
Botany 2000

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Environmental
and Plant Biology
Athens, Ohio 45701-2979

1822 - 2000: 178 Years of Teaching Plant Biology

OHIO UNIVERSITY

Report From the Chair

The past year has been a time of dramatic change for the Department. Jim Braselton left at the end of June after serving four years as Department Chair and 30 years at Ohio University. He is now living in Stone Mountain, Georgia, where he is (according to his e-mail signature file) "retired and relaxed." We wish him well. Jan Salick left the Department in June to take a research position at Missouri Botanical Garden, which offers extraordinary opportunities for international fieldwork. Within a week after moving to St. Louis, Jan headed off to China, and other trips are in the offing. Her departure was a loss for the Department and the University's international programs. She will be missed. On the positive side, we are delighted to welcome Sarah Wyatt, our new developmental plant biologist. Her research focuses on stimulus perception and signal transduction in a plant's response to gravity.

This year has also brought major change in the Department's staff, with the departure of two familiar faces from the office and the addition of two new staff members. Judy Dowler, our secretary for 22 years, resigned in July for health reasons. Brenda Ingraham, the Department's typist, retired last fall after serving Ohio University for more than 35 years. We are pleased to welcome Chris Needs, our new secretary, and Amy Tillman our Assistant Greenhouse Manager.

As if all of this were not enough change for one year, the Department has a new Chair. I come into the position with a jumble of feelings: excitement at the opportunity to lead the Department in a time of change, hopefulness that I can help make a good department even better, and (I must be honest) a certain degree of apprehension about taking on such an important responsibility. I am fortunate to have the support of an outstanding staff, who have greatly facilitated my transition into the job.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how impressed I am with the current graduate students. Over the past few years, I have had the pleasure of interacting with many of them as either students or TAs in my classes and have greatly appreciated their dedication and enthusiasm. In 1999, both the Outstanding Doctoral Student and the Outstanding Masters Student at Ohio University were members of this department. For three straight years, the Clippinger Fellowship, which may go to any Ohio University doctoral student, has been awarded to members of this department. Many of our students received external research grants this year (see pp. 4-5). They deserve our congratulations for their accomplishments, which bring recognition to the department.

With best wishes to all,

Philip D. Cantino
Professor and Chair

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BOTANY 2000 is a publication of the Department of Environmental & Plant Biology, M.L. Trivett, Editor

New Hires in the Department

SARAH WYATT



Dr. Wyatt's research program will focus on plant growth and development with an emphasis on the use of molecular and genetic tools to study plant responses to environmental stimuli. She will be investigating facets of gravitropic response using *Arabidopsis* plants with mutations at three independent loci. Additionally, she will be investigating the genes involved in wood formation using *Arabidopsis* as a model system to study lignin biosynthesis and wood production.

AMY TILLMAN



Amy Tillman joined the department this summer as Assistant Greenhouse Manager. She was at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest this past year and prior to that had a position at the University of Georgia, Athens similar to her position here. She is concerned over the endangered status of many native plants through loss of habitat and competition from invasive species. She is enjoying the diversity of plants offered by our greenhouse.

CHRIS NEEDS



Chris Needs joined our department this fall as Secretary- Receptionist following the resignation of Judy Dowler for health reasons. Chris came to us from the Office of the Dean of Students where she worked for two years. She previously worked for the Office of Alumni Relations. She enjoys her country life and keeps busy with gardening and her family. She looks forward to working with everyone in our office and learning all about Environmental & Plant Biology.

AWARDS AND OTHER HONORS

Undergraduate Awards

Distinguished Professor Scholarship: Distinguished Professor Emeritus **NORMAN S. COHN** selected **CARY S. MILLER** a junior in the Honors Tutorial College to receive this scholarship.

C. Paul and Beth Stocker Scholarships: Each spring Stocker scholarships are awarded to several undergraduates. This year's recipients are: **BEN AVERY**, **LORENA S. BROWN**, **ERIN B. CLIFFORD**, and **ELISE L. GEORGE** of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Lela A. Ewers Science Scholarship: The College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship Committee each year selects a full-time student on the Athens campus majoring in a natural science. **AMANDA L. HABEL** is the 2000-2001 recipient.

