

# The American Phytopathological Society

## Office of International Programs

### *OIP Newsletter*

#### August 2001

Kitty F. Cardwell, Email: [KCardwell@srrc.ars.usda.gov](mailto:KCardwell@srrc.ars.usda.gov) & [kittycardwell@hotmail.com](mailto:kittycardwell@hotmail.com).

Tel: (504) 610 6906

Time has rolled around for another Office of International Programs (OIP) newsletter. This is fourth in the series since I accepted the responsibility from Gene Smiley. See all newsletters at the OIP website: [www.apsnet.org/members/oip](http://www.apsnet.org/members/oip). The program has been very active in 2001 and under the able leadership of Rick Bennett, many programs have come to fruition. More about those and other OIP news below.

On a personal note, big changes have occurred in my life since the December 2000 newsletter. In July of this year I bid a sad goodbye to Africa when I left the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture after over 12 years of service. Nevertheless, I will always have a keen interest in agricultural systems in developing countries and via avenues such as the APS-OIP I hope to continue to contribute in any way that I can. K.F. Cardwell, Chair OIP Education Committee



Rick Bennet

#### **From the desk of Rick Bennet, OIP Director**

It's been an exciting 12 months in international plant pathology. This year promises to be even more interesting. OIP Advisory Board members, through their specific disciplines in plant pathology, have been active in the global arena and are highly visible members of APS in the international community of plant pathologists. OIP continues to support pathologists from around the world through ongoing activities and several new initiatives summarized below. Please check the OIP website on the APS homepage for more information about OIP.

This is my last APS meeting as Director of OIP. Its been a rewarding 4 years for me personally, but its time to give someone else an opportunity to serve APS in this capacity. I'll continue to be involved in OIP activities and plan to be available when called upon. I'll never lose my interest in international plant pathology nor forget the friends I've made in OIP. I don't want to be evasive, but as of this date, APS Council is considering confirmation of the OIP Director-Elect who will be confirmed at the 2001 annual meeting.

#### **CURRENT OIP NEWS:**

**OIP Advisory Board Members:** Congratulations to the following on their confirmation by the Committee-on-Committees for another 3-year term to the OIP Advisory Board: Ed French, CIP, Lima; Jennifer McBeath, U. of Alaska; Greg Forbes, CIP, Quito; Randy Ploetz, U. of Florida; Lowell Black, AVRDC, Taiwan; Robert Zeigler, Kansas State U; Kitty Cardwell, USDA CSREES, Wash. DC; Bill Brown, Colorado State U.

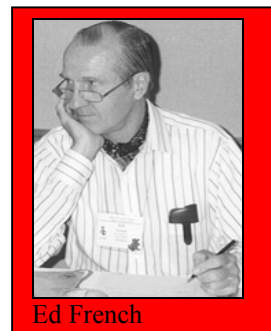
These members join current OIP Advisory Board members: Jim Steadman, Norm Schaad, George Abawi, Jesse Dubin, Al Paulus (ex officio-Foundation), and Steve Nelson, (ex officio-Headquarters). The OIP Director, with approval by the OIP Executive Committee, appointed several interested APS members to serve on OIP committees. They are: Frank Tainter, Clemson University; Don Huber, Purdue University; and Mohamed Badadoost, University of Illinois. These new committee members join current members: Lawrence Datnoff, Solke DeBoer, Tom Mew, and Dave Sands. For more information about the OIP, see: [www.apsnet.org/members/oip](http://www.apsnet.org/members/oip).

**JANE Award:**

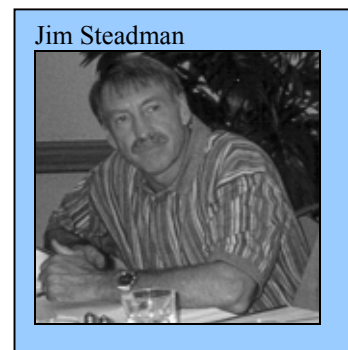
OIP received 17 proposals for the 2001 year cycle of the John and Ann Neiderhauser Endowment (JANE). This is the highest number of proposals ever submitted. The technical advisory committee (TAC) of the JANE recommended to Foundation that the proposal be accepted from PROINPA Foundation entitled, “Bolivian Genetic Resources for Sustainable Management of Potato Late Blight” submitted by Julio Gabriel. Foundation approved the recommendation, and awarded \$10,000 from the JANE to support this project. Annual reports submitted by previous JANE award recipients indicate the endowment is successfully supporting excellent research in plant pathology. For further information see: [www.apsnet.org/member/oip/jane.asp](http://www.apsnet.org/member/oip/jane.asp).

