FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL CHAIRPERSON

The past year has brought changes to Botany and Plant Pathology; many exciting, some sad. And the year has also seen the continuation of many of the good works you’ve come to expect from the Department. Inside, you’ll learn about our new faculty members. Supported through grant funds or employed in federal positions, they enrich the educational experience for our students, bring luster to the department, and offer many opportunities for collaboration. I’m also delighted to let you know that we are in the process of searching for a new state-funded Assistant Professor, our first such hire in seven years. As you read this, we should be interviewing candidates to fill a position in microbial genomics.

Genomics is a rapidly developing field that offers the promise of a dramatically deepened understanding of biological systems, including molecules, organisms, and ecosystems. We mourn the loss of Scott Sundberg. Under his leadership, the Oregon Flora Project became a reality. Inside, you will find a tribute to Scott written by Aaron Liston.

Our students, both undergraduate and graduate, are also featured inside. Join me in congratulating the graduates and those who have received awards. The Department continues to attract bright and motivated students who come here to learn and end up enriching the lives of all members of the Botany and Plant Pathology community.

The research enterprise in Botany and Plant Pathology continues to grow. You’ll read about some of the current endeavors inside. From Sudden Oak Death, to phytoplankton, to toxin structures, to trees of life…our students, research staff, and faculty are involved in cutting edge research that—as the College of Science slogan says—matters.

On May 20th, we’ll gather to celebrate the many awards that members of the Botany and Plant Pathology community have received and we’ll also recognize the donors who have made important differences in the lives of many of our students. If you are interested in joining us for this celebration, please let Dianne Simpson (541-737-4147 or simpsond@science.oregonstate.edu) know by May 10th.

As always, we welcome visitors. I look forward to meeting alumni, friends, and supporters of the Department.

Dan Arp
Professor and Chairperson
arpd@science.oregonstate.edu
WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Michael Behrenfeld joined the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology on January 1, 2005. He comes to Oregon State University from the east coast where he worked for many years with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Mike is a biological oceanographer, with a research focus on marine phytoplankton (the single celled plants of the upper ocean that support most marine food webs). His studies cover a wide range of scales, from the basic biochemical pathways for photosynthesis to the quantification of global ocean production from space. In his most recent publication in the January issue of Global Biogeochemical Cycles, Mike and his colleagues from the University of Maine, University of California Santa Barbara, and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center introduce a new approach that allows both phytoplankton carbon biomass and growth rates to be determined simultaneously from space. This new development will lead to greatly improved estimates of global ocean production and a better understanding of how carbon is transferred through marine ecosystems. The work is also leading toward a new satellite mission concept that will soon be proposed to NASA.

Niklaus Grunwald recently joined the Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory, USDA ARS, located on the Oregon State University campus. Nik conducts research on the genetics and epidemiology of the sudden oak death pathogen Phytophthora ramorum as well as other Phytophthora diseases affecting horticultural crops. He has a courtesy appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology and is also affiliated with the Center for Gene Research and Biotechnology and the Molecular and Cellular Biology Program. He currently serves as editor for Plant Pathology and associate editor for Phytopathology. Nik received his Ph.D. degree from the University of California at Davis. Nik subsequently worked as post-doctoral scientist at Cornell University. For most of his time at Cornell University, he was stationed in Toluca, Mexico where he conducted research on the biology, epidemiology and population genetics of Phytophthora infestans at the center of origin. Before coming to Corvallis he worked for the Vegetable and Forage Crops Research Unit, USDA ARS, at Prosser, WA, where he conducted research on soil-borne diseases of edible legumes with particular emphasis on Aphanomyces euteiches, Fusarium solani, and Sclerotinia sclerotiorum.

David Gent is another of the newest Courtesy appointments to the BPP department. This is a bit of a homecoming for him. David grew up about 25 miles south of Corvallis and completed his BS degree at OSU. He took Introductory Plant Pathology from Mary Powelson, who convinced him plant pathology is really where the action is. Two degrees from Colorado State University later, he’s back in the Northwest as a research plant pathologist with the USDA ARS National Forage Seed Production Research Center, and a courtesy appointment in the department. The focus of David’s research is the development of an integrated management system for hop downy and powdery mildew that reduces chemical inputs through disease forecasting, modification of cultural practices, and host resistance. It has been good seeing some familiar faces around campus and the department, and he is really looking forward to working with departmental scientists in the future.

FACULTY NEWS

Jim Carrington, Director of the Center for Gene Research and Biotechnology and Professor of Botany and Plant Pathology, is pleased to announce that the OSU has committed to the Computational & Genome Biology Initiative (CGBI), one of six key initiatives the University will support over the next five years to spur research and education in certain fields. The CGBI will
receive approximately $3.6 million from a combination of OSU Initiative funds, and support from the Center for Gene Research and Biotechnology, the Research Office, and several colleges. The CGBI will be an interdisciplinary effort involving new faculty, new facilities, new courses, and up to 8 colleges at OSU, combining advances in molecular biology with the new computational approaches. Synergy with Oregon’s growing biotechnology industry and a major increase in the level of external grant funding and fundraising potential are anticipated. The Initiative will enable complicated biological processes, such as development of disease in plants, to be understood at a much deeper level.

**Len Coop**, formerly with the Department of Entomology, continues projects which seek to deliver weather-driven insect and plant disease models for all agricultural commodities via the web, under the direction of Paul Jepson at IPPC (Integrated Plant Protection Center).

In 2005 the system infrastructure was extended to the entire US, thus far at least for insect and other degree-day models. Other projects under development include estimating and spatializing leaf wetness (and leaf wetness based disease infection risk models) using GIS and interpolation, and developing a web interface to NPDN (National Plant Diagnostics Network) data. Also, he helps to convert and deliver the PNW Pest Control Handbooks for the web, and support development and web delivery of other specialized pest models such as Bill Pfender's grass seed stem rust model.

**Fred Crowe** recently participated in an ACDI/VOCA volunteer assignment to advise Egypt on control of onion and garlic white rot disease (*Sclerotium cepivorum*). He visited extension agents and farmer’s organizations throughout Egypt to better understand crop production and environmental conditions in Egypt that are important with respect to exacerbating and/or ameliorating this disease. He presented two university seminars on the overall biology and control of white rot, to audiences of scientists, extension personnel and farmers.

