The strength of much of the agricultural sector continues and is providing great career opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students completing degrees in Plant Sciences’ programs. Areas of particular strength are plant breeding- and crop management-related fields. Nineteen new graduate students will join the Plant, Insect and Microbial Sciences MS and PhD programs this year and undergraduate recruiting efforts continue to pay growing dividends. A great recent achievement in the recruiting effort is completion of a professional-quality undergraduate video by Sue Hollingsworth and her group in Media Services. You can view the video at http://plantsci.missouri.edu/video/ if you have not seen it. The DPS PlantLife video recently received a Telly Award, given to very best film & video productions.

Programming has been completed on the Center for Translational Plant Sciences building project. Heiddi Davis and her group in the Space Planning & Management Department of Campus Facilities did the work, which consists of describing the general layout and use of spaces in the proposed building. Maria Groza visited with many of you in preparing the document, which will now be used in conjunction with Darcy Wells in beginning development work.

Undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty and staff of the division all received significant honors and awards this spring (pages 2 & 3). Debbie Lingle, Grants/Contracts Specialist for the division, is one of only three people on the MU campus who are Certified Research Administrators, a significant achievement for Debbie and for our division (page 3). Please join me in welcoming Dr. Anthony Peccoux, Assistant Research Professor, who joined us in March to conduct viticulture research as part of the Institute for Continental Climate Viticulture and Enology which is hosted on campus (page 4).
Awards & Honors

Flick received Outstanding Freshman Award

Plant Sciences freshman, Kaitlin Flick received the Outstanding Freshman Award, April 12, 2012, at CAFNR’s annual Celebration of Excellence event. These awards are given to students who demonstrate leadership and CAFNR activity involvement. She is the Sigma Alpha Professional Agriculture Sorority’s Membership Candidate Representative. She was one of 10 in the nation to receive the Monsanto scholarship to attend the Sigma Alpha and Alpha Gamma Rho leadership conference. Flick has volunteered at The Food Bank in Columbia, and is the Agronomy Club Secretary.

Theil given Mizzou ‘39 Award

In the spirit of service modeled by the founding families that made possible the 1839 founding of the University of Missouri, the Mizzou Alumni Association Student Board annually recognizes 39 outstanding seniors for their academic achievement, leadership and service to the university and community. Additionally, each Mizzou ‘39 honoree names one faculty or staff member to be recognized for the impact he/she has made in the lives of MU students. Thiel recognized David Trinklein for the impact he has had on his life.

Fritschi awarded Early Investigator Research Award

Recipients of this award have demonstrated excellence in research performance, national or international recognition and/or special contributions to research team efforts. Fritschi’s work on drought puts him at the forefront of efforts to achieve the enormous increases in food production that will be essential if we are to meet world food needs in coming decades. In a short time at Mizzou, Dr. Fritschi’s efforts have already garnered more than $7 million in funding for his research program.

Lingle named Certified Research Administrators

Division of Plant Science staff member has earned the designation of Certified Research Administrator from the Research Administrators Certification Council. Debbie Lingle, grants/contracts specialist, successfully passed the council’s examination in December, demonstrating a level of knowledge necessary to be a professional research or sponsored programs administrator. Qualifications for this award include a Bachelor’s degree and a minimum of three years of substantial involvement in administering sponsored research programs.

Lawman received Outstanding Staff Award

Staff recognition award recipients must demonstrate outstanding ability and performance in productivity, quality of work, congeniality, judgment, dependability, initiative, leadership and dedication to the mission and values of the College.

Entomology students awarded Chancellor’s Prize for Excellence in Outreach

On April 21, 2012, many of the students from plant sciences participated in the Mizzou Adventures in Education, this event is held for children to allow them to explore different activities such as science, art, music, engineering and computers. The division’s entomology group was awarded the Chancellor’s Prize for Excellence in Outreach. They received a framed certificate and ribbon.
Awards & Honors

DPS Recruitment Video receives Bronze Telly Award

The Division of Plant Sciences recruitment video received a 2011 Film/Video Bronze Telly Award in the low budget Category. The Telly Awards is the premier award honoring the finest film and video productions, ground-breaking web commercials, videos and films, and outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs. You can learn more about the Telly Awards at their website: http://www.tellyawards.com. If you haven’t already seen the recruitment video it can be found at the following website: http://plantsci.missouri.edu/video.

