NDSU Department of Plant Sciences 2008 Blízzard Watch

Greetings from the Department of Plant Sciences.

Rod Lym, Associate Chair

The Department of Plant Sciences underwent several changes in 2008, the most significant of course was the retirement of Dr. Schneiter. Al served NDSU for almost 40 years beginning as an agronomist at the Williston Research/Extension Center in 1964. He joined the Agronomy Dept. on campus in 1974 and in January 1994, he was selected by the faculty in the Department to become the Interim Chair of the new Department of Plant Sciences. In early 1996 following a national search, he was hired as permanent Chair, a position he held until his retirement.

With Dr. Schneiter's retirement, I became the Acting Chair from May until August when Dr. Meyer left his forage position to become Interim Chair, until a permanent Chair is named.

Five faculty were promoted in 2008. Dr. Mike McMullen (oat breeding and genetics) and Dr Mohamed Mergoum (hard red spring wheat breeding and genetics) were promoted to full professor. Dr. Xiwen Cai (wheat genetics and cytology), Dr. Deying Li (sports and urban turfgrass management), and Dr Asunta (Susie) Thompson (potato breeding) were promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

The Department had several new hires in 2008.

Assistant Professor Alan Zuk has been hired as the newest member of the Sports and Urban Turfgrass Management team with an 80/20 teaching and research appointment. Dr. Zuk is a Kansas native and received a B.S. and M.S. degree in horticulture from Kansas State University. Alan then managed the turfgrass research farm for the Department of Horticulture at KSU for ten years while working on a Ph.D. in turfgrass science. Prior to coming to NDSU Dr. Zuk was the Chair of the Horticulture Department at Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis, NE. Dr. Zuk will teach several courses including turfgrass management; landscape bidding and contracting; turfgrass science, ecology and management; horticulture therapy; and senior seminar. His research projects will focus on ornamental grasses and low input turfgrass management.



Dr. Alan Zuk



Dr. Greta Gramig

Dr. Greta Gramig has joined the weed science program as an Assistant Professor in weed biology and ecology. Dr. Gramig is originally from Kingsport, TN but has spent a lot of time in Bozeman, MT where she completed her B.S. in Plant Science at Montana State University. While at MSU, Greta worked for an extension weed scientist and became inter-

ested in the study of weeds and their growth patterns. Greta obtained both an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Agronomy at the University of Wisconsin where she focused on the ecophysiology of crop-weed competition for light. Before coming to NDSU, Greta served as a postdoctoral scientist at the USDA-ARS North Central Soil Conservation Research Lab in Morris, MN. Dr. Gramig's research interests include characterizing and/or modeling environmental effects on weed competitive ability and weed response to management tactics. Dr. Gramig has an 80/20 research and teaching position and will teach courses in weed identification and weed biology and ecology.

Dr. Kevin McPhee comes to NDSU from the USDA-ARS Grain Legume Genetics and Physiology Research Unit in Pullman, WA where he spent ten years as a research geneticist. Dr. McPhee attended the University of Wyoming where he received a B.S. degree in Agronomy. He then moved to Moscow, ID where he entered graduate school at the Univer-



Dr. Kevin McPhee

sity of Idaho and received his Ph.D. in Agronomy in 1995. Kevin's research program will include germplasm enhancement and variety development for the pulse crops pea, lentil and chickpea. The objectives of his research program include the genetics of disease resistance, lodging resistance, and seed quality. Kevin is currently serving as President of the North American Pulse Improvement Association and is the Editor of Pisum Genetics. His appointment is 90% research and he will teach a course in crop breeding and production.

Dr. Penny Kianian was hired as an Assistant Professor of Practice responsible for teaching undergraduate Genetics Laboratories and the supervision/ coordination of graduate assistants involved in teaching this course. Genetics Laboratory is a General Education course serving an average of 250 students from a wide range of disciplines both spring and fall



semesters. Dr. Kianian received her B.S. from the Department of Plant Genetics and Agronomy at the University of Minnesota, and an M.S. from the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University. Penny then worked for several years as a Research Scientist at NDSU before returning to graduate school to receive a Ph.D. in Applied Plant Sciences from the University of Minnesota in 2007. After completing her Ph.D., she was employed at Minnesota State University Moorhead as a Genetics Instructor. Penny is a native of Minnesota, growing up in the St. Paul area. Her research interests include improving crops using molecular genetic approaches and developing improved teaching methods in genetics for undergraduate students.

