



October PLP newsletter

[The Spore Print \(10/30/2023\) Department of Plant Pathology October Newsletter](#)

You probably didn't realize. But this is the first anniversary of the Spore Print! Thank you for your support and participation! Last October, a group comprised of grad students, staff, and faculty initiated the Department of Plant Pathology monthly newsletter, later named " The Spore Print" at the suggestion of Dr. Tim Paulitz. The newsletter became a tool to connect people from various locations, including the alumni. We will keep our high standard to deliver the dribs and drabs in our department to everyone!

Again, please enjoy those updates from our department!

Best wishes

- *Ko, representing the editorial team: Elliott, Madan, Kristen, Roshani, Katelyn, Joseph, Ninh, Sam, Anita, Monique, Tammy, Xianming, and Cynthia.*

(We are preparing some stickers which will be distributed to you all!)

[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

Katie Kiick



Degree Sought: MS

Advisor: Dr. Frank Zhao

Academic Background: BS Biology from Washington State University

Katie joined the Plant Pathology department as a M.S. student in Spring 2022. Her research focus is on Fire blight.

What made you interested in plant pathology?

- As an undergraduate, I worked in a plant physiology lab and enjoyed spending time in the greenhouse tending to lots of little baby plants. Since graduation, I experimented with my own small gardens and have spent many hours trying to identify and address different plant pathogens that popped up. I aspire to be a master gardener grandma later on in life, teaching fellow gardeners how to keep their plants healthy :)

What is your favorite plant pathogen?

- Mushrooms in the *Hericium* genus - they completely fascinate me.

Do you have any Pets?

- I have 2 dogs, Clove (Kelpie) and Cooper (Border collie/cattle dog).

What are your hobbies?

- Sourdough baking, hiking, running, traveling, gardening, dog training, painting and illustration....you can never have too many hobbies.

What is something interesting most people don't know about you?

- Prior to grad school I worked as an automation engineer, developing automation platforms for cell-based assays. I enjoy thinking about solving problems using technology and creative solutions.



Updates



ICYMI: Field Pathology Class featured on WSU Insider

October's issue of WSU Insider featured PLP 525, Field Pathology, taught by Dr. Lindsey du Toit. Lindsey's student, Marilen Nampijja, was pictured in the article walking through a mesh-enclosed carrot field. You can read more at: https://news.wsu.edu/news/2023/10/19/experiencing-agriculture-firsthand/?utm_source=WSUNews-newsletter&utm_campaign=wsunewsnewsletter&utm_medium=email

Announcement: *The Plant Pathology Travel Grant Awardees* for APS Pacific Division 2024 in Corvallis, OR.

The Plant Pathology Travel Grant Committee congratulates Madan Pandey (PI – Amiri), Purnima Puri and Roshani Baral (PI – Mattupalli) on receiving our departmental travel awards. We wish them good luck representing our department at the APS Pacific Division Meeting in Corvallis, OR in March 2024.

*APS Pacific Division 2024 will be held jointly with Conference on Soil-borne Plant Pathogens from **March 26th to 28th**. More information can be found here:*

<https://www.apsnet.org/members/community/divisions/pac/meetings/Pages/2024PacificMeeting.aspx>

APS Pacific Division Student travel grants are due January 29, 2024 and final abstract submission deadlines are due February 23, 2024.

For students and postdocs planning to attend professional meetings taking place from April 2024 through September 2024, a new RFA will be sent out in mid-March 2024. If you have any questions regarding departmental travel awards, please contact Chakradhar Mattupalli (c.mattupalli@wsu.edu).

September 27th WSU-CASE/UAW Statewide RALLY and Day of Action

Plant Pathology Academic Student Employees (ASEs) joined over 350 of their peers across the WSU System for a day of solidarity. Students in Pullman met at the Terrell Mall and marched down to the French Admin while students at RECs held small rallies and group discussions about what a fair contract means to them. Even WSU Staff and community members showed up to show their support! Students want to be able to afford to live in the communities that they work with adequate health insurance, safe working conditions, and protections from harassment.

A photo of our students was featured on the Daily Evergreen for the Rally:

<https://dailyevergreen.com/166152/news/student-employee-union-files-unfair-labor-lawsuit-against-wsu/>



1 - Students marching from the Terrell Mall to the French Admin building



2 - A portion of the Pullman folks that showed up to the rally!



3 - ASEs in Mount Vernon at the NWREC



4 - ASEs in Prosser discussing what improvements they want to see.



5 - Prosser ASEs at IAREC with their signs

Fall Mushroom Foray - September 2023!

