December 2009

Featured Grad Student

Anne Ruth Rigdon

Home Town: Dunkerton, IA
Degree: PhD
Major Professor: Dr. Maler

Area of Research Interest: Storage of biomass and the impact on bioconversion to ethanol
Hobbies: Hanging out with friends and family, watching college football, going to movies and enjoying time at the lake.

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Featured Article

Congratulations to Jon Faubion, Chuch Walker, Gabi Rattin and Andrew Mense on the publication of their article Measuring Yeast CO2 Production with the Risograph in the Nov/Dec 2009 issue of Cereal Foods World!

Dogan Abstract Chosen

Department of Grain Science and Industry Newsletter

To the Outstanding Faculty, Staff and Students of our Grain Science & Industry Department -

I want to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank you for your many outstanding contributions to making 2009 a year to remember for our department. I look forward with great excitement and even greater expectations to what 2010 will bring for all of us! It will be a special year as we enter our second century! WOW!

Enjoy your time with family, friends, co-workers and colleagues as you celebrate this wonderful holiday season!

Best wishes and blessings to each and everyone!

Dirk

Welcome Chris Miller

Chris Miller is the new Buhler Instructor of Milling Science & Management in K-State's Grain Science dept.

Miller teaches milling science and management courses as well as Buhler short courses hosted by K-State's International Grains Program (IGP).

Buhler Inc., based in the Minneapolis, Minn. area is a technology company involved in food processing, chemical process engineering, and die casting. It is the largest supplier of flour milling equipment in the world. Its parent company is based in Uzwil, Switzerland.

Miller earned bachelor's and master's degrees at K-State. He previously worked for The Quaker Oats Company as an operations resource/process improvement engineer and as a supervisor in the company's oat milling operations.

Chris and his wife, Brandi, live near St. George, KS with their 4 month old son, Bradon.
Fall 2009 Graduates

Undergraduate:
Elizabeth Douglass, BMS
Maggie Weeks, BMS
Amanda Worcester, MSM

Graduate:
Achira Mukhopadhyay, MS
Jianmin Zhou, MS

Panama Workshop

Praveen Vadlani and Ron Madl were invited to organize a workshop on renewable energy, sustainable energy and bioprocessing at the Universidad Tecnologica de Panama (UTP) at end of November - early December. Drs Madl and Vadlani each participated in an inaugural conference on renewable energy options for Panama open to the public on Nov 30. The next three days (Dec 1-3) involved Drs Madl and Vadlani each presenting a 90 minute lecture each day on specific topics related to sustainability (Madl) and bioprocessing (Vadlani). The audience was composed of 25 undergraduate/graduate students and faculty in the renewable energy field. Many of these students will soon apply for admission to high-ranking US universities to further their education. Afternoons were spent with UTP lab visits, print media interviews, a live National TV interview, and meetings with government agencies funding the innovative program to accelerate technical innovation in Panama.

The program is the brain-child of Dr Dario Solis, Director of Research at UTP. His vision is to identify the best and brightest students in science and engineering fields, to expose them to current science in these fields by workshops from visiting scientists, to enhance their English skills, and then support their education for MS and PhD degrees in top schools in the US. Upon completion of their degrees, these students will then return to Panama to help lead Panama's rapid advancement in the target disciplines in coming decades. Dr Solis obtained his engineering degree and worked for 14 years at University of Iowa, followed by 4 years in Washington, DC, before returning to Panama in his current position at UTP. His research group has rapidly grown.

Dr Solis met his wife, a K-State alumnus, in Iowa. Once back in Panama, he met through an exchange program, a relative of Dick Hayter, Associate Dean (now emeritus), College of Engineering. This, along with his wife's encouragement, led to his first visit to K-State. This visit exposed him to research programs supported by the Center of Sustainable Energy, BAE, and Grain Science in BIVAP. By his second visit, he had placed three students in BAE and was working with Dr Gary Clark to further expand the program. He was looking for a workshop topic in renewable energy when he learned of a renewable energy workshop sponsored by industry in which Drs Madl and Vadlani were participating in September. That was his template. He immediately began to plan for a workshop in Panama in Nov/Dec.

The UTP program currently has seven students studying at US schools such as
U of Cal-Berkley, Purdue, Texas A&M, U of Texas-Austin, and in other countries, such as University of Munich, Germany. Three students are currently enrolled at K-State (in Engineering), one more planning to enroll in Summer 2010 (BAE), and another in fall 2010 (Vadlani - Grain Science). Matching K-State expertise with the target fields of Dr Solis’ program gives K-State access to top-level Panamanian students, fully funded, to enroll in K-State and be involved in our research programs. We look forward to continued participation in this program and expansion to more participants.

Forward email