



NEWSLETTER FALL 2014

UF | IFAS CALS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



**DOCTOR OF PLANT MEDICINE
PROGRAM**



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Martha Rhodes Roberts, Former FDACS, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, Adjunct Professor, University of Florida

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Rebecca Darnell, Horticultural Sciences Department
Nick Dufault, Department of Plant Pathology
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Lisbeth Espinoza, President
Wael Elwakil, Vice President
Nicole Casuso, Treasurer
Carla Burkle, Historian
Amanda Hodges, Faculty Advisor

DPM Program Staff

Amanda Hodges, DPM Director
Elena Alyanaya, DPM Program Assistant

DPM NEWS

Volume IV, Fall 2014

Greetings!

The DPM Program and its students make an appearance *InTheField*

<http://ufplantdoctors.org/>



Jim Frankowiak interviewed Dr. Amanda Hodges, DPM Program Director, and provided readers of the August 2014 Hillsborough County *InTheField Magazine* updated information about the DPM program in an article titled, “UF Plant Doctor Program Produces Interdisciplinary Plant Health Problem-Solvers”.

The article highlights both the program’s mission and founding history. It addresses the current workforce demand as well as the responsibilities of agricultural consultants in an increasingly complex field

For more information check out page 80 of this magazine edition by visiting the link below!

http://issuu.com/inthefield/docs/august-sept_2014_hills_web/81?e=1263016/8940177

Faculty Highlight: Dr. Kimberly Moore

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After graduating with her MS and PhD in Horticulture from Iowa State University, Dr. Kimberly Moore was first hired as an assistant professor at the University of Florida in 1995. Currently, Dr. Moore is a Professor who focuses on teaching and conducting research in the Environmental Horticulture Department at the UF Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center (FLREC). Her continued efforts and successes in the horticultural sciences have resulted in the recently added title of Distinguished Teaching Scholar at UF.



Unlike the other faculty members *DPM News* has featured thus far, Dr. Moore serves the university and its students from one of UF’s Research and Education Centers (RECs). Twelve RECs, Research and Demonstration Sites (RDSs), and several other offices are located throughout the state to help provide extension level support and distance education to students, faculty, and the general public. *...continued on page 4*

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Since Dr. Moore was hired to teach courses catered to place-bound students who could not relocate to Gainesville, she felt that moving to Gainesville was not necessary. As the resident student numbers changed, Dr. Moore increased the availability of her courses online. With improved technology, she has been able to participate in meetings statewide without leaving the office. This grants her the flexibility to manage her various responsibilities and collaborate with other faculty from the Plant Pathology, Wildlife Biology, Geomatics, and Entomology departments all within the confines of the REC.

"Find your passion and follow your heart. It makes the journey more enjoyable and the work seem effortless."

In addition to her role as a Professor and her research responsibilities at FLREC, Dr. Moore serves as chair for the DPM committees of Greg Kramer, Director of Horticulture at Bok Tower Gardens, and Theresa Chormanski, Associate Professor for the Landscape & Horticulture Tech Program at Miami Dade College. She also serves as a member of the supervisory committee for Nicole Casuso. When asked to rate the effectiveness of the DPM program at training students for careers in academia and extension, Dr. Moore replied:

"I think that the DPM program is very effective. In my opinion, the internships and practical work experience are the most beneficial. Course work is great for the foundation knowledge, but actually working in an area of study puts the knowledge to work. For example, it is fine to understand nutrient uptake in plants, but a different set of skills to figure out which one is deficient and fix the problem."

**"I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn."
— Albert Einstein**

If a student was interested in working in your lab, what are some of the tasks and duties he or she could expect to be assigned?

Answer: For a student who wants to work in my lab – I manage the trial, demonstration and teaching garden at the center. I also work with nutrient testing and the use of reclaimed waste water to grow ornamentals. So a student would have the opportunity to work in the garden as well as learn how to analyze water and plant tissue samples for nutrient content. Students also get a chance to diagnose plant nutritional problems in the field when I am called to survey a home or estate in the area.

NEW STUDENT PROFILE

We would like to welcome our new Fall 2014 student!



