

## [The Spore Print \(04/24/2023\) Department of Plant Pathology April Newsletter](#)

Summer is coming...

**Welcome to our April departmental newsletter! This will be our last newsletter for this semester, but we will be back on July with a summer special newsletter!**

**Please enjoy these updates from our department!**

**Best wishes**

**- Ko, representing the editorial team: Elliott, Kayla, Joseph, Ninh, Jessica, Sam, Tammy, and Cynthia.**

[Click here to access the past newsletters!](#) You will also be able to download the PDF version there.

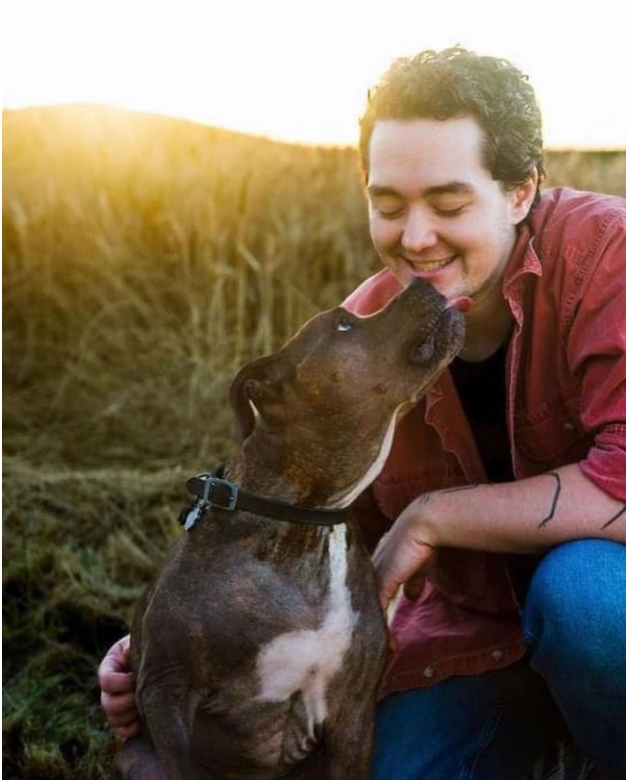
If you have any feedback, please fill out the [questionnaire](#) for the Spore Print!

## Student Spotlight



As of January, we are including a new section in this newsletter to introduce the graduate students in our department!

Elliott Marston



1 - Elliott and Kona at PCFS



2 - Elliott Marston and Kristen Bullough tabling at the CAHNRS Fall Fest 2022



*3 - Elliott in front of a pineapple field in Costa Rica*

**PhD Advisor:** Dr. Deven See

**Expected Graduation:** Spring 2024

**Hometown:** West Richland, WA

Elliott completed his B.S. in Agricultural Biotechnology at WSU. While working on his undergraduate degree, he worked for the USDA-ARS Stripe Rust Research Project under Dr. Xianming Chen for three years, and completed his undergraduate research requirement with Dr. Hanu Pappu. His current research project focuses on identifying genes behind a recently discovered source of low falling numbers called Late-Maturity Alpha-Amylase (LMA). Unlike sprouting, a traditional source of low falling numbers, the rise of LMA is linked to climate change related weather changes during the growing season.

Elliott currently serves as Faculty Liaison for the PLP GSO, as well as on the PLP DEI committee and PLP FUN committee. Additionally, Elliott is involved in WSU CASE activities, and TA'd for PLP 429 with Kristen Bullough in Fall of 2022. In his free time, Elliott enjoys reading, renovating his 100+ year old home in Colfax, playing games with friends, and spending time with his rescue dog, Kona. His favorite games are Dungeons and Dragons (usually as Dungeon Master) and Stardew Valley (because he doesn't get enough of farming at work, apparently).

## Updates



### New students for Fall 2023!

We would like to welcome the following new students!

- 1) **Mary Steele.** She will be co-advised by Drs. Mattupalli and du Toit. Mary is currently an MSci in Ag student at Cal Poly, SLO. Mary will be joining us in Pullman this Fall so please keep an eye out for her!
- 2) **Megan Nickerson.** Megan is currently a student in Dr. Jana U'Ren's lab in Univ of Arizona, Tucson. She will be joining Dr. U'Ren this Fall as a PhD student!
- 3) **Harpreet Kaur.** Harpreet will be joining Dr. Frank Zhao's lab this Fall. Harpreet is currently a graduate student at Tennessee State University.
- 4) **Lora Keyte.** Lora will be joining Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka's lab this Fall. Lora is graduating from UW Seattle with a B.S. in Plant Biology.
- 5) **Bipin Neupane.** Bipin will be joining Dr. Deven See's lab this Fall. Bipin is currently a Master's student at North Dakota State University.
- 6) **Mason Hoskins.** Mason will be joining Dr. Scott Harper's lab this Fall. Mason graduated from Pacific University and is currently living in Australia.
- 7) **Koy Chandler.** Koy will be joining Dr. Cynthia Gleason's lab this Fall. Koy just graduated with their undergraduate degree from BYU Idaho.

