Milwaukee Meeting Taking Shape

The 2002 annual meeting in Milwaukee will offer enticing program sessions to meet a variety of needs. Jacque Fletcher and the Program Planning Committee have coordinated a program schedule that includes such timely APS committee-sponsored topics as “Plant Pathology: Extension and Teaching at a Distance,” “Molecular Marker Techniques and Their Use in Breeding Programs,” “Creating the Right Environment for Biological Control of Soilborne Disease,” “New Applications of Statistical Tools in Plant Pathology,” “RealTime PCR for Field Diagnosis of Bacterial Diseases,” “Genomic Approaches for Studying the Mechanisms of Host–Pathogen Interactions,” and “Surface Interactions and Biofilms of Plant-Associated Microbes.” In addition, there will be workshops and discussions on “Statistical Epidemiology,” “Applications of Commercial Bio-pesticides,” and “Innovative Methods in Seed Pathology.” The Turfgrass and Forest Pathology committees will hold one- and two-day field tours, respectively, prior to the meeting. In addition to committee-sponsored sessions, the Program Planning Committee is responding to committee-sponsored sessions, the respective, prior to the meeting. In addition, the committee-sponsored session on “Creating the Right Environment for Biological Control of Soilborne Disease,” organized by N. T. Keen, University of California-Riverside, will be a wonderful job of interacting with key congressional and industry people, and in conjunction with efforts by other scientific societies, research funding may improve. For more information on PPB’s recent activities visit www.apsnet.org/members/ppb. As usual in such complex situations, communication is a key issue. To that end, I am planning to focus the Plenary Session at the Milwaukee meeting on the bioterrorism issue as well. I think it is fair to say we have not heard the last of this from APS.

Another area of activity in APS is the Public Policy Board (PPB), chaired by O. W. Barnett. The board has been extremely active in recent years and has benefited greatly from the addition of Kellye Eversole as our Washington, DC, liaison. One area in which PPB has been particularly active and successful is shaping funding in the agricultural area, particularly as it applies to plant pathology. I don’t need to tell you that ag funding at the federal level has been a chronic, worsening problem over the last 10 years or more. According to NSF figures, the percentage of federal research funding going to agriculture dropped from 4.2 to 2.8% from 1982 to 1998. During the same period, NIH and NSF have advanced like gangbusters. Turning the ag situation around, however, will not be easy, since it involves interactions between a complex of agencies and constituencies, including farmers and farmer/commodity groups, scientific groups such as ours, state experiment stations, the USDA and its various parts, the Office of Management and Budget, and, of course, Congress. To understate the situation, these various groups do not always see eye-to-eye and indeed frequently march in opposite directions, particularly as concerns support for competitive grant funding in agriculture. The Public Policy Board is doing a wonderful job of interacting with key congressional and industry people, and in conjunction with efforts by other scientific societies, research funding may improve. For more information on PPB’s recent activities visit www.apsnet.org/members/ppb. As usual in such complex situations, communication is a key issue. To that end, I am planning to focus the Plenary Session at the 2002 Milwaukee meeting on the issue of funding for agricultural research. It is our hope to bring together key congressional, USDA, industry, and policy people to frankly discuss the failure of the country in recent years to adequately support agricultural research, especially competitively awarded funding.

Some time ago, APS Council studied governance of APS with the view of assessing whether council representation reflects the membership of the society and provides adequate access to council by various groups of members. Council has evolved greatly in recent years from a body dealing with minutia to a body more involved in policy making, long-term planning, and most
Message from the APS President continued from cover

of us agree that this makes good sense. The business of running the society has largely devolved to talented boards and committees that are expert at their particular activities. Larry Madden chaired an ad hoc committee that carefully studied this governance issue, particularly as it concerns council representation and concluded that in several ways council membership as currently constituted does not coincide with our extant membership patterns. The report issued by Madden in summer 2001 has been widely circulated and has engendered considerable discussion within the society, certainly a healthy thing. (To review a copy of the report go to http://www.apsnet.org/members/gov/ and click on the third link “Governance Report.”) I have appointed APS Vice President Gary Bergstrom as chair of an ad hoc committee to further discuss the issue of APS governance, solicit member opinions, and offer its own conclusions. It is my hope that by the Milwaukee meeting this year we will be in a position to have adequately solicited member opinions on the issue and to consider putting a constitutional proposal to membership via a formal ballot. I encourage members to make their views known on the issue of governance and to participate fully in these discussions. The underlying theme here is that it is imperative to make APS and the council as representative of our membership and members’ interests as possible.

