Dispersal Notes
Spring 2016 Semester Newsletter
Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology
Iowa State University

- Soybean cyst nematode, *Heterodera glycines*, second-stage juveniles. Photo: Augustine Beeman
- Foliar symptoms from soybean sudden death syndrome caused by *Fusarium virguliforme*. Photo: Daniel Sjarpe
- Root symptoms and signs from soybean sudden death syndrome, caused by *Fusarium virguliforme*. Photo: Daniel Sjarpe
- Sclerotinia turcica, northern corn leaf blight fungus. Photo: Mercy Kabahuma
- Soybean cyst nematode, *Heterodera glycines*, female inside of a stained root. Photo: Jared Jensen
- Raffaelea lauricola, the laurel wilt fungus. Photo: Caroline Wuest
- A greenhouse experiment testing the effects of different cover crops on *Heterodera glycines*, the soybean cyst nematode. Photo: Chelsea Harbach
- A greenhouse experiment testing the effects of different cover crops on *Fusarium virguliforme*, causal pathogen of soybean sudden death syndrome. Photo: Renan Kobayashi-Leonel
- Symptoms caused by soybean vein necrosis virus. Photo: Melissa Irizarry
- Sphaeroopsis blight caused by *Sphaeroopsis sapinea*. Photo: Edward Zaworski
- Ear rot caused by *Fusarium temperatum* infection of corn-borer damaged ear. Photo: Gary Munkvold
- Soybean cyst nematode, *Heterodera glycines*, second-stage juveniles. Photo: Augustine Beeman
- An apple showing symptoms and signs from sooty blotch and flyspeck fungus. Photo: Hafizi Rosli
- Symptoms caused by soybean sudden death syndrome caused by *Fusarium virguliforme*. Photo: Daniel Sjarpe
- Setosphaeria turcica, northern corn leaf blight fungus. Photo: Daniel Sjarpe
The purpose of the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology's newsletter ‘Dispersal Notes’ is to keep department members, alumni, prospective students, industry, other universities and the public aware of the happenings of the department. Many thanks to the Zirakparvar family for providing funds for this project. Additional thanks to Dr. John Hill and Jared Jensen for edits and feedback. I hope you enjoy the newsletter. Please send any news items or feedback to me through email (aqbeeman@iastate.edu). I hope you enjoy the newsletter!

-Augustine Beeman, Newsletter Editor
Message from the Department Chair

Dear Friends and Alumni!

Spring semester has ended – classes are done, exams are graded, grades have been submitted and ISU had its undergraduate commencement in Jack Trice Stadium to accommodate the large number of graduates and their families. Fortunately, the weather played along and the event was a success.

But I don’t need to tell you that this does not mean the busy time is up for a department as diverse and vibrant as ours. Fields need to be planted, grant applications written and submitted, papers need to be published, extension work never rests, etc. etc. These are busy and stressful times, but they are good times. The department is humming along, firing on all cylinders, and I think we all can proudly say ‘as usual’.

We began this semester by welcoming two new faculty members with Drs. Nancy Boury and Nicholas Peters. Both have exceptional backgrounds in the teaching of microbiology and both will build their research careers on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). We are proud as a department to expand our professional portfolio by adding SoTL as a major research emphasis, which will tremendously advance the learning experience of our students and will guide the continuous evolution of our department.

We ended this semester with another major personnel development, this one more bittersweet: Ed Braun is retiring after almost 39 years of being a fixture in our department. A tireless contributor to our research and teaching mission as well as having served as department chair, Ed will be dearly missed by all. Fortunately, Ed is embracing a prominent role as Emeritus Professor and we will have the luxury of him ‘being around’; a comforting thought for us all.

In between these two major personnel changes, it was business as usual, with the exception that there was a big fence built around Bessey Hall and that people with heavy equipment started digging up space to the north and east of our professional home. ‘Why?’ - because the Biosciences Building Initiative has moved from a virtual planning phase to a very real implementation.

There currently is a very large hole to the east of Bessey Hall, and in the next months a Bessey Addition will slowly rise skywards. Even more exciting for our department, at the same time an even larger hole is now holding the foundations for the Advanced Teaching and Research Building (ATRB), the future home of the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology. Visit the ATRB Webcam from time to time to follow the building progress. Our move-in date is projected to be mid-2018. You may remember that the ATRB will be located across the road from the horse barn at the corner of Stange Road and Pammel Drive and will be a state-of-the-art five-story teaching and research building with a greenhouse complex on its roof. Almost the complete Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology will make the ATRB its new home together with a number of faculty from the Entomology Department and the Genetics, Development and Cell Biology Department.
Our departmental front office as well as a dedicated plant pathology teaching lab and other teaching infrastructure and a beautiful atrium will be on the ground floor, while the above-ground floors will house a sizable suite for our Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic (PIDC) as well as prime research space that will elevate our research enterprise to a new level.