Because Egypt is predominantly warm to hot, white rot is restricted to a narrow window of activity during late winter, but the disease is devastating to their main export onions that are harvested at that time of year. As in the rest of the world, farmers won’t replant onions in fields in which extensive white rot has developed. Garlic is grown over the winter, also, but contracts only mild white rot, whereas garlic is badly damaged in most of the world. In the absence of freezing weather in Egypt, garlic is planted at the soil surface where bulbs develop in warmest soil, whereas over-wintered onions are transplanted quite deep in the soil where the bulbs encounter cooler temperatures. Many other locally-marketed onion crops are grown at other times of the year. Most farmers are quite small, but very accomplished and focused on improving their export marketing, and labor is very cheap. Fred recommended controls that are relatively unique to this situation: Intensive roguing (to prevent inoculum buildup) and rotation between winter onions with onions grown during the warm seasons of the year. Seemingly counter-intuitive, the latter practice will force many of the sclerotia of this pathogen to germinate spring through fall at lower soil profiles where it is cooler even in those seasons. These root infections that develop will fail to cause disease at the bulb level where it is too hot for the white rot fungus to proceed from roots into bulbs, thus reducing the population. He is assisting in publication of an extension brochure (in Arabic) that will assist small farmers to recognize and respond to white rot. He also discussed issues with respect to Botrytis neck rot of onions. Opportunities for possible future cooperative research arose.
John Fowler had a very successful year achieving his promotion to Associate Professor with indefinite tenure, and celebrating the graduation of his first MS student, Todd Christensen, and PhD student Kirstin Arthur Carroll. John was also pleased to receive a renewal of his NSF Grant to study Rho GTPases in Plant Development. During Fall 2004 he was invited to speak at a Plant Reproductive Development Conference in Albany, NY at which one of his current students, Rex Cole, presented a poster.

Tom Kaye recently received a five year grant from The Nature Conservancy to research methods of restoring prairie habitats in the Pacific Northwest with several collaborators, including Mark Wilson and Deborah Clark in Botany and Plant Pathology (see the article below by Deborah Clark). He enjoys working with his graduate students and running the Institute for Applied Ecology, a non-profit organization based in Corvallis.

Terri Lomax is continuing her research on the role of the plant growth regulator, auxin, in determining how plants respond to gravity. Understanding basic mechanisms of plant growth regulator functions is a topic of interest to all botanists, and the research is funded by a number of agencies, with scientists at NASA among them. In 2003, Terri was assigned from OSU to NASA where she has guided research on biological processes in space. Terri has played an active role in managing and awarding new NASA research at the national and international levels, helped plan the NASA strategy for biological research in space, and helped reorganize the science agenda. OSU is happy to have Terri working at NASA, and representing OSU in the East.

Joyce Loper stepped down from the position as Research Leader of the USDA-ARS Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory (HCRL) in October 2004 to return to full-time research. She served as Research Leader for four and a half years, a period of tremendous growth for ARS nationwide and locally. The HCRL now has 16 Research Scientists, 13 of whom are located on the OSU campus. The HCRL research program is focused on nursery and small fruit crops throughout the Pacific Northwest, and three scientists in the group are located in Idaho or Washington, where they do viticulture research. Six of the Corvallis scientists are plant pathologists who have courtesy faculty appointments in the Botany and Plant Pathology Department.

Immediately after completing her term as Research Leader, Joyce went on a brief sabbatic leave to the University of California at Berkeley where she visited Steve Lindow’s laboratory in the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology. There, she worked from hints provided by the newly-sequenced genome of Pseudomonas syringae pv. syringae to identify a new siderophore in that bacterium. She really treasured that three months of re-emersing herself in science! Joyce and husband Carl rented an apartment in a 1920’s building with lots of “charm” but bad plumbing, and enjoyed many wonderful days and evenings exploring the Bay Area and visiting family and old friends. One complaint: with Oregon experiencing one of the driest winters on record and California one of the wettest, they didn’t escape the rains one little bit!

Bob Martin is the new Acting Research Leader at the USDA-ARS Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory. He is well known on the OSU campus as a courtesy faculty in Botany and Plant Pathology and Molecular and Cellular Biology. Bob obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Plant Pathology in 1980, and then moved to Corvallis to conduct postdoctoral research with Dick Converse on strawberry viruses. In 1982, he moved to Vancouver, British Columbia to take a Research Scientist position with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada studying small fruit viruses. Bob joined the HCRL in 1995, and has continued to direct an internationally-recognized research program on viruses that infect small fruit crops, including the development of diagnostics for these viruses.
Bruce McCune was a co-organizer, last summer, of the ecology symposium at the International Association for Lichenology meeting in Tartu, Estonia. This is the largest meeting of lichenologists, occurring every four years, each time in a different country. Imagine the pleasure of total immersion in lichenology for five straight days, preceded and followed by extended field trips in eastern Europe.

His interests in quantitative ecology have led, over the last few years, to a new method of species habitat modeling that automatically finds nonlinear interactions among predictors. It is developed from a multiplicative kernel smoother, and implemented in a program, "HyperNiche", released last summer. HyperNiche seeks the best combination of predictors of species presence or abundance. This requires evaluating huge numbers of models, harnessing the computational power on our desktops. At last the simplistic additive models that just have not worked well in the past can be abandoned.

Peter McEvoy attended the Ecological Society of America annual meeting in Portland in 2004, giving a chance to ‘show-off’ Oregon to friends and colleagues from around the world. Peter presented a paper and led a field trip – a natural history transect from Mt Hood to the coast. He traveled to Cornell University in October to celebrate the career of his major professor Richard Root on the occasion of his retirement; Dick mentored 34 PhD students in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology during his long and successful career.

