



PRL Alumni Newsletter

**DOE Plant Research Laboratory
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824**



<http://www.prl.msu.edu/>



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*PRL Office Staff, 2005
Karen Cline, Alice Albin, Zita Schneider,
Karen Bird, Janet Taylor*





Greetings, Alumni!

We've enjoyed another busy, productive year in the PRL. While MSU celebrated its sesquicentennial in a year-long celebration ranging from daily tours of the President's home on campus to parades and special exhibits across campus, we at the PRL quietly observed the fortieth year since its inception by Anton Lang in 1965.

In 2005, we also celebrated Hans Kende's career of outstanding personal and scientific achievements, as well as his formal retirement from active duty in the PRL. Like Jan Zeevaart the preceding year, Hans presented the Anton Lang Memorial Seminar in April, a most fitting event to mark the completion of active research. In November, Plant Biology and the PRL hosted a reception in Hans's honor. A few photos from this reception grace the cover of this newsletter. We know that Hans has enjoyed the digital camera and photo printer that were presented to him at the time of his seminar. But you should know that much more meaningful to him were the two books of letters gathered from alumni and colleagues, presented to him at the reception. If you were one of over a hundred who sent letters, you probably received a letter in return from Hans.

With the exception of Hans's move to Emeritus status, the faculty remained stable for the entire year, as did the Office Staff (see newsletter cover). At least with respect to the faculty roster, we will not be saying this in the coming year. We are pleased to report that we have been able

to hire two new faculty members to offset the loss of Lee McIntosh and Jan Zeevaart. Federica Brandizzi will join us in April and Markus Pauly in November. We will introduce them more formally in the next edition of the newsletter.

Another change will take effect with the beginning of the new academic year next September. After 13 years as Director of the PRL, I have decided that it is time for new leadership and new ideas. The faculty has chosen Mike Thomashow as the next Director, and both Dean Leroi and Mike have agreed to their recommendation. While many of the details of the transition remain to be clarified, we anticipate that Mike will assume the Director duties in the fall of 2006. While I expect to remain fully engaged in the life of the PRL, I am looking forward to spending more time on research and less time on administration.

Many PRL old-timers have fond memories of an era when the current office area was a break room and mid-morning and mid-afternoon, students, postdocs, and faculty would stream in to indulge in a cup of coffee and informal conversation with colleagues. This past fall, we decided to reinstitute this practice—on a small scale—with the First Friday Kaffee Klatsch. On the first Friday in October, everyone in the building was invited for coffee, a pastry, and conversation in room 168. Our first three gatherings have been wonderfully successful and we look forward to monthly repetitions.

Finally, we've added a new feature to the PRL web site: Archive and History (<http://www.prl.msu.edu/history/>). At the moment, it contains the updated history of the PRL, a "brag" list of honors and awards obtained by PRL faculty, and the scanned pages of the memory book "Lang's Gang." This last includes contributions of many alumni and was given to Anton Lang in 1978 on the occasion of his retirement as Director of the PRL. Additional features will be added this year, such as the profiles of all PRL faculty, present and past, and a searchable photo archive. Please visit the site often!

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous year!

Ken Keegstra



These students are on a weed "scavenger hunt," part of Pat Tranel's course, Introduction to Weed Science, at the University of Illinois. "Their mission is to bring back to me as many as they can of the 65 weed species that they are required to know for the class. Of course, they also must correctly identify each weed before I will check it off their list. The group that gets the most weeds checked off wins 10 extra credit points per person and, more importantly, bragging rights for the semester. Students comment that the scavenger hunt really helps them in learning to identify the weeds, and they also appreciate seeing the weeds in their natural habitats, as opposed to seeing just the greenhouse-grown specimens." (Thanks to Pat Tranel, GA, 1992-96, Keegstra.)