Faculty, please let us know if you are expecting students this Summer/Fall or if you have prospective students who still had questions! We'd love to meet them and tell them about grad school at WSU.s

### Thesis Defense and Prelim Results

**Richard Manasseh** successfully defended his PhD dissertation titled "Molecular Features of the (In-)Compatibility Between Potato and Potato Virus Y" on April 11th. His thesis committee was led by Dr. Hanu Pappu and included Dr. Cynthia Gleason, Dr. Scott Harper, and Dr. Sager Sathuvalli (OSU).

**Sudha Upadhaya** also successfully passed her preliminary exam on April 12th. Her dissertation committee is led by Dr. Tim Paultiz and includes Dr. Cynthia Gleason, Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka, Dr. Maren Friesen, and Dr. Nairanjana Dasgupta.

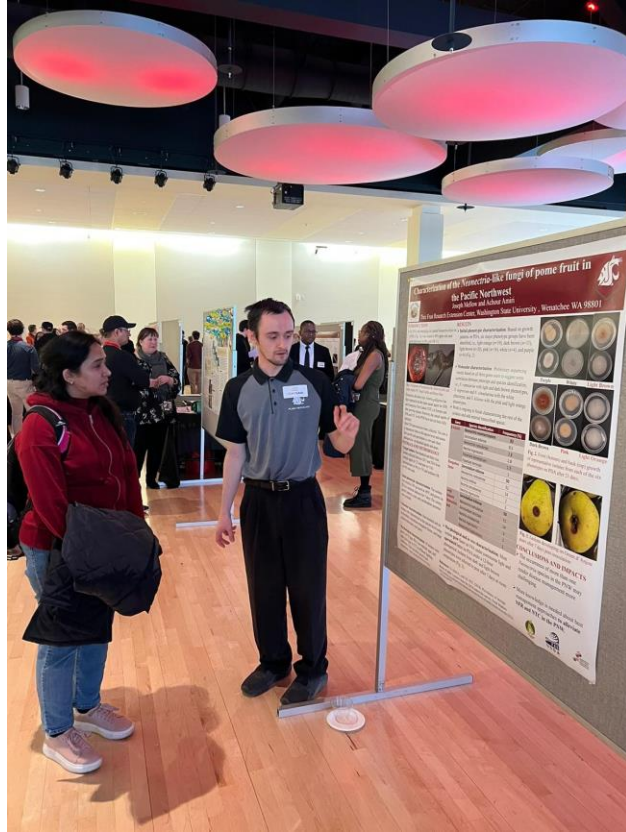
Congratulations **Dr. Richard Manasseh** and **Sudha!!**

### PLP students attended GPSA Research Expo for Ag & Natural Resource Sciences

Joseph Mellow, Jonathan Puglisi, and Sam Jayasinghe presented at the Academic Showcase this year in Pullman.

Jonathan Puglisi got first place at the GPSA Research Expo for Ag & Natural Resource Sciences and both Jon and Joseph attended the Academic Showcase





## Dr. Michelle Moyer won the Faculty Excellence in Extension



**Dr. Michelle Moyer, an adjust faculty in our department,** is based at WSU Prosser IAREC and has research and Extension responsibilities in wine and juice grapes, with an emphasis on integrated pest management <https://cahnrs.wsu.edu/academics/2023-staff-faculty-awards/>

## Plant Pathology Students will attend the Earthx2023 Exhibition and Congress in Dalls, TX



*4 - From left to right: Dr. Tim Murray (PLP Department Chair), Samodya Jayasinghe, Henry Hurt, Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka*

**Sam Jayasinghe and Henry Hurt have been invited to attend the Earthx2023 Exhibition and Congress in Dalls, TX next month, where they will deliver their Three Minute Thesis presentations!**



Dr. Adam Steinbrenner visits Pullman



5 - Dr. Steinbrenner receiving a departmental t-shirt

5:24

WhatsApp

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6 - Dinner Mad Greek in Moscow with Scott Anderson, Sam Jayasinghe, Ninh Khuu, and Itsuhiro Ko



7 - Group picture with the Dr. Steinbrenner!



