

**The American Phytopathological Society
Office of International Programs
OIP Newsletter VI
July 2002**

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As usual the members of the Office of International Programs have been active all over the world. Norm Schaad was in Thailand, Bill Jones has just returned from a month in Armenia, Jim Steadman and Talo Pastor-Corrales were in South Africa. Those are just the ones I know about. All of you keep me informed of your movements around the world. These are the important stories to tell! For my part, I am in a new position with CSREES in Washington DC as the National Program Leader for Plant Pathology. Although the mission of my office is primarily domestic, I was hired, in part, because of the global scope of my work. Since joining CSREES, I have had the opportunity to travel to Puerto Vallarta to see Sorghum Ergot, and to Ciudad Obregon to visit CIMMYT pathologist, Guillermo Fuentes and look at Karnal Bunt of wheat. In August 2002 I will travel to Costa Rica for one month on an Embassy Fellowship, to work with the Ministry of Agriculture on Biosafety and Biotechnology policy issues. SO – I am always on the lookout for stories about plant pathologists working in the international arena. If you're reading this newsletter, even if you aren't an OIP member (yet), this means you too! Kitty



2002 OIP Meeting in Milwaukee, WI



Gene received a plaque of appreciation from Rick Bennett for years of service to the OIP

Dr. Eugene B. Smalley, Dies

Ph.D., Plant Pathology, University of California - Berkeley -1957
M.S., Plant Pathology, University of California - Berkeley - 1953
B.S., Subtropical Horticulture, University of California - Los Angeles – 1947
Professor Emeritus, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin - Madison. He retired in 1994 after 37 years of service. He was former Chairman, Department of Plant Pathology (1988-9) and Associate Chairman (1990-1994). See a Eulogy by Luis Sequeira on page 5.

APS Office of International Programs (OIP)
George S. Abawi, Director

Annual Report to Council (2001 – 2002)

Below are brief summaries of the various activities that were addressed by OIP during the past year. A summary of these activities was also included in the Mid-Year report submitted to the APS Council in February 2002. OIP reports and the OIP Newsletter are available on the APS–OIP website: <http://www.apsnet.org/members/oip>.

OIP Standing Committees

The **Advisory Board** and its **Executive Committee, Policy & Program Committee**, and the three **Standing Committees (Education, Research and Service)** plan and conduct the various activities of OIP. It was suggested last year that the OIP Standing Committees would become more active and function more efficiently if they are to meet separately before reporting to the OIP Advisory Board during the annual APS Meetings. Thus, it has been arranged that the Standing Committees will be meeting separately in Milwaukee on Saturday, July 27 from 1:30-3:00 PM. Accordingly, the rosters of these committees will be discussed during the OIP Board Meeting in Milwaukee in order to eliminate any overlap of committee membership as well as to adequately staff each committee. The Standing Committees meetings are open, thus interested colleagues are welcomed to attend and participate in these meetings.

JANE Award

A total of 14 proposals were received for consideration for the John and Ann Neiderhauser Endowment (JANE) Award program. The Technical Advisory Committee of the JANE Award recommended and the APS Foundation approved the funding of the following three proposals for 2002:

1. Development of Late Blight Management Strategies for Resistance Potato Cultivars in Ecuador by P. J. Oyarzun, A. Taipe, and N. Hidalgo. Instituto Autonomo de Investigaciones Agropecuarias, INIAP, PNRT-papa (Funded for \$10,000). This proposal deals with controlling late blight through the implementation of IPM strategies. One of its objectives is the determination of the number of fungicides needed for effective control of late blight on recently released potato varieties with tolerance to late blight. The proposal will also investigate the possibility of timing fungicides applications based on accumulated rainfall as a threshold level. Experiments will be conducted in farmer's fields and in three production regions.