Bruhn receives Medal of Honor

Johann Bruhn received the Medal of Honor from the Gotlands Tryffel Akademii in Visby, Sweden at an elaborate ceremony in November for his work with truffles. Bruhn became interested in edible fungi while serving as forest pathologist at Michigan Technological University. There he worked with the logging industry to minimize disease in their product – many of the diseases he looked for were actually fungi – and many of those fungi were edible. For a full CAFNR News story go to http://cafnrnews.com/2012/03/cultivating-the-elusive-black-truffle/.

LIFE SCIENCES WEEK, APRIL 16-21, 2012

John Alden, sophomore, received Honorable Mention for his poster entitled, “Functional Analysis of Candidate Genes at the Rhg4 Locus for Resistance to the Soybean Cyst Nematode, Heterodera glycines,” in the category of Genetics, Environment and Evolution. Alden is currently an undergraduate researcher in the lab of Melissa Mitchum. She is also his adviser.

Jeremy Dahmen, a post-doc, received third place for his poster entitled, “Deciphering the binding interaction kinetics of the plant defense response elicitor molecule, chitin, and its receptor via microscale optical biosensors,” in the category of Bioengineering and Informatics. Dahmen is advised by Gary Stacey.

GSA AWARDS BANQUET

The Division of Plant Science Graduate Student Association Awards Banquet was held April 24, 2012 at the Benton/Bingham Ballroom in Memorial Union. Masters and doctorate students were recognized in the areas of excellence in mentoring, outreach and research.

2012 Award Winners
Eric Riley, Excellence in Outreach (MS)
Greg Yeckel, Excellence in Research (MS)
Clayton Coffman, Excellence in Outreach (PhD)
Abbie Ferrieri, Excellence in Research (PhD)
Jeongmin Choi, Excellence in Mentoring (PhD)

l-r: Jennifer Vincent and Dara Boardman received an award from the Graduate Student Association. They received the award “Most Active GSA Members - 2012.”
MU Turf Club gets donation from former club president

Rich Prendergast (right), Turf Manager at the Ryan Lawn & Tree, donated $100 check to MU Turf Club, received by Charles Jacob Rockhold (on the left), current president of the Turf Club on Friday, April 13 during a Field Trip for the Advanced Turfgrass Management course (PS4355). Rich graduated from the MU turf program in 2009 and served as the president of the Turf Club while he was in school. His donation was a pleasant surprise and one of the highlights of the trip.

New Faculty Member: Anthony Peccoux

Anthony Peccoux joined the Division of Plant Sciences in March as Assistant Research Professor and Viticulture Program Leader. Anthony joins us from Bordeaux, France where he received his Ph.D. from the Institute of Vine and Wine Sciences (ISVV) at the University of Bordeaux in collaboration with the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and the Geisenheim Research Centre (GRC, Germany). He conducted his dissertation research on the “Molecular and Physiological Characterization of Grapevine Rootstock Adaptation to Drought”. He worked under joint supervision both in the lab of Prof. Hans Reiner Schultz (GRC, Department of Viticulture) and in the lab of Prof. Serge Delrot (ISVV/INRA/Univ. Bordeaux, UMR Ecophyisology and Grape Functional Genomics) with Nathalie Ollat, Ph.D.

Anthony is looking forward to working in the Missouri grape and wine industry and finds the opportunity to participate in comprehensive “vineyard to glass” research very exciting. “Grape physiology is so complex. Missouri is the perfect place to understand the underlying physiological responses under abiotic stresses because climate is such a challenge to grape quality here”. His research focuses on rootstock/scion interactions under abiotic stresses (mainly drought). He is also interested in the impact of viticultural practices (mainly canopy management) on berry quality.

When not researching or teaching, Anthony enjoys gourmet cooking (& wine, of course!), travelling, learning more about people and cultures and playing handball.

Roots Under Drought workshop held April 2-4, 2012

A workshop on “Roots Under Drought – Model Systems to the Field” was held April 2–4, 2012 in the Bond Life Sciences Center. The workshop was funded by the Food for the Future area of Mizzou Advantage, and organized by Bob Sharp, Felix Fritschi, Mel Oliver and Scott Peck. The objectives of this workshop were to enhance the education of MU graduate students and postdocs working in the root/drought area, network within the MU drought and root biology community, and strengthen working relationships with key international experts and institutions. The invited international experts were Michelle Watt, Ph.D., from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organization (CSIRO) in Canberra, Australia, Idupulapati Rao, Ph.D., from the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Colombia, and Bill Davies, Ph.D., from Lancaster University in the UK. Davies’ visit was also supported by the Chancellor’s Distinguished Visitors Program.

