

October 10, 2008

# SporePrints



A monthly newsletter published by the Department of Plant Pathology at The Pennsylvania State University

## **Congratulations**

Summer 2008

Graduates:

**Nicholas Dufault,  
JP Marelli, and  
Alma Rodriguez**

**Dr. Fred Gildow** and  
**Dr. Gary Moorman** for  
their 25 years of  
service to the  
Department of Plant  
Pathology and Penn  
State University.

**Dr. David Beyer** for  
his promotion to  
Professor

**Dr. Gretchen Kuldau**  
For receiving tenure  
and promotion to  
Associate Professor

**Dr. Richard  
Stevenson**  
on his July 31, 2008  
retirement

## **Welcome!**

To **Debra Clemmer**  
who joined our  
staff on September  
29th. Debra comes to  
us from the  
Conferences and  
Short Course office in  
the College.

## **Annual Meeting of the Mycological Society of America (MSA) Held at University Park**

**Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences hosted the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Mycological Society of America at University Park, August 9–14<sup>th</sup>. Four faculty members (David Geiser, Seogchan Kang, Gretchen Kuldau, Maria del Mar Jimenez Gasco) and five graduate students**

**(Aaron Brown, Li Guo, Michelle Mansfield, Bongsoo Park, and Katelyn Willyerd) from the Department of Plant Pathology presented or co-presented contributed presentations and/or posters. In addition, David Geiser served as the local arrangements coordinator for the Meeting and also**

**assisted with the conference website. Dr. Nick Talbot, Head of the School of Biosciences and Professor of Molecular Genetics, University of Exeter, Exeter, United Kingdom, presented the meeting's keynote lecture, the Karling Lecture, Investigating the Biology of Plant Infection."**

## **Welcome Potluck Brunch**

On Tuesday morning, September 9<sup>th</sup>, the PPath Social Committee hosted the Plant Pathology Welcome Potluck Brunch. Participants shared their favorite brunch foods with their colleagues.

## **Thanks to Ag Progress Days Tour Volunteers**

Many thanks to the individuals from our Department who served as tour guides and staffed the Department's display at this year's Ag Progress Days. Your help was very much appreciated.

## **New PPath Graduate Students**

Welcome to our new PPath graduate students:

**Sarah Bardsley  
Padmini Herath  
Yinfei Li  
Stephanie Loehr  
Bongsoo Park  
Emily Pfeufer  
Alamgir Rahman**

## APS Centennial Meeting Wrap-up

Members of the Department of Plant Pathology played a prominent role in the Centennial Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society that took place July 26-30, 2008 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Faculty, staff, graduate students, and post docs from the Department contributed 17 posters, 16 oral presentations in technical sessions, and 3 oral presentations in “Flash-and-Dash” sessions.

In addition, **Dr. Seogchan Kang** co-organized the workshop, “Fighting *Phytophthora*: How to Detect, Investigate, and Manage *Phytophthora*” and **Dr. David Geiser** presented “Changing the Mantra: Culture Collections in the Age of the ‘-ome’ during the Tuesday afternoon Centennial Session.

Department members who received awards at the meeting, included:

<b>Dr. Seogchan Kang</b>	Syngenta Award
<b>Emily Helliwell</b>	The Tsune Kosuge Award
<b>Anissa Poleatewich</b>	The Kenneth F. Baker Award
<b>Katelyn Willyerd</b>	The Janell Stevens Johnk Award

Dr. **Barbara Christ** served as the APS Annual Meeting Program Vice-Chair; **Penn State University** served as a Gold sponsor of the APS Centennial Celebration.



Barb Christ, Jan Zadoks, and James Tammen



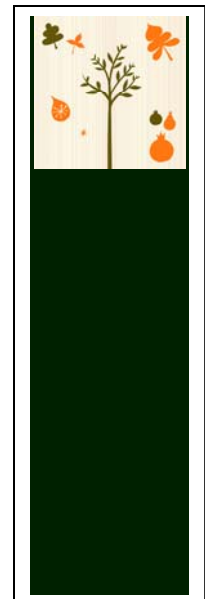
Steven Lee and Carla Garzon

## PPath Faculty, Staff, and Students Elected or Appointed to APS Offices and Committees for 2008

**Barbara Christ**  
APS Vice President;  
Representative to the  
American Institute of  
Biological Sciences;  
Public Policy Board;  
Scientific Programs Board  
**Paul Backman**  
Biological Control  
Committee  
**Nick Dufault**  
Board of Directors, APS  
Foundation; Graduate  
Student Committee;  
Epidemiology Committee