PRL Faculty

Hans Kende—Looking Back and Forward

Like some other initial faculty members of the PRL, I was under thirty years old when I assumed my position in 1965. This gave rise to a number of humorous situations. On one occasion, when ladies came for a Faculty Folks meeting to our house and I opened the door to the first one, she asked me, “is your mom at home”? Forty great years have passed since then, during which biology underwent breathtaking developments. I had the good fortune to be a participant in this progress and to have had many coworkers who were not only excellent scientists but also fun people to work with. I am grateful to the over 100 former and current PRLers who sent me letters on the occasion of my official retirement at the end of 2005. Many important things have not changed in the PRL: it is still a closely knit group of scientists trying to do great science and feeling also responsible for the



success of each other’s programs. Some things have changed though as part of a general trend: doing science is not as much fun as it used to be. Gone are the daily joint coffee breaks, the canoe and camping trips, and the practical jokes. We used to work hard on evenings and weekends, but we also found time to relax in each other’s company, which is, by no means, time lost for science. Today’s pressures are too intense to permit such diversions. This is a great loss because creativity is not necessarily helped by keeping one’s nose too close to the grindstone. I am looking forward to handing over my lab to our new colleague, Federica Brandizzi, to continuing participation in many activities of the PRL and the University, and to maintaining my office for writing, following the literature, and occasional reviewing (only of stuff that interests me!).

Here’s a headline Jonathan Walton feared he would never see:

XII Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions A Success!



As President of the International Society for Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions, Jonathan felt the responsibility for success of the biennial meeting squarely on his shoulders. So when Hurricane Emily positioned herself to roar through Cancun the very weekend the meeting was scheduled to open there in July, Jonathan, already in Mexico himself, had to make the call to postpone the meeting. It seemed safe to reschedule the meeting in Cancun in December. That is, until Hurricane Wilma roared through in late October, leaving a path of devastation that will take months to clean up. Reluctant to abandon the idea of holding the meeting in Mexico, and reluctant to change the date one more time, the Society moved the venue to Merida, not far from Cancun, but unscathed by the hurricanes. In the end, over

550 people attended the Congress, concluding December 19. With excellent programs and presentations, the meeting was deemed a great success by organization members. (For a report on the meeting, visit the website: <http://www.ismpminet.org/>)



Jianping Yu, once a postdoc in Lee McIntosh’s lab and then appointed a research assistant professor, left us in June for a position at the Center for Basic Science, National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden, Colorado. His work there “attempts to achieve light-driven, sustained hydrogen production from cyanobacteria by introducing an oxygen-tolerant hydrogenase into *Synechocystis*.”

Our Students

New Additions to the PRL in 2005



Jonathan Davis (PLB) came to us from North Carolina State University, Raleigh, where he completed his BS in Biochemistry. It wasn't until Jonathan's need for a summer job landed him in Wendy Boss's lab at NCSU that he discovered his passion for scientific research and changed his major from psychology. His undergraduate research centered on enzymes of the phosphoinositide signaling pathway of *Arabidopsis*. Leisure pursuits include making music, primarily on guitar and mandolin.

Jackson Gehan (PLB) earned his BS in Biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Jackson's undergraduate work included a study on the regulation of transitory starch breakdown in plant leaves. He is interested in metabolic pathways and genetic regulation of those pathways. Jackson's interest in learning how things work has led him to train for a career in research.

Wei-ning Huang (PLB) comes to us from National Taiwan University in Taipei with a BS in Botany. During her course of study, Wei-ning was involved in several areas of research: ecology of tropical rainforests, circadian rhythm of the cyanobacterium *Synechococcus*, protein import into chloroplasts, and light-regulated plant development. With her interest in plant science, coupled with a strong interest in language and philosophy, Wei-ning hopes for a career in teaching and writing.

Navneet Kaur (CMB) earned his BS in Botany and MS in Plant Molecular Biology at the University

of Delhi, New Delhi, India. Navneet's MS project involved identification and characterization of AUX/IAA genes from rice. She hopes to conduct her doctoral research in the area of signal transduction and gene regulation on her way to a career in scientific research.

