

Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences

Message From the Department Head



Winter has come to the Palouse! After a dry summer and fall, we are having our first snow. It is beautiful on the

trees, but is turning into slush on the ground. Still, it feels like the Holiday Season. Plans for the departmental Fall Graduation Celebration are well underway. We will gather in the Biotech Interaction Court from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5th to wish our graduates well and celebrate another eventful and successful year. The department will provide meat dishes and punch and guests are asked to bring an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert to share. The university and

Department will be operating on a weekend-like basis during the Christmas to New Years period.

Two recent departures are Drs. Wes Chun and John Gallian. Wes has taken a position in Hawaii and John is retiring after 28 years at the U of I. John's retirement party on November 16th in Twin Falls was a large and happy gathering. Don Morishita filled the role of master of ceremonies with his usual flair for insightful and entertaining observations. We wish them both well in their new phase of life.

We are in the process of conducting seven searches for faculty positions awaiting authorization to begin four other searches. I want to thank the faculty, staff and clientele who have agreed to serve on the search committees. This is a time consuming activity that must be taken on by busy people who realize that it is critical for the future of the department.

We had wonderful interactions with many alumni and retirees during Ag Days which took place on September 26th-29th. It is a pleasure to see old friends succeeding and enjoy-

ing life. The discussions with the PSES Advisory Board on October 18th yielded many useful insights. In addition to their communication with clientele, we will be working to develop a system for members of the board to present information on agricultural careers to high school classes. We anticipate this will help us with recruiting undergraduate students.

I would like to thank the faculty, staff and many friends of PSES for their continuing support that contributed to another successful year. Without generous contributions of time, effort and money we could not meet the scientific needs of our clients or the educational and scholarship needs of our students. Your efforts are truly appreciated by many.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season. May you find time to relax, enjoy friends and family and reflect on the many good things in your life.

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Contact lisaw@uidaho or call
(208) 885-6930



Club News...

PLANT & SOIL SCIENCE CLUB:

The Plant & Soil Science Club will be selling poinsettias again this year. They are selling red, pink, white and variegated bracted plants. The sale is Dec. 5 from 5:30—7 pm at the Sixth Street Greenhouse, or Dec. 6th in the Ag Sci Foyer from 11 am to 2 pm & Dec. 7th in the Commons from 11am—2 pm. Plants are \$8 each, and funds raised are used for a scholarship endowment, local charities, and field trip expenses. For additional information, contact: Paul Collins—coll5318@vandals.uidaho.edu.

SOIL STEWARDS:

The Soil Stewards wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and are looking forward to this next year's growing season! Thanks to those who participated in and supported our carrot and potato sale!

For more information about the Soil Stewards, please visit our website.

<http://stuorgs.uidaho.edu/~soilstewards/>

New Hires

Amber Moore has been hired as an Assistant Professor/Extension Soil Specialist in Twin Falls.

David Kyle Whitmire has been hired as a Scientific Aide by Brad Brown at the Parma R & E Center

December Graduates

Congratulations to our December Graduates!

Doctor of Philosophy

Javier Lugo Perez (Plant Science)

Master of Science

Melinda Ann Bateman Lent (Plant Science)

Heidi A. Fluegel (Plant Science)

Karen Lynn Laitala (Plant Science)

Wenjing Pang (Plant Science)

Poojan Bhasker Tripathi (Plant Science)



Congratulations!

Juan Manuel Alvarez was recently invited to participate and present a keynote talk at the 10th International Plant Virus Epidemiology (IPVE) symposium, themed Controlling Epidemics of Emerging and Established Plant Virus Diseases—The Way Forward, which was held from Oct. 15-19, 2007, at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), situated in Hyderabad, India. The title of his talk was “Mixed-viral infections (Potato virus Y-Potato leafroll virus) affect the biology and preference of aphid vectors and consequently the epidemiology of potato viruses”. Also attending the meeting were Drs. Eigenbrode, Srinivasan, and Mohan (all with PSES).

Gale Kleinkopf, Plant Physiologist Emeritus, was named an Honorary Life Member of the Potato Association of America at the 91st Annual Meeting in August in Idaho Falls.

Marc J. Klowden published the Second Edition of Physiological Systems in Insects.

Guy Knudsen, Soil and Land Resources Division, recently served on the organizing panel for the National Academy of Sciences workshop on Genetically Engineered Organisms, Wildlife, and Habitats. The two-day workshop, held in November at the University of California, Irvine, involved a multidisciplinary group of about 35 scientists, who developed recommendations for research priorities for the USGS, regarding impacts of engineered organisms on natural habitats.

On October 19th & 20th, the **U of I Soil Judging Team** participated in the 2007 Regional Soil Judging Contest in Ontario, Oregon. The team earned a 2nd place finish just behind Oregon State. **Brooke Knutzen**, a senior in Environmental Science, placed 6th overall, while **Matt Smith, Blake Hodgins, Amelia Jurkowska**, and **Andres Mendez** guided the Vandals into first place in the team competition. These awards enabled the team to qualify to participate in the National Soil Judging Competition to be held at the University of Rhode Island in April 2008. Soil judging is a great opportunity for students to learn hands on field experience describing soil profiles as well as explore soils all over the country. For more information contact Karen Vaughan at karen.vaughan@vandals.uidaho.edu.

Bob Zemetra will be presented with an award in recognition of outstanding service from the Idaho Wheat Commission at the Tri-State Grain Growers Meeting in Spokane, Washington on November 30th.



Dates to Remember

December 5, 2007 - Wednesday - PSES December Commencement Reception, 12:00 p.m., Ag Biotech Interaction Court - please sign up outside Ag Sci 242 to bring a dish of food to share for the potluck. The department will be providing meat dishes from the U of I Meat Lab - See you there!

December 3-7 - No examination week

December 8th, Saturday - Fall Commencement

December 10-14 - Final Examinations

December 14 - Last day to file graduation applications for degrees to be awarded in May without late service charge, Close of Fall Semester, Last day to file acceptable theses, dissertations, abstracts, and results of comprehensive examinations for graduate degrees to be awarded in December

December 22– January 1—The PSES Office will be closed to the public

December 24-25, 2007 - Christmas Break - U of I Closed

December 31-January 1, 2008 - New Year's Holiday

