2014 APS Pacific Division Meeting Highlights
Bozeman, Montana

Photographs:

Highlights prepared by Soum Sanogo
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Graduate Student Oral Competition Awards and Travel Awards

Participants of the 2014 Graduate Student Oral Competition

Standing from right to left: David May, Montana State University; David Wheeler, Washington State University; Nar Ranabhat, Montana State University; Marcos-Paolinelli-Alfonso, INIFAP-CICESE, Baja California, Mexico; Robin Choudhury, University of California-Davis; Teresa Jardini, Washington State University; and Eric Christianson, Washington State University. Sitting from right to left: Habib Batche, INIFAP-CICESE, Baja California, Mexico; Danilo Vera, Washington State University; Carmen Pol, Montana State University; Francis Na, University of California-Riverside; Gretchen Freed, Washington State University; Brianna McGuire, University of California-Davis; and Arturo Quinterro-Ferrer, University of Idaho.

The first place winner ($500) was Francis Na, University of California-Riverside (mentor Dr. Akif Eskalen), who presented on “Efficacy of various potential biological control agents for the control of Fusarium euwallaceae – a symbiotic fungus of the polyphagous shot hole borer (Euwallaceae sp.).” The second place winner ($300) was Eric Christianson, Washington State University (mentor Dr. Lindsay du Toit), who spoke on “Screening carrot germplasm for resistance to Xanthomonas hortorum pv. carotae.” Gretchen Freed, Washington State University (mentor Dr. Malvik, University of Minnesota) was the third place winner ($ 200), and presented on “Substrates from soybean and corn influence pathogenesis and growth of Fusarium virguliforme.”

Recipients of Travel Awards included Robin Choudhury of University of California-Davis, and Teresa Jardini of Washington State University.
Speakers of the 1st symposium (Cereal crops: Wheat and Barley). From right to left (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 6th): Judith Brown, University of Arizona; Jan Leach, Colorado State University; Marcia McMullen, North Dakota State University; Juliet Marshall, University of Idaho; and Alan Dyer, Montana State University. Rick Bennett, APS President-Elect (4th from right), provided an update on activities of APS prior to the symposium.

Speakers of the 2nd symposium (Plant Virus-Vector Complexes in the Western US). From right to left: Judith Brown, University of Arizona; Mary Burrows, Montana State University; Barry Jacobsen, Montana State University; and Nilsa Bosque-Pérez, University of Idaho.
Participants of Symposia

Speakers of the 3rd symposium (Food Safety). *From right to left: Trevor Suslow*, University of California-Davis; and *Jackie Fletcher*, Oklahoma State University. *Gary Chastagner* (3rd from left), Washington State University was moderator of the session.

Lifetime Achievement Award

*Barry Jacobsen* (left), Montana State University, was the recipient of the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award. He was presented with the award by *Judith Brown* (right), outgoing President of APS-PD.

Early Career Award

*Claudia Nischwitz*, Utah State University, received the APS-PD Early Career Award.
2014 Meeting Highlights

The Crowds

A crowd from Montana State University. From right to left: standing, Mary Burrows, and Alan Dyer; sitting, Carmen Pol, David May, and Nar Ranabhat.

From right to left: 1st and 3rd, Rufina Hernández Martinez and Habib Batche of INIFAP-CICESE, Baja California, Mexico; 2nd and 4th, Mojtaba Mohammadi and Akif Eskalen of the University of California-Riverside.

From right to left: Gary Chastagner, Washington State University, and Mike Matheron, University of Arizona.

From right to left: Tim Murray, Washington State University and APS Vice President-Elect; and Jay Pscheidt, Oregon State University, and Divisional Forum Representative for APS-PD.
Business and Executive Meetings

The agenda for the business meeting was sent out to the APS-PD membership prior to the meeting. Among other things, the meeting included the following items: Retiree and Necrology report; Reading of minutes of 2013 business meeting; Reports from Secretary/Treasurer and Division Forum Representative; Acknowledgements of volunteers; Invitation for nominations and identification of future meeting sites; and Discussions on issues pertaining to financial stability of divisions, abstract quality, and future of plant pathology. A more detailed description of the issues will be presented in the minutes of the meeting that is forthcoming to the APS-PD website.

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

- Balance as of 4/30/2014: $27,850.62
- Communications to APS-Pacific Division membership through E-messages including Meeting Highlights, Newsletters, Meeting Digest, Calls for abstracts and nominations, Reminders on all events, and submission of divisional information to Phytopathology News.
- Launching of the APS-Pacific Division ‘Field Album’: A showcase for disease symptoms through the APS-PD Collaboration Site (see Newsletter of Winter 2013-Spring 2014 or visit APS-PD website).

2015 Pacific Division Meeting

Scheduled for August 1-5, 2015 in Pasadena, California
In conjunction with APS

Mark your calendar!
Divisional Forum Representative Report

Jay W. Pscheidt, Oregon State University

APS Pacific Division – Bozeman, MT 2014

(Note: The Divisional Forum (DF) is a group of representatives elected on behalf of all APS Divisions to meet, discuss, and facilitate subject disciplinary and membership issues at the divisional level for APS council. Most recent meeting was in conjunction with the North Central Division in Madison WI, June 2014.)

Pacific Division (APS-PD) remains strong with membership numbers up this year. Compared with other divisions we remain APS’s largest division and have the largest percentage of APS members who are also Pacific Division members. Hard to turn down a $5 registration fee. On the other hand, we seem to be below the divisional average when it comes to attendance at division meetings (see membership numbers below).

APS-PD has awarded 46 student travel awards in the previous 13 years for an average of 3.5 awards per year but ranging from 0 to 8. The Divisional Forum will be comparing numbers between divisions soon. But in comparison, I just watched the North Central Division hand out 14 student travel awards! Other comparisons consistent with our engagement plan will also show how we stack up against the other divisions.

Once again, the Divisional Forum will sponsor a special session at the APS annual meeting for our top student paper winners. Billed as the “Best of the Best”, this session was very successful last year. Lydia Tymon, WSU, will represent the APS-PD this August at the annual meeting. Look for the technical session entitled, “Plant Pathologists of the Future” on Tuesday from 2:15 to 3:30 pm. Let us support Lydia with a good showing from our division. This will help ensure the session is held again for our top student winner this year!

The Divisional Forum has been working on a financial stability plan and expects to hear back from APS council soon about the proposal. We are proposing to diversify our investments to guard against market downturns similar to what happened in 2008-2009. All divisions lost money during that time since all funds were basically in stocks/bonds. The proposal, among other things, will encourage divisions to use money market funds to diminish the impact of future economic downturns. (A more detailed report is available upon request.)

The forum will be addressing the topic of abstract quality at the division level in the coming year. Although there are guidelines for abstract submission for all divisions, there is an absence of content and publication guidelines. Let me know if you have suggestions, comments, gripes, concerns, etc. on this topic.)
Thanks for attending the 2014 APS-PD meeting!