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PLP News

*The Newsletter of
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Department
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1999: The Year Past – 2000: The Year Ahead

By Dr. George Agrios

Looking back at 1999 and forward to 2000 at nearly the end of December it feels a little like being at the peak of a mountain ridge and looking both ways, forward and backward: It has definitely been an uphill trip with some hairpin turns so far, but the ascent has been steady. In the opposite direction,



there is a clearer, rosy-looking horizon ahead but

with a few distinguishing features as to the direction (up, straight, down) of the road to be followed. Our Department will soon be embarking on a new leg of the endless trip to perfection and, hopefully, it will choose the right direction.

1999 was another "active" year in the annals of the Department. Dr. WenYuan Song joined the Department in February and has been building his research program in molecular biology of disease resistance by using new and borrowed laboratory space and equipment, getting new personnel and a graduate student, and writing and submitting grant proposals. Dr. Song will be teaching the course "Molecular Plant Pathology". In the fall semester he also was in charge of

the "Colloquium" course of the Department. In April, the Department was authorized to hire a new faculty member with expertise in molecular biology of plant pathogenic fungi to replace Dr. H.C. Kistler, who had announced that he would be leaving in June for a USDA position in Minnesota. A Search Committee was appointed, with Dr. Jeff Jones as its chairman, to find and recommend suitable candidates for the position. In the meantime, Dr. Carol Stiles accepted our offer to join our departmental faculty in January 2000. Her position was given to the Department as a result of our increased teaching, therefore, she will have primarily teaching responsibility but also 30% responsibility for research on turfgrass pathology. Her teaching assignment includes the development and teaching of courses in "Diseases of Turf and Ornamentals", "Plant Disease Diagnosis", and "Plant Pathogenic Fungi". Another personnel change involves the transfer of Dr. C.L. Niblett and his program administratively out of the Plant Pathology Department and physically to a different building. The Department also participated in a search for a citrus pathologist to be located at the Citrus Research Center at Lake Alfred, but so far no suitable candidate

far no suitable candidate has been identified.

In July 1999, the Florida Board of Regents approved the "Doctor of Plant Medicine (DPM) Professional Degree Program". The DPM is an interdisciplinary professional degree offered by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and not by any specific department, but it is likely to have profound effects on the teaching and, possibly, the extension programs of the Department. It is a 3-year program consisting of 90 credits of graduate courses and 30 semester credits of internship in crop production and crop protection. The DPM could add as many as 30-50 students per year taking most of our courses. Dr. Agrios was asked to implement the program and was appointed its Director in October. After working for a while on defining and publicizing the DPM program, Dr. Agrios, in consultation with IFAS Vice President Mike Martin and with Academic Programs Dean Jimmy Cheek, decided in early October to stay on as Director of the DPM program and to step down as Chairman of the Department on May 1, 2000. This, of course, created a new situation and a new vacancy in the Department, and Vice President Martin has appointed a Search

Committee, with Dr. Jerry Bennett, Chairman of the Agronomy Department, as Chair of the Search Committee for a new Chairman of the Plant Pathology Department. A national search for a suitable candidate is in progress.

Further personnel changes in the Department became imminent when, in October also, Dr. Dan Purcifull announced that he would be retiring on December 31, 1999 and, in December, Dr. Gary Simone requested that he work half time between January and July, 2000, and announced his retirement near the end of July 2000. The possibility of hiring new faculty to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Dr. Simone is good but its timing is uncertain. The Department has already requested a position in "Signal Transduction in Disease Resistance" and another position in "Biological Control of Plant Diseases through Genetic Engineering" for implementation of "Florida First", but whether either position will be granted and whether it will be counted as replacement of Dr. Purcifull's position is not known. It should be noted here that at least three faculty members have joined the DROP program and will be retiring in the next three years or so, while a fourth faculty member has indicated that he will be retiring in less than two years from now. These retirements, taken together with those mentioned above and with the newly hired faculty, make for a drastic change in the faculty make-up of the Department. Wise hiring of new faculty can catapult the Department to the very top.

In 1999, both our undergraduate and graduate programs continued to make progress. The number of our undergraduate majors continued to be between 20 and 25, and several of them worked part-time in our faculty's labs through the departmental work-study program. Our outstanding student Jessica Roberts has won several College of Agriculture awards and honors and is now in her last year of her combined BS/MS program. The number of our graduate students has been about 30, with several of them having co-advisor

plant pathology faculty and doing part of their research at one of the IFAS Research Centers.

