



## Upcoming Events

### • August 29

*Almost Annual Old Fashioned Corn Feast.* The Holtzer's are generously hosting this event at their place in Rist Canyon. See the fliers around the department for directions.

### • September 2

*Back to School Picnic.* The College of Agricultural Sciences hosts this annual event in the Monfort Quad. Free food and prizes!

### • September 12

*The 28th Ag Day Barbecue at Hughes Stadium.* Featuring Colorado fare such as lamb, beef, pork, beans, potatoes, apples, dairy, melons, beer, and flowers.

### • Ongoing

*Gillette Entomology Club.* This graduate student club has been around since 1912 and is the longest running student club on campus! Anyone is welcome to be a member. Contact Christa Hardy for more information.

## Introducing Seven New Graduate Students

The spring and fall 2009 semesters have brought seven new students to the BSPM Department. Please join us in making them feel welcome. A picture along with some information about each student follows.

**Holly Cooper** graduated from Rocky Mountain College in Billings, MT two years ago with a degree in Biology. The summer before her senior year she participated in a 10-week Research



Experience for Undergraduate internship in Costa Rica doing a project on ants that made her decide that she eventually wanted

to get her Master's in Entomology and do work in the tropics. Since then, she's worked part-time at Starbucks, and these last two summers, done seasonal work for the Wyoming Game and Fish as a Nongame Biologist, mapping prairie dog towns, and helping with the yearly surveys of the Black-footed ferret population in Shirley Basin, WY. While Holly grew up in Lamar, CO, she currently lives in Cheyenne, WY, but will be moving to Fort Collins here shortly. She can't wait to be a Coloradoan again!

**Laura Dev** is a new PhD student in the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology. She is in Cini Brown's lab, and will be co



-advised by Julia Klein. Laura will also be working with Dana Blumenthal at the USDA. Her research will look at the landscape-scale responses of grassland

communities to altered rainfall regimes, herbivory, and changing nutrient availability due to global change. Laura grew up in New Hampshire and received her B.S. in biology and mathematics from Tufts University in 2006. Since then, she has been living and working in California, primarily near the beautiful shore of Lake Tahoe.

**Ryan Edwards** moved to Fort Collins last winter and is working on his MS

with Dr. George Beck in the Weed Science Lab. His research will primarily focus on the control of Russian Olive through several techniques such as cut stump, basal bark and foliar applications of herbicides and the dispersal of Russian Olive seeds by avian and mammalian organisms.



Ryan received his BS in biology from the University of Northern Colorado. In his spare time, Ryan enjoys camping, fishing, and brewing beer.

**Maggie Jordan** recently graduated from Auburn University in Poultry Science and Entomology. She will be starting her masters this fall under the advisement of Dr. Paul Opler. She is looking at

possible project topics dealing with butterflies in Grand Teton National Park. Maggie has spent several summers working in and around the park and it is a place that she is very passionate about and she looks forward to continuing her education by learning about it. Maggie grew up in a small town in North Alabama and has six brothers and sisters: Liz, Conner, Hunter, Presley, Matthew, and Mary Katherine. She is the oldest and loves going home to so much family- there is never a dull moment! Maggie enjoys fly fishing, hiking, biking, and of course catching bugs!

**Crystal McEwen** (not pictured) was born and raised in Fort Collins, but lived in Singapore for one year during high school. She received her B.S. in Zoology from CSU in 2007. Most of Crystal's professional background is in animal husbandry, and her interest in bat ecology led her to discover her passion for insects. Crystal will be working on her Masters under Dr. Whitney Cranshaw, studying a variety of different insects. One of her projects will be looking at the benefits and costs of using methyl jasmonate and salicylic acid products on vegetable crops. Crystal

will also be working on a particular Cynipid wasp, onion thrips, and cluster flies.

**Mike Ostlie** is a new PhD student in Weed Science. He received his undergraduate and Master's degrees at North Dakota State University. Mike's research is focused on herbicide resistance development in wheat. He moved to Colorado in November with his wife and they both enjoyed the much milder winter temperatures than Fargo experienced. But don't ask him if Fargo is like the movie, he has no idea—never watched it.



**Paul Tanger** comes to CSU with a background in science having earned his BS in Biology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. After graduating, Paul gained several years of industry experience working in Orange County and San Diego before deciding to return to graduate school. As a research associate and project manager Paul learned the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration and the role that



economics must play in any project, including a scientific one. A recipient of the National Science Foundation IGERT PhD fellowship in sustainable bioenergy (<http://bioenergy-igert.colostate.edu/>), Paul will be studying the functional genomics of potential biofuel crops, with the intention of eliciting the genetic

control of characteristics that can be used to develop more efficient cost-competitive bioenergy. He is currently completing a rotation in Dr. Jan Leach's group, and will be forming his committee shortly. In his free time Paul likes to travel, moonlight as an amateur photographer and is most likely found enjoying outdoor activities including running, soccer, mountaineering, and snowboarding, among others.