Another item that I want to bring to the attention of membership is Plant Health Progress, which can be found at www.planthelathprogress.org. APS recently launched this groundbreaking Internet publication that promises to revolutionize access to information on applied plant health. Several other scientific societies have joined in supporting the journal. Experts can publish papers extremely rapidly that deal with all aspects of plant health, and these will have as much and likely more impact than papers published in hard-copy form. The rapid access to papers published in Plant Health Progress will be an exceedingly valuable resource for plant health clinicians in the field. I encourage members to subscribe to Plant Health Progress and to encourage your state ag experiment station to subscribe. This is the wave of the future, and APS is proud to be the pioneer.

Finally, I must make a pitch encouraging you to attend the APS Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, July 27–31, 2002. Milwaukee is a great, centrally located city, the center looks like it has excellent facilities, and of course, you might want to partake of the local suds and brats. The Meetings Board chaired by Jacque Fletcher is arranging an excellent program, one highlight of which will be a special session on bioterrorism as it applies to agricultural crop security. For details on the meeting go to http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/2002/.

The History Behind Virology: A Biological Excursion

Karen-Beth G. Scholthof, Texas A&M University

At the recent Salt Lake City APS annual meeting, geographically challenged participants went on a field trip to discuss historical and contemporary issues in plant pathology with a special emphasis on virology. The high point (10,000 ft) of the excursion to the Lone Peak Wilderness Area of the Wasatch Mountains was a picnic at Upper Red Pine Lake. The dizzying tranquility inspired scholarly exclamations such as “wgaafa.” Fortunately, it was all downhill (to the Blue Iguana) from there!
Diseases, weeds and insects limit potential production of major food and cash crops by an estimated 40+ percent. Improved crop protection programs should be a global priority option to provide the food/fiber needs for a growing world population. IAPPS is a global network committed to enhancing communication and integrating the plant protection sciences. Members receive:

- an electronic version of the peer-reviewed, *Crop Protection Journal*, plus a reduced subscription rate of $50 annually for the print version (optional);
- reduced registration fees for the International Plant Protection Congresses;
- and the opportunity to take part in collaborative programs among researchers, extension specialists, growers, policy makers, and environmental and other groups at IAPPS’ eight regional centers.

Annual memberships are $50 for scientists from developed countries and $35 for scientists from developing countries.

You may join and pay dues by credit card or check through the IAPPS Web site at [http://www.plantprotection.org](http://www.plantprotection.org). For more information, write the IAPPS Secretary General at j_apple@ncsu.edu.

### Northeastern Division Meets with Potomac Division in Cromwell, CT

Suha Jabaji-Hare, Vice President APS Northeastern Division, McGill University

The 61st annual meeting of the Northeastern Division was held jointly with the Potomac Division October 17–19, 2001, in Cromwell, CT. Wade Elmer (Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station) headed up the local arrangements. The meeting included 43 paper presentations, as well as a number of special events enjoyed by the 92 registrants. An educational forestry tour on chestnut blight research (led by Sandra Anagnostakis) and a Jurassic trip to Dinosaur State Park (led by Richard Kreuger, an environmental educator with the park) preceded the traditional meeting of extension and industry that was chaired by Steve Johnson and Brent Lackey. At the conclusion of the industry portion of the meeting, Chris Becker was presented a plaque by Margery Daughtrey for his exemplary service to the Northeastern Division of APS. The team of students and researchers nicknamed “Quebec Hybrids” won the phytopathological “Jeopardy” style game hosted by Richard Belanger and Margery Daughtrey during the social.

A symposium on “Strategies for Sampling Plant Pathogens” organized by Peter Oudemans and a “Molecular Biology Keynote Address” by APS President Noel Keen were the highlights of the meeting. Ameena Nalim of Pennsylvania State University won the Graduate Student Paper Competition with her flawless presentation, “Molecular Phylogenetic Analysis of *Fusarium avenaceum* from Liatlhus,” coauthored by D. M. Geiser, W. H. Elmer, R. J. McGovern, and B. K. Harbaugh. Martin Filion of McGill University, was the runner-up for the award.

Richard Belanger presented the Award of Merit on behalf of the division: Stephen Johnston of Rutgers University was acknowledged for his significant accomplishments in vegetable disease management. Margery Daughtrey presented a plaque to Division President Bruce Clarke, recognizing his service. Bryan Lizotte, a local magician, provided banquet entertainment.

On the last day of the meeting, 220 registrants, of whom 185 were local growers, attended the industry seminar on “Diseases of Herbaceous Perennials,” which was organized jointly by Leanne Pundt from the Connecticut Cooperative Extension and NEDAPS/Potomac APS.