The number of students taking our undergraduate courses has increased steadily to almost exponentially, especially in Dr. Zettler's PLP 2000 "Plants, Plagues, and People" (325 students took the course in the spring and summer of 1999 while more than 300 are already pre-registered for the course in the spring semester 2000), and in Dr. Kimbrough's PLP 2060 "Molds, Mildews, Mushrooms, and Men", which in 1999 was taken by 275 students. PLP 3002 had 60 students; Dr. Zettler taught the lectures, while the teaching of the labs of the course was shared by Drs Bill Zettler and Jeff Jones. Dr. Zettler also videotaped the PLP 3002 lectures and the tapes were sent to Milton Junior College where the course was offered by our new Courtesy Assistant Professor, Dr. Henry Stelzer. Other courses taught in 1999 included "Plant Disease Control" (Dr. Bartz), "Disease Epidemiology" (Dr. Berger), and "Plant Virology" (Dr. Hiebert).

At the request of the IFAS Dean of Academic Programs, Dr. Zettler also taught the College Honors Colloquium (AGG 4921) to 11 students in summer B of 1999 while 17 students are already pre-registered for the spring 2000 semester. On the other hand, Dr. Carlye Baker for the first time offered PLP 2000 through the internet and, although only a small number of students took the course that way the first time, she is willing to try again and give the effort a second chance.

Among the student activities deserving mention are the travel of some of them to the Research and Education Center at Apopka where Dr. Dave Norman was an excellent host and had prepared a very interesting program for them. Several of our students prepared and manned a very nice exhibit for high school students at the IFAS Spring Open House in Fifield Hall and the surroundings. Several of our students prepared and manned an equally nice exhibit at the "TailGator" event at the center of the

UF campus in early October. Many thanks to all our graduate and undergraduate students who helped in these events. They made the Department proud!

Several of our students, and some of the post-docs and USPS, put together fun-filled spring and fall picnics and a superb Winter Social party that the families of most in our Department enjoyed. I thank them all for their hard work.

Research in our Department has continued to push the frontiers of science in some traditional and several new areas. Disease etiology and epidemiology, always at the center of plant pathology, are pursued at Gainesville and in almost all the IFAS Research Centers where our colleagues work. Similarly, attempts to manage and control plant diseases, the reason for having plant pathology and plant pathologists, go on in all locations: in some by applying traditional methods such as fungicide applications and cultural practices, and in others by trying new, still mostly experimental, but nevertheless very promising methods of genetic engineering and biological control. Some of our scientists continue to dissect and characterize the genetic material of pathogens causing plant disease, be they viruses, bacteria, or fungi, while others try to produce transgenic disease-resistant plants by introducing into them resistance-inducing genetic material taken from the pathogen. Still others of our scientists attempt to find and isolate resistance genes in plants and to figure out how such genes function in mobilizing a plant's defenses against a pathogen. Scientists working on biological control of diseases have their own highs and lows, working mostly with soilborne diseases of vegetables because such diseases are very important, little else exists that controls them, and seem to respond best to biocontrols. On the other hand, biological control of weeds seems to be coming of age and to be seriously considered as a potential alternative if chemicals (herbicides) were banned. Our weed biocontrol scientist, Dr. Charudattan, has developed

a huge, internationally recognized program in this area and was recently elected "Fellow" of the Weed Science Society of America. Of course, where our scientists go, their postdocs, students, and USPS follow, all learning and discovering new things in the process.

Florida's diverse agriculture and disease-favoring climate are served quite effectively by the presence of plant pathologists in its many Agricultural Research Centers. Interactions of plant pathology faculty at the various Research Centers and between Centers and Gainesville have been at an all-time high, as evidenced by the number of projects on which they cooperate and the number of graduate students they co-advise. This cooperation is further evidenced by the number of joint publications produced by faculty at different locations.

Funding of our faculty's research continues to become more competitive and more limiting as to the kinds of research that can be done. Commodity groups and special USDA agreements have been funding the research of most faculty at the Research Centers reasonably well, but our faculty at Gainesville must depend on increasingly scarce external agency grant funds. Some extension-related programs are well-funded by commodities or by the agri-chemical industry, but other programs, especially more traditional research programs of our older faculty, find it very difficult or impossible to attract grant funds. Considering that the funds the Department receives from the Deans are barely enough to cover general operational expenses of the Department and a few "departmental" graduate assistantships to domestic students, it is obvious that dependency of our faculty on grant funds will continue. As a matter of fact, since modern research costs much more than traditional research, our younger faculty will depend much more, indeed absolutely, on grant funds. I wish them luck and success in their efforts.

