

## Highlights

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- Interviews with Visiting Scientists

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- Faculty, staff, and students
- Leisure, Culture, and Sports in Gainesville.



# PLP News

*The Newsletter of  
the Plant Pathology  
Department  
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## Around Florida : Major Disease Concerns of Growers and Extension Agents *Control of Aphid-Transmitted Viruses in Squash*

*By Tom Kucharek*

The farm market value of squash in Florida for the 1997-1998 season was \$54,514,000. This was nearly an 81% increase in actual value compared to the 1983-1984 season and was accomplished on 26.5% less acreage. The yield per acre, measured as 42-lb bushels, is 44% greater for the latter season compared to the former season. This apparent improved efficiency is the result of improved pedigrees, including some with various levels of resistance to predominant aphid-transmitted viruses, improved techniques for production, the production of the crop by fewer, but more efficient, growers, and a market value that is 68.9% higher per bushel. In recent years, more than 75% of the acreage of squash in Florida is located in the southern one third of the peninsula. Typically squash is produced on farms with mixed crops, usually other vegetables. Most of the squash produced in Florida is summer, yellow types with zucchini types rapidly on the increase. Winter squash types, such as butternut, acorn and others, are produced in a limited amount in Florida. While a few might include pumpkins in the "squash family", they are produced with difficulty on an extremely small

acreage in Florida and they are not included in the market figures above.

While numerous diseases including downy mildew, powdery mildew, Phytophthora fruit and crown rot, cottony leak and gummy stem blight (typically seen as the black rot phase in winter squash types in Florida) occur in squash in Florida, it is the occurrence of aphid transmitted viruses that has caused most of the erratic uncertainties for marketing when one considers plant diseases. The major viruses are papaya ringspot virus type W (PRSV-W), watermelon mosaic two (WMV2), and zucchini yellow mosaic virus (ZYMV). Typically PRSV-W has its greatest negative impact the southern half of Florida, but it can impact production of squash in northern Florida. The two viruses that are most likely to impact squash in northern Florida are WMV2 and ZYMV. A few other viruses, including cucumber mosaic virus (CMV), are also present in Florida, but they have not predominated in squash as have the three major viruses.

For decades the control of these viruses was not possible. However, over the past 25 years or so we have learned a

few things that have allowed us to reduce their impact. An entomologist at the Leesburg AREC, Dr. Warren Adlrez, taught us the importance of eliminating creeping cucumber in and near production fields. He found this weed to be highly associated with epidemics of PRSV-W. Other weeds such as balsam apple were also found to be associated with epidemics of PRSV-W in Florida. Dozens of other plant species are susceptible to this virus, but creeping cucumber and balsam apple are major hosts for this virus.



In 1977, a novel method of control for aphid-transmitted, cucurbit viruses and other viruses in other crops was registered by Dr. John Simons. As a private entrepreneur, he advanced the concept of using a spray oil to interfere with acquisition and transmission of aphid-transmitted viruses. This technique works, but the cost, frequency of sprays, incompatibility with other chemicals used in a spray program, and the

logistics associated with the required use of high spray pressure has gradually caused a reduction in its use for this purpose in Florida. Also, some controversy (particularly in California) has been associated with the efficacy of his oil (JMS Stylet Oil) against aphid-transmitted viruses. However, this oil has been used successfully for control of aphid-transmitted viruses and for other purposes.

Over the years, numerous, non-chemical tactics for suppression of this virus complex have evolved. The use of reflective mulches, row covers, and many other methods have been used or recommended, but for this disease complex, the need for resistance within the host plant is paramount. For a more complete treatise on these issues and other aspects of this virus complex, the University of Florida Circular 1184 is available.

