

## Centennial Edition

### Please Join Us in Madison for the Big Birthday!

"Those of us who work on the frontlines against plant diseases count on you here in the department to do the research and train the experts that make our work possible." These are the words of Hei Leung (Ph.D. 1986), who battles rice pathogens every day in his position as Senior Scientist at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines. As we celebrate the momentous centennial milestone of the Department of Plant Pathology, Hei's seminar highlighting the relationship between research, rice yields, and hunger reminded us of the importance of our work. He was one of a half-dozen illustrious speakers in this year's Alumni Seminar Series, part of the department's commemoration of our 100th birthday.

The past century has seen many changes in Plant Pathology. The department today is a far cry from the small, seven-member group that Harry Russell and L. R. Jones founded in 1910. Russell Laboratories, our home since 1964, now houses 16 faculty, approximately 50 academic and classified staff, more than 35 graduate students, and several dozen undergraduates. Our department has trained pathologists who work in all corners of the world, in both the public and private sectors; many have gone on to become professors themselves. The outpouring of Centennial emails, photos and anecdotes from alumni and department members demonstrates that the Department of Plant Pathology provided much more than just an education.

Plant Pathology is commemorating its centennial anniversary with a celebration that began in the fall of 2009 and will conclude with a gala reunion to be held June 24-26, 2010 in Madison. The reunion will include seminars and discussions from leaders in our field (including such luminaries as Cliff Gabriel, John Hartman, Jan Leach, Steve Lindow, and Sally Miller) and a look at the future of Plant Pathology. Attendees are encouraged to participate in a poster session to highlight research and extension work. A reception and dinner on Friday evening will feature special guest speaker Emeritus Professor Paul Williams. We hope that the centennial reunion will reconnect old friends and introduce new ones. Rest assured, we've built in time for a few

beers on the Union Terrace.

You are encouraged to view the complete Centennial events schedule on p. 3. Visit our website at [www.centennial.plantpath.wisc.edu](http://www.centennial.plantpath.wisc.edu) to register, and to peruse old pictures and share stories of your experiences with Plant Pathology and beyond. Questions and suggestions can be directed to Centennial Committee Chair John Andrews at (608) 262-9642 or [jha@plantpath.wisc.edu](mailto:jha@plantpath.wisc.edu) or Patricia McManus at (608) 265-3034 or via email [psm@plantpath.wisc.edu](mailto:psm@plantpath.wisc.edu). We hope to see you in June!



# Notes from the Chair



The Burj Khalifa, also known as the Burj Dubai, is the tallest structure ever built, measuring 828 m high. A vast array of engineering challenges is involved in such a construction, as you can well imagine. Here's a tidbit I picked up recently: the concrete used in the construction was formulated to ensure that the building will last 100 years. I confess that I don't usually think about buildings having life spans.

Who, or what, can we expect to be around 100 years? In medieval Britain, you might hope to live 20 to 30 years; today, the average life span for a human is

67 years. This varies around the world, however: the

average life span in Japan is 83, and 1 in 3,500 Japanese is a centenarian. That's second only to France, where 1 in 3,000 persons are centenarians.

What's the life span of a department? Not many plant pathology departments have lasted 100 years and at our 75th anniversary, some predicted the demise of our own department. On the eve of our 100th, however, we are going strong. Certainly we are different from the department of 25 years ago, and even more different from that of 50 or 100 years ago. But one thing is unchanged: national rankings continue to place us in the very top echelon.

How is it that we have persisted? Obviously we had a powerful start, from Russell's first efforts in laying the foundations, to the work and impact of the department's early pioneers and leaders, people like Jones, Walker, Riker, Brann, Keitt, and so on. You can only get so far relying on history, however. We have to credit the genius, creativity, dedication, and efforts of our students, staff, and faculty throughout the decades and into the present (I'm talking to you, dear reader).

I hope you will join us, therefore, to celebrate our centennial this summer. Under the guidance of John Andrews, the Centennial Committee has prepared a terrific program highlighting some of our accomplishments over the years. To complement this, John has also edited a book containing diverse perspectives and memoirs, a fitting collection honoring our longevity. Come join us and see how we're marching into our second century, and share with us as we celebrate our rich history! 🌱

*We are fortunate to also have Foundation Funds in honor of a number of our predecessors: Ethel and Oscar Allen, John Brann, Audrey Dunlap, August Gorenz, Don "Doc" Hagedorn, Eugene Herrling, Arthur Kelman, Jack and Jane Mitchell, A.J. and Adelaide Riker, Richard Vaughn, J. C. Walker, not to mention a number of our current emeritus faculty and staff. These funds give our Department the flexibility to respond to unexpected needs, and the power to support the graduate and undergraduate research projects that shape our profession's future.*

*Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis.*

*(Times change, and we change with them.)*

Here are a few recent changes:

As you read on, you'll note that we have welcomed a new faculty member, Amanda Gevens, who is our potato and vegetable crops extension pathologist. Amanda arrived in the department on July 1, 2009, and almost immediately had to deal with late blight problems on tomato and potato. She handled this baptism by fire with great skill, and we are delighted to have her with us.

A few months from now, Aurélie Rakotondrafara will join us as a plant virologist. Aurélie's Ph.D. work at Iowa State focused on aspects of Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus; she is currently expanding her skills in a postdoc at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg.

