

# Pacific Division News

Fall 2009



## From The President

Dear Pacific Division,

We had another successful meeting in conjunction with our national society in Portland, Oregon on August 1 -5. First, I want to recognize the dedicated service of Melodie Putnam and Dennis Johnson. Melodie completed her three years of service as our councilor and Dennis completed his term as our Division President. It has been a pleasure working with both these individuals over the past year and I am sure I will be seeking their advice in the coming year. I also welcome Jim Adaskaveg as our new councilor and Jay Pscheidt as President Elect.

There are a lot of potential changes being proposed in regard to governance of our society that will impact how our division functions in the future – e.g. reducing the size of council from 25 to only 16 members and no longer having division designated councilors. I encourage each of you to examine the proposed changes in detail and let Jim Adaskaveg know your thoughts or concerns as well as any of the APS Officers. As a division, we are also making some changes. We will be moving to all electronic voting. Thus it is important that your email address is correct in the APS member directory. Changes can be made at <http://www.apsnet.org/members/update.asp>

(continued page 3)

Alberta  
British Columbia  
Saskatchewan  
Alaska  
Arizona  
California  
Colorado  
Hawaii  
Idaho  
Montana  
Nevada  
New Mexico  
Oregon  
Utah  
Washington  
Wyoming



### PRESIDENT

Walter F. Mahaffee USDA-ARS Corvallis, OR

[walt.mahaffee@ars.usda.gov](mailto:walt.mahaffee@ars.usda.gov)

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

Jay Pscheidt

Oregon State University  
[pscheidj@science.oregonstate.edu](mailto:pscheidj@science.oregonstate.edu)

### SECRETARY-TREASURER

Juliet Windes

University of Idaho  
[jwindes@uidaho.edu](mailto:jwindes@uidaho.edu)

### COUNCILOR

James E. Adaskaveg

University California, Davis  
[jim.adaskaveg@ucr.edu](mailto:jim.adaskaveg@ucr.edu)

### MEDIA-EDITOR

Akif Eskalen

Univ. of California, Riverside  
[akif.eskalen@ucr.edu](mailto:akif.eskalen@ucr.edu)

## Awards

The 2009 Pacific Division meeting was held jointly with the APS annual meeting in San Diego, August 1 –August 5, 2009. Lyndon Porter received the early career award. Eighteen students participated in the student paper competition. Nicholas Garber received First Place (\$500), Jeremiah Dung (\$300) received Second Place and both Laura Costadone and Evans Njambere received third place (\$200). Student Travel Awards were given to Ernesto Moya, Suman Mukherjee, Grant Poole, Hongyan Sheng, Fushi Wen, and Mohammad Yaghmour.

More information on page 2

## 2010 Pacific Division Meeting

Mark your calendars for June 20-23, 2010. We will meet in conjunction with the Canadian Phytopathological Society on the campus of the University of British Columbia. More information see page 3



## Nominations for Division Awards

Please send your Nominations for Early Career and Lifetime Achievement for Pacific Division members to Walt Mahaffee ([walt.mahaffee@ars.usda.gov](mailto:walt.mahaffee@ars.usda.gov)) by January 30. More information on page 2

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## Nominations for Early Career and Lifetime Achievement Awards

Nominees must be active members of the Pacific Division (e.g. attendance of division meetings). Nominations must be accompanied by a statement of no more than 2 typewritten pages, double-spaced, giving name, years and names of institutions granting degrees. A comprehensive vita that list description of the accomplishments and supportive citations or other material that qualify the nominee for the award should be also included.

**EARLY CAREER AWARD**, The award will honor a selected plant pathologist or nematologist belonging to the Pacific Division with 10 or fewer years of postgraduate experience and/or service. The award can be for a single outstanding contribution or for sustained significant and notable contributions to plant pathology in extension, research, teaching, or industry.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**: This award is given to senior members of the Pacific Division who have distinguished themselves by their contributions to plant pathology and service to the Pacific Division. The contributions may be in research, teaching, extension, or any other aspect of plant pathology in either an academic or nonacademic environment.