Eric Moellering (BMB) completed his BS in Biochemistry at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Eric's undergraduate experience in John Markwell's lab and in the Genome Core Research Facility at UNL enticed him to continue his studies in the molecular biology and biochemistry of plants. Specific interests include metabolic engineering, signal transduction, and plant-microbe interactions.



Wanessa Wight (CMB) hails from Mount Clemens, MI, and has completed BS degrees at MSU in Horticulture and Psychology. Once having narrowed her varied interests to plant genetics, Wanessa enjoyed working in Andreas Weber's lab on a project involving production of constructs to transform tobacco plants with the goal of increasing plant nitrate reduction capacity. Wanessa hopes to establish her own research lab and teach at the university level.

Chengliang Zhang (GEN) earned his BS in Plant Genetics and Breeding at Shandong Agricultural University and his MS in Plant Molecular Genetics at China Agricultural University in Beijing. He transferred here from the doctoral program in Interdepartmental Genetics at Iowa State University.

2005 Dissertation Defenses

Jonathan Vogel (Thomashow lab), Ph.D., Cell & Molecular Biology: "Transcription factors that configure the low temperature transcriptome of *Arabidopsis thaliana*." Jonathan was happy to tell us his plans: "I'm heading to the University of Florida for a post-doc with Harry Klee. It will be a nice change of weather for a few years!"

Tony Schillmiller (Howe lab), Ph.D., Biochemistry & Molecular Biology: "Biochemical and physiological studies on plant oxylipins." Early in 2006, Tony will move across the street to a postdoctoral position in Rob Last's lab in Biochemistry. (See photo, page 6.)



Travis Orth (Hu lab) MS, Cell & Molecular Biology. "The Role of PEX11 and PEX12 proteins in peroxisome biogenesis in *Arabidopsis thaliana*."

Postdocs and Staff

He Lab



Yulia Trukhina worked in Andreas Weber's lab for nearly three years before joining the PRL. She is a Ph.D. Candidate in Plant Biology at Cologne University, Germany. Her thesis topic is "Characterization of putative plastidic hexose transporters."

Hu Lab



Mintu Desai earned his Ph.D. at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (International Centre for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology) in New Delhi, India, with a thesis entitled "Cloning and characterisation of a salt stress inducible gene encoding voltage dependent anion channel from *Pennisetum glaucum*." Mintu conducted postdoctoral research in the Lundberg Lab at Gothenburg University, Sweden, before coming to MSU. (Husband of Vandana Yadav.)

Keegstra/Froehlich Lab



Joanna Tripp earned her Diploma and Ph.D. degrees in Biology at Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Her dissertation was entitled "Function of cytoplasmic sHsps in the heat stress response of

tomato." Joanna is working with the chloroplast protein import group.

Larkin Lab

Hongbo Gao earned his MS in Genetics at Sechuan University and his Ph.D. in Genetics in Kathy Osteryoung's lab at MSU. His dissertation was entitled "Dynamin-related proteins are involved in chloroplast division and morphogenesis."



Inga Krassovskaya worked in Andreas Weber's lab for nearly three years on carbohydrate metabolism and hexokinase-related genes and proteins. She earned her MS in Plant Physiology and Biochemistry at the Al-Faraby Kazakh State National Univ., Kazakhstan. Her thesis title: "Genes of protein phosphatases PP1 and PP2A in gametophytic tissue potato, maize, and wheat."

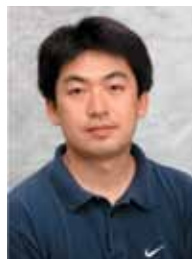


Vandana Yadav earned her Ph.D. in Life Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi with a thesis entitled, "Light-regulated modulation of Z-box containing promoters during early seedling development in *Arabidopsis thaliana*." Vandana has been working at the National Centre for Plant Genome Research in New Delhi. (Wife of Mintu Desai.)