Peter continues to foster science, technology, and policy responses to problems associated with invasive species. He served as Chair of a 4-member panel for the Office of Scientific Quality Review (OSQR), United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS), to review weed science - biological control research under National Program 304 Crop Protection and Quarantine. He joined others at a meeting in Denver to draft national policy to ensure greater safety and effectiveness of introduced biological control organisms. He began a new research project with Munisamy Gopinath, He Min, and Steve Buccola in Agricultural and Resource Economics at OSU on the causes and consequences of variability in state noxious weed lists.

Work continues in the lab on the ecology and biological control of invasive species. Among Peter’s graduate students, two completing their entomology degrees this past year are Woniya Thibeault (MS) and Shon Schooler (PhD), two continuing PhD students are Don Campanella (shared with Chris Mundt) and Evrim Karacetin, and one new student, Dominic Maze from UC Santa Cruz, joining this fall. Shon Schooler took a research position with CSIRO Entomology in Brisbane, Australia. Don presented a paper “Variation in seedling growth among asexual clones of an invasive plant, Chondrilla juncea (Asteraceae)” at the at the Northwest Scientific Association 2005 Annual Meeting held in Corvallis in March; Evrim traveled in April 2005 to Southampton, UK to present a paper on "Lepidoptera as indicators of Biodiversity Conservation."

Pat Muir was on sabbatical during the 2003-04 academic year, learning how much “moss" is harvested from forests in the Pacific Northwestern (PNW) and Appalachian regions of the US and what species are included in harvests. “Moss” (a mixture of mosses and liverworts) is harvested from public and private lands in both regions (a “nontimber” or “special” forest product) and sold domestically and internationally for use in the floral and craft trades. In the PNW, most of the harvest is from trees and shrubs, while in the Appalachians, logs are the preferred substrate. The study was funded by the USFWS, to determine whether any moss species of special concern were being harvested and sold internationally, suggesting a need for regulation of their export. Her results suggest that most harvested species are common, although further monitoring is needed. There is a wide range of uncertainty in her
estimates of harvested quantities, but they may be as great as 37.4 million air dry kg per year (a corresponding dollar value of $165 million per year). She presented this at the 2004 meetings of the Ecological Society of American and at West Virginia University, and the findings have received considerable media attention, including a story in the New York Times and the British journal, New Scientist. Pat has also been working with two graduate students (Kendra Sikes and Keith Perchemlides) on the effects of various fuel reduction techniques being implemented in chaparral and oak woodlands of SW Oregon on plant communities.

Richard Smiley: The field crops pathology program continues to focus on biology and control of crown rot (Fusarium pseudograminearum, F. culmorum and Bipolaris sorokiniana), root-lesion nematode (Pratylenchus thornei and P. neglectus) and cereal cyst nematode (Heterodera avenae). Research on wheat and barley is conducted at field sites in eastern Oregon and Washington, and in labs and greenhouses at the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center at Pendleton. Traditional and molecular laboratory technologies are used to support this field-oriented program. Emphasis recently shifted from a broad array of integrated management strategies and documentation of crop damage to a more focused effort on developing wheat varieties with genetic resistance. Please visit our website for additional details: http://cbarc.aes.oregonstate.edu/cbarc/plantpathologyhome.php. The program currently includes Richard, three faculty research assistants, up to three seasonal employees, and support services from many other permanent staff at CBARC facilities at Pendleton and Moro. Key members of the program and their primary area of emphasis include FRA Sandra Easley (molecular diagnostics and laboratory management), SFRA Lisa Patterson (mycology and disease management) and FRA Jason Sheedy (breeding wheat for resistance to plant-parasitic nematodes and crown rot pathogens). They regret the recent loss of contributions by FRA Jennifer Gourlie (field plot management) and wish her well in her move to Louisiana. The field crops program maintains routine contact with comparable programs in Australia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Syria and Turkey. Overseas travel to these and other locations occur at about yearly intervals.

Joseph Spatafora announces a new NSF-funded research project, Assembling the Fungal Tree of Life (AFTOL), to develop a multi-gene phylogeny for the Kingdom Fungi. AFTOL is based in five laboratories at four institutions including Joey Spatafora at OSU, David Hibbett at Clark University, David McLaughlin at University of Minnesota, and Francois Lutzoni and Rytas Vilgalys at Duke University. Numerous postdocs, graduate and undergraduate students, visiting researchers, and collaborating scientists are involved, with over 120 participants from more than 20 countries. AFTOL is collecting over 10,000 bp of sequence data from seven genes for 1500 species of fungi. The goal is to resolve ancient evolutionary relationships within the Kingdom Fungi that will address longstanding questions including the origins of the land Fungi and novel symbioses (e.g., mycorrhizae, insect symbionts, lichens, etc.). We will create a pulse of multi-gene sequence data, enhanced tools, and databases for use in fungal phylogenetics and in other fields of fungal biology. The role of our laboratory in AFTOL is to coordinate the sampling of approximately 400 nonlichenized species of the Ascomycota, the largest group of Fungi. For more information on AFTOL please visit http://ocid.nacse.org/research/aftol.
IN MEMORIAM

Scott Sundberg, Oregon Botanist, 1954-2004

Scott Sundberg, director of the Oregon Flora Project, died December 30, 2004 of cancer. He had struggled for many years, most of them privately, with the symptoms of multiple sclerosis. Yet it was cancer, only diagnosed in September 2004, which led to his passing.

Scott Donald Sundberg was born on February 10, 1954 in Eugene, Oregon. Scott began his botanical career as an undergraduate at the University of Oregon. Among Scott’s early scientific mentors were Prof. George Carroll and his wife, Fannie. Scott was involved in studies at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, where he collected the type specimen of a rare lichen, *Nephroma occultum*. Scott became fascinated with plant taxonomy, and soon was conducting independent study projects in the University of Oregon Herbarium. Scott benefited from working with two herbarium curators: recently-retired Georgia Mason, and newly-hired David Wagner. Scott graduated from the University of Oregon in 1978 with a B.Sc.(Honors) in Biology. From 1978 to 1980, Scott was employed as a botanist for the Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District. During that period, he gained considerable experience with the flora of southwestern Oregon. He made numerous noteworthy collections, and discovered new localities for many rare plant species.