We were all saddened to hear last summer of the passing of Arthur Kelman, a person whose impact on the department and the discipline was great. I remember Arthur as a remarkably thoughtful, generous man, and an extraordinary leader. He too, of course, also played a major role in continuing and building the strength of our department.

Arthur's generosity was manifest in many ways, including gifts to the UW-Foundation that benefit the department. I'm excited to

tell you about a very recent gift: an anonymous donor has just established a "Plant Pathology Centennial Student Enhancement Fund," in honor of our centennial, to benefit graduate and undergraduate training. The gift was made with the stipulation that for each dollar contributed to the fund, the donor will contribute two dollars, up to a maximum of \$25,000. So, if additional donors contribute \$12,500, we will have a new fund with \$37,500 in it, which will be very helpful in funding scholarships, internships, study abroad opportunities, graduate student awards, research stipends, student travel to conferences, recruitment material, etc. This is a wonderful way to help us celebrate our centennial!



# Centennial Celebration Schedule

The Plant Pathology Centennial Celebration events will take place on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the week of June 24–26, 2010. The registration deadline is June 10, 2010.

If you have questions or suggestions for specific events, contact the Centennial Committee Chair, John Andrews, or Patricia McManus, who is coordinating this part of the program.

## **Thursday, June 24, 2010**

Beer and Brats on the Lakefront  
Memorial Union

Join old friends and make new ones over beer and brats (buy your own) on the Memorial Union terrace (or Rathskellar in case of rain) overlooking Lake Mendota.



## **Friday, June 25**

Breakfast on your own  
Informal gatherings at local hotels.

### **9:00 a.m.** – Symposium

Microbial Sciences, Ebling Auditorium  
A few of our distinguished alumni will speak at a symposium to celebrate the diverse contributions of our discipline to science and society. Speakers will include:

**Jan Leach** (Colorado State Univ.)

**Sally Miller** (Ohio State Univ.)

**John Hartman** (Univ. of Kentucky)

**Cliff Gabriel** (National Science Foundation, Washington D.C.)

No charge, but please register. Includes break and refreshments

### **12:15 p.m.** – Lunch

No charge, but please register; included with symposium.

**1:30 p.m.** – Keynote Address, entitled “Having One Foot in the Furrow has Been Successful - Is it a Path to the Future?”

Microbial Sciences, Ebling Auditorium

**Steve Lindow** (UC–Berkeley) will give the keynote address.

### **2:30–4:30 p.m.** – Poster Session

Microbial Sciences, Lobby

We invite out-of-town attendees who are active in research or extension to display a poster from the last few years describing their work. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

### **6:00–8:30 p.m.** – Reception and Dinner

Memorial Union, Tripp Commons

**6:00 p.m.** – Join us in Memorial Union’s Tripp Commons for cocktails followed by

**7:00 p.m.** – Banquet

**8:30 p.m.** – Special guest speaker, Emeritus Professor Paul Williams.

Charge reduced for students/postdocs. Indicate dinner choice on the registration form. Late night dancing and celebrating on your own at local venues!

## **Saturday, June 26**

### **9:00–9:30 a.m.** – Continental Breakfast

Russell Labs, Lobby

No charge, but please register.

**9:30–11:00 a.m.** – “Present and Future Careers in Plant Pathology” Panel & Discussion

Russell Labs, Room 184

Invited guests will share their thoughts on their own careers and emerging career opportunities for plant pathologists.

**Afternoon**—No formal events scheduled; time for individual discussions or excursions

Accommodations: Blocks of hotel rooms for Centennial Participants will be held at the Dalman Campus Inn near State Street until May 24 and the Best Western InnTowner on Old University Avenue until May 28.





# Welcome... New Faculty Member: Amanda Gevens

Last fall, when Dr. Amanda Gevens accepted a position as assistant professor and extension plant pathologist in our department, she knew that she would face new opportunities and challenges. She didn't expect, however, that her first day on the job (and several months after!) would involve a potentially devastating epidemic. Amanda, along with her husband Dr. Steven Jordan, a postdoctoral researcher in Plant Pathology, and her 3-year-old son, James, moved to Madison from Gainesville, FL. She previously worked as an assistant professor and extension plant pathologist in agronomic and vegetable crops at the University of Florida (UF).

Having grown up on a pumpkin and vegetable farm in Long Island, NY, Amanda has been working with plants for most of her life. She earned a B.S. in biology from Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania. She honed her agricultural skills during her undergraduate summers, when she worked in Suffolk County, NY as a vegetable crops field scout and research assistant with the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Amanda began her graduate studies with Dr. Ralph Nicholson in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Purdue University. Upon completion of her M.S., she earned her doctorate and did postdoctoral work in the Department of Plant Pathology at Michigan State University under the direction of Dr. Mary Hausbeck.

When she joined the UF faculty in 2007, Amanda focused on pathogen identification, biology and management. Additionally, she researched the efficacy of fungicide programs for control of early and late leaf spot of peanut; studied the impact of cover crops and chemical treatments on corky ringspot of potato; assessed the efficacy of soil fumigation on cabbage white mold control; and assisted producers in the detection and management of tobacco blue mold. Amanda finds her work at UW is a bit different from at UF. "The primary focus of my research and extension program (at UW) is the diagnosis, biology, and management of fungal and other pathogens of potato and vegetable crops in Wisconsin. Current primary areas of study are the biology and integrated management of early blight and other diseases on potatoes (pre- and post-harvest), and the characterization and management of cucurbit powdery and downy mildew." Additionally, Amanda says she has fewer commodity responsibilities, which enables her to focus research and extension efforts on vegetable and potato crop disease concerns. "It is rewarding for me to be able to make more impact within any given commodity."