**Fred Gildow**  
Senior Editor, *Plant  
Disease*  
**Maria Jimenez-Gasco**  
Soil Microbiology and  
Root Diseases Committee  
**Gretchen Kuldau**  
Emerging Diseases and  
Pathogens Special  
Committee;  
Mycotoxigenology  
Committee  
**Michelle Mansfield**  
Mycotoxigenology  
Committee  
**Sara May**  
Diagnostics Committee

**Rachel Melnick**  
Biological Control  
Committee  
**Gary Moorman**  
*Phytopathology News*  
Advisory Board;  
Committee on  
Committees (a Society  
Internal Relations  
Committee)  
**Henry Ngugi**  
Epidemiology Committee;  
Crop Loss Assessment  
and Risk Evaluation  
Committee  
**Yinong Yang**  
Biotechnology Committee



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*Members of the PPath Department toured the Air Quality Center on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

## Air Quality Center Tour

On Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, **Dr. Dennis Decoteau**, Professor of Horticulture and Plant Ecosystem Health gave members of the Department a tour of the Air Quality Learning and Demonstration Center. The Center, located in the northwestern section of the Arboretum currently under development, is devoted to providing educational programs and public outreach regarding air quality in Pennsylvania and its impact upon native and agricultural flora.

To learn more about the Center and the Arboretum, please visit <http://arboretum.psu.edu/research/air.html>

## Jodi Reed Farewell Party

On Friday August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Department of Plant Pathology hosted a farewell party for **Jodi Reed**.

Jodi was a valued staff member in our department for five years; earlier this month, she joined the Office of Sponsored Programs at the University.



Jodi Reed

## News From Alumni & Friends

**Mary Hausbeck** (Ph.D. 1990) received the 2008 APS Excellence in Extension Award.

Many alumni and friends stopped by the Penn State Social at the APS meetings, including: **Mary Hausbeck**, **Priscila Chaverri** (Ph.D. 2003), **Philip Northover** (Ph.D. 2008), **Carla Garzon** (Ph.D. 2004), **Manuel Ospina-Giraldo** (Ph.D. 1998), **Chris Wallis** (M.S. 2004), **Alan Biggs** (Ph.D. 1982), **Bob Seem** (Ph.D. 1976), **Chang-Hyun Khang** (Ph.D. 2005), **Ron** (M.S. 1964) and **Barbara Muse**, **Gus Molina** (Ph.D. 1983), **Kelly Ivors** (Ph.D. 2002), and former post-docs **Mizuho Nita** and **Jaime Blair**.

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*Many alumni and friends stopped by the Penn State Social at the APS meetings*

## Plant Pathology Committees – 2008-09

### ***Standing Committees***

#### **Awards and Alumni Relations**

P. Backman, Chair  
(2008-10)  
J. Halbrecht  
S. Isard  
W. Uddin  
N. Wenner  
Yinfei Li, student member

#### **Extension & Outreach**

D. Royse, chair  
(2008-10)  
B. Gugino  
H. Ngugi  
J. Travis  
Maria Velez Climent,  
student member

#### **Instruction & Curriculum**

F. Gildow, chair (2008-10)  
D. Davis  
M. Jimenez Gasco  
S. Kang  
T. McNellis  
Katelyn Willyerd,  
student member

#### **Library**

E. Stewart, chair  
(2007-09)  
G. Moorman  
P. Romaine  
J. Sinn  
Dharmendra Singh,  
student member

#### **Graduate Recruitment & Admissions**

D. Geiser, chair (2007-09)  
G. Kuldau, Graduate Coordinator  
D. Beyer  
Y. Yang



### ***Other Committees***

#### **Advisory Committee**

P. Backman  
D. Geiser  
F. Gildow  
D. Royse  
E. Stewart

#### **Seminar Committee**

D. Davis (through October 2009)  
P. Romaine (through April 2010)  
Y. Yang (through October 2008)  
F. Gildow, Chair (through April 2009)

#### **Promotion & Tenure Committee**

D. Davis, chair (2008-09)  
G. Moorman  
P. Romaine  
D. Geiser  
T. McNellis

#### **Undergraduate Programs Committee**

P. Backman, Coordinator, Agroecology  
T. McNellis, Asst. Coord., Agroecology  
F. Gildow, Plant Pathology Minor  
D. Royse, Mushroom Minor

#### **Graduate Student Representatives**

Maria Velez Climent (Chair, Plant Pathology Assn.)  
Maria Burgos (Vice-Chair, Plant Pathology Assn.)

Please submit items and photos for *SporePrints* to Marsha Ann Tate at [mat1@psu.edu](mailto:mat1@psu.edu).