

# Pacific Division News



## President's Message

It was great seeing so many members of the Pacific Division at the 2011 APS meeting in Honolulu this summer! Our Division, with the largest number of members of any APS Division, its stable finances, diverse membership, and talented plant pathologists and graduate students, continues to remain strong. We are fortunate to have members who live and work in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. You can read more about the highlights of the 2011 Pacific Division meeting at <http://www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/pac/meetings/Documents/pn1011.pdf>.

Please note that your Division officers have made some updates to Pacific Division pages on the APS website (click 'Members' and then 'Divisions'); your feedback is most welcome.

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Alberta  
British Columbia  
Saskatchewan  
Alaska  
Arizona  
California  
Colorado  
Hawaii  
Idaho  
Montana  
Nevada  
New Mexico  
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## 2012 Pacific Division Meeting

Mark your calendar for **June 27-29, 2012**. Dr. W. Douglas Gubler from UC Davis is local host and organizer for the 2012 meetings to be held at the Embassy Suites in Sacramento, CA. Sacramento the capital city of the state and is located at the confluence of the Sacramento River and the American river in the northern part portion of the California's expansive Central Valley. It is sixth largest city in CA. There are 3 ways that guests can make reservations:

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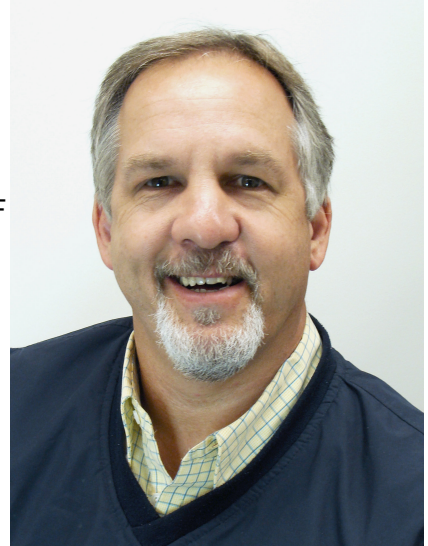
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## REPORT OF THE DIVISIONAL FORUM REPRESENTATIVE

Jim Adaskaveg

The Pacific Division ratified constitutional changes this summer in Honolulu which agreed with the ratified constitutional changes of APS, mainly the re-organization of council membership and the establishment of a new hierarchy of committees, boards, and forums including the Divisional Forum (DF). Thus, former councilors of the divisions became Divisional Forum Representatives (DFR) and one DF member, the Divisional Forum Councilor (DFC), sits on APS council. Some divisional members at the divisional business meeting criticized the new structure because the DFC was appointed by the forum and not elected directly to council, but the fact remains that all forum representatives are elected officials from each of the six divisions of APS. Councilors-at-large are also directly elected and sit on council. Furthermore, the inaugural DF is a highly functional office with very strategic responsibilities. One DF member is automatically on the Membership Committee (currently W. Elmer) and another member is on the Nominating committee (currently J. Rupe) of APS.



A major responsibility of the DF is to develop engagement plans for the divisions' membership. Thus, there is and will be clear and direct communication to APS Council about any concern or new idea from any member of the division or society through the DF or Councilors-at-Large. In the first meeting after the annual APS meeting, the DF met in conjunction with the Northeast Division annual meeting in New Brunswick, NJ, on October 12-14, 2011. Council-approved, divisional engagement plans were discussed as goals that the divisions will address to improve awareness and initiate recruitment of students into the discipline of plant pathology and ultimately into APS. The divisional engagement plans are to target programs in Education and Extension by: (1) increasing exposure of APS Divisions to high school students and teachers; (2) attracting promising undergraduate college students into the field of plant pathology; and (3) increasing awareness of members and students about private and public sectors of extension. For example, the North-Central division has focused on "Plan No. 1" by already approving a half-day, "Plant Pathology in Focus" session for high school students and undergraduates at their next divisional meeting at the Ohio State University in June 2012 to increase awareness of careers in plant pathology.

