



# Department of Biological Sciences Newsletter

*"from biomolecules to the biosphere"*

No. 20

June 17, 2016

## Announcements

**Convocation 2016** - Congratulations to our 2016 graduating students.



**THANK YOU for your Support!** - Ainna Randhawa's Art For a Cause Exhibition raised \$10,000 for the Cerebral Palsy Association of Alberta!

## Important Dates

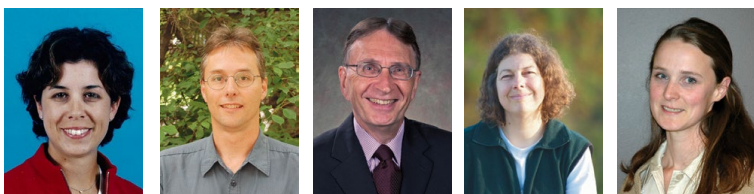
16 June 1:30-3:30 ST 135 Faculty of Science Strategic Planning Town Hall



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CALGARY

## Recent Publications

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**Reid, L., Syme, D., Russell, A. Reid, M., Graham, C.** 2016. Healthy classrooms: establishing productive habitats for learning. Des salles de classe en bonne santé : l'établissement d'habitats productifs pour l'apprentissage. CSZ BULLETIN Vol. 47, No. 1 4-7



**Frankel, M.L.,** Bhuiyan, T.I., Veksha, A., **Demeter, M.A., Layzell, D.B.,** Helleur, R.J., Hill, J.M., **Turner, R.J.** Removal and biodegradation of naphthenic acids by biochar and attached environmental biofilms in the presence of co-contaminating metals. Bioresource Technology 216;352-361.



O'Meara, B.C., S.D. Smith, W.S. Armbruster, **L.D. Harder**, C. Hardy, L.C. Hileman, L. Hufford, A. Litt, S. Magallón, S.A. Smith, P.F. Stevens, C.B. Fenster, P.K. Diggle. 2016. Non-equilibrium dynamics and floral trait interactions shape extant angiosperm diversity. Proceedings of the Royal Society 283:20152304.

## Graduate Student Affairs

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### Research Proposals

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Robyn Mundle**, in the area of "Biophysical Chemistry", was accepted by her Supervisory Committee on June 13, 2016.

The Ph.D. Research Proposal for **Sandra Black**, was accepted by her Supervisory Committee on June 15, 2016.

The Ph.D. Research Proposal for **Kunbi Adetona**, will be held on June 20, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 389.

The Ph.D. Research Proposal for **Andrew Thompson** entitled "The impact of early life exposure to venlafaxine (Effexor) in fish", will be held on June 24, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389.

### Ph.D. Candidacy Oral Examination - Candidacy Exams are Closed Exams.

**Scott Seamone** (Supervisor: D. Syme), will be holding his Candidacy Examination, in the area of "Physiology", on July 14, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neu-

tral  
Chair: H. Habibi).

**Deborah Buhlers** (Supervisor: M. Hynes), will be holding her Candidacy Examination, in the area of “Molecular Microbiology”, on September 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: M. Fraser).

**Thesis Oral Examinations - Exams are “Open” unless otherwise noted.**

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**Cameron Toth** (Supervisor: H. Habibi; Co-Supervisor: G. Chua), will be holding his M.Sc. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Physiology”, on July 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: E. Lohmeier-Vogel)

**Amir Arellano Saab** (Supervisor: K. Ng), will be holding his M.Sc. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Biochemistry”, on August 3, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: G. Chua).

**Asel Murtatha** (Supervisor: L. Gedamu), will be holding her M.Sc. Thesis Examination, in the area of “Host-Pathogen Interactions”, on August 26, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 312. (Neutral Chair: S. Noskov).

**Noreen Singh** (Supervisor: M. Fraser), will be holding her M.Sc. Thesis Examination, in the area of “Biochemistry”, on August 29, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: G. Voordouw).

**Congratulations to.....**

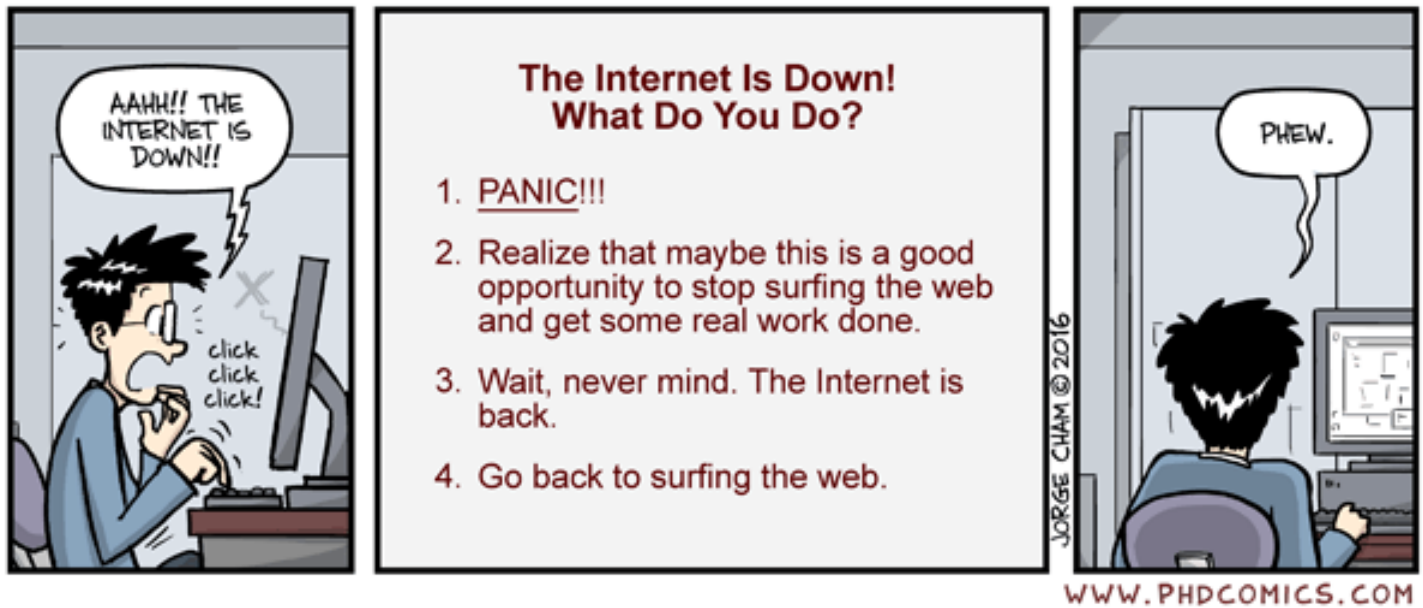
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**Stephanie Mogensen**, who passed her Ph.D. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Ecology”, on June 15, 2016!