The new officers of the Northeast Division for 2002 are: Margery Daughtrey, President Suha Jabaji-Hare, Vice President Gary Moorman, Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Christ, Division Councilor Margaret McGrath, Councilor-Elect and Barb Christ (Division Councilor).
Outreach

APS Shares Plant Pathology Message with Garden Writers

The Office of Public Affairs and Education (OPAE) recently funded an APS exhibit at the Garden Writers Association of America (GWAA) annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, November 2001. The primary goal was to increase awareness of plant pathology with garden writers focusing on who we are and how we can help them with their plant disease questions. The exhibit poster “Got sick plants? Talk to a plant doctor today” caught the attention of many participants. Cindy Ash represented APS at the booth and dressed the part of a plant doctor with green scrubs for pants and a white lab coat. In addition, relevant press releases, a list of useful tools on APSnet, related compendia, APS Press book catalogues, membership information, and Plant Health Progress information was on display.

Traffic to the booth was brisk and attendees were interested in plant pathology information. According to Ash, “It was a real shock to learn that no one had ever heard of our society and very few had ever talked to a plant pathologist to get information on diseases for their columns, books, and television or radio shows.”

OPAE will be evaluating the success of this event and plans to continue its efforts to reach out to garden writers as a target audience. APS members are encouraged to forward ideas and comments on garden writer interactions to OPAE Director, Greg Tylka (gtylka@iastate.edu).

OIP Requests Support for New International Travel Award

George Abawi, OIP Director, Cornell University, NYSAES

Recent collaborative efforts between the APS Foundation and the Office of International Programs (OIP) have resulted in the establishment of the new International Travel Award. The announcement on the availability of this award, its specific guidelines and criteria, and the application process can be found in the November 2001 issue of Phytopathology News (Vol. 35(11):148) and on APSnet at www.apsnet.org/members/oip/travel.asp. Briefly, this award will provide up to $2,000 to cover travel costs of early- to mid-career members of APS from developing countries to attend and participate in our annual meetings. Dr. Albert Paulus (Department of Plant Pathology, University of California-Riverside; apaulus@ucr1.ucr.edu) has been appointed as the primary contact and chair of the committee overseeing the selection process for this award.

This travel award will be offered for the first time in 2002 with assistance from the APS Foundation. Since future awards are to be made from the interest of the International Travel Award Fund, building up the principal for this award to a minimum of $45,000 is 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. Obviously, the number of travel awards that will be offered per year depends greatly on the size of the endowment established.

The International Travel Award is truly a win-win situation for all. The award will recognize and assist deserving plant pathologists at a relatively early stage in their career and enable them to attend our annual meetings in cases where this would not normally be possible. It will also enrich our meetings by allowing the recognized scientists to present their research results and introduce our members to important international plant pathology issues and needs.

More than ever, awards of this type enhance the international understanding and cooperation so urgently needed in today’s world. Thus, on behalf of the OIP Advisory Board, I would like to request that you support the International Travel Award by sending your charitable/tax-deductible contributions to the APS Foundation as soon as possible. Please mark “International Travel Fund” on the check. Send donations to: APS Foundation, 3340 Pilot Knob Road, St. Paul, MN 55121-2997 USA. Donations can also be made by credit card; contact APS at 651.454.7250 for details.

Thank you in advance and please let me know if you have any questions or if you need additional information.

Best Student Membership Offer Ever! Help Us Get The Word Out

Thanks to the generous support from the APS Foundation and several regional divisions, APS is currently offering students who have never been APS members a two-year membership for the price of one year, plus a FREE two-year subscription to an APS online journal of their choice. Students are the future, and by helping provide them with financial support early in their career, we can make it possible for them to join the growing body of plant health scientists who are members of APS. Encourage students you know to take advantage of this limited-time offer. Applications can be downloaded at www.apsnet.org/members/studentapp.pdf. If you prefer, you can give us their name and contact information, and we’ll send them everything they need to join; simply forward names to Iva Greenlee at igreenlee@scisoc.org or call 651.994.3818. This offer is for a limited time only, so pass along the information as soon as you can. And thank you for your continued support!
8th International Verticillium Symposium Held in Cordoba, Spain

Deborah Fravel, USDA-ARS

The 8th International Verticillium Symposium was held in Cordoba, Spain, on November 5–8, 2001. The meeting was attended by 100 scientists from 14 countries. Eighty research papers and posters were presented on topics ranging from molecular, genetic, and biological characterization of Verticillium spp.; host–parasite interactions and disease resistance; ecology, epidemiology, inoculum detection, and disease; microbial agents and biocontrol; and cultural, chemical, and integrated control of Verticillium diseases. In addition to the scientific program, participants enjoyed many local attractions, including a tour of the historic mosque in Cordoba and an olive oil-pressing factory. The International Steering Committee consisted of Matteo Cirulli, Deborah Fravel, James Heale, Rafael Jiménez-Diaz, Yaacov Katan, George Lazarovits, Avi Nachmias, Mary Powelson, Randall Rowe, Aad Termorstuizen, and Eris Tjamos. Local arrangements were made by Rafael Jiménez-Diaz. The next meeting will be in 2004 in the United States. ©