Before Amanda started at UW-Madison she heard that late blight had been detected in tomatoes in the northeastern United States. She tracked the disease as it spread to new states and then on to potatoes. "I was very concerned with the potential of this epidemic, as it was clearly on the move and highly aggressive in tomato." Before she was even able to finish unpacking, Amanda turned her attention to late blight. Her first order of business was ensuring that the Wisconsin late blight forecasting weather stations were up and running to provide growers with essential information. "By late July,

we had reports of late blight on tomato in Wisconsin", says Amanda. She spent much of her first summer in Wisconsin scouting fields, diagnosing samples, and communicating the status of the disease and management to growers and mainstream media outlets.

"I much appreciated the help I received from other researchers, staff, and students at UW in getting the equipment functioning as needed. I was very impressed with this team approach to problem solving," says Amanda, "The greatest lesson I learned was that communication is critical in the management of a community disease."

As for the direction of Amanda's research at UW-Madison, her primary focus is the diagnosis, biology, and management of fungal and other pathogens of potato and vegetable crops in Wisconsin. She enjoys working with Wisconsin growers and interacting directly with them in their production fields. "The questions and concerns that are voiced in grower field visits often become my program's research objectives," she explains.

When Amanda talks about what initially attracted her to UW, she immediately mentions the people. "UW offers great opportunities to work with students, academics and a strong community of researchers." She enjoys being able to work with both graduate and undergraduate students. Amanda has been very impressed so far with the interest and curiosity she has seen in the student body. "It's fun to work with students and see the light bulb go on."



# Retiring... Dr. Craig Grau

After 32 years in UW-Madison's Department of Plant Pathology, Dr. Craig Grau has hung up his hat—almost. With his official retirement in December of 2008, Craig joined the ranks of emeritus professors. He will be missed often, since he was the rare "triple threat" plant pathologist: a distinguished and productive researcher, a beloved and effective extension authority, and a gifted, enthusiastic classroom teacher. In addition, he has given significant leadership to our professional societies and to the department (including service as Chair).

He grew up on a family farm in western Iowa, so Craig has been surrounded by agriculture for his entire life. His first experience with plant pathology was the smut that sometimes grew on the corn. "Smut galls made great hand grenades," he says with a laugh.

Craig didn't plan a career in plant pathology. Wanting to follow in his very athletic brother-in-law's footsteps, his goal was to become a biology teacher and coach high school football and baseball. However, as an undergraduate student in the Fish and Wildlife Department at Iowa State University, Craig often stopped over at Bessey Hall, which housed the Department of Plant Pathology, and "the best vending machines." One day, he noticed an ad for plant pathology greenhouse work. He applied for and was offered the position, which ultimately fueled his interest in the discipline. Inspired by Professor Richard Ford, Craig completed his master's degree in Plant Pathology. Craig then moved to the University of Minnesota for his Ph.D. It was at the University of Minnesota where he got his first taste of teaching, which he enjoyed then as now. Over the years at UW-Madison he has formed young minds in courses ranging from Intro to Plant Pathology (PP300) to the Diseases of Field Crops (PP559) and Ecology and Epidemiology (PP602).



After completing his Ph.D., Craig was working as a researcher at North Carolina State University when a faculty position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison sparked his interest. "I learned of the opening about two weeks before applications were due. I was scrambling for letters of reference to complete my application. I have three 'professional fathers': Richard Ford, Thor Kommedahl, and Charlie Martinson. All three came to my rescue at the last minute." Craig was selected for an interview and eventually offered the position, and he has been here ever since. As an extension field crop pathologist, he has developed and implemented ways to identify, assess and manage diseases of alfalfa, soybean, pea, snap bean, and corn. In the course of his long and productive career, Craig has mentored 9 Ph.D. students, 14 M.S. students, and 16 post-doctoral researchers. He has received many honors from growers, the university, and the professional societies.



In his 32 years at UW-Madison, Craig has traveled all over the state to visit farms. His sage advice about fieldwork is: "stay away from Big Macs when you are on the road." Joking aside, he says he relished the opportunities to get to know people outside campus, particularly farmers. "It's so rewarding to see the smile when a remedy is found."

To all appearances, life as an emeritus professor suits Craig Grau well. "Someone once told me that in retirement, every day is going to be Saturday and I will finally get my Sunday afternoons and evenings back. It's true. I almost feel cheated now knowing how enjoyable they are," he says with a smile.

Although by most standards he is still a busy man, Craig says that he loves the freedom of structuring his own days. He maintains his research on soybeans and is still writing grants, but he appreciates the fact that he can now take more risks in his research, specifically in his work on Sclerotinia resistance in soybeans. He also enjoys continuing his work with students. "It's always good to be around young people; they help you think young." As his students certainly know, Craig is always looking for the "teachable moment."

Craig doesn't spend all his time on campus, however. He says he is now rediscovering some of his passions, such as farming, bowling and photography. "I am not much of a hunter anymore. I like to hunt with a camera, not a gun. I enjoy traveling around Wisconsin and other states in the Midwest. It's fun to discover what is over the next hill." 🌱



## Recent Graduates... Congratulations!

**Jennifer Clifford** completed her Ph.D under the direction of Caitilyn Allen. Her thesis is entitled *The role of rhizosphere-induced traits in pathogenic fitness of Ralstonia solanacearum*. Jennifer is currently a postdoctoral researcher studying *Xylella fastidiosa* at the University of California-Riverside.

