



Farewell Edgar
September 1998-June 2005



That first year, as a visiting student, four of you enjoyed a quiet life in Selby Hall on the OARDC campus. Dr. Kamoun (Tunisia) started his lab at OSU with Shujing Dong (China) as his lab manager/technician.



Shortly after you joined the lab, Trudy Torto (Ghana) began her Ph.D. A close friendship was soon established. This group was well known for its lively banter.



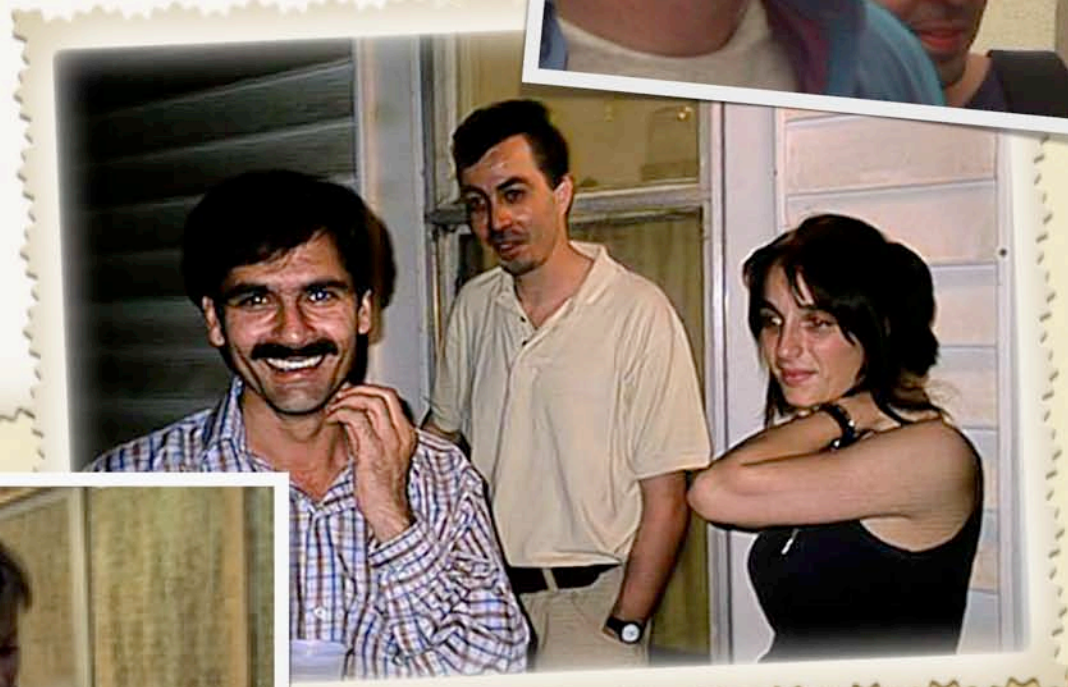
Teasing and joking became part of a common theme during daily conversation. Trudy was regularly teased about the length of her hair (was it really hers?). Then the tradition of the "First Paycheck Party began and ended with you at your expense (sorry).



In November of the 1999, the lab began to quickly change with the addition of 3 new members. Diane Kinney (USA) joined the lab as the greenhouse manager/technician as well as two post docs Walid Hamada (Tunisia) and Antonino Testa (Italy).



