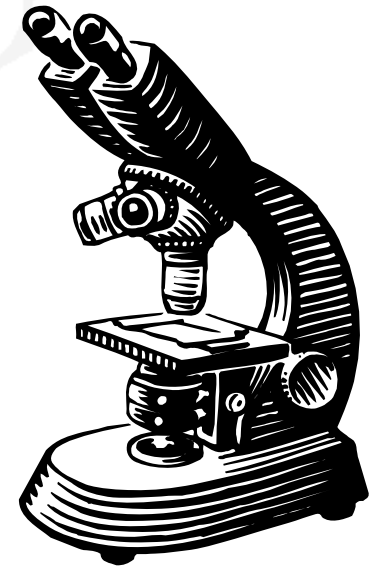


The Future of Education in Plant Pathology and Related Disciplines

Tim Durham
Assistant Professor
Nicholls State University
Agriculture Program

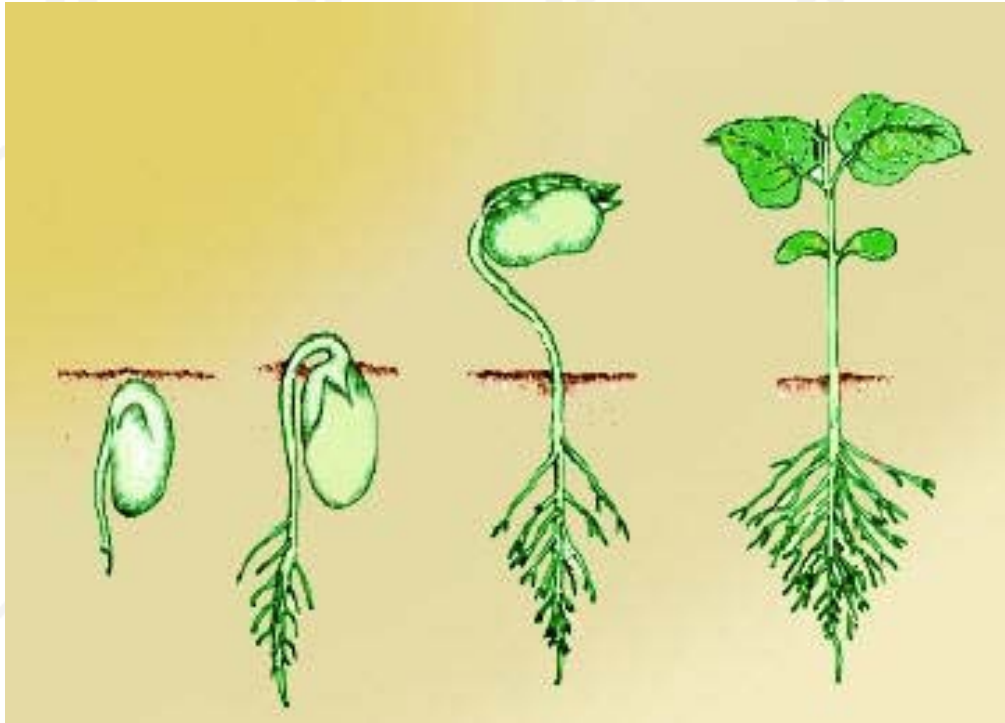


Background

- Assistant Professor of Agriculture and Biology
 - Coordinator of Ag Program
 - Appointment
- Enrollment



Getting From Point A to Point B...