In conjunction with the workshop, each of the international experts presented an Interdisciplinary Plant Group seminar. Davies’ seminar, “The Water and Food Connection,” was a joint presentation with Chancellor Brady Deaton, Ph.D. Deaton discussed his activities as chair of BIFAD (Board for International Food and Agricultural Development).
KNOW YOUR Division Staff:

The division staff are key to so many aspects of Division of Plant Sciences business. Because job descriptions change along with changes in faculty, staff and students we thought it might be a good idea to send out a brief description of what your staff are responsible for. These descriptions are not comprehensive and new duties are assigned as needed, but hopefully you will have a better understanding of who to go to when you need assistance.

Division and Office Support

Christa Smith  
Executive Staff Assistant I

- Division Director's Calendar – schedule and coordinate appointments.
- Academic Evaluator Duties – issue permission numbers; coordinate course and catalog changes, manage course evaluation process; collect and manage graduate student annual reports; coordinate graduate student application process; schedule rooms for courses; textbook coordinator; enter grades; primary contact for Registrar's office, Graduate School and Faculty with respect to student's questions; coordinate new graduate students orientation.
- Academic Recruitment – guide process from position advertisement to approval of applicant. Coordinate interview process with search committee chairperson.
- Graduate Education & Research Committee – schedule meetings and generate minutes.
- Key Coordinator – request keys for division employees.
- Telephone - request long distance codes and changes for division employees. Order phone service as needed.
- Staff Performance Appraisal Coordinator – collect completed forms from supervisors and attain signature of division director. Maintain checklist and forward to ABS upon completion.
- Capital Equipment Inventory – update quarterly reports for fixed assets valued over $5000.
- Vehicle Inventory – report mileage, fuel usage, maintenance costs and insurance MoCodes annually for all division owned vehicles.
- Coordinate division room reservations. Maintain class schedules for classrooms each semester.
- International Student & Scholar Services – serve as contact; prepare documentation for signatures and submit documentation.
- Travel Arrangements – Arrange travel details such as airline tickets, Mo-X transport to and from the airport, hotel accommodations and car rental for various individuals as needed.
- Faculty Files – create new files for new faculty and maintain files on current faculty.
- Manages Faculty and Graduate Student email distribution lists.

Rita Gerke  
Office Support Staff IV

- Answer and route phone calls.
- Process FedEx shipments.
- Order items as asked from Stores and other sources.
- Assist students with questions.
- Make arrangements (hotel, travel, catering, etc.) for incoming seminar speakers.
- Issue temporary parking permits and process IOFs.
- Send and distribute mail.
- Provide access to DPS graphics lab in Gary Tyler's absence.
- Maintain date files and print certificates upon completion of training for the Master Gardener program.

Barbara Worley  
Office Support IV/Payroll Representative

- Office support for Waters Hall.
- Processing of vouchers, IOFs.
- Process purchase orders and bid requests.
- Holds an airfare card that may be used by anyone in the division.
- Process Purchasing statements and approval for Waters Hall, Curtis Hall and South Farm.
- Process ISEs for DPS Graphics Lab.
- Maintain the copy machine codes and process the copy machine billings.
- Process bi-weekly and monthly payroll.
Fiscal Office

Susan Lasley
Business Manager

- Annual budget preparation and administration. Assist the director with preparing the budget and presenting it to the Dean’s on an annual basis. Book budgets into the PeopleSoft system. Address any account deficits and correct before fiscal close. Transfer annual AES/Hatch allocations to individual faculty account. Coordinate and process all annual salary increases.
- Administer Hatch/AES funds. Ensure faculty with AES/research appointments have active station projects and their salary and expenses are applied to the correct program codes to ensure we record our annual federal expenditures accurately.
- Account management. Reconcile the division accounts monthly and provide reports to PI’s with allocations in the division accounts. This includes Admin, Teaching, Supplemental Fees, Extension, RIF, and FPC (Fixed-Price Contracts).
- Administer the IPG/F21C cluster funds and provide reports to the cluster director on a monthly basis.
- Administer the RIF allocation and process annual grant incentive payments to the faculty.
- Oversee grants management for the division. Address any problems that arise with post-award funding issues and ensure there are adequate funds to meet the required match on submitted proposals.
- Manage division GRA student fund.
- Serve as the chair of the division space committee and assign graduate student desk space.
- Coordinate all division renovation projects.
- Supervise division fiscal staff.