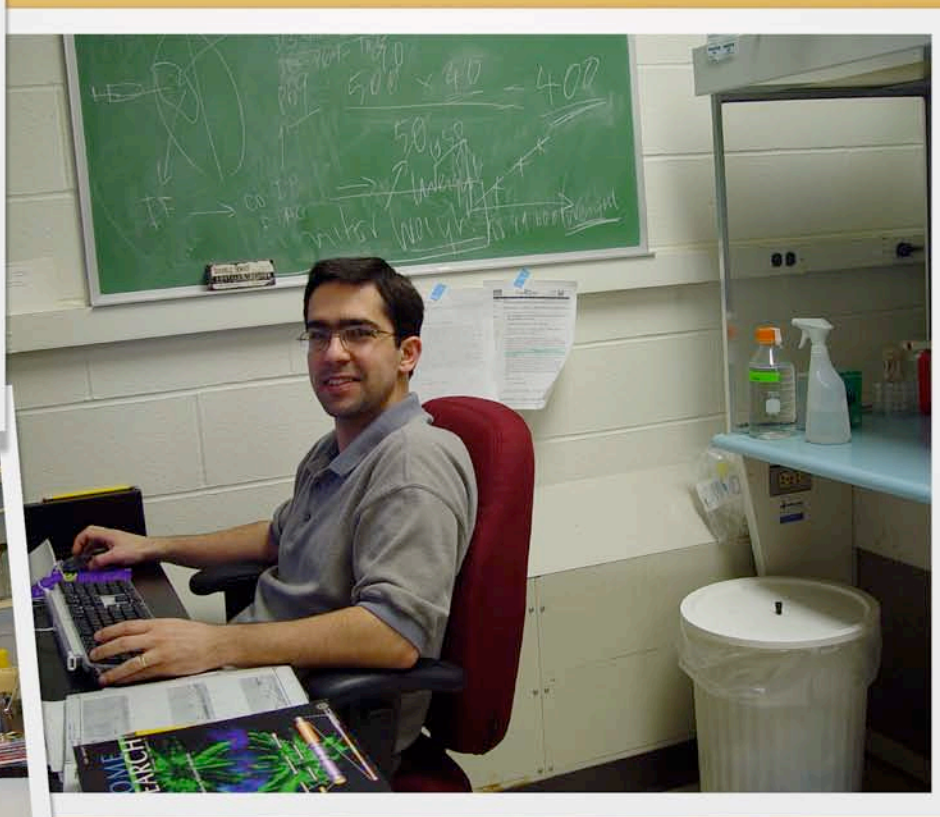
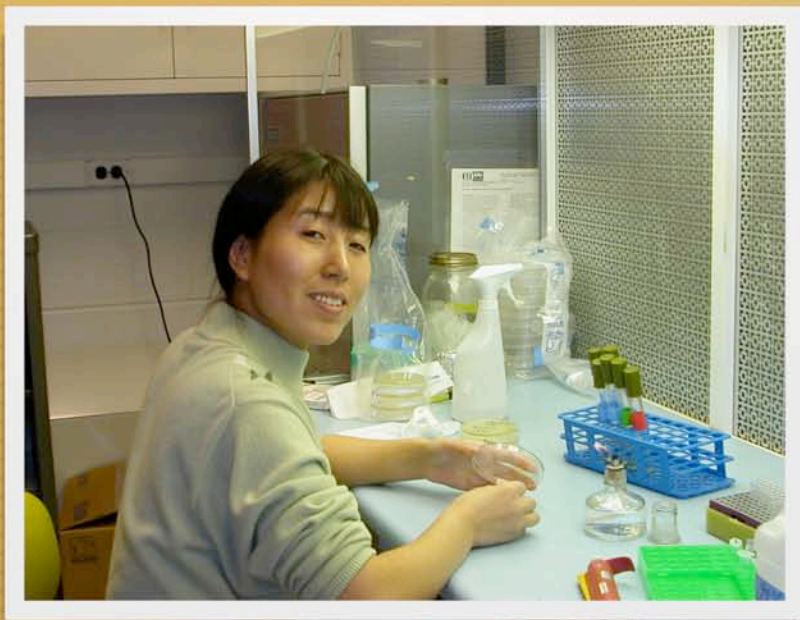
Nearly doubling the size of the lab also brought a change in proximity of the lab itself from the 1st floor up to the second with an adjoining shared PCR lab as well. The space would be well used over the course of the next 6 years.



45 additional people would pass through the Kamoun Lab revolving doors before your last day.



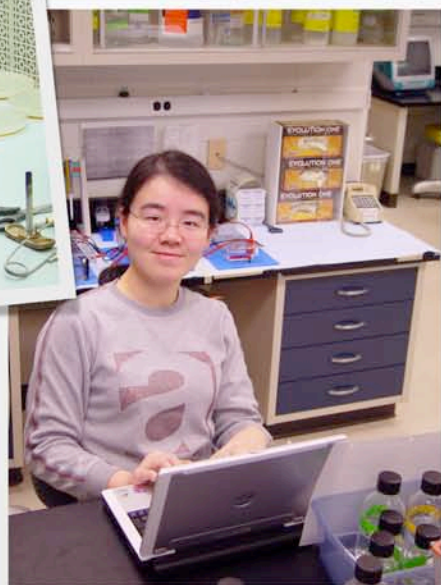
Though far from home, a large lab family always existed and this extended family spans the globe. Elodie Gaulin (France) actually spent time in the lab on two different occasions as a visiting student while Zhenyu Liu (China) completed a masters degree here.





Miaoying Tian (China) completed her Ph. D while Journn Bos (Netherlands) and Luis DaCunha (Brazil) were visiting students. Nicolas Champouret (France) joined the lab towards the end of 2002 also as a visiting student.

