

The Root of the Matter

Botany and Plant Pathology Newsletter

February 2018

FACULTY IN THE NEWS



Dr. Kevin Gibson was one of two individuals selected to receive the 2018 Dreamer Award from the Purdue University's Diversity Resource Office. During his 15 years as a faculty member in our department, Kevin has selflessly worked to make Purdue a more diverse and inclusive educational community. Kevin has worked to provide opportunities for Native American and African American students to pursue graduate education at Purdue and developed programs for Hoosier veterans who are interested in farming. Congratulations to Kevin for his contributions over many years and for receiving the 2018 Dreamer Award!



At the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America on February 1, **Dr. Bill Johnson** and **Dr. Bryan Young** were awarded the Outstanding Paper Award, Weed Technology. The paper, "Influence of Cover Crops on Management of *Amaranthus* spp. In Glyphosate—and Glufosinate-Resistant Soybean" was one of the three papers recognized for this award. Bill and Bryan were among the more than dozen individuals recognized for their outstanding contributions to the field of weed science. **Dr. Doug Spaunhorst**, Ph.D. student with Bill Johnson was also an author on this paper.



Dr. Anjali Iyer-Pascuzzi was featured in February 2018 Issue of *TheScientist* in the *Scientist to Watch* section. She is one of the first to examine the molecular process that underlie infection by soil microbes. Read more at:

<https://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/51393/title/Anjali-Iyer-Pascuzzi-Investigates-How-Pathogens-Invade-Plant-Roots/>

CONGRATULATIONS FACULTY!!

PUBLICATIONS

Jones, D.S., Liu, X., Willoughby, A.C., Smith, B.E., Palanivelu, R. and **Kessler, S.A.** (), Cellular distribution of secretory pathway markers in the haploid synergid cells of *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Plant J.* Accepted Author Manuscript. doi:10.1111/tpj.13848

Daniel S. Jones, Jing Yuan, Benjamin Smith, Andrew Willoughby, Emily L. Kumimoto, Sharon A. Kessler. Mildew Resistance Locus function in pollen-ovary reception is linked to its oligomerization and subcellular. *Plant Physiology* July 2017. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1104/pp.17.00523>

STAFF RECOGNITION

January 25, 2018 the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity held their annual program honoring staff anniversaries in the Purdue Union Ballroom. Each honoree was invited to this special lunch program. Five staff from our department were honored for their years of service.

10 years—Kyle Purple

15 years—Baofang Fan

20 years—John Cavaletto

25 years—Pam Mow

25 years—Cindy Myers

Congratulations to all for their years of service to Purdue University.

FEBRUARY SEMINARS

Botany and Plant Pathology Seminars are held on Wednesday at 3:30pm in WSLR, Room 116 (unless noted)

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| February 14 | Dr. Elliot Meyerowitz , CalTech (co-hosted Department of Botany and Plant Pathology and the Purdue Center for Plant Biology)
*Please note—seminar will be presented in PFEN, Room 241 (Dean's Auditorium) |
| February 21 | Dr. Kevin Solomon , Purdue University |
| February 28 | Dr. Bill Johnson , Purdue University |
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UNDERGRADUATE RECOGNITION

The department would like to recognize these plant science undergraduates for their outstanding academic achievement in the fall 2017 Semester:

Kevin Bonar, Semester Honors
Jenni Fishburn, Dean's List
Aileen Frazier, Dean's List and Semester Honors
Braydee Gaines, Dean's List and Semester Honors
Brandon Garver, Dean's List and Semester Honors
Emily Gunter, Dean's List and Semester Honors
Brandon Horn, Dean's List
Alex Ibes, Semester Honors
Monica Haughan, Dean's List and Semester Honors
Cade Kane, Dean's List
Emily Kennebeck, Dean's List and Semester Honors
Lucy Liu, Dean's List and Semester Honors
Michael McGill, Semester Honors
Emily Miller, Dean's List
Josh Randall, Dean's List and Semester Honors
Morgan Ritzi, Semester Honors
Matthew Schwarzkopf, Semester Honors
Isabelle Turner, Dean's List and Semester Honors
Drew Wennmacher, Dean's List and Semester Honors
Bryan Westman, Dean's List and Semester Honors



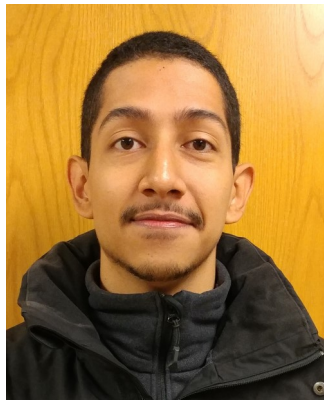
GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITION

Recently, a group of Purdue Weed Science graduate students attended the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) Conference in Alexandria, VA to deliver presentations on their research. **Cara McCauley** place second and **Jodi Boe** placed third in their respective divisions for oral presentations. In addition, our students demonstrated leadership within WSSA as **Nick Steppig** was elected Vice President of the WSSA Graduate committee. Furthermore, **Cara McCauley** initiated and organized the first ever "Breakfast for Women in Weed Science" event which was a huge success and is now planned to be an annual activity at the conference. Congratulations to our excellent students!

NEW FACES IN THE DEPARTMENT



Andrés Cruz has joined the department as a laboratory technician for Dr. Christian Cruz. Andrés is responsible for helping with the implementation and management of experiments in temperate and tropical environments under laboratory, greenhouse, and field conditions. He is an FAA-certified remote pilot and is in charge of unmanned aircraft flight operation, data collection, gathering and processing remote sensing information, maintenance, and operator training.



José Alberto-Sánchez is a visiting undergraduate student from Cali, Columbia and will be conducting research in the laboratory of Dr. Mike Mickelbart for six months. His research will focus on the high-throughput phenotyping in *Arabidopsis* plants and will use this approach to determine difference in growth under water stress among diverse genotypes. José is working towards receiving his undergraduate degree in 2018 from Universidad Icesi in Cali, Columbia.



Ayomi Hewavidana joined our department as a Master's student in Spring 2018. She is doing her research under the supervision of Dr. Tesfaye Mengiste. Her research will focus on Comparing sensitivity of tomato cultivars and wild species for responses to the *Botrytis cinerea* virulence proteins.

