1. **Message from Department Head**

**Two Plant Biologists featured on University Home Page**

Two weeks ago, people who accessed the University's home page saw two Plant Biology faculty featured in the UMNnews section. Jennifer Powers' work on Costa Rican dry land forests was and its implications for dynamics of carbon cycling was profiled by Stephanie Xenos (see [http://www1.umn.edu/umnnews/Feature_Stories/Carbon_count.html](http://www1.umn.edu/umnnews/Feature_Stories/Carbon_count.html)). A second article by Deane Morrison described a study on interactions between legumes and their nitrogen-fixing symbionts by Kate VandenBosch's lab, in collaboration with colleagues at MIT ([http://www1.umn.edu/umnnews/Feature_Stories/Infectious_enthusiasm.html](http://www1.umn.edu/umnnews/Feature_Stories/Infectious_enthusiasm.html)). Both stories are accessible in the web archive for UMNnews.

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2. **Phytograd & Plant Biological Sciences Graduate Program**

**PBS RETREAT**

Thursday, May 15th
8:30-4:30
Como Park and Conservatory
Bullard Rainforest Auditorium

Please email Gail Kalli at desha001@umn.edu if you wish to attend the retreat. Indicate the following:

Name:
Faculty’s lab:
Preference of Sandwich: Meat or Veggie
Need ride or can provide transportation:

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**Plant Biological Sciences Fellowship/Travel Grant due dates**

**Best Dissertation Award** – due date March 14, 2008

**PBS Exceptional Travel Awards for Professional/Career Development** – due date April 30, 2008.

**CFANS Fellowship** – due date May 12, 2008 - The CFANS Fellowship will provide support for a mid-program Ph.D. student for one semester. Eligible students must have passed the preliminary oral exam, completed 24 thesis credits and be in the one-credit status.

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3. **Achievements**

**Congratulations** to high school student Xin Li for making it to the finals of the State Science Fair, where she won a prize from General Mills and a bronze medal from the Fair for her project entitled "Characterization of sugar-response in Arabidopsis (Arabidopsis thaliana) mutants to engineer plants for higher soydiesel and soy protein production".

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4. **Calendar of Events**

Make plans to share your views at one of the three sessions on the future needs of agricultural research, education and Extension. Informa Economics is developing a strategic plan for agricultural research, Extension and education at the University of Minnesota and is holding three sessions meant specifically to gather ideas from University of Minnesota faculty, staff and students. The sessions are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>Room 365 Haecker Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Room 306 Borlaug Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Room 105 Cargill Bldg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To view the 2:00 pm session on April 17 via the Internet go to [https://umconnect.umn.edu/informaagstrategicstudylisteningsession/](https://umconnect.umn.edu/informaagstrategicstudylisteningsession/)

The Informa effort is coordinated by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the deans of CFANS, Extension and CVM.

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**Organizational Effectiveness** offers workshops to energize your career, enhance your personal or professional life, or improve your supervisory and leadership skills. Check out the current sessions below and visit the Web sites for information about upcoming opportunities.

**Career Resilience**
Wednesday, April 23
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
210 Donhowe
Is your work area going through changes that may impact your job? Times of internal change and transition can often
cause stress and uncertainty. Employee Career Services offers Career Resilience, a workshop designed to provide you with the tools you need to be proactive and effective - whether in your current job or in a future position. Participants will gain skills to identify options, explore resources, and make intentional choices about their job or career.
To register:
http://www.umn.edu/ohr/careerdev/workshops/index.html

**Leading Effective Meetings**
Tuesday, May 6
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
210 Donhowe
Do you spend a lot of time in meetings? Do you wonder how you can make the most of that time? This session will look at techniques to ensure time spent facilitating and participating in meetings is productive.
To register:
http://www.umn.edu/ohr/profdev/workshops.html#professional

**Employee Career Services**
Workshop topics include Improve Your Interview Skills, U of M Job Networking, Renewing Your WorkLife, and Career Foundations.
For complete course descriptions and to register:
http://www.umn.edu/ohr/careerdev/workshops/index.html

**Personal & Professional Development**
Training in the areas of professional skills, interpersonal skills, and customer service. Workshops include Presentation Skills (Public Speaking), Time Management, and Dealing with Difficult Behaviors in the Workplace.
For a complete course listing and to register:
http://www.umn.edu/ohr/profdev/workshops.html

**Supervisory Training**
A variety of workshops are available to expand your supervisory skills or enhance your leadership abilities.
Workshop topics include Delegating Effectively, Understanding Labor Relations at the U, Managing Hidden Disabilities, and much more! Leadership workshops include Keys to Supervision, Core Skills, and Situational Leadership.
For a complete course listing and to register:
http://www.umn.edu/ohr/supervisors/workshops/index.html

For more information, contact:
Organizational Effectiveness
Office of Human Resources
Phone: 612-626-0774
E-mail: orgeff@umn.edu

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**CBS Year-End Picnic**
Fun, Food, Music, and Prizes!!
Friday, May 9, 11:30 – 1:30 p.m.