I close by wishing you all a wonderful summer and I hope you will enjoy this newsletter. I encourage you to provide us with your feedback; we are always excited to hear from the ever-expanding PLPM family around the globe. Please also join me in thanking Mary and Esmail Zirakparvar for their endowment gift that allows us to provide you with this newsletter as well as our monthly news flyers. If you wanted to support the department as well, we have taken the liberty of including gifting directions towards the end of this newsletter.

Our department is a truly special place and I am deeply grateful to have the opportunity to serve as your department chair.

- Thomas Baum, PLPM Department Chair
**Iowa Soybean Association Donates $500,000 to Biosciences Initiative**

In January the Iowa Soybean Association announced its intention to donate $500,000 towards Iowa State’s biosciences initiative. This money will go towards the development of the new Advanced Teaching and Research Building (ATRB). The Iowa Soybean Association has invested over $50 million over the years in checkoff dollars to Iowa State research. The donation was recognized during the Iowa State vs. Kansas basketball game on January 25th.

**Update on the ISU Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic**

The Plant & Insect Diagnostic Clinic (PIDC) provides plant and household pest diagnostic services and integrated pest management information and resources (IPM) to Iowans and we support diagnostics across Extension and Outreach. We are also Iowa’s public National Plant Diagnostic Network laboratory and work with other state agencies to diagnose and educate Iowa’s about the importance of accurate diagnostics as well as quickly identifying new and emerging disease and insect pests.

In 2015 PIDC diagnosticians Ed Zaworski, Dr. Lina Rodriguez Salamanca and Dr. Laura Jesse diagnosed over 1,500 physical samples and over 1,400 phone calls and emails from farmers, professional service providers and homeowners. The PIDC works with our clients to diagnose their plant problems and devise an appropriate management strategy. In addition we contacted almost 4,000 people through presentations and workshops.

**Roger Wise elected Fellow of AAAS**

Dr. Roger Wise, professor in the PLPM department, was recently elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and was honored on February 13th in Washington D.C. (pictured right). He was named a fellow for his “distinguished research and leadership to the field of the genomics of disease interactions in cereal crops, technology development and outreach to young scientists”.

**Greg Tylka awarded NSF grant as co-PI to develop instruments to extract and quantify plant-parasitic nematodes**

Dr. Greg Tylka, professor in the PLPM department, and Dr. Santosh Pandey, associate professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering department, were recently awarded a 3-year, $587,248 National Science Foundation grant to develop automated instruments that can extract and quantify nematodes and nematode eggs from soil samples. Currently, nematode extraction from soil is a time- and labor-intensive process. In addition to nematodes, the instruments developed in this project may also be able to quantify large fungal spores, like those from mycorrhizal fungi, and weed seeds in the future. The project also aims to develop smartphone-based software that could be used to count different life stages of nematodes. More information can be found here.

**Gary Munkvold co-edits corn disease compendium**

Dr. Gary Munkvold, professor in the PLPM department, recently co-edited with Donald G. White the fourth edition of The Compendium of Corn Diseases, a best selling title from APS Press. It can be found here. The compendium has been a best-selling title for the American Phytopathological Society Press.
Extension Faculty Activity Updates

Drs. Alison Robertson and Daren Mueller had a busy spring on the road for annual ISUEO Crop Advantage Series and spoke to more than 2,000 farmers at 13 locations across Iowa. They primarily talked with farmers about northern corn leaf blight, sudden death syndrome and white mold of soybeans, which were prevalent in Iowa during the 2015 growing season. They shared data from their multi location trials and discussed management of these diseases using foliar fungicides (Northern Corn Leaf Blight and White Mold) and seed treatments (Sudden Death Syndrome). They were also invited to speak at several industry-sponsored events. In early March, Dr. Mueller spent 3 days at Commodity Classic with extension faculty from other universities and discussed research funded by soybean check-off with conference attendees. Both faculty members were invited to talk at the Southern Soybean Disease Workers meeting in Florida. Dr. Robertson’s talk was titled “Frontline tactics to manage Phytophthora root rot” and Dr. Mueller spoke on “Integrated Management of Sudden Death Syndrome.”