**Daniel Gerhardt** completed his M.S. under the direction of Amy Charkowski. His thesis is entitled *Comparison of ELISA, conventional PCR, a novel TaqMan probe assay, and a novel macroarray assay for the detection of Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. sepe-donicus*. He is currently an Associate Scientist in research and development at Roche NimbleGen, where he is developing sequence capture technology for agriculture crops like canola, wheat, maize and soybeans. He has also been working with the bioinformatics team on data analysis for next generation sequencing technology.

**Amy Gibbs** completed her M.S. under the direction of Douglas Rouse. Her thesis is entitled *The prevalence and geospatial distribution of Aphanomyces euteiches (race 1 and race 2) and Phytophthora medicaginis in Wisconsin and southeast Minnesota alfalfa fields*.

**Barrett Gruber** completed his Ph.D under the direction of Patricia McManus. His dissertation is entitled *Effects of copper-based fungicides on photosynthetic gas exchange and fruit quality of tart cherry*. He currently is doing post-doctoral research in the Department of Entomology at the University of California-Riverside studying Pierce's disease of grapevine.

**Teresa Hughes** completed her Ph.D under the direction of Craig Grau. Her dissertation is entitled *Phialophora gregata f.sp. sojae IGS-genotype B and the development of brown stem rot of soybean*. She has accepted a post-doctoral position with Andrew Bent at UW-Madison.

**Jennifer Jirak** completed her M.S. under the direction of Paul Esker. Her thesis is entitled *Using corn residue as a predictor for anthracnose under different rotation and tillage cropping systems*. She has returned to her family farm in Iowa while looking for a permanent position.

**Hye-Sook Kim** completed her Ph.D under the direction of Amy Charkowski. Her thesis is entitled *Molecular genetic studies on the Pectobacterium Type III Secretion System – interactions with the plant immune system*. She is currently studying regulation in Brucella abortus with Sean Crosson at the University of Chicago as a postdoctoral researcher.

**Zhenyu Liu** completed her Ph.D. under the direction of Dennis Halterman. Her thesis is entitled *Characterization of RB and identification of additional genes involved in RB-mediated potato late blight resistance*.

**Brent Oblinger** completed his M.S. under the direction of Glen Stanosz. His thesis is entitled *Diplodia shoot blight as a threat to red pine regeneration*. He is working at the University of Nevada-Reno using phytolith analysis to determine historical vegetation in pinyon-juniper stands within the Great Basin.

**Maria Newcomb** completed her Ph.D. under the direction of Doug Rouse. Her thesis is entitled *Factors that limit the abundance of Cronartium ribicola on Ribes hosts in field environments*. Maria has accepted a postdoctoral research position in Plant Pathology at Virginia Tech University.

**Jeffrey Olsen** completed his M.S. under the direction of Amy Charkowski. His thesis is entitled *Use of a macroarray for the detection of bacterial plant pathogens*. Jeff resumed his position as a biology and biotechnology teacher at Monona Grove High School in Monona, WI. He plans to work with Amy Charkowski on a project to train area high school science teachers to use macroarrays in their biotechnology courses.

# New Graduate Students.... Welcome!

**Ana Cristina Fulladolsa Palma** started the Ph.D program in the fall of 2009 in Amy Charkowski's lab. Prior to coming to UW, Ana Cristina worked in a tomato disease resistance breeding program at the University of San Carlos of Guatemala.

**Alejandra Huerta** started the Ph.D program with Caitilyn Allen in the fall of 2009. Alejandra earned her B.S. in chemistry from the University of California-Santa Cruz, where she did research on the role of plant pathogens in maintaining forest diversity with Professor Greg Gilbert (Ph.D. '91).



**Teresa Koller**, is a Ph.D student in Andrew Bent's lab. Teresa comes to UW-Madison from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, where she worked under Prof. Zeeman. Before starting grad school Teresa spent six months at Purdue University; prior to that she worked at the Agricultural Research Station in Switzerland.

**Anna Seidl** is in the Ph.D program under the direction of Amanda

Gevens. Anna majored in biology at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN. Her undergraduate research project taught Anna skills in plant taxonomy, which she used during the past summer as an intern at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

**Victoria Seitz**, a Master's student under Doug Rouse, completed her undergraduate degree in Plant Pathology at UW-Madison. Victoria spent a semester abroad in Australia working on a project on a nematophagous fungus with Ann MacGuidwin.



**Yunlong Wang** is in the Master's program working with Jim Kerns. Yunlong earned his B.S. in turfgrass management jointly from Beijing Forestry University and Michigan State University.

## New Plant Virologist to Join Department

The Department of Plant Pathology will welcome our newest Assistant Professor in January, 2011. Dr. Aurélie Rakotondrafara will bring a broad perspective to her research and teaching. A native of Madagascar, Dr. Rakotondrafara earned her Maîtrise (B.S.) from Université d'Antananarivo, Madagascar and her plant pathology doctorate in 2007 from Iowa State University, where she studied plant virus translation with W. Allen Miller. She was awarded first an EMBO Postdoctoral Fellowship and then a Marie Curie Senior Fellowship to do postdoctoral research at Matthias Hentze's EMBL lab in Heidelberg, Germany. Our department is excited by both Dr. Rakotondrafara's research excellence and her energetic, interactive approach to teaching. Watch this space for an in-depth interview with her next year.