Charles E. Miller Scholarship: The Miller Scholarship was created in memory of Dr. Charles Miller, professor and long-time Chair of the Department, and is given each year to an undergraduate

plant biology major. This year's recipient is **ANDREW P. GASTIN**, College of Arts and Sciences.

Thomas M. Wolfe Scholarship: Six monetary awards to three juniors and three seniors are made each year from the fund established by Mrs. Edna Wolfe to honor the memory of her late husband, a 1919 graduate of Ohio University. Two of the awards are designated for plant biology students with strong academic records who show promise in the areas of conservation and ecology. **JILL E. BROWN** (senior) and **ALYCIA M. GABRIEL** (junior) are this year's awardees.

Outstanding Graduating Seniors

Each year, every department within Ohio University honors an outstanding graduating senior. The following students have been recognized for 2000.

Environmental and Plant Biology, College of Arts and Sciences: **STEPHEN R. RATZEL**.
Environmental and Plant Biology, Honors Tutorial College: **JENNIFER M. DEAN**



Left to right: Ben Avery, Lorena Brown, Cary Miller, Steve Ratzel, Andrew Gaston, Cynthia Riccardi, Liz Martin, Christy Carter, Jennifer Dean and Amanda Habel

AWARDS AND OTHER HONORS *cont.*

Graduate Awards

DALE CASAMATTA, PhD student, has been named the Donald Clippinger Graduate Fellow for 2000-2001.

ELIZABETH MARTIN, CYNTHIA RICCARDI and **CHRISTY CARTER** received monetary awards in support of their research from the Charles E. Miller fund.

ROSS McCAULEY received the Department's Graduate Associate Outstanding Teaching Award for 1999-2000.

scriptions," \$175,000.

ALLAN M. SHOWALTER:

- ❖ NSF, Integrative Plant Biology Program, "Structure and Function of a Novel, Modular Arabinogalactan-Protein from Tomato," , \$300,000, with M.J. Kieliszewski (co-PI). [continuation]
- ❖ The University of Melbourne-Collaborative Research Program Grant, "Visiting Research Scholars Award," \$8500.
- ❖ The Ohio Board of Regents 1999 Hayes Investment Fund Competition, "Plant and Microbe Genomics and Biotechnology Facilities," \$1,229,000, with K.R. Davis (P.I.), and R. Tabita (co-grantee), S.L. Goldman (co-grantee).

Arthur Trese:

- ❖ Project Sustain, \$75,000, with Barbara Grover (co-PI).

MORGAN VIS:

- ❖ Ohio University Baker Fund, "A better understanding of *Batrachospermum helmentosum* (Rhodophyta) population biology through detailed analysis of ITS sequence data," \$10,000.
- ❖ U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), "Carbon Dioxide Mitigation through Controlled Photosynthesis," \$50,000, with D. J. Bayless (co-PI).
- ❖ Ohio University 1804 Fund, "Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Controlled Photosynthesis," \$27, 000, with G. Kramer & D. J. Bayless (co-PIs).
- ❖ U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Enhanced Practical Photosynthetic CO₂ Mitigation \$1.07 million with with G. Kramer & D. J. Bayless (co-PIs).

The Ohio University Council for Research--Scholarship and Creative Activity Student Enhancement Awards

- ❖ **DARRIN RUBINO**, "Experimental evaluation of nutrient and decay dynamics of woody

GRANTS RECEIVED AND OTHER AWARDS

HARVEY E. BALLARD:

- ❖ Ohio University Faculty Development Grant for training in AFLP molecular markers at Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England, \$1,222.
- ❖ NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates to continue studies of South American violets, \$5,565.
- ❖ Honors Tutorial College Research Associateship, Ohio University, to study Andean pincushion violets, \$3,000.
- ❖ 1804 Fund, Ohio University Foundation, Integrating Natural Sciences Education, Research Training and International Experience in a new "Global Studies in Plant Biology Program" with Morgan Vis (co-PI), \$44,955.

BRIAN C. McCARTHY:

- ❖ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, "Analysis of fire temperatures and fuel loads under thinning fire pre-

debris in the central Appalachians,” \$6,000.