Beginning in the early 1980's, certain cultivars of summer squash, became available from commercial industry that reduced damage caused by aphid-transmitted viruses. One such cultivar, Multipik, had significantly reduced damage to the fruit as determined with studies by Drs. Warren Adlerz, Gary Elmstrom and Dan Purcifull. This resistance became available because of the use of "the yellow gene". The plant is still susceptible and displays symptoms in the leaves, but symptoms in the fruit typically are delayed. This allows for the harvesting and sale of some fruit even though the plants are susceptible. Many cultivars are now available that possess this gene. In on-farm studies that I have conducted with Dr. Purcifull, we have consistently attained delayed onset of symptoms in plants of multiple cultivars that possessed the yellow gene while being exposed to WMV2, ZYMV, and PRSV-W.

In 1996, coat protein mediated resistance for WMV2, ZYMV, and CMV, became available for study. Dr. Purcifull and I have measured phenomenal reductions of viral symptoms to WMV2 and ZYMV in three years of tests with these transgenic cultivars in Madison County. As expected, when PRSV-W occurred at our test site, symptoms appeared in some of the fruit. Dr. Susan Webb has had similar success in her tests in Lake County. Mendelian or transgenic resistance to PRSV-W has apparently been more difficult to attain, but such resistance is on its way.

This extremely brief chronicle depicts that some gains in controlling a most difficult composite of viruses has occurred over a long period of time, but the real success is with the acceptance of these technological gains by the grower, buyer, and consumer. The grower and buyer must be satisfied with the horticultural characteristics of these pedigrees. The consumer must also accept these pedigrees, but in the event you have been sleeping, the use of transgenics continues to be met with a great deal of uncertainty, worldwide. The development of these transgenics has incurred the wrath of those who oppose anything new as well as those who buy into the arguments that paint the picture that all transgenics are another coming of Frankenstein's monster. Besides the normal and acceptable discussions that evaluate this "new" technique for safety and regulatory purposes, developers of this germ plasm have had to face pickets and military-like harassment from those who pretend to be protectors of our environment. Like Hurricane Dennis, progress has been slow and our future direction for successful control of curcubit viruses is uncertain.

Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and colleagues of our department...



### Graduations: congratulations and best wishes!

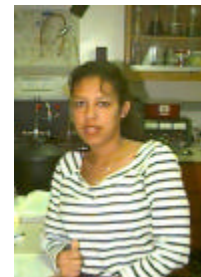
**Xiomara Sinisterra** successfully defended her dissertation, "Evaluation and characterization of resistance to tomato mottle virus (ToMoV) conferred by a modified coat protein of ToMoV", last July 18. Her adviser was Dr. Jane Polston from the GREC at Bradenton, FL.



**S. Chandramohan** graduated this summer, with a dissertation entitled "Multiple-pathogen strategy for bioherbicidal control of several weeds". His adviser was Dr. Charudattan. Chandra is currently working as a Postdoctoral associate in Charu's lab, he is now developing a mixture of *Fusarium* spp. for the bio-control of hydrilla.



**Simone Tudor** defended her dissertation, Molecular characterization of bacteriocin-like activity in tomato race-three strains of *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria*, on August 17. Simone's advisers were Dr. Robert Stall and Dr. Jeff Jones. She recently accepted a post-doctoral position at Washington University at St. Louis, MO.



**The Joint meetings of the APS and the Canadian Phytopathological Society** were held in Montreal, Canada Aug 7-11, 1999. Those who attended the meetings were: Dr. Agrios, Dr.

Kucharek, Dr. Jones, Dr. Bartz, Dr. Gabriel, Dr. Wyss, Chuck Semer, Bob Kemerait, Alvaro Urena, S. Chandramohan, Yolanda Petersen, A. Wahid Al-Saadi, Ricardo Harakava, Gustavo Astua-Monge, and Juliana Freitas-Astua.

**Travels:**

**Dr. Charudattan (UF) and Dr. Chellemi (USDA)** attended the XIV International Plant Protection Congress (IPPC) last July 25-30, 1999 in Jerusalem, Israel.

**Francisco Ochoa** moved to Lake Alfred, FL this summer. He will work at the lab of his adviser, Dr. Richard Lee at the Citrus Research and Educational Center. His adviser in Gainesville is Dr. Chuck Niblett.