Important APS Dates

February 2002
1 Postmark for APS International Travel Award www.apsnet.org/members/oip/travel.asp
8 APS Officer Nominations Due www.apsnet.org/members/nomination.asp

March 2002
1 Student Travel Award Application Deadline. www.apsnet.org/members/foundation/travelgrant.asp
15 Poster Presentation Abstracts Due for Milwaukee Annual Meeting www.apsnet.org/meetings/2002/

Milwaukee Meeting continued from cover to APS members’ wishes for information and perspectives related to plant pathogens as potential agents of agroterrorism and is planning a special session in Milwaukee to address these issues. Registration materials will be mailed in early April to members, exhibitors, and others on our mailing list. See our website at www.apsnet.org/meetings/2002 for contact and frequently updated information. ©
The Doctor of Plant Medicine Program at the University of Florida: Year Two

George Agrios, University of Florida

The Doctor of Plant Medicine (DPM) Program, begun at the University of Florida in the fall of last year (2000), already has 29 doctorate students enrolled as of fall 2001, and more students are applying for admission in the spring semester of 2002. There are as many men as there are women in the program. By far most students are from the United States. Only two are international: one from Jamaica and one from India. The domestic students come from Florida as well as from other states, including Georgia, South Carolina, Delaware, New York, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Arkansas, Iowa, Texas, and California.

The backgrounds of students enrolled in the DPM program vary considerably. Most of them have a B.S. degree in biology, agronomy, horticulture, entomology, or microbiology, but several of them came in with a M.S. degree in entomology, plant pathology, or plant protection. Although DPM students do not have to do research on a major project or write a thesis or a dissertation, they do have to take 90 credits of graduate courses and 30 credits of internship (practical training) to graduate. Students coming in with a M.S. degree may be given up to 30 credits toward graduation with a DPM degree.

DPM students take courses in the various plant production and plant protection departments of the University of Florida. The courses are selected among those that teach and train students to become generalist practitioners: able to detect, identifying, diagnosing, and managing or controlling any and all causes of health problems in crop and ornamental plants. For example, for training in plant pathology, all DPM students take the General Plant Pathology course and, also, the graduate courses Plant Pathogenic Fungi, Bacterial Plant Pathogens, Plant Virology, Plant Disease Epidemiology, Plant Disease Diagnosis, Plant Disease Control, and Pesticide Application Techniques. They also intern in Plant Disease Clinic specimen identifications and recommendations, in Field Plant Pathology and, those interested in extension jobs intern with the Extension Plant Pathologist. DPM students similarly take corresponding courses, and intern in the departments of Entomology/Nematology and Agronomy/Weed Science to prepare themselves in these areas. They also take a course in Wildlife that Damage Crop Plants. These courses enable them to identify and manage all biotic causes of plant damage or disease. For diagnosis and control of environmental causes, DPM students take courses in Soils and Fertilization, Crop Science, Horticultural Science, Crop Nutrition, and Agricultural Meteorology. DPM students may take several additional elective courses in the area of their interest, for example, field crops, fruit crops, vegetables, ornamentals, turf, etc.

In the spring and fall of 2001, DPM students also participated in two series of seminars. One, presented by extension faculty from DPM-related disciplines, covered topics dealing with the duties and responsibilities of extension specialists as they relate to crop protection and the possibilities for employment in crop consulting. The other series of seminars included presentations by people representing various potential employers, such as established crop consultants, the vegetable industry, the fruit industry, the state and federal plant extension and regulatory agencies, the seed industry, the agrochemicals industry, the food production industry (e.g., Del Monte), and the chair of a biology department. The possibilities for employment of DPM graduates by these agencies and industries have been discussed and appear to be most encouraging.

The DPM students attended the annual meeting of the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC), which was held in Kissimmee, FL. A talk about “The Establishment of the DPM Program at the University of Florida” received a standing ovation by the packed-room audience of crop consultants, many of whom voiced their approval of the program and thanked the University of Florida for establishing it. The students were offered free membership to NAICC. A $1,000 fellowship was also offered to the DPM program to be given to an outstanding student. Several crop consultants asked to have DPM students do part of their internships with them.