Beattie and others launch Phytobiomes Roadmap in Washington D.C.

In February, Dr. Gwyn Beattie and others on the Phytobiomes team spent a week on Capitol Hill and around Washington, D.C. promoting a “systems approach to agriculture in the 21st century”. The Phytobiomes Roadmap consists of different groups in academia, industry and government. The press release can be found here.

Nancy Boury Advanced Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

In April, Dr. Nancy Boury, a new assistant professor in the plant pathology department, was accepted into the Biology Scholars Residency. Upon acceptance to this competitive program, the Scholars complete a five month research residency to translate data into published results for the scholarship of teaching and learning in the biosciences. Boury was also accepted to the SUNY Buffalo Case Studies and Flipped Classroom Workshop, where she will be producing short videos of a flipped classroom. Examples of videos produced by this workshop can be found here.

PLPM Staff Appreciation Lunch on April 27th

Roger Wise, Antony Chapman, and Matt Hunt presented research at the Plant & Animal Genome XXVI conference January 9 – 13, San Diego, CA. Roger presented a short talk “Connecting Genotype to Phenotype in 7-12 Classrooms with iTAG Barley” in the Teaching Genetics, Genomics, Biotechnology, and Bioinformatics Workshop. Antony and Matt presented posters “P0911, Required for Mla Resistance 3, a New Player in Barley Powdery Mildew Resistance?” and “P0046, miRNA Discovery in Barley (Hordeum vulgare L.) and the Powdery Mildew Pathogen, Blumeria graminis”, respectively.

New Social Media Accounts for ISU PLPM Department

By: Jared Jensen

We’ve gone social, and you should too!

Over the last year we have revamped our online presence with a new and expanded website and regularly updated social media platforms. Through these mediums, we are able to spread our information into the far reaches of the internet. On our website you’ll find our department calendar, research updates, plant disease information, expanded news stories, and our newsletter archives. To get an expanded view of our department, we invite you to follow on social media to see the most current news, research updates, and disease information in real time. Want to get interactive? Share your stories with us by using #IAPlantDrs (Twitter or Facebook) or tweeting us @PlantPathISU (Twitter).
I am finishing my 39th year at Iowa State and I have to tell you, it really doesn’t seem like it has been that long… To put that in perspective, when I started at ISU personal computers on every desktop were still several years in the future. The main office had a ditto machine and a mimeograph machine, but no photocopy machine. Phones were not “smart” and many of them still had dials!! (How in the world would you be able to text??!!) By my count I think I have taught PL P 408 about 75 times, attended several hundred curriculum committee meetings, etc., etc. But those are not the things I think about when I look back on my time in the Department of Plant Pathology & Microbiology (aka- Dept. of Plant Pathology, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Seed, and Weed Science, Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology). Mostly, I think about the great people that I have had the good fortune to work with.

We have a really outstanding group of faculty, scientific and office staff, postdocs, and students. I think all to often we take that for granted. Like any organization, we have had our challenges and bumps in the road, but what stands out overall is an incredible record of productivity, mutual respect and teamwork, and commitment to the continued growth and excellence of our department and profession. I was fortunate to serve as the department chair for several years. That position provides a unique perspective in which you really get a detailed view of the many activities that department personnel are involved in. I was consistently impressed (and oftentimes astonished) at the hard work, dedication, and talent shown by our faculty, staff, and students. People working very hard, but usually willing to take on some additional task that needed their attention. World-class researchers stepping up to volunteer to teach courses that we needed to staff. I could go on and on… Another thing I came to appreciate during my time as department chair was that the positive interpersonal chemistry that was the norm in our department was missing in some other units. We need to appreciate that and keep working to maintain it.

It has been very gratifying to see the evolution of the department over the last few decades. We have been extremely productive in our research and extension activities, expanded our teaching programs, and provided professional services to our profession, the university and the state of Iowa. I think that changing our department name and broadening our focus to include microbiology has put us in a good position to continue growing and evolving in the future. Thanks to all of you for making this a really wonderful place to work.
In January, Dr. Nancy Boury joined the ISU PLPM faculty as an assistant professor. Dr. Boury, along with Dr. Nicholas Peters (see next page) works in the field of scholarship of teaching and learning. Dr. Boury kindly wrote a few paragraphs (below) about her background for the newsletter.