**Coffee Break Schedule and Birthdays for September 1999**

**Friday Coffee Break**

- 9-3 Kucharek's, Kimborough's and Song's Labs
- 9-10 Pring's and Chourey's Labs
- 9-17 Niblett's Lab
- 9-24 Simone's and Purcifull's Labs
- 10-1 Bartz's and Berger's Labs



**Birthdays!!**

- 9/1 Laurretta Rhames
- Ellen Dickstein
- 9/7 Mariadaniela Lopez
- 9/19 Jim DeValerio
- 9/26 Terry Davoli
- 9/29 Deiane Concelmo



**Doctor of Plant Medicine Degree Program offered by The College of Agriculture**

On July 16, 1999, the Board of regents of the Universities of Florida gave final approval to the proposal of the College of Agriculture at the University of Florida to offer the Doctor of Plant Medicine (DPM) degree Program.



We are now proceeding with admission of students to the DPM Program to begin classes in August 2000.

The Doctor of Plant Medicine Degree Program is a 3-year post-baccalaureate, graduate, interdisciplinary and interdepartmental, professional practitioners degree program. Its purpose is to educate and train practitioner plant doctors that will parallel the MDs and veterinarians of the sister professions in Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. Graduates of the DPM program will not be or become researchers. They will, instead, be trained to diagnose, and to offer recommendations for management-control, of anything that adversely affects plants: disease pathogens (fungi, bacteria, viruses, phytoplasmas), insects, mites, nematodes, nutrient deficiencies and toxicities, toxic air and soil pollutants, weeds, pH, temperature, and water extremes, vertebrate pests of plants such as birds, gophers and field mice, etc.



The DPM degree program will be housed at first in the Plant Pathology Department of the University of Florida. The DPM degree will not be a Plant Pathology degree, however, but rather, an interdisciplinary, interdepartmental degree conferred by the College of Agriculture.

The DPM program requires 90 semester credits of graduate course work plus 30 semester credits of internship. The courses are offered by the various

departments that deal with plant production and plant protection, as well as in departments that deal with oral and written communication, business management, agricultural law, etc. The internship will consist of modules of a few weeks each spent with extension plant pathologists, nematologists, entomologists, weed scientists, horticulturists, plant protection specialist County Agents, pesticide companies, seed companies, large agribusinesses, etc.

Admission to the DPM Program requires the same standards as admission to Graduate School for the M.S. or Ph.D. degree. Upon successful completion of the coursework and the internship, students must pass a comprehensive examination in plant pathology, entomology, and plant science. Following graduation they must also take, and pass, an examination before a State Licensing Board.

Graduates of the DPM program are expected to find employment as private practitioners; as county or multi-county plant protection specialists and as state Plant Disease Clinic directors employed by the Extension Service; as federal and state plant health regulatory inspectors; as state Integrated Pest Management (IPM) coordinators; as plant protection specialists and sales representatives by the pesticide industries and by seed companies; by large agribusinesses; by grower groups and grower cooperatives; by municipalities for protection of their parks, lawns, shrubs, flower beds, and street trees, etc.



International students planning to return and work in their countries, where there are usually few or no specialists available to answer each question, may find the Doctor of Plant Medicine degree program particularly useful in that it would provide them with broad expertise to solve all types of plant health problems in the absence of specialist pathologists, entomologists, weed sci-



tists, etc.

Plant doctors are expected to provide a greatly needed truly expert service to commercial and urban plant growers, and to the agricultural and general economy of the state and of the nation. They will also help to better protect our environment and water supplies of the areas in which they are employed.

They will



accomplish

this by making correct diagnoses of plant problems and by prescribing the best, scientifically determined treatment to each problem, utilizing the most effective and minimum necessary amounts of treatment materials, applied in the most effective and safe way.

