AWARDS AND RECOGNITION
Steve Broyles was elected to the University Faculty Senate. The Senate was established in 1964, and according to the founding document, “the University Senate is the governing body of the faculty and it exercises the legislative and policy-making powers assigned to the faculty, subject only to review and check by the faculty by established procedures. It has the power and responsibility to propose or to adopt policies, regulations, and procedures intended to achieve the educational objectives of Purdue University and the general welfare of those involved in these educational processes.”

Mark Hall received a $30,000 award from EVPRP NIH Programs for his project titled “Proteomic characterization of cell cycle phosphatases”. The project period for this award is 12/1/15 – 6/30/17.

Xiaoqi Liu received a $10,000 award from Purdue Cancer Center Research for his project titled “Polo-like Kinase 1 in Prostate Cancer”. The project period for this award is 1/1/16 – 12/31/16.

Joe Lynch (Dudareva lab) received a $129,585 award from the USDA-NIFA for his project entitled "Elucidation of the cytosolic shikimate pathway in plants: characterization of shikimate pathway enzymes and evaluation of metabolic engineering potential". The project period for this award is 1/1/15-12/31/17.

IN MEMORIAM
Prof. David Krogmann (Emeritus Professor in the Department of Biochemistry) passed away on Friday, January 22, 2016. After rising through the ranks in the Department of Chemistry at Wayne State University, David joined the Biochemistry faculty in 1967 as a full professor after serving two years (1966-1967) as a Program Director for Molecular Biology at the National Science Foundation. His research program focused on the fundamentals of photosynthesis. In 1977-78 he served as the Program Manager for the Photosynthesis, Competitive Research Grants Office, at the USDA. He also served on policy committees for the NSF and was Head of the Competitive Research Grants Office at the USDA from 1979-1982. He served on the editorial boards for Plant Physiology, Bioenergetics and Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics. He also served on a number of departmental and college committees and national grant review panels. Professor Krogmann retired from the Department of Biochemistry in 1997 after 30 years of service and continued on as an Emeritus Professor of our department.
DEPARTMENT NEWS

Best of luck to Josh Widhalm, the newest faculty member in Purdue’s Horticulture and Landscape Architecture department. Josh was in Natalia Dudareva’s lab for four and a half years total. From August 2011-July 2012 he was a Postdoctoral Research Associate, from August 2012- July 2015 as a Life Sciences Research Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, and from August 2015-December 2015 he was an Associate Research Scientist in her lab.

Beth Tran will be giving a seminar titled “Transcriptional Regulation by Long Non-coding RNAs using a Yeast Model System” at the PUCCR Seminar Series on February 4, 2016. The seminar will be held in the Drug Discovery Main Lobby Conference Room from 11:30 – 12:30.

Scott Briggs will be giving a seminar titled “SET domain-containing epigenetic regulators as mediators of the environmental stress response” at the PUCCR Seminar Series on February 11, 2016. The seminar will be held in the Drug Discovery Main Lobby Conference Room from 11:30 – 12:30.

NEW FACES

Matthew Kilgore (Dudareva lab), started on January 4, 2016. Matthew received a Bachelor’s of Science in biology with a concentration in botany and a minor in chemistry from Eastern Kentucky University in 2010. He acquired his PhD in plant biology at Washington University in St. Louis in December 2015. His thesis adviser was Dr. Toni Kutchan at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. The primary focus of his thesis research was the identification of Amaryllidaceae alkaloid biosynthetic enzymes using transcriptomics, heterologous candidate gene expression, and subsequent enzyme testing.

Prashant Pawar (Chapple lab) started in Biochemistry on January 4, 2016. He completed his Masters in Biotechnology from the University of Pune, India and then joined as a PhD candidate at Umea Plant Science Centre, Sweden. The topic of his PhD was "Understanding the O-acetylation in plant cell wall polysaccharides with focus on woody species." During his PhD, Prashant learned about plant cell wall biosynthesis and how it can be utilized for bioenergy applications. His current project in the Chapple lab will help him in understanding the process of lignin biosynthesis in Arabidopsis.
Jeffrey Simpson joined the department on December 1, 2015 as a postdoc in the Chapple Lab. Jeffrey grew up in Toronto, Canada, and he completed his undergraduate and master’s degrees at the University of Guelph in plant sciences. He then moved on to Michigan State University where he earned his PhD studying plant lipids in Dr. John Ohlrogge’s lab. In his spare time, Jeffrey enjoys golf, watching sports, cooking, traveling.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

SPRING 2016 BIOCHEMISTRY SPEAKER SEMINARS – FEBRUARY – 3:30 – 4:30 P.M. - WSLR 116

February 2, 2016  Dr. Zhong-Yin Zhang
Purdue University, Dept. of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology
Title: Chemical Biology and Therapeutic Targeting of Protein Tyrosine Phosphatases

February 9, 2016  Dr. Andrew Zelhof
Indiana University, Department of Biology
Title: Transcriptional Control of Photoreceptor Differentiation

February 16, 2016  Dr. Kevin Solomon
Purdue University, Dept. of Agricultural & Biological Engineering
Title: Teaching an old dog new tricks: (Re)engineering microbes as chemical factories and beyond

February 23, 2016  Dr. Sarah O’Connor
John Innes Centre (JIC), Biological Chemistry
Title: Mechanism and Engineering of Iridoids and Alkaloids

BIOCHEMISTRY GRADUATE/POSTDOC – FEBRUARY – 12:30 – 1:30 P.M. - WSLR 116

2/5/16  Luyen Nguyen & Aamir Mir

2/12/16  NO SEMINAR (GRADUATE RECRUITING EVENTS)

2/19/16  Siwen Wang & Justine Arrington

2/25/16  ROTATION TALKS (3:00 P.M. – BCHM 101)

2/26/16  Faeze Saatchi & Peng Wang

BIOCHEMISTRY GRADUATE RECRUITING SOCIAL – FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2016
7:00 – 10:30 P.M. – LAFAYETTE BREWING COMPANY
IF YOU HAVEN’T REGISTERED PLEASE CONTACT MADIA – MBICKETT@PURDUE.EDU
SAFETY CORNER
Please be aware of accumulating ice and snow that may be falling from the roof after any significant snow occasion. Also, please report snowy and icy sidewalks to Karyn Rodkey!

REMINDER
!!NO LAB GLOVES in the HALLWAYS, ELEVATORS, or on COMMON USE EQUIPMENT!!
*Exception - if you are carrying something harmful to yourself (i.e. EtBr gels). In such cases, please wear only one glove and use the non-gloved hand for door knobs, elevator buttons, and especially keyboards.
**Please make this practice part of your training for new lab personnel.

STRICTLY PERSONAL

Congratulations to Lee (Lohman lab) and Michelle Stunkard who were married on January 2, 2016 in Missoula, Montana, Michelle’s hometown. Lee and Michelle met while getting their undergraduate degrees in Biochemistry and working in the same lab at Montana State University.

February Birthdays
Justine Arrington  Kalyani Josyula
Madia Bickett  Yu-Hsuan (Karen) Lai
Clint Chapple  Andy Mesecar
Mark Hall  Kim Muldoon
Anton Iliuk  Fabiola Mura Villanueva
Jeong Im Kim  Stefan Paula