## Plus ça change...

In 1910, the world had not yet experienced the loss of the RMS Titanic or the horrors of World War I. William Howard Taft was in his second year as President of the United States. And, in southern Wisconsin, a scientist named L.R. Jones had found hundreds of acres of cabbage devastated by a little-known disease called yellows. The need for expertise in plant pathology was evident on the University of Wisconsin campus, and beyond. In the face of considerable controversy, Harry L. Russell, Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, established the UW Department of Plant Pathology. Led by Professor L.R. Jones, the department contained seven faculty who quickly began working to understand and manage plant diseases. This is still our focus, but the department has seen many changes over the years. Below are a few quotations chosen to highlight how our department has changed, and some ways it remains the same:

“De Bary and his contemporaries started us off on a fabulous journey in 1863. We have nothing to be ashamed of. There are many stimulating challenges in the century ahead.” -J.C. Walker (1963)

“The critical challenge for the future of this department is, very simply, how well we select and foster scientists whose research achieves true discovery in the science of plant pathology.” -Christen D. Upper (1986)

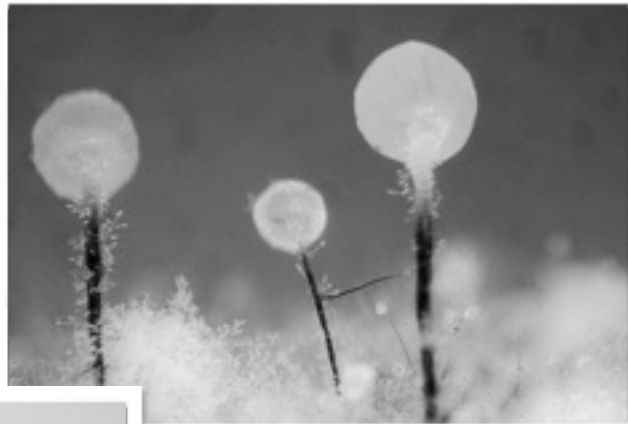
“It would seem to me that one of the greatest questions before us is, “To what extent should we, to what extent can we, to what extent dare we remain both academic and pragmatic?” Glenn S. Pound (1968)

“Professor (L.R.) Jones’ attitude toward women’s taking the Ph.D. was rather significant. He encouraged them to take the master’s degree, but said that the Ph.D. was instituted for the masculine mind and not suited for the feminine mind.” -Edith Jones *[Editor’s note: our faculty currently consists of 10 men and 6 women – make that 7 when Dr. Aurélie Rakotondrifara arrives next winter!]*

“The lushness of support during the past decade has created certain attitudinal problems among both junior and senior scientists. The young scientists have grown up during the post war period and have always known prosperity... We have had a shortage of manpower such that many young Ph.D.’s actually negotiate for salary and fringe benefits, an unconscionable thing in my generation.” -Glenn Pound (1968) *[What a shocking idea!]*







# *Congratulations!*

## Awards, Scholarships, and Recognition

**Steven Molinarolo** of Jeri Barak's lab was awarded the 2009 Nelson Undergraduate Research Award from the Food Research Institute (FRI).

**Saori Amaike** of Nancy Keller's lab was elected as a presenter in the 9th I. E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium at APS.

**Jennifer Jirak** of Paul Esker's lab was awarded the William T. Dible-Terra International, Inc. Fund Scholarship.

**Yu Monica Chen** of Dennis Halterman's lab received the August M. Gorenz Scholarship. Monica also tied for third place for the North Central APS poster competition.

**Fanhong Meng** of Caitilyn Allen's lab received several awards for the 2009-2010 year. She was selected as a Marie Christine Kohler Fellow, which means that she will be living in a multidisciplinary group of dissertators at the Knapp House, the old Governor's Mansion on E. Gilman Street. Fanhong was also awarded the Wisconsin Potato Industry Board Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, an award for CALS graduate students doing potato research. The Storkan-Hanes-McCaslin Foundation Award gave Fanhong both a cash award and round-trip fare to the annual APS meeting this past summer.

**Muthusubramanian Venkateshwaran** of Jean-Michel Ane's lab is the 2009-2010 recipient of the Agronomy Outstanding Graduate Student Award, which is also known as D.C. Smith Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. Muthu also received Vilas Travel Grant to attend XIV International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions held at Quebec city, Canada.

**Zhenyu Liu** of Dennis Halterman's lab received a Thomsen Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship.

**Dennis Halterman** was elected vice-chair of the Molecular and Cellular Phytopathology Committee of the American Phytopathological Society. Dennis was also elected secretary of the Breeding and Genetics section of the Potato Association of America.

**David Cook** of Andrew Bent's lab was selected for the APS Foundation's Pioneer Hi-Bred Fellowship in Plant Pathology. This fellowship supplies \$20,000 per year for stipend, as well as APS membership and journal subscription, and may be renewable for up to four years.

**Terri Hughes** of Craig Grau's lab won a 2008 Storkan Hanes McCaslin Foundation Scholarship.

**Ken Frost** of Russ Groves' lab has received the Gurine Gulsteen (Gjermundson) Research Fellowship from CALS for the 2009-2010 year. The fellowship is awarded to graduate students to be used for research and study to solve practical problems that Wisconsin farmers confront in their daily lives.