Postdocs—Moving On

RA	LAB	LOCATION AFTER LEAVING PRL
Fan	Wolk	Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
Fowler	Thomashow	Massey University Veterinary School, New Zealand
Hauck	He	Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
Kim	Kende	Kyungpook Natl. University, Daegu, Rep. of Korea
Lee D-J	Zeevaart	Chonnam Natl. University, Kwangju, Rep. of Korea
Lee Y-H	He	National Inst. of Agric. Scis. & Technology, Suwon, Korea
Qin	Zeevaart	Davis, CA
Schwartz	Zeevaart	Davis, CA
Zarka	Thomashow	Owner, Wild Birds Unlimited, Okemos, MI

2006 Young Scientist Award Announced



Dr. Kinya Nomura, a postdoc in Sheng Yang He's lab since 2000, has been named a recipient of the 2006 Young Scientist Award by the Phytopathological Society of Japan. This annual award recognizes the contributions of three scientists under the age of 35 to the field of plant pathology in Japan. Kinya will attend the Society's annual meeting in June 2006 in Hokkaido, where the awards will be presented.

🌱 Computer Lab



Uwe Rossbach, who arrived from Germany in 1990 to join Frans de Bruijn's lab, but eventually filled the role of computer guru for most of the building, pulled up roots and headed south last winter. The University of North Texas at Denton hired him as the Computer Support Manager in the College of Engineering. We've learned that the mild climate was not the prime motivating factor in his move. In October, Uwe married Li Tian, formerly of Dean DellaPenna's lab, now at Noble Foundation in Ardmore, Oklahoma. We wish them much happiness!



Bryan Murphy, who was hired following Uwe's departure, had previously worked as a systems analyst and administrator for several area businesses, including Liquid Web, Inc., SiteObjects, Inc., and the MSU Alumni Assn. Bryan's expertise includes proficiency in a host of applications, from all versions of Windows and MacOS 8-10.2 to virus disassembly and recovery. We haven't been able to stump him yet!

Anton Lang Memorial Seminar and Awards

The 2006 seminar will be presented on April 10 by **Dr. Ove Nilsson** of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences: "The role of the FT mRNA in photoperiodic regulation of plant growth and development." The abstract of findings reported in *Science* (2005, 309:1694-1696) follows.

The mRNA of the *Arabidopsis* Gene *FT* Moves from Leaf to Shoot Apex and Induces Flowering

Tao Huang, Henrik Böhlenius, Sven Eriksson, François Parcy, Ove Nilsson

Day length controls flowering time in many plants. The day-length signal is perceived in the leaf, but how this signal is transduced to the shoot apex, where floral initiation occurs, is not known. In *Arabidopsis*, the day-length response depends on the induction of the *FLOWERING LOCUS T (FT)* gene. We show here that local induction of *FT* in a single *Arabidopsis* leaf is sufficient to trigger flowering. The *FT* messenger RNA is transported to the shoot apex, where downstream genes are activated. These data suggest that the *FT* mRNA is an important component of the elusive "florigen" signal that moves from leaf to shoot apex.



🌱 Awards for Outstanding Research in 2005 went to Graduate Student **Tony Schillmiller** (right, Howe lab) and Postdoc **Dongsu Choi** (left, Kende lab). The 2005 seminar was presented by **Hans Kende** (Faculty, 1965 to present) on April 25: "Environmental, hormonal, and molecular regulation of growth in rice."



🌱 **Contributions to the Anton Lang Memorial Fund** may be sent to the University Development Office, 220 Hannah Tech & Research Center, 4700 South Hagadorn, East Lansing, MI 48823. Please specify that your gift be directed to the Anton Lang Memorial Fund. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

We look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions for improvements to the Newsletter, as well as your news for inclusion in future newsletters. Please send these via e-mail to PRL Director Ken Keegstra (keegstra@msu.edu) or Newsletter Editor Karen Bird (birdk@msu.edu).