2. Bolivian Genetic Resources for Sustainable Management of Potato Blight by Julio L. Gabriel, et al. Fundacion PROINPA, Av. Blanco Galindo Km 12 1/2, Calle Prado s/n, P. O. Box 4285, Cochabamba, Bolivia (Funded for \$5,000). This proposal deals with collecting and conserving native potato germplasm. It also deals with characterizing such materials for resistance to late blight and other pests as well as agronomic traits. The proposed research is part of an on-going, extensive research and outreach project on native germplasm of potatoes and other crops by the foundation.

3. Characterization of *Pythophthora capsici* populations to improve disease management strategies by S. Fernandez-Pavia, Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias y Forestales, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hildalgo, Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico (Funded for \$5,000). This proposal deals with understanding the biology of the pathogen for possible use in designing effective management strategies. It also combines the use of traditional and molecular techniques in characterizing the biology of the pathogen populations from peppers.

International Travel Award Fund

Collaborative efforts between the APS Foundation and OIP have resulted in the establishment of the new "International Travel Award," which was made available for the 2002 meeting. This award provides up to \$2,000 to cover travel costs of early to mid-career scientists from developing countries to attend and participate in our annual meetings. Dr. Albert Paulus (Plant Pathology, University of California - Riverside; apaulus@ucr.ac1.ucr.edu) was appointed as the primary contact and the Chair of the committee overseeing the selection process for this award. Only two applications were received this first year and Miss **Zahra Saeed** (Dept. of Crop Protection, University of Khartoum, Sudan) was granted this travel award to attend the Milwaukee meeting. Building-up the principal for this award continues to be a high priority for both the APS Foundation and OIP. The Foundation has generously agreed to match up to \$12,500 in new gifts that OIP collects before June 2002. A letter requesting contributions from colleagues was prepared by OIP and published in *Phytopathology News* and sent to department chairs. New donations received to-date have totaled only \$3,072. This effort will be continued as well as making the necessary changes in the established guidelines and criteria for this award.

OIP Symposium – Milwaukee, 2002

The Policy & Programs Committee (Jesse Dubin, Chair, j.dubin@cgiar.org) has organized a symposium entitled "Plant Diseases Impacting Resource Poor Farmers in Developing Countries: Can They be Successfully Controlled" that will be presented on Tuesday afternoon (Aug. 30) at the APS Milwaukee meeting. The symposium is co-sponsored by OPAE and the Tropical Disease, Losses, and IPM Committees – APS. OIP has also co-sponsored the symposium, entitled "International Service in APS: Opportunities for Aspiring Plant Pathologists Abroad" being presented by the Graduate Student Committee. Presentation topics being considered for future meetings include 1) International programs on crop protection in developing countries: opportunities for strategic alliances, 2) Emerging diseases of international importance, and 3) International cooperation in plant pathology post September 11.

Library Assistance Program

This is a major activity of the Service Committee, which is coordinated by Bill Brown. The only limitation for OIP in providing various donated journals and books to deserving institutions in developing countries are the limited funds available for shipping. During the past year, two shipments each consisting of > 40-year issues of *Phytopathology*, *Plant Disease* and other donated materials were made to three institutions in Bangladesh. These were the National Agricultural University of Bangladesh (recently re-named as the "Bagobondu Sheik Mujibar Rahman Agricultural University"); the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute in Nashipur and the Haji Denesh College also in Nashipur. OIP paid for the shipping costs of both of these donations from its own budget. In addition, contacts have been made with pathologists at the various International Research Centers in an attempt to facilitate international distributions of the donated current monthly issues of pathology journals. Until recently, all the monthly-donated journals were shipped by AAAS free of charge.

OIP and APS-CD Collaboration

In 2001, the CD requested OIP to assist in seeking financial support for the publication of the abstracts presented at the CD meeting in Cuba. During the OIP Board Meeting in Salt Lake City a motion was passed to appoint a joint OIP-CD ad-hoc committee to address this issue. A committee was appointed in late November 2001 and consisted of Ed French (Chair), Jose Amador, Sharon Cantrell, Talo Pastor-Corrales, and Rick Bennett. The charge of the committee was to identify a long-term solution to the

publication of abstracts of the CD meetings. The committee was also requested to consider the identification of mutually beneficial and collaborative activities between CD and OIP. The full report of the committee is attached. The committee recommended that the abstracts for the Cuba and Guatemala meetings (2001-2002) be either published in *Plant Health Progress/Plant Management Network* or in *Phytopathology* at actual cost basis. The cost of publishing the abstracts for the 2002 CD meeting and beyond are to be covered by the establishment of special CD funding mechanisms (part of registration fee, donations, OIP contributions, etc.) and to be managed by a CD Fund Committee. The newly established "French-Monar Latin American Fund" will undoubtedly contribute greatly in solving this problem too.