On the front lawn of Snyder Hall and Gortner Labs

In order to participate in the day’s events you **MUST** register by May 2, 2008 at the following link:

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http://bass.cbs.umn.edu/hawk/form309
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Sponsored by CBS

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5. **Faculty Meetings/Messages**

**Faculty Messages**

This is a reminder that the April SR Help Workshop on Tuesday, April 15, will be on the web grading system and supporting processes.

Are your grading “ducks” in a row for spring semester grades? Come learn, listen and share as we look at all the “ducks” that go into the grading process. Topics will include: final and supplemental grade entry procedures from the One Stop page, course set up in ECS, grade roster generation, and important dates that affect grading.

The workshop is scheduled to run from 11am-12 noon, in B20 Fraser Hall. No prior registration is needed for these workshops.

Room B20 is not wheelchair accessible. If you need this accommodation please inform us and we will make alternative arrangements for the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact us at the Student Records Helpline (612-625-2803) or email us at srhelp@umn.edu.

**Faculty Meetings**

Please take note of the remaining Spring faculty meetings. They will be held in **Rm 257 BioSci**.

- Wednesday, April 30th: 3-4:30 p.m. - April Faculty Meeting.
- Wednesday, May 14th: 2-3:30 p.m. - May Faculty Meeting

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6. **Funding / Job opportunities / Seekers**

**Funding**

The National Research Council of the National Academies sponsors a number of awards for postdoctoral and senior researchers at federal laboratories. These awards provide generous stipends ($41,000 - $70,000 per year for recent Ph.D. recipients and higher for additional experience), and the opportunity to do independent research in some of the best-equipped and staffed laboratories in the country.

Detailed program information, including instructions on how to apply online, and a list of participating laboratories, is available on the NRC Research Associateship Programs Web site at:
Questions should be directed to the NRC at 202-334-2760 (phone) or rap@nas.edu.

There will be four review cycles annually. Upcoming deadline dates are:

May 1, 2008
August 1, 2008
November 1, 2008
February 1, 2009

Applicants should begin a dialog with prospective Advisers at the lab as early as possible, before their anticipated application deadline.

7. Seminars & Symposiums

**Plant Biological Sciences Spring Colloquium Seminar Series**

Tuesdays @ 3:30 p.m. | Location: 335 Borlaug Hall, St. Paul Campus
(location & time firm, unless noted otherwise)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>MPGI Seminar</td>
<td>Dr. Marilyn Roossinck</td>
<td>Nobel Institute – Oklahoma</td>
<td>105 Cargill Bldg</td>
<td>Three-way symbiosis of fungus, virus, plant adapting plant to temperature extremes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>MPGI Seminar</td>
<td>Dr. Nancy Keller</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin</td>
<td>105 Cargill Bldg</td>
<td>The LaeA complex regulates development, secondary metabolism and virulence in Aspergillus spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Tom Givnish</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin</td>
<td>105 Cargill Bldg</td>
<td>Origin, adaptive radiation, and conservation of plant biodiversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>MPGI Seminar</td>
<td>Dr. Leah Cowen</td>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
<td>105 Cargill Bldg</td>
<td>Cellular Stress, Signaling, and Evolution: Hsp90’s Role in Fungal Drug Resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>This is a Thursday</td>
<td>Dr. David Weiss</td>
<td>The Hebrew University of Jerusalem</td>
<td></td>
<td>O-GlcNAcylation and hormone signaling in Arabidopsis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>MPGI &amp; BBE Seminar</td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Watkinson</td>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fungal networks, nitrogen metabolism and wood decay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MPGI Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, April 15 at 3:30 p.m.**

**Spring Seminar Series**

Seminar Room 105, Cargill Building
St. Paul Campus
Dr. Marilyn Roossinck  
Noble Foundation, Plant Biology Division  
"RNA viruses in symbiosis and symbiogenesis"

**Monday, April 21 at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Spring Seminar Series**  
Seminar Room 105, Cargill Building  
St. Paul Campus  
**Dr. Nancy Keller**  
University of Wisconsin - Madison, Plant Pathology Department  
"The LaeA complex regulates development, secondary metabolism and virulence and Aspergillus spp."