**Dr. Katherine Chatfield-Reed**, who passed her Ph.D. Thesis Oral Examination, in





“Piled Higher and Deeper” by Jorge Cham  
[www.phdcomics.com](http://www.phdcomics.com)

## Position / Opportunities



the area of “Molecular Microbiology”, on June 15, 2016

### **Faculty Position: Assistant Professor – Sustainable Nutrient Management Systems (Requisition # 497630)**

The University of Florida Soil and Water Sciences Department (SWSD) seeks applicants for a 12-month, tenure-track position specializing in Sustainable Nutrient Management Systems. The incumbent in this position will conduct research and have expertise in soil, water and nutrient management relating to nutrient dynamics, soil-plant root interactions and related lab techniques for ensuring soil health and all natural resources conservation. A strong emphasis is placed on field- as well as watershed- scale research on crop nutrient and water use efficiency, designing alternate nutrient and water management systems for optimized crop production and resources conservation, and quantitative skills for integrating large data-sets obtained from soil testing and other research projects through statistical and quantitative modeling. Abilities to develop applied field level management tools, implementation of agricultural best management practices, to use emerging digital agricultural technologies to aid routine as well as ecosystem scale decision making processes by producers, crop professionals, industry and state and local agencies are highly preferred. The incumbent is expected to teach on-campus and distance education graduate and undergraduate courses in soil, nutrient and water management, and/or related topics as assigned by the Department Chair. The candidate is expected to participate in one or more of the agro-ecology, turf grass sciences, vegeta-

ble, and fruit production programs within IFAS.

An earned doctorate in soil and water sciences or a related discipline is required. It is essential to have skills and experience directly related to agro-ecology, sustainable food systems, and soil and water quality, soil fertility and plant nutrition, and their applications to ecologically sound agricultural production systems. Post-doctoral experience is preferred. The ability to work effectively in an interdisciplinary manner with faculty from departments outside the incumbent's home academic unit is essential. Submit an application online at <https://jobs.ufl.edu> and provide a letter of application, curriculum vitae, unofficial transcripts showing receipt of the doctoral degree, and contact information for four individuals willing to write letters of recommendation. Nominations should be sent to Dr. Rao Mylavarapu, Chair, Search and Screen Committee, University of Florida, Soil and Water Science Department, 2181 McCarty Hall, P. O. Box 110290, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611 (352-294-3113); [raom@ufl.edu](mailto:raom@ufl.edu). This position is available August 15, 2016 and will be filled as soon thereafter as an acceptable applicant is selected.

**Faculty Position: Assistant Professor in Urban Soil and Water Quality (Requisition # 497693)**

The University of Florida Soil and Water Sciences Department (SWSD) seeks applicants for a 12-month [60% Extension and 40% Research], tenure-track position specializing in Urban Soil and Water Quality.

The incumbent will develop a nationally recognized externally funded extension and research program on fate and transport of inorganic and organic contaminants, especially nutrients in urban watersheds and investigate alternative development and remediation strategies to reduce impacts of urban soil and water management on human and natural systems health. The research program will support and be integrated with an active extension component which is directed at communicating findings to stakeholders and addressing specific urban soil and water related issues. Some examples of extension and research topics would be, but are not limited to; evaluating the impacts of soil disturbance and fill soil on long-term landscape soil health, contaminant leaching and runoff ; landscape water use; developing strategies to improve water quality treatment of stormwater basins; evaluate effectiveness and strategies to integrate Low Impact Design practices and other sustainable development techniques into new and existing urban environments and more broadly; assess potential implications of climate change and sea-level rise on urban soil and water quality. The faculty member will contribute in a team approach with other members of a four-member cohort as well as external stakeholders to develop a comprehensive understanding and strategies to protect soil and water quality in urban watersheds.

An earned doctorate in soil and water sciences or related discipline. Skills and experience directly related to urban soil and water quality are essential and their applications in soil, water, and land use, community and/or natural resource development, sustainability and/or resilience are highly desirable. The ability to work effectively in an interdisciplin-

ary manner with faculty from departments outside the incumbent's home academic unit is essential. Submit an application online at <https://jobs.ufl.edu> and provide a letter of application, curriculum vitae, unofficial transcripts showing receipt of the doctoral degree, and contact information for four individuals willing to write letters of recommendation. Nominations should be sent to Dr. Mark Clark, Chair, Search and Screen Committee, University of Florida, Soil and Water Science Department, 2181 McCarty Hall, P. O. Box 110290, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611 (352-294-3115); [clarkmw@ufl.edu](mailto:clarkmw@ufl.edu). This position is available August 15, 2016 and will be filled as soon thereafter as an acceptable applicant is selected.