

PLANT SCIENCES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – January 12, 2007

Upcoming University Holidays

January 15 - Martin Luther King Day

February 19 - President's Day

Flu shots

Flu shots will be available for both UCD employees and non-UCD employees at Mrak Hall, Room 63 (basement) on Wednesday, January 24th between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. No appointment is needed. The cost is \$18 for UCD employees and \$24 for non-UCD employees. Payment may be made by cash (exact amount only) or by check (make payable to UC Regents).

Pruning demonstration

The Yolo County Ag Dept. master gardens will be giving a pruning demonstration at UC Davis Pomology field unit orchards on January 20 from 9 AM to 12 .

It will cover basic stone fruit tree pruning from new planted trees to young mature trees.

SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

Plant Sciences Winter Quarter Seminar Series - January 17, 2007

PES 3001 at noon

Shawn Krosnick will present "Morphological Challenge: Insights Into the Evolutionary History of the Old World Passiflora"

Refreshments will be served.

Special Seminar

Friday, January 19

PES 3001 at 8:45 am

Jim McPherson, Washington Apple Growers, will present "New avenues for Industry/University partnerships in applied Ag. Research".

Contact person: Abhaya Dandekar

Desert Vegetable Crops Field Day

January 24th at the UC Desert Research & Extension Center, located at the corner of Holton Rd & Meloland Rd in El Centro. The program starts with registration and refreshments at 7:30 am with Tours and Presentations leaving at 8:00 am – Sharp. This informative industry event for Growers, PCA's, CCA's, Industry Representatives will conclude with a Steak BBQ & the trimmings provided by UC-DREC and neighboring agriculture industry companies. For CCA's and PCA's there will be up to 5 CEU's credit with 3 tours and 22 total research presentations to choose from. This Field day is sponsored by the good people from the local Agriculture Industry, University of California and the University of Arizona

The First Western Forum on Energy & Water Sustainability will take place at the Bren School, UC Santa Barbara, on March 22-23, 2007. As we look into the short and long term future development of California and the western US in general, it is clear that water and energy will be major concerns. This first dialogue between agencies, professionals, researchers, policy-makers and interested stakeholders is intended to frame the questions, talk about some technical, economic and political solutions, and draw an agenda for future research and action.

View the program at http://www2.bren.ucsb.edu/~keller/energy-water/Forum_schedule_rev6.pdf.

Please register at <https://www.regonline.com/114693> to participate and obtain information on lodging options. For more information on the forum (abstracts, speaker bios), visit http://www2.bren.ucsb.edu/~keller/energy-water/first_forum.htm

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

Perennial Plant Association

Grant funds are available to be used for research. More information at: <http://www.perennialplant.org/researchGrant.asp>. Deadline is June 15, 2007.

Reminder: If you would like to check current listings for funding opportunities, go to OVCR's Web site research.ucdavis.edu, click on funding opportunities, and click on any of the categories to view the different announcements.

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Job Opportunities – Email Kitty at meschlosser@ucdavis.edu for complete job information

Junior Specialist position in the Department of Plant Sciences, University of California-Davis. A Junior Specialist position will be available immediately, to assist on vegetable crops research projects focused on irrigation and soil fertility management. A B.S. or M.S. degree in a biological science is required, ideally in an agricultural discipline; work experience in some aspect of commercial agriculture is desirable. The period of employment would be up to two years, based on the availability of funding. Please contact Dr. Tim Hartz (530 752-1738, tkhartz@ucdavis.edu) for more information.

Junior Specialist position in the Department of Plant Sciences, University of California-Davis. Supervisor: Allen Van Deynze The Seed Biotechnology Center (<http://sbc.ucdavis.edu>) has a position available beginning immediately. The researcher will be responsible to coordinate high throughput genotyping and analysis of cotton breeding germplasm. He/she will also extract DNA/RNA for hybridization to microarray chips for DNA marker discovery. Salary: commensurate with experience. Qualifications: BSc in biology with 1 year experience in the lab environment. Must have experience in Plant Sciences/Plant Genetics and be knowledgeable with MS Excel and databases. Must be well organized and have strong analytical skills. Understanding/writing a computer language is an asset. Start Date: Immediately End Date: Dec 2007 or later depending on funding. Contact information: Please send CV to: Allen Van Deynze, Seed Biotechnology Center, UC Davis. email: avandeynze@ucdavis.edu.

A **Junior Specialist** position is available immediately in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of California, Davis. The incumbent will be involved in research in irrigation experiments of tree crops. The responsibilities of this position are: (1) establish and manage existing irrigation experiments in off-campus walnut and almond orchards (some travel required), (2) make routine plant and soil measurements and collect plant and soil samples as part of a survey or for ongoing experiments, and (3) organize and analyze data. The applicant should have a B.Sc. degree in science or agriculturally-related discipline and a valid California driver's license. Additional background in soils/irrigation and plant biology, or advanced computer skills are desirable but not essential. Salary is commensurate with experience within the Junior Specialist ranks at the University of California. This is a two year appointment. Those who are interested, please send a CV to Dr. Ken Shackel at kashackel@ucdavis.edu.

