

# PLANT & MICROBIAL BIOLOGY

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See the bigger picture. Make a better world.

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## Breakthrough for Disease-Resistant Seeds



*Disease-resistant plant on the left*

In the battle between diseases and plants, scientists may soon have a more sophisticated weapon: disease-resistant seeds.

PMB Professor Brian Staskawicz is part of a team conducting basic research on the genetic gears of plant immune systems, science that has advanced so much that researchers can now build healthier plants to decrease dependence on pesticides; decrease water use; and help agriculture in developing countries

See the full article on our

website: [pmb.berkeley.edu/news/breakthrough-disease-resistant-seeds](http://pmb.berkeley.edu/news/breakthrough-disease-resistant-seeds)

## Fall 2013 Seminar Series

The department Seminar Committees have lined up an impressive array of speakers for the Fall 2013 Plant & Microbial Biology Seminar Series, including:

- Renowned biofuels expert Olaf Kruse of the Center for Biotechnology at Bielefeld University in Germany
- Wolf B. Frommer, director of the Department of Plant Biology at the Carnegie Institution for Science
- James B. Anderson, an expert in population genetics and the evolution of fungi.

Please visit the Seminar Page on our website for more information: [pmb.berkeley.edu/seminars](http://pmb.berkeley.edu/seminars)

Our first seminar will be Wednesday, August 28, featuring Brandon Gaut of University of California, Irvine.

## PMB Research Retreat - Friday, September 13, 2013



COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

The PMB Research Retreat is fast approaching: September 13, 2013 at Clark Kerr's Krutch Theater, close to the UC Berkeley campus.

This is an important event for our department, where we welcome our incoming graduate students and showcase the research that is going on in our labs. Come join us for outstanding research presentations, the traditional Poster Contest (with prizes) and plenty of opportunities to socialize and collaborate.

The Retreat starts at 8:30 am and continues throughout the day, featuring a fun Social Hour and amazing dinner as well, in the beautiful Krutch Theater. New this year -- meet the postdocs!

The department pays for all incoming graduate students to attend. Faculty, students and lab staff are also invited, but labs must pick up the nominal fee for attendance.

Sign-ups and RSVPs will start soon.

Please visit [i-pmb.berkeley.edu/events/fall-2013-retreat](http://i-pmb.berkeley.edu/events/fall-2013-retreat) for more info.

## Teaching Lab Position at PMB and Other Job Openings

The College of Natural Resources Teaching Lab, administered by PMB, is seeking a Staff Research Associate to assist in providing top-notch support for our lab classes. The successful candidate will be a responsible and organized self-starter who has excellent problem-solving skills and enjoys being a critical part of a team working in a fast-paced academic environment.

The position will involve working with the teaching lab team to provide timely lab setup and support to 12 diverse classes offered by the departments of Plant and Microbial Biology (PMB) and Nutritional Science and Toxicology (NST). The position reports directly to PMB's department manager, and also works under the direction of the Teaching Lab Team Lead, who coordinates tasks for the group. For more information, please go to the link below or visit the UC Berkeley Human Resources web site: [Staff Research Associate #16502](#)

In addition, there are a number of positions open at facilities in the US and around the world, including:

- A plant molecular genetics research position to advance rice agriculture at the US Department of Agriculture.
- A PhD position in Germany.
- Two postdoc positions on photosynthesis and water relations of plants and plant canopies.

More information is available at [pmb.berkeley.edu/current-students/jobs-grants-internships](http://pmb.berkeley.edu/current-students/jobs-grants-internships)

## Lindow to Serve as Executive Associate Dean of CNR



Professor Steven Lindow of the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology is the new Executive Associate Dean of the College of Natural Resources.

"Steve is an outstanding scholar and teacher and experienced administrator," said J. Keith Gilles, Dean of CNR.

Lindow is a member of the National Academy of Sciences; a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, the American Phytopathological Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science; recipient of research awards from the American Phytopathological Society, the American Society for Microbiology, the National Academy of Sciences, and the CNR Distinguished Teaching Award and Career Achievement Award; and is a current or past member of the editorial board of a number of academic journals. He currently serves as Past-President for the International Society for Microbial Ecology, and previously served as Co-chair of the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology and Chair of the Division of Microbial Biology.

As Executive Associate Dean, Steve will provide oversight for CNR's centers and facilities, research administration, and represent CNR on the Program Council of the Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources.

Visit Steve's faculty page at [pmb.berkeley.edu/profile/slindow](http://pmb.berkeley.edu/profile/slindow)

## Incoming Graduate Students

Please join the department in welcoming seven microbiology and 10 plant biology students to the Graduate Program.

