oral presentations, and Dan Royse co-chaired one of the sessions. David Beyer also had a research presentation. David Geiser serves MSA as an Associate Editor for *Mycologia*, on the Editorial Advisory Board, Finance Committee and as Councilor for Systematics/Evolution.

## *Condolences*

Sympathy is extended to the family of Harold Gummo, who passed away on September 8, 2005. Harold worked at the Mushroom Research Center from 1966 until his retirement in 1993.

## Plant Functional Genomics Position

The three remaining candidates for the Plant Functional Genomics position will meet with Plant Pathology faculty on October 11 at 11:15 a.m. (Dr. Bing Yang), October 21 at 9:15 a.m. (Dr. Ben Holt), and October 25 at 11:15 a.m. (Dr. Johannes Stratmann) (all in 208-A BL). Seminars and luncheons with graduate students and post-docs also are scheduled. Complete itineraries and application materials on are the web: <http://plantgenomicssearch.agsci.win.psu.edu/>

## Seminar Briefs

Dr. Ping Kong visited the Department of Plant Pathology and was a Seminar guest speaker in our Colloquium series on Monday, September 26, 2005. Dr. Kong is currently a researcher at the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Extension and Research Center in Virginia Beach, VA. Among other things, she has been recently working on many different aspects of detecting *Phytophthora* species in water and plant samples.

## Announcements

The Graduate Student photo board outside Room 210 has been updated . . . check it out!

A Canon digital camera is now available for department use—please see Teresa Shirk if you would like to use it.

The Polycom videoconferencing system is up and running. Michele Mansfield used the system to connect long-distance with one of her advisory committee members during her thesis seminar and defense on September 28.

## Going Places!

### Visit to China August 5- 21, 2005

Drs. Barb Christ, Elwin Stewart and adjunct faculty member Kathy Haynes were invited to the University of Inner Mongolia in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, P.R. China by Dr. Jie Yang, Dean and Professor of the College of Life Science. Dr. Ruofang Zhang (Ph.D. '04) was the host, translator, and tour guide. During the week in Hohhot, there was a tour of a potato tissue culture facility, potato seed farm, commercial farm and a dehydration plant. Dr. Zhang organized a symposium in which Barb, Elwin and Kathy each presented two seminars and were the keynote speakers, and there were numerous local speakers. During the days following the symposium, there were many phone calls from scientists and industry personnel who were disappointed that they did not hear of the symposium soon enough to attend. Barb and Kathy presented one seminar each at the Institute of Vegetables and Flowers, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing. In Beijing, Dr. Xie Kaiyun was the host who provided a government car, driver, and tours of the Great Wall and Forbidden City. Before leaving China, there was a week tour to Xian (Terracotta Soldiers and Horses), Suzhou (Venice of China), and Shanghai. Ruofang says hello and she misses State College and PSU.



## Visitors and Alumni

Greg Hunt (M.S. '84) recently was spotted on a Discovery Channel program about honey bees. Greg is a faculty member in the Purdue Department of Entomology, where he conducts research on the behavioral genomics of honey bee.

T. A. Toussoun (Professor Emeritus) stopped by the department on October 6. Topy spent the morning catching up with old friends and new, and Dave Geiser and Jean Juba gave him a tour of the Fusarium Research Center.

Paul Wuest (Professor Emeritus, Ph.D. '63) e-mailed to let us know that he is "hanging in there." He passes along thanks from his wife, Jan, and himself for everyone's good wishes and support throughout his battles with health problems.

## Plant Pathology Seminar

### ●October 10, 2005 (Monday)

3:30 p.m. – 112 Buckhout

"A Coordinated Framework for Managing Soybean Rust," by Dr. Erick De Wolf and Dr. Scott Isard

### ●October 17, 2005 (Monday)

3:30 p.m. – 112 Buckhout

"Environmental Variables that Affect the Germination of *Phakopsora pachyrhizi* Urediniospores," by Nick Dufault

### ●October 24, 2005 (Monday)

3:30 p.m. – 112 Buckhout

"Modeling in Fire Blight," by Megan Dewdney from Cornell University

### ●October 31, 2005 (Monday)

3:30 p.m. – 112 Buckhout

"Lessons from the Past: How Science, Economy and Politics Influenced Plant Disease Epidemic," by Jean-Philippe Marelli

## Calendar of Events

### ● October 31, 2005

Faculty Meeting

1:00 p.m. – 208A Buckhout Lab

Dr. J. Shortle, Director of the Environmental Natural Resources Institute, will attend