No new plant diseases were reported in Florida in 1999. The same

problems that existed in 1998 continued, with a few twists, in 1999. Tomato yellow leaf curl virus became more widespread and permanently established in Florida tomatoes, as did some new races of the late blight fungus, *Phytophthora infestans*, in potato and tomato. Stem and root rot, caused by *Phytophthora capsici*, also became widespread on tomato, pepper, and cucurbits. Tomato root and crown rot, caused by the fungus *Fusarium radialis-lyopersici*, also spread to more areas. In spite of millions of dollars spent for its eradication, citrus canker seems to continue to be found in ever widening urban areas in southeast Florida.

Our plant pathology extension program has continued to deliver its customary first-rate program and services through our Extension Pathologists, our four Plant Disease Clinics, and the diagnostic expertise of all our faculty. A big step towards accelerating our diagnostic capabilities through "Distance Diagnosis" has been taken by Dr. Tim Momol of the NFREC at Quincy and the cooperating extension faculty of several North Florida counties. They have adopted, and are verifying, the in-the-field or in-the-county office diagnosis of diseased plants or plant samples by sending images through the computer to the Extension Plant Pathologist at the Plant Disease Clinic. County faculty, then, in most cases receive from the Extension Specialist an immediate diagnosis and control recommendation. I am sure this is just the beginning of a statewide and, before too long, nationwide system of distance diagnosis that will increase productivity and benefit everyone involved.

The Year 2000 can be a new beginning for our Department towards ever-greater success and recognition by our peers and our statewide clientele, the Florida growers. The conditions for greatness are in place: An outstanding graduate and undergraduate teaching program; one of a few successful undergraduate majors in the country; an excellent network of research and extension plant pathology faculty at Gainesville and all the IFAS Research and Education

Centers; well-equipped teaching, research, and extension laboratories; fully computerized offices and labs; a network of statewide Plant Disease Clinics; and best of all, new, young faculty already here or about to be hired. Besides, the Department starts the new year with two more faculty vacancies and so the opportunities for hiring more young faculty with appropriate training and interests will continue. Add to this the upcoming hiring of a new Department Chairman, an event usually associated with some new thrusts and renewed energy by all, and we will have the opportunity to create a new renaissance of the Department.

There are still many improvements that can and will be made in many areas of the Department in the new and subsequent years. The use of computers in teaching, research and extension has become commonplace with some of our faculty, but others are still shy and are falling farther behind. I am sure our younger faculty will forge ahead with the new technology.

The biggest change will probably occur in the teaching program, both as a result of the new teaching faculty and, even more, as a result of implementation of the Doctor of Plant Medicine program. Computer use in teaching is already a reality in some of our courses but it needs to become adapted by all, especially the younger faculty. Distance teaching must be expanded to some of our other courses besides the offering of PLP2000 through the Internet and of PLP 3002 through videotapes. Dr. Carol Stiles, who has a majority teaching FTE, is not only introducing a new course ("Diseases of Turfgrass and Ornamentals") but will also teach on a regular schedule the courses "Plant Disease Diagnosis" and "Plant Pathogenic Fungi".

Most of our graduate courses will be taken by several or all of the 25 students who will be starting classes in the DPM program this fall semester (August 2000). It is possible, indeed likely, that the DPM students will be the majority of students in all these classes.

The instructors of these courses will be expected to place greater emphasis than they used to in the identification of the pathogens, diagnosis of diseases, and recommendations for management and control of the type of diseases the course is about. Since a new group of 25 to 50 DPM students are likely to be enrolled in the program every year, we may have to teach each of the courses every year and to have more than one lab section for each.

Improvements in research are likely to be both qualitative and quantitative. Our new and younger faculty are likely to pursue lines of research quite different from those of the older faculty and, since their survival and advancement are much more dependent on grants and publications, their incentive for greater productivity is quite clear. Molecular genetics of pathogens and hosts is the current rage and we all bet that it will pay off. In addition to those we already have, we have recently hired one molecular geneticist (Dr. Song), we are searching for a second (of plant pathogenic fungi), and we have a request in the IFAS Administration for two more (one in signal transduction in disease resistance and one in the use of molecular genetics in biological control of plant diseases).