**OIP Support to the APS Caribbean Division:**

OIP sponsored two participants to the 2000 Caribbean Division (CD) meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Oct 31-Nov. 3, 2000. APS Council approved supplemental funding to OIP to support these participants. OIP was represented by Director, Rick Bennett, and OIP Board members, Jim Steadman and Ed French. The OIP booth was displayed at the CD meeting and was a focal point of interest by CD attendees. OIP also provided support to the 2001 CD meeting, which took place in Varadero, Cuba, June 11-15, 2001. Ed French represented OIP at this CD meeting, which was attended by approximately 150 pathologists from Cuba, other Caribbean countries and the U.S. OIP offered to co-sponsor the 2002 CD meeting in Guatemala.



Ed French



Jim Steadman

**APS Group Membership:**

In the hope to strengthen APS international connections, OIP promotes the APS Group Membership Plan. The Group Membership Plan is designed to facilitate access and attract pathologists in universities or institutions in developing countries. Under the plan, one membership fee can be used to register up to five pathologists employed by a governmental or non-governmental agency, or university in a developing country. The member who organizes the application will be the only one to receive the publications that come with the membership and will arrange to share them with the other members. Each member of the group is eligible for APS Press journals and books at reduced cost,

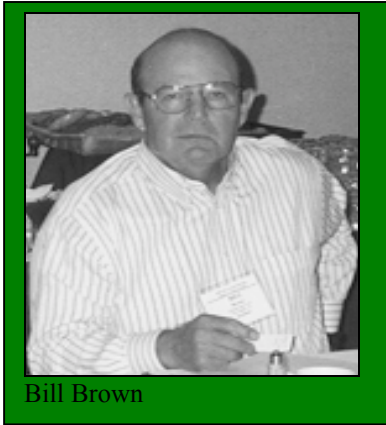
lower publication page charges, reduced registration costs for annual meetings and courses, and access to online journals at special member rates. Currently there are 56 Group Membership Plans in effect representing 8 countries. OIP is working with institutions in Cuba and other countries to expand the program. OIP also contacted a number of International Agricultural Research Centers of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to encourage participation in the plan. For more information about the Group Membership program, and to find an on-line application form see: [www.apsnet.org/members/oip/group.asp](http://www.apsnet.org/members/oip/group.asp).

**International Travel Fund for Early Career Scientists:** OIP and Foundation are implementing a new travel award. The International Travel Fund for Early Career Scientists is being established to assist pathologists from developing countries to attend APS annual meetings. The fund will be used to pay travel costs and registration fees for APS annual meetings. OIP is developing the guidelines to implement the program, which will be announced in the December 2001 OIP Newsletter. The first award is expected to be granted in 2002. Foundation is offering to match all funds raised by OIP up to \$22,500. OIP Advisory Board member Ed French made a significant pledge of \$10,000 to the fund. This gift ensures the fund will achieve its goal. Many thanks to Ed for his generous donation.

**OIP Booth and 2001 Discussion Session:** The OIP booth will feature a display of activities from the APS Caribbean Division in addition to the regular display of OIP programs and committees. As always, we expect the booth to serve as a central meeting place to visit with members interested in international pathology. Please make an extra effort to stop by often to represent OIP.

DON'T MISS the OIP discussion session entitled: "Importance of Plant Pathology in Global Trade," scheduled for Monday, August 27 from 2:00-4:30PM in room 251-F. OIP has an excellent group of panel members including: Dennis McGee, Iowa State University; D. Mathre, Montana State University; Bill Fry, Cornell University; and Bill Brodie, USDA-ARS. OIP board member, George Abawi will moderate. This is a timely and controversial topic, which is expected to receive a lot of attention at the annual meeting. Many thanks to George for organizing such a distinguished group of panel members.

**Threatening Pathogen List:** OIP is cooperating with an APS special ad hoc committee to assess the threat of non-indigenous plant pathogens to the U.S. The goal of this effort is to establish a list of non-indigenous pathogens, which are not currently inside the U.S. either because they have not arrived yet or have been eradicated but which still pose a significant threat. The list would be a valuable resource to regulatory and action agencies, and others interested in foreign plant pathogens. OIP will hold a special meeting to discuss this issue, scheduled at 10:30AM on August 29 (room to be announced) in Salt Lake City.