*8 - Hike with Dr. Steinbrenner to Kamiak Butte, Sunday Apr 9th*

Dr. Adam Steinbrenner, the student invited speaker, gave a lecture on April 10th. [Here is the zoom record link if you missed the last seminar](#)

During Adam's visit, we brought him to the Kamiak Butte County Park for a hike, got ice cream from Ferdinand's, and had dinner with grad students at Mad Greek, Moscow, ID. Adam really enjoyed his trip! Special thanks to Tammy, Ninh, Sudha, and everyone who made it happen! ----Ko

Funding was generously provided by CAHNRS CougarParents Foundation, The Department of Plant Pathology, and the Graduate and Professional Student Association.

[Johnson Hall Move Coordination Committee won the Team Interdisciplinary Award](#)



The Johnson Hall Move Coordination Committee members were instrumental in moving 300+ WSU and USDA employees and students (~170,000 sq ft) into six buildings. The team members safely orchestrated the emptying and moving of 197 offices, 73 research labs, four classrooms, six conference rooms, and four mailrooms. <https://cahnr.wsu.edu/academics/2023-staff-faculty-awards/>

An undergrad lead by a PLP Alumna wins the **Crimson** award at SURCA showcase

Katy Ayers is a Entomology student. Her mentor is Dr. Jennifer Han who was a Plant Pathology student trained in Mycology here at WSU by Dr. Lori Carris.

Awarded research proposal title: "Mushroom mechanics: An Analysis of Fungal Biomaterials for Wild Bee Conservation"

## Herbarium Happenings: Shaw Mycological Herbarium (WSP) Specimens in Recent Publications



Edited by Monique Slipher

Two of our rare old-growth polypore specimens were featured in a new article in FUNGI magazine titled "Old Growth Fungi and the Rhino Horn Chaga". The author, Dr. Robert Blanchette of the Univ. of Minnesota's Plant Pathology Dept., used a photo and historic data on two specimens from our

collections in his brief but fascinating review of what he calls "The Record-Setting Colossal Mushrooms of the World". Be sure to check out the amazing photos he included! ([Click to See: FUNGI Volume 16:1, pp. 50-55](#))

Also, two *Stilbohypoxyton* type specimens from WSP, first described by Dr. Jack Rogers & his colleague (and former student at WSU) Dr. Yu-Ming Ju of Taiwan, were included in a new treatment of that genus by Dr. Liliane Petrini of Switzerland, a long-time colleague of Dr. Rogers. One of them, previously only determined as *Stilbohypoxyton* sp., was recently named *Stilbohypoxyton rogersii* L.E. Petrini & Y.-M. Ju, sp. nov., "in honor of the late Prof. Jack Rogers". ([Click to See: Nova Hedwigia, Vol. 113 \(2021\), Issue 3-4, 471-490](#))

Everyone is welcome to come visit "the Shaw" and explore the huge variety of fascinating treasures there, fungal & otherwise... Call Monique Slipher at 509-335-5242 or email [mslipher@wsu.edu](mailto:mslipher@wsu.edu) to arrange a date/time - requests and visits will be happily accommodated!



9 - The meter-long, 100+ year-old *Lariciformis (Fomitopsis) officinalis* featured in FUNGI - currently housed in display case on first floor Vogel



This species was described by Wm. Bridge Cooke, formerly a graduate student in botany and a research associate in Plant Pathology at Washington State College.

10 - Our largest piece of the 300 lb. *Bridgeoporus nobilissimus* described in FUNGI, from the Jack D. Rogers Teaching Collection



11 - Type specimen of *Stilbohypoxylon rogersii*, named in honor of the late Dr. Jack Rogers, WSU Plant Pathology professor, 1963-2021



## Events



Please contact the corresponding person for more details!

## Pullman Events



By Elliott Marston <elliott.j.marston@wsu.edu>, Sam Jayasinghe <samodya.jayasinghe@wsu.edu>, and Itsuhiro Ko <itsuhiro.ko@wsu.edu>

## FUN Committee events

**Learning Fridays** (formerly known as brown bag lunches): Come join us in PSB 405 or via zoom between 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm, and listen to what research is happening in a fellow plant pathology lab. Participating labs will be announced monthly.

 **Fourth Learning Friday, April 21st: Dr. Scott Harper's lab** :

Join Zoom Meeting from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android:

<https://wsu.zoom.us/j/97754079925?pwd=dVpvKzRWT2xZR1dkT3p2U2lTMjJ0QT09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 977 5407 9925

Passcode: 767298

### **Monday Coffee hours**

Join us every Monday at 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm in **Clark 299** for coffee and snacks before seminar. All are invited!!!



