

# PLANT SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

May 2009, Vol. 20, Issue 05

*Holding the Heartland Together*

*South Dakota State University*

## Announcements . . .

A memorandum of agreement has been finalized establishing a **Plant Science Student Travel Scholarship**. Dr. Sue Blodgett has provided the scholarship fund to provide assistance to a student traveling to professional/national meetings. Additions to the scholarship fund may be made at any time through current gifts or bequests to the SDSU Foundation. *This scholarship recognizes the many distinguished faculty who have served as Department Head of the SDSU Plant Pathology, Entomology and Agronomy Departments merged to the current Plant Science Department. These dedicated individuals who by their enthusiasm, strategic thinking and commitment to excellence have left us with a legacy that we can be proud of and seek to improve for future generations by supporting Plant Science student travel to professional meetings.*

Following is the web address for the feature article on the Legume ipmPIPE and the related work that Dr. Langham has been doing:

<http://www.apsnet.org/online/feature/ipmPIPE>

Information regarding the **2010 NC Region Sustainable Ag Research and Education grant program** call for preproposals is currently available online; preproposal deadline is June 10. <http://sare.org/ncrsare/resedu.htm> Potential applicants can contact [ncrsare@umn.edu](mailto:ncrsare@umn.edu) or 612-626-3113.

NSF has announced some of the grant programs that will be funded by the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funds**. Among them is the Major Research Instrumentation Program

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsf09561/nsf09561.pdf>

Several SDSU teams are planning to develop acquisition proposals for this program; therefore, Drs. Ruffolo and Kephart will be implementing a selection process. They will review all summaries and make selections on behalf of SDSU. Faculty participants should contact Kevin Kephart by email with proposal specifics by June 15.

15<sup>th</sup> Annual **Eastern SD Soil and Water Research Farm Field Day** will be held Tuesday, June 16. Tour starts at 3:30 p.m., followed by a complimentary meal at 5:30 p.m. In case of rain, go to the NC Agricultural Research Laboratory.

Mark your calendar for the **Plant Science Department summer picnic** scheduled for Thursday, July 30, 6:00 pm at the Hillcrest picnic shelters.

## TRAVEL REMINDERS . . .

When you travel In-State remember that the state only allows lodging cost of \$46.50 + tax. Linda Jelly has a list of some motels that will cover the state rate. On any motel bill watch for a "safe warranty charge"; request that the fee be removed because you didn't use it and the state will not cover the charge. Contact Linda at 688-5122 if you have any questions.

Drs. **Brent Turnipseed** and **Paul Johnson** participated earlier this month in a series of workshops at the Unidad Académica Campesina, Carmen Pampa, in the eastern Andes Mountains of Bolivia. Turnipseed gave a workshop on seed technology and the importance of preserving native gene stock of crops. This is particularly important because all crops grown in the region are for fresh market consumption. Johnson gave a workshop on entomological biodiversity methods and practices in natural and agriculture habitats. The students and local people are culturally sophisticated and are especially interested in knowing their local biodiversity and conserving much of the remaining forest. This was the fourth time that Turnipseed and Johnson used their scientific and educational skills in a continuing commitment to improve science education at this rural college, including the advising of students on their senior thesis research projects. Johnson was able to meet with his recent graduate, Ms. Danitza Ramos, who wrote an excellent 76 page senior thesis on her research about the pollination of cacao. He also discussed project ideas with Carlos Vergara, who wrote a 182 page senior thesis on orchids of the area. Carlos will be visiting SDSU in June and July. Turnipseed and Johnson joined Diane Rickerl, Norm Brataan, KC Jensen, Tim Nichols, and Gary Larson for a series of scientific workshops and leadership training. All participants found a highly enthusiastic and motivated class of students, staff, and faculty, along with great friendship and excellent coffee. This was the final trip funded on the current CSREES's International Science and Education Competitive Grant to Rickerl, but future grants are anticipated.

### *Congratulations . . .*

Plant Science MS graduate assistant, **Richard “Kyle” Heimerl**, is the 2009 recipient of the Frederick Krueger Endowment Award administered through the SD Ag Experiment Station. Under the direction of Carter Johnson and Tom Schumacher, Heimerl’s thesis research will inventory and analyze soil carbon data across a complex agricultural landscape at a site being converted from row crops to warm-season native grassland.