In 1981, Scott moved to Austin, Texas, to begin graduate studies at the University of Texas. He worked under the supervision of Prof. Billie Turner, and, like almost all of Turner’s students, Scott turned his attention to the composite family. Scott’s taxonomic research in the Asteraceae continued throughout his career. Scott received his Ph.D. in Botany in 1986. His dissertation was entitled “The Systematics of *Aster Subg. Oxytripolium* (Compositae) and Historically Allied Species.”

Scott met his wife, Linda Hardison, in Austin. They married in Jakarta, Indonesia on August 13, 1986. In 1986, Scott began a one-year post-doctoral position at Ohio State University, working with Prof. Tod Steussy. The following year, Scott returned to the Pacific Northwest as Linda began her Ph.D. studies at the University of Washington. Over the next several years, Scott taught courses and conducted plant systematics research in the Department of Botany. From 1991-1994, Scott was a Botanical Consultant for Ebasco Environmental, Inc. in Bellevue, Washington.

During that time he conducted rare plant surveys throughout Oregon and Washington.

Scott moved to Corvallis, Oregon in early 1994, and Linda joined him in 1996 after completing her dissertation. Scott was hired to oversee the integration of the University of Oregon and Oregon State University Herbaria. Soon after, Scott initiated the Oregon Flora Project. In 1999, Scott was promoted to a Research Assistant Professor. The same
year, Scott and Linda’s son Matthew was born.

Scott’s 29 scientific publications include taxonomic papers (descriptions of new species, nomenclatural changes, and new classifications), laboratory-based investigations in plant systematics, and treatments for checklists, field guides, and floras. The majority of his publications concern the composite family. In addition, Scott has contributed numerous articles to the Oregon Flora Newsletter. A complete list of his scientific publications will appear in that publication.

Scott devoted the last decade of his life to the Oregon Flora Project. As Coordinator, he directed over 230 volunteers and supervised over 60 student and several professional employees. He established the Oregon Flora Newsletter, the Oregon Vascular Plant Checklist, and the Oregon Plant Atlas. It is tragic that Scott did not live to see the completion of his dream, a comprehensive Flora for the approximately 4,500 Oregon plant species. However, his activities created an extremely strong foundation for the continued growth of the Oregon Flora Project. The Flora will serve as an enduring legacy to Scott’s commitment to botanical education, and the documentation and conservation of Oregon’s unique and diverse flora.

A memorial service celebrating Scott’s life was held January 16, 2005 in Corvallis, OR. Memorial gifts in his honor can be made to NPSO—Oregon Flora Project, and mailed to P.O. Box 402, Corvallis, OR 97339.

by Aaron Liston

Patricia M. Buckley, Electron Microscopist, 1923-2004

I and several long-time EM Facility clients were quite saddened last November (2004) to learn Dr. Patricia M. Buckley, a former Electron Microscope Facility employee and colleague of many years, had passed away. Pat oversaw the transmission microscopy side of our services, including sample preparations and instrument operation assistance, on a part-time basis, from July 1994 through July 1997. Her help and assistance was of great value to the faculty and students who made use of the Facility during her years of service with us.

Dr. Buckley was originally from Ohio, but spent much of her life in Oregon. Her Ph.D., in microbiology, was awarded to her by OSU in 1964. During her long, very productive career she held research and teaching positions at a number of West Coast universities and colleges, including an Assistant Professorship in environmental microbiological sciences at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon. She managed an electron microscopy laboratory for OSU’s Zoology Department from 1978 through 1982, and taught microbiology and microscopy at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 1982 to 1989. She later worked for the American Red Cross Blood Bank in Portland, and then for a private company where she trained workers in the art of meristem tissue culture using sterile techniques and monitoring the sterile technique performance of employees engaged in propagating plants from tissue culture. In the four years prior to accepting her employment at the Electron Microscope Facility in Botany & Plant Pathology, Pat was employed by the USDA National Clonal Germplasm Repository.

Pat was an active Master Gardener and kept our laboratory well appointed with glorious flowers from one of her cherished hobbies, her bountiful home garden. She was also a great cook and very skillful in arts and crafts activities. She enjoyed travel, and my most favorite memory of Pat involves a most unexpected chance meeting between us outside a small ice cream shop on a pleasantly warm and sunny September afternoon, when, coincidently, two different cruise ships both discharged their loads of eager tourists onto the streets of -- of all
places -- Skagway, Alaska. It was about the last place on earth I'd expected to randomly cross paths with an acquaintance from Corvallis, Oregon!

Pat Buckley was a good friend and truly valued colleague whose life embraced the best of human qualities: generosity, professionalism, talent, and kindness. She is remembered for these qualities, and she enriched the lives of those privileged to have known her. Pat died near her family in Tacoma, Washington, following a prolonged illness.

by Al Soeldner

Loran LaSells "Stub" Stewart died in January at the age of 93 of congestive heart failure. Stewart grew up in Cottage Grove. He graduated from Oregon Agriculture College -- now Oregon State University -- in 1932. He bought the highly successful Bohemia Lumber Company in 1948, shortly after returning from service in World War II. Stewart served three terms in the Legislature, where he was an advocate for public access to the state's beaches and helped build Oregon's park system.

Stewart was a major donor to Oregon State University, contributing over $1.5 million to the school. Gifts from L. L. "Stub" Stewart and brother Faye enabled OSU to establish the Stewart Professorship for Gene Research in 1990. Dan Arp was the third recipient of this award in 2002. The Stewart brothers were both graduates in forestry. Stub received his degree in logging engineering in 1932, and Faye graduated in forest engineering in 1938. Both went on to distinguished careers in the timber industry, and have been involved in a wide variety of industry and public service activities.

OSU has been the beneficiary of their generosity in many ways. Gifts from both brothers have supported the operation of the LaSells Stewart Center, named in honor of their parents. In addition to funding the Stewart Professorship for Gene Research, they have also been generous supporters of the College of Forestry and of marine mammal research. Each has also made gifts to support areas of particular interest—Stub to the L. L. Stewart Faculty Development Award, Faye to the Department of Athletics, and for the benefit of the University as a whole.