**"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."
— Winston S. Churchill**

Yansu Lou

Academic Credentials:

- B.S. in Biological Science - Southwest University, Chongqing, China
- M.S. in Botany - China Agricultural University, Beijing, China

Why DPM?

The idea of studying an agriculture-related discipline occurred to me when I was a young girl. As a child growing up in the countryside of China, I really enjoyed exploring the forests and fields every day. I would listen to the sounds of singing insects and have always appreciated nature's beauty. That being said, I was very excited to learn about the Doctor of Plant Medicine Program because it will help me fulfill my dream of becoming an agricultural specialist that could help growers solve the problems they encounter during production.

Currently, the people in my hometown are busy growing a special species of kiwi known as the "red heart kiwi". With the knowledge I will have gained from completing my DPM degree, I hope to return to China and help the farmers. I would like to provide them advice and practical solutions for the problems they face so that they may increase not only the quality but also the quantity of their unique harvest.

Although my background is in biochemistry, I am more interested in applied research and practices. The DPM program offers me extensive opportunities for hands-on activities that fit my goals and can help me to become a successful professional. The multidisciplinary approach provided by the DPM Program promises me a new start for a new career!

PROGRAM NEWS & DEVELOPMENT

For more details on each of the following stories and to stay informed of the most recent events and important announcements regarding the DPM program, be sure to check out our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/UF-Doctor-of-Plant-Medicine-Program/179188882121511>



You can also tune into our IFAS blog, updated regularly by Dr. Amanda Hodges, available at: <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/plantmedicine/>.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - Division of Plant Industry (FDACS-DPI)

and

The University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agri- cultural Sciences - Doctor of Plant Medicine Program (UF-DPM)

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)



Over the years, UF-DPM has benefited from the close proximity of FDACS-DPI as an external employer and potential internship provider. FDACS-DPI includes over 600 employees around the state of Florida, and FDACS-DPI headquarters are located adjacent to the UF campus. FDACS-DPI headquarters includes state of Florida laboratories for the diagnosis of plant pathogens, arthropods, nematodes, and plants. Furthermore, research related to applied methods for the control and management of regulatory pests, statewide nursery inspections, and the state of Florida Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program are conducted or coordinated from FDACS-DPI headquarters. During the fall of 2014, Mr. Richard Gaskalla, FDACS-DPI Director, and Dr. Amanda Hodges, DPM Program Director formalized connections between FDACS-DPI and UF-DPM through a MOU.

The purpose of the MOU document is to develop a collaborative relationship between the FDACS-DPI and UF-DPM. This collaboration is intended to further the science of arthropod, nematode and plant pathogen diagnostics, scientific investigation and plant pest survey techniques by training or assisting in the training of UF-DPM students in the form of internships, and gain potential recruits for FDACS-DPI field and scientific positions.

Stated MOU Objectives Include:

1. FDACS-DPI will provide diagnostic training of arthropods, nematodes and plant pathogens to UF-DPM students in the form of semester-long internships. These internships will consist of learning basic and advanced identification of species representing each of these groups. FDACS-DPI will supply use of microscopes, consumable supplies and samples/specimens for diagnostic purposes.
2. FDACS-DPI will provide training in scientific investigation in the form of internships when opportunities are available to UF-DPM students that will assist with ongoing biological control and methods development projects.
3. FDACS-DPI will provide training in plant pest survey methodology in the form of internships to UF-DPM students. Pest field surveys will involve the use of FDACS-DPI vehicles.
4. UF-DPM will provide advance notice to FDACS-DPI prior to internships being established.
5. If FDACS-DPI provides a graded internship, the UF-DPM will closely coordinate grade assignment with the supervisor of record for the intern.
6. The agreement may be extended to advanced undergraduate students who have expressed interest in plant regulatory issues or the DPM Program.
7. The agreement will be overseen and coordinated by Dr. Greg Hodges, Chief-Bureau of Entomology, Nematology and Plant Pathology, for FDACS-DPI and by Dr. Amanda Hodges, Director-DPM degree program.
8. Any of the above objectives can be changed and/or modified by mutual agreement between the two institutions.