## 57th WIFDWC

Dr. Bill Jacobi was presented with the 2009 Western International Forest Disease Work Conference Outstanding Achievement Award held at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado in July. Congratulations!

*Is that Bill sitting on a jackalope?*





## Two BSPM Summer Students win C2B2-REU Poster Session

The Colorado Center for Biorefining and Biofuels second annual Research Experience for Undergraduates program took place this summer with BSPM's Courtney Jahn and Barbara Gibson mentoring Jackie Johnson and Sasha Broadstone. There were 20 students in the program and Jackie and Sasha were selected from a large pool of applicants. Each student participated in research focusing on biofuels production, which included engineering plant materials to create feedstock. We were lucky enough to have these two students, as Jackie placed 1st and Sasha placed 3rd in the poster session portion of their summer research. They both received poster session certificates and C2B2 expense paid opportunities to attend and present their poster at a national academic conference within the next year. Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved!



## Spring and Winter Award Ceremonies

Unless you live under a rock, or you're one of our new grad students, chances are you have been to one of the BSPM award ceremonies at the end of each semester. These give us an opportunity as a department to celebrate another semester gone by, and of course reward our wonderful graduate

students for all of their hard work.

We offer nine different scholarships and awards for the graduate students in order to fund their various research projects. Most of the awards are available in the fall semester, so look for announcements from Janet in the coming months. Only one award is available in the spring with that announcement coming out early in the spring semester.

The 2008-2009 award winners were: Chrissy Alba-Lynn, Christa Hardy,

Curtis Utley, Dan West, Jim Bromberg, John Lovell, Joe Vassios, Melissa Bridges, Rebecca Davidson, Rustie Robison, Todd Gaines, and Wyatt Williams.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next Award Ceremony this winter. How could you miss Dr. Holtzer in his festive hat?

"Celebrate another semester gone by, and of course reward our wonderful graduate students for all of their hard work."



## Faculty Retreat at the Tapestry House

BSPM faculty participated in a day-long retreat before the start of the semester to discuss strategic initiatives for the department and the college.

They met at a new venue, the Tapestry House in LaPorte.





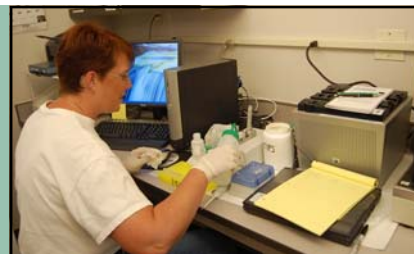
Conducting research on plant-insect interactions, Hannah Wilbur and Alissa Mills research the invasive plant species *Verbascum Thapsus* in Lory State Park.

Protecting himself from the ravages of West Nile Virus, graduate student Wyatt Williams give a thumbs up in Dinosaur National Park. Photo by Janet Hardin.



Examining an ear of corn, Mark McMillan, Dr. Howard Schwartz, Stephanie Szostek, and Charles Boateng check for any diseases. Photo by Thad Gourd.

Working in the Plant Diagnostic Clinic, Tamla Blunt goes through the steps of determining a plants DNA.



*Special thanks to Maggie Hirko and Sydney Reed for being so awesome by taking over the creation of this annual newsletter from Ruth Husbauer. Sorry if we forgot anything important!*

## Adopting families in need for the Holidays

Every holiday season, our department generously adopts a family in need and provides them with a few things to brighten their holidays. We have also recently been assisting Putnam Elementary by donating sleeping bags for underprivileged children, and participating in their holiday food program which our department raised over \$350 for last year.

This has been an ongoing project that the department feels very strongly about, and 2009 will be our 9th year of adopting a family. Last year, we raised over \$1150 and provided the children and parents of our adopted family with more than 55 gifts including clothes, toys, grocery gift cards, and assistance with rent and utilities.

We hold a wrapping party before the end of fall semester, and everyone in the

department is welcome to wrap the presents, eat pizza and be merry. We provide the supplies, you supply the wrapping skills!



## Farewell, Bon Voyage, Arrivederci, Adios!

With every new semester and new students to welcome, there are also those that graduate, retire, or move on. For those affiliated with BSPM, we would like to recognize, congratulate, and bid them farewell with our best wishes!

**Retirement:** Joseph P. Hill retired in January 2009 after 30 years in an ever changing department and a distinguished career in teaching plant pathology.



**2008 - 2009 Graduates:** Todd Gaines, Steven Rauth, Joel Egan, Rebecca Davidson, Dan Cariveau, and Russell Beam.



**Moving On:** Tara Steinke, Jillian Lang, Justin Herman, and Sandra McDonald.