OIP Newsletter and Booth

The latest issue of the newsletter was prepared and distributed by Kitty Cardwell (Chair, Education Committee) in late January 2002. This issue highlighted OIP actions and activities in 2001 and briefly summarized our on-going activities in 2002. Current and past newsletters can be found at <http://www.apsnet.org/members/oip/top.asp>.

The OIP booth at the up-coming APS meeting will highlight the activities of the International Tropical Research Center in Cali, Colombia (CIAT), especially the pathology program research and outreach activities.

APS Group Membership

Requests for the APS Group Membership plan is continuing. Since July 2001, there were 23 new members signed under this plan.

Milwaukee Symposia – Don't miss these

Lynn Sosnoskie (chair, Graduate Student Committee) reminds us that there will be a special symposium, cosponsored by OIP and directed towards the graduate students. It is entitled "***International Service in APS: Opportunities for Aspiring Plant Pathologists Abroad.***" This symposium will take place on Monday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. and will feature Drs. Karen Garrett, Kitty Cardwell, Rick Bennett, Luis Sequeira, Robert Zeigler and Isi Siddiqui discussing what it is like to live and work abroad, as well as the risks and benefits of seeking employment outside of the United States. Our speakers are diverse in their backgrounds and experiences, and each and every one of them has a unique story to tell....stories that I hope you will all come to hear. Who better to discuss international agriculture than persons who have made it such an important and intimate portion of their lives? A question and answer session scheduled at the end of the symposium will allow the students to interact directly with the presenters. Please take time to look over the attached copy of abstracts and seminar titles.

If you are particularly interested in international agriculture, please be sure to attend the OIP symposium entitled "***Plant Diseases Impacting Resource Poor Farmers in Developing Countries: Can they be Successfully Controlled?***", which will be presented on Tuesday afternoon.

Additional Activities or Plans

The Research Committee is involved in the preparation of a database on international interest of APS members, a database on new and emerging diseases restricted to developing countries, and the development of APS Member Sponsor program. The Service Committee is involved in preparing nominations for the various APS awards, survey of international APS members, and possible collaboration with OPAA.

Bye, Gene

As we advance in age, we get used to the all-too-frequent loss of friends and relatives, as we get closer to the front line. Yet, it is difficult to reconcile what is a natural process with the death of people like Gene Smalley who, by all measures of fairness, should have remained with us forever. His presence was important to his family, to his colleagues, to the University of Wisconsin, to his many friends all over the world, and, in particular, to OIP. Even at the risk of being guilty of hyperbole, I feel that Gene was the soul of OIP. His concern for the values of international collaboration for APS members was evident at all the OIP meetings he attended, and it was most of them ever since this Office came into existence. It was the intensity of his commitment to international programs in forest pathology, his concern for the terrible consequences of mycotoxins to the populations of the poorest countries of the world, his indefatigable efforts to publish articles and pictures depicting the activities of OIP for many, many years that remain in our memories of Gene. Above all, his sardonic sense of humor, which made many long OIP meetings bearable, will be missed for years to come.

When Gene died on March 25, 2002, at the age of 75 following a long and painful bout with respiratory problems, he was in the midst of preparing a book about his experiences in China, where he traveled extensively in search of elms resistant to Dutch Elm disease. It was a measure of the man that in the midst of intense pain he wanted to help younger colleagues by describing how, as one of the very few scientists allowed to travel in the interior of China at the time, he managed to collect important plant materials, lecture extensively, and influence reticent local colleagues to pursue international collaborations. That death came before he was able to finish the book is a great loss for all of us.