Dr. William Berzonsky resigned to become the winter wheat breeder at South Dakota State University. The white and specialty wheat breeding program Dr. Berzonsky led has been taken over by Dr. Mergoum and the open position has been redirected to a winter wheat breeding program.

On a sad note, former Department Chair Dr. Earl Foster passed away on March 25, 2009 after suffering a massive stroke on March 23, 2009.

any of our faculty and staff received awards which reflects the high quality of our Department.

Dr. Susie Thompson received the Larson/Yaggie Excellence in Research Award. This award was established by the ND Agricultural Experiment Station to recognize exceptional research performance by faculty or staff.

Dr. Dale Herman received the Distinguished Service Award from the North Dakota Nursery and Greenhouse Association. He was honored at the Annual Convention & Trade Show banquet on January 26, 2009. Dr. Herman also received the Minnesota Society of Arborists "Distinguished Service Award" at their annual conference. This is the highest award they bestow for outstanding service and commitment to the advancement of the ideals and goals of the MSA, and/or outstanding service and commitment to the field of arboriculture or urban forestry.

Dr. Rod Lym was recognized by the Director of the National Park Service, Midwest Region, for his work in controlling invasive weeds in natural environments. His research was cited for greatly improving control of invasive species in National Parks with minimal impact to native species.

Dr. Cal Messersmith, professor emeritus, received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award for the positive impact that his teaching and research has had on agriculture in ND and the region.

Dr. Edward Deckard was inducted into the NDSU chapter of Golden Key International Honor Society as an honorary member.

Research specialist Larry Chaput received the Distinguished Service Award from the North Dakota Forest Service at the 2008 NDSU Trees Bowl football game on October 11, 2008.

Brenda Deckard, director of student services, received the Distinguished Educator Award from the NDSU Blue Key chapter. The award, established in 1969, honors an outstanding NDSU educator who goes above and beyond what is required to help NDSU students. In 2008, the faculty received approximately \$4.2 million in grants and contracts. That figure will increase dramatically in 2009 as Dr. Shahryar Kianian along with Dr. Anne Denton, assistant professor of computer science, have received a \$3.1 million grant from the National Science Foundation Plant Genome Research Program.



Dr. Shahryar Kianian

There were 38 M.S. and 31 Ph.D. students in the Department at the end of 2008. Many were recognized for their accomplishments.

The Pesticide Program, led by Andrew Thostenson, is no longer part of Plant Sciences. The Extension Director now has administrative duties for this program. As part of the change, Andrew and his staff moved to Walster Hall. MaryBeth Odegaard resigned from her position with the Pesticide Program in April.

Joe Zeleznik, Extension Forester, requested he be moved to the School of Natural Resources and left Plant Sciences at the end of the year.

Jeremy Pederson left his seedstocks position and moved to the North Central Research and Extension Center in Minot. He was replaced by Gonzalo Rojas-Cifuentes. Scott Meyer moved to the Plant Pathology Department.

Lyle Lindberg retired from Plant Sciences in November, but is now back working part time to help keep our computers up and running.

We had several new technical staff slots become available during the year. Chad Deplazes works with Dr.'s Ransom and Kandel, Angela Kazmierczak joined Dr. Zollinger on his weeds project, Greg Lammers works with corn for Dr. Carena, Dan Liane and Mukhlesur Rahman work with Dr. McClean in canola, and Kevin Rue joined the turfgrass program to work with Dr. Zhang.

Josef Maianu lost his long battle with cancer and passed away in May 2008.

There were two resignations among our Plant Sciences office staff in 2008. Janet Salyer resigned her position in August and Sheila Watson resigned in September to take a position with the NDSU Student Activity Office. Nancy Nessa was hired in February to work with our graduate students and process timeslips for our student workers.

