DOCTOR OF PLANT MEDICINE NEWS

VOLUME 18
Fall 2019
INVASIVE SPECIES
*Lycomar* *delicatula*

**COMMON NAME**
Spotted Lanternfly

**PLANT HOSTS**
Grape Vines
Fruit Trees
Hardwoods
Hops

**DAMAGE**
Reduce photosynthesis
Feeding can cause plant to ooze

**CONTROL**
Biological control
Pesticide treatment

Creators
HANNAH TALTON, Editor
DPM Student - University of Florida

ALICIA KELLEY, Editor
DPM Student - University of Florida

AMANDA HODGES, PhD, Co-Editor
DPM Director - University of Florida
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Alumni, Friends, Faculty, and Students:

2019-2020 is an exciting academic calendar for the University of Florida, DPM Program! During Fall 2019, we were pleased to welcome four new students: Chastity Perry, Hannah Talton, Alex Deiulio, and Zach Eldred. We also began plans for our First Annual Meeting of Plant Doctors and Plant Health Professionals, the inaugural offering of the Agrios Scholarship, and a public educational event entitled ‘February Flora and Fauna Fest.’ As of the writing of these welcome remarks, we have already received two Silver Sponsors for the Conference-FMC Corporation and LandBack Agriculture!

Currently, we have received $22,042 of our $30,000 Endowment Goal in honor of the legacy of Dr. George Agrios, the first DPM Director and founder of the DPM Program. With the event registration, 3 alumni and 2 students have also invested in growing the Agrios Endowment—thank you for your support! Our progress towards this goal would not have been possible without significant support from the Martin Law Firm, and we are grateful for their dedicated contributions to the University of Florida, DPM Program. We have also received a generous donation from Agromillora to offer the first $1,000 Agrios Scholarship in 2020 prior to achieving our endowment status goal. Our alumni have graciously donated their time in efforts to review and plan for the first Agrios Scholarship, the BBQ awards banquet, and the First Annual Meeting of Plant Doctors and Plant Health Conference, and February Flora and Fauna Fest. Much of the success of the DPM Program is due to the excellence and continued contributions of our alumni and students.

Our progress towards achieving the first endowed DPM student scholarship follows 20 successful years (1999-current) of a dream for novel, interdisciplinary education and coincides with the International Year of Plant Health. As the founder of the first worldwide practitioner Plant Doctor Program, the University of Florida-IFAS is uniquely positioned to solve food, agriculture, and plant production problems both locally and globally. If you haven’t registered and are in the Gainesville, Florida area, please consider registering for the BBQ awards luncheon on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 1:00pm. We are also honored to have UF-IFAS Extension Dean Dr. Nick Place join us as our guest speaker for this special occasion. When you register, you will also have the opportunity to donate to the Agrios Endowment fund (http://www.cvent.com/d/chqfmh ). We hope to see you at the First Annual Meeting of Plant Doctors and Plant Health Professionals, the BBQ lunch, or February Flora and Fauna Fest.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amanda Hodges
Director, Doctor of Plant Medicine Program
Come to our very first February Flora & Fauna Fest at Steinmetz Hall!

Get into gardening early this year with a great selection from local vendors! Check out some insect related crafts! Learn about plants and insects in our workshops for adults and children! Get something you were not expecting from our raffle and join us for our outdoor BBQ on Saturday!

All proceeds go to fund the Agrios scholarship fund for Doctor of Plant Medicine students. DPM is an interdisciplinary program started right here at UF! Students learn about plant science, insects, and plant pathology. Come see what we are all about and have a blast while supporting your local gators!
If the shoe fits...
Why DPM might be right for you!

1. Do you want to know more about plant disease management, arthropod pest or nematode management, crop nutrition and agronomy, or horticultural sciences?

2. Are you interested in hands-on curriculum that allows you to work in the field and/or in a lab, internships with local businesses or federal agencies, and interdisciplinary studies?

3. Do you aspire to work in academia, industry, extension, or regulatory?

4. Do you enjoy opportunities to get involved with community outreach, networking, and attending professional development workshops, seminars, and scientific conferences?

5. Do you prefer application-based science?

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

ALREADY ENROLLED IN A GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM?

Contact our program for more information about potential dual-enrollment!

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PROGRAM EXHIBITS, ACTIVITIES, AND STUDENT RECRUITING

SEPTEMBER

- DPM students Jessica Awad, Keir Hamilton, and Andy Jean-Louis tabled at the annual UF-IFAS-CALS TailGator.
- DPM students Craig Frey, Alex Gannon, and Keir Hamilton attended the FNGLA landscape show in Orlando.

OCTOBER

- Florida First Detector coordinator and DPM student Alex Gannon gave a presentation on invasive pest to master gardeners in Hillsborough County.

NOVEMBER

- DPM students Morgan Pinkerton and Eleanor Phillips enjoyed teaching the Grace Grows students this semester!
- UF DPM and UNL DPH Programs tabling at the Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting.
- DPM student Hannah Talton recruited students for the DPM program at the Agronomy Society of America conference in San Antonio, TX!

DECEMBER

- The DPM program enjoyed hosting UF Entomology and Nematology alumnus Dr. Eric Rohring, FDACS-DPI Bureau Chief for Methods Development and Biological Control.
NEW STUDENT PROFILES

CHASTITY PERRY

Academic Credentials:
- B.S. in Biology – University of Florida
- M.S. in Entomology and Nematology

Why DPM?
It was a natural progression as I am passionate about plants and insects but was not seeking a Ph.D. in Entomology.

