

# Special Issue

## Highlights

- PLP News: an outlet for FPS newsletter
- Find out who is leaving us and who is coming to Gainesville!!

## Highlights

- Know more about Dr. Pete Timmer's program
- Find out what happened in the last FPS meeting



# PLP News

The Newsletter of  
the Plant Pathology  
Department  
Volume 3- Issue 5  
May 1999

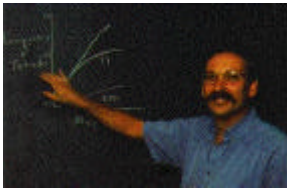
## End of an Era

by Ms. Ulla Benny and Dr. Rose Koenig<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Corby Kistler came to the Department of Plant Pathology in 1985. He began working with Ulla

Benny and has since published

many journal articles with her and several graduate students, post-docs and visiting scientists that followed. For Corby, the true beginning of his research program started with his first grant award. "Remember Your First Time" was the theme of the party that Corby hosted for the entire department one Friday afternoon, after he had found out that his first grant had



been approved. That was the beginning of almost 15 years of research at the University of Florida.

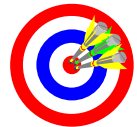
Dr. William Powell was the first post-doctoral fellow that Corby hired. Bill was instrumental in constructing pLD, a chromosome breaking vector that has since been in great demand among scientists transforming filamentous fungi. For those that are curious about what pLD stands for, you'll be surprised! It is short for *Little Doctor* because "every great invention should be named after its creator."

Many other scientists and students have passed through Corby's lab since then and now it's time to close the doors. Dr. Kistler has accepted a position as geneticist at the USDA Cereal Disease

Laboratory in St. Paul, Minnesota. Gone is the inflatable animal collection. Only one lonely pink flamingo hangs from an incubator door. Another notable paraphernalia, soon to be gone, is the extensive post card collection. The rule was that every meeting participant was required to send a card to those left behind in the lab. Looking at the door one cannot help but realize that this has been a very prolific lab!

Are you good with darts? You better have been when you walked into his class the first day.

Accurate aim at the list of terms might have been to your benefit, if you took Dr. Kistler's advanced



<sup>1</sup> Ms. Ulla Benny is a senior biological scientist at Dr. Kistler's lab, Dr. Rose Koenig is his former graduate student.

plant pathology course. Corby's creative spirit was reflected in the way that he made a student pick the quiz questions at the beginning of the semester. The exercise was to entice students to get a firm foundation at the very beginning. The more conventional way would have been to ask the students to know the definitions to these terms so that the class was better able to understand the lectures and could write laboratory reports in *Physiology of Parasitism*. That was the name of Dr. Kistler's advanced course in 1985, when he first taught it. The current catalog lists it as *Molecular Plant Pathology*. Every time the course was taught, regardless of the name, Dr. Kistler spent countless hours of preparation in order to bring students the most current knowledge in the molecular mechanisms of disease resistance and pathogenesis.

When students took the course in the early 1990's, Corby gave very challenging exams. Each exam consisted of four questions, which required the student to go to the library and do reading of the current literature. Keep in mind these were not simple questions, and additionally, your answer could only be one page in length. We remember quite vividly the rush of students to the library frantically searching through journals and photocopying articles. He graded the exams fairly but had high expectations of the students; definitely challenging them and requiring them to work hard for their grades. He brought a high standard of education and dedication to the teaching program.

Each time Corby taught the course he tried to incorporate the latest research findings. He also tried to develop new ways to help students learn the subject matter.

For example, last year the laboratory took the form of writing a grant proposal. This was an exercise that graduate students will appreciate when they face the real world where every starting scientist has to convince a funding institution that one's project is worth sponsoring.

Another important contribution to the department's teaching program - that many students probably do not know - is that he wrote a grant to get funding to improve the teaching laboratory. The grant allowed the department to redesign the teaching lab and purchase state of the art equipment. The entire department should be grateful for this contribution, since most of us have benefited from this improved facility.