Dr. Anderi Smertenko (Institute of Biological Chemistry) graciously lead our fall fungal foray. Folks trekked through the coniferous forest of the Idaho panhandle to look for chanterelles, coral fungi, lobster mushrooms, puff balls, and bear's tooth fungi. Please keep a look out for Spring's foray announcement :)

A link to the full album can be found here: <https://www.amazon.com/photos/shared/3sKQaAp-QIeHr-My5EvHjA.bGUM4jQEdmdy2YHAbFaHK>



6 - Group photo with their fungal finds



7 - Magdana with some bear's tooth fungi generously shared by Camille



8 - Chanterelles (a little past their prime!)



9 - (Back to front clockwise) Jorgen, Henry, Geoffrey, Ben, Dr. Tanaka, [Insert Name], Janice, Sam, Vincent, Leah, and [Insert name]



10 - Kristin kicking a *Russula* sp.







11 - Leah and Ben with their new friends



12 - Drs. Kiwamu Tanak and Andrei Smertenko going over the plans with Monique Slipher



13 - Puffball mushroom spraying its spores



14 - Janice, Vincent and Camille showing their passion for fungi



15 - Megan, Mason, Vincent, Jorgen, Janice, Magdana, and Geoffrey in the forest

The Cosmic Crisp® Hot Air Balloon Came to Pullman!



16 - Students Mason Hoskins, Koy Chandler, and Kristen Bullough (pictured with her son Henry) got the chance to visit the Cosmic Crisp Balloon while it was in town.

Herbarium Happenings: Shaw Mycological Herbarium



Bonnie Isaac, Manager of the Plant Collections at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA, and board member of the Cheetz Chuey Charitable Foundation visited Shaw Mycological Herbarium last month.

Monique gave Bonnie and her husband, Joe, a tour of the herbarium and they really enjoyed knowing about the Herbarium and were impressed by Monique's work and our collection!





Events in Pullman and REC Locations



Please contact the corresponding person for more details!

Save the date - Thanksgiving Potluck!



17 - Thank you Elliott Marston and Vincent James (MPS) for the beautiful flyer!

*The Department of Plant Pathology FUN Committee would like to cordially invite you the inaugural **Thanksgiving Dinner Potluck** hosted cooperatively by the **Department of Horticulture, Molecular Plant Science Graduate Program, and Department of Plant Pathology!** Please see the beautiful flier made by Elliott Marston & Vincent James! There will also be an opportunity for a plant exchange if you'd like to bring clippings of your favorite plant to swap.*

Date: Thursday, November 16th

Time: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Where: 3rd floor of REC5/PSB (Plant Science Building!)

Who: You (faculty, staff, students, and post-docs) and your loved ones! If you see someone in our department, remind them! 🙌

 **RSVP:**

Please use this google form to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/W6Xe6PdRbg5HWASP9>

 **Potluck/Volunteer sign up:**

We'll provide the main dishes and drinks. Please use this google sheet to coordinate potluck items and volunteer schedules!:

This event was made possible due to generous support from the Department of Horticulture, GPSA, MPS, and the Department of Plant Pathology. Special thanks to these specific folks: Stephen Ficklin, Tim Murray, Lindsey du Toit, Tim Paulitz, Cynthia Gleason, Kiwamu Tanaka, Huiting Zhang, Cheryl Rajcich, Tammy Cunningham, Janice Parks, Elliott Marston, Sam Jayasinghe, Ninh Khuu, Itsuhiro Ko, Vincent James, Dylan Oates, and Kris Rapeta

Pullman Events



Monday Coffee hours

This upcoming Fall semester, join us **every Monday at 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm in Clark 299** for coffee and snacks before seminar. All are invited!!

MPS Friday Coffee hour

MPS (Molecular Plant Sciences) coffee hour will be happening this **Friday from 1-2:30 every other week**. Free coffee and tea will be from the CUB Starbucks as it is free for graduate students on Fridays. We will be meeting outside in the shade in front of the CUB

Wenatchee Events

Barbeque with Hambelton's and Hoyt's at TFREC Wenatchee

On September 8, 2023, TFREC wenatchee hosted All Center BBQ Lunch with the gracious guests and donors Mike and Kathy Hambelton and Bev, Dev and Chris Hoyt. It was a great opportunity for students from all the departments to share their research projects and career aspirations with the donors. Jonathan Puglisi and Madan Pandey from the department of plant pathology were awarded with the Hambelton Fellowship for this year.

