

»»» NEWSLETTER «««

PLANT SCIENCE



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

WELCOME NEW PEOPLE

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We are happy to welcome to our team new technicians, graduate students and newly admitted students.

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- Student Defenses
- Reporting Dates

PLANTS SCIENCE NEWS

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WELCOME NEW PEOPLE

MAY 2024

WHO IS NEW?

Welcome Sarah Wilcott!

Sarah Wilcott has worked on the UM's long-term field studies for the past 5 years, based in the Department of Soil Science. Sarah's position has now been moved to Plant Science. Sarah will continue to provide support for the long-term field studies in the faculty. Drop by Plant Science room 304 and say hello to Plant Science's newest technical support staff member!

New graduate students:

-  Hannah Dutka (MSc) - Advisor Claudio Stasolla / Ron Duncan
-  Milan Lukes (MSc) - Advisor Claudio Stasolla
-  Narthika Pathirani (MSc) - Advisor Dilanyha Fernando
-  Shruti Kashyap (PhD) - Advisor Claudio Stasolla / Harmeet Chawla
-  Andrew Enns will officially started his MSc studies May 2024. Working with Martin Entz in the Natural Systems Agriculture lab, his research will focus on nature-based agricultural solutions in East Africa. Andrew is an agronomy grad from the UM.

New Post Doc:

New Post Doc:

Dr. Amarjot Kaur, PDF with Dr. Ayele, arrived and started April 15, 2024

Dr. Chin-Yu Wu, PDF with Dr. Ayele, anticipated start date May 1st, 2024.

Dr. Yue Li, Visiting Researcher, with Dr. Fernando, arrived and started April 9, 2024.

PLANT SCIENCE RESEARCH AT THE GLENLEA RESEARCH STATION - APRIL, 2024

PHOTO CREDIT - MARTIN ENTZ

PHOTO: SASHA LOEWEN, MICHELLE CARKNER AND SARAH WILCOTT INVESTIGATE SOIL MOISTURE IN THE LONG-TERM ORGANIC FIELD EXPERIMENT.





➤➤➤ GRADUATED STUDENTS IN MAY 2024:

Alexa Peterson, MSc.

Michelle Carkner, Ph.D.

➤➤➤ RETIREMENT:

Congratulations to Judith Nugent-Rigby on her retirement.

The Department and Brassica Breeding Program thank you for your incredible 44 years of service!

We wish you the absolute best in retirement.

➤➤➤ DEPARTMENT OF PLANT SCIENCE SPRING WELCOME

Monday, May 13, 2024

Plant Science Seminar Room

218 Agriculture Building

8:45AM-10:00AM (Refreshments 8:30AM)

➤➤➤ NATURAL SYSTEMS AGRICULTURE RESEARCH GROUP

The Natural Systems Agriculture Research Group has launched a new Natural Systems Agriculture website:

<https://umanitoba.ca/agricultural-food-sciences/natural-systems-agriculture-research-group>.

In the coming weeks, our collaborating researchers, grad students and others will be added to the site.



▶▶▶ PLANT SCIENCE GRADUATE STUDENTS

A group of plant science graduate students (Anirup Sengupta, Prabhleen Kaur, Milan Lukes, and Jared Bento) have been working together as presenters for the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences experiential internship with the Pembina Trails School Division. We've represented the Department of Plant Science for this leg of the internship. Students will also visit Animal Science, Entomology, Soil Science, and the Glenlea Research Station throughout the spring.

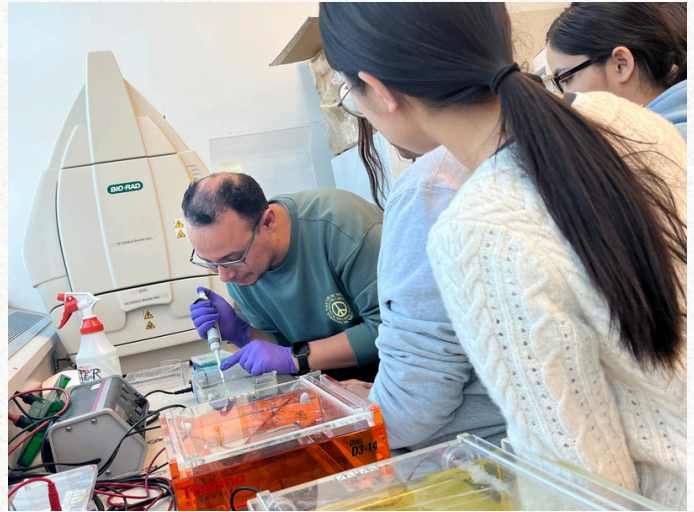


PHOTO CREDIT - JARED BENTO

In our presentations, we welcomed students into plant science labs where they experienced two hands-on demonstrations: 1) DNA extraction from banana using household chemicals, and 2) pipetting DNA samples and running a gel electrophoresis experiment.

Our presentations also covered current research happening in plant science, a short history on our understanding of genetics and biotechnology, and demonstrations of lab safety and etiquette.

Many thanks to Dr. Claudio Stasolla, Dr. Mohamed Youssef, and Lindsey Andronak for their time in helping coordinate this internship.

WORKING TOGETHER AS PRESENTERS, APRIL 2024
PHOTO CREDIT - JARED BENTO



▶▶▶ PLANT SCIENCE SAFETY SEMINAR



The safety committee members Candace Ellis, Dr. Claudio Stasolla, Justice Zhanda, Lauren Gislason, Mel Kaufman, Parneet Toora (Chair) and Ralph Kowatsch helped in organising the safety seminar and making it a success.

Diana Garcia Posada from Animal Science helped Department of Plant Science by taking care of the attendance on Seminar day.

This year Animal Science, Entomology and Glenlea joined Plant Science for the safety seminar. The total attendance for the seminar was 181. We have recorded the seminar through media services which will be available to view on S drive in a few days.

Thanks to everyone for joining us in the safety seminar.

Thanks so much to all members of the safety committee for arranging such a great seminar, Department of Plant Science so lucky to have such great members.





➤➤➤ LIST OF AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2023-2024:

-  Lauren Gislason - Gwen Rue Memorial Scholarship
-  Anirup Sengupta - Peter B.E. McVetty Plant Breeding Scholarship in the Department of Plant Science
-  Rajbir Kaur & Joseph Zvomuya - Ian N. Morrison Award for Advanced Studies in Crop Protection
-  Vinuri Weerasinghe - Dr. Kenneth Clark Travel Award in Plant Science
-  Anirup Sengupta - Lamari Travel Award for Graduate Studies in Plant Science
-  Ginelle Grenier - Helgason Travel Award for Graduate Studies in Plant Science
-  Ritesh Yadav - Morrison Travel Award for Graduate Studies in Plant Science
-  Two students from the Natural Systems Agriculture Research Group were given awards for their presentations at the 4th annual "NSERC Create Climate Smart Soils" conference on April 24. Latetia Mukungu, MSc student, won second place in the "10 minute" presentation award category (Manure effects on organic flax in a long-term study). Rachel Teller, 3rd year agroecology student, won 3rd prize in the "3 minute" presentation category (Weed studies in long-term organic and conventional cropping systems). See their presentations at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfdBs9yvN7g> Laetitia's presentation begins 1:14:51 in recording and Rachel's presentation begins 2:19:03.

All the candidates and nominees were outstanding! Congratulations to all the recipients!