Incoming PhD students **Ana Cristina Fulladolsa** and **Anna Seidl** received the Biological Sciences Recruitment Scholarship. These scholarships are awarded by the biological sciences division to aid in recruiting top students.

## *Congratulations!*

### Awards, Scholarships, and Recognition

Incoming Ph.D. student **Alejandra Huerta** was awarded a 3-year NSF Doctoral Fellowship.

Incoming Plant Pathology MS student **Yunlong Wang** is the recipient of the Berbee Turfgrass Pathology Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. The award was established by John and Flora Berbee as an endowment fund to support a student conducting turfgrass pathology research. Yunlong is advised by Jim Kerns.

**Paul Koch**, a Ph.D. student working with Jim Kerns, received the James Watson Fellowship from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Environmental Institute for Golf.

**Jonathan Jacobs** of Caitilyn Allen's lab was the inaugural recipient of the American Phytopathological Society's Tarleton Graduate Fellowship. Jonathan also received the Stephen A. Johnston Travel Award from the APS.

**Jeff Olsen**, Plant Pathology MS student with Amy Charkowski, received the Albert J and Adelaide Riker Scholarship through CALS for the 2009-2010 year. Jeff also received honorable mention for his poster that he presented at the Kenneth B. Raper Symposium.

**Erica Yashiro** of Patty McManus' lab received the Albert J. and Adelaide E. Riker Plant Pathology Academic Merit Award. The Riker award is for undergraduates or graduate students majoring in plant pathology working with forest pathology or tissue culture. Erica also received a Vilas Travel Grant to support her attendance at the 2010 meeting of the International Society for Microbial Ecology in Seattle.

**Jim Kerns** was chosen as a Nusbaum Scholar from the Department of Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University.

**Gayle Worf** was selected as the 2008 Wisconsin Green Industry Hall of Fame winner.

**Caitilyn Allen** was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Sciences (AAAS).

**Andrew Bent** was awarded the 2009 APS Noel Keen Award for excellence in research on molecular plant-microbe interactions.

**Maria Stolz**, a high school student in the Halterman lab, graduated from her first year of the Dane County Youth Apprenticeship Program in Biotechnology.

**Craig Grau** received the 2009 Wisconsin Crop Production Association Education Award and the Second Mile Award for 2009 from the Wisconsin Association of County Agricultural Agents.



# What's Happening...

## *News from Near and Far*

Two former post-doctoral scientists from Nancy Keller's lab have obtained faculty positions:

**Dr. Richard Wilson** is a new assistant professor in the Plant Pathology department at the University of Nebraska, where he studies the metabolic pathways important in the *Magnaporthe oryzae*/rice interaction and mycotoxigenic fungi.

**Dr. Sigal Horowitz-Brown** is assistant professor at the Department of Entomology and the Nematology and Chemistry units at the Volcani Center in Israel, where she researches the molecular interaction leading to resistance or susceptibility to plant parasitic nematodes.

**Stuart Baker** retired in August 2008. Stuart worked with Chris Upper and Susan Hirano for many years before becoming a key member of our building's IT support crew.

**Ralph Kurtzman** (Ph.D. 1959) is the editor of *Micologia Aplicada International* (a small but growing applied journal). For the last six years he has also been a USAID volunteer and has worked for the agency in eight developing countries. Kurtzman worked in three third world countries for the USDA and has also worked for several other organizations in four other foreign countries. Most of his work is teaching/consulting on mushroom cultivation.

**Caitilyn Allen** spent January-June 2009 on sabbatical in Montpellier, France, where she held an Agropolis Foundation Fellowship at the Center for International Research in Agriculture and Development (CIRAD) and taught in two plant pathology courses at INRA-SupAgro.

**Wayne Nishijima** (Ph.D. 1977) retired from the University of Hawaii at Manoa on December 1, 2009 after over 30 years of service with the University of Hawaii system. His last position was as the Associate Dean/Associate Director for Cooperative Extension for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. He is happily retired and resides in Hilo, on the island of Hawaii.

**John Sherwood** (Ph.D. 1981) is serving as Head of the Department of Plant Pathology at the University

of Georgia. John will be president of the American Phytopathological Society for 2010-2011.

**Archana Vasanthakumar** (Ph.D. 2003) recently started a postdoctoral position in the Laboratory of Applied Microbiology at Harvard University after a 3 year hiatus. She now lives in Newton, MA with her husband and two young sons.

**Kier Klepzig** (Ph.D. 1994) was recently named Assistant Director-Research for the Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service. In this position at SRS headquarters in Asheville, NC, Kier leads the Threats to Forest Health Science Area, encompassing all Station research on pathogens, insects, invasive plants, fire, climate change and ecosystem disturbance. Kier has been with the Forest Service for 15 years.

**Sarah Lauffer** (M.S. 1998) is the Co-Director of the Wisconsin Program for Scientific Teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This nationally renowned program aims to cultivate a new generation of faculty and future faculty in teaching, learning, and mentoring. Miller is primarily responsible for training scientists in classroom teaching and evaluating the impact of the program on its participants and their students. Sarah has been annually named a National Academies Education Mentor in the Life Sciences (2004-09) and has been inducted into the UW-Madison Teaching Academy.