Mike and Kathy are long time residents of Wenatchee, deeply involved in tree fruit industry. They have good partnership with the industries and have provided funds for several purposes, one being the Hambelton Fellowship.

Bev, widow of TFREC entomologist Stan Hoyt, lives in East Wenatchee and still attends TFREC events. Her son, Dave, a retired artist, encouraged Bev to make a donation before her passing, which was originally meant to be an estate gift. Chris, Dave's wife, is a former Chief of Staff to the WSU President and now serves as WSU's Vice President for Strategy, Planning, and Analysis.



18 - TFREC students selected for fellowship this year with the donors:

Mount Vernon Events



19 - Kayla Spawton's Graduation Celebration



20 - Lunch and Learn Seminar with Bob Gillespie



21 - Bob Gillespie's pollinator collection display.



22 - Picture: Purnima presenting her research project to high school students from Nooksack Valley School.

October was quite a month with several significant events at Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center (NWREC), WSU.

Kayla Spawton's Graduation Celebration

A spinach-themed graduation party was organized by WSU, Mount Vernon, NWREC on her last day at NWREC. Kayla's PhD project was on the ecology and management of Stemphylium leaf spot of spinach, and she defended on September 18th, 2023.

2nd Lunch and Learn seminar

On October 13th, 2023, Bob Gillespie, a retired entomologist, gave a seminar on "Introduction to Pollinator Diversity". During his talk, he highlighted the introduction of a diversity of pollinators found in the Pacific Northwest, the environmental factors that are leading to their decline, and the role they play in the web of life. He also demonstrated his pollinator collection. The next seminar will held on **November 7th, 2023 on "Water Supplies in NW Washington State in Future Decades" by Dr. Nick Bond**. He is a principal research scientist with the Climate Impacts Group (CIG) of the University of Washington.

WSU 4-H Juntos student tour

On October 10th, 2023, Nooksack Valley School District students visited NWREC to learn about programs offered in the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resources Sciences and the future career pathways. During their visit, graduate students from various departments presented their research work in simplified form. Roshani Baral and Purnima Puri also demonstrated their current research work on blueberries and potatoes representing the Department of Plant Pathology.

CAHNRS road show with Dean Wendy Powers

Dean Wendy Powers and her team visited NWREC, WSU on October 19th, 2023, which was attended by faculty, staff, and graduate students in NWREC.

Prosser Events



23 - Partial Annular Eclipse seen from the Horse Heaven Hills

The irrigation is being turned off and things are slowing down. The roof of Hamilton Hall is getting some much needed maintenance before the winter hits!

DEI Talk - Dr. Allen Sutton came to Prosser to give an interactive talk on October 3rd. The topic was ***Critical Conversations in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion***. The talk was supported by IAREC's DEI committee headed by Bernardita Sallato.

Dean's Roadshow - Dr. Wendy Powers will be visiting Prosser on October 23rd as part of her state-wide roadshow.

Eclipse - The partial annular eclipse was visible from Prosser on Saturday, October 14th. More pictures can be found here: https://www.amazon.com/photos/shared/TYwW4GQvTfKK-ntPWpX_1w.PvA8Etn9OyRfWFeMJbwPhp

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.

Events for graduate students hosted by Graduate and Professional Student Association



Edited by Anita Paneru (Plant Pathology GPSA Senator, 2023/24) <anita.paneru@wsu.edu>

Upcoming Professional Development Initiative Events:

- November 7, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm ~ [Keynote Event: Social Learning Leadership](#) Where: Butches Den L60, Facilitated by Jessica Perone, Faculty Consultant, Center for Civic Engagement [REGISTER HERE](#)
- November 16, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm ~ [Note Taking and Annotation](#) Where: Zoom, Facilitated by Lorena O'English, WSU Librarian [REGISTER HERE](#)

Upcoming GPSA Social Events:

- October 28, 2023 @ 7:00 PM ~ [GPSA Full Moon Sound Bath](#) Where: E.H Steffen Center
- October 28, 2023 @ 9:00 PM ~ [GPSA Halloween Party!](#) Where: Etsi Bravo
- November 3, 2023 @ 5:00 PM ~ [Restaurant Friday: O-Ramen](#)
- November 14, 2023 @ 7:00 PM [Friendsgiving @ Etsi Bravo](#)

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

Publications



Congratulations to former Ph.D. student, **Alex Batson, and his advisor, **Lindsey du Toit**, on the following journal publication in the September 2023 issue of *Plant Disease*:

Batson, A.M, Woodhall, J., and du Toit, L.J. Real-time PCR assays for races of the spinach *Fusarium* wilt pathogen, *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *spinaciae*. (2023). *Plant Disease* 107:2633-2642. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-11-22-2658-RE>.