For more information and application materials contact:

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Website: <http://plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu>

### Who's Who in our Department



#### Brlansky Land!

No, it's not another Florida theme park, it's the nickname of **Dr. Ronald H.**

**Brlansky's Lab.** Dr. Brlansky's lab is part of the CREC (Citrus Research and Education Center) in Lake Alfred. The CREC is the largest of the University of

Florida Research Stations and its efforts center around Florida's \$8 billion citrus industry. Dr. Brlansky's lab is currently focused on the cytopathology of citrus diseases caused by viruses and unusual plant pathogens (fatidious prokaryotes.)

**Dr. Brlansky** is a native of Texas who earned his B.S. in zoology from Texas A&M. He went on to receive his M.S. in Plant Pathology from Texas A&M and then earned his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Louisiana State University. He worked as a plant pathologist at Montana State University before coming in 1979 to the CREC to work on citrus tristeza citrus blight diseases. Currently, Dr. Brlansky is working on the detection of disease causing agents in both plant and insect vectors using novel methods that often include light and electron microscopy. His research interests include the transmission of plant viruses and unusual pathogens by insect vectors and virus-vector interactions. He also is involved with researching foreign diseases of citrus that have the potential of being introduced into the U.S. He also has an interest in *in situ* visualization of viral and viroid nucleic acids and hopes that the Florida citrus industry will benefit from his work. In his free time, Dr. Brlansky enjoys boating, fishing and hiking. He took his sabbatical in Australia and would like to return there someday.

**Deborah Howd** is the Senior Biological Scientist in Dr. Brlansky's lab. She earned her B.S. in biology from the University of Central Florida and currently works on aphid transmission of citrus tristeza and the characterization of viruses isolated from trees with citrus blight. Her other research interests include working with light and electron microscopy of plant pathogens. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and photography.

**Jennifer Wisnesky** is currently attending night school while working as OPS technical in Dr. Brlansky's lab. She works

with aphid transmission of viruses and grows and cares for research plants as well as the preparation of samples for ELISA. Outside of work, she enjoys going out with friends, shopping and spending time with her family.

**Travis Roland** is currently working as OPS technical in Dr. Brlansky's lab. He cares for greenhouse plants and samples field trees for lab assays as well as general lab work. In his free time, he likes to work on and drive stock cars. He competes in local races and is also remodeling his new home.

**Graeme Lindbeck** is a post-doctoral researcher for the summer in Dr. Brlansky's lab and a lecturer in biology at the University of Central Florida. She earned her Ph.D. in biology/plant physiology from the University of Newcastle, Australia. Her current research focuses on cytopathic changes in trees with citrus blight and searching for the causal agent. Her free time is spent working on and building computers as well as travel and playing with her daughter, Erica.

#### Did you know????

- Dr. Brlansky has traveled to several citrus growing areas of the world?
- He has a dalmatian dog named Pixel?
- Deborah Howd trains and shows Brittans and Labrador Retrievers?
- She wants to win the lottery and never work again?
- Jennifer Wisnesky is expecting her first baby in October?
- She wants to go skydiving (hopefully not until after October!!)
- Travis Roland is getting married in November?
- He dreams of driving in the Daytona 500 –and winning!?
- Graeme Lindbeck hopes to write a biology textbook?

- She has a dog named Tigger and a cockatiel named Charlie?

From the Field: Greetings from Quebec! Wished you were there.....

By **Bob Kemerait Jr.**

Bon jour, and merci! These words constitute my entire knowledge of the French language and I used them often and with pride while attending the annual meeting of the American Phytopathological Society in



Montreal, **Quebec** from August 7 through August 11. This gathering of Yankee plant pathologists was held in conjunction with the Canadian Phytopathological Society for the first time in a number of years. The general theme for the meeting was "Plant Health: Meeting the Challenges" and scientists from the United States, Canada, and many other countries had the opportunity to discuss the future importance of our discipline in the coming century.