Questions or comments regarding the new MOU? Please contact DPM Program Director, Dr. Amanda Hodges achodges@ufl.edu.

Advancing Professional Development

The Doctor of Plant Medicine Program continuously provides its students opportunities to participate in scientific conferences, academic workshops, and field trips throughout the year. Activities occur both within and outside the state of Florida. From hosting a local, regional, or national booth to interact with prospective students, assisting with UF/IFAS Extension programs, or exploring employment opportunities with the government or private sector, the DPM Program maintains a rigorous and diverse schedule that will help prepare its students for successful careers as Plant Doctors. In an effort to promote professional development and networking, the following excerpts demonstrate some of the recent involvements of DPM students.

This information and more can be found on the [DPM Blog](#) or the [Facebook Page](#).

FL Small Farms & Alternative Enterprises Conference, Kissimmee, FL - August 1-2, 2014

Several DPM students (from left to right: Christopher Kerr, Rebecca Barocco, Eric LeVein, Tatiana Sanchez, Tamika Garrick, and John Bonkowski) presented a joint Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Florida and DPM Booth.

Dr. Norman Leppla, Director of IPM Florida, provided leadership and financial support for the booth.

Here is what DPM student, John Bonkowski, had to say about his experience at the conference:

“Rebecca Barocco, Tatiana Sanchez, and I assisted Dr. Gary Vallad and Dr. Nick DuFault with setting up and manning demo stations for their seminar, “What’s Bugging You?: Specialty Crop Disease Identification,” during the 2014 Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference. Dr. DuFault gave a brief overview of the prominent disease symptoms, defining signs and symptoms and how to differentiate between the two. After this, we spent 30 minutes with the attendees showing examples of different common diseases that can be found on various specialty crops grown in Florida. These include: Fusarium wilt, crown and root rots caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* and *Sclerotium rolfsii*, Bacterial potato rot caused by *Pectobacterium carotovorum*, Blueberry leaf spot caused by *Colletotrichum* sp., and multiple rust fungi. During this time, we also answered any questions the attendees had regarding issues they have come across in their own production systems.”



Photo by: Eric LeVein

FMC Research Station Tour, Sparks, GA - September 5, 2014

The UF DPM Program had the opportunity to visit the [FMC Corporation](#) field station in Sparks, GA. [Bruce Stripling, Jr.](#), a DPM student who currently manages the FMC station in Sparks, hosted the tour. Students were able to learn about current pests and pathogens issues on fields of cotton, peanut, soybean, and corn.



Photo by: Eric LeVein



Photo Captions: Bruce Stripling, Jr. extracting cotton from a boll (left); DPM students and Entomology and Nematology Undergraduate Kelly Dexter (center of photo) examine cotton field for pests (above right)

**Professional Development Seminar Series, University of Florida,
Gainesville, FL - September 9 and November 4, 2014**

The DPM Student Organization (DPMSO) co-hosted two seminars with the UF Career Resource Center this semester.

- At the first Professional Development Seminar, guest speaker and Assistant Director for Career Exploration and Education, Ms. Liz Kazungu discussed useful interview strategies for students preparing to meet potential employers or internship agencies.
- "Job Offer and Salary Negotiation" was the second specialized seminar. At this seminar Ms. Liz Kazungu presented tips for effectively evaluating job offers as well as helpful guidelines for understanding the process of negotiating an appropriate salary.

"Interviewing Strategies"

Part 1 of the Professional Development Series
provided by the [UF Career Resource Center](#)

"Job Offer & Salary Negotiations"

Part 2 of the Professional Development Series
provided by the [UF Career Resource Center](#)

**Luncheon and Informational Session with Dow AgroSciences, LLC,
Gainesville, FL - September 11, 2014**

Dow representative Dr. Joe Eger, Field Biologist for the Southeastern Region (NC, SC, GA, AL, and FL), hosted an informational luncheon for DPM and Entomology and Nematology students interested in learning about how to prepare for a potential career in industry. Dr. Eger also provided information about a research and development summer internship opportunity available for 2015 in Indianapolis, IN. More information about internship opportunities with Dow AgroSciences, LLC can be found at: <http://www.dowagro.com/careers/internships/lab.htm>.



