



AUGUST 2015 PLP BULLETIN

August Seminars

Currently, there are no scheduled seminars for the month of August. It is expected that our Fall Seminar series schedule will be sent out at a later date.

Departmental Coffee Break

August 7th, in rooms 1306 & 1308 at 10 o'clock. The August hosts will be Song, Gabriel, Bartz, and Garrett.

PLP Faculty Meeting

Our regularly scheduled faculty meeting for the month of August will be held on Monday, August 17th in room 2502, Fifield Hall from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Polycom connection number will be announced closer to the date.

Graduate Student News

The department is happy to welcome ten (10) new graduate students this Fall term. Below is a little information about each student.

Name: Ricardo Alcala

Adviser: Jane Polston

Degree: PhD

Ricardo is from Guadalajara, Mexico. He received his BS in Biology from the University of Guadalajara in 2008 and his MS in Plant Biotechnology from the Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute in 2012. He is currently working in Dr. Polston's lab.

Name: Kamal Bansal

Adviser: Jeff Rollins

Degree: PhD

Kamal is from Ludhiana, India. She received her BS in Agriculture from Punjab Agricultural University in 2011 and her MS in Plant Pathology from the University of Florida in 2014. She is currently working in Dr. Rollins' lab.

Name: Deanna Bayo

Adviser: Phil Harmon

Degree: PhD

Deanna is from San Salvador, El Salvador. She received her BS in Horticultural Sciences from the University of Florida in 2015. She is currently working in the Plant Diagnostic Center.

Name: Arthur Grupe

Adviser: Matt Smith

Degree: PhD

Arthur is from San Diego, California. He received his BS in Botany from Humboldt State University in 2011 and his MS in Biology from Humboldt State University in 2015.

Name: Mustafa Jibrin

Adviser: Pam Roberts

Degree: PhD

Mustafa is from Zaria, Nigeria. He received his BS in Agriculture from Ahmadu Bello University in 2010 and his MS in Crop Protection from Ahmandu Bello University in 2014.

Name: Caroline Land

Adviser: Gary Vallad

Degree: PhD

Caroline is from Clermont, FL. She received her BS in Agricultural Economics from Auburn University in 2013 and her MS in Plant Pathology from Auburn University in 2015.

Name: Rodrigo Onofre

Adviser: Natalia Peres

Degree: MS

Rodrigo is from Conceicao da Aparecida, Brazil. He received his BS in Agronomy from the Federal University of Viçosa in 2014. He is currently working in Dr. Peres' lab.

Name: Ravin Poudel

Adviser: Karen Garrett

Degree: PhD

Ravin is from Nepal. Ravin received his BS in Biology from Truman State University in 2012. He is transferring from the Plant Pathology PhD program at Kansas State University, where Dr. Garrett had served as his major advisor.

Name: Peiqi Zhang

Adviser: Will select at the end of the fall semester

Degree: PhD

Peiqi is from Nanjing, China. She received her BS in Plant Protection from China Agricultural University in 2015.

Name: Adrian Zuniga

Adviser: Natalia Peres

Degree: MS

Adrian is from Quevedo, Ecuador. He received his BS in Agriculture from Zamorano Pan-American Agricultural School in 2012. He is currently working in Dr. Peres' lab.

Our department's graduate orientation is usually held the week before Fall classes start. This year the tentative date is Friday, August 21st.

Greenhouse Updates

Please make note**

Mike Stilwell will be out on Friday, August 7th. The pick-up schedule for biological waste to be autoclaved will be moved up a day. Mike will pick up the waste on Thursday, August 6th.

A lot of renovation work has been going on at the greenhouse complex. While some of the projects are getting finished up, others are getting started; 978 is getting new plyco double doors, 971 is getting new sidewalks, pad and fan cooling system, and new poly covering. The first stages of rebuilding A2, A3, and B3 has begun.

IT Updates

The expected launch date of our new departmental website is August 10. The site will be part of a system called Terminal Four. UF has been making a migration towards the use of this system. In IFAS there are a few REC's that are now using Terminal Four. On campus, our department will be the first in IFAS to use the system.

Other Interesting News

With the Summer-season heat in full swing, it may be a good idea to review the UF/Environmental Health & Safety Heat Stress Policy. <http://www.ehs.ufl.edu/programs/ih/heatstress/>

Fall 2015 classes will begin on August 24th.

Positions in Plant Pathology

During July, there were two PLP positions available posted. Those were a Research Microbiologist in Beltsville, MD, and an Extension Educator in Lincoln, NE.

In addition, USDA Farm Service Agency and Rural Development will be recruiting for recent graduates, and several of the vacancies are viewable online on the USAJobs.gov website.

Upcoming Holidays and Events

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| August 1-5 | APS Annual Meeting. Pasadena, CA |
| August 13-15 | First Coast Specialty Crop Conference, U of North Florida, Jacksonville |
| August 19-20 | Citrus Expo, North Ft. Myers |
| August 24-27 | XVII International Plant Protection Congress, Berlin, Germany |
| September 8-13 | Joint Tomato Conference, Naples, FL |

September 9

September 21-25

Labor Day Holiday

CGIAR RTB workshop; "Seed system conceptual frameworks and seed degeneration management", UF/Gainesville