

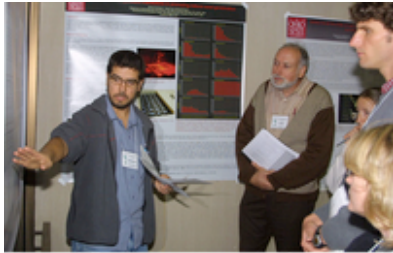


Ohio State HCS News

HORTICULTURE & CROP SCIENCE IN VIRTUAL PERSPECTIVE - THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Research Retreat Attracts Potential Graduate Students



Samuel Contreras presents his research during the 2006 H&CS Graduate Retreat & Open House Poster Competition.

Organized by the Horticulture & Crop Science Graduate Studies Committee to showcase current research by H&CS graduate students and faculty, the [2006 H&CS Graduate Research Retreat & Open House](#) provided a venue for recruiting potential graduate students to Ohio State. Students with an interest in pursuing a graduate degree in plant science were invited to the Columbus campus for the two-day event held October 13 and 14. Following a social event on Friday evening, a busy Saturday schedule included seven research program presentations, a roundtable discussion and a poster competition for current graduate students.

Twenty three students from ten different colleges and universities used the first annual Open House to interact with H&CS faculty and graduate students to learn about the exciting research happening every day in the Horticulture & Crop Science programs. In addition to presentations delivered by the H&CS faculty, Open House visitors and current graduate students both benefited from a poster competition organized by the H&CS graduate students.



Dr. Rich Pratt promotes the graduate opportunities at Ohio State to Wilmington College student Mallory Gibson.

H&CS faculty highlighted the graduate opportunities available in the plant sciences during the Saturday event. **Rich Pratt** discussed the Breeding and Genetics program, **Dave Barker** gave an overview of the Crop Management and Production program, **Hannah Mathers** detailed the Environmental Horticulture program, **Eric Stockinger** reviewed the Physiology and Molecular Biology program, **Miller McDonald** explained the work of the Seed Biology program, **Dave Gardner** promoted the Turf Science and

Management program, and **Emilie Regnier** presented the Weed Science research program. Current research was also featured on sixteen posters displayed in the Kottman Hall lobby.

Twenty one posters were presented at the 2006 HCS Graduate Research Retreat Poster Competition. First Place and a \$300 cash award went to both **Audrey Darrigues** (*DNA microarray-based discovery of molecular markers for the improvement of tomato color and nutritional quality*) and **Jing Luo** (*Phenotypic plasticity as an indicator for exotic noxious plants*). **Samuel Contreras** and **Taniya Dhillon** earned second place awards and \$200 cash. Third place winners included: **Susan Stieve**, **Zhibin Wang** and **Marcelo Pomeranz**. Other H&CS graduate student who participated in the poster competition include: **Alejandra Acuna**, **Shuangyi Bai**, **Ryan Beeson**, **Toddy Hu**, **Ed Nangle**, **Roel Rabara**, and **Jia Yan**.



University of Wisconsin student Yong Suk Chung discusses potential graduate studies research with Dr. John Finer.

Another highlight of the Open House was a Friday evening barbeque that brought together interested juniors, seniors and master's students with current H&CS graduate students, research faculty and the graduate studies committee. Hosted in the Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Gardens Gazebo, students took the opportunity to inquire about research projects, potential funding and discuss what it's like to be a graduate student at OSU.

The Research Retreat Organizing and Judging Committee included competition winners: Darrigues, Contreras, Pomeranz, graduate students **Adriana McKelvey**, **Nangle**, **Linjian Jiang**, **Sasha Bogdan**, **Brian Schutte**, **Nicole Waterland**, and Graduate Studies Program Associate **Regina Vann-Hickok**. Faculty members **Kent Harrison**, **Matt Kleinhenz**, **Dave Mackey** and **Pratt** also judged the poster competition.



David Gardner promotes the Turfgrass Science and Management research program at OSU to potential students.

The H&CS Graduate Studies Committee is comprised of faculty members **JC Jang** (Chair 2005-06), **Dave Barker** (Chair-elect 2005-06), **Michelle Jones**, **Matt Kleinhenz**, **McDonald**, **Stockinger**, **Pratt**, **Mackey**, Graduate Student Representative **Darrigues**, and Program Associate **Vann-Hickok**.

Graduate students and faculty in the Department of Horticulture & Crop Science at The Ohio State University, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, pursue plant science research crops and ornamental plants.

These plants include major grain crops, such as corn, wheat, forages, and soybean, vegetable crops, fruits, berries, turfgrass, flowers, and ornamental landscape plants. The department's graduate students and faculty seek to discover how plants function under certain conditions, then apply that knowledge to producing better crops at lower cost and with less environmental disturbance.