Bill Brown

**Library Assistance Program:** The OIP Library Assistance Program has been active in 2001. With Bill Brown spearheading the effort, journals have been donated by APS members and disbursed to several deserving institutions abroad. Cleo D'Arcy donated her APS journals to the Universidade Estadual de Norte Fluminense in Campos dos Goytacazes, Brazil. Larry Apple, North Carolina State University, donated his APS journals to an institute in Adana Turkey whose library was destroyed by fire. The U.S. Embassy in Ankara approved use of APO for shipping the journals and OIP agreed to pay shipping costs. Journals have also been

donated to OIP from Art Grybauskas, University of Maryland, who has been maintaining hard copies from the bookcase of Paul Steiner, who recently passed away. OIP is looking for suitable recipient libraries for Art's contribution. Kitty Cardwell made a gift of her collection of 15 years of Annual Reviews Disease journals to the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture on her departure from that institute. It is the most complete set of these reference materials available in Benin Republic.

OIP has developed a set of guidelines to offer APS journals CD-ROM. Developing country institutions that meet the criteria are considered to receive APS CD-ROMs at minimal cost. For more information about the library assistance program see: [www.apsnet.org/members/oip/library.asp](http://www.apsnet.org/members/oip/library.asp) or contact [wbrown@lamar.cdostate.edu](mailto:wbrown@lamar.cdostate.edu).

### **2001 APS Meeting Events**

**OIP Advisory Board Luncheon:** August 25, 2001, 12:00-1:30pm; Room 150-B

**OIP Open Meeting:** August 25, 2001, 1:30-5:00PM; Room 150-B

**OIP Discussion session:** August 27, 2001; 2:00-4:30 in Room 251-F

**OIP Advisory Board Breakfast:** August 29, 2001, 7:30-10:30am; Room 150-D

**Meeting announcement:** International Workshop on Dry Bean Rust and Common Bacterial Blight; 4 - 8 March 2002 Game Valley, near Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu - Natal South Africa. Contact: James R. Steadman [jsteadman1@unl.edu](mailto:jsteadman1@unl.edu) or Talo Pastor-Corrales [pastorm@ba.ars.usda.gov](mailto:pastorm@ba.ars.usda.gov) by September 1, 2001 to indicate interest in attending.

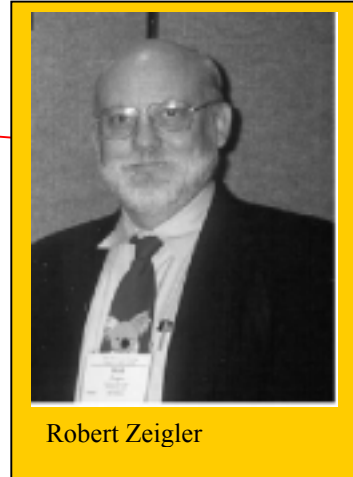
**International Plant Pathogens:** Some plant pathogens create a problem on an international scale. The first pathogen to be highlighted in an OIP Newsletter will actually be a weed, but it is also a parasite with an intimate host/parasite interface. *Striga* species are parasitic weeds that are stimulated to germinate by, and attach to the roots of their hosts. They parasitize during the below-ground phase of development and then emerge to produce 100,000's of seeds per plant. Because of the parasitic specificity, this weed problem is most often dealt with by plant pathologists. *Striga asiatica* was accidentally introduced to the USA in the 1960's where it spread and affected corn in close to 50,000 acres the Carolinas. Millions of dollars have been spent in the attempt to eradicate it.

David Sands gives us a whimsical view of this serious plant health constraint:

STRIGA

The seeds captured by a puff of wind  
escaped their primal pod.  
Scattering themselves on the fertile soil,  
then waited, quiescent in dormancy.  
Moved to germinate only on that velvet signal,  
endogenous clocks set in motion,  
Seeking, tubelike to their host,  
clasping, bent on parasitism.  
Tuned to synthesize only their own,  
never sharing,  
And never waiting, knowing that  
their host is in a terminal state.

**OIP Member Spotlight:** Who are the people that make up the Office of International Programs and why were they interested in joining the office in the first place? The OIP is for plant pathologists who have interest in international development and offer their services around the world. They come from within and outside of the USA and offer their expertise and experience whenever and wherever they are needed. There are many avenues by which international interest can be expressed and service given. So in each newsletter this space will be used to spotlight one member of the OIP to reveal and recognize their involvement.



Robert Zeigler

**Robert Zeigler** earned his B.Sc. from the University of Illinois in 1972, after which he joined the Peace Corps and taught high school science in a small school in rural Zaire. Upon his return from Zaire he married Crissan, and subsequently earned an M.Sc. from Oregon State University in Botany and Plant Pathology (Forest Ecology), then a Ph.D in Plant Pathology from Cornell University. Their first child, Nicholas, was born in Ithaca. His doctoral thesis was on the Super-elongation disease of cassava, with fieldwork conducted at the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) in Cali, Colombia. Following completion of his Ph.D., he moved with his family to Burundi, where he headed a small maize improvement program for about three years. Their second child, Claire, was born under the light of a full moon in a small rural mission clinic in Burundi (but, that is another story). In 1985 the family moved back to Cali to take a position at CIAT where Bob served as rice pathologist for seven years and as Rice Program Leader from 1986 to 1992. His research focused on rice hoja blanca virus, bacterial sheath brown rot of rice, and especially, rice blast disease. Their third child, Alison Rose, was born in Cali in the midst of some difficult times between the