I’m a generalist in multiple contexts. I’ve trained in chemistry and biology (undergrad), medical microbiology and immunology (MS), and molecular/cellular biology (PhD). I’ve been teaching general biology, general genetics and general microbiology for several years. My research revolves around improving teaching and learning methods. I’m particularly interested in the effects of mindset, metacognition training, communication skills, and the Dunning-Kruger effect on student learning and science literacy. The root question I’d like to answer is “How can we best convert students into scholars and scientifically literate life-long learners?” Part of this research is finding or creating assessment tools that reliably measure student learning gains in specific areas. Another component of both teaching and research includes writing and using case studies as a method to teach basic concepts in applied situations. I’m happy to work with people in the department on developing both defined learning outcomes and assessment plans as part of teaching or broader impacts for grant proposals.

I’m married and live in Ankeny with my husband and two teenage daughters. My hobbies include knitting and various needlecrafts, gardening, reading and family time.

Photos from PLPM seminars

Xavier Phillips presenting his M.S. research, titled “Green stem disorder of soybean and the effect of fungicide applications, sink removal, and cultivar”. Photo: Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca.

Dr. Manjula Elmore presenting her postdoc research, titled “Host-induced gene silencing in the obligately biotrophic downy mildew pathogen Bremia lactucae”. Photo: Jared Jesen.

Dr. Damon Smith (left), assistant professor at University of Wisconsin, presenting his research, titled “Using new research results to improve the integrated management of Sclerotinia rot of soybean”. Photo: Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca.

Dr. Amanda Gevens, associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, presenting her research, titled “Essential partnership of research and extension in effective late blight management”. Photo: Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca.
Nicholas Peters joins PLPM department

In January, Dr. Nicholas Peters joined the ISU PLPM faculty as an assistant professor. Dr. Peters works in the field of scholarship of teaching and learning, and will teaching courses in plant pathology and microbiology. Dr. Peters kindly wrote a few paragraphs (below) about his background for the newsletter.

I grew up in a relatively rural part of Southwest Ohio, north of Cincinnati. I spent a large portion of my youth collecting insects and other small organisms, saving them in a menagerie of old peanut butter jars. It wasn’t until high school though that I recognized I wanted to spend my life in science. Learning about the work of Gregor Mendel in a 10th grade biology class proved to be a pivotal moment in my life. The simple yet powerful experiments he conducted helped me understand life and the world around me in a new way. Evolution and diversity made logical sense and prompted me to study zoology at Miami University. As an undergraduate and master’s student I studied RNA editing in *Drosophila*, trying to understand if convergent transcripts could be natural substrates for RNAi.

I decided to travel west for my PhD, and moved to Salt Lake City in the summer of 2003. During my laboratory rotations I studied mitosis in frogs, mRNA transcript diversity in mice, membrane transport proteins in higher plants, and polarity establishment in brown algae. I chose brown algae and spent the next handful of years utilizing chemical genetics and confocal microscopy to understand the role of the cytoskeleton in polar axis formation.

During this time and as luck would have it, the University of Utah organized its campus in such a way that some of the science buildings were right next door to the theatre buildings. One day, while walking to a weekly seminar, and not paying enough attention, I literally bumped into a theatre student walking to class. After much convincing she agreed to go on a date with me and we have been together ever since.

Towards the end of my graduate studies I had the opportunity to spend a summer conducting research at a marine biology station in Roscoff, France. While the experience was wonderful, the funding prospects for continuing algal research were fairly limited, so I began exploring my postdoc options more broadly. During this time, I attended a seminar about cell division in *E. coli* and the importance of the bacterial cytoskeleton. I found the research to be fascinating, met with the speaker, and we discussed our shared interest in the mechanisms of cell division. He was hoping to expand the use of fluorescent fusions and live cell microscopy in his lab; I was hoping to conduct research on a genetically tractable organism with lots of molecular tools. I joined his research team at Harvard Medical School a few months later.

As a postdoc it was the first time in almost a decade that I was not teaching on a regular basis. I began to miss being in the classroom and interacting with students. This realization was perhaps the most important one of my career. Thankfully, my advisor fully supported my decision to resume teaching along with my bench work. About a year ago a teaching-focused position with a research component in the SoTL field was posted on ASM’s website. To make a long story short, my wife and I (and our dog Marmalade) have been here since December and couldn’t be happier.
Graduate Student Updates

Update on the Plant Pathology Graduate Organization
By: Chelsea Harbach, GSO President

Greetings, everyone! Wow! I can’t believe this school year over and that I’ve been at ISU for nearly nine months! It has been a whirlwind of a year since my move to Ames, and I am honored to have been elected by my fellow graduate students to serve as your president for the GSO or 2016! Now, enough with the exclamation points… let me give you all a recap of GSO goings-on so far in 2016 and things that you have to look forward to in the remainder of the year.