More information about the Doctor of Plant Medicine Program can be found on the DPM website (www.DPM.ifas.ufl.edu) or by contacting Dr. George N. Agrios, Director, Doctor of Plant Medicine Program, 1443 Fifield Hall, P.O. Box 110680, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611; E-mail: gna@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu, Phone: 352.392.3631 ext 213.
Recently O. W. Barnett of the APS Public Policy Board directed the development of a white paper titled “Microbial Genomic Sequencing: Perspectives of the American Phytopathological Society.” This white paper (http://www.apsnet.org/media/ps/top.asp) describes the importance of genomic sequencing of plant-associated microbes and includes lists of fungi, bacteria, nematodes, and viruses. This list was developed with the help of the Bacteriology; Biochemistry, Physiology, and Molecular Biology, Nematology, Mycology, Collections and Germplasm, Genetics, Mycotoxicology, and Virology committees and was started based on requests to the committees before and during the APS meeting in New Orleans. The lists were combined, added to, and discussed during 2000–2001. At the APS meeting in Salt Lake City, the Public Policy Board sponsored a forum on “Funding for Genomics of Plant Associated Microbes.” Anne Vidaver gave a perspective of the USDA-CSREES-NRICGP, Ann Lichens-Park discussed the Interagency USDA/NSF Microbial Genomics Program, Dan Drell gave information on the DOE Microbial Sequencing Program and the joint Genome Institute, Ann Vidaver mentioned the Interagency Working Group Report, and Kellye Eversole discussed how APS has developed a Funding Campaign for Plant Pathogen Genomics. Afterward, there was a discussion of the microbe lists for sequencing during which it was decided to prioritize the lists. Scott Gold was the organizer of this phase of the list preparation, which resulted in the white paper being completed and distributed to funding agencies in November 2001.

In a related effort, the Whitehead Institute held a NSF- and NHGRI-supported workshop directed toward the need for a publicly supported fungal genome sequencing initiative. Researchers interested in the full gamut of fungal systems attended the meeting held in Alexandria, VA, on November 6. APS member and fungal genomist Ralph Dean is a member of the Whitehead Initiative Steering Committee and gave a presentation highlighting the importance of agriculturally relevant species. There was also an opportunity to present the APS white paper prioritized list of plant pathogenic fungi. The list was well received, and it was appreciated that it had been produced with wide input from society members. The first six species listed had significant support for sequencing. The final hour of the meeting generated a plan to seek funding for a continuing effort to sequence a fungal genome each month. The cost was estimated at $48 million per year. The development of a liaison committee and the production of an article making the case for support to appear in Trends in Genetics were to be the primary outcomes of the meeting. There was no final species list for sequencing produced.

In addition, the APS Public Policy Board, in an effort led by Jan Leach, has submitted proposals for funding of a “Workshop on Genomic Analysis of Plant-Associated Microorganisms.” This workshop is to encompass all groups of microorganisms and viruses listed in the APS white paper. If funding is secured, this meeting is scheduled to be held in Washington, DC, in April 2002. The objective is to bring together experts in the areas of microbial genome sequencing and functional analysis and focus their attention on genome analysis of the prioritized microbes in the APS white paper. Discussions will focus on the current and future needs, capacity, and benefits of genomic analysis of these microbes.
The Board of Governors of the Weizmann Institute of Science has elected Ilan Chet to the position of institute president. Chet assumed presidential responsibilities on December 1, 2001, with the conclusion of Haim Harari’s 13-year term in office. Chet was born in Haifa, Israel, in 1939. He completed his doctoral work in microbiology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Agriculture, in Rehovot. Chet’s research deals with the biological control of plant disease using environment-friendly microorganisms, focusing on the basic, applied, and biotechnological aspects of this field. Chet has published more than 330 articles in international scientific journals, edited three books in his field, and holds 30 patents. He has trained about 30 Ph.D. and 50 M.Sc. degree students. Between 1983 and 1986, Chet served as the founding director of the Otto Warburg Minerva Center for Agricultural Biotechnology, and between 1986 and 1989, he served as dean of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Agriculture, in Rehovot. For the past 10 years, Chet served as vice president for research and development of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Chet’s national and international fame is exemplified by his rich list of academic appointments, prizes, and awards, such as the Rothschild Prize in Agriculture (1990), the Israel Prize (1996), the Japanese Arima Prize for Applied Microbiology (1996), and the Wolf Prize (1998). He was a visiting professor at Harvard, Cornell, and Rutgers Universities in the United States and at the University of Goettingen and Lund University in Europe. He served as senior scientist at DuPont, DE, and is a member of the scientific advisory committees of both the European Union and NATO. Chet received an honorary doctorate from Sweden’s Lund University in 1991 and the Max-Planck Award for Distinguished Research in 1994.

Geunhwa Jung joined the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in January 2000 as an assistant professor. His research program focuses on genetics of resistance to the necrotic ring spot pathogen in Kentucky bluegrass and to snow mold fungi in creeping bentgrass. His responsibilities also include supervising the Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Lab and applied research on turfgrass disease management. Jung received his graduate degree in horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison prior to joining the Plant Pathology faculty.

Nancy Keller joined the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in January 2001 as an associate professor in food safety. She is continuing her research program from her recent faculty position in the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology at Texas A&M, aiming toward her long-term goal of reducing mycotoxin contamination of food and feed crops. Keller received her graduate degree from Cornell University in plant pathology and worked as a postdoctoral research geneticist at the USDA-ARS New Orleans laboratory before joining the Department of Plant Pathology in Texas.