OSU Foundation

FROM A FORMER CHAIRPERSON

Greetings from Strand Agricultural Hall where I spend time in my office when I am not in meetings. No, the pictures are still not on the wall! I had hoped that on January 14 with completion of my year as Faculty Senate President, that my meeting schedule would rapidly clear; as it has turned out, there has been a decrease in certain types of meetings but a seeming concurrent increase in others as I now focus full time as an associate dean. I will continue to serve on several committees related to university matters with some related to my year as past-president. Overall, the year in the Faculty Senate office proved to be very educational and I am glad to have had the opportunity to learn so many new things about our university as well as to assist our faculty in various venues. I am frequently asked “how do you like your new job?” and I hasten to say that I am not yet able to answer that question fully given the craziness of juggling two positions last year and now the realization that even just one position is often overfilled. In general, things are going along well but there are many new things to learn and new skills to be mastered. For those of you familiar with Oregon’s biennial budget process, suffice it to say that this is a Legislative year and that brings a lot of “seasonal” requests for information and clarifications on our existing programs, and also the invariable requests to explain how we will cut the budget if necessary. The really positive news from the College of Agricultural Sciences is that we are in the midst of filling the equivalent of 30 full-time positions which will be spread over about 40 individuals doing various combinations of teaching, research, and extension. This is especially exciting after a decrease in 80 tenure track positions between July 2001 and July 2004 during which no new faculty hires were made. Many units have few or no assistant professors remaining (they have either been promoted or have
departed)—the last two faculty hired during my time as chairperson were promoted effective July 1, 2004, and adding new faculty is critical to sustaining the growth of research activity and in maintaining undergraduate and graduate programs. At the same time, the numerous stakeholders of the College have far more compelling requests than there are resources to fill and hence we have spent a great deal of effort trying to be sure we have the priorities right.

This past year brought two “real vacations” for me; I was able to spend a week with Jim in Nice, France last May during which I conducted my first experiment of “not working” for six days. It was such a success that we had ten days in Hawaii in late December and early January where I repeated a second trial. Our family continues to expand with the arrival on February 23 of a grandson, James William, who joined the family of Miriam, Darin, and Moira (now 2 ½). We take great delight in our grandchildren, three daughters and son-in-law and I am grateful that all but our youngest are in Portland where we can see them fairly often.

As 2005 roars by, I hope that my path will cross with friends from BPP and beyond. I miss the students that I interacted with often as chairperson and my last few advisees will graduate this June. Anyone who wonders what associate deans do is welcome to come shadow me for a day or so (or even a few hours)—I will confess that some days are even a surprise to me! Enjoy the spring and summer ahead and I hope that you will find special moments to enjoy with those important to you. For those away from campus, please look me up if you should happen this way. You can reach me at: stella.coakley@oregonstate.edu or at 541-737-5264. I hope to hear from you in the year ahead.

by Stella Melugin Coakley

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to the following students who received a B.S. in Botany in 2004:

Brooke Hoisington, Christian Kleine, Barbara Hinds-Cook

Lindy Osborne, Rebecca Huot, Bailey Edgley

Jane Osborn, James Halligan, Diana Wageman

Congratulations to our Honor Roll Students Spring and/or Fall terms 2004, and/or Winter 2005:

Emma Bradford, Timothy Bradley, Bailey Edgley, Kathleen Farrell, Rebecca Huot, Lourdes Irwin, Kathleen Jones

Rachael Kofahl, Brian Lewis, Alica Leytem, Stephanie McKnight, Inga McLaughlin, Kelsey Miller, Andrew Mursion

Basho Parry, Tri Tran, Jessica Thompson, Kathy van Wormer, Lacey Wolf

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

The graduate students began the 2004-2005 school year with the annual trip to the coast. Attendance was high at this anticipated event, and we strengthened the social network that binds us together by reconnecting after the summer. Many of us shared a midnight swim in the icy Pacific waters, but we also bonded over a potluck meal and took advantage of the rainy fall by hunting for chanterelles (of which we found many).
Sage LaCroix (President), Aaron Smith (Vice President), Rebecca Currin (Treasurer), and Beth Lawrence (Marketing Manager) were elected to lead the Graduate Student Association this year. The sister of our Vice President graciously offered her design expertise and created the rendition of a Willamette Valley ecosystem pictured on the front of this year’s fundraiser t-shirt. The stunning artistry, combined with the debut of some exciting new styles of shirt, propelled sales. The GSA raised $500, which will be used to fund travel grants that are yet to be awarded.

Some exciting meetings and conferences kept us motivated throughout the year. The Northwest Scientific Association’s annual conference was held on the OSU campus this spring, and was attended by Kent Davis, Heather Lintz, Aaron Smith, and Sage LaCroix who presented posters and Matt Blakeley-Smith, Sarah Jovan, Erin Martin, and Emily Holt who gave presentations. The Ecological Society of America held a conference in Portland last summer, and Matt Blakeley-Smith presented his research. Matt has also presented his research at the conferences of the Oregon Vegetation Management Association and the Society for Ecological Restoration. Kristin Skinner and Rachel Andrie attended the Fungal Genetics Conference in Pacific Grove, CA and each received a travel award from the conference organizers.

Several of us have been awarded for our work over the past year. Erin Martin received the A.J. Sharp award for her presentation at the Botany conference. Brian Knaus received the Hardman Award from the Native Plant Society of Oregon. Kristin Skinner won the Anita Summers Graduate Student travel award. Sara Jovan received the P.F. and Nellie Buck Yerex Graduate Fellowship. Rachel Andrie became a member of the CAS Registry of Distinguished Students. Christine Carlson received the Oregon Sea Grant Marine Science Education Fellowship. Sage LaCroix received the National Science Foundation GK-12 Fellowship.

Congratulations to the recent graduates Jane Smith (PhD, Spatafora), Eunsung Oh (PhD, Hansen) Steven Meyers (M.S., Liston) who completed their degrees and will surely be missed as students in the department.

Nine prospective graduate students visited the department March 3-5, 2005. Current graduate students volunteered in record numbers to show them a great time in Corvallis by leading campus and downtown tours. A buffet dinner and poster session was held at the Memorial Union and was well attended by current graduate students. The prospective students were also treated to a trip to the coast and we all observed anemones, starfish and sun stars at low tide. Dan and Wanda Arp hosted another amazing potluck, and everyone got A’s for their contributions over the weekend!