PRL Retreat/DOE Renewal



Donatella Canella and Mary Tierney enjoy a shared moment.⇒



⇐ Jianping Hu (left) converses with a colleague, while Rhidaya Shrestha (center) and Bonnie McCaig (right) view posters.



In August, the PRL retreat was held in conjunction with the DOE site visit, a triennial event. Traditionally held at the Kellogg Biological Station, in 2005 it was moved to the relatively new and more conveniently located Henry Center, near the University Club.



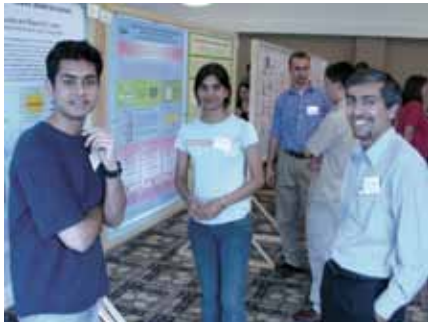
↑ Abe Koo and Jillian Fan discuss a fine point during break.

↑ Kohhei Otani, Harrie van Erp, and Sharlene Weatherwax pause for refreshment.

PRL faculty members presented their research programs to members of the review committee: Jane Glazebrook, John Richards, Edgar Spalding, Mary Tierney, and Elizabeth Vierling and DOE Representatives Walter Stevens and Sharlene Weatherwax. Each graduate student and postdoc prepared a poster for the event.



↑ Gregg Howe and Edgar Spalding pose for the camera.



↑ Neil Adhikari, Vandana Yadav, and Hyder Ali Khoja tour the poster displays.

At the end of two days of presentations, the review team met with campus administrators and toured the PRL and related facilities.

In the end, the weeks of preparation paid off. Dr. Stevens notified Ken that the DOE had approved full funding for another three years.



↑ Walt Stevens, Federica Brandizzi, and Rob Larkin enjoy a meal at the Henry Center.



... and Ken Keegstra celebrates an important birthday! Is that 60 candles on the cake?!

With thanks to photographer John Froehlich.

Faces from the Past



1. Sylvia Darr, George Haughn, Mark Estelle, & John Browse, postdocs at the PRL in the mid 1980s.



2. Sylvia and George met again recently for the first time in almost 20 years at Chez Somerville. Sylvia is now an architect working in the San Francisco Bay area. She specializes in scientific buildings and recently designed a lab at the Carnegie Institution.



3. Ljerka Kunst who was a student at the PRL in the late 1980s with her husband George Haughn and their daughters, Hannah and Heather.



4. Delmer Lab, 1978. Back row: Nick Carpita, David Montezinos, Carl Kulow, David Maltby; Seated: Anita Klein, Debbie Delmer, H.M. Davies.



5. Hans & Gaby Kende with children Judy, Michael, and Benny. Circa 1978.



6. Jan & Riet Zeevaart with son Scott, ca. 1978.

Credits: Special thanks to Chris Somerville for photos 1, 2, & 3. Photos 4, 5, & 6 feature members of Lang's Gang: <http://www.prl.msu.edu/>

Notes from PRL Alumni



Around the World

Tony Bleecker



We were saddened to learn that Tony lost his long battle with cancer in January 2005. Tony was a graduate student in Hans Kende's lab from 1982 to early 1987, and then a postdoc for a year before moving on to a postdoctoral position at Caltech. The following year, Ken Keegstra offered Tony a faculty position in the Department of Botany at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Tony accepted the position, eventually becoming a full professor and then chair of that Department.



Hans Kende, Tony Bleecker, and Tony's wife, Sara Patterson,

Tony is best known for having identified the first plant hormone (ethylene) receptor, and for his earlier work on ethylene biosynthesis. In 2004, he was awarded the prestigious medal for Research Excellence by the International Plant Growth Substance Association at their annual meeting in Canberra, Australia.