Research Assistant - Seminis Vegetable Seeds, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Monsanto Co., currently has an exciting career opportunity available for a Research Assistant at our Woodland, CA research headquarters. Position supports research program to assist and complement breeding and research efforts. Responsible for processing lab operation, sample receipt, preparation, data entry, project tracking and sample extraction and analysis. Bachelors degree in related field or HS Diploma with 5+ years of related experience. Must be computer proficient, organized, analytical, creative, results orientated, assertive and able to work individually as well as in a team environment. Leadership/supervisory skills a plus. We maintain a drug-free environment. EOE/AAP. Please apply online at www.seminis.com or www.monsanto.com.

Assistant Professor in Plant Biology

The Department of Plant Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson is advertising for an Assistant Professor in Plant Biology to pursue interdisciplinary research designed to enhance nutritional or other biochemical characteristics of plants grown in controlled environments. This is a tenure position divided between 80% research and 20% teaching. A complete position description is available from Search Committee Chair Dr. Chieri Kubota (ckubota@ag.arizona.edu) or the Plant Sciences Department at 520-621-1977. Applications will be reviewed beginning February 15, 2007 and the position is available after July 1, 2007. The successful candidate's research will focus on solving the existing horticultural challenges in production and in improving the nutritional or other biochemical quality of the products, using an integrated approach of fundamental and applied sciences, and working closely with faculty in the University of Arizona Controlled Environment Agriculture Program.

Assistant Professor

The Department of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences seeks a potato storage physiologist at the level of assistant professor to assume responsibility for the potato storage physiology program based at the Kimberly Research and Extension Center in Kimberly, Idaho. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. Responsibilities: The successful candidate will be expected to initiate and conduct an innovative and comprehensive research (85%), teaching and advising (5%), service (5%) and outreach (5%) program emphasizing potato storage physiology. Acquisition of extramural funds and collaborative work is expected. Additional responsibilities include the development of an industry-responsive research program with basic and applied elements, participation in a cooperative team program in potato storage management, and supervision of graduate students. Participation in professional meetings and publication in refereed journals is expected.

Required: An earned doctorate by February 16, 2007, in plant physiology, crop science, horticulture or a plant science related field; evidence of scholarly contributions.

Desired: Advanced training and experience in the areas of post-harvest physiology, training or experience in potato management and physiology; evidence of ability to obtain external funding; evidence of excellent interpersonal, written, and electronic communication skills; ability/experience in advising graduate students and participation in professional activities.

Benefits: Competitive salary and benefits including medical/dental insurance, annual and sick leave, life insurance, and TIAA-CREF or VALIC retirement plans.

Application Materials Required: To be considered, complete the online application (which can be accessed at www.hr.uidaho.edu) including a letter of application

addressing each required and desired qualification, curriculum vitae, academic transcripts, three letters of reference and contact information for references. Any required documentation which cannot be submitted online, i.e., academic transcripts and three letters of reference, should be sent to:

Dr. Mike Thornton, SW Idaho Research and Extension Center, 29603 U of I Lane, Parma, ID 83660. Phone: 208-722-6701. Fax: 208-722-6701. Email: miket@uidaho.edu. Closing date for applications is February 16, 2007, or until a suitable candidate is identified.

Regional Project Manager

This position is responsible for developing, maintaining a focused and profitable product line. The regional product manager works within a regional marketing organization and is responsible for developing a broad cross functional understanding of a crop specific product line. Position requires the ability to analyze a crop portfolio. Individual must be able to work in a matrix environment, reporting to regional team and Global Product Managers. Strong communication and organizational skill are required along with the ability to travel (up to 10%) on out of town trips.

Regional Crop Teams. Organize and lead the regional Crop Team. Work with all functions to establish key deliverables and measure results against the goals. Discuss within the team the needed actions & resources to achieve the growth plans at a regional level and in line with corporate/global objectives.

Life Cycle Management Product Portfolio Assortment. Analysis of product portfolio to identify candidates for advancement/phase out. Increase the success ratio of new product launches. Inform and support Sales and enable advancement processes. In conjunction with Technology Development and the Crop Team, develop Product Business Case's (PBC's) & phase out plans. Assist Research to define targets for breeding / research efforts.

