

2013 Meeting Highlights

Joint Meeting APS Caribbean\Pacific Divisions



Incoming APS-PD President, Judith Brown, and Outgoing President, Themis Michailides

Scientific Events

The scientific events included three plenary presentations: i) Aflatoxin Biocontrol: First Arizona, then the World, ii) Diagnostics for newly emerging pathogens affecting ornamental nurseries and landscapes in the Caribbean: potential threats for the U.S., and iii) Caribbean pathways for invasive pathogens: perspectives and actions from Puerto Rico.

The meeting also included three symposia, i) Emergent Pathogens-*Liberibacter* species, ii) Grape and Tree and Nut Diseases, and iii) Tropical Plant Diseases: Etiology, Spread, and Management; and 20 oral presentations and 15 posters. Collectively, more than 50 presentations were made during these events.

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Words from Themis Michailides

This year's meeting was a major success! A lot of the credit goes to Judy Brown and her crew who have done a terrific job in selecting the location of the meeting, soliciting and choosing the subjects for the plenary talks, soliciting speakers for the Symposia, and organizing the various sessions of the abstract presentations and the poster session.

Also, I would like to thank Drs. Jim Farrar and Lawrence Datnoff who served as chairmen and the members of the Travel Award and Student Paper Competition Award Committees. I truly appreciate the help of four anonymous members who helped with the evaluation of the Life Achievement Award selection and the selection of the President Elect candidates. Definitely, I do not want to forget Mrs. Cindy Scheller at the APS Headquarters whose efforts and timely responses to Judy's and my questions made our job easy and pleasant.

It was very pleasing to see that five of the major chemical industries sponsored our meeting with very generous monetary donation. I truly appreciate this financial support by the BASF, Bayer Crop Science, DuPont Company, Syngenta, and Valent. At last but not least, I thank all the speakers, session chairs, presenters, and participants in the 2013 Joint Meeting of the Caribbean & Pacific Divisions. Let us do this again some time in the future!"

Graduate Student Oral Competition Awards and Travel Awards



Nicholas Garber (right), First Place Winner receives a certificate from APS-PD President, Themis Michailides (left)



Lydia Tymon (right), recipient of a Student Travel Award and Second Place Winner is congratulated by APS-PD President, Themis Michailides (left)

Three students were selected as winners of the Student Paper Competition. The first place winner (\$500) was **Nicholas Garber**, University of Arizona (mentor **Dr. Peter Cotty**), who presented on “Host colonization affects community composition of aflatoxin-producing fungi in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.” The second place winner (\$300) was **Lydia Tymon**, Washington State University (mentor **Dr. Dennis Johnson**), who spoke on “Fungicide resistance of two *Alternaria* species to azoxystrobin and boscalid in the Columbia Basin.” **Soumyadip Kundu**, NM State University (mentor **Dr. Soum Sanogo**) was the third place winner (\$200), and presented on “Peduncular and seed infection in chile pepper by the plant pathogenic fungus *Verticillium dahliae*.”

Recipients of Travel Awards included **Lydia Tymon** from Washington State University, **Soumyadip Kundu** from New Mexico State University, and **Diego Viteri** from University of Idaho.



Left Picture. Soumyadip Kundu (right), recipient of a Student Travel Award and Third Place Winner is congratulated by APS-PD President, Themis Michailides (left)



Right Picture. Diego Viteri (right), recipient of a Student Travel Award is congratulated by APS-PD President, Themis Michailides (left)

Lifetime Achievement Award

Gary Chastagner was the recipient of the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award. He was presented with the award by Debbie Ann Inglis (past President APS-PD).



Debbie Ann Inglis (past President APS-PD) announcing **Gary Chastagner** as the recipient of the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award, with outgoing President **Themis Michailides** (right) and incoming President **Judith Brown** (Left)



A crowd from Washington state. From left: **James Crosslin**, USDA-ARS in Prosser; **Dennis Johnson**, incoming President **Judith Brown**; past President **Debbie Inglis**; Lifetime Award Winner **Gary Chastagner**; and **Lydia Tymon**, Second Place Winner in the Graduate Student Presentation Competition.

Business and Executive Meeting

At this At this meeting several issues were discussed; a more detailed description of the issues are presented in the minutes of the meeting that are available at the APS Pacific Division site (<http://www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/pac/meetings/Pages/default.aspx>).

2014 Pacific Division Meeting

Scheduled for **July 9-11, 2014 in Bozeman, MT.**
Yellowstone Park is only about an hour away!