The cohesiveness of the graduate students in the department has made for a superb year professionally and socially. Recreational botany is making a comeback this spring, and we have two groups that are making it a regular habit. We plan to finish this school year with a barbeque at Avery Park after finals, but with a group like this, I am sure we will be gathering over the summer for more great adventures!

by Sage LaCroix

RECENT THESIS TITLES

Todd Christensen (MS with John Fowler) Identification and characterization of seven ROP GTPases in Zea mays.
Kara Hempy Mayer (MS with David Pyke and Mark Wilson) The effects of defoliation of Bromus tectorum seed production and growth.
Eunsung Oh (PhD with Everett Hansen) Resistance mechanisms of Port-Orford-Cedar to Phytophthora lateralis.
Steve Bekedam (MS with David Pyke and Pat Muir) Establishment tolerance of six native sagebrush steppe species to Imazapic (Plateau R) herbicide: implication for restoration and recovery.

AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS

Faculty

Dr. James Carrington Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
Melodie Putnam American Phytopathological Society Excellence in Extension Award
Dr. Thomas Wolpert American Phytopathological Society Noel T. Keen Award for research excellence in molecular plant pathology
F.E. Price/Agricultural Research Foundation Award for Excellence in Research from the Oregon State University, College of Agricultural Sciences

Dr. Lynda Ciuffetti was promoted to Professor effective July 2004.
Dr. John Fowler was promoted to Associate Professor with indefinite tenure effective July 2004.
Dr. Cynthia Ocamb was promoted to Associate Professor with indefinite tenure effective July 2004.
Dr. Mary Kentula was promoted to Associate Professor (Courtesy) effective July 2004.

Students

The 2004 Ernest and Pauline Jaworski Scholarships for Underserved Undergraduates in Plant Sciences were awarded to:
Malem Gutema to work with John Fowler
Sara Hamilton to work with Lynda Ciuffetti
Katherine van Wormer to work with Terri Lomax

The 2005 Ernest and Pauline Jaworski Scholarships for Underserved Undergraduates in Plant Sciences were awarded to:
Andrea Garcia to work with Joseph Karchesy (Wood Science and Engineering)
Lauren Osborn to work with John Fowler
Jing Sun to work with Hiro Nonogaki (Horticulture)

The 2004 Anita Summers Graduate Student Travel Award was presented to:
Kirstin Arthur Carroll
Ioannis Tzanetakis
Kristin Skinner

The 2005 Anita Summers Graduate Student Travel Award was awarded to:
Anne Halgren
Beth Lawrence

The 2004 Katherine R. Pamplin Scholarships from the Portland Garden Club were awarded to undergraduates
Rebecca Huot and Kathleen Farrell

The 2005 Katherine R. Pamplin Scholarship from the Portland Garden Club was awarded to Sara Hamilton
The 2005 Hardman Foundation Award for Native Plant Research was awarded to Rachael Roberts.

The 2005 Bonnie C. Templeton Award for Plant Systematics Research and the 2005 Moldenke Fund for Plant Systematics Travel were both awarded to Paul Severns.

Sarah Jovan was awarded the P.F. and Nellie Buck Yerex Graduate Student Scholarship.

Rachael Andrie was named on the College of Agricultural Sciences Registry of Distinguished Students.

The 2004 Outstanding Senior Award made possible by the Bill and LaRea Johnston Endowment was awarded to Bailey Edgley.

The 2005 Outstanding Senior Award made possible by the Bill and LaRea Johnston Endowment was awarded to Kathy van Wormer.

The 2005 Charles and Helen Fulton Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Alicia Leytem.

The 2005 Jean L Sidall Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Tri Tran.

The 2005 Thomas C Moore Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Rachael Kofahl.

THE OREGON FLORA PROJECT

The Oregon Flora Project has recently experienced a profound loss, as the founder and director of the Oregon Flora Project, Scott Sundberg, passed away December 30, 2004. With the foundation envisioned and implemented by Scott, Flora Project staff, and the many volunteers working on the project, there is no doubt however that the Oregon Flora Project will progress towards completion. Linda Hardison is now serving as project coordinator, working with staff members Thea Cook, Katie Mitchell, Rena Schlachter, and Stephen Meyers, and with Herbarium Director Aaron Liston.

In March, the Atlas mapping program was released to the general public. Over 385,000 records in the Atlas databases provide the data to create plant distribution maps. The user chooses the desired species and base map to generate a customized distribution map, and can also access information for each plant record. The Atlas is available at www.oregonflora.org.

Contributions from supporters are a key funding source for the OFP. Our Tenth Anniversary Challenge drive, held from November 2004 through January 2005, was a great success, bringing in donations of $39,597. With the matching funds of $26,000 which provided the impetus for the challenge, the Oregon Flora Project has received $65,597. These funds help finance production of the Oregon Flora Newsletter and, most importantly, support our staff. Their diligent work ensures that the information from the Flora Project becomes accessible to the public.

by Linda Hardison

FROM THE HERBARIUM

The OSU. Herbarium continues to be an active center of research in plant and fungal systematics. It also serves as the primary source for the identification of plants found growing in Oregon and elsewhere. During the last year over 120 visitors consulted the specimen collection. While most were from Oregon, others came from Washington, California, Canada and Mexico. Researchers based at OSU. (faculty and graduate students) requested 45 loans of specimens from other herbaria in the U.S., Switzerland, New Zealand, Sweden, Australia, Italy, Finland and the United Kingdom. This resulted in over 1,900 specimens being shipped here. In turn researchers from other
institutions in the U.S., Mexico, Australia, Sweden, Spain, Canada, New Zealand and the People’s Republic of China borrowed over 1,500 specimens from the OSU Herbarium.

The national and international activities of the herbarium are also shown in the active exchange program with other herbaria in the U.S., Canada, Japan, Poland, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the People’s Republic of China. In the last year we sent out over 3,000 duplicate specimens and received in return over 4,500 specimens. In addition, the herbarium regularly receives gifts of specimens from individuals and institutions resulting in the addition of over 1,000 specimens. The herbarium in return sent out as gifts close to 1,000 specimens.

