

PLANT BIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

University of Minnesota

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Department of Plant Biology, 250 Biological Sciences Center

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August 10, 2004

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1. Phytograd and Plant Biological Sciences Graduate Program

Mary A. McEvoy Award for Public Engagement and Leadership

Call for Nominations: The Mary A. McEvoy Award for Public Engagement and Leadership is awarded annually to one graduate and one professional student. In addition to the recognition the award is also accompanied by a \$1,000 scholarship.

The deadline for submission of nominations is Friday, February 13, 2004.

For the complete criteria and application procedures please go to:

www.gapsa.umn.edu/about/McEvoyAward/default.htm

Inquiries may also be directed to the Graduate and professional Student Assembly; Suite 234 Coffman Memorial Union; 300 SE Washington Ave.; Minneapolis, MN 55455.

Voice: 612-625-2982 Fax: 612-626-1963 gaps@tc.umn.edu

2. Achievements

Congratulations to Bryn Dentinger for receiving the Alexander P. and Lydia Anderson Fellowship. He has been awarded a summer fellowship stipend plus a research grant. The Fellowship was awarded in recognition of his well-defined proposal as well as his excellent academic record.

3. Calendar of Events

Bell Museum exhibit featuring the research of Plant Biology Professor Dave McLaughlin

Biodiversity 911: Saving Life on Earth is a traveling exhibit developed by World Wildlife Fund on display in the West Gallery of the Museum. It is an extremely informative and entertaining exhibit (especially for young children). PBS graduate student Wendy Clement worked on exhibit panels featuring University biodiversity researchers including Dave McLaughlin, Peter Reich, and Dave Tilman. Be sure to check it out! - George Weiblen

4. Faculty Meetings

Faculty Meeting

Thursday, February 19, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 406ABioSciCenter

5. Funding/Job Opportunities/Seekers

Systematic Mycologist Position

Join a team of highly skilled and dedicated professional molecular biologists and microbiologists working onsite at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD. Our scientists work with genomic experts at NIH's National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) in the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to create and enhance a suite of databases and tools available to researchers worldwide. We are currently looking for a systematic mycologist to help maintain the NCBI Taxonomy database for the Taxonomy Project at NCBI.

This technically challenging position requires a PhD with a broad knowledge of fungal systematics at the morphological and/or molecular level. Familiarity with the principles of phylogenetic systematics and botanical nomenclature is strongly desired. The successful candidate will devote 50% of her/his time to maintaining the fungal portion of the taxonomy database (and other parts of the database as needed). Database curation includes verifying taxon names, ensuring that classification is consistent with advances in systematic knowledge, and interacting with sequence annotators and submitters. The other 50% of the candidate's time will be available for independent research. Opportunities for research collaboration exist within NCBI and NIH, as well as within other regional institutions, depending on research interests. Teamwork interaction, excellent verbal communication as well as written and organizational skills are essential for this position.

For consideration please submit cover letter, resume/CV, salary history, salary requirements, and U.S. employment eligibility (you must currently reside in the U.S. and be eligible to work).

Email: hr@computercraft-usa.com

Fax: 301-493-1288

Mail: Computercraft, Attn: HR, 6701 Democracy Blvd., Suite 401, Bethesda, Maryland 20817

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6. Seminars and Symposia

PLANT BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Tuesdays, 3:30 PM, 335 Borlaug Hall, St. Paul Campus

(*Unless Noted Otherwise)

Feb. 10 **Dr. Nathan Springer**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Plant Biology, U of M
“*Why does mother know best? Identifying the molecular mechanisms regulating imprinted gene expression*”
Host: Dr. George Weiblen

Feb. 17 **Dr. Alex Buerkle**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biology, U of WI/Eau Claire
“*The Genetic Architecture of Species Boundaries*”
Host: Dr. Cynthia Weinig

Job Search Interviews

The information below is from the GCD seminars page
(<http://www.gcd.med.umn.edu/html/seminars.html>).

