

CROPS December Newsletter

Crops PSI Group <cropspsi@unl.edu>

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To: Crops PSI Group <cropspsi@unl.edu>



Collective Research Organization of Plant Scientists

- a student and postdoc society sponsored by UNL PSI

From the Collective Research Organization of Plant Scientists (CROPS) of PSI:

As the semester draws to a close, CROPS have an exciting **Social and Faculty Appreciation** event coming up on **December 17th at Zipline Brewery Tap Room!** (A link to directions can be found [here!](#)) We know the end of the semester can be a stressful time, so come and join us for some good food and even better company (and to forget about the grants, grading and papers for a few hours!)

This will be our last social event for the semester, and we want to thank all of you for being a part of the events, talks and workshops we have hosted over these past two years!

We are planning some great events for the upcoming semester so stay tuned via [email](#), [website](#), and [Twitter](#).

Don't forget check out our **upcoming events**, **job announcements**, and **lab highlight!**

-The CROPS 2019/20 Board

Remembering Dr. James Alfano



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Dr. James Alfano after his hard-fought battle with cancer. Jim was with the University for 14 years in the Department of Plant Pathology where he was named director of the undergraduate program in 2011. He was also active in the Center for Plant Science Innovation. Jim's research was focused on Type-III secretion systems in gram-negative bacterial pathogens in plants and animals. Not only was Jim a powerhouse in his field, friends and colleagues comment that he was a wonderful teacher, mentor and friend. Jim could always be seen with a smile on his face and never let his stellar reputation overshadow his kindness and generosity.

**A memorial service will be held at Beadle on Sunday, December 15t
(Tentatively at 2pm)**

It has been suggested to direct donations "In honor of Jim Alfano" to the Center for Plant Science Innovation Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation:
<https://nufoundation.org/fund/01131020/>

As you indicate your donation is in honor of Jim, a note will go to Karin and Izzy. Additional information should be in a forthcoming obituary for Jim.

We offer our deepest condolences to Jim's family during this difficult time.

December Lab Highlights

This month we are highlighting a new faculty to UNL, Dr. Kasia Glowacka!

Dr. Kasia Glowacka

The Glowacka Lab work focuses on increasing the resilience of crops to climate change through improving water use efficiency and tolerance to chilling temperatures. Their main interests are identifying new genetic sources and molecular mechanisms associated with stomata behavior and chilling tolerant photosynthesis. Dr. Glowacka's research scales from the level of the gene to the cell, from leaf to the whole plant and its performance in the field. In order to achieve these goals, her research team applies a broad variety of approaches including bioinformatics, breeding, genome modification, gene editing, confocal microscopy, imaging of chlorophyll fluorescence, biochemical assays and various physiological tools with the emphasis of photosynthetic gas exchange analysis. Particularly, Glowacka Lab focuses on the kinetics of nonphotochemical quenching (NPQ) as one of the first defenses from the formation of oxidative stress during high light, chilling, drought and deficit of nitrogen.

For more information visit Glowacka Lab website <https://www.glowackalab.com/>

Join Dr. Glowacka at the Biotechnology seminar on December 4th at 4:00 pm Photo: Glowacka Lab at the first field harvesting day (July 2019).



Upcoming Events!

CROPS Special Seminar

December 17th, 2:30-3:30 pm, 150 Keim Hal

Dr. Ivo Zution Goncalves. Dr. Zution is a postdoctoral researcher at Water for Food Global Institute (UNL - Nebraska Innovation Campus). Dr. Zution's work focuses on utilizing satellite remote sensing to understand crop water requirements, evapotranspiration and yield estimating. For more information and to RSVP, visit our [website!](#)

CROPS/PSI Faculty Appreciation Social

December 17th, 5:30-7:30pm, [Zipline Brewery](#).

Please join us for PSI faculty appreciation social event on Tuesday, December 17th 5:30pm-7:30 pm at Zipline! CROPS members and officers are thankful to our faculty for their contribution to PSI. To appreciate this we are hosting a social event. We will provide appetizers and the first beer/drink would be free of charge for faculty.

For more information, visit our [website](#).

Please [RSVP HERE](#) if you are planning to attend!

Biotechnology / Life Sciences Seminars
E103, Beadle Center

December 4th, 4:00 pm

"Developing strategies for improving abiotic stress tolerance in crops grown for food and fuels"
by Dr. Kasia Glowacka, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

December 11th, 4:00 pm

"Patterns and consequences of breeding-induced microbiome variation in maize"
by Dr. Maggie Wagner, University of Kansas

CROPS Career Panels

Questions, answers and tips for a successful career

As part of the PSI-Symposium and the Agricultural Research Division meeting students and post-docs had the great opportunity to meet with professionals in a wide variety of career areas to discuss and learn about what it takes to prepare for a specific career and what it takes to be successful in general. The panelists were at the PSI-Symposium: Aaron Hummel (Pairwise Plants), Erich Grotewald (MSU), Jessie Alt (Corteva), Katie Dehesh (UC Riverside). At the ARD meeting Donna Jo Denison (Cassidy and Associates) George Burba (LI-COR), Stewart Bauck (Neogen Corporation), Edward Cargill (Bayer Crop Science), Shane Farritor (Professor of Mechanical Engineering at UNL).

Were you at the panel and had questions that didn't get asked? Or were you unable to attend? Visit our [website](#) for transcripts of the panel and it will be just like you were there!

Job Opportunities, GSA Due Dates, and Postdoc Info!

This month includes 100s of opportunities from **USDA**, **Corteva**, **Bayer**, and more! Please send more to us if you find more.

[CLICK HERE!](#)



Are you a new postdoc at UNL? Not sure what all you need to need, or struggling to find housing? Check out this [link](#) to Grad Studies for all that info and more!

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