The students are:

- Angelica Castaneda | Cal Poly - Pomona | Micro
- Carly Grant | Montana State University | Micro
- Darae Jun | University of California, San Diego | Micro
- Gabriel Rosenfield | University of Texas | Micro
- Evan Starr | Carleton College | Micro
- Magdalena Stoeva | University of Ottawa | Micro
- Ouwei Wang | University of California, Berkeley | Micro

*and*

- Adam Adair | University of Missouri-Columbia | Plant
- Akiko Carver | University of Washington | Plant
- Andrew Brandon | University of Tennessee | Plant
- Heejung Cho | Yonsei University | Plant

- Christopher Gee | University of Washington | Plant
- Tyler Helmann | Cornell University | Plant
- Emma Kovak | St. Olaf College | Plant
- Rachel Li | University of California, Berkeley | Plant
- Angus Vajk | University of Edinburgh | Plant
- Jeff Wong | Texas A&M University | Plant

Faculty may sign up for "Profs on Parade" and indicate rotation and lab openings at this time at the new Services website: [i-pmb.berkeley.edu](http://i-pmb.berkeley.edu) Please contact [Karyn Houston](mailto:Karyn.Houston@berkeley.edu) or [Rocio Sanchez](mailto:Rocio.Sanchez@berkeley.edu) if you need assistance.

## Upcoming BCal Trainings



Did you know you can make reservations for any of the conference rooms in Koshland (or anywhere on campus) straight from your BCal calendar?

You can also subscribe to department events and happenings.

The BCal calendar does not need to be your primary calendar, and you can keep all of your events private. Using it makes it much easier for everyone to keep track of our many department events -- retreats,

faculty meetings and the like.

Karyn Houston is available anytime to help you with any questions you might have. You may also attend BCal trainings. They're nearby, quick and easy. Download and post info about the upcoming trainings here: <http://hrweb.berkeley.edu/files/attachments/bConnected-workshops.pdf>

Or contact Karyn at [karyn@berkeley.edu](mailto:karyn@berkeley.edu) for a quick training session or to subscribe to the department calendar. Karyn may also be reached at 643.7614 or stop by Koshland 111b.

**UPDATE** - The campus has just announced drop-in training for anyone who wants to learn more about BApps, including calendar, mail, drive and mobile device set-up. See the schedule below, and just stop by to ask your questions for some one-on-one help:

Date	Topic	Time	Location
8/20/2013	Office Hours	9:00 - 12 noon	Rm 135@2150 Shattuck
	Office Hours	1:00 - 3:00 pm	
9/5/2013	Google Doc Basics	9:00 - 10:30 am	Rm 28 University Hall
	Office Hours	1:00 - 3:00 pm	
9/10/2013	Office Hours	9:00 - 12 noon	Rm 28 University Hall
	Forms Beyond Basics	1:00 - 3:00 pm	
9/18/2013	Office Hours	9:00 - 12 noon	Rm 135@2150 Shattuck
	Office Hours	1:00 - 3:00 pm	
9/26/2013	bMail Beyond Basics	9:00 - 10:30 am	Rm 28 University Hall
	Calendar Beyond Basics	11:00-12:30 pm	
	Spreadsheet Basics	1:00 - 3:00 pm	



The first annual Berkeley Microbiology Retreat will be Friday, November 15, 2013 in the Brazilian Room at Tilden Park.

The goal of the retreat is to bring together the many scientists studying aspects of microbiology on campus and at affiliated research organizations. Because we are housed in different research units, the exchange of results and technical advances can be difficult, even with nearby labs.

Retreat organizers – a mix faculty, postdocs and grad students – envision that this retreat will increase awareness of the scope of microbial research and relevant facility resources in Berkeley-affiliated labs, and will foster productive collaborations. We also hope to forge strong connections among graduate students and postdocs doing microbiology-related research throughout the Berkeley community.

Information about registration, posters, and abstracts for short student/postdoc talks will come your way within the next few weeks. But for now, please save the date and join us in exploring microbial physiology, pathogenesis, cell biology, ecology, and engineering.

Please keep checking back the web page for more information. Additional information will be posted soon at [i-pmb.berkeley.edu/events/microbiology-retreat](http://i-pmb.berkeley.edu/events/microbiology-retreat).

Please direct any questions to:

Kathleen R. Ryan at 510-643-9387 or [krr@berkeley.edu](mailto:krr@berkeley.edu).

## New Lab Websites

Check out the bevy of new lab sites that have been launched for PMB faculty in the past year. These sites use the drupal Content Management System and are easy to maintain and quite versatile in what they can do. They are templated sites and all operate in the same way, but actually look quite different while complementing our main PMB site.

Once the sites are built they can easily be managed by faculty or lab staff.

Check them out at:

- <http://glaunsingerlab.berkeley.edu/>
- <http://spechtlab.berkeley.edu/>
- <http://taylorlab.berkeley.edu/>
- <http://ryanlab.berkeley.edu/>
- <http://bakerlab.berkeley.edu/>
- <http://glasslab.berkeley.edu/>
- <http://fischerlab.berkeley.edu/>

## i-PMB Web Launch - New Services Site for the Department