The BMBB information also available on the seminar page
<http://www.cbs.umn.edu/BMBB/seminars.html>

February 5

The Roles of Hsc70 and Rme-8 in endocytosis
Henry Chiu-Yu Chang, Ph.D.
Post-Doctoral Fellow,
Department of Cell Biology, Yale University
School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut

Dr. Chang is a Cell Biology Search candidate

February 12

Clathrin-Mediated Endocytosis and Protein Ubiquitination in Synaptic Function
Hong Chen, Ph.D.,
Post-Doctoral Fellow,
Department of Cell Biology,
Yale University, New Haven

Dr. Chen is a Cell Biology Search candidate

Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics'
Research Seminar Series - Spring 2004

Sponsored by The Center for Microbial and Plant Genomics

Wednesdays, 12:00 - 1:00 pm Room 105 Cargill-MPG
1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul

Feb. 4 Dr. Jane Glazebrook, Plant Biology
"Investigating plant disease resistance signaling networks using expression profiling"

Feb. 18 Dr. Sue Gibson, Plant Biology
"Using genomics and reverse genetics to characterize plant sugar-response pathways"

March 3 Dr. Nevin Young, Plant Pathology
"Comparative genomics of legumes and their disease resistance genes"

March 17 Dr. Sagarika Kanjilal, Veterinary Pathobiology and Dermatology
"A feline model of sarcoma"

March 31 Dr. Vivek Kapur, Microbiology and Veterinary Pathobiology
"TBA"

April 14 Dr. Fumi Katagiri, Plant Biology
"How plants find and battle with their enemies (and how we want to study it)"

April 28 Dr. Dan O'Sullivan, Food Science and Nutrition
"Dairy cultures: both healthy and tasty"

May 12 Dr. Phil Pardey, Applied Economics
"Bioscience policy -- investments, impacts and IPRs"

May 26 Dr. Ron Phillips, Agronomy and Plant Genetics
"Unique aspects of adding maize chromosomes to the oat genome"

Speaker: **Gilad Lerman**, New York University (candidate for a faculty position
in Math at the U)

Time and place: **Thursday, Feb. 5, 11:15 am, Vincent Hall 570**

Title: Identifying Differentially Expressed Genes via Multiscale Geometric Analysis

Abstract:

We confront some problems of data analysis (in particular outlier detection with applications to bioinformatics) and use ideas developed in harmonic analysis (specifically stopping-time constructions and multiscale geometric analysis).

The first problem is the identification of differentially expressed genes or, more generally, the nonparametric detection of outliers in heteroscedastic data. We begin by assuming the data is normalized so that it is concentrated around a line. We suggest a multiscale construction for a "strip" with varying width around the line. The strip is intended to separate the "deviating" points or genes from the rest. We may generalize to the case where the data is not normalized a priori, so that we construct a strip of varying width around a curve. We also discuss briefly more

general constructions, possible applications, difficulties, and relevant geometric information theory developed by Peter Jones and the speaker.

This is a joint work with Joe McQuown and Bud Mishra as well as continuing theoretical work with Peter Jones.

7. Miscellaneous Announcements

Out of the Office

Anne Caton is away from the office from Wednesday, February 4 through Friday, February 16.

Claiming exemption from Minnesota State income tax withholding on Form MWR Reciprocity:

Residents of Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Michigan who work in Minnesota but want to be exempted from Minnesota income tax withholding, must provide Payroll Services with a new **MWR (Reciprocity) form by Tuesday, February 24, 2004 at 4:00 P.M.** to continue the exemption from Minnesota State tax withholding.

Current MWR Reciprocity forms for 2003 expire on 2-29-04. If a new MWR Reciprocity form is not received in Payroll Services by 2-24-04, Minnesota income tax will be withheld from your next paycheck instead of the taxes for your resident state. Any Minnesota taxes withheld because Form MWR has not been completed cannot be refunded by Payroll Services.

The MWR Reciprocity form is available on the Employee Self Service web site at www.hrss.umn.edu under "Forms".

Detailed information concerning the rules for withholding reciprocal state taxes is available on the Employee Self Service web site at http://hrss.umn.edu/paycheck_info/Taxes under Income Tax Deductions. You can also call the HRMS/Payroll Call Center at 612-625-2016 if you have other questions.

Editors: Kate VandenBosch, Dept. Head; Anne Caton, Admin. Director; Odette Holter, Principal Administrative Specialist

This publication is available in hard copy or email by request. Please contact Odette Holter via email (oholter@biosci.cbs.umn.edu) or call 625-1234 if you would like to receive a copy.

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