Potential retirements in the near future may allow us to hire more faculty. We must be careful, however, to maintain a balance in the expertise of the faculty we hire. We are and must continue to be a Department of Plant Pathology. As such we must try to have a mix of faculty who, amongst them, can do research and teach about the molecular basics and techniques, as well as about the various plant pathogens and the diseases they cause, their identification and diagnosis, their epidemiology and their management or control. Such a balanced faculty will have the advantage of being able to collaborate with statewide colleagues, will be able to respond to the plant pathological needs of the Florida citizens who pay our salaries and provide our labs, and will please our higher Administrators who have to represent us

and to justify our existence and our programs to the citizenry and to the legislators.

Improvements in extension are likely to come through greater use of computers in distance diagnostics, a project well on its way thanks to Dr. Tim Momol and several North Florida county faculty, with some help from Dr. Tom Kucharek. Expanding distance diagnostics statewide and becoming part of a national and international network is the next goal – and we may have to hurry preparing our state for something that may shortly be available at an international level. With the pending departure and subsequent early retirement of Dr. Simone, the duties of his successor and of the personnel at the Gainesville Plant Disease Clinic may need to be redefined. His successor should, most of all, be expected to carry out extension programming and some research on ornamentals. Other assignments may be added but they should not be piled on to the point of overwhelming the faculty member. The issue of charging for samples brought in for diagnosis has been clarified somewhat but it is still problematic in some cases.

Well, it is time to sum it up. 1999 was a hectic year for me and for the Department but it ended on a high note. The single most important event was probably the approval of the Doctor of Plant Medicine Degree Program by the Florida Board of Regents. My being asked to implement the DPM and to serve as its first Director rejuvenated and challenged me. This opportunity made the choice between starting a new program like the DPM and a new profession of practitioner generalist plant doctors, or staying on as Chairman of the Department, quite easy. I elected to take on the challenge of implementing the DPM program and serving as its Director and I will step down as Chairman of the Plant Pathology Department May 1, 2000.

Having served as Chairman of the Plant Pathology Department for almost 12 years (July 1, 1988 – May 1, 2000) gave me a great deal of satisfaction

and a few heartaches. Overall and in retrospect, however, it has been a very enjoyable experience. I enjoyed working with our faculty, staff, and students and I enjoyed meeting and working with our colleagues and administrators statewide. I worked well and have a high regard for each one of our IFAS Administrators who helped me implement all the program, personnel and space changes in the Department. As I mentioned above, there is still room for improvement in all areas, but there will also be opportunities to bring them about through the present and especially through the new faculty the Department has hired and will be hiring soon. I wish my successor the best of luck in making these opportunities materialize. I also wish to thank all of you for working with me through the years and for helping our Department achieve its goals.

Best Wishes to each of you for the New Year and for the years to come.

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

Dr. Earl Taliercio was hired as a USDA-ARS P.I. in Stoneville, Mississippi.

Best wishes to **Xiomara Sinisterra** and former post-doc associate, **Dr. Wayne Hunter**, who got married in December 1999.

Congratulations to **Richard Blacharski** and **Mariadaniela Lopez**, who graduated with an M.S. from our department last December. Richard's major professor was Dr. Bartz and Mariadaniela's major professor was Dr.

Polston. Both graduates were part of the PLP News Staff throughout 1999.

Dr. Dan Purcifull and **Dr. Gary Simone** recently retired from our department. We wish them the very best in this new chapter in their lives.

Congratulations to **Lisa Nodzon** and welcome Chelsea Elizabeth Champion to the world! Lisa gave birth to Chelsea, a beautiful 8 lb. 8 oz. baby girl on Dec. 23rd. Best wishes!

Millennium Chili Cookoff



On Monday, January 31, 2000, the USPS Plant Pathology Staff organized the 12th Annual Chili Cookoff.

A total of twenty-six competitors from 10 labs, the front office and plant disease clinic, represented our department. Ten other competitors were from outside the department.

Attendance at this annual event was estimated at about one hundred attendees. There was a slight increase in the number of participants who brought in their home-cooked chili, as compared to last years count of thirty-two.

At a bargain cost of \$3.50, attendees had the time of their life sampling the meat chili, vegetarian chili, as well as an exotic chili section with about half a dozen participants.