By the middle of 2003, we had added Joe Win (New Zealand) as a Post Doc and Jing Song (China) as a Ph D student. Soon after, Jorunn came back as a Ph D student and Thirumal Devi (India) also joined as a Post Doc. Then 2004 started off by adding Cahid Cakir (Turkey) ...



and Natalia Norero (Argentina) as visitors closely followed by Catherine Bruce (Scotland) and Carolyn Young (New Zealand) as a Post Doc.





But as spring occurs for one persons OSU career, winter comes for another. The Kamoun lab has become well known for sending on our 'family' in grand style.



You are the fourth person to obtain your degree under Sophien's guidance.







The summer of 2003 found us with 13 members. Colleen Brooks (College of Wooster, Ohio) would work along side of you on your arabidopsis studies as your first student and complete an independent study under your supervision.





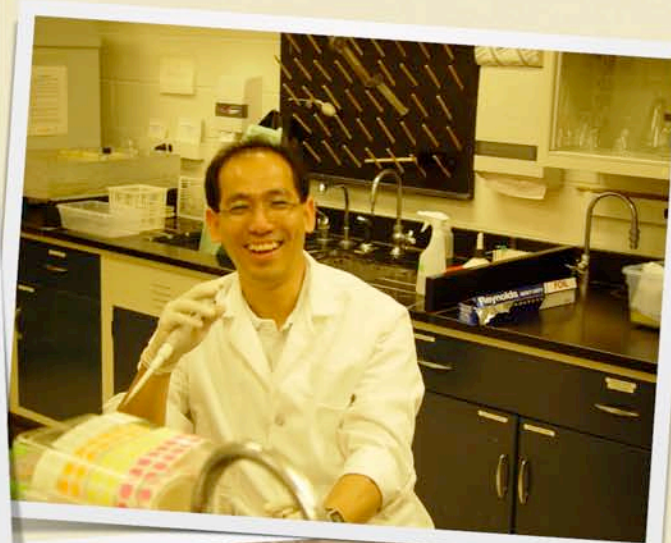


Working together has taught us all some important lessons and skills. Sharing, listening, speaking and teaching combined with just the right amount of laughter and fun add up to the perfect combination to produce great research.





The summer of 2004 found us at an all time high of 18 members spanning 14 nationalities. The greenhouses were in full swing with everyone being involved in all aspects of the research.





Walking into this very active and productive lab you would be hard pressed to find members without a smile on their face. Willingness to stop and help another with questions was always an appreciated attribute by visitors and long-term members alike.

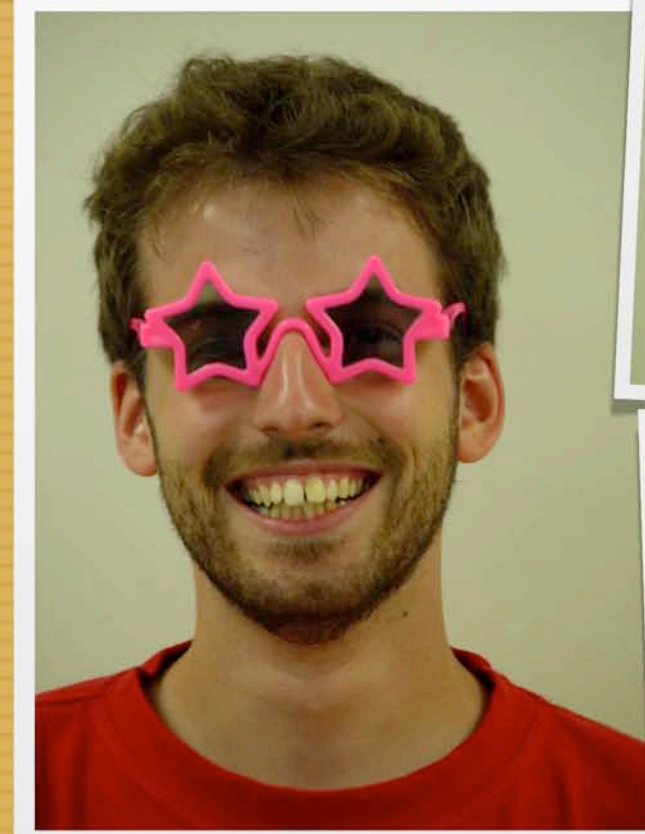


You were able to continue developing your love of teaching during the Plant Science Days by demonstrating the DNA: strings of life.