- ❖ ROBERT VERB, “Investigation into utilization of benthic algae as biological indicators of acid mine drainage in the Black Fork watershed, Southeastern Ohio,” \$6,000.

Ohio University Houk Research Awards for Graduate Students

- ❖ MELISSA HALL (MS-PBIO-Vis), MATT WEAND (MSES-McCarthy)

Ohio Biological Survey Awards

- ❖ **Faculty Members**--PHIL CANTINO, BRIAN MCCARTHY, IRWIN UNGAR, MORGAN VIS
- ❖ **Graduate Students**--CHRISTY CARTER, DALE CASAMATTA, MARI-VAUGHN JOHNSON, ASWINI PAI, CYNTHIA RICCARDI, DARRIN RUBINO, CHRISTINE SMALL, MATT WEAND

Ohio University Program to Aid Career Exploration (PACE) Awards

- ❖ HAROLD BLAZIER
- ❖ PHILIP CANTINO
- ❖ IRWIN UNGAR
- ❖ MORGAN VIS

The Ohio EPA Environmental Education Fund (in conjunction with The Ohio Academy of Science)

- ❖ LORENA BROWN, \$2,500

Phycological Society of America - Hoshaw Travel Award

- ❖ DALE CASAMATTA
- ❖ MELISSA HALL

Northeast Algal Symposium - Travel Awards

- ❖ DALE CASAMATTA
- ❖ MELISSA HALL
- ❖ ROBERT VERB

Phi Delta Theta Research Fund

- ❖ KURT HARTMAN, \$1,000

Sigma Xi Election to Membership

- ❖ CHRISTY CARTER
- ❖ MIHAIL TOMESCU
- ❖ MELISSA HALL

Grant-in-Aid for Research

- ❖ CHRISTY CARTER, “Genetic diversity in an island salt marsh community over time”, \$1,000
- ❖ DALE CASAMATTA, “Assessing the spatial and temporal genetic variation of *Phormidium retzii* in a woodland stream”, \$890
- ❖ MIN FENG, “Floral developmental pathways and molecular phylogenetic relationships in the violet family”, \$800
- ❖ BRYAN RAYO (undergraduate), “Molecular biogeography of the *Viola macloskeyi* complex in North America and Hispaniola”, \$1,000
- ❖ **Best Poster:** CHRISTINA WILLIAMS, best poster at Student Display Demonstration in conjunction with Council for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity. Ohio University, \$500

Southern Appalachian Botanical Society Graduate Student Research Award

- ❖ DARRIN RUBINO, “Carbon and nitrogen dynamics of decaying woody debris, \$300

SUMMER SOFTBALL

This summer marked the inaugural season for Biohazard, the co-recreation softball team sponsored by the Departments of Environmental & Plant Biology and Biological Sciences. The team was comprised of approximately 18 graduate students, staff, and instructors from the two departments. The summer schedule was a highly successful campaign in which the team posted an impressive record of 7-1-1 to finish runner up in the city league. Participants from Plant Biology who deserve a wealth of accolades for their diligence include: SARAH BASHORE, WENDY OBROWOLSKI, MICHAEL DUNN, JOHN GIAMMARIO, MELISSA HALL, KURT HARTMAN, ERIN HINES, ELIZABETH MARTIN, CYNTHIA RICCARDI, DARRIN RUBINO, CHRISTINE SMALL, BOB VERB, and DARRELL WHITE.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