**James Doolittle** was voted Division A-10 Chair-Elect of the American Society of Agronomy during the society’s national meeting in Houston, Texas, this spring. The focus of the Division A-10 is on biofuels and bioproducts, two areas for which Doolittle brings experience as director of the NC Regional Sun Grant Center at SDSU.

**Janet Moriles** shared the honors for 1<sup>st</sup> place with her MS proposal in the Sigma Xi graduate student proposal/paper contest. Janet is advised by Sharon Clay. **Shannon Hofstader** took 2<sup>nd</sup> place honors for the PhD proposal in the Sigma Xi graduate student proposal/paper contest. Shannon is advised by Larry Osborne. The students received their awards at the April 29 Sigma Xi banquet. A total of 21 applications were received (4 MS proposals/4 MS papers; 6 PhD proposals; 7 PhD papers) from many different departments. Other graduate students are encouraged to apply; look for announcements early in January 2010. Radhey Kaushik from Biology/Micro will chair next year’s committee and other faculty interested in serving on the committee should contact Kaushik.

Congratulations to the following graduate students on successful completion of their MS orals: **Greta Schanning** (Turnipseed) 4/27/09; **Krystle Ness** (Stein) 05/14/09; **Andrew VanNurden** (Scott) 05/14/09.

Ms. **Caitlin Krueger**, insect collection technician, graduated this month with her B.S. in Biology. She gained experience working with Dr. Paul Johnson, including a study on native bees from a GF&P funded undergraduate research project. Caitlin was offered a full-ride graduate research assistantship toward an M.S. in Entomology at the University of Minnesota-St. Paul.

The Southern Association of Ag Experiment Station Directors has selected **Kelley Tilmon** and **Louis Hesler** (NCARL) as Southern Region Nominees for the National Excellence in Multistate Research Award in recognition of collaborative contributions as official participants in the S-1039 project.

### *Staff Changes . . .*

**Guo-Liang Jiang** of Bakersfield, CA, will arrive July 22

to begin new duties as Assistant Professor of soybean breeding and genetics. His office will be SNP 248A. **Jixiang Wu** of Mississippi State University has accepted the position of assistant professor of quantitative genetics/biostatistics. Wu will arrive August 3.

We welcome **Julie Thomas** of NDSU who assumed the position of research assistant with the spring/winter wheat breeding research program effective 05/18/09. Julie is originally from Marshall, MN, and a former SDSU grad.

Effective 05/22/09 research associate **Jiyul Chang** transferred from the GIS Center of Excellence to the Plant Science Department to work with the drought center on a new Monsanto grant.

New graduate assistants arriving in May include **Prabin Tamang** (MS), advised by Jeff Stein; **Amber Hammerbeck** (MS), advised by Tom Schumacher/Shannon Osborne; **Shauna Waughtel** (MS), advised by Sharon Clay; and **Muhamad Mispan** (PhD), advised by Xingyou Gu.

**Joe and Coral Bonnemenn** are both recovering from recent health issues and have relocated to an apartment near the United Retirement Center in Brookings. Their new mailing address is 122 4<sup>th</sup> Street West, Apt 7. Coral indicates that the couple would welcome visitors.

### *Thank you . . .*

*“I would like to thank the Department for the nice hanging flower basket and card that I received while out on surgical leave.”*

Karla Kruger

### *QUOTE OF THE DAY . . .*

*“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant.”*

*-- Robert Louis Stevenson -- (1850-94)*

### *Job Listings . . .* (posted at each building)

**SDSU Plant Science** - Monsanto Graduate Fellowships, MS/PhD, 07/01/09

U. of Arkansas – Asst/Assoc Prof-Winter Wheat; PhD, 06/15/09

**SDSU-Brown Co.** - Agronomy Educator; BS/MS; 06/15/09

NDSU – Asst/Assoc Prof-Weed Science; PhD; 07/01/09

### *Calendar Dates . . .*

Jun 11 Wheat Commission reports due

Jun 11 Last day to submit fall graduation application

Jun 16-17 SDCIA Summer Board Meeting

Jun 24 Central Crops Tour-Highmore, 5 pm

Jun 25 Dakota Lakes Tour, 1 pm

Jun 29 Agronomy Farm Tour, 4 pm

Jun 30 Rotation/Crop Tour-Wall, 2 pm

Apr 30, 2010 PS Recognition Banquet-Volstorff