USDA-APHIS-PPQ-CPHST-PERAL, Raleigh, NC - October 2, 2014

Dr. Stephanie Bloem and Ms. Lottie Erikson from USDA-APHIS-PPQ-CPHST-PERAL (Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory) hosted DPM Program students on October 2, 2014 in Raleigh, NC. DPM students learned about pest risk analysis procedures for imports and exports, and the regulatory structure of the USDA-APHIS-PPQ. Federal employment with USDA-APHIS-PPQ was also generally discussed. DPM students also had the opportunity to meet USDA-APHIS-PPQ-CPHST (Center for Plant Health Science and Technology) Executive Director, Dr. Philip Berger during their visit.

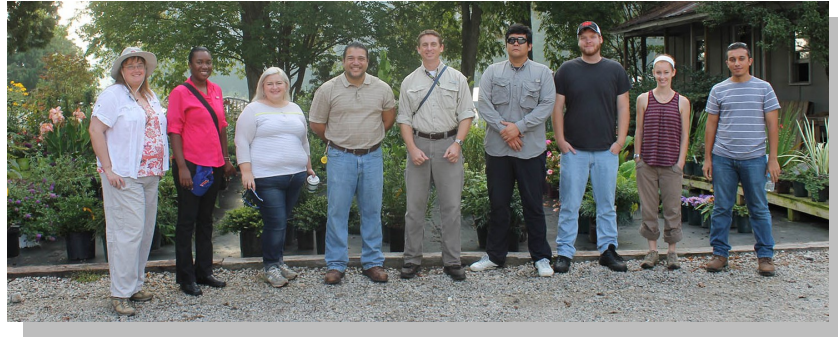


North Carolina Ornamental Nursery and Agricultural Tour, Johnston County, NC - October 3-4, 2014

DPM students learned about ornamental production and pest management practices by touring five North Carolina nurseries. [Amie Newsome, Extension Agent for Johnston County, North Carolina](#) extended gracious southern hospitality as our host, coordinator, and tour guide! In addition to the nursery tours, DPM students visited a tobacco farm and discussed production practices. (Additional photos may be found on the [DPM Blog](#).)

Nurseries visited included:

- [Pender Nursery](#)
- [Fowler's Nursery and Greenhouses](#)
- [Swift Creek Nursery](#)
- [Smith's Nursery](#)
- [Panther Creek Nursery](#)



Program Exhibits and Student Recruiting

During the Fall 2014, the DPM Program participated in a variety of conferences and student recruiting events.

- **August 9-13, 2014** - Participated in an exhibit booth hosted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, DPH Program at the annual American Phytopathological Society (APS) conference in Minneapolis, MN
- **Friday, September 12, 2014** - Florida A&M Graduate Feeder Conference and Recruitment Fair, Tallahassee, FL
- **September 25 -27, 2014** - Participated in the UF-IFAS Booth for FNGLA's annual Landscape Show, Orlando, FL
- **Friday, September 26, 2014** - University of Florida Graduate Information Day, Gainesville, FL
- **Saturday, October 11, 2014** - DPM students celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) by participating in the annual CALS TailGator event! Several DPM students answered programmatic as well as general plant health questions from CALS alumni, faculty, and students.



Above: DPM Director, Dr. Amanda Hodges at the APS meeting. (Photograph by Dr. Rick Bostock, University of California, Davis)

Below: Daniel Mancero, Rebecca Barocco, Wael Elwakil, and Lisbeth Espinoza



- **Tuesday, October 14, 2014** - Valdosta State University, Graduate and Professional School Fair, Valdosta, GA
- **Wednesday, October 15, 2014** - University of Central Florida, Graduate and Professional School Fair, Orlando, FL
- **Tuesday, October 21, 2014** - University of Florida Plant Science Major Internship Fair, Gainesville, FL
- **Wednesday, October 22, 2014** - University of Florida, Graduate and Professional School Fair, Gainesville, FL



Above: DPM Director, Dr. Amanda Hodges at the ESA meeting speaking with prospective students.

