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What’s New in Plant Biology:

**George Weiblen works with local tribes on Rainforest conservation in Papua New Guinea**
George Weiblen, a Plant Biology Faculty member, has been documenting biodiversity in the rainforests of Papua New Guinea for 15 years. Click [here](#) to read an article published in the MNDaily about Dr. Weiblen and his efforts in Papua New Guinea.

**Peter Fairbanks has joined the Plant Biology Administrative Team**
Peter Fairbanks is our newest team member and will be filling the position of Accountant I. He comes to us from the Ecology, Evolution & Behavior department and is currently part time in both departments until EEB can find his replacement.

He is located in Rm 258 BioSci, in what used to be known as the copier room. Please stop by and introduce yourself to him when you have a chance!

Achievements:

**Dr. Min Ni** was awarded an NSF grant entitled, "Function of HRBs and interaction of HRB1 with PP7 in blue light-mediated stomatal opening". It started on May 1, 2009, and is $107,860 total for one year.

He was also awarded an NSF grant entitled "SHB1 regulates seed development in Arabidopsis". It started on August 1, 2009, and is $459,053 total for three years.

**Dr. Fumiaki Katagiri** was awarded an NSF grant together with co-PI Chad Myers (Dept of Computer Science and Engineering). It is entitled, "Mathematical Modeling of the Arabidopsis Defense Signaling Network," and started on Aug 1, 2009. It is $755,159 total for three years. Plants use a complex signaling network to coordinate expression of a large number of defense mechanisms in response to pathogen attack. Due to the complexity of interactions among the network sectors, it has been difficult to quantitate effects of the sectors and their interactions. We found that simultaneous multiple sector knockouts are a powerful tool for this purpose. We will combine the multiple sector knockout approach with highly parallel network state descriptions through the time. Using obtained information, we will build a computer model that simulates the signaling events in Arabidopsis during pathogen infection. Such a computer model will be a variable tool in optimizing the behavior of the plant immune system.

**Dr. George Weiblen** was awarded "Beta diversity of plant-insect food webs along an altitudinal gradient in the tropics" $625,000 through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

Plant-insect food webs are a major component of Earth’s biodiversity but little is known about the interconnected webs of tropical rain forests because they are more difficult to study than simpler ecosystems. Weiblen’s previous research tested the feeding habits of insect pests attacking ~250 species of lowland tropical forest trees in New Guinea. The new funding will examine forests at higher elevations where predictions about the plant-insect food webs can be evaluated.

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Recent Publications:

**Robert Brambl Lab:**

**David McLaughlin Lab:**


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Calendar of Events:

**Itasca On-Campus Celebration**
Monday, November 9, 2009
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Cargill Building, Room 105

The Dean’s Office is bringing a little bit of Itasca to the Twin Cities to culminate our year-long celebration of the field station’s 100th birthday.

The program will feature a presentation about the Minnesota Mississippi Metagenome Project (M3P), a new research effort to characterize the microbial diversity at the headwaters of the Mississippi and use it to evaluate human impact along the river. M3P recently received $400,000 in federal stimulus funds.

RSVP to Katie Hoffman at: hoff0530@umn.edu

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Job Opportunities:

**Assistant Professor of Plant Biochemistry**
Department of Horticulture and Crop Science
Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Program
Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center

**Position Announcement**

The Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at The Ohio State University, in conjunction with the Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (PMBB) Program, invites applications for a Plant Biochemist. This is a tenure-track, Assistant Professor-level, 9-month, 90:10 research, teaching appointment. The Plant Biochemist will: 1) develop an interdisciplinary, extramurally-funded program focused on fundamental processes related to bioenergy or bioproducts, 2) conduct research that increases our understanding of the biochemistry underlying plant-based compounds and 3) develop a course that focuses on an area of their expertise.

This position is one of several comprising the Translational Plant Sciences emphasis within the PMBB program funded by the Targeted Investment in Excellence initiative. Applicants who integrate modern approaches from biochemistry and chemistry with genomics, metabolomics, molecular biology, and biotechnology are preferred. Applicants whose research interests will enhance fuel, food, human health or environmental quality are particularly encouraged to apply.
Based at the OSU Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, Ohio, the successful candidate will have the opportunity to collaborate with faculty in multidisciplinary programs, centers and academic departments of OSU and nearby institutions. Extensive interaction with the future eminent scholar hire in Plant Biochemistry is anticipated. A newly-renovated laboratory space and competitive start-up funds are available.

A Ph.D. in biochemistry, plant physiology, chemistry or other relevant discipline is required. Strong research experience including postdoctoral experience in a contemporary area of the plant sciences, an excellent publication record, and grantsmanship are expected.