Amy Charkowski joined the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in July 2001 as an assistant professor and administrative director of the Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program. She will be responsible for building a research program based on her interests in the evolution of Pectobacterium pathogenicity and horizontal transfer of virulence genes. In collaboration with the Seed Potato Certification Program, she will also be developing more efficient methods for detection of plant pathogens and their vectors. Charkowski received her graduate degree in plant pathology from Cornell University. In her most recent position as a scientist with the USDA-ARS in California, she worked on attachment of human pathogens to food and on DNA-based detection methods for Salmonella.

Lowell R. “Skip” Nault retired December 31, 2001, from his position as associate director of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center and professor of entomology at The Ohio State University. Nault, who joined OSU in 1966, was located on the Wooster campus his entire career. Educated as a vector biologist at the University of California Davis (B.S. degree 1962) and Cornell University (M.S. and Ph.D. degrees 1964 and 1966, respectively) Nault became a leading authority on the transmission of viral and mollicute diseases of plants, especially those of maize. His work and those of his students and colleagues spanned all aspects of vector research, from molecular to epidemiological studies. His published works of more than 150 journal articles, book chapters, proceedings articles, and edited books earned him recognition as a Distinguished Research Scientist of the OARDC in 1989 and as a University Distinguished Scholar in 1999. He is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Phytopathological Society, the Entomological Society of America, and the Royal Entomological Society of London. In 1991 he served as president of the Entomological Society of America. In retirement, Nault will catch up on some writing, work on developing the Secrest Arboretum on the Wooster campus, and pursue his hobbies, including tennis, fly-fishing, and reef keeping. He can be reached at nault.l@.osu.edu.

Meetings

The graduate students of plant pathology at the University of Minnesota invite you to attend the symposium, “New Approaches to Plant Disease and Pest Management: Alternatives to pesticides” on April 1, 2002, from 9:00 – 5:00 PM in St. Paul, Minnesota. See http://www.plpa.agri.umn.edu/plpagrads/ symposi.htm for speaker and location information or e-mail symposium2002@yahoo.com.
Assistant Professor

The Department of Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University has a tenure-track, 12-month position available in the area of turfgrass pathology. The appointment is 70% extension and 30% research and is open at the assistant professor level. The individual must have a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology or closely related field and have demonstrated expertise in epidemiology, forecasting, or disease management systems. The extension program will provide support to the state’s rapidly expanding, multibillion-dollar turf industry through development of innovative delivery systems designed to provide applied disease management information to extension agents, golf course superintendents, and commercial turf managers. The successful candidate will also oversee diagnosis of turfgrass problems submitted to the Plant Disease and Insect Clinic. The research program should emphasize sustainable, integrated disease management that will complement the extension program and lead to scholarly contributions with national recognition. Opportunities exist for collaboration with faculty in plant pathology and allied departments, as well as with extension agents, turf managers, industry professionals, and others interested in the production and maintenance of turfgrasses in the state and region. A full-time technician is provided with the position. The successful candidate is expected to participate in the graduate program of the department through graduate student advising and committee assignments. North Carolina State University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Persons who need accommodation in the application process may contact Lori Force at the address below or via 919.515.2730. Salary: $60,000–65,000. Closing Date: March 1, 2002. (This closing date is open until the position is filled.)

Postdoctoral Research Associate

The USDA-ARS is seeking a research plant pathologist/research geneticist (plants)/research molecular biologist to join a research team investigating the mechanisms of wheat resistance to stripe rust (Puccinia striiformis f. sp. tritici). The associate will test the hypothesis that molecular markers developed using the resistance gene analog polymorphism (RGAP) technique are part of resistance genes, develop an efficient system for cloning resistance genes, and elucidate molecular mechanisms of wheat resistance to stripe rust through cloning 

Yr5, a wheat gene for resistance to stripe rust. Recent Ph.D. degree in plant pathology, crop science, genetics, molecular biology, or a related biological science field is required. Skill in nucleic acid isolation and hybridization, PCR, cloning, and library construction is desired. Knowledge of resistance evaluation is helpful. Must be a U.S. citizen or from nations that have treaties with the United States or other nations specifically authorized by Congress. Salary: Salary for GS-11/12 position ($43,326–67,500) is commensurate with experience. Two-year appointment with benefits. Closing Date: April 10, 2002. (This closing date is open until the position is filled). If interested in this position, send a resume or curriculum vitae with references.

