

Potomac Division Gathers in Rehoboth Beach, DE, for 67th Annual Meeting

The 2011 meeting of the Potomac Division was held March 9–11, 2011, at the Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center in Rehoboth Beach, DE, with nearly 90 guests in attendance. The Local Arrangements Committee was chaired by **Tom Evans**, with **Nancy Gregory**, **Nicole Donofrio**, and **Kate Everts** serving on the committee. The Executive Committee consisted of **Mary Ann Hansen**—president, **Chris Dardick**—immediate past president, **Boris Vinatzer**—vice president, and **Yilmaz Balci**—secretary-treasurer.

The field trip to the Dogfish Head Brewery in Milton, DE, prior to the beginning of the program on Wednesday afternoon was attended by 34 people. The tour included a guided walk behind the scenes in the cellars, which included the wooden tanks and the packaging hall. The Wednesday afternoon program continued with the industry-extension update, chaired by **Chuck Johnson**, Virginia Tech. In the evening, a vendor show and social at the hotel was well attended and was a good opportunity for everyone to socialize.

Two symposia and two contributed paper sessions were held on Thursday and Friday. The Thursday program started with a welcome message by Division President Hansen and was followed by a seminar by the plenary speaker **Brett Tyler** (Virginia Bioinformatics Institute, Blacksburg, VA). The first symposium, “Use of molecular biology approaches to solve practical problems in plant health,” was chaired by Donofrio (University of Delaware [U of D, Newark, DE]). Three papers presented as part of this symposium were by **Kerry Pedley** (USDA ARS, Fort Detrick, MD), **Randy Wisser** (U of D), and **Zhanji Liu** (Delaware State University,



Outgoing Potomac Division President Mary Ann Hansen passed the gavel to incoming President Boris Vinatzer.



Arv Grybauskas (left) presented Kate Everts (right) with the 2011 Distinguished Service Award.



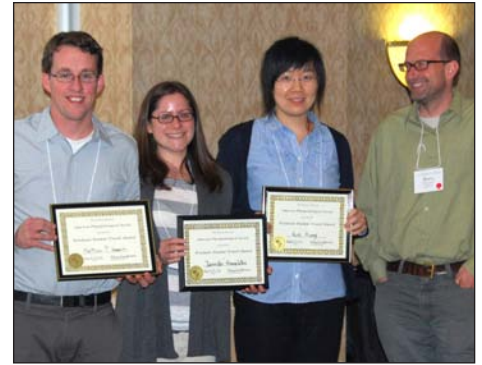
Sasha Marine (left) and Lynn Rallos (right) were awarded first place in the Best Student Paper Competition.

Lynn Rallos (Virginia Tech) and **Sasha Marine** (Virginia Tech) were both awarded first place in the student paper competition. Student travel awards were given to **Jennifer Himmelstein** (University of Maryland), **Kun Huang** (U of D), and **Matthew Kasson** (The Pennsylvania State University). The APS Potomac Division logo contest winner was **Jonathan Eisenback** (Virginia Tech).

The Meeting Resolutions, composed by **Mannon Gallegly** and **Erik Stromberg**, were read by Gallegly, and the gavel was passed from outgoing President Hansen to incoming President Vinatzer. A presentation by **Charles Fithian**, curator of archeology for the State of Delaware's Historical and Cultural Affairs, entitled "The World of Jack Nastyface: The Archaeology of His Majesty's Brig de Braak" concluded the dinner.

During the business meeting of the membership, Hansen thanked the organizing committee, attendees, and the generous industry sponsors that allowed offering free registration to all participants of the student paper competition. The following industries made donations to the 2011 meeting: Dow AgroSciences LLC (**Brian D. Olson**), AgraQuest Inc. (**Dennis L. Warkentin**), BASF Corporation (**John H. O'Barr** and **Gar Thomas**), Acadian Sea Plants LLC (**Robin E. Ross**), Fisher Scientific (**Michael Melch**), Marrone Bio Innovations (**Kristin Munsterman** and **Erin Hitchner**), and United Phosphorus Inc. (**Anthony L. Estes**). Proposed changes to the Potomac Division's Constitution and Standing Rules were discussed and final changes were approved by the membership. The revised Constitution and Standing Rules will be posted on the Potomac Division website. Members of the APS Divisional Forum were welcomed to the Potomac Division meeting

and an update on the Divisional Forum was presented by Everts and **David Schmale**. Secretary-Treasurer Balci announced the 2011 election results. **Daniel P. Roberts** (USDA ARS) was elected Divisional Forum representative and **Bingyu Zhao** (Virginia Tech) was elected secretary-treasurer. Virginia Tech announced that they would organize the next meeting and the meeting will be held in Winchester, VA.



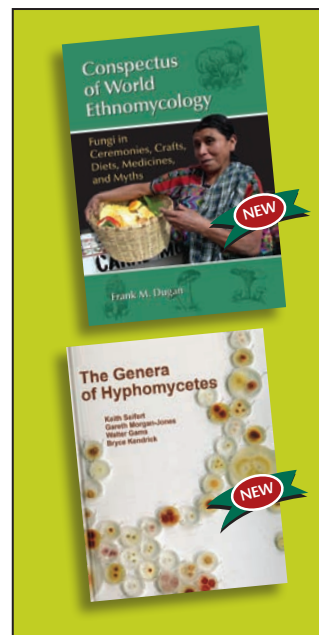
Winners of the Graduate Student Travel Awards (from left to right): Matthew Kasson, Jennifer Himmelstein, and Kun Huang, with Boris Vinatzer.

Friday morning's first symposium, entitled "Thousand cankers disease: An emerging insect-transmitted disease," was chaired by Balci. Four papers were presented as a part of this symposium. Speakers included **Gary Griffin** (Virginia Tech), **Mark Windham** (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), **Bruce Moltzan** (USDA Forest Service), and **Norm Dart** (Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services). Following the break, two contributed papers were presented. Meeting participants dispersed after final comments by the past president and the president. ■



Dover, DE). Following the symposium, three contributed papers were presented. Six students participated in this year's paper competition. The excellence of the student presentations was noted by all in attendance. The student paper competition was followed by a presentation by **John Sherwood**, APS president, who gave an update on our society at the national level. **Ann Lichens-Park** (USDA NIFA) provided information on funding opportunities for plant pathologists from NIFA before the poster session.

At the banquet dinner, the Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Kate Everts** by **Arv Grybauskas** for her outstanding contributions to plant pathology and the APS Potomac Division. Our award recipient's work centers on sustainable and organic production systems, trying to understand the effects of various integrated agricultural practices on vegetable crop diseases and thereby develop effective management practices limiting the damaging effects of those diseases. Some of her ongoing projects include enhancing induced host resistance to diseases of vegetables on organic farms, adopting new IPM methods for cucurbit virus management, expansion and utilization of the ipmPIPE cucurbit downy mildew forecasting system for the DelMarVa peninsula, and managing Fusarium wilt on watermelon: New solutions to a reemerging problem.



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