



## APS Southern Division Holds 94th Annual Meeting in College Station



The 94th Annual Meeting of the APS Southern Division was held February 17–20, 2017, in conjunction with the Southern IPM Center and the Southern Plant Diagnostic Network. More

than 100 participants convened in College Station, TX, to enjoy a program that included a grant-writing workshop; the latest Careers 101 Workshop, “Acing the Interview”; a student research competition; oral and poster presentations; an IPM symposium; and a tour to local agriculture operations. The IPM symposium, “All Aboard! Moving IPM Toward a Collaborative Future,” was live-streamed for participants who wanted to join in but could not attend. The presentations from each of the state IPM coordinators who participated in the symposium and the discussion session following the presentations are available for viewing online at [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLK93eCG1nCqLaof6HU8dlqtgGGdV7Foup](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLK93eCG1nCqLaof6HU8dlqtgGGdV7Foup).

Twenty-two students from within the Southern Division participated in the Graduate Student Research Competition held on Saturday, February 18. **Patricia Soria**, University of Florida (UF), received first place and will be representing the Southern Division in the Special Session “Plant Pathologists of the Future: Showcasing the Top Graduate Students from the APS Division Meetings” at the 2017 Annual APS Meeting. Second- and third-place winners, respectively, were **Jeffrey**

**Standish**, University of Georgia (UGA), and **Mason Newark**, UF. Twenty-two posters were also on display and were judged as part of the Poster Rodeo. Poster Rodeo awards for Best in Show and Reserved Best in Show were awarded to **Katrina Laurel**, UGA, and **Barry Boney**, University of Arkansas, respectively.

Several students and post-doctoral researchers were also recognized and received travel awards to attend this year’s meeting. Travel award recipients included **Rodrigo Borba Onofre**, UF; **Chakradhar Mattupalli**, the Noble Foundation; Soria, UF; and Standish, UGA.

The awards banquet wrapped up the formal meeting on Sunday by recognizing two outstanding members of the Southern Division. **Katherine Stevenson**, UGA, was awarded the Donald M. Ferrin Memorial Service Award in recognition of her many contributions to the society. **Thomas Isakeit**, Texas A&M University, was named the 2017 Outstanding Plant Pathologist for excellence in his work, which included a management program for the control of cotton root rot.

In addition to these awards, the Southern Division recognized the newly elected leaders of the division, including **Albert Culbreath**, Divisional Forum representative, and **Chandrasekar Kousik**, vice president, and **Michelle Oliveira**, graduate student representative.

The 2018 Southern Division Annual Meeting will be held February 16–18, 2018, in Fayetteville, AR. We look forward to seeing you there! ■



*First-place winner Patricia Soria (flanked by Kevin Ong and Nicholas Dufault)*



*Recipient of the 2017 D. M. Ferrin Memorial Service Award, Katherine Stevenson (flanked by Kevin Ong and T. Faske)*



UPCOMING APS DIVISION MEETINGS

**CARIBBEAN DIVISION**

October 2–5, 2017 / Chile

**NORTHEASTERN DIVISION**

November 1–3, 2017 / Quebec City

[www.apsnet.org/meetings/divisionmeetings](http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/divisionmeetings)