**Mara McDonald**, a former Instructional Specialist in the department, is Assistant Administrator in Genetics and the J.F. Crow Institute for the Study of Evolution (launched January, 2010). She has also been running the Biocore Prairie Bird Observatory, above Picnic Point, since September, 2001. She writes that they are always looking for volunteers!

**Michelle Moyer** (B.S. 2005) is finishing up her Ph.D. at Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station this summer. Her dissertation work was on biology and disease forecasting for powdery mildew on grapes.



# What's Happening...

## *News from Near and Far*

**Carl Willis** (Ph.D. 1962) has been retired from a career in research with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for nearly 14 years, is enjoying good health, traveling the world and spending time with his grandchildren. Since retiring Carl and his wife Gayle have traveled to 25 countries in Europe, Asia, and Australia/New Zealand. He reports that the 16 days that they spent in mainland China and Hong Kong were among the most interesting. Carl and Gayle manage to spend part of each winter in the south or south-west of the USA to avoid some of the cold and snow in Prince Edward Island, Canada.



**Judit Monis** (Ph.D. 1989) is the division manager of the Plant Health Services Division at Eurofins STA Laboratories in Gilroy, CA. Her division uses to detect and eliminate important grapevine pathogens.

**Jennifer Parke** (faculty member, 1984-1997) is an Associate Professor at Oregon State University. She has a joint appointment in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology and the Department of Crop and Soil Science. Her lab focuses on *Phytophthora ramorum* and other *Phytophthora* species in horticulture nurseries.

**Francisco J. B. Reifschneider** (Ph.D. 1979) returned to Brazil in 2007 after several years as Director of the CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research), at the World Bank, Washington, D.C. He is presently a part-time researcher working on Capsicum breeding at Embrapa Vegetables and an Advisor to the President of Embrapa and to the Brazilian Minister of Agriculture. He advises several university students and has re-discovered the joy of research after the nightmares of bureaucracy!

**Lori Adams-Phillips** (postdoc with Andrew Bent) is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Biology at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. She is currently teaching and doing research and will become the Undergraduate Biology Honors Advisor next fall.

**Anna Whitfield** (Ph.D. 2004 with Tom German) is now Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at Kansas State University. She was recently awarded a prestigious 5-year NSF CAREER Award for her research on insect vector responses to plant viruses.

### **In Memorium:**

**David Webster** (Ph.D. 1978) died in a bicycle accident in June, 2009. After finishing his doctorate under the supervision of Luis Sequeira he went to work for Asgrow, and then for Seminis, where he was a pathologist and legume breeder. His efforts made Seminis an industry leader in pea and dry beans, and in 2004, Dave received the Special Recognition Career Award in tribute to his outstanding service to Seminis and the vegetable industry. He is survived by his wife Char and three children.

**Jeanne Patton** passed away in March, 2009 at the age of 87. Jeanne was the wife of forest pathology professor Robert Patton, who died in 2004.

**V. M. Ganga Nair** (Ph.D. 1964) died in March 2010. He had recently become Professor Emeritus after 40 years of teaching Forest Pathology and Medical Mycology as a founding faculty member at UW-Green Bay. He worked on wilt and canker diseases in international forestry sectors and had just returned from Southeast Asia, China and Hawaii after participating in Forestry Policy Development Projects (IUFRO), connected with reforestation, protection of wildlife and forest medicinal plants. Ganga Nair was selected by India as a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of India. China presented him with the "Scroll of Distinction" for his scientific achievements. He also received the Herbert Fisk Johnson Professorship in Environmental Studies. Nair was honored for a distinguished teaching career of bringing the world to UW-Green Bay - and bringing UW-Green Bay to the world!

## In Memoriam: *Professor Jack Mitchell*

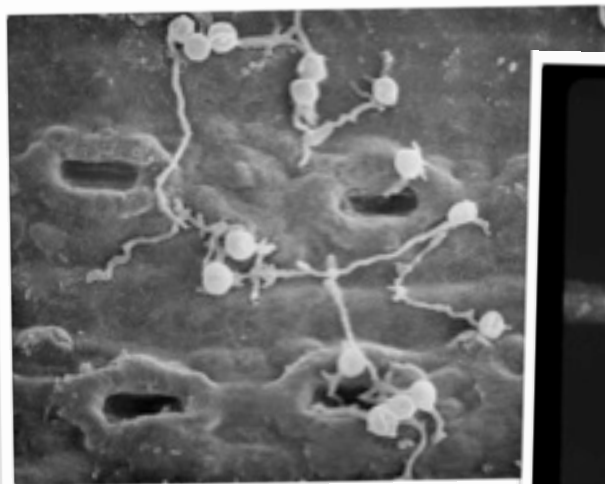


John E. (Jack) Mitchell passed away on Saturday, August 30, 2008, in Madison. His wife of 66 years, Jane, died shortly thereafter (on September 19). Jack was born in San Francisco, CA in 1917. His family eventually settled in Minneapolis, MN, where Jack studied horticulture and plant pathology at the University of Minnesota. His graduate work in plant pathology at Louisiana State University was interrupted by World War II; he served as a Navy line officer in the Pacific theater. He returned to graduate school, this time at UW-Madison, where he earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1948.

Jack worked for eight years as a plant pathologist with the Chemical Corps of the U.S. Army in Frederick, MD. before joining the faculty of the UW Department of Plant Pathology in 1956. He worked to control fruit tree diseases, doing extensive work on the problem of fungicide residues on fruit. He went on to study the epidemiology and control of diverse soilborne diseases on peas, potato, horseradish, and ginseng. His distinguished research and teaching were recognized by numerous awards, and he was named a Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society.