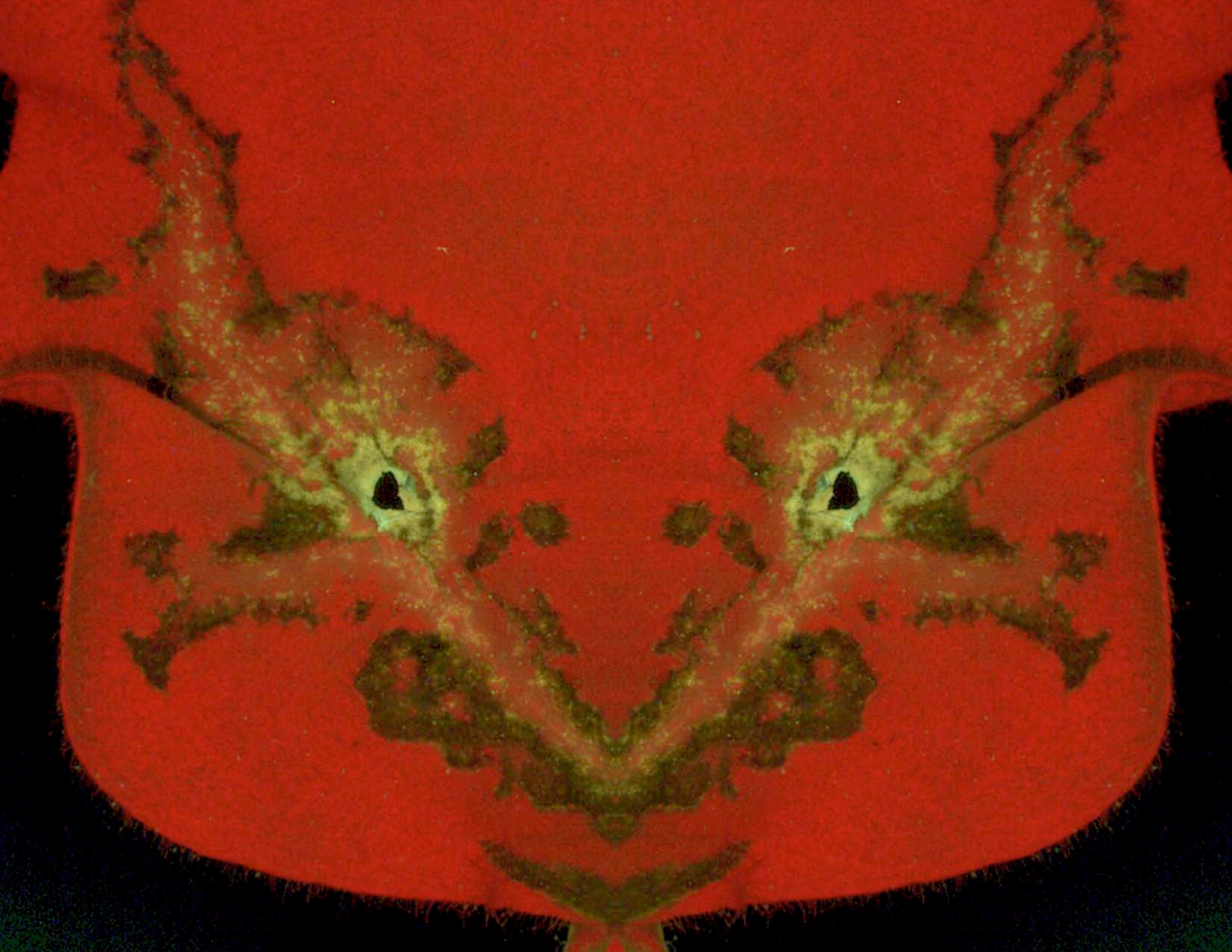


On those occasions when our focus was led astray we were always quick to grab the camera to document the moment. With Catherine Bruce's initiative, her short 5 week stay turned into our first movie making experience creating our own Dr. Cool!

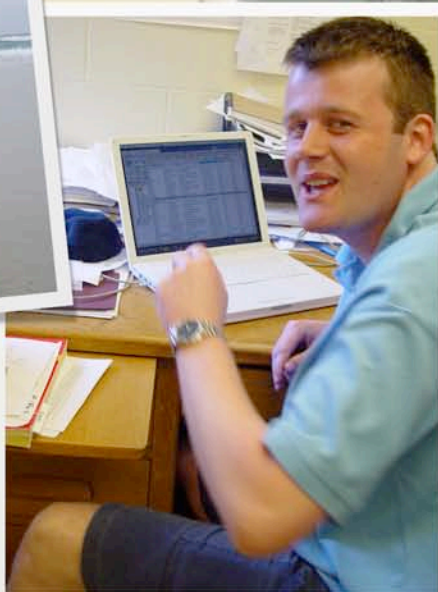








Even plant destroyers can
create a smile, albeit evil in
the plant's eyes.