Many staff members were recognized for their years of service at NDSU. Louise Heinz was recognized for 25 years of service and became a member of the Quarter Century Club. Eileen Buringrud, Bryce Farnsworth and Rachel Olson were recognized for 35 years of service. Jason Faller, Rachel McArthur and Rian Lee were honored for ten years of service. Collin Auwarter and Sarah Underdahl each reached the five year milestone.

As you can tell, Plant Sciences is a large, diverse, and growing Department and we expect this to continue into the future.

PLANT SCIENCE HEAD SEARCH

The department is presently searching for a new head to lead the department. Unfortunately, the pool of candidates was considered inadequate following the listed closing date and the search was extended until September. We need to identify potential dynamic leaders that could lead the department in the future.

I am enlisting your help. Consider nominating an individual that you believe could be that dynamic leader. If you have a nominee, contact Dr. Jack Rasmussen, chair of the search committee. His email address is Jack.Rasmussen@ndsu.edu and his telephone number is 701-231-7058.

Dwain W. Meyer

Interim Chair

Rod Lym Associate Chair



Dr. Rod Lym, Associate Chair



Assistant Chair



Dr. Dwain Meyer, Interim Chair

News from Dr. Carter

In late June of 2008, we decided the time had come for us to move to an "assisted living" place, and we moved to Bethany Homes in Fargo. We have room 829 with a beautiful view of North Fargo. We have a nice large two-room "apartment" but it is not like our home of 56 years with our yard, flowers, apples, birds, raspberries, squirrels, etc. Further, Jack did not return to his office but continued some "research and extension" activities with flax-seed as food, feed, etc. from Bethany.

Our situation has changed greatly since last year. Jack injured his back June 30, 2007. The injury involves a cytoma from the myeloma near the spine so not many treatment systems to decrease pain are available, safe or possible. You will recall that Imogene (Iris) has had an imbalance problem from shingles damage which affected her activity in housekeeping, working, etc.

Imogene continues some activities here, mainly our link to the "outside world" with her computer. We both have many friends who visit, give us rides to clinics, etc. and bring us many items. Jack quit driving because of gimpy legs that he feared might not perform as needed on brake or gas pedal leading to an accident.

Our four sons come to see us and are helping to prepare our house for sale, alas! Jeff and Joel are the closest in Minneapolis. Our grandchildren go to, and graduate, from College, and our two great-grandchildren (children of Andy who is son of Nancy & Eric) are in preschool.

Please come visit us as you pass near or through Fargo, and see our address change. Short visits between 3 and 4:30 pm are most convenient. We are here most of day except trips to clinics, so call about your planned visit if time permits. We are now "elderly" we are told and find that we get tired easily.

We, especially I, miss going to my office to answer mail and phone calls about flaxseed and other items. The increase in all grain prices has caused flaxseed to go up too but many users can still afford to eat flaxseed.

Many folks like Lisa Johnson, Eileen Buringrud, Dr. Schneiter, Dexters, Millers, Hammonds, DiCicco's, etc. still help us, drive us to clinics, etc. We thank you. We were lucky to move to a temporarily vacant home during recent Fargo Flood.

Best of all to you! Jack and Imogene Carter

P.S. Did you notice in CSSA News that Carl Johnson, our M.S. graduate and rice breeder at U.C. Davis, CA, is retiring? Carl was responsible to help start the NDSU Annual Blizzard party at ASA meeting, and the "home folks at NDSU" started the Annual Blizzard letter.







Many of our faculty, staff and students added new babies to their families in 2008 and early 2009. Congratulations to the following and also to those we may have missed.