LRP Process: Together with the Regional Marketing Lead and Crop Team manage the LRP process. Develop Crop Scorecard. Pricing. Work with profit managers, GPM's and regional VPs to set prices for new introductions, and assist with annual price lists. Inventory. Optimize number of SKU's and volume against the crops plan and is inline with commercial commitments. Discuss all possibilities to reduce the surplus inventory and prepare appropriate actions plans. Market information. Collect & update market information (ZMIT), prices, competitive data and broaden our knowledge of the food supply chain. Responsible for inputting and maintaining Market Information systems related to responsible specie. Value added. Support Seminis projects for downstream products and projects. Promotion. Support sales with promotion ideas in cooperation with the Marketing Lead or the Communication Manager. Special projects in support of sales, research and marketing as they arise. Requirements: Bachelor's degree (BS) from four-year college or university plus related experience acquired from internships and/or training. Excellent interpersonal skills, effective oral and written communication skills required. Ability to communicate with different reporting levels in multi-national and cultural organization. Must be able to communicate fluently in English, bilingual in Spanish a plus. Demonstrated ability to achieve results through peers. Domestic and international travel as required.

Please apply online at: www.seminis.com or www.monsanto.com.

Food Technologist/QA Supervisor

Rio Pluma Company LLC, a food and beverage manufacturer is searching for a Food Technologist to supervise and lead the Quality Assurance department. Candidate must have strong analytical abilities, a minimum of 2 years Food Technology/Quality Assurance supervisory experience, and a B. A. or B. S. in a science discipline, food

science preferred.

Duties and Responsibilities: Supervise and direct QA technicians. Assists Technical Director in the development of new products, procedures and specifications. Ensure compliance with government regulatory agencies and third party auditors. Manages Government, Kosher, and Organic certifications. Manages pesticide program from field to finished product. Maintains nutritional data base and approves nutritional labeling of all packaging. Daily monitoring of HACCP, Kosher, Organic, and in house programs and procedures. Training of Quality assurance, production and sanitation staff in the use of HACCP, GMP's, and SOP's. Responsible for performing any revisions necessary to SOP's, SSOP's, risk assessments and flow charts. Reassessment and continued development of HACCP Program. Rio Pluma offers competitive compensation and benefits. If you have the experience listed above, we look forward to hearing from you! Please e-mail your resume and salary history to: Ssallaberry@stapleton-spence.com. Visit our web site at www.stapleton-spence.com

Research Scientist, Wilmington, Delaware, Requisition #4434BR

Identify and clone genes for various traits in maize through QTL mapping, map-based cloning and association mapping. This Senior Research Associate will be part of our team for gene discovery on a growing number of trait targets.

Duties/Responsibilities: Design and conduct field and greenhouse experiments to map genes/QTLs responsible for trait variations.

Analyze QTL mapping results for QTL detection.

Fine map and clone genes/QTLs through positional cloning.

Analyze association mapping data to identify leads for further validation.

Design and conduct validation experiments for leads identified by association analysis.

Analyze gene expression with RT-PCR, real-time PCR and microarray.

Perform standard molecular biology procedures (PCR, cloning, sequence analysis, etc).

Write reports, prepare presentation and communicate results.

Bioinformatics Postdoc Researcher for Marker Discovery and Massively Parallel Genotyping

We are developing a custom 6.6 million feature Affymetrix GeneChip for robust, massively-parallel genotyping based on Single Feature Polymorphisms (SFPs) as well as for gene expression analysis. Approximately 175 probes per DNA sequence will be tiled in 2 bp increments for ~30,000 pepper unigenes. These chips will be used to assess genetic variation, develop ultra-high density genetic maps, and for expression analysis. The resultant data will be used for dissection of agriculturally important disease, agronomic and fruit quality traits. This project will be located in the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center (<http://sbc.ucdavis.edu>) in collaboration with the UC Davis Genome Center (<http://genomecenter.ucdavis.edu>).

JOB DESCRIPTION: The successful candidate will be responsible for developing and applying custom tools to design and analyze pepper Affymetrix GeneChip data. Scripts are required to curate and process raw GeneChip hybridization data into relational a MySQL database for further analysis. It is anticipated that the project will generate over 1 Tb of data. Therefore efficient algorithms will be required for manipulating and querying the data. Methods for identification and validation SFPs will need to be developed as well as for measurement of gene expression using the highly redundant probe sets provided by the chip. Many of these algorithms can be

adapted from a similar project in lettuce with the same unique chip design. Re-usage and modifications of existing modules such as BioConductor would be highly desirable. Results will be entered into a MySQL database and visualized on web pages using PHP scripts. The candidate will also be responsible to supervise a high level technician to process samples and generate the data.

QUALIFICATIONS: Ph.D. in biology- or bioinformatics-related discipline. Candidate must have demonstrated experience in computational approaches to manipulate and analyze large genetic and molecular datasets. Experience with at least one scripting language such as Perl, PHP, Python, R or equivalent is required. Basic knowledge of relational MySQL database is desirable. Previous experience with Affymetrix GeneChip data is an advantage.

Please apply at avandeynze@ucdavis.edu. This will require a CV, cover letter and the contact information for three references.

Past e-newsletters available (as a pdf) for 6 months on the department web site at Department Information/Plant Science News/Department News and Information: <http://www.plantsciences.ucdavis.edu/plantsciences/databases/directory/news/news-info.asp>