Below: DPM Director, Dr. Amanda Hodges and Christopher Kerr at the ESA meeting.

(Photographs by Eric LeVeen, UF)

On **November 15-19, 2014**, the DPM Program hosted an exhibit booth at the annual Entomological Society of America (ESA) conference in Portland, OR. The [University of Nebraska-Lincoln DPH program](#) also participated in the booth. The DPM Director, Dr. Amanda Hodges, as well as DPM students Eric LeVeen and Christopher Kerr attended the ESA meeting.

More information about the symposium can be found on the DPM Blog at: <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/plantmedicine/2014/11/05/esa-symposium-on-integrated-plant-health-training-tuesday-november-18-2014-in-portland-or/>

The agenda for the event may be found on the ESA website at: <https://esa.confex.com/esa/2014/webprogram/Session22130.html>



Integrated Plant Medicine - ALS 6925

“Throughout the fall semester, the Integrated Plant Medicine (ALS 6925) course taught by Program Director, Dr. Amanda Hodges, provides students with opportunities to synthesize and apply the concepts and methodologies of plant medicine to plant problem diagnosis and management. A highly interactive learning environment is a strength of this course, as students conduct a team-based research project, discuss case studies of current literature, experience the grant writing process, develop and deliver crop profile presentations, and attend field trips to different types of industry and government operations related to agriculture.”

- Eric LeVeen, senior DPM student



Summertime Adventures!

Summer Entomology Internship with Driscoll Strawberry Associates, Inc. - *By Carla Calvert Burkele*



"I had the privilege of working this summer as an Entomology Intern with Driscoll Strawberry Associates, Inc.'s Global Research and Development unit in Watsonville, CA. Driscoll's is a family-owned company that began with Ed Reiter and Dick Driscoll growing 'Sweet Briar' strawberries in California's Pajaro Valley in 1904. Driscoll's has grown into a multi-national operation with production in 18 countries on 5 different continents and an annual revenue of \$1-2 billion. Driscoll's breeds their own varieties of strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries which they grow and distribute in cooperation with private growers.



Monitoring western flower thrips and two-spotted spider mites on organic Driscoll's strawberry farms in the Salinas Valley.

Driscoll's nationally recruits students for their internship program, and my multidisciplinary, applied Doctor of Plant Medicine training was a good fit for their objectives. I developed an integrated pest management applied research project with Driscoll's Entomology Lead Dr. Michael Seagraves to support their ongoing efforts to control spotted wing drosophila. I assisted with weekly monitoring of western flower thrips and two-spotted spider mites in organic strawberry fields in the Salinas Valley, and consulted with the breeding and plant pathology units as well. My internship was a challenging but rewarding opportunity to apply the extensive training I've received the last four years across the DPM disciplines of entomology and nematology, soil and water science, agronomy, horticulture, and plant pathology. Though I was an entomology intern, my multidisciplinary training facilitated a richer experience for both Driscoll's and me."

Summer Crop Protection and Food Safety Internship with Pleasant Valley Gardens Farm in Methuen, Massachusetts - *By Alicyn Ryan*

"This internship fulfilled a requirement for my USDA National Needs Fellowship and counted as a substantial industry internship for the DPM Program. My goal was to create a Harmonized Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) program for the farm while gaining hands on experience in food production. As an approaching fourth year student who has spent all of her free time in the Plant Diagnostic Clinic on campus, I was amazed how much in class/lab experience I was able to apply to situations in the field. This was eye opening to me; I realized how much I had learned these past three years working towards my DPM with each problem that was presented. Besides identifying and giving recommendations for controlling pests I also learned basic farm work, like fixing a leak in the drip tape, using a dosatron to fertigate with and tilling with an \$87,000 tractor!



The owner of Pleasant Valley Gardens, Dr. Rich Bonanno, is employed by UMass as a Senior Extension Specialist and also the president of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation. Due to this position, I was able to attend a number of meetings with Dr. Bonanno where I was able to speak with to the commissioners of agriculture from New England and others involved in the agricultural industry.