Another goal of the Divisional Forum was to participate in the annual Extension "Round-Table" discussions of the Northeastern Division. Major disease outbreaks over the last year were discussed for each state in the division. Not all the divisions have such a program and thus, the Divisional Forum participated to encourage other divisions to develop extension and outreach awareness amongst membership and possibly public sectors. Currently, the Pacific Division is also planning similar activities in both undergraduate recruitment and extension awareness at the next divisional meeting in Sacramento, CA, in 2012.

An annual APS Graduate Student Symposium proposal is also being developed by the Divisional Forum. This proposal aims to have the winners of the divisional student paper competitions participate in a symposium at the annual APS meeting. Monetary travel awards are planned to be established through the divisions. The objective is to showcase award-winning graduate students at the national level and to assist them in launching their careers. Discussions of permanent funding for this symposium are underway. Additionally, a discussion of the need for peer-review of meeting abstracts ensued. Several options are being considered to improve the quality of abstracts for future divisional and national meetings.

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## FROM THE DIVISIONAL FORUM- Co-Sponsoring a special session

Dear Division:

The **Divisional Forum** (DF) would like to co-sponsor a special session for the annual meetings for the Graduate Students with **Early Career Professionals Committee** and the **Graduate Student Committee**. This will be a **recurring** special session designed to showcase the top graduate students (M.S. or Ph.D.) from each of the six APS Division meetings. The chosen speakers will give a presentation of their research that won them top honors at their respective division meetings. Speakers will be allowed 20 minutes for their presentations, and this includes time for questions. This annual symposium will highlight some of the top students in the field of plant pathology and broaden the engagement and visibility of APS Divisions. We propose the following information and agenda for your division to consider.

The students will be selected for this honor at each of the divisional meetings. Each Divisional Forum Representative (there are six representatives, one for each division) will provide the name of ONE graduate student who will be selected to present as part of the annual symposium. Student presenters must be current members of APS. The name and the abstract of the student will need to be selected **BEFORE** the annual meeting submission deadline for abstracts (generally March 15 of the year of the meeting). Divisional meetings that take place **AFTER** the March 15 deadline (e.g., the North Central and the Pacific Divisions) will need to provide the names of students from the **PRIOR** year.

The DF is **requesting sponsorship** from each Division to fund the top students. Each division is being asked to be responsible for providing the funding necessary for their selected student. The division may choose to use funds from their current travel awards, graduate student awards, and/or create special funding. One possibility may be to provide only partial funding and request the remainder from the student's major professor and/or the department. Constitutional and/or by laws changes may be required.

The DF encourages each Division to act on this request so that a student can be selected and funded to attend the Graduate Student Award Symposium at the **2013 annual APS meeting in Austin, TX.**

### **Session Organizer(s) - Divisional Forum Representatives:**

David Schmale, Divisional Forum Councilor  
Lawrence Datnoff, Caribbean Division  
Tamra Johnson, North Central Division  
Wade Elmer, Northeastern Division  
James Adaskaveg, Pacific Division, DF Chair  
Dan Roberts, Potomac Division  
Timothy Brenneman, Southern Division

Signed

J. E. Adaskaveg,  
Pacific Division DF Representative



## Pacific Division Business Meeting

The APS Pacific Division met with both APS and IAPPS in Honolulu, HI, August 6–10, 2011. A business/awards meeting and student paper competition were the primary activities during this busy session. The slate of new officers include Past President Jay W. Pscheidt, President Debra Inglis, President-Elect hemis Michailides, Secretary-Treasurer A k if E s k a len, and Forum Representative Jim Adaskaveg. Constitutional changes were read and approved by the attending membership, making the Office of Councilor into the Office of Forum Representative.

Future APS Pacific Division meetings were discussed. The 2012 meeting will be held June 27–29 in Sacramento, CA. Local Arrangements Chair Doug Gubler will be securing the location at the Embassy Suites in Sacramento for 2012. After that, we will be meeting with the APS Caribbean Division in Tucson, AZ, on June 16–19, 2013. Arrangements Chair Judy Brown will be working on this location at the Westward Look Resort (<http://westwardlooktucson.com>) in Tucson, AZ, for 2013.