Debbie Lingle
Grants & Contracts Specialist

- Assist faculty in grant proposal preparation.
- Enter grant submissions into PeopleSoft.
- Track grant submissions.
- Reconcile grant expenditures.
- Assist in grant close-out.
- Apply for Advance MoCodes.

Michael Bent
Office Support IV/Human Resources Representative

- Serve as the primary contact for hiring staff & student employees for the division.
- Assist faculty with filling out the required paperwork to establish, request, or fill a full-time staff position.
- Assist with processing the required paperwork to get students and staff onto payroll.
- Process all PAF changes for the division.
- Assist faculty and staff with entering their travel reimbursement requests into the electronic expense report system.
- Reconcile gift and recharge accounts on a monthly basis.
- Process monthly reports and provide reports for the Gilbreth-McLorn fund, the Frances May fund, and the Fertilizer/Lime account.
- Assist the grants post award position with the processing of the monthly and semi-annual EVR’s.

Kristi Cook
Administrative Associate I/
Post Award Grants

- Review all grant account purchases to make sure they are allowable and allocable to the grant
- Reconcile grant accounts on a monthly basis
- Send account statements to lead PI of grant on a monthly basis for review and approval of expenditures.
- Initiate correcting entries required on grant accounts
- Record cost sharing against grants
- Review, distribute, collect and returned signed copies of EVR’s to OSPA
- Work with OSPA and Accounting Services to close out grants in a timely manner.
- Balance the Tiger Garden register and reconcile the credit card machine on a daily basis

Michelle Li
Office Support IV/Accounts Payable Representative

- Processing vouchers, IOFs, bookstore requisitions and approve ePro and expense reports for the division.
- Process Purchasing Card statements for everyone in the Agriculture Building.
- File fiscal documents.
- Depositing all checks. This includes gift checks as well as payments for recharge accounts.

Michelle is currently on a temporary basis working for the division but as of July 9, 2012 she will become a full-time employee.
Around the Division

Technical Support

Tonya Mueller
Support Systems Administrator, Specialist

- Manage division web and file servers. (including maintenance, user access, data backup and security)
- Order computer and other related equipment and software.
- Setup and troubleshoot computers.
- Primary contact for reserving and setting up teleconferencing in 200 Waters.
- Manage the networking of division copy machines.
- Assist with division web design, web programming and application development.
- Request new and delete email accounts, distribution lists and LISTSERVs.
- Request account password resets.
- Activate/deactivate data ports.
- Maintain division computer inventory.
- Supervise division technical staff.

Gary Tyler
Computing Support Specialist

- Manage the DPS Graphics Lab
- Print posters and track poster billing.
- Assist and instruct users with lab equipment.
- Order division hardware and software.
- Activate/deactivate data ports.
- Setup and troubleshoot computers and software.
- Update division graphics lab, student labs and classroom computers.
- Track and assist with lab equipment check-out.
- Set-up projectors for on campus seminars.
- Update division computer inventory.

Kate Riley
Multimedia Specialist

- Create, design and update division websites, including ADA compliance.
- Post upcoming events and awards to division web database.
- Design feature banners for division website.
- Layout Plant Sciences Quarterly Newsletter.
- Design division custom brochures, including graduate, undergraduate and travel brochures.
- Design and create print documents for division special projects. (ex. invitations, flyers, brochures, booklets, posters, etc.)

Kate works part-time for the Division of Plant Sciences. She also works as a part-time Multimedia Specialist for the Integrated Pest Management Program.

PLANT SCIENCES WEBSITE TO GET A FACE LIFT

As the college has recently launched a new look for their website the Division of Plant Sciences has been redesigning our pages to adopt this new look. We are shooting for a June 1 launch date. Because updating both the current site and the new site requires twice the work we have decided to stop all updates on the current site. The exceptions to this are the events and awards as both of these items are database driven. Any new changes will only be made to the new site and will be available when the site launches.