Besides making a food safety plan, I also completed a food safety presentation that will be used on the UMass food safety websites. This hands on experience was crucial for me during my last year in the DPM program as it has given me an improved confidence and awareness of my DPM skill set."

The UF Research and Education Center (REC) Experience! - *By Nicole Casuso*

“This summer I had the privilege of spending time at different RECs. As my supervisory committee members are located at these centers, I wanted to spend time with each of them to learn more about the type of projects they conduct. By staying in the on-site graduate student housing, I was able to meet students from all over the world, at different stages in their graduate career, and in various departments. It was a cultural melting pot in which the casual exchange of words granted me a little insight on other fields aside from those related to the DPM Program. At the same time, I was also able to share my experiences with the DPM program to students and faculty that are unfamiliar with it. I would recommend visiting the RECs to any student interested in spending time on a project outside of Gainesville., FL

- **FLREC, Fort Lauderdale, FL:** With help from others in Environmental Horticulture, I lead the design, construction, and planting of a demonstration garden focused on Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ options that fit the sandy soils and full sun of South Florida while reducing the need for excessive irrigation. I built vine trellises and repurposed materials such create planters, a herb garden bench, and trail markers respectively. Dr. Kimberly Moore supervised the project.
- **Gulf Coast REC in Wimauma, FL:** I worked with Dr. Hugh Smith to develop pest identification sheets for growers to use as field guides to common agricultural pests (i.e. thrips, silverleaf whitefly, aphids, and mites). Additionally, I learned how to slide mount and identify common species of thrips found on strawberries using a LUCID® key.
- **Tropical REC in Homestead, FL:** I spent time enrolled in Tropical Fruit Production class offered by Dr. Jonathan Crane. However, I had met with my committee chairperson Dr. Catharine Mannion a few times as well.



A Visitor from Abroad: Potential expansion of the DPM Program

by Wael Elwakil

Interest in the Doctor of Plant Medicine Program at the University of Florida is continuously increasing in different parts of the world. Dr. Yasser Shabana, the Vice Dean for Graduate Studies and Research at Mansoura University in Egypt, has reached out to our program at UF with the intention of establishing a similar program. His vision is that the new program could serve the entire Middle East agricultural area.

From left to right:
 Wael Elwakil
 Eric LeVeen
 John Bonkowski
 Kayla Thomason
 Dr. Norman Leppla
 Dr. Yasser Shabana
 Dr. Amanda Hodges
 Nicole Casuso
 Alicyn Ryan
 Carla Burkle
 Yansu Luo



Dr. Shabana had multiple meet-

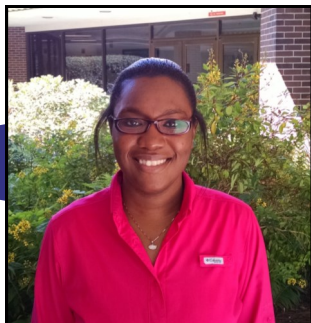
ings with Dr. Hodges, Director of the DPM Program, discussing the planned structure, bylaws of the program, and collaboration between both the University of Florida and Mansouora University. Current DPM students also had the opportunity to meet Dr. Shabana and exchanged ideas about the new program that will be initiated in Egypt. An exciting topic of discussion included potential study-abroad style internships for students in both countries as well as online classes that would relay information about cropping systems and plant health concerns in the respective regions of the world.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our students frequently demonstrate their academic merit and individual passions for applied research. They earn various awards each year and as a new feature of *DPM News*, we would like to highlight their achievements.

- The 97th Annual Meeting of the Florida Entomological Society was held at the Jupiter Spa and Beach, Jupiter, Florida from August 3-6., 2014 **Tamika Garrick** (below left) a final year DPM student received 3rd Place in the MS student competition for her presentation titled "Investigating the effect of humidity on the reproductive capacity of *Frankliniella bispinosa* and *Frankliniella occidentalis* (Thysanoptera:Thripidae)."
- **Morgan Conn** (below center) and **Nicole Casuso** (below right) were selected as 2014-2015 recipients of the William C. and Bertha M. Cornett Fellowship fund scholarship.