The 12th Annual Chili Cookoff raised approximately \$330, which will benefit the departmental Reading Room.

The overall winner of this year's event was the "Black Bean Ancho" chili (Susan Carlson), followed by "Indica" (Chandrika Ramadugu). Curiously, both belonged to the "Exotic" category. In the "Meat" category, "Simply Charmin" (David Davison) was the top vote getter, followed by a three-way tie between ".30-06" (Bob Kemerait), "Megabite" (Bart Schutzman), and "Maxi Millennium" (Karen Owens). And, in the "Vegetarian" category, the winner was "My First Attempt" (Jessica Roberts).

All the above winners will receive a chili-themed prize award for their great efforts and dedication. Prizes were donated by Maureen Petersen (who handmade them!!), Beth Mitchell, and Patti Rayside. Many thanks to Polly Teele and Ernest Hiebert for each sponsoring a chili dish. Next year promises to be even bigger and better. See you in 2001!!!

Important Dates : Spring 2000

February 4 – Deadline to apply for spring graduation.

February 7-18 – ICBR announces a seminar series on "Tools for Differential Gene Expression Analysis." Faculty interested in meeting individually with any of the speakers may contact : David Moraga, 352-846-1337 (moraga@biotech.ufl.edu) For speaker information, please visit the website – www.biotech.ufl.edu.

March 4-11 – Spring Break

Where in The World Wide Web?

Check out this month's feature website, Plants for a Future! www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/index.html

And also be sure to keep updated on the latest in plant pathology at the Plant Pathology Internet Guide Book at www.ifgb.uni-hannover.de/extern/ppigb/ppigb.htm

Coffee Break Schedule and Birthdays for February

Friday Coffee Break

2-4 Niblett

2-11 Disease Clinic
Zettler

2-18 Bartz and Berger

2-25 Hiebert

3-3 Charudattan



Birthdays!!

2/15 Charles Niblett

2/17 Gary Marlow

Maureen Petersen

2/22 Juliana Freitas-Astua

2/24 Asha Brunings

2/27 Manjunath Keremane

"Proceedings of the 8th International Workshop on Fire Blight" Published by ISHS

By Dr. Tim Momol
Chairman of the ISHS Working Group on Fire Blight
University of Florida, IFAS, NFREC,
Plant Pathology Department
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The 8th International Workshop on Fire Blight (IWFB) was held at Kusadasi, Turkey, on October 12-15, 1998. The workshop was organized by the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) Working Group on Fire Blight. Delegates from 25 countries were in attendance to learn and discuss the latest progress on several topics regarding fire blight caused by *Erwinia amylovora*. Fire blight is a very serious disease of pome fruit worldwide. It could be very severe on pears, apples and quince. Many woody ornamental plants in the family of Rosaceae are also affected, some quite severely, such as cotoneaster, crabapple, hawthorn and firethorn.

A total of 121 papers were given at the 8th IWFB, both oral and poster presentations that cover these areas: Spread Detection and Quarantine, Resistance: Breeding and Biotechnology, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Etiology and Epidemiology, and New Control Options. Workshop papers are published in Acta Horticulturae Volume 489 in July 1999. Information on ordering this book could be obtained from International Society for Horticultural Science.

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Dr. Chris Hale from HortResearch of New Zealand is organizing the 9th IWFB in Napier, New Zealand on 8-12 October 2001. News regarding the workshop could be found at this web site <http://afrsweb.usda.gov/fireblight/>

Leisure and Culture in Gainesville February 2000 and Beyond

- "Asian Art from the Permanent Collection" on display in the Harn through March 26. Call 392-9826 for museum hours and more information.
- "35th Anniversary Exhibition of the University of Florida Art Faculty" on display in the Harn through April 23.
- "The Prophetic Photographs of Roman Vishniac: Jewish Life in Eastern Europe Before the Holocaust" on display in the Harn through June 18..
- "The Perpetual Well: Contemporary Art from the Collection of the Jewish Museum" on display in the Harn through April 9.
- "Insistent Memory: The Architecture of Time in Video Installation" on display in the Harn through December 17.
- Feb. 4- The Velveteen Rabbit, Center for the Performing Arts.
- Feb. 5- Bats, Bats, and More Bats with Ken Glover and representatives from the Lube Foundation. 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Powell Hall classroom. Call 846-2000 for more information.