Your GSO has carried on the recently established tradition of “Campustown Disseminations” from 2015 into 2016. Though, admittedly they have not been as frequent this semester due to busyness and extra stress, we hope to continue with these little escapades to campus for lunch and socialization between the grad students more regularly. If you haven’t had a chance to join us yet, don’t hesitate to come! We would love to get to know each and every one of you! In addition to Campustown Disseminations, we are trying to facilitate regular “social hours” to relax and shoot-the-breeze with grad students in the department in an informal setting.

Some of you may have heard about a ballin’ group of grad students from the department that formed a soccer team to participate in the ISU intramurals… you heard correctly! Your student representatives, Sudden Death Syndrome (pictured below), played a couple of hard-fought games but ultimately lost in both occasions, which effectively eliminated us from the tournament. Regardless of our losing record, we still had a lot of fun!

One of the “bigger ticket” items we have had so far this year is the Summer Kickoff Breakfast (see picture at bottom right of the page). We also have plans for a 5K fundraiser! Yes. You read that correctly! We have decided to put on our first, ever, 5K fundraiser as a replacement for the Dam-to-Dam Challenge so that we can not only raise some money for our GSO, but may also maintain the friendly competition/rivalry between the students and faculty. Don’t worry if you don’t like running, though! We will have alternative activities so that you can earn points for your respective teams! Rumor has it that there will be some pretty neat and nerdy Plant Pathology t-shirt swag included with your registration for the event… You can look forward to this sometime next fall.

As always, we appreciate and value any and all input into your thoughts and ideas for the GSO! If you have any ideas for things to do or ways we can improve, let us know! Have a great summer!

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Jason Noon graduates!

The Baum lab would like to announce the graduation of Dr. Jason Noon from his PhD program at Iowa State University. During his time in the Baum lab, Jason was involved in identifying and functionally characterizing the roles of *Heterodera glycines* effectors during parasitism of soybean, and on the transcriptional reprogramming of soybean root cells during syncytium formation.

Jason’s new position will be as a postdoctoral researcher in the program of molecular medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. His planned project includes the identification and characterization of human hookworm (*Necator americanus* and *Ancylostoma* spp.) secretory proteins or virulence factors for hookworm vaccine development as well as treatment of autoimmune diseases.
Cassie Wattenburger, a PhD student working with Dr. Larry Halverson, was recently awarded the highly competitive 2016 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program Fellowship. Wattenburger is originally from Washington state and grew up in the Palouse region. She received a B.S. in cellular and molecular biology with a minor in chemistry at Western Washington University. She worked as a research associate with Dr. Kirsten Hofmockel for a few months before starting graduate school in the fall of 2015. She is currently advised by Drs. Halverson and Hofmockel and her project is investigating the role of soil microbes, particularly those involved with nitrogen cycling, in sustainable agriculture. For her NSF application, she proposed to investigate the interaction between arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi and nitrifying bacteria and how they relate to nitrogen leaching from the soil. The fellowship funds three years of stipend and tuition. Wattenburger hopes to someday become a PI in a Department of Energy or USDA research laboratory and continue to work on agriculture and sustainability.

In February, Tom Maier (right), an assistant scientist in the plant molecular nematology lab (Baum), was awarded the Professional and Scientific Research Award from the Iowa State University College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Maier is an alumnus of ISU (’94, B.S. Genetics) and has managed the plant molecular nematology lab in the PLPM department for 20 years.

The PLPM department was able to award Gould Travel Awards to graduate students this year. The awards are to fund travel for professional development. These funds come from a gift made by Mrs. Charles J. Gould in honor of her late husband, who received his Ph.D. at ISU in 1942. Gould spent his life studying diseases of horticultural plants. The awardees are as follows:

- Jared Jensen for the Plant-Parasitic Nematode Identification Course offered by Clemson University
- Stacey Barnes for The Plant and Animal Genome XXV Conference (PAG) in San Diego
- Priyanka Surana for attending a week-long biotech course offered by The American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) and Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) in Claremont, CA
- Augustine Beeman for attending this year’s meeting of the Society of Nematologists in Montreal, Canada.