In the last year over 5,000 new specimens were accessioned into the collections at the herbarium. Fortunately, the herbarium has several student workers that help in the process. Vy Mai, Van Vuong, and Amber Gillett have worked here for over a year and have the primary responsibility for mounting new specimens. This year a volunteer, Leila de Laubenfels, has joined them. Jason Alexander, graduate research assistant in the herbarium, then is responsible for filing the material into the herbarium in their proper places.

The herbarium is also heavily used by researchers, students, consultants, and others to identify plants. Herbarium personnel also identify between 600-700 specimens yearly that are sent in by Oregon citizens, the O.S.U. Extension Service, O.S.U. Seed Certification Service, O.S.U. Veterinary College, state and federal governmental agencies and agricultural based industries among others. This free service provides information on weeds, poisonous plants, and wild flowers to the people of Oregon.

by Richard Halse

OSU PLANT DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC GIVES OREGON AGRICULTURE ABILITY TO STRIKE BACK QUICKLY AGAINST DISEASE PROBLEMS

Issue
Corn smut, sudden oak death, phytophthora root rot, crown gall, fusarium blight. These are all plant diseases capable of causing significant damage in Oregon field crops, nursery crops and home landscapes. And there are a lot more besides the few mentioned here. When plant diseases strike, the best hope of control lies in identifying the problem quickly so proper control measures can be taken promptly. But the crucial first step is accurate identification of the disease. That’s why Oregon State University offers plant diagnostic services to Oregon agricultural producers and homeowners.

What was done
The OSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic was established as a statewide resource for solving plant-related problems. It receives samples from Extension Service offices, growers, home gardeners, research faculty, government agencies, and other clients. Plant samples are examined to diagnose problems, determine their causes, and make appropriate control recommendations. The Clinic has worked to provide a rapid response in situations where disease is in the initial phase of development and quick action can prevent crop losses. This is especially true in high-value crop situations such as greenhouse crops. A recent addition to the plant clinic is a special laboratory for molecular diagnosis, which allows more accurate and rapid identification of specific difficult-to-identify pathogens.

The OSU Plant Clinic also acts as a regional resource for 5 western states for identification of certain pathogens. This activity is part of the clinic’s participation in the National Plant Diagnostic Network, organized in response to the need to protect America’s crops from intentional introductions of harmful pathogens.

Impact
The OSU Plant Clinic evaluated and diagnosed problems related to 1,957 plant, water, and soil samples received in 2004. Over three-quarters of the samples came from operations producing commercial ornamentals—a strong indication of the valuable support the Clinic provides to nursery
OSU RESEARCH HELPS CONTAIN SUDDEN OAK DEATH THREAT

Issue
Sudden oak death is aptly named. This deadly plant disease, recently discovered in the Pacific Northwest, is causing serious concern in Oregon’s multi-million dollar nursery and greenhouse industry. The disease has a broad range of host plants and spreads rapidly, sometimes inflicting extensive damage or death. Sudden oak death threatens native forest vegetation, nursery planting stock and landscapes in the PNW region. If allowed to become established in nursery and greenhouse crops, the economic damage caused by sudden oak death could reach catastrophic levels. Oregon State University researchers, working closely with USDA scientists and the Oregon Department of Agriculture, are developing control measures for the disease.

What was done
OSU scientists are studying the biology of the disease, how it is transported from place to place, and how it affects and damages plants. This research will enable scientists to estimate the disease’s potential for causing damage to North American forests and native vegetation, as well as nursery crops. The consequences of widespread disease could be environmentally devastating, for example, in loss of woodlands and wildlife habitat, and increased fire danger. Researchers have found that dozens of plants commonly found in Oregon landscapes can harbor the pathogen, including rhododendron, madrone, camellia, viburnum, and huckleberry. They have also identified hundreds of other plants that are susceptible.

Impact
Continuing studies of the biology, ecology, and epidemiology (how the disease occurs in plant populations) of sudden oak death are helping researchers develop effective disease management strategies. In cooperation with nursery industry representatives and regulatory agencies, OSU researchers and extension specialists have developed guidelines for preventing nursery infestations of sudden oak death (*Phytophthora ramorum*). They’ve delivered several workshops for nursery growers, produced illustrated guides showing disease symptoms, and led efforts to promote early detection through development of Web-based national training materials to educate Master Gardeners, county extension staff, and homeowners about the disease. The value of successful efforts to prevent sudden oak death from becoming established in Oregon’s nursery industry is hard to quantify. However, the potential for economic losses in sales of nursery crops due to the presence of sudden oak death infections easily runs into the millions of dollars.

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Invasive plants, especially non-native perennial grasses, pose one of the most critical threats to protected native prairies in the Willamette/Puget/Georgia ecoregion. These prairies are among the most endangered ecosystems in the North America, and support many imperiled species. Our current knowledge regarding the effectiveness of techniques for controlling many herbaceous invasives, especially in sites that retain a significant component of native vegetation, is largely anecdotal or based on results from only a few site-specific studies.

Progress has been hampered by several problems. Funding for prairie restoration has been directed primarily towards on-the-ground actions, with very little devoted to developing the scientific understanding that underpins successful adaptive management. Most studies have been of relatively short duration, and involve only single treatments. Few have employed combinations of treatments, an approach that is likely to produce more effective, synergistic effects, as suggested by results from studies in other systems. None have examined these approaches in a comprehensive manner across a geographic range of sites, and over a time period sufficient to evaluate longer-term system restoration.

To address these critical issues in prairie restoration, the Priscilla Bullitt Collins Trust (Northwest Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy) awarded a 5-year $500,000 grant to a multi-state and Canadian team of scientists and land managers, including three investigators from the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology: Tom Kaye, one of two PIs; Mark Wilson and Deborah Clark, two of the Co-PIs.

