

Teaching Award

This award was established in 1987 by the APS Council in recognition of excellence in teaching plant pathology. The award is presented to individuals with active responsibility for one or more courses in plant pathology and recognizes the individual's distinguished proficiency in teaching, as indicated by development and effectiveness of courses taught.

Lafayette Frederick



Lafayette Frederick was born March 19, 1923, in Friars Point, MS. He received elementary and secondary education in the public school system of southeastern Missouri. He received the B.S. degree from Tuskegee Institute in 1943, the M.S. degree from the University of Rhode Island in 1950, and the Ph.D. degree in plant pathology and botany from Washington State University in 1952. Dr. Frederick began his academic career as a member of the faculty of Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, in 1952. He was promoted

to the ranks of associate and full professor there during 1953–1962. From 1963 until 1976, he served as chairman of the Department of Biology at Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA. Since then he has been chairman of the Department of Botany/Microbiology at Howard University in Washington, DC. Dr. Frederick also served as this university's acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts during 1986–1987, as well as pro-dean for several years in addition to his departmental duties.

In spite of continued efforts by Howard University to recruit Dr. Frederick as dean, at considerable financial benefit, he preferred to return to the department where he could continue to work with students interested in research careers and could also continue his teaching and research efforts. He has advised 50 graduate students who have earned either M.S. (23) or Ph.D. (27) degrees. He teaches mycology classes each semester and is recognized as a superb teacher.

Dr. Frederick enjoys a reputation as a pioneering mycologist of international acclaim as a result of his research on the slime molds, *Neurospora*, and Dutch elm disease. His chapter on "Plasmodial Slime Molds," which was published in the *Handbook of the Protoctista*, gives credit to his stature in this area. Additional publications on *Neurospora* have assured him a position of world authority on the genus. On Dutch elm disease, his anatomical studies have helped to lay the foundation for our understanding on how this disease progresses and how therapeutic measures might be used to preserve historic American elms in urban landscapes. His recent scanning electron microscope studies on the ultrastructure of conidium and ascospore development and the histopathology and physiology of Dutch elm disease stand as tribute to the caliber of his work and also to his efforts in

education. He recently added an energy dispersive X-ray (EDX) attachment to the microscope. This equipment is used in the training of students interested in pursuing research careers in biological science.

Dr. Frederick life's dedication has been to others at the expense of self. He is never too busy to stop and talk with or help a student or colleague, or others. Most of his publications have resulted from his guidance of graduate students. They attest to the high caliber of his mentorship. He can be regularly seen taking students to local and national professional meetings at his expense. He always goes out of his way to help others and make them feel comfortable. His efforts to increase minority involvement in research have been recognized by the issuance of three recent major grants for the improvement of minority access to research careers. A message that has been echoed again and again is that Dr. Frederick chose to serve at minority educational institutions throughout his life so that he might enhance career opportunities for the less privileged.

Dr. Frederick has been a member of the Commission on Undergraduate Education in the Biological Sciences, chairman of the Biology Achievement Test Development Committee for Educational Testing Services, chairman of the General Research Program Advisory Committee of the National Institutes of Health, and a member of the Smithsonian Foreign Currency Program Advisory Council for Systematica and Environmental Biology. Dr. Frederick holds membership in various honor societies including Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Beta Beta, Phi Sigma, and Sigma Xi. During his career, he has received numerous awards and honors for his scholarly contributions and dedicated service; one such honor is a species of Hawaiian shrub, *Cytandra frederickii*, dedicated to him in recognition of his contributions to plant systematics. More recently (1988), he was the recipient of the Samuel M. Nabrit Outstanding Biological Scientist Award from Atlanta University. Other awards recognizing his teaching are the Atlanta University Board of Trustees Excellence-In-Teaching Award and the Outstanding Educator Award in America.

Dr. Frederick has maintained active membership in numerous professional societies, including The American Phytopathological Society, AAAS, AIBS, Association of Southeastern Biologists (president 1985–1986), Botanical Society of America (president of the Washington Section, 1975), Electron Microscope Society of America, the National Geographic Society, and Georgia Academy of Science (president 1975).

Dr. Frederick is truly a pioneering mycologist and teacher who is most deserving of recognition as teacher, researcher, and leader in our field.