There were eight Student Travel Awards made (\$800 each) for attending this meeting. Awardees included Renuka Attanayake (Washington State University [WSU]), Deana Baucom (New Mexico State University), Kaityn Bissonnette (University of Idaho), Stephanie Heckert (State University), Dipak Sharma-Poudual (WSU), Stephanie Slinski (University of California [UC]-Davis), Cassandra Swett (UC-Davis), and Lydia Tymon (WSU). The student paper competition was spread throughout the meeting and students will be awarded at their individual institutions. Awardees included Jeremiah Dung (WSU, \$500)—first place; Swett (\$300)—second place; and Heckert (\$200)—third place. Discussion of future competitions at national APS meetings favored oral presentations if at all possible over poster competitions.

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APS Pacific Division Student Travel Awardees. Back row left to right: Cassandra Swett (UC-Davis), President Debra Inglis, Stephanie Slinski (UC-Davis), Kaityn Bissonnette (UI), Stephanie Heckert (OSU), Dipak Sharma Poudual (WSU), and Past President Jay Pscheidt. Front row: Lydia Tymon (WSU), Deana Baucom (NMSU), and Renuka Attanayake (WSU)

## Awards:

### Burrows Wins Outreach Award

Mary Burrows has received the MSU Excellence in Outreach Award. Individuals nominated for this award have made significant contributions to improving the quality of life for citizens of Montana. Following is a quote from one of her nomination materials: "Dr. Burrows is the model Extension specialist. She is able to bridge the divide between the scientific field of plant pathology and the growers managing crop diseases in adverse conditions."



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## Pacific Division Business Meeting *Continued*

The Pacific Division has several award categories and it is never too early to be thinking of possible nominations for these awards. Although we have an **Early Career Award**, there were no nominations this year. This year's **Lifetime Achievement Award** recipient was Dennis Johnson of WSU. He is most deserving of this award for his sustained record of working in a unique and demanding crop production system, research productivity, mentorship of many graduate students, and successful integration of research finding into effective and practical plant disease management outreach programs. The first recipient of the new **Distinguished Service Award** was Melodie Putnam. As she was on sabbatical this year, the award will be presented at the next APS Pacific Division meeting.

A special thank you to outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Juliet Marshall for all her superior help to the division for the last three years.

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## 2012 Pacific Division Meeting *Continued*

There are 3 ways that guests can make reservations:

- 1) Go [www.sacramento.embassysuites.com](http://www.sacramento.embassysuites.com). Make a reservation using group/convention code: **APS**.
- 2) Call 1-800-Embassy (8002-498-5237) and ask for the **APS - Pacific Division** discount rate.
- 3) You can e-mail the link to your guests or post it on your website:

[http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/S/SACESES-APS-20120627/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/S/SACESES-APS-20120627/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

Please keep in mind that all reservations must be in by **June 8, 2012**.

## Meetings

### **Meeting of the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Soilborne Plant Pathogens (formerly Soil Fungus Conference) and the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual California Nematology Workgroup March 20-22, 2012**

**Huntington Library, Art Collections, Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road San Marino, CA 91108**

Come and meet with colleagues from the western U.S. working on various aspects of soilborne fungal pathogens, nematodes and diseases- from the molecular to the applied. This meeting is very informal and loosely structured, allowing lots of time for discussions and interactions. We will have a garden tour on Tues. March 20 at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, with Dr. Martin Stoner. The garden will be closed to the public. The California Nematology Workgroup will meet on Tues. afternoon, March 20. We will have a social/dinner at the garden on Tues. evening. Research presentations will be on Weds, March 21 and Thurs., March 22. The focus of the Symposium will be Ornamental and Landscape Pathology, with speakers to be announced. We are also offering two student scholarships for \$500 plus free registration. The details are on the web site.

**Early registration deadline is March 1, 2012.** Registration and hotel information are on our web site: <http://soilfungus.ars.usda.gov>. Registration includes a social/dinner on Tues. evening and lunch on Weds. You can now pay by credit card at <http://soilfungus2012.eventbrite.com>. The payment will go through Google Checkout, a secure site, but you need to set up a free Google Account to do this. Whatever payment method, please send the registration form to Dr. Timothy Murray, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Rm. 345 Johnson Hall, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-6430 USA, or FAX to [509 335-7674](tel:5093357674), or send scan to [paulitz@wsu.edu](mailto:paulitz@wsu.edu).

Local arrangements: **Ole Becker** ([ole.becker@ucr.edu](mailto:ole.becker@ucr.edu)) or Antoon Ploeg ([antoon.ploeg@ucr.edu](mailto:antoon.ploeg@ucr.edu))  
Program Chair: Timothy Paulitz, USDA-ARS, Pullman, WA. [paulitz@wsu.edu](mailto:paulitz@wsu.edu)

**For more information, see <http://soilfungus.ars.usda.gov/>**

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### **First announcement of the XVII<sup>th</sup> Biennial Workshop on the Smuts and Bunts to be held in Shenzhen, Guangdong, China from July 9-13, 2012**

The smuts and bunts are important factors in reducing yield and quality losses in cereals and other important food, forage and fibre crops. Researchers working on the Smuts and Bunts have met biennially since 1976 in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe, to discuss important scientific and regulatory issues regarding smuts and bunts. During July 9-13, 2012, we will be hosting the XVII<sup>th</sup> Biennial Workshop on the Smuts and Bunts in Shenzhen, Guangdong, China.

The aim of this workshop is to promote scientific exchange, enhance research capacity and cooperation on smuts and bunts around the world, and discuss regulatory issues. The workshop will focus on biology, genetics, classification, risk analysis, technology of identification and detection, quarantine treatment and management. The new research progress about smuts and bunts will be discussed. This international workshop will provide a platform for exchange and sharing of knowledge, experience and research findings on smuts and bunts.

The cost of registration before June 15 is ¥2600.00 (RMB). After June 15, registration is ¥2800.00 (RMB). Registration includes the opening reception, breakfasts, lunches and dinners (July 10-13), a banquet, and the 1-day tour of Shenzhen. The workshop will be held at the Silver Lake Resort Hotel, Shenzhen. A block of rooms will be held until July 9 and the room rates are about ¥500 - ¥1000 (RMB) per night based on availability and room size. Registration for accompanying person not attending the scientific program (includes breakfasts, lunches and dinners (July 10-13), a banquet, and the 1-day tour of Shenzhen OCT East Park) is ¥2000.00 (RMB).

Additional details will be provided upon request. Please forward this announcement to interested colleagues! Organizers Wu Pinshan or Zhang Guiming ([smut2012@163.com](mailto:smut2012@163.com)) will be happy to provide additional information.

*From the president-continued*

This year's annual meeting, I personally enjoyed the graduate students who gave excellent oral research presentations and participated in the Pacific Division Luncheon and Business Meeting. Congratulations again to Student Travel Awards winners **Renuka Attanayake** (WSU), **Deana Baucom** (NMSU), **Kaityn Bissonette** (UI), **Stephanie Heckert** (OSU), **Dipak Sharma-Poudual** (WSU), **Stephanie Slinski** (UC-Davis), **Cassandra Swett** (UC-Davis) and **Lydia Tymon** (WSU), and especially to **Jeremiah Dung** (WSU), **Cassandra Swett** and **Stephanie Heckert** who placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, respectively, in the graduate student paper competition.

Please continue to **encourage students** to participate in the Pacific Division. Our upcoming 2012 Pacific Division Meeting will be in **Sacramento, June 27-29**, and is an excellent professional opportunity for students as well as for us. This year, undergraduate and high school students will also be invited to participate; watch for more information on the event soon. I thank **Doug Gubler**, **Themis Michailides**, **Jim Adaskaveg** and **Akif Eskalen** for their help in planning our annual divisional meeting, and very much hope to see you there.

Don't forget to read about **Nominations for Pacific Division Awards**. And, do take a moment to nominate a deserving colleague for an Early Career, Lifetime Achievement or Distinguished Service Award. The nomination process is straightforward and recognition can be very meaningful to both a nominator and recipient. 'To make a nomination, please see <http://www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/pac/Pages/Awards.aspx>. You can submit your nominations to me by **April 15, 2011** and I will forward them to this year's awards committee.'

Best Wishes for Your Continued Successes as Plant Pathologists. I am looking forward to seeing you in Sacramento in June!

