

- New Department Chairperson
- New Orleans Bound

- Faculty, staff, students and alumni



# PLP News

*From the students of  
the Plant Pathology  
Department to our  
community.  
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The NEWSLETTER of the PLANT PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT at the UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

## DR. GAIL WISLER : NEW CHAIRPERSON

*By Dr. F.W. "Bill" Zettler*

Our new Chairperson, **Dr. Gail C. Wisler**, will be joining us on or about October 1st. Dr. Wisler was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. She received her BS degree in Biology at the College of William and Mary, Virginia. After graduating in 1976, she came to Gainesville where she was employed as a Biological Scientist at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Bureau of Plant Pathology. During her 11-year tenure at the Division of Plant Industry, she headed the citrus quarantine facility, indexed citrus stocks for virus, and assessed lettuce seed for lettuce mosaic virus. She received her MS degree in 1981 working under the supervision of Dr. F. William Zettler on orchid viruses. In 1986, while still working full-time at the Division of Plant Industry, she received a National Science Foundation grant to study viruses in vanilla plantings grown under the auspices of the French Polynesian government. Later that year, she became a Biological Scientist in our department where she headed a monoclonal antibody laboratory under the supervision of Dr. Dan E. Purcifull. In 1988, Dr.

Wisler accepted a departmental assistantship and began working on her Ph.D. program. Her advisors were Drs. Dan Purcifull and Ernest Hiebert, and her dissertation involved the molecular characterization of the P1 protein of the zucchini yellow mosaic potyvirus.

After graduating in 1992, Dr. Wisler accepted a position as a Post-doctoral Associate at the USDA/ARS Crop Improvement and Production Unit in Salinas, California. She worked under the supervision of Dr. James E. Duffus on soil-borne, fungus-transmitted viruses of sugar beet. In 1995, she accepted a permanent position there as a Research Scientist. Her current position at Salinas is Lead Scientist and Research Plant Pathologist, and she has expanded her research to include whitefly- and aphid-transmitted viruses of sugar beet and other vegetable crops. She received the USDA Certificate of Merit Award for her work on furoviruses and closteroviruses and is now completing a sabbatical leave at the Broom's Barn Sugar Beet Experiment Station in Bury, St. Edmunds, England.

Dr. Wisler has published 29 full-length technical papers, 2 feature articles in *Plant Disease*, 3 book chapters, and a book on orchid viruses published in 1989. She has also presented over 40 abstracts and given many other talks at professional meetings, classrooms, grower groups, and workshops. Dr. Wisler is currently President of the International Working Group for Plant Viruses with Fungal Vectors, Secretary for the International Vegetable Virus Working Group, and a member of the Constitution and By-laws Committee of American Society for Sugar Beet Technology.

It is a pleasure to welcome Dr. Wisler and her husband, H. William Brown, back to Gainesville. Clearly, her success reflects well on our department's graduate program, and we look forward to a bright future as she assumes her new post. In her letter of application, Dr. Wisler wrote that "*I endorse a strong teaching program, like the one I experienced at UF. The positive collaborations between students, researchers, administrators, technical support staff and industry personnel have always been important to*

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*the success of the Plant Pathology Department at UF, and for that reason, the department continues to be a leader in the field.*" She went on to say that she expects to see many changes here over the next several years and welcomes the challenge of having a positive impact on these changes by maintaining an enthusiastic and active approach to maximizing the research, extension, and teaching capabilities of the department. We couldn't agree more.

Incidentally, those planning to attend the 92nd APS Annual Meetings in New Orleans in August may want to attend Dr. Wisler's talk, entitled "Whitefly properties and their value in detection and differentiation of criniviruses," which will be presented at the Biology of Pathogens Special Sessions as Publication no. P-2000-0010-SSA. Hers is one of ten being given in the Applied and Basic Developments in the Closteroviridae Discussion Group. Other speakers include Drs. William O. Dawson (Citrus REC at Lake Alfred, FL), Bryce W. Falk (formerly Everglades REC at Belle Glade), and Steven M. Garnsey (USDA, ARS at Orlando).

**(Ed. Note:** The PLP News would like to welcome Dr. Zettler as a new member of our News Team.)

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

**Gabriela S. Wyss** is leaving our department on July 15th to return to Switzerland. She was offered a permanent position at the Research Institute

of Organic Agriculture (www.fibl.ch), in Frick, Switzerland, as part of the "Plant Protection" group. As a project leader, she will work on monitoring the influences of pesticides in the soil by characterizing risk indicators (e.g., arthropods or other organisms in the soil). Included in this 100% research responsibility will be the supervision of a PhD student in the field of induced resistance. She will also be dealing with the determination of products used in organic agriculture. In the next year, upon approval of a new COST project (European Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology) on biological control of weeds, she will establish a biological control program on *Amaranthus* spp., which is also a serious problem in Europe. Gabriela would like to thank everybody who made her stay pleasant and enjoyable and especially to all those whose assistance made her work run smoother. Congratulations and the best of luck!!!

**Dr. F. William ("Bill") Zettler**, a member of our Plant Pathology Department, was one of two faculty



members presented with the campus-wide University of Florida Teacher of the Year Award for 1999-2000. Previously, he received the UF College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' 1999-2000 Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Dr. Zettler has been a faculty member of the department since 1966, and during the 1999-2000 school year, taught two upper division courses, "Fundamentals of Plant Pathology" and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences "Honors Colloquium." He also taught a lower division course, "Plants, Plagues, and Peo-

ple," which he initiated in 1990. Congratulations, Dr. Zettler!!!

**Juliana Freitas-Astua** received national recognition from the American Women in Science Foundation. Her application for the Amy Lutz Award for Life Sciences (Plant Biology), while not successful, was rated by the reviewers as "highly meritori-



ous" and was designated as an Honorable Mention. The AWIS Education Foundation bestows several prestigious Predoctoral Awards annually. This year's winner of the Amy Lutz Award is from the University of California at Berkeley (Plant and Microbial Biology Department). Juliana's Honorable Mention was one of only twelve from a strong pool of applicants from around the United States. She was the only applicant recognized from Florida and from any of the plant pathology departments in the U.S. Way to go, Juliana!!!

**Polly M. Teele**, departmental accountant, recently retired after more than three decades of work at the University of Florida.

"I was born in Americus, Georgia on May 7, 1939. My father was a railroad engineer and my mother was a dance instructor. She had dance studios in five Georgia cities, and studied under Buddy Ebsen. As a youth, Jimmy Carter was taught the ballroom style of dancing by my mother. Dance has always been a part of and enhanced my life. Currently, one of my granddaughters is instructing dance.

I was an only child for 14 years, and then I was blessed with a little sister and again another sister eleven months later. While I was growing up, my family moved to Florida, but then went back to Geor-

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gia where I met and married my one and only husband for 44 years (John Calvin Teele).

I married at the age of seventeen. I had not finished my senior year of high school at the time, and I promised my father if he allowed me to marry, I would graduate. I graduated as Valedictorian!

While still living in Georgia, we had three wonderful children that have blessed and enriched our lives. They are even more wonderful as adults that carry to their communities the family values my husband and I have been able to share with each of them. We have three granddaughters and three grandsons who are the "greatest". We are hoping to be around someday to see some great-grandchildren.

I plan on traveling, attending gospel music concerts, watching my husband fish and enjoying my family. I will read, crochet, listen to the birds sing, enjoy sunrises and sunsets and maybe even take afternoon naps.

I have enjoyed my career with the University of Florida for 31.2 years. I am very grateful for the knowledge I have gathered and for the friends, faculty and co-workers who have enhanced my pathway, a journey I will never forget and forever hold dear to my heart."

Coffee Break Schedule and Birthdays From mid-Summer 2000 and Beyond

Friday Coffee Break

- 7-7 Gabriel
- 7-14 Jones
- 7-21 Kucharek, Kimborough and Song
- 7-28 Pring and Chourey
- 8-4 Disease Clinic, Zettler and Purcifull



- 8-11 Hiebert
- 8-14 Bartz, Berger and Stiles
- 8-25 Charudattan

Birthdays!!



- 8-8 Gene Crawford
- 8-10 Bayram Cevik
- 8-12 Alvaro Urena
- 8-13 Bill Zettler
- 8-26 Patty Hill
- 9-1 Ellen Dickstein
- 9-1 Lauretta Rahmes
- 9-19 Jim DeValerio
- 9-26 Terry Davoli
- 9-29 Diane Concelmo

Recent Publications



Legard, D.E., Xiao, C.L., Mertely, J.C., and Chandler, C.K. 2000. Effects of plant spacing and cultivar on incidence of Botrytis fruit rot in annual strawberry. Plant Disease 84: 531-538.

The Annual Review of Phytopathology will be available in September. In this publication, there is a 'review' titled "Citrus Blight and Other Diseases of Recalcitrant Etiology" by L.W. Timmer and Kenneth S. Derrick

Dr. Zettler attends NACTA Conference



Dr. F. William Zettler attended the 46th Annual Conference of the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA), held June 18-21 on the

Delaware Valley College campus in Doylestown, PA. NACTA is a professional society that focuses on teaching agriculture and related disciplines at the postsecondary level in public and private two- and four-year colleges. Formed in 1955, NACTA provides a forum for discussion related to the improvement of college instruction and publishes the NACTA Journal, which is refereed and published quarterly. Its articles cover topics that treat all aspects of teaching such as methods, problems, philosophies, and rewards.

The University of Florida's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences was especially well represented at the Doylestown meetings, and several members received special awards. These included Drs. Mathew T. Baker, Rick D. Rudd, (both in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication), and Michael T. Olexa (Department of Food and Resource Economics), all of whom received NACTA Teacher Fellow awards. Dr. Olexa, who is a member of the Florida Bar and now teaches agricultural law, received his Ph.D. degree from our department in 1976. Two members of the Entomology and Nematology Department also received awards; Mr. Byron R. Coon received the NACTA Graduate Student Teaching Award, and Dr. Donald W. Hall received the NACTA Ensminger- Interstate Distinguished Teacher Award. Dr. Hall teaches ENY 2040, The Insects, an introductory lower division course similar to PLP 2000 and PLP 2060 taught by Drs. Zettler and James W. Kimbrough, respectively. Finally, Dr. Larry J. Connor, Dean Emeritus, received the NACTA Distinguished Educator Award. During Dr. Connor's tenure as Dean, Florida became the nation's sixth largest agricultural college, and undergraduate enrollment at Florida increased 150 percent and graduate by 7 percent.

### Joke of the Month



Some University of Georgia graduates decide to start a chicken farm. They get some chickens and plant them in the ground, headfirst. When all the chickens die, the farmers are somewhat confused, but they don't give up.

They get some more chickens, and these are planted feet-first. It takes a little longer, but eventually the second batch of chickens die, too.

They decide to write a letter to the University of Georgia agricultural extension office. In the letter they explain in detail the procedures they have followed and their disappointing results. A few weeks later they receive this reply from the office:



"Before we can advise you, please send us a soil sample."

### USPS and A&P Holidays

USPS and A&P employees are eligible for nine paid holidays each year. All full-time A&P and USPS employees earn eight hours of holiday pay as long as they are in pay status for a reasonable portion of their last regularly scheduled workday before the holiday. (Your supervisor determines what is a reasonable portion of the workday.) Part-time employees are entitled to holiday time in proportion to their FTE

Remaining 2000 Holidays:

Labor Day- Monday 9/4  
Veterans Day (observed)- Fri 11/10  
Thanksgiving-Th & Fr, 11/23 & 11/24

Christmas Day- Monday 12/25

### Cool Web Sites

A handful of websites with activities to help you beat the heat!

\* Looking for a place for a first date? To take the kids? To get out of the sun? Try Gainesville's very own Do Art! [www.doart.com](http://www.doart.com) has the art studio's schedule, coupons, and gives you an overview of all the cool art projects you can do at the studio.

\* Trying to find a way to relax? Increase your flexibility? You can take a Tai Chi course here in town or you can do it over the web- [www.soton.ac.uk/~maa1/tai.htm](http://www.soton.ac.uk/~maa1/tai.htm) has the entire Yang form (long and short) with diagrams and little animated pictures of each move. The site also features some history and other fun stuff.



\* Amaze and befuddle your friends- learn magic tricks online! <http://web.superb.net/cardtrick/tricks.htm> has several tricks from easy counting card to advanced sleight of hand that you can do with an ordinary deck.



By Angela Vincent

### Impressions of an Exotic Land

A few weeks ago, Camilla, Chandra, Jim, Charu, and I had the privilege of attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Weed Science Congress held this year in Foz do Iguassu, Brazil. After a rather grueling nine-hour plane ride



to Sao Paulo, we waited a brief period before boarding again to fly to the Falls (Foz). Just before landing in the famous town, we were treated to a spectacular aerial view of the Falls as our plane flew directly over them.

This experience was just one of many that have now become fond memories of our adventures in Brazil. The conference was superbly organized and held in a beautiful four-star hotel. We met and mingled with some of the world's most famous weed scientists (a total thrill) and learned a great deal about the newest technologies for solving some of the world's biggest agricultural challenges (weed control). Perhaps most exciting, we met old friends and former colleagues of our lab here at UF, who have returned to their homeland and are now researchers and professors themselves. It was great to see Dauri and Alan, I mean, Drs. Tessman and Pomella.

While our friends Dauri, Alan, and Robinson Pitelli took excellent care of us during our visit (translating, driving us around, etc.), the Brazilians themselves were excellent hosts. They were kind and helpful and have a zest for life many of us in this country perhaps have forgotten. Even when they didn't understand us, they were so patient! The food was absolutely unbelievable both in presentation and taste. They took great pride in the selections they prepared for us each day and made an amazing feast of "dorodo" and an entire roasted lamb for us at the closing ceremony dinner. It was a real Brazilian party with beautiful flowers, sumptuous food, and a great band!

We couldn't leave Brazil without experiencing the Falls first-hand. So all of us, except Charu, chose a short jeep adventure through the woods before



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hiking down the falls to a boat ride. We observed the flora and fauna of Brazil as we walked up and down steeply carved steps down to the boats that awaited us. We soon embarked on a thrilling speedboat ride into the falls themselves. We were surrounded by falls that lie on the border of three countries: Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay. The boat captains and guys at the dock insisted we weren't going to get "that" wet, as they handed out plastic bags for cameras and important documents. We smiled back apprehensively as we left our shoes at the dock to stay dry. We were soon screaming with excitement as we negotiated the currents and enjoyed the tricks of maneuverability our captain displayed. The sunlight hitting the falls, cast rainbows everywhere and it was one of the most majestic experiences of my life. We laughed as we were shocked by the cold water of the falls as our captain drove the boat right under one so we were all completely soaked. It was fantastic! Camilla and I had been so careful the entire week to watch what we ate and to brush our teeth only with bottled water. This was to no avail, however, since we must have swallowed a quart of falls water with our screams of delight on the boat ride. After emerging from the boat as drowned rats, we trekked back to a jeep that returned us to the starting point. Gorgeous butterflies of all colors and sizes landed on us, but our adventures had only just begun. We then decided to hike the actual falls down to the "throat of the devil." There is a walkway that extends so far into the falls, that you are actually surrounded by them on three sides. It's quite a hike up and down a few miles of steps built in the hillside. Small furry (adorable) native animals, follow you on your journey, hoping for a snack, even though feeding them is forbidden. The rush of the falls is so

intense that when you reach them, the aerosol literally soaks you. It was a humbling and spiritually amazing experience; one I will never forget.

At the end of the meeting, we flew back to Sao Paulo and had to stay over one night. We were treated like royalty by Juliana's family who graciously showed us the sights and took us to a fantastic typical Brazilian barbecue. We stopped by her brothers' apartment and they insisted that we leave first, since it is a custom that if the guests leave first, they will be sure to return. I look forward to my next visit to this fantastic country; Brazil is in my heart.

### New Orleans Bound!



The APS annual meeting is right around the corner and this year's destination is the enchanting city of New Orleans! Although the meeting will take up most of everyone's time, hopefully you'll get to enjoy a night on the town. This decadent town of nightlife, voodoo, music and food has so much to see, but here's a quick guide to some sites, city tips, and, of course, wonderful restaurants!

#### Sites to see?

- Looking for a good meal and some fun? Try a cooking course! These 2-4 hour classes usually offer a bit of history, a large meal, and helpful hints on authentic New Orleans cuisine preparation. <http://neworleansdiscounts.com/CookinCajun.html> has a coupon for one of these wonderful little classes.

- The wax museum downtown is a neat way of brushing up on your N.O. history. Goes great with a big daiquiri.
- The Aquarium of the America's boasts some great exhibits and also has an IMAX theater.
- Looking for a spooky evening out? N.O. is famous for its walking tours, but try a night tour for something really unusual. Everything from ghosts, cemeteries, voodoo and vampires is covered. The author's favorite tour group is Haunted History.
- [http://www.neworleansonline.com/things\\_to\\_do/contents.shtml](http://www.neworleansonline.com/things_to_do/contents.shtml) has coupons for both the aquarium and Haunted History tours.

#### Where to eat?

- Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, right? With a heavy french background, N.O. has more corner bakeries than you can imagine. A great one is La Madeleine's- this little bakery has locations all over town and has great coffee, atmosphere and pastries!
- Looking for something uniquely N.O., but not stuffy? Try Straya's! This restaurant is part owned by Anne Rice and is flamboyant, fun and garish- but the food is amazing: unique cuisine with New Orleans flair. Located on the St. Charles streetcar line (you can't miss the neon sign and gold gilding.)
- And for a traditional N.O. eating experience, try lunch at The Royal Café downtown. With balconies overlooking the crowds below, you can enjoy gumbo and people watching to your heart's content.

#### Pointers for around town?

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- August, like much of the year, means hot and humid for N.O.. Be sure to carry plenty of water and an umbrella wherever you go.
- Many people feel that Mardi Gras is the only time N.O. is dangerous, but the truth is it's a big city with a high crime rate. Never travel alone and stick to the well-known parts of town. Be especially careful visiting the cemeteries- the above ground vaults make it easy to get lost and easy for people to hide.
- Beware pickpockets and loose women! This old-fashioned N.O. phrase is still somewhat true...plenty of people are waiting to scam you on Bourbon Street and it's easy to binge drink when

liquor is served everywhere and in huge quantities. Know your limits!

- Eating is a big deal for N.O. and they do it well! Try eating in the expensive restaurants at lunchtime instead of dinner – you'll get the same portions at a cheaper price and without a long wait for a table.
- <http://www.gnofn.org/~nopl/links/nolinks/nolinks.htm> has several interesting links to things to do around town, local papers and various web sites for the N.O. traveler.

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**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 necessarily those of the PLPNews Staff.*

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