Another important contribution to the department was Corby's constant presence at student seminars, research proposals and exit seminars. He always tried to attend and support students when they were presenting their research and ideas to the department. His presence at social activities such as volleyball games, parties, department functions, and the PLP News did not go unnoticed. Additionally, the many years he played the role of Santa Claus at Christmas parties was greatly appreciated not only by the children, but also by the grown ups!!

*Corby, we wish you great success at your new lab!*

Faculty, staff, and students

#### Awards:



**Ricardo Harakava** won a very special award. His presentation "Development of transgenic resistance against *Xylella fastidiosa*" was chosen as the best student's presentation in the PMCB Crystal River Workshop, which had the participation of most PMCB students and faculty. Ricardo received a certificate and a \$500 check.

**Alfred Addison, a.k.a. "Bull"**, received recognition in the form of a plaque and a check for \$1000 last Friday. He was nominated for excellence in janitorial services.

*Congratulations to you and keep up the good work!*

#### Trips:

##### **Dr. Charudattan visits Brazil again:**

Dr. Charu went to Brazil to collaborate with researchers from Africa on a pathogen of waterhyacinth. *Uredo echorniae* is a rust pathogen of water hyacinth that is very effective in keeping natural populations of waterhyacinth in Brazil in check. Since rust fungi are very host specific, there is hope that this fungus may be used as a biocontrol agent in the United States to control this aquatic weed.

##### **Citrus club members in Spain:**

Citrus club members and a few faculty participants traveled to Spain for 7 days.

Representatives of our department were An-

**gela Vincent, Alvaro Urena, Abdul Al-Saadi, and Bayram Cevik.**

Their trip included touring many citrus groves and numerous packing and processing plants. Overall



1999

the trip was educational and exciting!

### Meetings:

**Mark Elliott** recently returned from Vancouver, British Columbia where he was invited to present a paper at the 16<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference. The paper was entitled "Orchid viruses: a glimpse into the current status of the common viruses infecting orchids." This was a culmination of the study that he and Brian Siegmann started last summer to determine the incidence of odontoglossum ringspot tobamovirus and cymbidium mosaic potexvirus and, more importantly, to determine if cymbidium ringspot tomosvirus could be detected in orchid collections in Florida and across the US.

For **Dr. Niblett's** adventure in Spain, check next month's issue of the PLP News!

### Who is leaving us:

**Dr. Kistler** is leaving the department on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month. We would all like to thank him for his dedication to the students and to acknowledge his excellence in research and teaching.



**Mr. Rodney Pettway** and **Dr. Liane Rosewich** are also leaving Gainesville. They are going to Minnesota with Dr. Kistler, and will be working respectively as biological scientist and post-doctoral fellow in his new lab.

**Dr. Chandrika Ramadugu** is leaving our department. She accepted a position as a researcher at Integrated Plant Genetics.

**Dr. Yinong Han**, who has just graduated from Dr. Kistler's lab, has taken a post-doc position at Shands under Drs. Laipis and

Berns in the department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Her project will focus on gene therapy.

*We wish you all the best of luck in the future!!!*

### More qualifying examinations:

**Gayle VandeKerckhove** has successfully finished her qualifying exams.

*Congratulations, Gayle!!*

### Wedding bells are ringing:

**Bob Harveson** (Dr. Kimbrough's student) and **Tammy Plyler** (a former graduate student of our department) are getting married. The wedding will take place in Statesville, North Carolina on Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup> at two o'clock in the afternoon at the Shiloh United Methodist Church.

*Congratulations, and we wish you the very best in your marriage!!*



### General announcements

\* We were all waiting for that moment... **Daniela Lopes** had her baby girl, Mariana, who was born on 5/11, with 7.2 pounds and 19.1 inches.



*We all wish Dani, Fabiano, and Mariana the best!!!*

\* Carol Stiles, Pia Gavino, and Steve Millett are the three candidates selected so far for the 70% teaching - 30% research on turfgrass pathology position. The

three finalists will come to the department for interviews in the end of May and beginning of June.

- The department will be receiving a new Ford Taurus station wagon in the beginning of June.



This 1999 model will be used only for out of town trips, while the 1997 station wagon will be available for more general use.