(please see the note below about the April 24th special event!)


 **Special event:** Interdepartmental coffee hour! 

**Date:** April 24th, 2023

**Time:** 11AM to Noon

**Where:** REC5/PSB Third Floor Kitchenette Area! An announcement will be sent out when we're able to secure it! (Follow the smell of donuts and the sound of fun!)

 To promote more interactions with other plant-related labs, the GSO and the FUN Committee will be joining forces to host an interdepartmental coffee hour to include grad students, staff, and faculty from Horticulture, Molecular Plant Sciences, and Crops and Social Sciences. Please join us for coffee, donuts, ice cream, and other light refreshments! 

 Special thanks to the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) and the Department of Plant Pathology for providing funding! Shout out to the FUN Committee folks (Tim Paulitz, Cynthia Gleason, Kiwamu Tanaka, Jessica Franco, Ninh Khuu, Sam Jayasinghe, and Elliott Marston), Tammy Cunningham, Katelyn Kiick, Huiting Zhang, Janice Parks, and Dylan Oates!



# INTERDEPARTMENTAL COFFEE HOUR

HOSTED BY PLP & MPS  
GRAD ORGANIZATIONS

**JOIN US FOR ICE CREAM, COFFEE,  
AND DONUTS!**

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 REC5/PSB 3rd Floor Kitchenette

 April 24, 11 AM - Noon

## Wenatchee Events



by Joseph Mellow <joseph.mellow@wsu.edu>

## Mount Vernon Events



by Kayla Spawton <kayla.spawton@wsu.edu>

## Prosser Events



by Ninh Khuu <ninh.khuu@wsu.edu>

The soil is starting to warm up and projects are starting to ramp up. The Swisher-Grimm lab is prepping to plant potatoes. The Harper lab is starting field season and testing weeds as alternate hosts for little cherry disease.

The Harper lab would also like to welcome Dr. AJ Johnson as our newest Post-Doc and Mason Hoskins as a masters student starting in Fall.

## Postdoc (PRPA) Happenings

The Postdoctoral and Research Professional Association (PRPA) hosts Moscow-Pullman Science Happy Hour every Friday at 5:30-7:30sh. The venue changes every week. To stay updated, sign up [here!](#)

To be a part of PRPA, go [here](#), and fill in your name and email.

## Publications



Iftikhar, R., Ghosh, A., and **Pappu, H.R.** Mitochondrial genetic diversity of *Thrips tabaci* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) in onion growing regions of the United States. (2023). *Journal of Economic Entomology*, toad39. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/toad039>

Khan, M. and **Tanaka, K.** *Purpureocillium lilacinum* for plant growth promotion and biocontrol against root-knot nematodes infecting eggplant. (2023). *PLOS ONE*: 18(3): e0283550. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0283550>

Rahman, M.M., Porter, L.D., Ma, Y., Coyne, C.J., Zheng, P., Chaves-Cordoba, B., and **Rayapati, N.A.** Resistance in pea (*Pisum sativum*) genetic resources to the pea aphid, *Acyrthosiphon pisum*. (2023). *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata*, 00: 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eea.13296>

Sharma, N., Neill, T., Yang, H., Oliver, C., Mahaffee, W.F., Naegle, R.P., **Moyer, M.**, and Miles, T.D. Development of a PNA-LNA-LAMP assay to detect a SNP associated with QoI resistance in *Erysiphe necator*. (2023). *Plant Disease*, 0 0:ja. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-09-22-2027-RE>

## Funding & Opportunities



### **WESKA 2023: WSU Entrepreneurship Skills and Knowledge Accelerator (Open to all students)**

**Deadline: April 30th:**

Are you a graduate student or postdoctoral associate who is working on an interesting project or innovation? Do you want to learn more about its scope and value in the market and the process of launching it? Check out the [WESKA website and application](#) for details on how to participate.

### **Department of Plant Pathology travel grant (Open to all PLP students)**

Please contact Tammy Cunningham ([t.cunningham@wsu.edu](mailto:t.cunningham@wsu.edu)) for more info.

### **American Phytopathological Society Funding (US students)**

APS has multiple applications for student fellowships open now. Student members are eligible to apply. Please find more information [here](#).

### **GPSA Travel Grants**

GPSA travel grants are available all year round and are awarded as reimbursements post travel, for our of pocket travel costs. Pullman Service and Activity fee paying students are eligible to apply. Please see all information at GPSA grants website [here](#). Contact [gpsa.granst@wsu.edu](mailto:gpsa.granst@wsu.edu) if you have questions.