- Lisa and Karmen Johnson became grandparents on January 8, 2008 when Asta Marielle was born to their daughter Erica and Aaron Lien. Asta weighed seven pounds, seven ounces and was twenty inches long.
- Dr. Dale and Ruth Herman are the proud grandparents of a new grandson. Cameron Dale was born to their daughter, on May 17, 2008. He weighed a little over seven pounds and was 19 inches long.
- Dr. Shane and Kim Friesen welcomed Katie Helene on June 10, 2008. Katie weighed seven pounds, 11 ounces and was 21.5 inches long.
- Barbod Ghavami was born to Azin and Farhard Ghavami on June 16, 2008, weighing seven pounds, 15 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Farhad is a postdoctoral research fellow with Dr. Kianian.
- Louise and Clayton Heinz became grandparents for the second time when Jada Nicole was born to their daughter Heather and Shawn Schmidt. Jada was born on March 2, 2009 weighing seven pounds and measuring 19 inches long.
- Dr. Juan and Judith Osorno welcomed twins on March 24, 2009. Melissa weighed five pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 inches long. Nicholas weighed seven pounds and was also 19 inches long.
- Maximilian Joseph Holthusen was born to Angela Kazmierczak Holthusen and Robbie Holthusen on March 31, 2009, weighing six pounds four ounces and measuring 18.5 inches long. Angela is a research specialist with Dr. Zollinger.
- Dr. Mukhlesur and Sharmini Rahman welcomed a son, Shariq, on May 4, 2009. Shariq weighed six pounds, four ounces and measured 19 inches long.



2009 Years of Service

5 YEARS:	Collin Auwarter Sarah Underdahl	
10 YEARS:	Jason Faller	
	Rachel McArthur	
	Rian Lee	
25 YEARS:	Louise Heinz	
35 YEARS:	Bryce Farnsworth	
	Eileen Buringrud	
	Rachel Olson	

Quarter Century 5 Club





Plant Sciences Faculty:

Meyer, Dwain Cai. Xiwen Carena, Marcelo J. Christoffers, Michael Coston, D.C. Dai, David W. David, Nick Deckard, Edward L. Elias. Elias M. Friesen, Shane Grafton, Kenneth F. Gramiq, Greta Hammond, James J. Hatterman-Valenti, Harlene Helms. Theodore C. Herman, Dale E. Horsley, Richard D. Howatt, Kirk A. Johnson, Burton L. Kalb, Thomas Kandel, Hans Kianian, Penny Kianian, Shahryar F. Lee, Chiwon W. Li. Devina M. Lym, Rodney G. Manthey, Frank A. McClean, Phillip E. McPhee, Kevin McMullen, Michael S. Mergoum, Mohamed Osorno, Juan Ransom, Joel K. Schwarz, Paul Simsek, Senay Smith, Ron C. Stachler, Jeff Thompson, Asunta (Susie) L. Williams, M. Dale Zhang, Qi (Chee) Zollinger, Richard K. Zuk, Alan

Prof. & Interim Chair (forage production, cropping systems) Assoc. Prof. (wheat /cytology genetics teaching) Assoc. Prof. (corn breeding and genetics) Assoc. Prof. (weed science/genetics teaching) Prof.; Vice President for Ag. and University Ext. Asst. Prof. (woody plant phys./biotech.) Asst. Prof. (extension potato) Prof. (teaching) Prof. (durum wheat breeding) Asst. Prof. (perennial weed control) Dean, College of AFSNR & Director, of ND AES Asst. Prof. (weed biology & ecology) Prof. (flax/crambe brdg, computer prog.) Assoc. Prof. (high value crop production) Prof. (soybean breeding, genetics) Prof. (woodv plants. ornamentals) Prof. (6-row /2-row barley brdg, genetics) Assoc. Prof. (weed science-annual weeds) Assoc. Prof. (sunfl., minor, new crop prod.) Extension Horticulture Specialist (*western ND*) Assoc. Prof, Ext. Agronomist (broadleaf crops) Asst. Prof. of Practice (genetics) Assoc. Prof. (HRS, durum wh. germ. enhance.) Prof. (ornamentals, turf/biotech. teaching) Assoc. Prof. (sports turf management) Prof. (perennial weed control) Assoc. Prof. (durum and pasta quality) Prof. (dry bean genetics, biotechnology) Assoc. Prof. (pulse crop breeding) Prof. (oat breeding and genetics) Prof. (HRSW breeding, genetics) Asst. Prof. (dry edible bean breeding) Assoc. Prof. (ext. agronomist, sm. grains) Prof. (malting barley quality) Asst. Prof. (*HRSW end quality*) Prof. (extension horticulture/turfgrass) Asst. Prof. (NDSU/U of MN Extension, Weed Science) Assoc. Prof. (potato breeding) Seedstocks Director (seedstocks) Asst. Prof (turf physiology) Prof. (extension weed control) Asst. Prof. (sports & urban turfgrass)