Qing Fan: (RA, Wolk, 2001-04; q-fan@northwestern.edu) Qing reports that all is well in his new milieu at Northwestern University. He is enjoying his work with prions. And he is proud of his teenage daughter who, after only a year in the US, is enjoying school and getting straight As.

We missed Qing's participation in the PRL Holiday Band this year, but we are happy to hear that he continues to make room in his life for music. Recently, he was awarded the silver prize in the Chicago Chinese Singer Competition (see photo).

Barbara Filner (RA, Hertel, 1969; BarbaraFilner@aol.com) "When I left the PRL (in 1969) I went to another postdoc, with Abe Marcus at the Institute for Cancer Research in Philadelphia. I then had two academic appointments as Assistant Professor of Biology, first at Columbia University and then Kalamazoo College. In 1978 I moved to Washington, DC, to work on policy studies at the National Academy of Sciences/Institute of Medicine, where



I eventually became the Director of the Division of Health Sciences Policy. From there I went to the grants program of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, where I was the Senior Program Officer responsible for the graduate fellowships, research resources, and international research programs. Along the way I married Harry M. Rosenberg and acquired two stepsons, Dan and Josh. I also have been active in the Association for Women in Science, and have been President of its Educational Foundation for almost ten years (we award modest fellowships to high school seniors and graduate students). I retired in 2001, and have been busy tending to the garden, traveling (often combined with birdwatching), visiting grandchildren, going to concerts and plays, and taking short courses at local cultural institutions."

Phil Filner (Faculty, 1965-81; filnerph@mail.bcpl.net) "I have been retired for more than a decade. Retirement has been quite liberating, because it has given me the freedom to get involved in activities for which I never would have otherwise found the time. ... I have become involved in community activism. I was elected President of the Tollgate Action Group, our community improvement association, for the past couple of years. This activity largely consists of learn-

ing about problems or potential improvements in the community and then either organizing some neighbors to work on it or finding out which part of the County government's bureaucracy should be dealing with it. Another volunteer hat I wear is as Managing Director of a small nature preserve I got established in the community, the Tollgate Wyndham Preserve. It took four years from conception to completion of final legal details to get it established. That activity led to me getting a third volunteer hat to wear: as a member of the Board of NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, Inc, a land trust set up to preserve small green areas like our preserve, in the older neighborhoods of Baltimore County.

"[As to children:] Daniel, who first got his hands on a computer, an Apple II, at the Bailey elementary school when he was about 5 in 1975, earned his degree in Computer Science and Engineering at UC-Berkeley, and makes his living as an independent game programmer. ... David and Ethan both became professional violists.... David is now with the San Antonio Symphony as Director of Community Outreach. His wife Courtney, whom he met when both were students at Oberlin, is a violist with the Richmond, VA symphony. They need to find two jobs within commuting distance of one home (and get busy producing me some grandchildren!). Ethan is the violist of the Cypress String Quartet, which operates out of San Francisco, and is the quartet in residence at San Jose State University. He met his wife Elisabeth when both were students at the New England Conservatory of Music, where she was studying oboe performance. [Their son, Sebastian Samuel Filner, 3, is the only grandchild, so far.]

"My major science-related activity since retiring was as volunteer science officer of the Macular Degeneration Foundation, for which I monitored research progress on the causes and treatment of macular degeneration. I wrote descriptions for a lay audience of the science, which were posted on the Foundation's web site. Although I no longer do that, I think they are still posted at www.eyesight.org. I am hoping to be able to get some research into plant ecosystem dynamics done within the preserve I got started."



Richard Firn (once known as Dick; RA, Kende, 1971-3; drfl@york.ac.uk) "Time passes quickly when one is enjoying oneself. I have enjoyed my 33 years teaching and researching at the University of York. But too much pleasure may be bad for one so I have decided to resign soon. I don't

feel at ease with the money grabbing atmosphere that now pervades the department, the University and the country. I think my days at the PRL spoiled me because I never recall money being discussed - apart from comments on Derek L's desire to spend as much as possible on toys and gadgets on the grounds that there would be less money available for the Vietnam war.