HARVEY BALLARD went to London, England last summer for training in using AFLP molecular markers on an automated sequencer, and to Paris, France, to study South American violet type specimens and meet with Jerome Munzinger on New Caledonian violets. This past winter, he and PhD student **ROSS McCAULEY** spent 4 weeks in Bolivia collecting violets and amaranths. Ross is pursuing revisionary and molecular systematic studies of *Froelichia* and its affinities in the Amaranthaceae. Harvey and **GAR ROTHWELL** visited Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, MO to study and sample living members of the jack-in-the-pulpit and duckweed families to establish a database to be used, in part, in assessing relationships among extant and extinct taxa in these families. Prior to collecting violets and amaranths in Costa Rica this summer, Harvey and Ross helped Fulbright scholar **AUREA CORTES-PALOMEC** initiate her MS field studies in Mexico regarding gene flow and isolation mechanisms between two related, co-occurring violet species. MCB-PhD student **MIN FENG** continues her studies of floral developmental pathways and molecular phylogenetic relationships in the violet family. MCB-PhD student **CHERYL McCREARY** is investigating genetic variation in three unrelated endemic plant species of the Olympic Peninsula, WA, while **CLAUDIA SEGOVIA-SALCEDO** is conducting a morphological and molecular systematic study of the variation and hybridization in Ecuadorean species of the paramo tree genus *Polylepis*. **INNA BIRCHENKO**, MSES student from the Ukraine and Fellow of the Open Society Institute, is conducting conservation, genetic and ecological studies of the rare southeastern "monkeyface" orchid, *Platanthera integrilabia*.

PHILIP CANTINO reports that MS student **MARI-VAUGHN JOHNSON** is expected to finish her research on the flora of Dysart Woods by the end of fall quarter. **ELIZABETH MARTIN** is finishing her MS research involving a

floristic study of a preserve in Meigs Co., OH. Masters student **JESS PEIRSON** joined the lab this fall and has undertaken a systematic study of the mint genus *Collinsonia*. Phil has been settling in as departmental Chair in addition to his work on the new PhyloCode (See article on page 9).

BRIAN McCARTHY continues his research into the ecology of hardwood forests, invasive species biology, and restoration ecology. He is part of a large multi-investigator study coordinated by the US Forest Service at 10 sites across the United States in various ecosystems. He is investigating the role of fire and shelterwood thinning in mixed oak forests of southern Ohio. Graduate students **CYNTHIA RICCARDI** (PhD) and **JILL BROWN** (MS) will be working on the project. Additionally, Cynthia continues her study of the ecology of fire in mixed oak forests, concentrating her efforts on evaluating the fuel loads available for fire in this region, and conducting a variety of other fire experiments involving seed germination and weevil ecology in the soil. Cynthia continues her floristic work at Deep Woods in Hocking County. Jill's research involves the forest regeneration layer. **KURT HARTMAN** transferred to the PhD program this year with the intention of expanding his research on the ecology and effects of the invasive Amur honeysuckle in southwestern Ohio. He is working at the Fernald Environmental Management Project, a previous Department of Energy uranium enrichment facility, just outside of Cincinnati where Brian continues his work with **CAROLYN KEIFFER** (1997) on another project assessing restoration methods for lowland forest ecosystems. **DARRIN RUBINO** continues his PhD work on the productivity dynamics of mixed oak forests. He has been doing a considerable amount of dendrochronology work this past year and now is assessing wood decay dynamics. **CHRISTINA WILLIAMS** (PhD) will complete her studies of the non-native tree species *Paulownia tomentosa* this year. Likewise, **CHRISTINE SMALL** nears completion of her dissertation studies on the relationship between disturbance and understory diversity pat-

terns. She is attempting to understand the effects of even-aged forest management practices on understory herbs within the extremely diverse topographies of south-eastern Ohio. **MATTHEW WEAND** (MSES) is investigating the vegetation patterns along forest-field ecotones in the Wayne National Forest. This will provide some useful information on how past surface mining, now abandoned some 30 years, has impacted the adjacent forest vegetation.

ASWINI PAI transferred into the lab this past winter. Her interests are in the population ecology of the clonal Sweetflag (*Acorus*) and she has begun a large number *Acorus* projects for her dissertation research. Two new grad students, **ELIZABETH BROWNOLD** and **MATTHEW ALBRECHT**, joined the lab this summer. Brian continues on the editorial board of *Plant Ecology* (*Vegetatio*) and the *Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society* and claims to be eagerly anticipating his just-begun stint as Graduate Chair. He is heartened by the continued improvement in the graduate program and quality of students we have attracted over the last decade.