Many aspects of this project have not been attempted before in Pacific Northwest grasslands, and will add greatly to its impact. Innovative aspects include:

- incorporating active adaptive management principles into a broad, multi-site study,
- integrating managers of highly ranked conservation areas during the entire project to ensure findings are directly implemented in on-going large-scale restoration efforts, as well as in new restoration projects,
- developing a scientific study with replicated experiments that builds on stewardship activities already underway at several sites across the ecoregion
- identifying effective restoration strategies that use multiple treatment combinations based on a sound understanding of invasive species biology and native prairie ecology
- establishing multiple demonstration sites that will provide clear evidence for managers to readily compare treatment effects
- documenting scalability of treatments from small research plots to large-scale restoration
- assessing results based on functional groups and key plant traits, thereby allowing generalization of findings across a wide range of sites and conditions, and
- including information on soil health and function through collaboration with USDA-ARS regional data base of western prairie and grassland soils.

by Deborah Clark

FROM THE INSECT IDENTIFICATION CLINIC (now part of the OSU PLANT CLINIC)

The most.........

......frequent question this year – “How will this mild, dry, winter affects the insects?” The answer is difficult, so many factors come into play; the mild sunny days tend to wake up the insects that have made their way into homes last fall. We are seeing that ants have begun to produce winged sexual forms about 3-4 weeks ahead of what we consider to be normal.
…..common medical question – “Is this the Lyme disease tick?” Ticks are most abundant in the spring, all are blood feeders, and Lyme disease is only one of many possible microbes ticks may vector.

…..common source from which insect samples come to the Insect ID Clinic is the home. Insects are found in kitchens (including some that live in stored products), in furniture, flooring, carpets and in dark corners in the basement.

…..common requests from homeowners are for spider identification. Spiders make up about a fifth of all the requests that are submitted. The abundant spider season is fall, when males are out searching for virgin females. Every spider looks like the hobo or the brown recluse to the novice. The hobo is implicated in having venom that causes skin lesions, though the evidence is shaky. The brown recluse does not live west of the Rocky Mountains, so if you think you have found a brown recluse count the eyes; six equals a possible brown recluse. If you have a skin lesion it was most probably NOT the result of a spider bite.

…..disgusting sample, at least to the non-entomologist, was the mouse bot fly pupae. They are dark brown, about ¼ inch wide and 1 or more inches in length. Infested mice find their way into homes, sometimes the cat helps them out, then if these subdermal larvae are mature they drop out of the mouse and pupate. A large dark fly will emerge, and then after the female fly is mated she goes off in search of another mouse. There is no danger to people or cats but the bot fly larvae and pupae look scary.

…..beautiful sample in 2004 was the many plume moth of 7mm wingspan. This tiny moth has divided wings. The fore-wing is made up of 8 feather-like divisions and the hind-wing 4, with light and dark bands of scales that reflect light so as to make them gleam like polished metal.

by Lynn Royce

MEANWHILE DOWN ON THE FARM…..

The 2004 growing season at the Botany and Plant Pathology Field Lab came in early and dry. We started irrigating on March 13th. All the orchards and perennials, along with the weeds came on strong. The end of April into the first part of May we were already in the 80’s. A wet June gave us some relief and from there we seemed to have a mild summer.

The past year has brought many changes to the field lab. In April, Jim Fell gave into the temptation and retired. Jim was a great asset to the field lab and his efforts will not go unnoticed. Jim, I wish you well in your retirement.

In June a chemical rinse/containment pad was built to give us a place to wash down sprayers and equipment. With a long curing time and some plumbing items it is now operational and is a great addition. The pad also holds our above ground fuel tanks and serves as containment in case of a leak. We were able to update the water system for the field lab as part of the pad project. A new well was drilled that enables us to irrigate the screen houses, service the building and the wash pad without the pressure deficit we used to experience.

In August we welcomed Tony Wutzke as the new technician. Tony is a Corvallis native and was raised on a farm. Tony is a good worker and enjoys the position. I am glad to have Tony here with us and am confident he will make a great contribution. Feel free to stop in and introduce yourself and welcome Tony.

Like last year, this season has arrived early and had us all wondering if it would ever rain. Once again we started irrigated earlier than ever on March 7th. Just when we had resigned ourselves to an 8 month irrigating season the rain showed its face. Rainfall is still below normal, but we are hopeful for a better season.

We plan to have a new operational chemical storage building by the end of June and are excited about the upcoming year.

by Aaron Henderson
THANK YOU DONORS

The following individuals and organizations generously supported the Department with donations received between 4/1/2004 and 4/12/2005.

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Robert Zeigler (MS 1978): An internationally respected plant pathologist with more than 20 years experience in agricultural research in the developing world has been named the next director general of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines. Zeigler earned his PhD form Cornell University, and worked at IRRI from 1992 -1998 as plant pathologist and leader of the Institute’s Irrigated Rice Research Program, and from 1992-1996 leading the Rainfed Lowland Rice Research Program. He also worked at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture in Colombia, the Institut des Sciences Agronomique du Burundi, and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Mexico. He succeeds Dr. Ronald Cantrell who retired in December.

Robert received his MS under the supervision of Dr. Don Zobel. 

photo and information from Science 307:1041 (2005)

Judy Jernstedt (BS  1973) is now Editor in Chief of the American Journal of Botany. She is Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of California, Davis.

Stephen Sillett (PhD 1995) and Marie Antoine (MS 2002): The February 14th & 21st combined issue of The New Yorker carries the article: "Climbing the Redwoods"; this article (pp 212-225), written by Richard Preston (A Reporter at Large) features Dr. Stephen C. Sillett, a 1995 Ph.D. graduate in Botany and Plant Pathology, who did his degree under the supervision of Dr. Bruce McCune on: "Canopy epiphyte studies in Central Oregon Cascades: implications for the management of Douglas fir forests.” Also mentioned in the article is his wife, Marie Antoine, who completed her M.S. degree in Botany and Plant Pathology (March 2002) under the supervision of Dr. William Winner on “Ecophysiology of the cyanolichen, Lobaria oregano".
Thanks are due to Sue Jepson for collecting the information, layout, editing and handling the mailing list; Dianne Simpson for proof reading; Tom Allen for the logo and Ken Chambers for the name.

CONTRIBUTIONS may be sent to The Oregon State University Foundation, 850 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, OR 97333

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