## Pacific Division Awards

The Pacific Division of the American Phytopathological Society honor several members at the annual meeting in Portland.

**Lyndon Porter** was awarded the Pacific Division Early Career Award (Fig. 1). **Ernesto Moya** (Montana State University), **Suman Mukherjee** (New Mexico State University), **Grant Poole** (Washington State University) and **Hongyan Sheg** (Washington State University), **Fushi Wen** (University of Arizona), **Mohammad Yaghmour** (University of California, Davis) each received a \$500 travel award to attend the meeting (Fig. 2). Student Paper Competition awards were presented to **Nicholar Garber** (first place, University of Arizona, not in photo), **Jeremiah Dung** (second place, Washington State University), **Evans Njambere** (tie for third place, Washington State University), and **Laura Costadone** (tie for third place, Washington State University). Cash awards of \$500, \$300, and \$200 were given to the winners for first, second, and Third,



**Figure 1** Lyndon Porter receiving the Pacific Division Early Career Award from Division president, Dennis Johnson.



**Figure 2.** Recipients of the Pacific Division Student Travels Awards. From left to right to Mohammad Yaghmour, Fushi Wen, Suman Mukherjee, Ernesto Moya, Grant Poole, and Hongyan Sheg.



**Figure 2** Recipients of the Pacific Division Student Competitions. Left to right: Juliet Windes (Secretary/treasurer), Dennis Johnson (Pacific Division President), **Jeremiah Dung** (second place), **Evans Njambere** (tie for third place), and **Laura Costadone** (tie for third place)

**From the President elect – continued**

Second, the division executive committee will start writing letters of support for one division member for each national award. If you going to nominate an individual from the Pacific division to one of the National awards please submit the nomination packaged to me by October 15, so the we have time to select the nominee that will receive the divisions support and get the letter of support back to you. We are hoping that by selecting only one member to support that the letter of support from the division will strengthen that nominee's package and result in more pacific division members receiving the awards.

It is never too early to start planning for the next meeting, Thus I ask everyone in the division to consider joining our fellow members from Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan in Vancouver, BC at the University British Columbia for the 2010 Joint Pacific Division meeting with the Canadian Phytopathological Society. In addition to great science, Vancouver has many interesting sites nearby and amazing scenery.

**Report of our Councilor - Melodie Putnam**

September, 2009

The governing body of APS assembled for its annual meeting in Portland, Oregon immediately prior to and during the APS meetings, July 31-August 5, 2009. Below is a summary of the highlights of the business of council.

**Finances**

APS closed the 2009 fiscal year with a deficit of around \$178,000. Total income was \$4,935,612 but expenses were \$5,114,759. The deficit was less than was anticipated given the down turn of the economy. All three journals and APS Press had an excellent year with substantial positive net revenues. Cash conservation measures implemented during FY09 had been projected to save approx. \$86,000. However, through considerable efforts by many groups, over \$152,000 in expenses were saved, which contributed substantially to the favorable net income from operations.

During the current budget year (FY10), cash conservation efforts being implemented are projected to save \$139,000 in expenses. A significant portion of these savings will come from reduced costs for food and beverage at the Portland annual meeting. In addition, Portland meeting attendance was budgeted in FY10 for 1100 attendees, but registration was closer to 1500. In FY10, journal prices were budgeted to increase about 8%, but the increase has been held to only 3%.

**Governance**

Council is the strategic governing body of APS. Council is undergoing an extensive evaluation of its structure to answer the question: What is the ideal structure for APS governance that will allow the society to evolve and thrive in the future? Council currently consists of 23 members. The current structure arose organically over time, and frankly, it is a mess. It is like a fruit tree that has been untended and now has more leaves than fruit. Representation of the various arms of APS is uneven. For example there are five council members who represent the publishing side of the society, yet the chair of the publications board is not a member. In the three years that I have been on council, two additional groups have asked to have their representative sit as a member of council. Because of the currently existing inequities in representation,

additional requests were anticipated. It was decided that, instead of continuing to add to the size of the body, the structure of council would be examined.