Much has been written about Gene's contributions to the science of plant pathology. After he joined the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin in 1957, he quickly became an internationally recognized expert on Dutch elm disease. The resistant materials that he released are now planted all over the world and serve as a wonderful memorial to his research. His publications on mycotoxins produced by fungi in hay and in stored corn, silage, etc. have led to significant solutions to nutritional problems with livestock.

It was as a colleague, teacher, and friend that Gene excelled, however. As a self-styled curmudgeon, Gene loved to provoke reactions from liberals and conservatives alike. His sense of humor was legendary and, in small groups, he was at his best delivering salvos against feminist groups, diversity in the workplace, the medical profession, the insurance industry, etc. only to watch the expressions among his audience. He didn't really believe most of his one-liners. The truth is that he was one of the most caring, sensitive individuals we have ever met. He will be sorely missed.

Luis Sequeira

THE POET'S PEN

STUDENTS by Dave Sands

When the sun goes down,
And the various birds streak across the sky,
Destination bound to some safe haven,
And Venus pokes her face through the twilight,
I try to take some time,
To see if my effort made a difference.
Not compliant with the zero sum,
I want intellectual progeny,
A finer kind of question,
And portent for a finer kind of answer,
Non-dilutable by generation,
Not-reduceable to consensic trends of the day,
But true brilliance,
Outshining Venus herself,
Emerging from a cold and windswept valley.

Meeting held:



SOME PEOPLE HAVE TOO MUCH FUN!

International Workshop on Dry Bean Rust and Common Bacterial Blight occurred 4 - 8 March 2002 Game Valley, near Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu - Natal South Africa. For info contact: James R. Steadman jsteadman1@unl.edu or Talo Pastor-Corrales

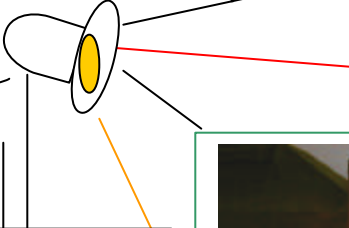
← Honorary Plant Pathologist (attended meeting)



Left to right: Mrs. De Ron, George Mahuku, Antonio De Ron, Deidre Fourie, Jim Steadman, Mark Brick, Talo Pastor-Corrales, Bob Gilbertson, Teresa Martinez, Marta Santalla, Jim Kelly, Andries Liebenberg. The plant pathologists are Mahuku, Fourie, Steadman, Pastor-Corrales, and Gilbertson.

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.



“The trip was from 12/12-12/22 and was sponsored by Royal Golden Jubilee Program of Thailand Research Fund. We have a Thai PhD student working on Citrus Canker detection. I demonstrated the use of portable real-time PCR for field diagnosis of citrus canker. Using a citrus leaf with canker lesions we collected in the field earlier that week we diagnosed canker in the lab by PCR in less then one hour, including sampling.”



Norm Schaad in Thailand

Norman W. Schaad is a Research Plant Pathologist (bacteriologist) with the USDA/ARS Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit, Ft. Detrick, MD. Prior to this he was head of Biotechnology, Harris Moran Seed Co. (1988-1992); Professor of Seed Pathology, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID (1982-1988); and Professor of Plant Pathology, University of Georgia (1971-1982). He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed papers, four books, several book chapters and several patents. He has organized or participated in several international workshops on detection of bacteria. Dr. Schaad has traveled extensively internationally and served as advisor for students from China, India, Thailand, Korea, Turkey, Greece, Brazil, Philippines, and Morocco. He has served as associate editor of *Phytopathology* and is currently an associate editor of *Seed Science & Technology* and associate editor of *Plant Pathology*. Research interests include molecular characterization, real-time PCR detection, identification, and taxonomy of plant pathogenic bacteria. Dr. Schaad received his BS (1964), MS (1966), and Ph.D. (1969) in Plant Pathology from the University of California, Davis.