Professors Emeriti:

Berglund, Duane Boe, A.A. Carter, J.F. Cross, H.Z. Dexter, Alan Duysen, Murray Foster, A.E. Frohberg, R.C. Franckowiak, J.D. Holland, N. Lund, H.R. Maan, S.S. Messersmith, C.G. Nalewaja, J.D. Nelson, D.C. Spilde, L.A. Whited, D.A.

Adjunct Faculty (*USDA):

Anderson, James V*	(plant biochemistry)	
Campbell, Larry G.*	(sugarbeet genetics)	
Carr, Patrick M.	(sustainable agric.)	
Chao, Shiaoman*	(genomics)	
Chao, Wun Shaw*	(perennial weeds)	
Dahleen, Lynn S.*	(barley genetics, biotech.)	
Doehlert, Doug*	(oat germplasm enhance.)	
Faris, Justin*	(cereal crops)	
Foley, Mike E.*	(weed biology)	
Horvath, Dave P.*	(perennial weed phys.)	
Hossain, Khwaja	(wheat germplasm enhanc.)	
Hu, Jinguo*	(sunflower genomics)	
Hulke, Brent*	(sunflower breeding and genetics)	
Jan, Chao C.*	(sunflower cytogenetics)	
Jauhar, Prem P.*	(wheat cytogenetics)	
Klotz, Karen L.*	(sugarbeet physiology)	
Lulai, Ed C.*	(potato physiology)	
Seiler, Gerald J.*	(sunflower & sugarbeet germ.)	
Suttle, Jeffrey C.*	(potato physiology)	
Xu, Steven S.*	(HRSW development)	

University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez:

Beaver, James Bosques, Angel Brunner, Bryan Eperling, John Ferwerda, Feiko Irish, Brian Macchiavelli, Raul Ortiz, Carlos Porch, Tim Wessel-Beaver, Linda (common bean, corn) (pigeonpea, tanier) (tropical fruits and ornamentals) (sorghum) (molecular genetics; common bean) (tropical fruits and nuts) (statistics) (root crops) (common bean) (tropical pumpkin, vegetable breeding)

Postdoc. Research Fellow/Visiting Scientist, Project Leader, Area of Research:

Ai, Xinghui Dogramaci, Munevver Feng, Jihuan Ghavami, Farhad Li, Yin Liu, Zhao Mulpuri, Sujatha Rahman, Mukhlesur Rishi, Ananthamari Sabba, Robert Yue, Bing Zhu, Xianwen Xu (hard red spring wheat development) Anderson (perennial weeds) Jan (sunflower cytogenetics) Kianian (HRS, durum wheat germplasm enhancement) Schwarz (malting barley quality) Jan (sorghum) Jan (sorghum) Johnson, McClean, McMullen (canola) Kianian (wheat genetics) Thompson/Lulai (potato tubers) Vick (sunflower) Cai (wheat genetics)

Office Staff:

Buringrud, Eileen Grant, Michelle Hagness, Nicole Heinz, Louise Johnson, Lisa Nessa, Nancy Perrin, Char Welter-Jahnke, Melissa



Nancy Nessa, the newest addition to the office staff

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Research Specialists, Technicians, Chemists:

Abdallah, Matthew (HRSW breeding) Auwarter, Collin (high value crop prod.) Barr, John (malting barley) Baumann, Robert (oat breeding) Chaput, Larry (woody plants) Christianson, Katheryn (perennial weeds) Ciernia, Mark (weed control) Dash, Snigdharani (Reena) (durum quality) Davidson-Harrington, Janet (weed science) Deckard, Brenda (student services director) Deplazes, Chad (small grains, crop production) Faller, Jason (barley breeding) Farnsworth, Bryce (potato breeding) Gillespie, James (malting barley quality) Gregoire, Pete (crop physiology) Hanson, Dave (soybean breeding) Hegstad, Justin (wheat germ enhancement) Hertsgaard, Karen (Institute of Barley & Malt Sciences) Hillen, Nancy (durum quality) Hinsz, Brent (spring wheat) Hochhalter, Martin (barley breeding) Johnson, Christina (science animation) Kazmierczak, Angela (weed control) Kercher, Kreg (flax breeding) Lammers, Greg (corn breeding & genetics) Laschkewitsch, Barb (herbaceous ornamentals)

Lee, Rian (dry bean genetics/biotech.) Liane, Dan (dry bean genetics, canola) Luecke, John (sugarbeet weed control) Magnusson, Victoria (woody plants biotech.) Mark, Sandra (weed science) Martin, Larry (soybean breeding) McArthur, Rachel (wheat genetics) McMonagle, Kelly (spring wheat) Nilles, Richard (potato breeding) Nudell, Robert (forages) Olson, Rachel (wheat quality) Peckrul, Allen (germplasm enhancement) Pederson, Shauna (weed science) Petersen, Paula (crop production) Ries, Jerry (weed control) Roach, Ron (weed control) Rojas-Cifuentes, Gonzalo (Asst. Dir., Seedstocks) Rue, Kevin (turfgrass) Stancyk, Stan (durum breeding) Underdahl, Jesse (HRSW breeding, genetics) Underdahl, Sarah (durum breeding) VanderWal, Jody (dry bean breeding) Wanner, Duane (corn breeding) Whitney, Kristin (spring wheat) Wijetunga, Theja (barley quality)

Graduate Students and Advisor:

AbuHammad, Wesam	Elias	*Michalak, Monika	Kianian
Alcazar-Rios, Luz	Elias	Mikkelson, Jonathan	Lym
Brodshaug, Jack	Kandel	*Modali, Harini	Fawley
*Calle-Bellido, Juan	Thompson	*Negeri, Adisu Teshome	Horsley
Chikara, Shireen	McClean	Neubauer, Jonathan	Lulai/Thompson
*Correa-Morales, Ana	Horsley	*Noyszewski, Andrzej	Kianian
*Echeverry-Solarte, Morgan	Mergoum	Ostlie, Michael	Howatt
Eckert, Fernando	Osorno	*Pedraza-Garcia, Fabio	Horsley
Eken, Mikki	Lym	Rugg, Mory	Mergoum
Fisher, Jason	Stachler	*Sandhu, Gurleen	Manthey
Funada, Mizuki	Helms	*Sandhu, Harkanwal	Manthey
Gegner, Sarah	Hatterman-Valenti	*Sezegen, Bahadir	Osorno
Harilal, Vibin Eranezhath	Mergoum	Sharma, Santosh	Carena
Hunt, Ryan	Zollinger	*Singh, Vineeta	Manthey
Jimenez Diaz, Alberto Cesar	Schwarz	*Somaratna (Abeysekara), Nilwala	Faris
*Johansen, Vanessa	Cai	Stenger, John	Hatterman-Valenti
*Knutson, Brandon	McClean	Su, Yuanjie (Ben)	Dai
*Laude, Tonette	Carena	*Wang, Hongxia	Dai
*Lewis (Friskop), Magan	Horsley	Wang, Sheng	Zhang
*Linares, Angela	Osorno/Mergoum	Wang, Yichun (Lulu)	Li
*Loken, James	Hatterman-Valenti	*Werner, Paul	Horsley
Luciano, Roberto	Howatt	*Wert, Todd W.	Thompson
Lundgren, Nathaniel	Ransom	Yabwalo, Dalitso	Mergoum
*Ma, Guojia	Cai	*Yang, Junyun	Carena
*Mamidi, Sujan	McClean	*Zhang, Quijun	Cai
Mantovani, Eder	Mergoum	Zhang, Yu	Simsek

*Ph.D. student





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