"Luckily I will have plenty to keep me busy because Ulla and I now have a delightful cottage in Sweden. Some may recall that I built our timber house here in York (yes it is still standing) so my old carpentry skills can now be used again. I expect to escape more often to the tranquil Swedish lakes and woods. I will also be able to finish my book (did you know that Natural Products have shaped world history and still dominate human economic activity?), think more deeply about plant tropisms, expand my collection of apple varieties (now 26) and do more charity work."

Susan Fujimoto (GA, 1990-96, de Bruijn; sunflower945@yahoo.com) This year has been a busy one for me. I just completed my 4th year of employment at Iconix Pharmaceuticals. We are working on some interesting projects that have kept me very busy. I got married on September 24th. We had a small wedding and had a lot of fun. My husband, Maretno "Augus" Harjoto is an Assistant Professor in Accounting and Finance at San Jose State University. We also just bought a house in San Jose and are going to move on Thanksgiving weekend.

Rodrigo Gutierrez: (GA, 1997-2002, Green; rodrigo@nyu.edu) "I left the PRL in the Fall of 2003 to join Gloria Coruzzi's lab (NYU-Biology) as a post-doctoral fellow. Maite (who recently defended successfully her Ph.D. dissertation), Dante (our clever and energetic 2.5 years old) and I are excited to be in "The City". These past two years have been very busy, with lots of travel and plenty of work. My current research focuses on understanding gene expression changes in Arabidopsis in response to different nutritional regimes. For this I am using a systems biology approach that iteratively combines genomics, bioinformatics and molecular techniques. I have developed global network models of the plant cell, useful to interpret genome-wide experimental data. And in collaboration with people at NYU-Courant we are developing several computational tools to exploit these models and make them available to the community. This work was recently funded by a NSF research grant that I wrote. For those thinking about the future, just like the PRL, NYU is a happening place. I am having a great time interacting with and learning from mathematicians, statisticians, and computer scientists from the different NYU departments surrounding Washington Square. What else is new? I am happy to say that I have been offered a tenure-track position in one of the best universities in Chile, *P. Universidad Católica de Chile*. I will start next fall semester (March 2006). And I recently got two research grants that will allow me to get started reasonably well (no startup packages there). Needless to say, everybody in the PRL is welcome to come visit anytime - work or otherwise. Hope to see you all at some meeting. Good luck to everyone."



G. David Humble (RA, Raschke, 1969-72; dave.humble@verizon.net) Dave Humble retired in September 2005 from Degussa/Goldschmidt Chemical Corporation where his last position was Global Team Leader, Agricultural Products. This was his second retirement. The first was from Monsanto Company about 12 years ago. "After leaving Dr. Raschke's lab at PRL in 1972, I worked at Procter and Gamble for 4 years until that company cancelled its agricultural research projects. I then moved to St Louis with Monsanto. There I worked in PGR, Herbicide and Environmental Science research. The crab grass herbicide Dithiopyr was a product of my research group. I also headed up the farms and labs for Monsanto in Belgium and Brazil for about 5 years in the 1980s.... Since I was logging about 100,000 air miles a year for Degussa/Goldschmidt, the usual retiree pastime of travel is not so attractive. However, , , , I am doing some consulting on agricultural adjuvants and international business and recently returned from a week in China."

Dr. Guenter Kahl (RA, 1970, Varner; kahl@em.uni-frankfurt.de) "I was at the PRL for almost two years starting from fall 1969, working with late Joe Varner on the effect of GA3 on transcription of so-called tenaciously bound RNA in isolated pea leaf nuclei. Of course, at that time the techniques were rightaway archaic, but nevertheless produced results that were exciting for all of us. As with almost any work from some decades ago, nobody cares about it today anymore."