The official sessions were located in the Palais des Congres de Montreal, which I think translates to "convention center." This wonderful facility was well suited for a meeting such as ours and is situated in the historic and beautiful downtown area of old Montreal. Although a few sessions occurred on both Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>, most attendees did not arrive until the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was attended by more than thirty members from our department. Posters and papers were presented by students, USPS staff, and by faculty members. The meeting was attended also by several recent graduates including Drs. Erin Roskopf, Tim Widmer, Gustavo Astua-Monge, and Kenny Seebold. Erin now works for the USDA in Ft. Pierce; Tim is completing a post-doc at

Cornell University; Gustavo is working on a post-doc in horticultural sciences here at UF, and Kenny is the chief plant pathologist for Uniroyal Chemical Company in Connecticut. Recent post-doc here in Gainesville, Liane Rosewich, was also present. A departmental reception was held on Monday evening for the alumni of the University of Florida and it gave Gators from across the nation the chance to gather and renew old friendships. Gustavo and Dr. Lawrence Dantoff were given the very important responsibility of doling out the beer coupons. I am happy to report that they fulfilled their duties with enthusiasm, dedication, and goodwill.

The opening plenary session was entitled "The Economic and Social Impacts of Plant Diseases" which gave moving accounts of the plight of farmers in the United States who are affected by crop loss due to plant disease. One speaker described the global challenges that face food producers as we enter the next century. Others spoke of the impact of a specific disease, Fusarium head blight, on growers in the northern Great Plains. This session set the stage for a number of other symposia that followed. The symposia sought to place plant pathology in the context of greater world problems including politics and social issues. Some of the sessions included discussions about the value of food/feed safety and environmental stewardship, implementation of regional disease warning systems, the movement of pathogens across international boundaries, and plant pathology's role in anti-crop bioterrorism and food security. These broad topics gave some participants from the University of Florida the impression that the meeting, while interesting, was somewhat soft on scientific content. Others disagreed with this and felt that there were many outstanding papers and posters presented that dealt with important research currently conducted in plant pathology.

The APS Graduate Student Committee meeting was held on the evening of Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, and was attended by approximately 30 students from universities across the United States. The two main topics for discussion were student travel grants for future APS meetings and ways to encourage more students to become active in the APS. Every year the APS Foundation provides travel grants to help students cover the costs of attending the national meeting. This year, the size of the award increased from \$350 to \$400. There were approximately 45 applicants for a total of 21 awards. It is hoped that additional awards will be available next year. The current application requirements include a copy of the abstract of the poster or paper to be presented, a letter of support from your advisor, and an essay on ways that the APS can improve service to the students. The application packet is then reviewed and judged by a selections committee. The second topic of conversation was to try and figure out how to encourage more students to become members of the APS. Currently, a student membership in the society is only \$15 per year, which includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter Phytopathology NEWS. Membership also allows access to many other services including the important job placement service. One popular idea for increasing student participation is a waiver of society dues for the first, and perhaps second, year of membership.

One of the most important aspects of the annual meeting for many students is the job placement service and the ability to interact with prospective employers. The APS had a room set up this year where employers looking to hire students, both at the Master's and Ph.D. levels, left job descriptions and students looking for positions could leave resumes. Jobs in industry, internships, post-docs, and faculty positions were all



available. It seemed that a significant number of these jobs sought plant pathologists in the more applied areas, though many of these positions also requested experience with molecular techniques. Potential employers were available for interviews and for informal discussions.

No description of the meetings would be complete without mention of the wonderful city of Montreal. I am afraid to say that I had always viewed Canada as the northern United States. It is not. As Kenny Seebold and I discussed, Montreal looked so familiar that you could believe that you were at home. However there are differences, subtle and not-so-subtle, that continually pop up, keeping you off balance as if in a parallel world of the twilight zone. The most obvious difference in Quebec was the language. French was spoken everywhere and all of the signs were equally unintelligible. My basic understanding of Spanish was immediately useless. Fortunately, all of the citizens of Montreal seemed to be bilingual and happily and readily switched their speech to English. I had expected them to be reluctant to talk to me in English but this was not the case, especially when I was spending money. Another pleasant difference was a lack of what I will refer to as "attitude." You find it everywhere in the U.S.- at the checkout counter, in traffic, at the post office, sporting events, etc.,etc.,etc.. I did not experience any "attitude" or rudeness in Montreal. The staff at the convention center was friendly, polite, and helpful. The hotel staff was likewise and many changed rapidly between Chinese, French, and English languages. The average citizens on the street appeared tolerant of each other and of other cultures. They seemed too busy enjoying themselves to be much worried about differences in those around them. At tourist spots around the city, groups of young children would push excitedly and noisily

past you, without the wariness or sullen reserve of many American children.