Additional details on the position are available at http://hcs.osu.edu. The search committee will start reviewing applicants on November 1, 2009 and will continue until a suitable applicant is found. Please submit a curriculum vitae, a maximum two-page statement of research plans and a maximum one page description of teaching experience and goals to Dr. John Finer, Search Committee Chair, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University, OARDC, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio 44691-4096, preferably by e-mail (finer.1@osu.edu). Candidates should also arrange to have three reference letters sent directly via email to the Search Committee Chair.

To build a diverse workforce Ohio State encourages applications from individuals with disabilities, minorities, veterans, and women. EEO/AA employer

Departments of Plant Cellular & Molecular Biology & Molecular Genetics & the Plant Molecular Biology/Biotechnology Program

The merging Departments of Plant Cellular & Molecular Biology and Molecular Genetics at The Ohio State University, in conjunction with the interdisciplinary Plant Molecular Biology/Biotechnology (PMBB) program, invite applications for a full-time, tenure-track faculty position. Appointment at the Assistant Professor level is preferred, but outstanding candidates at senior levels will also be considered. This position is part of a new campus-wide Targeted Investment in Excellence initiative awarded to the PMBB Program in Translational Plant Sciences. Successful applicants are expected to develop an outstanding research program and to participate in teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Applicants with expertise in any areas of plant molecular, cellular, biochemical, developmental, genomics and systems biology are encouraged to apply. Research programs addressing fundamental problems of bioenergy, bioproducts, carbon sequestration or plant-microbe interactions are of particular interest.

Plant science is an expanding area of research at the university (see other plant-related positions at http://hcs.osu.edu/index.php/useful-links/news-stories/front-page/143-assistant-professor-of-plant-biochemistry and http://orsp.osu.edu/). Departmental faculty members also participate in numerous campus-wide programs, centers and focus groups that include PMBB, the Plant Biotechnology Center, the Molecular Plant-Microbe Interaction Group, the Cell Biology Group, the Developmental Genetics Group, the Center for RNA Biology, the Institute for Energy and the Environment, the Mathematical Biosciences Institute and the Arabidopsis Biological Resource Center.

The Ohio State University is the flagship institution of the higher education system in Ohio. It is located in Columbus, the state capital, which is a vibrant large city that has been continuously ranked as one of the country's best places to live and work. Further information about the departments, PMBB, the university and Columbus can be obtained at http://www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/~plantbio/plantbio.html (Plant Cellular & Molecular Biology), http://www.osumolgen.org (Molecular Genetics) and http://www.ag.osu.edu/~pmbb/ (PMBB). Flexible work options are available.

Candidates with a Ph.D. and suitable postdoctoral experience should submit applications including curriculum vitae, a 3 page or less research plan and a brief description of teaching experience and interests. Candidates for consideration at the Assistant Professor level should also arrange to have at least 3 reference letters submitted. Electronic applications and reference letters to pbsearch@biosci.osu.edu are preferred, but paper copies may also be sent to Search Committee Chair, Dept. of Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology, Ohio State University, 500 Aronoff Laboratory, 318 West 12th Ave., Columbus, OH 43210-1242. Review of applications will begin November 15, 2009 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

To build a diverse workforce Ohio State encourages applications from individuals with disabilities, minorities, veterans, and women. EEO/AA Employer. Ohio State is an NSF Advance institution.

Biology Instructor

St. Olaf requests applications for an instructor in Biology to teach Evolution and Diversity Course (Biology 126) in Spring, 2010.
In this core course, students study the mechanisms of evolution, the evolutionary history of biological diversity, and the diversity of life. The structure and function of organisms are compared within an ecological/evolutionary context. Key adaptations to survival are examined among organisms from bacteria and protists to plants, fungi, and animals. Labs investigate population genetics, phylogeny, form, and behavior of selected organisms and provide experience in experimental design and scientific writing. Students attend lectures plus one 2.5-hour laboratory per week.

Applicants should have completed their PhD (or be close). Applicants should send a cover letter, CV, graduate and undergraduate transcripts and names of three references to

Charles E. Umbanhowar Jr.
Biology Chair
Regents Hall
St. Olaf College
1520 Saint Olaf Ave
Northfield, MN 55057.
ceumb@stolaf.edu

Review of applications will begin November 5.

A liberal arts college affiliated with the Lutheran Church (ELCA), St. Olaf College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and actively seeks diversity in its students, faculty and staff. The college is especially interested in qualified candidates who can contribute to the diversity of our community through their teaching, research, and/or service.

Adjunct Instructor in Plant Physiology
The Department of Biology at St. Catherine University seeks an adjunct instructor for Plant Physiology and Biochemistry, Winter semester 2010. The course runs from February 1 to May 21. Lecture meets from 8:00 am to 9:40 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lab sections are Thursdays 1:30 to 4:30 pm. Doctoral degree and demonstrated excellence in teaching at the undergraduate level are preferred.