Belo, T., **du Toit, L.J.**, Waters, T.D., Derie, M.L., Schacht, B., and LaHue, G.T. Reducing the risk of onion bacterial diseases through managing irrigation frequency and final irrigation timing. (2023). *Agricultural Water Management* 288:108476. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agwat.2023.108476>

Hester, S.M., Kruger, H., Ticehurst, J.L., **Hulbert, J.M.**, and Cacho, O.J. Editorial: The role of community and industry surveillance in managing invasive species: a review of current knowledge. (2023). *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 11. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2023.1281472>

Jarugula, S., **Wagstaff, C., Mitra, A.**, Crowder, D., Gang, D., and **Rayapati, N.** First reports of Beet curly top virus, Citrus yellow vein-associated virus, and Hop latent viroid in industrial hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) in Washington State. (2023). *Plant Disease* 0 0:ja. <https://doi.org/10.1094/pdis-12-22-2981-pdn>

Kamal, H., Lynch-Holm, V., Pappu, H., Tanaka, K. Starch plays a key role in sporosorus formation by the powdery scab pathogen *Spongospora subterranea*. (2023). *Phytopathology*[®].

<https://doi.org/10.1094/PHTO-07-23-0224-R>

McDaniel, A., Mireles, M., Gadoury, D., and **Moyer, M.** Managing Grapevine Powdery Mildew with Ultraviolet-C Light in Washington State. (2023). 22nd GiESCO International Meeting, Ithaca, NY, USA.

Nalla, M.K., Schafleitner, R., **Pappu, H.R.**, Barchenger, D.W. Current status, breeding strategies and future prospects for managing chilli leaf curl virus disease and associated begomoviruses in Chilli (*Capsicum* spp.) (2023). *Frontiers in Plant Science* 23. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2023.1223982>

Urbez-Torres, J.R., Sabaratnam, S., Acheampong, S., Balcaen, D., Boule, J., Ghoshal, B., Bennypaul, H., Thurston, M., Richardson, T., Molnar, C., and **Harper, S.** First report of 'Candidatus Phytoplasma pruni' associated with X-disease on sweet cherry (*Prunus avium* L.) in Canada. (2023). *Plant Disease* 0 0:ja.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-09-23-1875-PDN>

Zhou, A., Wang, J., **Chen, X.**, Xia, M., Feng, Y., Ji, F., Huang, L., Kang, Z., and Zhan, G. Virulence Characterization of *Puccinia striiformis* f. sp. *tritici* in China Using the Chinese and Yr single-gene Differentials. (2023). *Plant Disease* 0 0:ja. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-08-23-1524-RE>

Funding & Opportunities



- **Western SARE Graduate Student Research and Education Grant (Open to all students)**

Find more information [here](#). The grant application are Due on **December 7th 2023**

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

Please contact Tammy Cunningham (t.cunningham@wsu.edu) for more info. Application deadlines for travel from October 2023 - March 2024 are **September 29, 2023**.

- **American Phytopathological Society Funding (All students - must be an APS member)**

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

- **TA position opportunity in School of Biological Sciences**

If you are interested in a TA position in the School of Biological Sciences this fall, please contact Kara McClanahan at karamac@wsu.edu

- **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 if you have questions.

- **Here is a list of all available fundings worldwide.** Please login using your WSU account and refine the search.

<https://pivot.proquest.com/session/login>

Seminars



Dr. Gerald Holmes will be our Student Invited Guest Speaker Fall 2023!



Dr. Gerald Holmes is the Director of the Strawberry Center at Cal Poly State University in San Luis Obispo, California. The Center is a partnership between Cal Poly and the California Strawberry Commission. The mission of the Center is to increase the sustainability of the California strawberry industry through research and education. Gerald got his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from UC Riverside in 1994 then worked as a University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor in Imperial County for three years. For the next 12 years he was an Extension Vegetable Pathologist and Associate Professor at NC State University then worked six years as Product Development Manager for Valent USA Corporation before becoming Director of the Center in 2014.

Dr. Holmes will give a seminar at November 6th, 2023!

Thank to Roshani, Tammy, and all PPGSO officers's effort and Special thanks to GPSA and Department of PLP for the funding.