The part of Montreal in which we stayed was beautiful, filled with elegant churches and historic government buildings. Small shops and restaurants filled a vibrant downtown area that pulsed with streams of people both day and night. Spectators gathered in the cool evening dusk to watch magicians and sidewalk performers entertain them. And, oh yes, the weather! August is the warmest month in Montreal, with high temperatures in the middle 70's. It really made it hard to return to the humidity and heat of Florida!

In conclusion, almost all of the people from Florida who attended had a good time and seemed to have been fairly satisfied with the content of the conference. For those students who presented papers or posters, the meeting provided an excellent opportunity to be a part of the larger scientific community. Even those students who did not present appeared very happy to have been able to attend. While at the meetings the students were able to meet important scientists from their area of research and to immerse themselves for a week in the diversity of plant pathology. As they say in Canada, "Bon jour, and merci....."

Leisure and Culture in  
Gainesville, Florida  
September '99 and Beyond

\*"Robert Rauschenberg: The Chinese Summerhall Series." Exhibition on display through September 26, 1999. Call 392-9826.

\* "Asian Art from the Permanent Collection" on display in the Harn Museum through January 2000.



\* "Equal Partners" on display in the Harn Museum through November 28. Call 392-9826.

\* Christian Rock Concert: Caedmon's Call at the Center for the Performing Arts, 318 Hull Road. Call 392-2787.

\* The works of Isamu Noguchi on display at Harn Museum through September 26, 1999.

\* "Secular/Spiritual Identities: the Blues in the Art of Robert John Holland, Roberto Ponzio, Phoenix Savage and Renee Stout". On display at the University Gallery. Call 392-0201, ext. 228 for more information.

\* "Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats", at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Through September 6. Call 846-2000.

\* "Two Centuries of American Drawings" on display in the Harn Museum through November 28. Call 392-9826.

\* "American Impressionism from the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery" on display in the Harn Museum through January 2. Call 392-9826.

\* "EarthQuest; The Challenge Begins", at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Through January 30. Call 846-2000.

\* "Children's Natural History Gallery", at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Through January 30. Call 846-2000.

\* "ZZ Top and Lynard Skynard", at the O'Connell Center. Tickets available through the University Box Office and all TicketMaster locations. Call 392-5500. September



19.  
\* "Lenny Kravitz with Smash Mouth and Buckcherry, at the O'Connell Center. Tickets available through the University Box Office and TicketMaster. September 22.

UF Sporting Events for  
September 1999

For any Sporting Events, call 375-4683 for more information!

**September 1, Wednesday**

**Volleyball:** Suntrust Invitational Competition (Jacksonville, FL).

**September 4, Saturday**

**Volleyball:** UF vs. Iowa (Gainesville, FL). **O'Connell Center**, doors open at 8:30 AM, \$2.00 for adults, Youth 17 and under and UF students free- 10:00 am.



**Volleyball:** UF vs. Western Michigan (Gainesville, FL). **O'Connell Center**, doors open at 2:30 PM

**Football:** UF vs. Western Michigan (Gainesville, FL) 6:00 pm.

**September 5, Sunday**

**Volleyball:** UF vs. Nebraska (Gainesville, FL). **O'Connell Center**, doors open at 12:30 PM, \$2.00 for adults, Youth 17 and under and UF students free - 2:00 pm.

**September 9, Thursday**

Men's and Women's **Cross Country** : Nike Twi-Light (Gainesville, FL).