government and the narcotics industry. In 1992 the family moved to the Philippines after Bob took a position as pathologist and Program Leader at the international Rice Research Institute. There his research focused on rice blast disease and he was able to test a number of hypotheses related to the nature of durable resistance and population structure and dynamics of the blast pathogen in traditional rice growing environments. The term "myco-tourism" was coined by jealous colleagues to describe his research in the Indian Himalayas. In 1999, the Zeigler family moved to Manhattan Kansas, after Bob took up the position of Head of the Department of Plant Pathology and Director of the Plant Biotechnology Center at Kansas State University. Most recently Bob is leading an effort to establish a Global Comparative Cereals Genomics Initiative to link US cereals genomics researchers to cereals improvement programs in International Agricultural Research centers.

### **UPDATE on OIP and other INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AWARDS**



**Lester W. Burgess:** is the OIP nominee for APS fellow in 2001 and will receive the award in Salt Lake City. Professor Burgess received his PhD in 1968 from the University of Sydney. He is currently Executive Dean, Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Sydney.

He has had a career-long research interest in the biology and control of soilborne fungal plant pathogens of temperate and tropical crops. The major research focus has been on the biology, mycogeography, taxonomy and pathology of *Fusarium*.

The research on *Fusarium* has involved collaborations with colleagues in the USA (Pennsylvania State (the late Paul E. Nelson) and Kansas State (Professor John Leslie) Universities. These collaborations have led to many research publications, major revisions of *Fusarium* taxonomy and the presentation of over ten training laboratory workshops on the identification of *Fusarium* species. Research on *Fusarium* has also included collaboration with colleagues in South Africa, Italy and Denmark as well as regular involvement with the European *Fusarium* Symposium.

Professor Burgess also has had a long-interest in the development of fungal plant pathology in S.E. Asian countries. This has included formal training at the postgraduate level of students from this region on AusAid Scholarships as well as intensive training through laboratory workshops, field survey training and master classes.

While Dean he has reorganised the overseas research and development program. This included the development of a special program of research training, across disciplines, for Vietnam where he has been collaborating in plant pathology development since 1992. This program has included intensive short courses involving laboratory and field training both in Vietnam and Australia as well as formal PhD and MScAgr programs. In addition, his group is involved in a major research and development project on fungal plant pathogens of fruit, vegetable, maize and coffee crops, funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. A wide range of diseases and previously unrecognized soilborne diseases has been documented during this project. He discovered the sexual state (*Gibberella moniliformis*) of *Fusarium verticilloides* for the first time in the field, in Vietnam and recently discovered the basidiocarp (*Atlelia*) of *Sclerotium rolfsii*, previously considered to be very rare in nature. Thus the collaboration with Vietnamese counterparts has led to a range of interesting scientific findings. His group is also assisting with the development of extension material (in Vietnamese) for farmer use, implementing a training

program for provincial crop protection officers and developing a CD-ROM on soilborne fungal diseases, with AusAid funding.

His group is also involved in a major research, development and training project in northern Sulawesi, Indonesia, again funded by ACIAR. This program similar to that in Vietnam is focussed on clove decline, vanilla stem rot and a range of diseases of vegetables and maize.

**Bob Zeigler:** Congratulations also go to OIP Advisory Board member, Bob Zeigler of Kansas State University (see spotlight) for being awarded the APS International Service Award for outstanding contributions in international agriculture. We look forward to working with Bob on many critical pathology issues around the world.

**Randy Ploetz, Chair, OIP awards committee:**

Congratulations to Bob Zeigler and Lester Burgess for their nominations and awards this year!

Bob was not considered by the Awards and Honors Committee in 2000 since the AHC read the guidelines for the award to exclude those who were not employed by an organization in their home country while conducting their work overseas. The OIP awards committee, i.e. Randy Ploetz, Rick Bennett and Kitty Cardwell wrote a concept letter to the AHC arguing that APS members who were employed overseas, such as in international institutes or agri-businesses, should also be considered. The petition was supported by Jacque Fletcher, Larry Madden and Neal van Alfen and accepted by the AHC committee chair Isaac Barash. Thus, Bob's candidature was successful and he will receive this honor this year at the APS meetings in Salt Lake City.

Please give some thought and input to OIP regarding other deserving APS members who should be nominated. **Send nominations to Randy Ploetz at:** [rcp@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:rcp@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu)