

APS Invites Nominations for the 9th I.E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium



I. E. Melhus

The APS Crop Loss Assessment and Risk Evaluation Committee is sponsoring and the Post Harvest Plant Pathology and Mycotoxicology Committees are cosponsoring the 9th I.E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium at the 2009 APS Annual Meeting in Portland, OR. The symposium, entitled "Integrating Pre- and Post-Harvest Views of Yield and Quality Loss," will feature four to six presentations on graduate thesis work highlighting research aimed at providing a better understanding of the links between pre- and post-harvest losses in yield and quality. All graduate students with relevant significant work are invited to apply. To attract as many applications as possible from APS student members (and potential members), the APS Crop Loss Assessment and Risk Evaluation Committee wishes to define eligible research topics in the broadest possible sense. Post-harvest losses resulting from infections initiated in the

field can be particularly high in perishable produce crops, which are key to healthy diets and help reduce public health service costs. Globally, the availability of affordable, high-quality produce to consumers depends on nonrenewable resources. Are these supply chains sustainable into the future? What can plant pathologists contribute to developing more sustainable alternatives? Mycotoxin contamination continues to threaten human and livestock health, increase production costs, and reduce production efficiency across the globe. How are plant pathologists combining their skills with other disciplines to solve these problems? The presentations will be 30 minutes in length and will be selected on the basis of the significance of its contribution to new understanding in the area of plant disease management in supply chains.

Speakers for the symposium will be chosen by a selection committee chaired by the APS Southern Division Councilor (currently **John Rupe**, University of Arkansas) and composed of members of the sponsoring and cosponsoring committees. Applicants must either be currently enrolled as a graduate student or have completed their graduate program within 12 months of the 2009 APS Centennial Meeting. The deadline for applications is Thursday, January 15, 2009.

Applications and letters of recommendation (seven copies) should be submitted to John C. Rupe, Department of Plant Pathology, 217 Plant Science Building, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. Applications must contain:

- 1) A written description (maximum of five, single-spaced, typed pages excluding tables and figures with 12-pt font) of the goals, methodology, results, and significance of the applicant's thesis research; AND
- 2) Two letters of nomination, one of which must be from the applicant's major professor. Letters of nomination must include an evaluation of the applicant's research and the ability of the student to present their research in a clear and effective manner.

Invited speakers will receive a financial award toward the cost of travel. Speakers must be APS members at the time awards are made. Travel award funds are being provided by the APS Foundation from the I.E. Melhus Fund. **I. E. Melhus**, a plant disease epidemiologist, was a renowned teacher, innovative researcher, and an outstanding administrator at Iowa State College. Melhus served as president of APS in 1926 and was elected a fellow of APS in 1965. ■