



Soup/Chili Potluck Lunch

On Tuesday, March 25, 2008, the Plant Pathology Social Committee hosted a soup/chili potluck lunch in 208A Buckhout Lab. The Committee served up a tantalizing selection of soups, chili and desserts. Thanks to the lunch sponsors and participants for making the event a big success.



(Photo by Nancy Wenner)

Four Department of Plant Pathology Graduate Students Awarded 2008 College of Agricultural Sciences Competitive Grants

Four Department of Plant Pathology graduate students recently received 2008 College of Agricultural Sciences Competitive Grants. The \$2,000 grants were awarded to the following individuals: **Aaron Brown**, "Fungi of the Hartley Woodlot: PSU Arboretum"; **Li Guo**, "Regulation of fungal-maize symbiosis by an NADPH oxidase regulator FvNoxR in *Fusarium verticillioides*"; **Rachel Melnick**, "ARISA analysis of cacao leaves sprayed with a biological control agent," and **Katelyn Willyerd**, "A method for detecting deoxynivalenol-glucoside in wheat." Only 14 out of the 61 grant proposals submitted received a grant.

Plant Pathology Awards Ceremony

The annual Plant Pathology Awards Ceremony was held on February 4, 2008. The following awards were presented:

2007 Service Awards

Richard Stevenson (35 years)

Peter Romaine (30 years)

Roxanne Lease, Michael Peck (25 years)

Randall Dreibelbis, Vija Wilkinson (20 years)

Seogchan Kang (10 years)



Richard Stevenson receives 35-year Award from Dr. Barbara Christ (Photo by Nancy Wenner)



Service Award recipients Randall Dreibelbis (L, 20 years) and Michael Peck (25 years) (Photo by Nancy Wenner)

Plant Pathology Awards Ceremony, Continued

2007-2008 Excellence in Teaching Award

Frederick E. Gildow received the 2007-2008 Department of Plant Pathology Excellence in Teaching Award. The award was conferred to Dr. Gildow in recognition of his outstanding teaching as a faculty member in the Department.

Laurence D. and Mary Ann Moore Faculty and Staff Award in Plant Pathology

Teresa F. Shirk received the Laurence D. and Mary Ann Moore Faculty and Staff Award in Plant Pathology. The award was presented to Teresa in recognition of her outstanding achievement as a staff member in the Department.



Teresa F. Shirk, Dr. Barbara Christ (presenter), and Dr. Frederick E. Gildow (Photo by Nancy Wenner)

2007-2008 Graduate Student Scholarship Awards

Steven Lee (L. Earl and Veronica G. Casida Graduate Scholarship)

Aaron Brown (Arthur Gaspari Memorial Scholarship)

Kelly Anne Cooper and **Charles Mason** (Harold J. Miller Memorial Award)

Mark Schall (Lester P. Nichols Memorial Award)

Nicholas Dufault, **Ermita Hernandez**, **Jeffrey Kern**, **Maria Velez-Climent**, and **Katelyn Willyerd** (Henry W. Popp Award)



2007-2008 Graduate Student Scholarship Award recipients (Standing, L-R): Jose Santa Cruz, Aaron Brown, Charles Mason; (Seated, L-R): Steven Lee, Alma Rodriguez, Katelyn Willyerd, Mark Schall (Photo by Nancy Wenner)

Award recipients not pictured: Kelly Anne Cooper (Harold J. Miller Memorial Award); Nicholas Dufault, Ermita Hernandez, Hye-Seon Kim, and Jeffrey Kern (Henry W. Popp Award); Maria Velez-Climent, Rachel Melnick, and Anissa Poleatewich (Graduate Student Travel Awards).

Student Achievements

The International Society of Mushroom Science (ISMS) recently awarded **Alma Edith Rodriguez Estrada** a scholarship. She also recently received a Graduate Student Travel Award from Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences to attend the upcoming 17th International Society of Mushroom Science Congress in South Africa. Alma will make an oral presentation, "Nucleotide Sequence Polymorphisms of the beta-tubulin gene in two varieties of *Pleurotus eryngii*" at the Congress.

Mark Schall passed his Ph.D. comprehensive exam on February 26, 2008.

Katelyn Willyerd passed her Ph.D. comprehensive exam on February 28, 2008.



International Section to be added to Department Website

A new international section will soon be debuting on the Department of Plant Pathology's website. PPath students, faculty, staff, and alumni are encouraged to share news and photos about recent and planned international activities such as conferences, workshops or research projects. Please send all international-related materials to Marsha Ann Tate (mat1@psu.edu).

News from Alumni and Friends

Jeffrey Kern, (M.S., 2007) was recently named Assistant Director for the Sports Complex Special Services District (SCSSD) in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. March Wach, (Ph.D., 1985), Director of Research for Sylvan Inc., was one of 50 foreigners working in China to receive the nation's 2007 Friendship Award.

Dr. Jeremy Klaasen (Ph.D., 1995) is the Chairperson of the Department of Microbiology, University of the Western Cape (UWC), South Africa and serves as the research manager for the NIH funded International Centre for Indigenous Phytotherapy Studies at UWC.

Upcoming Events

R. R. Nelson Memorial Seminar

Monday, April 28, 2008

3:30 p.m.

112 Buckhout Laboratory

Dr. Marty Dickman, Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Texas A&M University, will present "Death be not Proud: Modulation of Programmed Cell Death for Disease/Stress Tolerance in Plants."

SporePrints is the monthly newsletter of the Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agricultural Sciences, University Park, PA; <http://www.ppath.cas.psu.edu/>. Please send newsletter items and photos to Marsha Ann Tate at mat1@psu.edu.