**September 10, Friday**

**Soccer:** UF vs. Kentucky (Gainesville, FL). Percy Beard Stadium, admission free. 7:00 pm.

**September 11, Saturday**

**Swimming & Diving:** Alumni Meet. **O'Connell Center**, free and open to the public.

**Volleyball:** University Centre Hotel Invitational (Gainesville, FL).

**Football:** UF vs. Central Florida (Gainesville, FL). 6:00 pm.

**September 12, Sunday**

**Soccer:** UF vs. Vanderbilt (Gainesville, FL). Percy Beard Stadium, admission free. 2:30 pm.

**September 17, Friday**

**Volleyball:** UF vs. Iowa State (Gainesville, FL). **O'Connell Center**, doors open at 5:30 PM, \$2.00 for adults,

Youth 17 and under and UF students free. 7:00 pm.

**September 18, Saturday**

Women's **Cross Country** : Crimson Classic (Tuscaloosa, AL).

**Volleyball:** Consolation Competition (Gainesville, FL). **O'Connell Center**, doors open at 12:30 PM, \$2.00 for adults, Youth 17 and under and UF students free. 2:00 pm

**Volleyball:** Finals Competition (Gainesville, FL). **O'Connell Center**, doors open at 3:00 PM, \$2.00 for adults, Youth 17 and under and UF students free. 4:30 pm.



**Football:** UF vs. Tennessee (Gainesville, FL). 8:00 pm.

**September 24, Friday**

**Volleyball:** UF vs. Arkansas (Gainesville, FL). **O'Connell Center**, doors open at 5:30 PM, \$2.00 for adults, Youth 17 and under and UF students free. 7:00 pm

**Soccer:** UF vs. LSU (Gainesville, FL). Percy Beard Stadium, admission free. 8:00 pm.

Men's **Cross Country** : Sam Bell Invitational (Bloomington, IN).

**Football:** UF vs. Kentucky (Lexington, KY). Call 375-4683. 1:30 pm.

**September 26, Sunday**

**Soccer:** UF vs. Arkansas (Gainesville, FL). Percy Beard Stadium, admission free. 1:00 pm.

**Volleyball:** UF vs. Louisiana State (Gainesville, FL). **O'Connell Center**, doors open at 12:30 PM, \$2.00 for adults, Youth 17 and under and UF students free. 2:00 pm.

**September 28, Tuesday**

**Volleyball:** UF vs. Florida State (Tallahassee, FL). 7:00 pm.

Interview with a Visiting Scientist: Ales Kladnik

Ales grew up in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and attended the university there. He is currently visiting Dr. Prem Chourey's lab learning immuno-localization and in-situ hybridization techniques, specifically on the various tissues of corn. After his stay here, he will return to the University of Ljubljana to write his mini-thesis to complete his B.Sc. in the Biotechnical Faculty—Department of Biology. Upon his return to Slovenia, he will work directly on his Ph.D. in Dr. Marina Dermastia's lab (some of you may remember her—she was a visiting scientist in Dr. Chourey's lab 2 years ago.) His Ph.D. work will involve determining the minimal promoter for INCW-1 and INCW-2; two invertase genes. He will be exploring the plant physiology involved as well as various biochemical methods.

Ales is the oldest of four children; he has two brothers and one sister.



His hobbies include photography, volleyball, rollerblading, and painting with charcoal.

Dr. Dermastia offered Ales the opportunity to do this project in the U.S. and he was more than happy to accept it. He is very excited to be here, as he enjoys hot weather and finds the people to be very friendly. So far, Ales has only visited the local attraction of Devil's Millhopper, but his ultimate goal is to taste alligator meat before he goes home.