HANNAH TALTON

Academic Credentials:
- B.S. in Horticulture – North Carolina A&T State University
- M.S. in Entomology and enrolled in DPM

Why DPM?
Throughout my undergraduate career in horticulture I knew I wanted to help growers and different audiences grow their own produce and understand where their food comes from. I chose to do the DPM program following my master’s degree, for it had an interdisciplinary approach to agriculture, and I wanted to obtain as much knowledge as I could in many different areas of agriculture to be prepared to answer any question a grower could throw at me. I am very excited to be a Plant Doctor, so I can go out into the world and help solve the hard agriculture issues.
Academic Credentials:
- B.S. in Tropical Agriculture – University of Guam
- Enrolled DPM program

Why DPM?
I am originally from Morgantown, West Virginia. After graduating high school in 2006, I spent 8 years in the Navy as an EOD Technician. In 2008 I moved to Guam, where I would spend the next decade. Throughout my naval career I traveled and worked all over Asia and in developing countries. In 2015 I started college, but after taking my core agriculture courses, I could not choose which field to focus on. Luckily, in my junior year, my entomology professor recommended that I investigate the DPM program. After learning about this broad hands-on interdisciplinary program, I knew that the DPM program was right for me.

ZACH ELDRED

Academic Credentials:
- B.S. in Molecular Biology – Indian River State College
- M.S. in Microbiology & Cell Science

Why DPM?
Throughout my undergraduate, graduate, and professional career I’ve come to know many scientists that have interdisciplinary knowledge of agricultural systems, while holding a background in one aspect of that system (entomology, nematology, microbiology, plant pathology, etc). They usually broadened their knowledge-base by working alongside other specialists, absorbing as much information as they came in contact with but not much deeper. All major agricultural problems are interdisciplinary in nature. A broad knowledge-base of these systems seems to be of a great benefit to those interested in becoming leaders in their field. I chose the DPM program because of the broad interdisciplinary scope of its curriculum. I believe that this will prepare me for a fruitful career as a Plant Doctor. I look forward to meeting all of my fellow DPM students and future professors.
Congratulations to Sage Thompson for being a recipient of one of the DPMSO travel scholarship.

Congratulations to Craig Frey for being a recipient of one of the DPMSO travel scholarship.

Congratulations to Jessica Awad for winning her student oral competition section at ESA and also serving as our Linnaean Team Captain!

DPM student Sage Thompson is presenting her MS research at the Entomological Society of America Meeting in St. Louis, MO.

DPM/MS student Matt Borden presented one of his research projects at Entomological Society of America Meeting in St. Louis, MO.
Why did you choose to enroll in the DPM program?

I originally came back to grad school to get enough Master’s credits to become a community college professor after teaching 7th grade science for a year and was taking several plant-related classes. Although most of my science experience is in medical and veterinary practices, students in my classes shared with me about the program and it peaked my interest, mainly due to the diverse job opportunities. I didn’t really have any experience with plants, but I figured that I could learn anything.

After graduation, what career paths/opportunities were available to you?

Since most of my internships were in extension and regulatory, opportunities included careers with state and federal agencies, as well as extension. I graduated in 2008 and my plan was to work with USDA in Maryland where I had done an internship, but with the recession and the influx of applicants, I wasn’t able to get that position.

Shortly after graduation, I was offered a position as a pest management consultant with the Navy and UF/IFAS Extension at the same time. I decided to move to Virginia for the Navy position where I worked for 6 years. I later came back to UF/IFAS Extension as an Environmental Horticulture agent for Alachua County and worked with them for 2 years.

What is your current occupation, and how has your DPM degree aided you in the tasks and responsibilities associated with your position?

I am currently a horticulture professor at Valencia College West and I find it ironic that I came back to a career that I originally wanted to do when I started grad school. I teach classes for the A.S. in Plant Science and Agricultural Technology program with Dr. Javier Garcés, another DPM grad.

The program is essentially a mini-DPM program, so I’m teaching the same classes that I took for the program, such as entomology, IPM, soils, nursery management, botany, and ornamental plant maintenance, just at a 1000-2000 level. I even thumb through my old notebooks to make materials.

Are there any challenges that your DPM degree has helped you overcome?

The program and internships helped me by giving me the knowledge and experience for problem-solving plant situations. This was especially important with the Navy where I inspected Navy installations and provided solutions for their pest problems, as well as for extension, where I was daily solving problems and identifying pests for homeowners.

Do you have any advice for current DPM students?

Pad your resume. Students should try to get as much experience as they can, especially if they don’t have a huge amount of life or work experience in the field. They should also attend conferences, join professional organizations, and network. It is easier to get jobs if you have connections. Practice your soft skills, through writing and presenting.

During the program, I tried to get better at writing, never realizing that I would have to write for the newspaper when I was an extension agent. Participate in the DPMSO! It was one of my best experiences, leading and connecting with students and faculty.
DPM STUDENTS

Jessica Awad
Florida, USA

Clayton Bania
Florida, USA

Matt Borden
Virginia, USA

Alex Deiulio
Florida, USA

Zach Eldred
West Virginia, USA

Craig Frey
Maryland, USA

Alex Gannon
Florida, USA

Jenny Gavilanez-Slone
Florida, USA

Nick Goltz
Florida, USA

Keir Hamilton
Florida, USA

Andy Jean-Louis
Cap-Haitien, Haiti

Heather Kalaman
Louisiana, USA

Alicia Kelley
Indiana, USA

Arjun Khadka
Nepal

Amanda Long
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Chastity Perry
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Florida, USA

Susan Swartzfager
Florida, USA

Hannah Talton
North Carolina, USA

Sage Thompson
Florida, USA

Benjamin Waldo
Indiana, USA

Brianna Whitman
Idaho, USA
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