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SporePrints

Congratulations

Barbara J. Christ, Professor and Head of the Department of Plant Pathology was appointed the new Senior Associate Dean in the College of Agricultural Sciences, effective January 1, 2009.

Fall 2008 graduates **Ermita Hernandez** (M.S.), **Hye-Seon Kim** (Ph.D.), and **Mark Schall** (Ph.D.)

Rachel Melnick, **Anissa Poleatewich** and **Dylan Short** successfully passed their comprehensive exams during the fall semester.

Aaron Brown, **Steve Conaway**, **Jill Demers**, **Emily Helliwell**, and **Bin Tian** successfully passed their candidacy exams during the fall semester.

Mark Schall has accepted a position with the Missouri Department of Conservation as a Resource Scientist (Forest Pathologist).

Farewell Party Held for Teresa Shirk

On September 26, 2008, the Department of Plant Pathology hosted a farewell party for **Teresa Shirk**, Buckhout Laboratory Facility Services and Safety Coordinator, in the Department's Conference Room. Teresa retired after 42 years of service with Penn State; 28 years of her PSU career was spent with the Department. Teresa's many friends and co-workers throughout the university wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



Teresa Shirk

Don Davis Receives ENRI Career Award

Dr. Don Davis recently received the Environment and Natural Resources Institute's (ENRI) Career Award. Dr. Davis received the award in recognition of his outstanding career achievement in environmental science and education.

International Activities

Dr. Yinong Yang attended the 6th International Symposium on Rice Functional Genomics in Jeju, Korea during Nov. 9-12, 2008 and presented an invited talk entitled "Interplay among ethylene, abscisic acid and MAP kinase pathways modulates rice disease resistance and drought tolerance". During his trip to Korea, he also visited the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at Seoul National University.

Dr. Heung-Tae Kim, Professor at Chungbuk National University in Korea, and **Dr. Yunpeng Chen**, Associate Professor at Shanghai Jiaotong University in China, started one-year sabbatical work in **Dr. Kang's** lab. Dr. Kim will focus on studying the population structure of *Phytophthora capsici* in Korea with the emphasis on fungicide resistance. Dr. Chen will study Fusarium wilt using *Arabidopsis thaliana* as a model plant.

Welcome!

New PPath Ph.D. students **Manzoor Hussain** (advisor **Wakar Uddin**) and **Dzarifah Mohamed Zulperi** (advisor **Yinong Yang**)

Members of PPath Department Attend Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP)/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Roundtable, November 12–13, 2008, in Washington, DC

The Public Policy Board (PPB) of The American Phytopathological Society (APS) engaged the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to convene a round table discussion of issues and establish areas where collaboration could take place between the two groups. The meeting was held on November 12–13, 2008 at EPA's headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. **Barb Christ**, President elect of APS, attended the meeting along with two members of the Public Policy Board, representatives from industry, university extension faculty and Kellye Eversole of Eversole Associates, an APS representative in Washington DC. Syngenta offered to sponsor the travel of several students to attend this meeting. Two graduate students in Penn State's Department of Plant Pathology—**Rachel Melnick** and **Anissa Poleatewich**—were subsequently able to take advantage of Syngenta's offer and attend the meeting. The meeting focused on providing an overview of OPP including legal issues, registration, human health, biological and economic analysis, environmental fate & effects, endangered species, plant-incorporated protectants, and use of NASS data.

Everyone who attended learned a lot. **Rachel Melnick** said the round table was “a truly value experience” for her. “Not only did I get to learn about how the EPA deals the mounds of issues related to pesticide registration,” states Melnick, “I also got to experience first hand how APS truly is in the forefront of educating our government about the many issues faced by people in agriculture.” The meeting marked the first time that an agricultural scientific society requested to meet with officials from OPP.

Submitted by Dr. Barbara Christ

Student Achievements

Mark Schall placed second in the graduate student research presentation at the Northeastern Division APS meeting in Newport, Rhode Island held October 8-10.

Rachel Melnick has been selected to be a Representative on the College of Agricultural Sciences Graduate Student Advisory Council.

Fred Gildow and Gary Moorman Receive 25 Year Awards

The College of Agricultural Sciences recently honored **Drs. Fred Gildow** and **Gary Moorman** for their 25 years of service to Penn State. Fred and Gary both joined the Department of Plant Pathology faculty in 1983. Since then, both faculty members have been involved in a wide array of research and teaching activities. Fred's research activities currently concentrate upon studies of plant virus vector interactions, with a specific focus upon virus transmission by aphids. He also

teaches PPath 405 (Microbe-Plant Interactions) each year. Gary's colleague, **Gary Moorman**, has devoted his PSU career to extension outreach and education related to diseases of ornamentals, conducting research on ornamentals, and teaching various Plant Pathology courses. Gary also prepares the popular fact sheets that provide information about the symptoms, causes, and management of diseases afflicting floral foliage plants; woody ornamentals; and related topics.

Yinong Yang New PSU Plant Stress Representative

Dr. Yinong Yang recently became Penn State's representative to a Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Initiative devoted to plant stress-related issues.

Alumni News

Phytopathology News reports that **Agustin B. Molina** (Ph.D., 1983), a senior scientist with Biodiversity International Commodities for Livelihood and a regional coordinator for Asia-Pacific, has received the Kadali Purashkar Award from the Association for the Improvement in Production and Utilization of Banana (AIPUB). Molina was recognized for his leadership in setting the *Musa* research agenda in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the area of *Musa* germplasm conservation and use. The award also cited Molina's efforts to harmonize banana research by promoting the value of regional collaboration through the BAPNET.

Coming Events

Optimizing EndNote and Microsoft Word 2007 for Scientific Research Spring 2009 Workshops

Registration is now open for the Optimizing EndNote and Microsoft Word 2007 for Scientific Research workshops to be offered by Hildebrandt Library during the spring 2009 semester. All sessions are free and open to PSU students, faculty, and staff. For more information and to register for individual workshops, please visit http://www.ppath.cas.psu.edu/LIBRARY/EndNote_Seminars_2009_Spring.htm



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