**Here is a website that has 572 funding sources you can look for**

<https://research.jhu.edu/rdt/funding-opportunities/early-career/>

Seminars



## Events for graduate students hosted by Graduate and Professional Student Association



by Kayla Spawton (Plant Pathology GPSA senator) <kayla.spawton@wsu.edu>

Upcoming GPSA social events:

- May 5~ Ice Skating

More information on events and opportunities offered by GPSA can be found [here](#).

PLP graduate students, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. Here is the [google form link](#) if you prefer to do so anonymously.

GPSA will be slowing down during the summer as the transition to next academic year's officers begin. Thank you Ninh, for serving as REC Senator (and winning Senator of the Year) and Sam, for serving as CAHNRS College Representative and Chair of Grants) Your 2023-2024 PLP Senator will be Anita, so please reach out to her for your GPSA-related concerns.



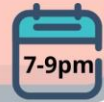


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**"your network is your net worth"** 😊

Special deals available only for graduate and professional  
students



Do not forget to  
bring your ID and  
Cougar Card



## Jobs



Graduate Research Positions

- PhD Research Assistant position is available at the **University of Illinois-Urbana** in the molecular physiology program under Dr. Dean Riechers. Interested applicants should send an email stating their academic and research interests, professional background, and current resume (PDF) to Dr. Dean E. Riechers, Professor of Crop Sciences (riechers@illinois.edu).
- PhD Research Assistantship in molecular plant breeding is available in the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences at **Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center in Florence, SC**. Interested applicants should contact Dr. Sachin Rustgi at [srustgi@clemson.edu](mailto:srustgi@clemson.edu) with their CV, research interest, unofficial copies of transcripts, and GRE and TOEFL scores (if applicable) as a single pdf file. Also, forward three references' contact information (email, phone number, name, and designation).

### Post-Doctoral Positions

- Postdoctoral Scientist in Molecular Plant Nematology in the Baum Laboratory at **Iowa State University**. Get more information and apply [here](#).
- Postdoctoral Scholar in the Tiwari Lab at the **University of Maryland** in the area of wheat genomics. Interested candidates should apply by email to Dr. Vijay Tiwari using the email id ([yktiwari@umd.edu](mailto:yktiwari@umd.edu)) with the following documents in a single PDF file (with a subject line postdoctoral search): (1) Cover letter, (2) CV, (3) up to three sample publications, and (4) contact information for 3 references.
- USDA-ARS SCINet Postdoctoral Fellowship at the **Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center in Stuttgart, AR** on AI methods for predicting protein function and disease susceptibility in crops. To apply or find out more, please email Dr. Jeremy Edwards ([jeremy.edwards@usda.gov](mailto:jeremy.edwards@usda.gov))
- Postdoctoral Research Associate in molecular biology with the **USDA-ARS Temperate Tree Fruit and Vegetable Research Unit in Wapato, WA**. For questions about the position and how to apply, please email William Walker ([william.walker@usda.gov](mailto:william.walker@usda.gov)).

### Technician and Industry Positions

- Research Assistant position in Bioinformatics with the Alfalfa Breeding Lab at **WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center** in Prosser, WA. Get more information and apply [here](#).
- Research Scientist in AgriLife research at **Texas A&M** in Amarillo, TX. Get more information and apply [here](#).
- State Nematologist with the **WSDA** within the Plant Services Program and located full time in Prosser, WA. Get more info and apply [here](#).
- Research Biologist/Molecular Biologist with the USDA-ARS Food and Safety Research Unit in New Orleans Southern Regional Research Center. Get more information and apply [here](#).

### Faculty Positions

- Faculty position in Controlled Environment Agriculture within the Department of Plant Sciences at **University of Idaho**. Get more information and apply [here](#). Please email Dr. Zonglie Hong ([zhong@uidaho.edu](mailto:zhong@uidaho.edu)) directly with questions.
- Small Grains Breeder Position within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at **NC State University**. Get more information and apply [here](#).
- Research Geneticist in wheat and oat genomics within the Plant Science Research Unit with the **USDA-ARS in St. Paul, MN**. Get more information and apply [here](#).

**Ongoing Job postings:**

[ASPB Job Board](#)

[Plantae Jobs](#)

Contact us



If you have an item you would like included in the newsletter, email it to [Itsuhiro.ko@wsu.edu](mailto:Itsuhiro.ko@wsu.edu).

Also, please complete this questionnaire to help us improve our newsletter. We appreciate your feedback!

<https://forms.gle/DubmGBiAjbEfyeqW9>