Interview with a Visiting Professor : Dr. Subbarao Manne



Dr. Manne is currently working as a Sr. Associate Professor in the Dept. of Plant Pathology at the Agricultural College of N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (Bapatla Campus) in Andhra Pradesh, India. He received

his B.Sc. (Ag) in 1973 in Agriculture from the same university at which he currently works. He then pursued at M.Sc. (Ag) in Plant Pathology at Baneres Hindu University. His advisor was Dr. M.S. Peavga, a prominent Indian mycologist renowned for his work on smuts. In 1980, Dr. Manne received his Ph.D. from the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bangalor, India. He studied plant virology and focused on the causal agent of sandalwood spike disease, which was found to be a phytoplasma. His advisor was Dr. V. Muniyappa, a renowned virologist. Dr. Manne also worked with Dr. Harrison, a Scottish expert on white-fly transmitted Gemini viruses.

From 1981-1988, Dr. Manne worked as an assistant professor at a Regional Agricultural Research Station. His primary focus was on those viruses that infect chilis, a very important crop in India. He also worked on cotton and some economically important grain crops. In 1988, He was promoted to Sr. Assoc. Prof. And remains in this position today. He teaches various undergraduate courses such as general plant pathology, as well as plant virology to graduate students. He has been the major advisor to 12 M.Sc. (Ag) students in his department. His students work primarily on diseases of *Vigna mungo*, a chick-pea-like crop that is a very important protein source in the predominantly vegetarian Indian diet. In 1993, he was awarded the Professor of the Year designation.

Dr. Manne has presented at several International Seminars, as well as published in the Annals of Entomology. He has also written a book on tree mycoplasmas and mycoplasma diseases with Dr. Hiruki.

Dr. Manne is currently visiting in Dr. Jerry Bartz's lab working on mangoes, since mangoes are such an important



crop in India, especially given the many varieties available there. He is looking at the alternate strategies for management of post-harvest diseases of fruits and vegetables. Cold storage is used for chiles, but the technology is not used for other less economic crops. He wants to learn how to safeguard other crops, especially mangoes and citrus which are grown extensively in his region. Dr. Manne is part of a World Bank Program that gives loans to four Agricultural Universities of developing countries for the purpose of training scientists to update their knowledge. They visit various countries to learn the latest technology to better their understanding and ultimately bring about a solution to their scientific dilemmas.

In his free time, Dr. Manne enjoys spending time with his wife and children. They enjoy movies and listening to music, as well as visiting friends and relatives. Professionally, Dr. Manne enjoys teaching plant diseases and their management and takes his class on several field trips in the lab portion of his class. He wants to illustrate the behavior of the pathogen under agroclimatic conditions and enjoys visiting the crops and the local farmers. He is proud of the fact that all of his students perform well on the National Exam. He is enjoying his stay in Florida, but it has been a big adjustment for him here without his family.



#### Trouble with your computer?

Need computer help? TIP-O-MATIC, at <http://www.tipomatic.com> offers several daily tips on different subjects which you may find useful. Selections include: 'Windows Tip of the Day', 'Mac-Os Tip of the Day', and 'Golf Tip of the Day'.

#### Lab Update

**Dr. Kenneth S. Derrick** is a virologist based at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred and his current interest involves Citrus Psorosis disease and Citrus Blight. He received his Ph.D. degree from Texas A&M University in 1970 and since then, he has been involved in several interesting research projects. Among his current research, there is one that actually started at the beginning of this decade, when he discovered some proteins associated with Citrus Blight. This disease has been giving headaches to citrus growers both in Florida and Brazil.

Potential losses of millions of trees can occur every year in both countries due to this disease. Recently, his team found that one of these proteins is a plant endogenous protein rather than a pathogen protein. Thus, the actual efforts are toward the understanding of its function. His "team" is made up by Gary, Tony Ceccardi, Julia Beretta and Eduardo F. Carlos (graduate student).

### In Memoriam

The Plant Pathology Department notes with sadness the passing of **Mrs. Laura Stall**, wife of Dr. Robert Stall, on Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999. Mrs. Stall will be long remembered for her kindness, outgoing nature and the courage with which she faced her illness.

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**Hey Budding Writers and Folks with Questions : We want to hear from you! If you would like to join our staff or contribute an article, contact us!**

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*The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not  
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