**Wednesday, April 23 at Noon**  
**Spring Colloquia: Bioenergy and Biofuels**  
Seminar Room 105, Cargill Building  
St. Paul Campus  
**Dr. Doug Tiffany**, Applied Economics Department  
"Profitable use of biomass at fuel ethanol plants"  
**Dr. Sue Gibson**, Plant Biology Department  
"Genetic manipulation of carbon partitioning in plants"

**Wednesday, April 23 at 2:30 p.m.**  
**National Academy of Sciences Lecture**  
Seminar Room 105, Cargill Building  
St. Paul Campus  
**Dr. Hugo Dooner**  
Rutgers University, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology  
"Genome structure variation and meiotic recombination in maize"

**Tuesday, April 29 at 3:30 p.m.**  
**Spring Seminar Series**  
Seminar Room 105, Cargill Building  
St. Paul Campus  
**Dr. Leah Cowen**  
University of Toronto, Department of Medical Genetics and Microbiology  
"Cellular Stress, Signaling, and Evolution: Hsp90's Role in Fungal Drug Resistance"

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University of Minnesota Sixth Annual  
William E. Larson and Raymond R. Allmaras  
Emerging Issues in Soil and Water Lectures

April 16, 2008  
2:00-4:30 PM  
335 Borlaug Hall  
University of Minnesota

**Mr. Robin O’Malley**  
Program Director  
Environmental Reporting Program The Heinz Center  
Washington, DC  
“An Environmental Information System for the 21st Century”
Dr. Bob A. Stewart
Director, Dryland Agriculture Institute, and Distinguished Professor of Soil Science,
West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas.
“National Indicators of Changes in Soil Quality”

For more information, please contact Dr. Satish Gupta, sgupta@umn.edu, 612-625-1241

8. Announcements

Payroll Change—Communication

To: St. Paul Cluster Supervisors
From: CBS Human Resources
Re: Payroll Process Change

To All Supervisors of Hourly Employees:

A new payroll process is emerging along with the changes resulting from the implementation of the Enterprise Financial System (EFS). Beginning with the pay period ending April 13th, 2008, all timesheets will be processed by our St. Paul Human Resources Cluster Team. All timesheets should be routed to Nicole Matteson, 124 Snyder Hall, Delivery Code: 6174. Timesheets can also be faxed to 612-624-2785, and originals should then be sent via campus mail.

Due to the increased number of timesheets that will be processed by our St. Paul team, it is very important that the timesheets be received on time and complete. **The deadline for timesheets is 4:30 p.m. on the Tuesday following the end of a pay period to be guaranteed for processing the following pay day.**

Any timesheets received after 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays will not be guaranteed processing and will be entered in the order they are received. If timesheets are not entered for the current pay period, they will be held and entered during the next regular payroll cycle. Off-cycle checks will not be issued for late timesheets.

Timesheets must include the following information to be processed:

- Employee Name
- Employee ID
- Employee Signature
- Supervisor Signature
- Correct account for Payroll expense

**Incomplete timesheets will be returned to the student and not processed until completed.**

Supervisors: Please ensure that the timesheets you are signing include the employees name, ID and signature. Also, verify that the employee has correctly recorded their hours.

All hours should be rounded to the nearest quarter hour per the CBS Timesheet Policy.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Matteson at 612-626-5455 or by email at matteson@umn.edu
Upon discovery of lost keys, please notify Central Security via email (cardkey@umn.edu) or phone (625-9152). Please report the following information:

* Key number
* Copy Number
* Date of misplacement
* Key Purpose (what doors it opens)

When keys are stolen, you will need to contact the Police Department (624-COPS) to file a police report /and/ Central Security. Contact Central Security for record management and we will mark the key as "stolen" and notify you of re-keying options and procedures.

If you happen to find keys, please send them immediately to Central Security so we may locate the rightful owners.
For any further questions about University key policies or practices, you can reference Central Security's website at www.umn.edu/dcs or contact me at 625-9152.

9. Miscellaneous

DOCTORAL DEGREES GRANTED THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA
International PhD Program in molecular life sciences

English is the working language, competitive stipends are provided.
NEUROSCIENCE
EPIGENETICS
PLANT BIOLOGY
BIOCHEMISTRY & CELL BIOLOGY
IMMUNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT & DISEASE
STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY
RNA BIOLOGY

Application forms and further details available at: http://www.univie.ac.at/vbc/PhD
Apply by May 18th 2008

Editor: Patrice Myers
Please contact Patrice Myers via email (pmyers@umn.edu) or call 612-625-1234 if you would like to receive a paper copy or would like to be added to our email list.