"Though I had a curious story to tell about Hans Kende, I couldn't meet your dead-line. But the story goes like: I had not seen Hans for about two decades, and did not even know how he would look after all this time. He certainly had no memory whatsoever of Guenter. It happened that I came back from France and went to the rest rooms in one of those rest houses along the German highways. And here I stood in front of a mirror, wanted to wash my hands, tried to take soap from a nearby container, and competed with a gentleman. We both said "oh sorry", and then - after all these years - recognized each other as Hans Kende and Guenter Kahl."

"I left university some years ago, and am now CSO in a start-up company, GenXPro GmbH, that specializes on research, service and product development in the area of genomics and transcriptomics. It is located in the so-called research innovation centre biotechnology close to the Biocenter. And I am very happy to be there, first for the atmosphere, and second (but most important) for the complete absence of bureaucracy, that I unfortunately experienced with my university, especially in the latter days."



Anita Klein (GA, '81, Delmer; anita.klein@unh.edu; <http://biochemistry.unh.edu/Faculty/Klein/>) "This year I'm writing from Arlington VA where I am spending the year as a Program Officer for the Plant Genome Program in the National

Science Foundation. I'm working for Machi Dilworth, another PRL alumnus. It's a great opportunity to get the pulse of some of the most exciting developments in Plant Biology. Among the benefits are getting to see many old friends who pass through Washington or who visit NSF. So far I've seen Roger Hangarter, Mary Lou Guerinot and Rob McClung, Bruce Whitaker, Mike Sussman and Nick Carpita."

Heiner Lehmann (RA, 1970-71, Jost; Heiner.Lehmann@tiho-hannover.de) "I spent one year in the PRL of Michigan State University in 1970-71 and worked with Michael Jost on the formation of gas vacuoles in the blue-green alga *Microcystis aeruginosa*. After my return to Germany I became Professor of Botany and Cell Biology at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover. Here I changed my interest to plant nutrition and studied the uptake and transport of ions from the soil through the root cortex into the stele. In common with my coworkers we found a second barrier (in addition to the endodermis) in the outer cortex of barley roots. After my retirement in fall of last year I enjoy my family and my home."

Ulrich Melcher (GA, '65-'70, Varner; umelcher@biochem.okstate.edu; <http://opbs.okstate.edu/~melcher/UM.html>) "Having wandered from biochemistry and plant physiology during my training at the PRL through molecular biology, immunology, virology, evolution, phytopathology, bacteriology and bioinformatics, I am now heading a project in plant virus biodiversity and ecology and dabble in agricultural biosecurity issues. I will shortly enter the Presidential lineage of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, I guess because I have dabbled in so many of the sciences."

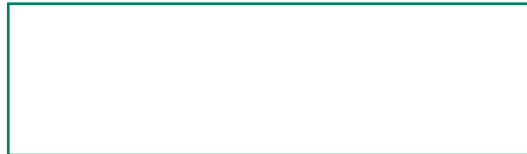
Anastasia Nikolskaya (GA, 1990-97, Walton; ann2@georgetown.edu) "I am on the faculty of Georgetown University for 3 years now. I am part of the Protein Information Resource (PIR) and of the UniProt, which is a centralized resource for protein sequence and functional information run by an international consortium of PIR, EBI (TrEMBL database) and SIB (Swiss-Prot database). You can find us at <http://pir.georgetown.edu/>"

Roger Thilmony (RA, 1999-2003, He; thilmony@pw.usda.gov) "The family and I are doing fine. Alec is going to start first grade at the end of the month and Luke is a rambunctious, slightly mischievous 2 year old (which I guess is to be expected). I certainly agree with you that the Bay Area has a lot to offer. We have lived here for 2 years and still haven't completed all of the many tourist-like things to see and do."

Sridhar Venkataraman (GA, 1994-2001, Raikhel; sridhardvenk@yahoo.com) "I am in India, working for Avesthagen, a 4-year-old biotech company. I lead the Ag-biotech division."

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