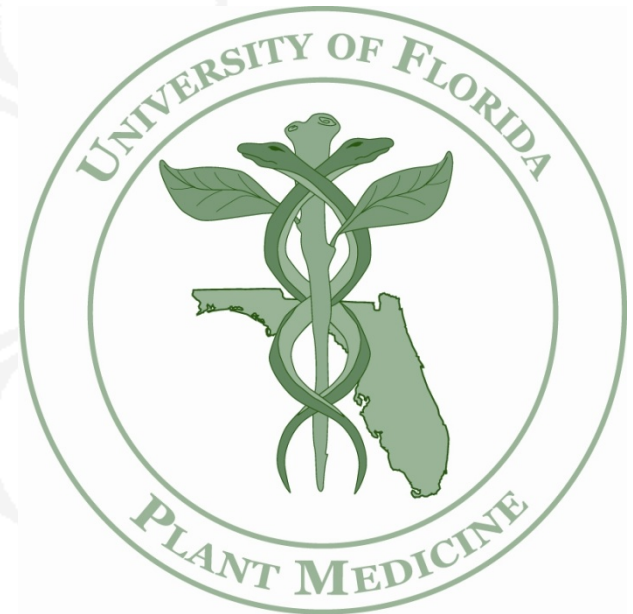
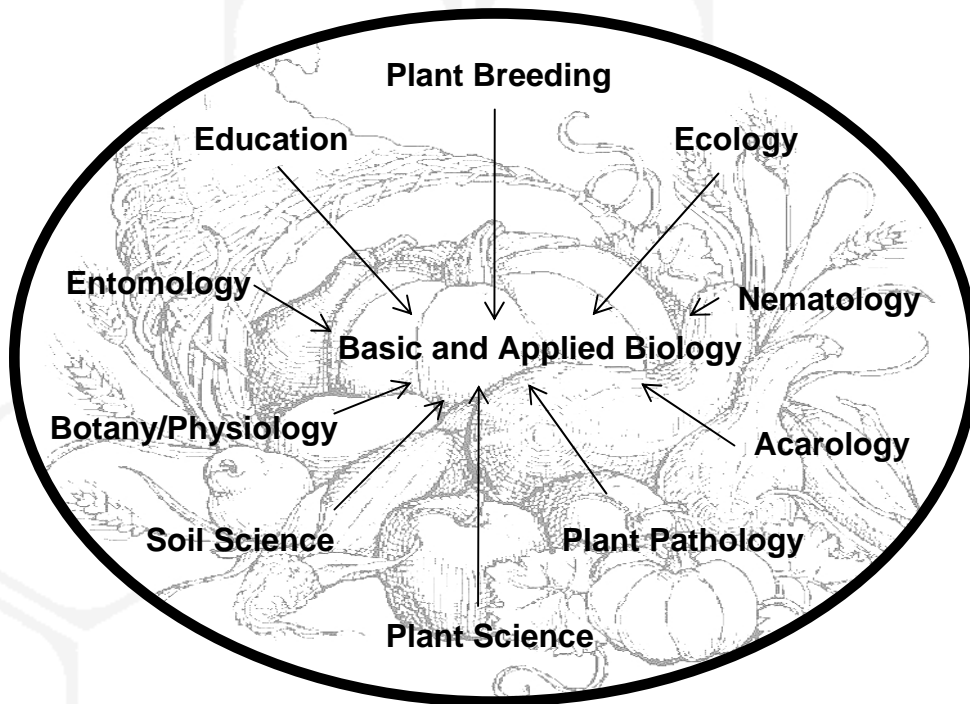


Ensuring Continuity in the Field...

- Strategies to improve recruitment
- “Future-proof” graduate curricula
- Standard curricula?
- Redefine the modern plant pathologist?

Graduate Experience

- University of Florida
- Experiential learning



An Assortment of Commodities



Expect the Unexpected...

- “Research invariably produces unanticipated outcomes”
 - Roundup treated soybeans and ASR
 - SAR or other mechanism?



Think Outside of the Box...

- Dr. Jeff Jones
Xanthomonas trial in
tomatoes
– pH



Common Critiques of Graduates in the Sciences

- **Critique #1:** Graduates are not “*worldly*” enough
- **Symptoms:** Too narrow of a pathosystem focus, disconnect between their work and the real-world
- **Preventative Therapies:**
 - Compulsory semester abroad
 - Compulsory extensionist rotation
 - Expose students to a diversity of:
 - Pathosystems
 - Stakeholders
 - Worldviews
 - Field plant pathology course

Common Critiques of Graduates in the Sciences

- **Critique #2:** Graduates are “dittoheads” who are perhaps too insular
- **Symptoms:** Self-explanatory
- **Preventative Therapy:** A semester abroad to work on “improvisational” skills

Common Critiques of Graduates in the Sciences

- **Critique #3:** An overreliance on genomics
- **Symptom:** The decline of classical microscopy in disease diagnosis, and the outright elimination of disease diagnosis courses
- **Preventative Therapy:** Reinstate and emphasize classical microscopy (dedicated modular course?) and disease diagnosis as two in a suite of diagnostic tools in a standardized curriculum

Common Critiques of Graduates in the Sciences

- **Critique #4:** Graduates are not knowledgeable about the machinations of government
- **Solution:** Introduce elements of policy to a standardized curriculum



Questions