Assistant Professor – Evolution of Pathogenic Fungi

The Department of Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University invites applicants for a 9-month, tenure-track position (70% research and 30% academic) at the assistant professor level in the area of evolution and biology of fungal pathogens. The individual will employ molecular and comparative functional genomics approaches to better understand the evolution of fungal pathogens at the population and/or organismal level in response to changes in environment or host plant populations. The individual will be part of the Center for Integrated Fungal Research located in a new research facility. The successful candidate will have access to the neighboring GRL, a multimillion-dollar college-sponsored core facility for high-throughput genomics. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to collaborate with other established programs in genomics and bioinformatics located in adjacent facilities. These groups collaborate extensively with other academic and industry scientists in the Research Triangle area. Candidates must have a Ph.D. degree and postgraduate experience, an established publication record, and expertise in molecular and/or population genetics. Experience in computational biology is desirable. The incumbent will be expected to develop an internationally recognized research program that attracts competitive extramural funding and be willing to participate in teaching and graduate education in their area of expertise. Salary: Salary and start-up package will be commensurate with experience. Closing Date: March 1, 2002. (This closing date is open until the position is filled)
Graduate Research Assistantship (Ph.D.)
A graduate research assistantship leading to a Ph.D. degree is available in the Department of Plant Pathology at The Pennsylvania State University. The position will involve the population biology of Pyricularia grisea causing gray leaf spot (blast disease) of perennial ryegrass turf and fungicide resistant management in golf course fairways. An M.S. degree in plant pathology with adequate undergraduate coursework in chemistry is required. Experience in statistical data analysis and technical writing is desirable. AA/EOE. Closing Date: March 29, 2002. (This closing date is not adjustable). www.psu.edu. If interested in this position, please send copies of transcripts, GRE, and TOEFL (international applicants). Contact: Dr. Wakar Uddin, The Pennsylvania State University, 320 Buckhout Laboratory, Department of Plant Pathology, University Park, PA 16802 USA. Fax: 814.863.8327; E-mail: wxu2@psu.edu; Phone: 814.863.4498. For online information on this position visit www.apsnet.org/careers/positions.asp?303.

Graduate Research Assistantship (M.S.)
A graduate research assistantship leading to an M.S. degree is available in the Department of Plant Pathology at The Pennsylvania State University. Research emphasis will be in the area of epidemiology and management of gray leaf spot (blast disease) of perennial ryegrass turf. A B.S. degree in turfgrass science, plant sciences, or related discipline is required. AA/EOE. www.psu.edu. Closing Date: March 29, 2002. (This closing date is not adjustable). If interested in this position, please send copies of transcripts, GRE, and TOEFL (international applicants). Contact: Dr. Wakar Uddin, The Pennsylvania State University, 320 Buckhout Laboratory, Department of Plant Pathology, University Park, PA 16802 USA. Fax: 814.863.8327; E-mail: wxu2@psu.edu; Phone: 814.863.4498. For online information on this position visit www.apsnet.org/careers/positions.asp?304.

Assistant Professor
The primary responsibilities of the successful candidate will be to conduct extension/outreach and applied research activities on the causes and management of diseases important in the cropping systems of the northern Great Plains and Red River Valley with primary emphasis on wheat and barley. The successful candidate must be able to work effectively with clientele groups and will be expected to maintain a strong extension/outreach program. This person is expected to develop an independent applied-research program that complements the extension/outreach responsibilities. The applied research should focus on integrating disease management strategies, including chemical, cultural, and host resistance control methods. The successful applicant will develop and maintain strong collaborations with researchers at the Northwest Research and Outreach Center, located within the University of Minnesota, other universities, and state and federal agencies. This person will teach an undergraduate course in introductory plant pathology annually at the University of Minnesota-Crookston campus and is encouraged to advise undergraduate and graduate students in plant pathology. Publication in peer-reviewed journals and securing extramural grant funds are expected. The Northwest Research and Outreach Center is located at Crookston (population 9,000) in northwestern Minnesota. A multidisciplinary team of diverse agricultural scientists is located at the center. Baccalaureate degrees are offered at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. For additional information concerning the Department of Plant Pathology and the Northwest Research and Outreach Center see www.plpa.agri.umn.edu/ and www.nwroc.umn.edu/. Minimum requirements include Ph.D. degree (by date of appointment) in plant pathology or related discipline with a strong background in plant disease management. Experience in conducting field research. Desired requirements include evidence of interest or experiences in extension/outreach activities and teaching; demonstrated experience in small-grain research or other field crops and willingness to conduct collaborative research; evidence of publication in peer-reviewed journals; grant-writing experience and demonstrated effective written and communication skills. Salary: Commensurate with experience. Closing Date: March 1, 2002. (This closing date is not adjustable). If interested in this position, please send curriculums vitae, college transcripts, a written statement of research, teaching, extension/outreach interests and career goals, and three letters of reference. Contact: Dr. Ruth Dill-Macky, Chair, University of Minnesota, 1991 Upper Buford Circle, 495 Borlaug Hall, St. Paul, MN 55108 USA. Fax: 612.625.9728; E-mail: ruthdm@puccini.crl.umn.edu; Phone: 612.625.2227. For online information on this position visit www.apsnet.org/careers/positions.asp?305.