**Debra Ann Inglis,**

Professor, WSU Mount Vernon NWREC [dainglis@wsu.edu](mailto:dainglis@wsu.edu)

*Report form the divisional forum representative Continued*

The DF is also developing recommendations to council to address concerns about meeting schedules when the annual APS meeting is held in the same geographical area of a specific division. Unfortunately, not all divisional constitutions are the same. Some indicate that they have a separate meeting at a different time (e.g., NC Division); while others forego a divisional meeting but retain the business meeting and incorporate papers into the national meeting itinerary (e.g., Pacific Division). Logistical problems have occurred with the latter situation with different calendar deadlines and concerns over student paper competitions at the divisional level occurring over the course of the meeting. Obviously, there are many pros and cons to any proposed solution but the DF is discussing many possible scenarios.

Lastly, APS Council has communicated with the DF through DFC David Schmale in an eight "Focus Topic Outline" in an effort to constantly improve the function of APS for its membership –

- 1) Maintain and improve efficient communication between council and leadership segments of APS.
- 2) Maintain the strong financial health of APS through conventional (e.g., its journals) and new innovative sources.
- 3) Develop new financial investments – report of the CIE (Committee on Innovation and Entrepreneurship) on new revenue streams.
- 4) Demonstrate the value of APS membership to current and future members – meetings, publications, resources.
- 5) Facilitate professional growth through mentoring opportunities and on-line resources on *APSnet*.
- 6) Ensure the future of APS by continuing to survey societal membership and its needs.
- 7) Foster ongoing and future international and inter-societal relationships.
- 8) Continue to improve the strategic planning ability of APS council with strong interactions with its boards, committees, and forums.

**J. E. Adaskaveg**

**Pacific Division Forum Representative and Divisional Forum Chair**



## New Hires.Travel/Misc.

### Postdoctoral Scholar Position Available

**DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** The emphasis of this position will be to develop methods to reduce aflatoxin contamination of tree nuts (**mainly almonds**). The primary causal agents of aflatoxin contamination in tree nuts in California are *Aspergillus flavus* and *A. parasiticus*, fungi with no known sexual phase. *Aspergillus flavus/parasiticus* are very infrequent fungi, but because the tolerance of aflatoxins in tree nuts is very low (5 to 15 parts per billion), aflatoxin contamination problems have become very serious in the last decade or so. The sources of contamination have been studied in pistachios in California, but not in almond. The person selected for this position will use traditional and modern molecular approaches to increase our knowledge of the risk factors and spatial patterns of aflatoxin contamination in almonds. At the same time, the candidate will participate in experiments to develop data on the displacement of *A. flavus/parasiticus* in an experimental almond orchard by using the biocontrol *A. flavus* AF36 that has been registered in cottonseed and corn. The ultimate goal of this position will be to understand the population diversity of aflatoxigenic fungi, sources, and conditions affecting infection of almonds, and biological control using the atoxigenic strain AF36 and other atoxigenic *A. flavus* strains through research efforts. The results will be used by the Almond Board of California to get registration of AF36 on almonds following the expected registration in pistachio.

This is a University of California postdoctoral position for which a Ph.D. earned within the last 4 years is preferred. This position is available immediately.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Recent Ph.D. in Plant Pathology or related Biological/Microbiological Science is required. Knowledge and experience with the filamentous fungi and/or utilizing molecular techniques in microbial ecology would be useful.

**LOCATION:** The position will be with the Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis, but will be located at the Kearney Agricultural Center. This is the largest, off-campus Agricultural Research and Extension Center owned by the University. The Center is located about 2.5 hours away from the main campus.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES:** This position is available immediately. Send curriculum vitae to: Dr. Themis J. Michailides, University of California, Kearney Agricultural Center, 9240 South Riverbend Ave., Parlier, CA 93648. Phone: 559-646-6546. Fax: 559-646-6593; or e-mail [themis@uckac.edu](mailto:themis@uckac.edu). **UC is an AA/EO Employer:** For more information about the Kearney Agricultural Center and my research, please go to the following links:

<http://www.uckac.edu>

<http://tjm.uckac.edu/Default.asp>