Jessica Awad took this photograph of a Synopeas sp. (Hymenoptera: Platygastridae) specimen. This tiny insect is approximately 1.5 mm long. She won first prize in the microphotography category of the Photo Salon at the ESA Southeastern Branch meeting in Mobile, Alabama.
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Dear Alumni, Friends, and Faculty:

Twenty years ago, a few innovative students accepted the challenge of a new degree program—the interdisciplinary Doctor of Plant Medicine (DPM) Program. The University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences met the demands for stakeholders with this bold and inspiring curriculum. As we begin 2019, the global need for practical plant health practitioners continues to rise.

This edition of DPM News includes some of our student current achievements, but then it would not be possible to print a comprehensive list of all student and alumni accomplishments for the spring of 2019. Congratulations to all alumni! It’s great to be part of the DPM Gator Community!

It is time to continue the vision of the DPM Program with strategic fundraising efforts. Initially, the Martin Law Firm from Lakeland, Florida stepped forward and provided a foundational gift to honor the late Dr. George Agrios, our first DPM Director.

Will you join me in planning for the next generation of DPM graduates? Although almost 100 graduates have excelled in industry, government, or academic positions, the decision to pursue interdisciplinary plant health training is still difficult. Despite the overwhelming success of alumni and students, our graduates continue to explain this nascent profession to potential employers and prospective students. When you donate to the Dr. George Agrios endowment, you are joining additional generous donors in your affirmation of their DPM professional doctoral degree. Once an endowment is established to honor the late Dr. George Agrios, we can begin offering an annual scholarship to a deserving DPM student. This scholarship will not only honor our past but recognize the excellent contributions of our current students.

Every contribution—financial or otherwise—is appreciated. Thank you for your support of the University of Florida, DPM Program!

As we embrace future of the DPM Program and the legacy of Dr. George Agrios, please consider giving today at:

www.uff.ufl.edu/give/AgriosScholarship

Sincerely,

Dr. Amanda Hodges
Director, Doctor of Plant Medicine Program
JULIA RYCYNA

Academic Credentials:
- Double major in Biological Sciences and East Asian Studies - Mount Holyoke College
- Co-enrolled in Environmental Horticulture M.S. program and DPM

Why DPM?
I enrolled in DPM because I was very intrigued and excited about the interdisciplinary aspect of the degree. In addition, I was surprised and excited to learn that you can be a doctor for plants and it made sense that plants are living things and can get sick like humans. My overall interest in plants stemmed from helping my mother in her home garden, and my undergraduate experience lead me to wanting a career related to plants. However, I realized that my plant knowledge was not as wide as I wished and realized the importance entomology, plant pathology, and soil science. I am still learning what area of plants I would like to work on in the future, and I believe that this program will expose me to new fields as I learn to find more of my interests, find what I do not like, and feed my desire to learn and gain multiple skills.

DOCTOR OF PLANT MEDICINE
STUDENT ORGANIZATION NEWS

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Matt Borden
Vice President
Alex Gannon
Secretary
Eleanor Phillips
Treasurer
Nick Goltz
Graduate Student Council Rep
Keir Hamilton
Historian
Benjamin Waldo

STUDENT OFFICERS
Congratulations to Matt, Alex, Ellie, Nick, Kier, and Ben for winning the 2019 DPMSO officer elections!
STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Benjamin Waldo**
Benjamin presented his talk, "Nematicide effects on non-target nematode ecological indices in bermudagrass" at the APS-Southern Division meeting. Great job!

**Morgan Pinkerton**
Morgan won 1st place in the M.S. Oral Competition II at ESA Southeastern Branch Meeting for her talk, "Rearing protocol for the redbanded stink bug, Piezodorus guildinii (Westwood)". Congrats!

**Craig Frey**
Craig won 2nd place in the Extension, Outreach, and Teaching category at ESA Southeastern Branch Meeting for his talk, "Expanding a Florida invasive species youth outreach program." Congrats!

**Alex Gannon**
Alex won 2nd place in the M.S. Oral III Competition III at ESA Southeastern Branch Meeting for his talk, "Trap cropping strategies for stink bugs in organic tomato production." Great job!

**Sage Thompson**
Sage won 1st place in the Extension, Outreach, and Teaching category at ESA Southeastern Branch Meeting for her talk, "Challenges and opportunities of teaching insect identification and IPM in Ecuador." Great work Sage!

**Matt Borden**
Matt presented a research poster at the Center for Landscape Ecology and Conservation - Urban Landscape Summit! Matt also presented his Master’s proposal, “Evaluating More Sustainable Strategies for Creating and Maintaining Residential Landscapes.”

**Jessica Awad**
Jessica won 1st and 2nd place for microphotography at the ESA Southeastern Branch Meeting!

**Heather Kalaman**
Heather presented her research at the Center for Landscape Ecology and Conservation - Urban Landscape Summit. Great work Heather!

**Alicia Kelley**
Alicia published her first paper in Florida Entomologist, titled "Effect of thermotherapy on the acquisition of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus by the Asian citrus psyllid (Hemiptera: Liviidae)."

**Eleanor Phillips**
Ellie successfully defended her Master’s thesis, titled "Survey of arthropod pests of Olea europaea in North Central Florida olive groves". Congratulations!
JANUARY

- Amanda Long, Morgan Pinkerton, Ariane McCorquodale, and Ploy Kurdmongkoltham attended the 2019 Tropical Plant International Expo and met Mr. Ben Bolusky.
- Ploy Kurdmongkoltham, Nick Goltz, and Eleanor Phillips delivered Florida First Detector presentations in Hillsborough County.