\* Special thanks:

- We would like to thank **Dr. George Agrios**, **Richard Blacharski**, and all of those who somehow helped with the visit of Dr. Patricia Zambryski.

- We would also like to acknowledge **Bob Kemerait Jr.**, the social committee, and all of those who made the departmental picnic at Ginnie Springs possible. It was a lot of fun!

*Thanks a lot for your effort!!*

### Increasing the circulation of the PLP News - our anniversary gift!

Once more the PLP News will have its circulation number increased. From this month on, the FPS (Florida Phytopathological Society) newsletter will be incorporated as a section, "News from the FPS", in our departmental newsletter organized and published by the students. The entire newsletter will be then distributed to all FPS members.

This arrangement will avoid duplicating information in the two newsletters and provide USDA, DPI and industry members

detailed information on activities within the department. It will also provide more information from the research centers, USDA, DPI and industry to department members.

We hope that volunteers from around the state will help keep our newsletter supplied with news items.

The integration of the FPS newsletter into PLP News reveals that our newsletter is increasing not only in circulation number, but also in significance... that is a great gift for the second anniversary of our PLP News!!

### News from the FPS

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Florida Phytopathological Society Meeting:



On May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, the FPS held its 6<sup>th</sup> biennial meeting in Gainesville. This event was hosted by our department and sessions took place in Fifield Hall, at the University of Florida. Richard Raid (UF, Belle Glade) organized the program for the meeting and Tim Schubert (DPI, Gainesville) took care of all the local arrangements. The meeting was well attended with many participants from the university, USDA, DPI and industry.

On Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, numerous talks were presented at afternoon breakout sessions: Chemical Control & Induced Host Resistance, moderated by Tom Kucharek (UF, Gainesville); Molecular Plant Pathology, moderated by Mike Davis (UF, Homestead); Fungal Diseases moderated by Dan Legard (UF, Dover) and New, Resurgent and Threatening Dis-

eases, moderated by Jack McRitchie (DPI, Gainesville).

That same day, six of our graduate students presented their work as part of the Graduate Student Paper Competition, organized by Tim Schubert. This year the participants were W.M. Jurick II, S.M. Tudor, S. Chandramohan, R.C. Kemerait Jr., M. Lopez, and G. Astua-Monge. All of the presentations were excellent and it was obvious that the students had invested considerable time and effort in preparation. The winners were announced at the Evening Social and Banquet, held at the University Centre Hotel.

First prize, a check for \$200, was awarded to Bob Kemerait



Jr. for his paper on "Effects of varieties and fungicides on the infection of peanut by *Cylindrocladium parasiticum* and *Sclerotium rolfsii*". Second prize, \$150, was awarded to Simone Tudor for her paper on "Characterization of bacteriocin production by *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria*". Third prize, \$100, was awarded to Mariadaniela Lopez for her paper on "Detection and distribution of dasheen mosaic virus (*Potyviridae*) in *Caladium x hortulanum*".

*Way to go Bob, Simone and Mariadaniela!!!*

On Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, sessions included Bacterial Diseases, moderated by Ken Pernezny (UF, Belle Glade), Viral Diseases, moderated by Larry Brown (DPI, Gainesville), and Contributions in Plant Pathology Toward Methyl Bromide Alternatives, moderated by Dan Chellemi (USDA, Ft. Pierce).

Following the sessions, the FPS held its business meeting.

George Agrios updated the status of the new Doctor of Plant Medicine Program. The program involves course work in Plant Pathology, Entomology and Weed Science followed by an internship. Those completing the degree would be employed in industry, diagnostic clinics, communications, as consultants, and other areas where research experience is unnecessary. The program only requires final approval by the Board of Regents and is expected to enroll the first students in Fall, 2000.

The announcement of the new FPS secretary was made. This elected position will be held by Jeffrey B. Jones, professor of plant bacteriology at our department. Dr. Jones will subsequently serve as Vice-President and President.

*Congratulations, Dr. Jones!!!*

#### Brief Notes on FPS:

\***Randy Plötz** described a new online journal to be published by the American Phytopathological Society. It would be refereed and contain articles on Diagnostics and Plant Health Management, Education, Editorials, New Products and Plant Health Reviews.

