



Dispersal Notes

September 2016 News Flyer



Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology
Iowa State University

Calendar

PLPM seminar is held in 152 Science I from 3:10-4 pm.

September 20th – PLPM Seminar, Dr. Daren Mueller, Seminar Title: “Integrated management of sudden death syndrome: a case study for IPM in Iowa”

September 23rd – Graduate Student Organization Lunch at Downtown Deli from 12-1 pm

September 27th – PLPM Seminar, Waqar Alam, Raees Ahmed, Nasir Mehmood, and Farhim Abbas, Title: “Introduction to Pakistani agriculture and our ongoing PhD research projects”

October 22nd – 5k fundraiser for PLPM Graduate Student Organization

Recent Publications

Walley, J.W., Sartor, R.C., Shen, Z., Schmitz, R.J., Wu, K.J., Urich, M.A., Nery, J.R., Smith, L.G., Schnable, J.C., Ecker, J.R., and Briggs, S.P. 2016. [Integration of omic networks in a developmental atlas of maize](#). *Science* 353:6301.

Snapshots



Participants in the departmental field day on August 26th.



Erika Saalau Rojas, PLPM alumna and assistant professor at the UMass Cranberry station, giving a talk at PLPM seminar on August 30th.

Departmental Updates

Grad Organization hosts PLPM retreat

The PLPM department’s graduate student organization, led by Chelsea Harbach (President), Lauren Washington (Vice President), and Chase Mayers (Treasurer), hosted a departmental retreat on September 9th at the Story County Conservation Center. The featured speaker was Dr. Jacquelyn Jackson, a PLPM alumna and research assistant professor at Tuskegee University.



Retreat cookout



Trivia winners



Dr. Jacquelyn Jackson

Graduate Student Conference Experience: Olakunle Olawole

I attended the North Central Division APS Meeting, held from the 7-9th of June at the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus, in Roseville, Minnesota. Being a regional representation of APS members, it was quite an experience for me to have met and networked with other graduate students working with other pathosystems, faculty members outside ISU and some invited speakers from industry. Some of the interestingly notable sessions were the Graduate Student Career Skills Workshop and Panel Discussion; poster viewing sessions; talks– such as “Remote Scouting for Plant Disease with Drones - The Highs and Lows”, “Advancing agriculture through the lens of a phytobiomes perspective”, among others; and the abundant good meals.

My poster, titled “Construction and initial characterization of a *dspE* deletion mutant of *Erwinia tracheiphila*” was based on some of the results from my research during the last Spring semester. *E. tracheiphila* is a xylem-inhabiting bacterium causing wilt of cucurbits in the Northeastern and Midwestern USA. Previous studies have shown that *E. tracheiphila* strains fall into groups exhibiting differences in host-specific virulence. I was glad to report to the scientific community the first construction of *E. tracheiphila* mutants, using the Lambda Recombineering technology, and a further

evaluation of the mutants on host-specific virulence on cucurbits. This was a huge step toward understanding the genetic basis for such host-specific virulence.

I look forward to the 2017 APS North Central Division Meeting June 14-16 at the iHotel in Champaign, Illinois.