Diagnostician - Homeowner Integrated Pest Management
Incumbent will process physical and digitally imaged homeowner plant samples for disease diagnosis and management recommendations in support of county faculty and faculty specialists as part of the program in urban agriculture in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia. Incumbent is also expected to process and diagnose samples from commercial turf and landscapes and provide results in a timely manner. Documentation of diagnosis will be used for support of extension educational programs and incumbent will prepare an annual summary of Plant Disease Clinic findings. He/she will conduct other isolation procedures and diagnostics tests as needed. In managing the Homeowner IPM Plant Disease Clinic the incumbent is expected to keep a lab inventory; oversee maintenance of lab equipment; order necessary lab supplies in cooperation with other diagnostic plant pathology laboratories; and prepare other materials needed for conducting diagnosis. The incumbent will maintain the clinic references and library in proper order and assure the information available is current. Incumbent will supervise student workers and plant pathology interns, demonstrate to visitors/student groups educational diagnostic procedures, and communicate with county agents, industry representatives and other clients regarding plant disease diagnoses. Both traditional extension education methods and innovations are encouraged to help carry out this assignment. Incumbent will be a member of faculty under the direction of the Department Head, but will coordinate program development with the Extension Program Coordinator and address administrative matters related to the position’s location with the Research, Extension and Instructional Coordinator at the Griffin campus. Incumbent is expected to work effectively with other diagnosticians in the Department of Plant Pathology. This is a non-tenure track position. Initial appointment will be at the rank of Public Service Representative or Assistant. The Public Service track is non-tenure promotional track. A M.S. or equivalent or experience equivalent in plant pathology or related area. Research and/or extension experience in disease management with ornamentals and/or turf diseases highly desirable. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are essential. Salary: Commensurate with experience and education. Closing Date: May 10, 2002. (This closing date is open until the position is filled). www.plant.uga.edu. For full consideration applications must be received by May 10, 2002 which consists of a curriculum vitae, transcripts of course work, a statement of extension philosophy related to the current and anticipated needs of homeowner integrated pest management systems, not to exceed two pages, reprints of selected publications, and letters sent directly from four professional references. Information required must be sent by surface or air carrier, not by fax or e-mail. Contact: Dr. Barry Cumfer, Department of Plant Pathology, 225 Redding Bldg, Plant Pathology Dept., The University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223 USA. E-mail: bcumfer@gaes.griffin.peachnet.edu; Phone: 770.412.4012. For online information on this position visit: www.apsnet.org/careers/positions.asp?302.
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PLANT DISEASE
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MPMI
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March 2002

4-8 — International Workshop on Dry Bean Rust and Common Bacterial Blight. Game Valley, near Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal (about 120 km from Durban), South Africa. Contact Jim Steadman <jsteadman1@unl.edu>

20-22 — Soil Fungus Conference. Albuquerque, NM. Contact: Natalie Goldberg <ngoldber@nmsu.edu> or 505.646.1621

23-25 — Alternaria Identification Workshop. Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR. Contact Rodney Roberts <roberts@tfrl.ars.usda.gov>

April 2002

6-9 — Sixth European Conference on Fungal Genetics. Pisa, Italy. www.agr.unipi.it/ECFG6


22-June 28 — Integrated Pest Management Course. Wageningen, the Netherlands. Contact: H.A.I. Stoetzer <training@iac.agronl.nl>, www.iac.wageningen-ur.nl


June 2002


16-19 — XIII Biennial Workshop on Smm Fungi. Dallas, Texas. Contact: Karen Arthur <karthur@gustafson.com> or Yvette Mouser <ymouser@gustafson.com>, www.gustafson.com


July 2002

11-13 — Global Initiative on Late Blight (GILB) International Conference—Late Blight: Managing the Global Threat. Hamburg, Germany. www.cipotato.org/gilb


August 2002

4-9 — First Joint Conference of the International Working Groups on Vegetable Viruses (10th Meeting of IWGVV) and Legume Viruses (16th Meeting of IWGLV). Bonn, Germany. http://www.gsi-bonn.de


September 2002


15-19 — 6th International Conference on Pseudomonas syringae Pathovars and Related Pathogens. Maratea, Potenza, Italy. Contact Nicola Sante Iacobellis <pseudomonassyringae@unibas.it>


November 2002

4-8 — 3rd Asia-Pacific International Mycological Conference on Biodiversity and Biotechnology (AMC 2002). Kunming, China. Contact <amc2002@china.com>