If you have a lab or program website that you would like redesigned to match the new division look we will take requests following the launch of the new site. These redesigns will be done on a first come first served basis.
UPCOMING FIELD DAYS

**Bobwhite Quail & Native Pollinator Field Day**
June 21, 2012
Bradford Research & Extension Center, Columbia, MO
http://aes.missouri.edu/bradford/events/quail2012.pdf

**Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center (HARC) Field Day**
June 30, 2012
Horticulture & Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin, MO

**Turf and Ornamental Field Day**
July 10, 2012
MU Turfgrass Research Center, Columbia, MO
http://turf.missouri.edu/events/

**IPM Field Day**
July 12, 2012
Bradford Research & Extension Center, Columbia, MO

**Greenley Field Day**
August 7, 2012
Greenley Memorial Research Center, Novelty, MO
http://aes.missouri.edu/greenley/fieldday/

**Graves-Chapple Field Day**
August 28, 2012
Graves-Chapple Farm, Rock Port, MO
http://aes.missouri.edu/graves/fieldday/

**Hundley-Whaley Field Day**
August 29, 2012
Hundley-Whaley Center, Albany, MO

**Fisher Delta Research Center Field Day**
August 31, 2012
Fisher Delta Research Center, Portageville, MO

Lawn-care Workshop to be held August 1, 2012

The 2nd Annual Lawn-care Workshop will be held on August 1st, 2012 at the Turfgrass Research Center, University South Farm. The program includes field plot demonstrations discussing various management options for control of weeds and diseases, followed by classroom presentations on various ‘hot’ topics such as how much and when to water your lawn. The registration cost is $30 per person and will be open soon.

**Annual Soybean Symposium held at University of Missouri**

The 8th Annual Soybean Biotechnology Symposium was held Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at the Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center. The one-day event, sponsored by the National Center for Soybean Biotechnology (NCSB), offered informational sessions for researchers and students from MU Life Sciences disciplines to discuss biotechnology and the future of the soybean industry. Approximately 40 research posters were presented. This gave students, post-docs, and research scientists an opportunity to gain visibility and to showcase their research.

Scott Jackson, Ph.D., and Thomas Carter, Jr., Ph.D. served as guest speakers. Jackson, Professor and Director of the Center for Applied Genetic Technologies at the University of Georgia, focused on soybean genetic research. The title of his talk was “Evolution and Function of the Soybean Genome.” Carter, Professor of Crop Science from North Carolina State University, focused on soybean breeding research. The title of his talk was “Taming the wild soybean via applied breeding – from exotic resource to workhorse.”

Two University of Missouri researchers were invited to give a talk on their current research projects. MU Research Scientist Trupti Joshi presented a seminar entitled, “Bridging the Gap between Soybean Translational Genomics and Breeding with SoyKB.” University of Missouri-St. Louis postdoctoral associate Geliang Wang spoke on, “Lipid Signaling in Nitrate Uptake and Assimilation in Soybean under Low Nitrogen Conditions.”

**IPG2012**

The 29th Annual Interdisciplinary Plant Group will be held May 23-25, 2012 at the University of Missouri and will provide a unique international forum to examine challenges and emerging paradigms in studies of plant physiology in the ‘omics era. Sessions will be organized around four major themes; Carbon, Nutrient Use Efficiency and Quality, Environment, and Development and the recent breakthroughs in these areas. Goals of the symposium include examination of the role of physiology in crop improvement, discussion of unresolved questions in plant physiology and how these fields can be advanced.
## Recent Grants

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<tr>
<th>Investigators</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Amount of Funding</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<td>Bailey, W.</td>
<td>Selection Intensity Tent Studies</td>
<td>Syngenta</td>
<td>$82,500</td>
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<td>Hibbard, B.</td>
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<td>McKendry, A.</td>
<td>Improving Barley and Wheat Germplasm for Changing Environments</td>
<td>University of California-Davis</td>
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<td>Miller, L.</td>
<td>Characterization and Management of Root-Infecting Pythium species in Bentgrass Putting Greens in the Midwest.</td>
<td>Environmental Institute for Golf</td>
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<td>5/01/2012-4/30/2015</td>
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<td>Nelson, K.</td>
<td>Evaluation of a New Nitrification Inhibitor for Anhydrous Application in Corn</td>
<td>Koch Agronomic Services</td>
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<td>Stacey, G.</td>
<td>Role of Extracellular ATP in Plant Growth and Development</td>
<td>Gyeongsang National University</td>
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<td>Xiong, X.</td>
<td>Testing a Promising Herbicide to Control Annual Bluegrass (Poa annua) in Creeping Bentgrass Putting Greens</td>
<td>US Golf Association</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
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Recent Publications


