

# SporePrints

Department of Plant Pathology



The Pennsylvania State University

November 4, 2005

## *Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Dr. Timothy McNellis, who was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Plant Pathology effective July 1, 2005.

Congratulations to Nick Dufault, who passed his Candidacy examination on October 18, 2005. Nick will be advised in his doctoral program by Dr. Erick De Wolf.

## Kudos to

...Sara May, who is serving as the 2005-2006 chair of the Staff Advisory Committee to the Dean in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

...Ph.D. candidates Delphina Mamiro and Jean-Phillipe Marelli for participating in the College of Agricultural Sciences Competitive Grant Program for doctoral students. Both students submitted proposals to the program after attending the Grant Development Workshop sponsored by Associate Dean Bruce McPheron's office. Mamiro's proposal is entitled "Evaluation of Non Composted (NCS) and Spent Mushroom Substrates (SMS) for Production of *Agaricus bisporus*." Marelli's proposal is entitled "Development of a Model System to Study the Role of Phytohormones During the Witches' Broom Disease of *Theobroma cacao*."



## Alumni and Visitors

Mary Hausbeck (Ph.D. '90), faculty member in the Department of Plant Pathology at Michigan State University was subject of the "Focus on Researcher" article in the October 2005 issue of *The IR-4 Project Newsletter*. The article featured Mary's vegetable disease research program.

Beth Brantley (Ph.D. '01), Instructor of Forestry at Penn State Mont Alto, is part of a team working with the National Park Service to survey, collect, and identify mushrooms in a number of federal areas, including the Antietam National Battlefield and Prince William Forest Park. The project was highlighted in the Fall 2005 issue of *Penn State Outreach*.

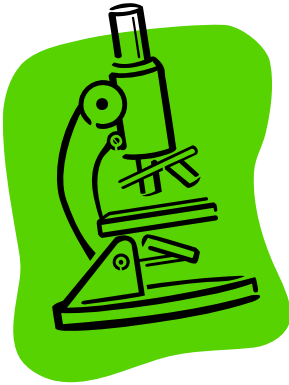
The Fall 2005 issue of *Research Penn State* featured an article on Tim McNellis's research on disease resistance in apple cultivars and the project that he is conducting under a grant sponsored by the NSF Plant Genome Project. Jim Travis is among his collaborators on the NSF grant.

Congratulations to Fritz Westover (M.S. '04), who was married in Boalsburg in October. Fritz is a Viticulture Research-Extension Associate at Virginia Tech's Alson H. Smith's Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Winchester, VA.

Stefano Costanzo (Ph.D. '03) stopped by the department recently to visit. Stefano is Research Associate at the USDA-ARS Vegetable Laboratory in Beltsville, MD.

## AED Update

Plans for installing AEDs in Plant Pathology buildings are well underway. Eleven persons completed AED/CPR training held in the department on October 18. A second training session is scheduled for November 11; a few openings are still available—please see Teresa Shirk if you would like to sign up.



## New Equipment!

A new fluorescence microscope (Zeiss Axiovert 200 manual inverted research microscope) was purchased and placed in 313 Buckhout. This purchase was made using funds from Plant Pathology faculty (F. Gildow, S. Kang, G. Kuldau, and T. McNellis), the departmental budget, and a college equipment grant. The microscope can be used for transmitted light bright field, DIC, and epi-fluorescence imaging. It comes with three objective lens (10x, 40X, and 100X), fluorescent and UV light filter sets (GFP, CFP, Red, DAPI, rhodamine, etc) and Axiocam MRC5 digital imaging system with an image analysis software package.

## Plant Pathology Photo

Mark your calendars!  
Everyone is invited to be a part of  
our Year 2005 Photo!

Monday, November 7  
1:00 p.m.  
Ferguson Building Steps

## Plant Pathology Seminar

### ● November 7, 2005 (Monday)

3:30 p.m. – 112 Buckhout  
“The Biology of *Phytophthora infestans* at the Center of Origin,” by Dr. Niklaus Gruwald from Oregon State University

### ● November 14, 2005 (Monday)

3:30 p.m. – 112 Buckhout  
“Investigations on the Biology and Population Genetics of the Emerging Plant Pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*,” by Dr. Kelly Ivors from North Carolina State University

### ● November 21, 2005 (Monday)

3:30 p.m. – 112 Buckhout  
“Molecular Basis of Fusarium Wilt in *Arabidopsis thaliana*,” by Hye-Seon Kim

### ● November 28, 2005 (Monday)

3:30 p.m. – 112 Buckhout  
“Nucleic Acid-Based Analysis of Microbial Communities in Environmental Samples,” by Dr. Mary Ann Bruns, Department of Crop & Soil Sciences

Jim Tammen and T.A. Toussoun.....



## Calendar of Events

### ● November 29, 2005

Faculty Meeting  
10:00 a.m. – 208A Buckhout Lab