

A Message from the Department Head

There has been a lot of activity around the University and in the Department. I have been at two meetings with the new Chancellor over the last couple of weeks. He clearly has a vision and at one of the meetings embraced the need for strategic planning---again. Thus, I want to stress the importance of your participation in the upcoming faculty mini retreat June 3. The importance of this meeting should be obvious to all given the level of preparation for the meeting. The focus will be on strategic issues--- **What** are our areas of strength? **What** are our areas of opportunity? **What** is the best administrative strategy to achieve the goals in the current environment? My expectation for outcomes from this meeting is to identify specific objectives –action items- that will be used as a guide for developing operational plans and as input into the college and University planning efforts.

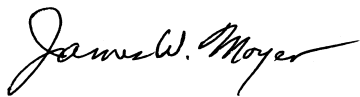
I have asked Dave Bird, Shuijin Hu and Frank Louws to lead discussions on the major programmatic areas. They will be contacting faculty ahead of time to gather background information for a brief introduction of 15 to 20 min followed by 20+ minute discussion of each area. While this may seem like a short period of time, it is intended to raise issues and areas, evaluation and specific plans will come later.

The second half of the retreat will be devoted to a similar treatment of cultural and administrative issues such as institutional expectations of faculty, faculty expectations of the department and resource allocation. The DAC will be meeting Monday May 17 to discuss these issues in detail and to finalize the mini-retreat agenda. Please feel free to contribute any items/issues that you would like to have addressed at the retreat either to me or to one of the DAC members by May 14.

You should also be aware that we are moving ahead to fill the vacancies to the administrative staff. We are at the offer stage for the accounting position, applicants for the student services position are being selected for interview and we have permission to fill the second accounting position. I am extremely pleased with the depth of the applicant pool and am encouraged by the prospects for assembling an extremely strong team.

Again, please take some time to think about issues that need to be addressed in the Department. Also, consult the APS website regularly for updates on the annual meeting arrangements.

One last item – during the summer months the newsletter will be posted every three weeks. The next issue will be Friday, May 28.



News from the Accounting Office

Funding Opportunities

The [US-Israel Binational Agricultural Research & Development Fund](#) has funding opportunities for grants, postdoctoral & senior researcher fellowships, grad students, & workshops.

Voucher/PO# Requests

When requesting a voucher/PO# via [email](#) remember that multiple people, including our temporary accounting support, Crystal Harkless, are processing voucher requests, so please be specific with information such as vendor names, project-phase numbers, etc. The information needed in a voucher request is:

- Your name
- Your PI's name (if different)
- Vendor
- Valid project-phase to be charged
- In general, what is being purchased (lab/field supplies*, sequencing, repair, other supply, service, or fixed charge)

Particularly in MarketPlace, but often on vouchers as well, a supply item is something that would not normally be allowed on a grant (office supply, food item, cleaning supply), so be sure to provide a brief justification for that item to be used on the grant. One sentence should be enough. For example, V8 juice as a medium, paper towels or panty hose to strain material, permanent markers to label stakes in the field. If these purchases are made regularly, please submit a list of your unlike circumstances to your Grant Manager to have on file.

Upcoming Events

- June 28-
July 2 A workshop funded by USAID on the "Deployment of rapid diagnostic tools for *Phytophthora* on agricultural crops June 28 – July 2 in Central America" will take place in San José, Costa Rica. This is a joint initiative of NC State University, University of Costa Rica, Plant Research International, Wageningen and the Honduran Foundation for Research. Instructors include Dr. Monica Blanco, Dr. Jean Ristaino, Dr Luis Gomez, Dr Kelly Ivors and Dr Peter Bonants.
- July 19-21 [2010 North Carolina Flue-Cured & Burley Tobacco Tour](#). Drs. Mina Mila, Plant Pathology; Loren Fisher, Crop Science; Hannah Burrack, Entomology; Mike Boyette & Grant Ellington, Biological & Agricultural Engineering
- August 7-11 [2010 APS Annual Meeting](#), Opryland in Nashville, TN. For meeting changes, due to the massive flooding in Nashville, check the website regularly.
- September
20-24 [17th Ornamental Workshop on Diseases and Insects](#), Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC. Drs. Mike Benson & Kelly Ivors, Plant Pathology; & Drs. Steve Bambara & Steven Frank, Entomology.

Job Opportunity

The USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Plant Science Research Unit in Raleigh, North Carolina is seeking a [PostDoc Research Associate](#) (Research Plant Geneticist or Research Plant Physiologist)

Comings, Goings, & Happenings

Goings... Jennifer Williams is transferring to the NCSU Department of Math and will be their Contract Manager. Her last day in Plant Pathology is May 21 so stop by and bid her a fond farewell!

Suman Pakala recently resigned from Marc Cubeta's research program to accept a position as a Bioinformatics Engineer at the J. Craig Venter Institute in Rockville, MD. We wish him well and continued success!

Don't Forget!

May 21 Deadline for SPA performance appraisals to be turned into Marci. This year both the ***actual appraisal along with the rating are required.***