FEBRUARY

- Elena Alyanaya, Alex Gannon, Ariane McCorquodale, Arjun Khadka, and Ploy Kurdmongkoltham talked to prospective students at CALS Career Expo.
- Benjamin Waldo, Matt Borden, Ploy Kurdmongkoltham, Dr. Chris Ferguson, and Dr. Carmen Collazo attended the APS Southern-Division meeting.
- Nick Goltz, Sage Thompson, and Ploy Kurdmongkoltham presented a Florida First Detector workshop in Frenchtown Urban Farm.

MARCH

- Ploy Kurdmongkoltham, Julia Rycyna, Nick Goltz, and Dr. Hodges presented a Florida First Detector Workshop at Mead Botanical Garden.
- Ploy Kurdmongkoltham and Alicia Kelley served as judges for the 64th Florida State Science Fair. DPM alumnus Dr. Bill Lester was also there!

APRIL

- Alex Gannon gave a presentation on plant pathogens at the FL Community Garden educational program in Hillsborough County.
That was fast! These past four years as a DPM student were better than I could have imagined. When I first started the program there were several experiences I had hoped to obtain. These included farm visits, exciting internships, extension opportunities, and the ability to fully immerse myself in the field of plant health.

The DPM program delivered in all these aspects. Right from the start we were spending long days in the field in Belle Glade during a scouting course. Shortly afterwards the DPM program headed to Arizona and California to tour farms in a region very different from Florida. The pace of new experiences, course work, and other opportunities never slowed down, which was just how I wanted it. I am incredibly grateful to Dr. Hodges for ensuring DPM students were provided with an abundance of hands-on, interdisciplinary experiences that set the program apart from any other. I am also grateful for the DPM students whom I was fortunate enough to overlap with. The passion, enthusiasm and work ethic of the other students in the program was contagious and helped create the perfect environment for professional development.

After graduation I will be headed to Miami where I will be joining the USDA-APHIS laboratory in Coral Gables. I am looking forward to applying my DPM education in this position and work to safeguard the nation’s agriculture. I am also looking forward to staying involved with the DPM program; hopefully I can facilitate internships for future DPM students and give back to the program in other ways.

I absolutely enjoyed my time in the DPM program! It was a lot of hard work, late nights and weekends, but it was worth it. I learned to look at a field as system. There are many inputs and outputs in a successful agricultural system, and as DPM students we learned what those are. Not only did I gain so much knowledge, but I gained a great group of friends as well. The friends I made here helped me through so much throughout the program, from stress phone calls to calming walks in NATL.

I was fortunate enough to go through many different labs (plant pathology, entomology, extension, and food safety) and it helped me to land my job after graduation! My advice to current DPM students is to take EVERY opportunity that you can to build you CV. This includes volunteering with an extension agent, going to professional development seminars, volunteering at a different lab, and go out of your comfort zone especially with your internships. I had a great extension agent mentor, Dr. Bill Lester with Hernando County Extension. He gave me so many opportunities to build up my CV (master gardeners presentations, outreach events, YouTube videos), and all I had to do was ask!

Starting June, I will be working at Arborjet in Woburn, Massachusetts as a plant pathologist in their research & development team. I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity and I hope to make the DPM program proud!
We asked our graduates to share a few words on their time as a DPM student and their next steps.

We asked our graduates to share a few words on their time as a DPM student and their next steps.

Congratulations to our Spring 2019 Graduates!
We wish you the best!

DR. ARIANE MCCORQUODALE

I was always the type of person to take the easy road in life, so imagine the shock that hit me once I enrolled in grad school full time just months after becoming a mother. I was challenged in more ways than I could imagine. Still, I have no regrets. My DPM degree has opened my future to a whole world of possibilities for learning, creating, and giving. I have an insatiable curiosity about the world and every semester in the program I learned something new and fascinating. Even with all the stress and changes I was experiencing in my life, the excitement I felt on the first day of every class never waned from my first semester right down to my very last. I always felt so lucky to get to gain knowledge in such a broad range of disciplines. My luck continued when, months ahead of graduation, I was offered a position as a biological scientist with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry.

In my current role I am putting my creativity to work developing new tools for trapping the Giant African Land Snail (*Lissachatina fulica*), a global agricultural pest. Now, in all my DPM studies I have had exactly one class period of material related to terrestrial mollusks (or any mollusk for that matter). However, I am able to bring valuable expertise on integrated pest management and other agriculture-related biological concepts to my new position. That is the power of the DPM degree. As a graduate of the DPM program, I feel competitive for a variety positions because the interdisciplinary nature of the program has eliminated many of the scientific blind spots I would have if I had taken a more traditional academic path. I plan to keep building on my DPM degree as I gain knowledge through professional experience and perhaps more academic pursuits. Now that I am Ariane McCorquodale, DPM, my big dreams no longer feel limited by a lack of credentials.

Thank you to Dr. Hodges for seeing my potential and giving me this priceless opportunity, and thank you to all my friends and family who supported and encouraged me along the way. I am forever grateful.
External Advisory Committee

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REGGIE BROWN
Executive Vice President, Florida Tomato Exchange

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