Now that the Hawaii meeting is a pleasant memory, I would like to thank all of the members who made an investment in the APS Foundation during the meeting, as well as throughout the year. The APS Foundation raised an impressive total of more than $18,000 in donations! Your contributions help advance the ideals and goals of APS and assist numerous students and early career professionals with travel support to attend and participate in the annual meeting. The foundation has completed one full year of operation under its new strategic business plan and numerous activities have been completed or are ongoing. Many of you may have recognized a new look at the foundation booth this year and a few modifications are planned for next year. In addition, a new expanded brochure has been published that emphasizes the foundation’s goals and the many endowments that support its activities. I am particularly pleased to report that significant contributions from Milt and Nancy Schroth, Artie and Arra Browning, Jim Cook, Jesse Dubin, and others, totaling more than $77,000, were received during this past year. This money, along with that of many other members, helped the foundation complete a very successful year, in spite of the not-so-bright overall financial climate.

With assistance from APS Council, the foundation was able to provide a total of $36,100 in travel awards to 53 individuals to attend the Hawaii meeting. In addition, a new expanded brochure has been published that emphasizes the foundation’s goals and the many endowments that support its activities. I am particularly pleased to report that significant contributions from Milt and Nancy Schroth, Artie and Arra Browning, Jim Cook, Jesse Dubin, and others, totaling more than $77,000, were received during this past year. This money, along with that of many other members, helped the foundation complete a very successful year, in spite of the not-so-bright overall financial climate.

With assistance from APS Council, the foundation was able to provide a total of $36,100 in travel awards to 53 individuals to attend the Hawaii meeting. In addition, a new expanded brochure has been published that emphasizes the foundation’s goals and the many endowments that support its activities. I am particularly pleased to report that significant contributions from Milt and Nancy Schroth, Artie and Arra Browning, Jim Cook, Jesse Dubin, and others, totaling more than $77,000, were received during this past year. This money, along with that of many other members, helped the foundation complete a very successful year, in spite of the not-so-bright overall financial climate.

In partnership with the APS Public Policy Board (PPB), and in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the board, the foundation launched the PPB Founder’s Campaign with a reception in honor of the first members of the then National Plant Pathology Board: Jim Cook, Cliff Gabriel, Arthur Kelman, Luis Sequeira, Sue Tolin, and Anne Vidaver. This campaign is designated to raise funds for the APS Public Policy Endowment, which ultimately will support a senior APS fellow in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). (Read a first-hand account from the current PPB OSTP fellow, Mary Palm, on page 150 of this issue.) In addition, the campaign will assist with the activities of the PPB early career intern. I am very pleased to report that the initial launch of this campaign garnered $48,000 in commitments over the next three years from a number of APS past presidents and other members. The goal for this campaign is $100,000, and we hope it can be attained within the next year. If you are interested in helping the foundation reach its goal, please contact Jan Leach, PPB chair, or me for more details.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the APS Foundation by APS Council. It has come a long ways since its beginnings, but it still has a long ways to go to fully attain its goals. The foundation will soon be launching an anniversary campaign called “Building a Strong Foundation” in which members may help build the foundation wall by purchasing “named bricks.” More details to come later.

Last, I want to express my appreciation and that of the entire APS Foundation Board to several outgoing board members who have given many years of service to the foundation. A special thanks to Jose Amador, Sharon Douglas, and Kestrel Lannon for their outstanding service and dedication. I also welcome new board members, William “Bill” Dolezal, Barry Jacobsen, and Jonathan Jacobs. I look forward to working with each of them over the next year.

In closing, on behalf of the entire Foundation Board, I want to say thank you again to all of you who have supported the APS Foundation and believe in its goals. Together, we can make a difference and keep plant pathology and APS strong. BE an advocate. GROW plant pathology. GIVE today.