Forrest Nutter, a professor in the PLPM department, was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award from the American Phytopathological Society. Dr. Nutter has been at Iowa State since 1990 and has taught a course in plant disease epidemiology for much of that time.

In addition, Dr. Nutter has been involved in developing computer programs to aid in plant disease epidemiology instruction. Currently, Dr. Nutter is involved with teaching a new course, Principals of Integrated Disease Management. See the APS award info and Dr. Nutter’s biography here.

Jason Noon, who completed his PhD in the PLPM department (Major: Genetics) this semester, received a Research Excellence Award for this PhD work. Noon is currently a postdoc at University of Massachusetts Medical School (see previous page).

Drs. Mark Gleason, Laura Jesse and Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca were part of the Iowa Master Gardener Team that won the 2016 Team Award from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
Reflections on One Year Post-graduation

This first year post-graduation has been nothing I expected it to be, but it has been an amazing adventure in self-discovery, science and pushing my limits in numerous ways.

One of the things I learned rather late in my graduate school career was to stop struggling to meet my mindset of the plant pathology options I knew about but instead, try to marry all the information I had learned over the four years with my strengths and my identity to find a niche. It has been such an honor to be involved in different activities in the department and work together with different ones in other labs. The prospects for growth offered in the PLPM department are invaluable since we have faculty with such diverse skill sets. There are many opportunities to be involved, so learn and try new activities.

I requested to TA a one credit class on professional speaking skills that I had attended because I had grown so much and thought I would benefit from hearing those things again. I instead got to team teach the course, and was inspired and challenged by the experience. I developed a case study from my research topic and tested it in an introductory plant pathology class - fungicides on corn as a final chapter for my thesis and absolutely loved the experience. This led to writing a proposal for the APS - Global Experience award and I was surprised to actually win something! There begun my initial post-graduation adventure in a unique position focusing on international and national collaboration, teaching, leadership and grant writing. It required all my previous networks to get content and additional funds. I attended a meeting in Michigan on Transgenic mosquitoes and the fight against malaria. I traveled to Kenya where I got to team-teach with university professors in Kenya and Uganda a cassava case-study and conduct a workshop on diagnostics of cassava brown streak disease. I helped start an award in Agriculture and Biology in honor of my parents at the high school in my village. I returned in time to apply for a job and prepare to share my experiences at the APS annual meeting. I was honored to be named the 2015 APS Public Policy Board Early Career Intern. I was able to volunteer for the APS teaching committee and the APS Office of international Programs as I had a point of reference as a beneficiary and realization that I had skills that I could bring to the table. During APS, I had a Skype interview for a job that ended with my crying kids bursting into the room before the interview was over! Thankfully I did get the job, I teach introductory biology courses to majors and non-majors at Augustana University in South Dakota and was recently asked to be an advisor to the African Students Association. I received NEXTGEN Cassava Early Career Female Scientist Travel Award to attend the World Congress on Root and Tuber Crops (WCRTC) in January 2016 in Nanning, China it was the only presentation that included pedagogy. My two pending papers from the PhD finally got published and registering for APS is now three time more expensive (smile)!

Looking back, my biggest lessons have been in embracing my identity as a global citizen. An African Plant Pathologist with an Iowa State Education. I have an understanding of communities where I have lived around the world, and the amazing professionals I have been honored to work with. They are my networks, with the backing of APS I had a platform to incorporate that and give back professionally. I work in an amazing department where we team teach.... Despite the steep learning curve. I have learned so much, I love my students and my job. An Iowa State Education empowers one to think out of the box and apply a plant pathology degree a million different ways. The year is quickly over. I am so excited to see what other different ways I can apply my plant pathology degree and my peers too. As Dr. Seuss says 'Oh what Places you will go'!
Selected Publications from Spring 2016


Please consider making a gift to the Plant Pathology Development Fund. Your gift allows us to provide lecture series, academic excellence awards, travel stipends, small research grants and professional development opportunities to faculty and students.

To make a gift online, go to www.foundation.iastate.edu/ag. Fill out your name and email address at the top of the page and scroll to the bottom of the page to give to the Plant Pathology Development Fund. If you wish to give through the mail, please mail your check to: Iowa State University Foundation, PO Box 868, Ames, IA 50010-0868. Please note fund #0111622 in the memo line on your check or include a note with your donation to ensure that your donation is properly designated.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact the ISU Foundation at 515-294-4607 or 866-419-6768.

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