GAR ROTHWELL will be spending next year on sabbatical at the University of Alberta, Edmonton where he and **RUTH STOCKEY** (MS 74) will concentrate on revising the third edition of their textbook "Paleobotany and the Evolution of Plants" and continue collaborations on Cretaceous and Tertiary ferns and aquatic flowering plants. They will be joined in Edmonton by **GENARO HERNANDEZ-CASTILLO** (MS 2000) who will begin his doctoral work under Ruth's direction. **MIKE DUNN** continues his doctoral research into the Lower Carboniferous vegetation of North America, while doctoral student **MIHAIL TOMESCU** is delving further back in time to document the origins of land plants. 2000 was an active year for paleobotanical activities and meetings. Graduate students Dunn, Hernandez-Castillo and Tomescu, and undergraduate research student **STEPHEN RATZEL** (BS 00) presented papers at the Midcontinent Paleobotanical Colloquium (University of North Carolina) in May, and at the Botanical Society of America Meetings (Portland OR)

in August. Rothwell, **GENE MAPES** (Director of the Environmental Studies Program) and postdoctoral researcher, **LIU ZHAO-YUA**, continued their studies of the most primitive fossil conifers and presented papers on conifer evolution at the Sixth International Organization of Paleobotany Conference in Qinhuangdao of Hebei, China this September. Gar was also elected secretary of the International Organization of Paleobotany for the next five years. Therefore, he will be kept well occupied with both the IOP (<http://ibs.uel.ac.uk/palaeo/>) duties and his perennial participation in organizing the Midcontinent Paleobotanical Colloquium (http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~rothwell/MPC_2000/index.htm).

JAN SALICK has taken a curator position at the Missouri Botanical Garden where she will pursue her interests in the ethnobotany of South and Central America. **RUSSELL CAMPBELL** will return to the Department in the fall to defend his thesis on changes in indigenous casava agriculture among the Amuesha. **ERIN HINES** is investigating indigenous landscape management by fire and moisture patch dynamics in an experimental approach in the Ohio Valley. She has been working with the Forest Service on a long-term prescribed burning project to determine whether useful plant species richness and composition are affected by burning and environmental moisture gradients. **CATHY HAMLIN** continues her investigation of Amuesha agricultural practices in addition to her work with United Plant Savers and Frontier Herbs on Goldenseal. She completed an Organization for Tropical Studies course earlier this year. **EIRIK STIJFHOORN** nears completion of his research into non-timber forest products of the Peruvian Amazon.

ALLAN SHOWALTER's lab focuses on the structure and function of arabinogalactan-proteins. These cell surface glycoproteins are thought to be important in plant development. They also have potential commercial uses as industrial gums and adhesives as well as uses in human health, given their ability to stimulate our immune system.

Allan was on sabbatical this past year at The University of Melbourne in Melbourne, Australia in the laboratory of Dr. Tony Bacic. There, Allan worked on purifying LeAGP-1, a novel, modular rabinogalactan-protein in tomato using immunoaffinity chromatography and analyzing the carbohydrate components of this cell surface glycoprotein. Meanwhile, back in Athens, post-doctoral fellow **HUA LU** with the help of undergraduate **JACINDA LEE** produced genetically engineered tomato plants with reduced levels of LeAGP-1. These transgenic plants provide clear evidence for LeAGP-1 having an important function in plant growth and development. Graduate student **WENXIAN SUN** demonstrated that LeAGP-1 is associated with the plasma membrane in tomato protoplasts and is now trying to determine how this glycoprotein is anchored to the membrane. Graduate student **MING CHEN** is following up on previous work demonstrating that arabinogalactan-proteins are involved with programmed cell death. He has begun to dissect the signal transduction pathway by which programmed cell death is induced as part of normal plant development. **LI-WEN WANG** is in the process of completing her Ph.D. dissertation research. She has isolated and characterized two genes from *Atriplex*, a halophyte, which allow for the production of glycinebetaine, a small molecule thought to be involved in conferring salt tolerance to this and other plant species. Some of her research has also led her to investigate the connection between salt stress and programmed cell death.

ART TRESE has finished the crosses between his strain of a non-nodule-forming bean mutant and other known mutants to determine whether he has found a novel mutation. **SARAH BASHORE** continues to investigate the genetic basis of the ability of three strains of *Rhizobium* to overcome the non-nodulation character of the Trese mutant beans. She plans to further this investigation for her doctoral research. **VIJAYANAND NADELLA** joins the lab this fall from India, and will be working on the molecular

biology of nodule senescence in beans and soybeans.