*Due to your zeal for life, the Kamoun
lab will contain a void that will be
hard to fill anytime soon.*



You spent many many long hours in the field (NOT!). But you did do your share of greenhouse work. You have become a true Plant Dr. or Dr. Plant or Dr. Vegetable whatever....



Blah Blah Blah... Why is it that whenever I saw that look some smart #@% comment was sure to follow (signed = SK)

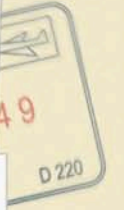


Nice outfits but hey
you better get a
new wardrobe.
They dont dress
like this in the
biomedical world!



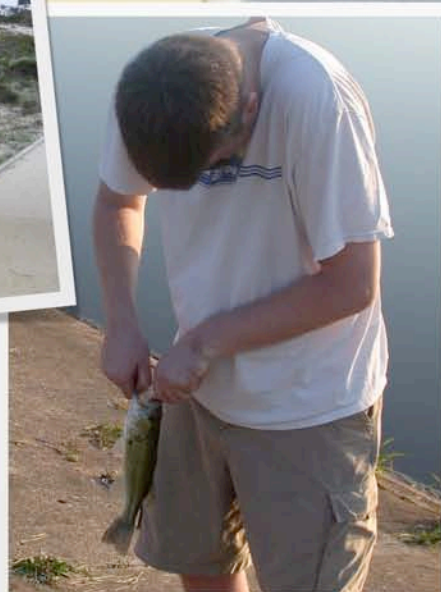
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We hope you take with you not only memories of the hours at the lab but also those times spent in leisure with some of your new extended family. Sophien was host to many bbq's at his house where we eventually were able to sample the Huitema Brew Master Series.



Time near water of any form trying to coax the fish onto your line was also, at least occasionally, a rewarding experience.



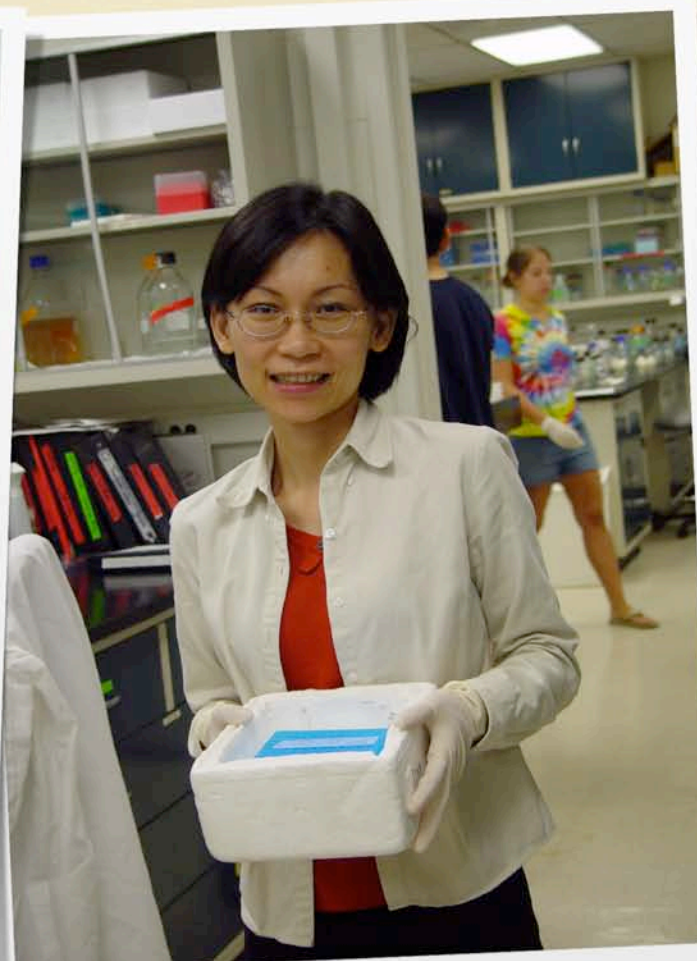
There was time for some interesting trip. The visit to San Francisco and Asilomar was your last conference.

Shabu Shabu in Japantown, San Francisco.





So from here on out, as winter closes this chapter of your life, we will look forward to running into you at meetings and collaborating through e-mails from afar..



...and in the lab spring will begin for new members such as Minkyung Lee (South Korea) and Hsin-yen Liu (Taiwan).



Almost 7 years have quickly come and gone. We wish you well as you continue down the road to new discoveries both in the lab and in a new marriage with Jorunn.

All Our Best,

The Kamoun Lab