\*Two suggestions were made for the location of the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of FPS.

1) USDA, Ft. Pierce - This site has an auditorium for the meeting and rooms for smaller sessions. Holding the conference here would allow members to see the new facilities at the USDA as well as the expanded IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center next door. It would also allow for a short field trip to visit local citrus groves and perhaps other farming operations. This lo-

cation would be less amenable to informal gatherings and social events.

2) FFA Center, Haines City - This location also has adequate meeting rooms, but facilities are probably not as good for formal meetings. The Center is in a remote location in a wooded area and all meals and lodging would be on site. Participants would have to plan ahead and sign up for lodging and all meals prior to the meeting. This location would be amenable to informal gatherings and all participants would be housed in the same facility. There are numerous opportunities for recreation such as hiking, fishing and canoeing.

Please indicate your preference for a meeting site to the Secretary by contacting him at the following e-mail address: [jbjones@ufl.edu](mailto:jbjones@ufl.edu)

### Important dates

**June 11, Friday:** Deadline to drop Summer A course by college petition without receiving a WF grade.

**June 19, Saturday:** Summer A graduation. No commencement.

**June 25, Friday:** Registration for Summer B term.

**June 28, Monday:** Summer B classes begin.

Late, employee and nondegree registrations begin.

Drop/add begins.

**June 29, Tuesday, 5:00 p.m.:** Last day to drop a Summer B class and to change sections.

Deadline to withdraw and receive a full refund for the summer B term.

Last day to complete late, employee and nondegree registrations.

**June 30, Wednesday:** Deadline to file an address change for the Summer B term in the Office of

the University Registrar, if not living in residence halls.

Deadline to apply for A.A. certificate or degree for the Summer B term.

### Birthdays of the month

Mayumi Seo	6/4
Daryl Pring	6/6
Gerald Benny	6/13
Ulla Benny	6/15
Angela Vincent	6/15
Carol Miller	6/18
Winnette Clark	6/18
Gayle VandeKerckhove	6/26



*Happy Birthday to you all!*

### Friday's coffee break

The labs in charge of the coffee break for the month of June are:



June 4<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Charudattan's lab

June 11<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Gabriel's lab

June 18<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Jones's lab

June 25<sup>th</sup> - Drs. Kimbrough's, Kucharek's, and Song's labs

Remember that on the last Friday of every month we celebrate the "birthdays of the month".

### Incoming

graduate students



**Matthew O. Brecht** will be joining the ranks of our graduate student force during the second week in June. Matt has accepted an assistantship to work on a Master of Science degree under the direction of Dr. Lawrence E. Datnoff, Associate Professor at the Everglades Research and Education Center in Belle Glade, Florida. Matt received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 1997. Minorng in French, he did a study abroad in Paris, France at the University of Sorbonne. He has spent the last year working as an agricultural research technician for Frank J. Louws, in the plant pathology department at **North Carolina State University** in Raleigh. He also managed to squeeze in a few courses in plant pathology which should give him a good solid base once he starts his plant pathology curriculum here in Gainesville.

Our department has a new Brazilian student. New energy again! This time the support comes to the lady's team and we are happy to introduce **Denise C. M. Tombo-lato**. In fact, this is not her first time here. She breathed our fresh air last year from July to November, on an internship with Dr. R. D. Berger. At that time she was finishing a bachelor's degree at the prestigious agronomy school in Brazil, **ESALQ**, a centenarian institution in Piracicaba. Always involved with plant pathology, she has good and optimistic expectations for her future. Graduated at the end of 1998, she is now starting to work for a master's degree here under





Drs. Weingartner's and Berger's program. She was born and grew up in Campinas, São Paulo State, and she seems a very active lady. Besides a good conversation, her favorite activity is volleyball and she is proud to have defended her city team in several state championships. She also likes to dance and her favorite rhythms are samba (of course!), meringue, salsa, flamenco and oldies. She is ready to make a 100% fresh start.

**Alba Nava** is from Venezuela; she was born in Maracaibo, Zulia State. Alba got her bachelor's degree as an agronomic engineer in 1982 and her master's degree in Agronomy in 1986 from The **University of Zulia** (LUZ). In her master's she worked with breeding, specifically with breeding in peanuts.



After graduation, Alba worked in the CENIAP (National Center for Agricultural Investigation), with resistance to foliar diseases in peanut and sesame, and also in the germplasm bank, for oil producing crops. In 1991 she started working at the Central University of Venezuela (UCV), again with breeding and in 1992 she went back to LUZ. Since then she has been working as professor in annual crops and has been in charge of a project in detection of geminiviruses in tomatoes. Along with her scientific work, Alba worked as Editor in Chief of La Revista de la Facultad de Agronomía de LUZ (Magazine of the College of Agronomy of LUZ). Alba came to UF this summer to work on her Ph.D. on geminiviruses in tomatoes with Dr. Jane Polston. For her dissertation she plans to work with detection, control, resistance and epidemiology of

geminiviruses. When she goes back to Venezuela she will continue working with the project in tomatoes; but not everything is work for Alba, she also likes to cook and to practice Tai Chi Chuan.

*We wish to welcome all the new students to our department!!!*

Who is Who  
in our Department



The Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) is located in Lake Alfred, Florida, and is the largest of the University of Florida experiment stations.



The problems addressed through research at the CREC directly affect Florida's \$8 billion citrus industry. **Dr. Pete Timmer's** lab at the CREC focuses on the etiology, epidemiology and control of foliar fungal diseases of citrus, including postbloom fruit drop, greasy spot, citrus scab, *Alternaria* brown spot and melanose. Much of the research is devoted to weather-based forecasting, for determining the need for and timing of fungicide applications. The lab also routinely evaluates fungicides for disease control. Most of the lab's funding

comes from the citrus industry and private companies.

**Dr. Lavem Wayne Timmer**, or "**Pete**", currently has



a 100% research appointment, but is switching to 70% extension and 30% research which will open a position for a research pathologist in the lab. He received his B.Sc. from Michigan State University and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside. In previous lives, he has done considerable research on blight, *Phytophthora* and citrus canker. Together with other pathologists at Lake Alfred, he developed diagnostic tests for citrus blight and demonstrated root graft transmission of the disease, but the cause is still unknown, despite their best efforts. His lab developed a practical assay procedure to quantify *Phytophthora* populations and demonstrated the importance of fibrous root rot on citrus. Much of his recent work has been on postbloom fruit drop. Together with grad students J.P. Agostini and M. Zulfiqar, Dr. Timmer determined the life cycle of *Colletotrichum acutatum* on citrus. Outside of work, Dr. Timmer enjoys bird watching and usually spends a few days birding whenever he travels. He travels frequently, most often to Latin America, to give talks, conduct cooperative research projects, or do consulting work.

**P.M. "Steve" Bushong** has been a senior biologist at CREC since April 1998. He received his A.A.S. from Blue Ridge Community College and his B.Sc. in biology from Bridgewater Col-

lege, both in Virginia. Steve earned his M.S. in Entomology and Plant Pathology from the University of Tennessee. His current research includes the post-infectious activity of fungicides for melon and scab as well as the environmental factors affecting disease severity of both. He is also working on the epidemiology of greasy spot. When not working, Steve enjoys playing volleyball and rollerblading.

**Holly Darhower** received her B.Sc. in biology from Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania and her M.S. in Plant Pathology from Penn State University. She has been a senior biologist in Dr. Timmer's lab since March. Currently she is investigating the conditions for pseudothecial production and ascospore release of *Mycosphaerella* as well as the development of predictive models to determine fungicide applications. In her free time, she enjoys outdoor activities such as mountain biking with her husband, Jeb.

**Ana M. Ibanez-Aguero** has been a senior biologist since 1995. She earned her B.Sc. in microbiology at the University of Havana in Cuba. Ana came to the CREC after nine years of work in the sugarcane industry in Cuba. She says Dr. Timmer has been an excellent mentor for her introduction to the world of citrus diseases. Her current research is on the biology and pathogenicity of *Alternaria* as well as pycnidium production by *Phomopsis*. She also runs the lab, maintains stock cultures, does purchasing and keeps the lab operational. Outside of work, Ana enjoys sports, writing, travel, dancing and sharing time with family and friends.


**Anthony J. Tesoriero** received his B.Sc. in chemistry from St. John's University in 1966. He is currently a senior lab technician in Dr. Timmer's lab and works with fungicide evaluations for all citrus diseases. He maintains greenhouse operations and assists with other projects as they come up. His hobbies are golf and girls and he says he has no time to waste since in three months he'll be a senior citizen (55) in the eyes of Wal-Mart.

**Herberth Mauricio Rubio** studied Biology at the University of El Salvador and is currently a senior lab technician for both Drs. Timmer and Jim Graham. Mauricio assists with fungicide evaluations, collection and processing of samples, and with work in the greenhouse. In his spare time, he attends church, plays drums and plays soccer. Mauricio will take time off in November-December to return to El Salvador to harvest the crop on his coffee planting.



**Turksen Kamber** earned her B.Sc. in agriculture and her M.S. in Horticulture from Uluday University in Bursa, Turkey. She works for both Dr. Timmer and Fred Gmitter as an OPS technical worker. She assists with various lab projects from spore counts to inoculations to culture work. Turksen plans to pursue a Ph.D. in plant pathology and will probably focus on the environmental affects of melon. When not working, Turksen enjoys searching the net for educational information and reading magazines and books.

### Did you know that...

- Dr. Timmer lived in Argentina for a few years and speaks Spanish?
- Worldwide, Dr. Timmer has seen and identified over 2300 species of birds and that he does bird lists for parks and surveys? 
- Holly uses e-mail to keep up with friends and relatives from Pennsylvania?
- Anthony travels with pets to perform college pranks outside of work?
- Mauricio plays guitar at parties?
- Turksen not only enjoys art museums but that her co-workers say she's a very good painter?
- Ana has a 7-year-old son named Marcel and a cockateel named Paco?



### Recent Publications

- Canihos, Y., Peever, T.L., and Timmer, L.W.** 1999. Temperature, leaf wetness, and isolate effects on infection of *Minneola* tangelo leaves by *Alternaria* sp. *Plant Disease* 83: 429-433.

**Plyler, T.R., Simone, G.W.,** Fernandez, D., and **Kistler, H.C.** 1999. Rapid detection of the *Fusarium oxysporum* Lineage Containing the Canary Island Date Palm Wilt Pathogen. *Phytopathology* 89: 407-413.

Are you up to some  
laughter?

*Contributed by Dr. Zettler*

Actual Business Signs:

In the front yard of a Funeral Home: "Drive carefully, we'll wait."

On an electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts."

Outside a radiator repair shop: "Best place in town to take a leak."

In a non-smoking area: "If we see you smoking we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action."

On Maternity Room door: "Push, Push, Push."

On a front door: "Everyone on the premises is a vegetarian except the dog."

At an optometrist's office: "If you don't see what you're looking for you've come to the right place."

On a taxidermist's window: "We really know our stuff."

On a butcher's window: "Let me meat your needs."

On a fence: "Salesmen welcome Dog food is expensive."

At a car dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

Outside a muffler shop: "No appointment necessary. We'll hear you coming."

In a dry cleaner's emporium: "Drop your pants here."

On a desk in a reception room: "We shoot every third salesman, and the second one just left."

At the electric company: "We would be delighted if you send in your bill. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a beauty shop: "Dye now!"

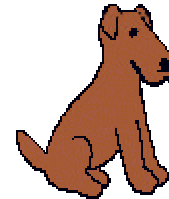
On the side of a garbage truck: "We've got what it takes to take what you've got." (Burglars please copy.)

In a restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry, come in and get fed up."

Inside a bowling alley: "Please be quiet. We need to hear a pin drop."

In a cafeteria: "Shoes are required to eat in the cafeteria. Socks can eat any place they want."

In a veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"



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