IRWIN UNGAR is continuing his research on the influence of stress on the growth and distribution of plants and whether the tolerance to stress differs at various stages of plant development. He is investigating how this influences the distribution of species in plant communities. He is currently investigating the effects of bracteoles on the germination and dispersal of *Atriplex* seeds from salt marsh and salt desert habitats. **CHRISTY TUCKER CARTER** (PhD) is studying the germination and seed bank dynamics of halophytes on the Rittman salt marsh. **JOHN GIAMMARIO** (MS) is studying the interaction between salinity and growth regulator substances on seed germination and seedling growth responses of *Spergularia marina*. **WENDY DOBROWOLSKI** (MS) is investigating the allelopathic effects of *Lespedeza cuneata* on the seed germination and growth of several old-field species.

MORGAN VIS and her research group have had a busy year hosting scientific meetings. **DALE CASAMATTA**, **BOB VERB** and **MELISSA HALL** were on the organizing committee of the "Midwest Ecology & Evolution" meeting held at Ohio University in March. In April, Morgan's laboratory traveled to Rhode Island to co-convene the 39th **North-east Algal Symposium**. Finally, the lab hosted the "Intermittent Great Lakes Algal Foray" this September to highlight the algae from Hocking Hills. In addition, they managed to squeeze in a bit of research. **BOB VERB** (PhD), with the help from the lab, conducted a survey of over 50 streams variously impacted by Acid Mine Drainage. **DALE CASAMATTA** (PhD) is continuing to unravel the evolution of the Cyanobacteria. **MELISSA HALL** (MS) completed her research on genetic variation in *Batrachospermum helminthosum*. Morgan continues to work on the evolution of freshwater red algae. Morgan was elected to the Executive Board of the Phycological Society of America as Communications Director and, among other duties, will be responsible for the bi-annual

Newsletter and Website (www.psaalgae.org). Morgan and **HARVEY BALLARD** have gotten approval for a new program entitled "Global Studies in Plant Biology". The course includes a field component with Bolivia as the first destination this winter. Treks to Hawaii (Summer 2001), Brazil (December 2001) and Northern Brazil/French Guiana (Summer 2002) are planned.

NATURE TRAIL BUILT

Environmental and Plant Biology was one of the sponsors of a mile-long guided nature trail at The Ridges, constructed by the fifth/sixth grade class at River Valley Community School. The trail features tree identification signs (each researched and prepared by a different child) and a bench overlooking a waterfall. Nearly all of the work, including building footbridges and steps, was done by this enthusiastic group of children. The project, conceived and carried out by RVCS science teacher John Schmieding, took a year and a half to build and was officially opened in June, 2000.

STUDENTS COMPLETING DEGREES

BS: DAVID DICKEY, RYAN DUVAL, AARON MORFORD, JOHN NAJMULSKI, TRACI NATION, SHAWN STAPLETON, STEPHEN RATZEL

BS (HTC): JENNIFER DEAN

MS: MELISSA HALL (M.L. VIS); GENARO HERNANDEZ-CASTILLO (G.W.ROTHWELL), BETH HOBERTY (P.D. CANTINO)

PhD: FORREST MEEKINS (B.C. MCCARTHY)



PHYLOCODE

This April, after more than two years of intense effort, the draft PhyloCode was made public on the web:

<http://www.ohiou.edu/phylocode/>

The PhyloCode formalizes a system for naming clades (complete branches on the tree of life) by explicit reference to phylogeny. The theory underlying this system, called phylogenetic nomenclature, was developed by Kevin de Queiroz (Smithsonian Institution) and Jacques Gauthier (Yale) in the early 1990s. Kevin de Queiroz and **PHIL CANTINO** are the authors of the PhyloCode, but its preparation was overseen by an international advisory group of 24 biologists. When the PhyloCode goes into operation a few years from now, it will make it far easier to name clades. The current system of biological nomenclature (often called Linnaean nomenclature although many key aspects of it developed after Linnaeus's time) is based on pre-Darwinian principles and is not designed to name clades. Although phylogenetic nomenclature will operate in parallel with the current system, it is viewed by some as a threat to tradition and is therefore controversial. It has received coverage on NPR's *All Things Considered* (August, 1999) and has been the subject of feature articles in *Science News* (October, 1999) and *BioScience* (August, 2000). Completion of the PhyloCode this year was made possible by Kevin de Queiroz's appointment as Rufus Putnam Visiting Professor during winter quarter, 2000. While at Ohio University, he taught a graduate seminar in our department that focused on species concepts as well as the Animal Systematics course in the Department of Biological Sciences. Kevin is one of the foremost thinkers on the theory and philosophy of systematic biology and is currently President of the Society of Systematic Biologists.

GIFTS TO THE DEPARTMENT

In the past year, monetary gifts to the department have been used for improvements at the Botany Garden and Greenhouse and to support instruction in summer workshops for teachers. In addition, gifts to the Department provided plaques to the junior and senior students with the top botanical projects at the District Science Fair. Contributions may be made to the Department in general or may be directed toward a specific purpose, for example, through one of the following accounts:

- ◆ **The Professor Arthur H. Blickle Botany Scholarship** for women.
- ◆ **Charles E. Miller Scholarship** for undergraduate and graduate students.
- ◆ **Lee and Irene Roach Graduate Fund** for graduate student research in cellular and molecular biology.
- ◆ **Monroe T. Vermilion Scholarship** for undergraduates.
- ◆ **Plant Biology Faculty Memorial Scholarship** for graduate students

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE PAST YEAR. WE RESPECT THE WISHES OF DONORS WHO WISH ANONYMITY AND WHO HAVE REQUESTED WE NOT LIST THEIR NAMES. IN EITHER CASE, WHEN YOU MAKE A GIFT TO PBIO, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM THE CHAIR, DR. P. D. CANTINO. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A PERSONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, OR IF YOUR NAME SHOULD, BUT DOES NOT APPEAR ON THIS LIST, PLEASE CALL IT TO OUR ATTENTION SO WE CAN CORRECT THE OMISSION. WE HAVE FOUND THAT OCCASIONALLY DONATIONS INTENDED FOR PLANT BIOLOGY ARE INCORRECTLY DEPOSITED IN ACCOUNTS OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

*Checks should be made out to The **Ohio University Foundation** and designated for the Department of Environmental & Plant Biology in the memo section of the check or on a separate note and sent to:*

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- ❖ Michael Donoghue, Harvard University
- ❖ Michael Krings, University of Kansas
- ❖ Coralie Lashbrook, University of Florida
- ❖ Rob Alba, The Colorado College
- ❖ Sherwin Carlquist, Santa Barbara Bot. Garden
- ❖ Alfred Ziegler, University of Chicago
- ❖ Brian J. Armitage, Ohio Biological Survey
- ❖ Daniel E. Wujek, Central Michigan University

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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- Jørgensen, P. M. and H. E. Ballard. 1999. Violaceae. In: Jørgensen, P. M. and S. León-Yáñez (eds.), *Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Ecuador*, Monographs in Systematic Botany vol. 75. Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO. pp. 943-946, 956
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A LUMNI NEWS

THOMAS ALFORD (BS 1961) retired this year from Barberton High School after 37 years of teaching botany and biology. He recalls having Drs. Wistendahl and Cohn as professors.

TODD BEAN (BS 1999) was elected mayor of Albany OH this past fall. He previously was a Councilman. He also runs his own furniture building business.

TOM BRENNAN (BS 1988, MS 1991) is living in Virginia and working for the EPA in Washington, DC in the office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, developing computer models to estimate exposure from chemical releases. He and his wife have a daughter and a son.

JENNIFER DEAN (BS-HTC 2000) recently returned from a Nature Conservancy internship at Cascade Heads, a coastal grassland, in Oregon where she was involved in controlled burns to reinvigorate the natural grasses and forbes and to control invasive species.

DONGGIUN KIM (PhD 1999) has accepted a position at Missouri-Columbia.

CHRIS KLINE (MS 1993) has been elected president of the Environmental Education Association of Indiana.

