Division News

APS North Central Division Gathers in South Dakota for 62nd Annual Meeting

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The 62nd Annual Meeting of the APS North Central Division, hosted by South Dakota State University (SDSU), met at the Grand Gateway Hotel in Rapid City, SD, June 6–8, 2010. Meeting attendees were provided a very thorough symposium, entitled “Safety and security of our agricultural systems.” This was followed by a poster session, student presentations, and an evening banquet. Thirteen students within the North Central Division received travel awards to offset costs in attending the meeting this year. Students were nominated by their department to attend the meeting. Student travel awardees included Kim Chapman and Adam Leonberger (Purdue University); Jafe Weems (University of Illinois); Anna Seidl (University of Wisconsin); Somwattie Pooran DeSouza, Suraj Gurung, Andrew Friskop, and Yen Wi Chang (North Dakota State University [NDSU]); Vivek Gupta, Yuba Kandel, and Prabin Tamang (SDSU); Qingxiao Meng (Michigan State University); and Nathan Bestor (Iowa State University).

The prestigious North Central Division Distinguished Service Award was presented to William Bockus, Kansas State University, at the evening banquet. Bockus was honored for his significant contributions to the region in wheat pathology research. Six graduate students received either an award for their poster or oral presentations. Oral presentation winners were Chapman, Purdue University, first place ($300); Friskop (NDSU), second place ($175); and Weems, University of Illinois, third place ($125). Winners of the poster competition were Chang, NDSU, first place ($300); and Seidl, University of Wisconsin, and Somwattie Pooran DeSouza, NDSU, second place ($150 each).

The 2011 meeting of the North Central Division will be hosted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and will be held in Omaha, NE, June 15–17, 2011.

APS past President Barb Christ presents the award to William Bockus.

Call for Applications for 2011 Storkan-Hanes-McCaslin Foundation Awards

The Storkan-Hanes-McCaslin Foundation Awards are named in honor of Richard C. Storkan, Gerald L. Hanes, and Robert L. McCaslin. Each had a long history of cooperation with the scientific community, and they were pioneers in developing effective soil fumigation through experimental research.

The foundation was established in 1987 to support graduate student research. To date, more than $351,000 has been awarded to 61 promising scientists. In addition to unrestricted cash awards (which range from $5,000 to $10,000 and can be used for any purpose that will benefit the education of the student, including personal expenses), new awardees will also receive round-trip fares to the 2011 APS-IPPC Joint Meeting and are presented their awards at a luncheon attended by their research advisors, previous awardees, and members of the Foundation Committee. The research for which the award is given is expected to be performed by the applicant during the academic year 2011–2012, and a one-page progress report is due one year from the date of the award. It would be appreciated if the foundation were acknowledged in research publications stemming from this award.

A major aim of the foundation is to encourage research by offering financial assistance to graduate students who are working on soilborne diseases of plants. The research must be done in the United States. The foundation’s policy is to contribute to the education of the student. Grants are made on a yearly basis and may be renewed upon review by the committee.

Applications must be received before May 1, 2011, for funding to begin September 1, 2011. Please submit six copies each of a short, two–three-page research proposal containing a concise statement of the objectives, methods and materials, and projected impact of the proposed research; a one-page resume (i.e., a brief education and research background, including a telephone number and e-mail address); and a letter (six copies) from the applicant’s major professor or research director. A budget is not required. Preference will be given to those proposals containing innovative, creative, and/or novel research approaches to the stated objective(s), and to the overall quality (organization, correct grammar, and spelling) of the written proposal. Send applications to A. Paulus, Chair Selection Committee, Storkan-Hanes-McCaslin Foundation, Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521-0122. If further details are desired, Paulus can be reached by e-mail (albert.paulus@ucr.edu) or by phone (+1.951.827.3431).