Perhaps the major characteristic of Jack Mitchell's personality was his penchant for service to his students, colleagues, the department, and the university. He spent more than two years working with architects in the design of Russell Laboratories, at considerable sacrifice to his research program. Jack served as Chair of the Department from 1975 to 1980. Three of his former students recall: "I could not have entered a relationship with a better mentor. Jack was kind and understanding, and most of all, patient." "In thinking about Dr. Mitchell, the single quality that comes first to my mind is that he was an exceptionally kind, considerate, and helpful man.... There was never a time when he did not have enough time for me. Some graduate students may have felt like they were there mainly to serve their major professors, but I felt more like my major professor was there to serve me." "Dr. Mitchell was not self-serving, but rather sought to serve others through his efforts... he always took on the hard, behind-the-scenes jobs; the committee work; the department chairmanship; the organizer of meetings; jobs for which he probably seldom received strong public recognition, but jobs in which he could devote himself to making a difference for some good cause."

A quiet, modest person, Jack Mitchell will be remembered for his devotion to his family, his co-workers, and the University. He and Jane are survived by three sons, William, Charles, and Robert. 🌱



## Arthur Kelman 1918-2009

Distinguished Researcher

Outstanding Teacher

Accomplished Leader



Arthur Kelman, one of our Department's most distinguished emeritus faculty, passed away at age 90 on June 29, 2009 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Arthur grew up in Providence, R.I. where he entered the University of Rhode Island in

1937 with a focus on

Meeting, many speakers recounted his uncanny ability to ask the most penetrating and helpful questions about research, and his calm, insightful, encouraging leadership.

In 1975, he was named the L. R. Jones Distinguished Professor of Plant Pathology and later served as the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation Senior Research Professor (1985-1989). Following retirement in 1989, Dr. Kelman returned to NC State as a Distinguished University Scholar and remained actively affiliated with the University and the profession of plant pathology. He served as Chief Scientist for the USDA/NRI Competitive Grants Program from 1991 until 1993. In addition to his contributions as a scientist and teacher, Arthur was an effective leader in the institutions he served and in his professional societies. He was active in faculty governance at UW-Madison and served as chair of the University Committee. Arthur was elected president of both APS and the International Society of Plant Pathology.

His excellence was recognized with many awards over his career. For his many research contributions he was elected into the National Academy of Sciences. He was also elected Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Microbiology. In 1983 he received the American Phytopathological Society Award of Distinction, the highest honor awarded by the APS. He was given an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Rhode Island in 1977; he received the E.C. Stakman Award, University of Minnesota, 1987; the Researcher of the Year Award, Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Industry, 1988; the North American Seed Potato Researcher of the Year Award, 1988; and the University Distinguished Scholar, Department of Plant Pathology, NC State University, 1989. In 1999, he received an Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Department of Plant Pathology, NC State University, and a similar award from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, NC State University in 2000. Arthur Kelman's exceptional career as a scientist, mentor, and leader provide an admirable legacy in plant pathology.

Because he knew that many plant pathologists are inspired to join the profession by an undergraduate research experience, Arthur endowed a fund for undergraduate research in the UW-Madison Department of Plant Pathology. Anyone wishing to make a contribution in his memory is encouraged to contact the University of Wisconsin Foundation at (608) 263-4545.

plant pathology. His graduate work in plant pathology at North Carolina State University at Raleigh was interrupted by World War II. During the war he served in the Signal Intelligence Unit in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, where he received a field commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. Arthur returned to complete his Ph.D. at NC State University in 1946, and then became assistant professor of plant pathology in 1949. While in North Carolina, he met and married Helen Parker. Arthur established a world-renowned research program at NC State. His primary interest was in Granville Wilt of flue-cured tobacco, and Arthur was always a champion of understanding complex biological problems in order to develop effective control practices. His creative and insightful research led to numerous fundamental and practical contributions that have enhanced our understanding of the biology and ecology of phytobacteria, especially mechanisms of virulence and pathogenesis. In addition he was a highly effective classroom teacher. In 1961, he received a Distinguished Teacher Award and was named William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor of Plant Pathology.

In 1965, he moved to the University of Wisconsin at Madison to assume the chair of the Department of Plant Pathology, a position he held for 10 years. His research at UW-Madison focused on bacterial plant pathogens and the diseases they cause. He was noted for his contributions on pathogens of potatoes and other vegetables. Despite a demanding schedule, he taught the basic undergraduate course in plant pathology for many years, and in 1987, he received the Amoco Excellence in Teaching Award and the Spitzer Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Arthur was a deeply respected mentor of graduate students and those relationships often resulted in career-long associations. His skill as a mentor is legendary and extended well beyond students to include many young faculty members and administrators. At a memorial for Professor Kelman held at the 2009 APS Annual

# Where Are They Now?

Do you have news to include in the next Pathogen? New job? Family news? Recent retirement? We'd like to hear about what you've been up to lately. If your address has changed, please let us know so that we can keep our mailing list current. Send to: The Pathogen, Department of Plant Pathology, 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706; Phone: (608) 262-1410; fax: (608) 263-2626; email: [mkc@plantpath.wisc.edu](mailto:mkc@plantpath.wisc.edu).

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