- Feb. 5 - Men's Basketball: UF vs. Georgia (Gainesville, FL). O'Connell Center.
- Feb. 8 - Men's Basketball: UF vs. Kentucky (Gainesville, FL). O'Connell Center.
- Feb. 9- Women's Tennis: UF vs. Florida State (Gainesville, FL). Scott Linder Stadium.
- Feb. 9 - Baseball: UF vs. Jacksonville (Gainesville, FL). McKethan Stadium.
- Feb. 9 - Wind Symphony Concert with conductor David Waybright. University Auditorium.
- Feb. 10 - Women's Basketball: UF vs. Arkansas (Gainesville, FL). O'Connell Center.
- Feb. 12- Florida Museum of Natural History's 21st Collectors Day, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- Feb. 14 - "The Importance of Being Earnest" at the Constans Theatre.
- For more events, check out the University of Florida Events calendar at <http://calendar.ufl.edu>.

New Travel Information

Recently some changes were made to the University Preferred Agency Contract. These changes, which were effective January 1, 2000, are listed below.

* Travelers are now allowed to purchase tickets directly from the airlines, the Worldwide Web, or from one of the preferred agencies.

* Travel agencies are now charging a \$10.00 service fee for issuing tickets. An additional \$10.00 fee will be charged if a paper ticket is requested rather than an electronic ticket. It will be the department's decision whether to pay the extra \$10.00 fee for a paper ticket. Some of the

agencies now offer a web-based ticketing system that will reduce or eliminate the service charge. You may wish to check with the agency of your choice to see if this system is available.

* A justification should be provided if the traveler purchases the ticket from the web or directly from the airline. It is no longer necessary to obtain a written quote from the agency for a justification. All that is needed is a statement placed on the reimbursement voucher claiming that the traveler received a lower rate by utilizing the Web or by dealing directly with the airline.

Who's Who In Our Department



Dr. Carol M. Stiles recently joined the plant pathology faculty here in Gainesville as the new turfgrass pathologist. As an assistant professor, her appointment is 70% teaching and 30% research. Dr. Stiles is currently teaching Diseases of Turf and Ornamentals, and will also teach Fungal Plant Pathogens and Plant Disease Diagnosis in future semesters.

After growing up in Kansas, Dr. Stiles went to the University of South Dakota at Springfield on an athletic scholarship, where she received an Associate of Applied Science in Biotechnology in 1984. She received a B.S. in Agronomy from South Dakota State University in 1986 and a M.Sc. in Plant Pathology at the University of Illinois in 1989. Her thesis research examined the interactions between soybean cyst nematodes and fungi. She then went on to obtain a Ph.D. in 1994 at Washington State University where she researched *Cephalosporium stripe* on winter wheat. Feeling the need to move again, Dr. Stiles left for Rutgers University in NJ to do a post-doc at the Blueberry and Cranberry

Research Center. Then, from 1996 to 1999, she was at Valdosta State University in Georgia where she taught Introductory Biology, Botany, Mycology and Microbiology.

When Dr. Stiles is not working, she enjoys researching her genealogy, which gives her an excuse to travel. It probably comes as no surprise that she has visited all 48 continental states (as well as living in most of them!) and visited parts of England, Scotland, and Canada. Her other pastimes include attending various symphony, theatre, and dance productions as well as listening to jazz and folk music. She is also enjoying the wide selection of bookstores, restaurants and cuisines here in Gainesville.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Stiles and hope that her time here is an enjoyable and fulfilling one.

Patty E. Hill is the biologist in Dr. Stiles' lab. She received her B.S. in Animal Science from the University of

Florida in 1978 and while a senior in college, she worked in the plant disease clinic. Upon graduation, Patty got a full time position with Dr. Freeman, the former turfgrass pathologist. She worked with him for 13 years until his retirement. For the past seven years she has worked for Dr. Gabriel, Dr. Kistler, Dr. Martin, and Dr. Mitchell on various projects.

Outside of work, Patty enjoys cooking, volunteering with 4H, and attending her daughter's horse shows. The Hill family lives on a farm and they run a cow-calf operation. They raise a Red Angus-Brahman cross and currently have 40 head of cattle. Patty also has 20 hens laying fresh eggs, which she says are for sale.

PLP News can now be accessed via the world wide web at the following address:
<http://plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu/>

If you would like to join our staff or contribute an article, contact us!

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**Or, you can e-mail us at:
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