To include your scholastic accomplishment in the next edition of *DPM News*, email the editor Nicole Casuso, at ncasuso@ufl.edu.



Congratulatory Remarks for our Graduate

Congratulations to our **Summer 2014** DPM Graduate Carmen Collazo! We wish you the best!

Dr. Collazo was asked to provide *DPM News* with a few brief highlights of her experience with the DPM Program and here is what she had to say:



Photo above: Dr. Carmen Collazo (left) with Dr. Eileen Buss (right)

"I decided to apply to the DPM program after completing a BS in microbiology and a MS in plant biology. The Doctor of Plant Medicine program at the University of Florida offered to me the opportunity to undertake hands on experience on a broad range of disciplines within agriculture. After joining the DPM program, I had the chance to do research at the University of Florida, work for Inter-Regional Project Number 4, intern at Syngenta Crop Protection and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at DPI. These were enriching opportunities that enhanced my professional and academic development. During those valuable work and internship experiences, I met supervisors that quickly became my mentors. As I was approaching graduation, the opportunity to join Syngenta Crop Protection was offered to me and I accepted the position.

I am grateful to the DPM Director Dr. Amanda Hodges, my graduate committee members Dr. Jason Smith, Dr. Eileen A. Buss, Dr. Greg Macdonald, and Dr. Catherine Marzolf for all their guidance throughout these years. I am also grateful to my DPM fellow students and friends, you guys know who you are, for making these years more fun. I will miss you. I dedicate this triumph to my loving husband, my dear dad and mom, and my family for the unconditional love and support. Once a gator, always a gator!"



DPMSO - FUNDRAISING

The DPMSO Officers

The Doctor of Plant Medicine Student Organization (DPMSO) hosted a vegetable plant fundraiser this semester. We had dozens of transplants for sale, including: winter (butternut) squash, summer squash, and green bell pepper. Aside from the beautiful weather, we had quite a successful event and we would like to thank all those that came out to support DPMSO. Be sure to stay tuned for program announcements about future seasonal plant sales!

AUTUMN VEGETABLE SALE



WHERE
Parking lot across from the softball complex located on the north side of Southwest Rec. Center on Bledsoe Dr.

WHEN
Monday, October 6, 2014, 3PM-6PM

WHAT
Our first crop of autumn vegetables is ready to report or incorporate into a garden bed!
• Green Bell Peppers
• Winter and Summer Squash (limited availability)

1 for \$2 – OR – 3 for \$5

Not sure where to go?

Check out this map to see where we will be!

WEBSITE:
<http://dpm.ifas.ufl.edu/>
Event Hosted By:
The University of Florida
Doctor of Plant Medicine
Student Organization

Campus Map



I ♥ The DPM Program - Ongoing t-shirt sale!



Looking for a new addition to your winter wardrobe or holiday gift for a colleague? Do you want to represent the DPM Program with swag” or simply show your support? Choose from the ash grey t-shirt with a green DPM logo or the navy blue “Crop Scene Investigator” shirt. These comfy tees are great for working in the field, casual wear, or at to sport at any DPM event. Stop by the front desk of the Entomology and Nematology Department to visit Ms. [Nancy Sanders](#) and Ms. [Elena Alyanaya](#) and order one (or more) of these awesome t-shirts! Shirts are currently being sold for \$15 dollars. Cash and checks made payable to the Doctor of Plant Medicine Student Organization will be accepted. We want anticipate these shirts to sell quick so be sure to swing by the front office or contact a DPMSO officer and claim yours today!

Alumni Spotlight -

An interview with Dr. Tim Durham, *by Nicole Casuso*

Q. Please describe your academic background.

A. I received an AAS in Horticulture and Greenhouse Management from Suffolk County Community College. Thanks to an articulation agreement, I transferred to Cornell University, where I received a BS in Plant Science. Later, I was awarded a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship for postgraduate study at Lincoln University, New Zealand, where I received a Postgraduate Diploma (P.G. Dip.) in Applied Science. Immediately upon my return to the US, I enrolled in the DPM program at UF.