A few years ago council attempted to reduce its size, and at that time I was very much against the proposed change, largely because there seemed to be little concern with the impact on the divisions. This time around, council is very sensitive to the concerns of the divisions and is intent on making sure they are not minimized or marginalized. The details of how the divisions will interact with council have not been formulated, but the issue is being explored by people active in division leadership.

Some minor changes that do not require constitutional change are now being implemented and consist of things such as a reordering of duties of the officers in the presidential lineage (e.g. the President, President-elect, Vice President, and Past President).

Other proposed changes are listed below. Please keep in mind the structure I've shared here is a **DRAFT**, a work in progress. During the APS meetings this information was presented in various venues and there were many comments received. All of the feedback is being considered and *there will likely be changes that are not represented below*.

Briefly, the proposal is:

- The Council will be reduced in size from 23 to a total of 16:
  1. Vice President (one year term),
  2. President Elect (one year term),
  3. President (one year term),
  4. Past President (one year term),
  5. Treasurer (three-year term),
  6. Six (6) elected councilors (three-year term),
  7. Five (5) appointed councilors (three-year term),
  8. Executive Vice President (Chief Staff Officer).

The following groups will have a liaison to Council provided by an elected or appointed councilor:

1. Publications Board (Journals, APS PRESS, APSnet);
2. Scientific Programs Board (Annual Meeting Board and Auxiliary Meeting Board);
3. Public Policy Board (PPB);
4. Foundation;
5. Office of International Programs (OIP);
6. Office of Public Relations and Outreach (OPRO);
7. Office of Electronic Communications (OEC);
8. Office of Industry Relations (OIR);
9. Visioning Forum;
10. Membership Committee; and
11. 'Division Forum'.

The following new structures are proposed:

- A Leadership Development Committee
- A Membership Committee .
- A 'Division Forum' that focuses on all things related to the Divisions.



Council's process of self examination is not yet complete. Once the details of the proposal have been shaped into their final form, those pieces that require a constitutional change will be presented to the membership for a vote. Right now is the time to voice your opinions and concerns.

APS is a member driven and member ruled society. The potential reorganization is meant to be an inclusive process, but your concerns cannot be considered if you don't speak up. I encourage you to convey your thoughts on APS governance to Jim Adaskaveg ([jim.adaskaveg@ucr.edu](mailto:jim.adaskaveg@ucr.edu)), who assumed duties as the Pacific Division councilor as of the end of the Portland meeting. In addition, any of the APS leadership (see <http://www.apsnet.org/directories/council.cfm> for a list of officers) are available to hear your constructive suggestions or thoughts on the proposal.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melodie Putnam  
Immediate Past Pacific Division Councilor

## Classifieds

### Upcoming Meetings

**2010 Pacific Division Annual Meeting** the 2010 annual meeting will be held in junction with the Canadian Phytopathology Society on the campus of the University of British Columbia. June 20-23, 2010. in Vancouver, British Columbia Canada. Jay Pscheidt ([pscheidj@science.oregonstate.edu](mailto:pscheidj@science.oregonstate.edu)) will be the lead organizer for our division and Tom Forage is the lead organizer for the meeting. When available more information can be found at [www.cps-scp.ca/meetings.shtml](http://www.cps-scp.ca/meetings.shtml).

**Western Disease Conference** The annual Western Disease Conference will be held January 12-14, 2010 at Downtown Portland Hilton, Portland, OR. The Western Disease Conference is designed to bring together plant disease professionals to promote the science of plants and plant related problems. More information can be found at <http://wdc.agsci.colostate.edu/>

**Phyllosphere 2010** the 9th International Symposium on the Microbiology of Aerial Plant Surfaces will be held at the campus of Oregon State University from August 14-18, 2010. The meeting seeks to bring together researchers from the plant and the microbial side and will include the areas of aerobiology, anatomy, bacteriology, biochemistry, biological control, micro-meteorology, mycology, plant physiology, plant pathology, and molecular biology in order to further our understanding the ecology of foliar plant surfaces in both aquatic and terrestrial environments. See <http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/phyllosphere2010/> for more information.