In addition, there are three opportunities for students to interact with Dr. Holmes:

1. Dinner on November 5th Sunday at 6.00 pm (In Pullman) - 6 students
2. Pizza Lunch with Speaker on 6th Monday (in PSB201 and all REC center locations)
3. Dinner on November 6th Monday at 6.00 pm (in Moscow) – 6 students

Please RSVP before **October 30th** (Tuesday) to indicate your interest in attending **any** of the above: <https://forms.gle/Zxu4SCqF3nY7dEBh7>

Dr. Xianming Chen will be leading the seminars this coming fall. Please direct all questions about seminar towards Dr. Chen at xianming@wsu.edu.

Department of Plant Pathology Seminar, Location: Clark Hall 149 (Every Monday, 4:10pm to 5:00pm)

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 951 0261 0389 Passcode: 4417 Call in number: 1 646 558 8656

October 30 - Megan Nickerson

November 6 -Dr Gerald Holmes (student invited speaker)

November 13 -Stephanie Crane

November 20 --- Break!

November 27 -Sudha Upadhaya

December 4 -Katelyn Kiick

Molecular Plant Science seminar, Location: BLS402 (Every Wednesday, 12:10pm to 1:10pm)

[zoom link](#). Meeting ID: 971 5326 1608 Passcode: 194355

November 1 -Jessica Ortiz

November 8 -Brandon Johnson

November 15 -Rachel Snyder

November 29 -TBD

December 6 -Itsuhiko Ko

Department of Horticulture seminar, (Every Thursdays, 2:55pm to 4:05pm)

Please use the [Seminar Registration](#) page to receive information to join the seminar remotely.

Location: Pullman – Clark 151, Mount Vernon – Annex East, Puyallup – K109, Tri-Cities – WSC 201

November 2 -Kayla Brouwer

November 9 -Potato breeding - Cari Schmitz-Carley

November 16 -Working in Industry and professional development- Daniel Zommick

November 30 -Connor Buckley, MS Student Horticulture, WSU

December 7 -Tropical fruit research- Gustavo Teixeira

Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences Seminar, Location: FSHN 354 (Every Monday, 2:10pm to 3:00pm)

[zoom link](#) Meeting ID: 948 3236 9338. Passcode: 349823

October 30 No Seminar, Tri-Societies Annual Meeting

November 6 Emily Klarquist 'Biofortification Research Methods for Plant Breeding Programs'

November 13 WSU Graduate Student Statewide Tour Report

November 20 no seminar, Thanksgiving Break

November 27 tbd

December 4 Viviana Medina Rodriguez 'Climate-Smart Caribbean: Enabling climate-smart decisions for agriculture in Puerto Rico and the USVI'

McCarter Lecture Seminar Series IBC seminar. Location: BLS 402, Friday 11:00am – 11:50am

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 994 9556 2567; Passcode: 118330

November 17, 2023 Dr. Katayoon (Katie) Dehesh, Director of Institute for Integrative Genome Biology, Ernst and Helen Leibacher Endowed Chair, Professor of Molecular Biochemistry, University of California Riverside-“Unraveling the function of the ancient and Conserved MEP Pathway in chloroplast-mediated regulation of adaptive responses”

To be held in BLS 402, 11:00am – 11:50am

December 1, 2023 Dr. Carolyn Rasmussen, Associate Professor, Botany and Plant Sciences, University of California Riverside -“Division plane orientation in plant cells”

To be held in BLS 402, 11:00am – 11:50m

December 15, 2023 Dr. Uta Paszkowski, Professor, Crop Science Centre, Cambridge University

“TBD” To be held via Zoom, 9:00am – 9:50am

MARILYN & JAMES HYDE SEMINAR SERIES, Department of Entomology, Location: FSHN 354 (Every Monday, 12:00pm to 1:00pm)

[Zoom link](#)

October 30th – Dr. Andrew Sutherland, BCE – San Francisco Bay Area IPM Advisor – Title TBA –

November 6th – No Hyde Seminar

November 13th – Tim Waters – WSU Extension Educator for Franklin and Benton – Title TBA –

November 20th – No Hyde Seminar

November 27th – Dr. Fred Whitford – Title TBA –

Jobs



Graduate Research Positions

- No new positions, please check previous newsletters

Post-Doctoral Positions

- No new positions, please check previous newsletters

Technician, Industry, and Other Non-Academic Positions

- The USDA-ARS Western Regional Plant Introduction Station within the National Plant Germplasm System is seeking a Plant Technician in Pullman, WA. For more details and to apply, [click here](#).

Faculty Positions

- No new positions, please check previous newsletters

Contact us



If you have an item you would like included in the newsletter, email it to Itsuihiro.ko@wsu.edu.

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

<https://forms.gle/DubmGBiAjbEfyeqW9>