KONRAD KMETZ (BS 1969) is completing 24 years in the Agriculture Products Division of DuPont focusing on crop protectants and, more recently, biotechnology. He has been involved in the development of genetically engineered corn, soybeans, wheat and rice, specializing most recently on hybrid rice bred for Asian countries.

CHRISTY KUCZAK (BS-HTC 1999) has been awarded a three-year NSF fellowship to support her doctoral studies at Cornell University.

DAVID SPOONER (MS 1976), Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin, Madison continues stalking the wild potato in the far reaches of Latin America. He is preparing separate taxonomic monographs of wild potatoes and tomatoes from the U.S., Mexico and Central America.

BEN TORKE has begun his doctoral work at Washington University, St. Louis, investigating speciation and phylogeny in the large, neotropical genus *Swartzia*. He previously held a curatorial position at the New York Botanical Garden.

JUDY VINCENT (MS 96) reports that she is moving with her family to Continental, OH. Her new e-mail address is: igvincent@hotmail.com.

GRETCHEN WALTERS (BS 1996) currently is working on an MS thesis at Arizona State University. In addition, she has an internship through the Missouri Botanical Garden involving bioprospecting in West Africa.

JOE WINSTEAD (BS 1960, MS 1962, PhD 1968) is Chair of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences at Morehead State University, Morehead KY.

ZEQI ZHOU (PhD 1991) is the holder of two U.S. patents, one for differentiation of prostate cancer from BPH by assaying PSA-ACT and the other for determination of CPSA.

MILESTONES

Marriages

JEFF SCHMELA (MS 1998) was married December 18, 1999 in Michigan.

CHRISTINA WILLIAMS and Dirk E. Long-brake were married June 17, 2000 in Athens.

CHRISTINE SMALL and **DARRELL WHITE** were married May 27, 2000 in Virginia.

Births

ZHAOHUA LIU, PostDoctoral Fellow with Gar Rothwell and Gene Mapes, and his wife had a baby girl Friday, September 22. Lily Liu weighed 8.5 pounds at birth.

Deaths

ARTHUR F. BEYER (BS 1943) passed away Dec. 21, 1999 in Wichita Falls, TX. He retired in 1993 after 37 years on the faculty at Midwestern State University. During his tenure he was elected University Faculty Member of the Year six times. He served as departmental Chair from 1960 to 1981.

JUDY KERTESZ GRAY (BS 1960) died on Oct. 9, 1999. She was a skilled weaver and demonstrated her skills at Cobblestone farm where she worked. She was a docent for Cobblestone Farms and for the University of Michigan Matthai Botanical Gardens. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Robert Gray, (MS 1962), Senior Associate Dean, Univ. Michigan School of Public Health.

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We Would Like to Add Your URL to the Alumni Page Now that we have a WWW page with links to sites of alumni, we would like to keep it as up to date as possible. Check out the site ([http:// www.plantbio.ohiou.edu/epb/facility/alumni.htm](http://www.plantbio.ohiou.edu/epb/facility/alumni.htm)) and if you have a WWW page that you would like to have added, please send your URL to us by email.

It is important to receive **NEWS FROM YOU!**

The newsletter represents the people, past and present, of the Department. Please let us know what is going on in your life. We especially are interested in items to share with fellow alumni, faculty, staff and students, as well as feedback about how your experiences in Plant Biology at Ohio University have influenced your lives.

NAME _____ **DEGREE/YEAR** _____

ADDRESS _____

OCCUPATION, ETC.

NEWS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Try the Guestbook

Some alumni have access to the Internet but have not acquired email accounts as of yet. If you would like to communicate quickly with the department, use the "Guestbook" at the following URL.

<http://www.plantbio.ohiou.edu/epb/address/address.htm#guest>

You do not need an email account to use the Guestbook. When you complete the form, the "submit" button sends the information you have entered in the form to an Ohio University mainframe computer that formats the information you provided and emails it to the department. There are limitations on how much information can be put in each field, so if you have a lot to say, use the form several times. It costs you nothing, and we enjoy hearing from alums.

Please return to:

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NEWSLETTER 2000

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