Send letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and names of three references to:
Dr. John Pellegrini, Mail # 4191
Department of Biology
St. Catherine University
2004 Randolph Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

Position will remain open until filled. If you have questions about this position, please contact John Pellegrini: jjpellegrini@stkate.edu or 651-690-6628.

The course description follows...

BIOL 3450
PLANT PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY (P) (4 cr.)
This class offers an in-depth look into how plants function. You will gain insight into plant metabolism and biochemistry relating to growth, development and responses to the environment. Three class and three laboratory hours per week. Offered in alternate years with BIOL 3100. Prerequisites: BIOL 1220, 2800, 2900.

Faculty Position in Bioinformatics
The University of North Texas (UNT) seeks candidates for a position in Bioinformatics at the rank of tenure-track Assistant Professor. Candidates will be expected to develop an identifiable research program, obtain extramural funding, and support instructional needs at the graduate and undergraduate levels. The position is anticipated to be a joint appointment between Biological Sciences, Computer Science and Engineering, or Mathematics, depending upon the candidate’s areas of
The successful candidate will be an integral part of two UNT research cluster initiatives to build expertise in two areas: “Plant Signaling Mechanisms” and “Developmental Physiology and Genetics”. The new faculty member will interact with current faculty in life sciences, mathematics and computer sciences as well as other scientists at UNT focused on modeling and computational sciences such as those in the Center for Advanced Scientific Computing and Modeling (CASCaM). Candidates must have a Ph.D. in Bioinformatics, Computer Science, Mathematics, Life Sciences, or a related discipline, have postdoctoral experience and evidence of scholarship in Bioinformatics, and effective communication skills. Teaching experience is preferred. Preference will also be given to applicants who have expertise with systems approaches to biological questions and may include expertise in pattern recognition, statistical methods, database development and user interfaces in the analysis and handling of large genetic and metabolite data sets. Competitive start-up funds and salary are available.

Applicants must apply online at: http://facultyjobs.unt.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=50543. Upload a cover letter with qualifications and research interests, c.v., 2-3 representative publications, teaching statement, and names/contact information of 3 references. Inquiries may be directed to: Dr. Rebecca Dickstein, Bioinformatics Search Committee Chair at beccad@unt.edu. Applications will be reviewed beginning November 1, 2009, and continue until the search is closed. UNT is the largest and most comprehensive university in the north Texas region with 96 bachelor's, 111 masters and 50 doctoral degree programs.

It is the fourth largest university in Texas, with over 36,000 students. UNT is located in Denton in the vibrant and rapidly expanding Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area with easy access to DFW airport. For further information about the “Plant Signaling Mechanisms” and “Developmental Physiology and Genetics” research cluster initiatives, see http://www.biol.unt.edu/.

UNT is an AA/ADA/EOE.

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**Faculty Position in Life Science or Biotechnology**

*Jeju National University [formerly Cheju National University],
Jeju, Republic of Korea*


As part of national efforts to globalization Korea’s universities, Jeju National University is seeking an English-speaking faculty member to teach classes and conduct research with students.

**Position:** Immediately open, tenure track (long term appointment minimally 5 years or longer), rank open, life science and/or biotechnology

**Stipends:** Negotiable depends on experience and records of achievements. The current JNU pay scale ranges from approximately 45,000 (at a beginning assistant professor) to 100,000 dollars.

**Housing:** The University will provide an on-campus flat unit free of a rent for the first two years of appointment.

Please send your application (letter describing your teaching and research expertise, CV, names and e-mail addresses of three references) to:
Vice President for Planning Hyo-Yeon Lee (hyoyeon@jejunu.ac.kr) or to Professor Pill-Soon Song (pssong@gmail.com). The university is an equal opportunity employer regardless of applicant’s gender, ethnicity, and age.

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**Miscellaneous Tidbits:**

**Honey from Washington County for sale**

$4.00 per pint which equals 1.4 pounds

$7.00 per quart which equals 2.8 pounds.

Contact Carroll Vance: vance004@umn.edu
Autoclave Needs in Plant Biology
As of July 1, 2009, if you have autoclave needs please continue to contact the FM Call Center at 612-624-2900. Customers may also contact Steris directly at 1-800-333-8828. For all service requests, you must include the autoclave number requiring service (i.e. 374-ACLV03). This identifying number should be listed on a red equipment tag placed on each autoclave.

The Twin Cities based Steris Service Manager Michael McNulty can also be reached at 651-755-2631.

Editor: Patrice Myers (pmyers@umn.edu)