Q. What is your current occupation and how has your DPM degree aided you in the occupational tasks and responsibilities?

A. I'm currently an Assistant Professor of Agronomy and Agriculture Program Coordinator at Ferrum College, a small liberal arts institution in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The DPM degree has been an invaluable asset. In essence, it allows me to act as a disciplinary linguist – switching dialects on the fly. For example, over the course of a day I can: 1) discuss the use of braconids as biocontrols with colleagues, 2) interpret a soil test report in class, and 3) work with students on a calibration lab at the campus farm.

...continued on page 14

Continued from page 13...

Q. What prompted you to pursue a career in academia?

A. Academia was not initially on my radar screen; I was steering myself toward a career with USDA-APHIS. During my second semester as a DPM student, I received an email from Dr. Lori Unruh Snyder, an agronomy faculty member. Recognizing the benefits that a DPM background might offer, Lori was interested in leveraging that expertise in her teaching program. It turns out that teaching was a latent interest for me – it just needed to be jump-started.

"I have often thought that if heaven had given me choice of my position and calling, it should have been on a rich spot of earth, well watered, and near a good market for the productions of the garden. No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden. Such a variety of subjects, some one always coming to perfection, the failure of one thing repaired by the success of another, and instead of one harvest a continued one thro' the year."

- Thomas Jefferson

Q. Why did you choose the DPM program?

A. When I was with Cornell Cooperative Extension, I attended a national IPM conference where Dr. Bob McGovern (past DPM Director) and a number of students were presenting. While I had graduate aspirations, I wasn't interested in 4+ years of research in a narrow specialization. Considering myself a "jack of all trades" the holistic nature of the DPM degree was immediately appealing. The diverse array of positions that DPM grads can claim is a testament to the versatility of the degree.

Q. On a personal and professional level, how has your DPM degree influenced you?

A. Two things: it's opened up doors for collaboration with my peers and highlighted the intimate connections between disciplines. The intersection of food security and sustainability – I call it "Countdown to 2050" – is already on the lips of every stakeholder, scientist, and policymaker. With their broad-based training, DPM graduates are uniquely positioned to make a lasting impact in this arena.

If the shoe fits... why DPM might be right for you!

By Nicole Casuso

Wondering if the DPM program is a path you might want to pursue? Ask yourself the following questions and find out!

1. Are you passionate about any of these topics: environmental quality, agriculture, horticulture, epidemiology, or insects?
2. Are you interested in hands-on experiences that would allow you to work both in the field and in a lab, internships with local businesses or federal agencies, and multidisciplinary studies?
3. Do you aspire to work in academia, private industry, or government?
4. Do you enjoy community outreach and extension, networking, and attending professional development workshops and scientific conferences?
5. Do you prefer application-based science?

If you answered **yes** to most of the questions listed above, then we highly recommend that you explore your graduate career options with the University of Florida DPM Program!

“There are two educations. One should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live.”

- John Adams



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DPM Students

Interested in learning more about our current DPM students?
Visit our website at: http://www.dpm.ifas.ufl.edu/current_students.html



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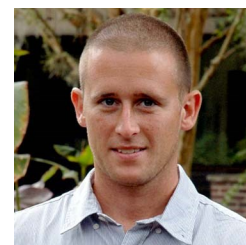
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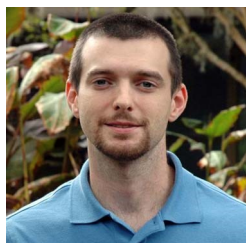
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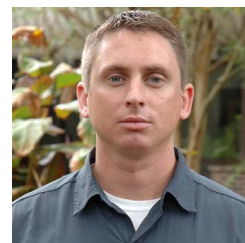
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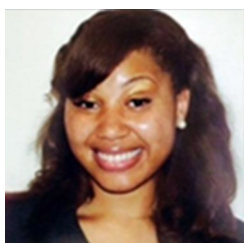
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Thank you
for reading!



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All photos on the front and back covers of this newsletter were taken by Nicole Casuso, University of Florida, 2nd year Doctor of Plant Medicine Student

