Applications Due for Melhus Graduate Symposium

The 9th I. E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium, “Integrating Pre- and Post-Harvest Views of Yield and Quality Loss,” will feature four to six presentations at the 2009 APS Annual Meeting in Portland, OR, on graduate thesis work providing a better understanding of links between pre- and post-harvest losses in yield and quality. Graduate students with relevant significant work—note that the committee wishes to define eligible research topics in the broadest possible sense—are invited to apply. Travel funds are provided by the APS Foundation. The deadline for applications is January 15, 2009. For more information, please visit www.apsnet.org/foundation/iemelhus.asp.

“Human Pathogens on Plants”: Plant Pathologists and Food Safety Specialists Generate Cross-Disciplinary Synergy

Jacque Fletcher, PPB Chair, jacqueline.fletcher@okstate.edu

Recent disease outbreaks traced to vegetable crops contaminated with human pathogens have increased awareness of potential risks associated with vegetable production and heightened interest in the mechanisms by which human pathogens persist on plant surfaces. The “Human Pathogens on Plants” workshop was an opportunity to extend the body of existing research related to pathogen survival on plant surfaces, entry into the plant interior, modulation of host defenses, and multiplication in plant intercellular spaces. The association of human pathogens with plants may involve processes similar to those used by phytopathogens. In addition, discoveries by food microbiologists about the activities and behavior of human pathogens within plants are causing reassessment of food protection expectations for the limits of survival, growth, and competitiveness with plant-associated microflora.

A current priority is bringing together members of the food safety and plant pathology communities to share technical expertise and identify knowledge gaps to guide future research efforts. The Colorado State University Infectious Diseases Supercluster and the APS Public Policy Board (PPB) jointly sponsored a workshop in Fort Collins, CO, October 21–22, 2008, on the topic of “Human Pathogens on Plants: Research and policy to protect vegetable crops from human pathogens” (HPOP). The event, which was organized by Larry Goodridge, Stephen Chisholm, and Jan Leach of Colorado State University and by Trevor Suslow and Jacque Fletcher of the APS PPB, included seminars by recognized leaders in relevant areas of academic research and industry, including Larry Beuchat, University of Georgia, Center for Food Safety; Maria Brandl, USDA-ARS WRRC, Produce Safety and Microbiology Research Unit; Amy Charkowski, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of Plant Pathology; Linda Harris, University of California, Davis, Department of Food Science and Technology; Alejandro Castillo, Texas A&M University, Department of Animal Science; Steve Lindow, University of California, Berkeley, Department of Plant and Microbial Biology; June Medford, Colorado State University, Department of Biology; and Robert Tauxe, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch. During day-two discussions, workshop participants identified priority areas for cross-disciplinary research, mechanisms for fruitful collaborations, and strategies for addressing issues of concern to both plant pathologists and food safety specialists. Many of these presentations will be made available for viewing on the HPOP site at http://ansci.colostate.edu/content/view/686/42/.

One outcome of the workshop will be white papers, identifying priorities among aspects of food safety research that involve interactions between plants and human pathogens, to be disseminated to decision-makers and agency administrators to support and influence funding agenda development by various entities that may support science-based food safety solutions for fresh produce. In addition, planning was initiated for a follow-up symposium on Plant-Human Pathogen Interactions in 2009. The workshop was sponsored by the Colorado State University Infectious Diseases Supercluster, The American Phytopathological Society, the Center for Produce Safety, and the American Seed Trade Association.
Member-Driven APS Annual Meeting Programming—Ideas and Formats for Special Sessions, Workshops, and Field Trips

Gary Moorman, Senior Councilor-at-Large, gmoorman@psu.edu, and Scott Adkins, Scientific Programs Board Director, scott.adkins@ars.usda.gov

As we return to normalcy following our recent Centennial Meeting, plans are well underway for the upcoming 2009 APS Annual Meeting in Portland! And it is a great time to review some of the key points and opportunities related to annual meeting program planning. In addition to the well-known contributed technical session talks and posters, member-driven special sessions are an important component of the program.

At each annual meeting, subject matter committees and interest groups have the opportunity to propose special sessions, workshops, and field trips for possible inclusion in the following year’s annual meeting. Many formats have been used over the years and additional formats are possible. We would like to review the tried-and-true formats, suggest some new ones, and note what costs organizers need to consider, especially when proposing something that requires a registration fee. Almost all aspects of the APS annual meeting have a cost paid directly from the annual meeting registration fees. Additional registration fees (e.g., for a workshop or field trip) are absorbed by APS general funds. Few of us are aware of what our meetings actually cost.

The most common special session is the symposium. Three to six speakers are invited to present within a 2- to 3-hour time slot during the Sunday afternoon through Wednesday morning portion of the annual meeting. Symposia on closely related topics are often scheduled back to back. The Scientific Programs Board (SPB) and president-elect, working in concert with APS headquarters staff, make every effort to avoid concurrent scheduling of sessions of great interest to any particular group. Other formats have been used over the years, including panel discussions that follow brief presentations by invited panelists. Although additional registration fees for symposia and panel discussions are not charged, organizers should be aware that APS incurs the cost of renting the meeting room, setting up chairs/tables/podium, microphone and sound system/computer/projector/screen rental, and even electrical connections! Abstracts are collected and published for symposia but not for panel discussions.

Past workshops have had a wide variety of formats. Most are held 1 or 2 days prior to or immediately following the annual meeting and often span a half or full day. Workshops requiring specialized equipment, such as microscopes or cameras, are frequently held at a nearby campus or field station laboratory or can be brought in by a sponsor at no cost, particularly if the sponsor is going to be an exhibitor at the APS meeting. Some workshops have required the capacity for each participant to have access to the Internet. It can cost several thousand dollars for such access! Additional charges for electrical connections (outlets) and the services of an electrician (time-and-a-half pay on weekends) are often required. Organizers should consider whether participants would get more from the presentation by watching the presenter use the Internet rather than trying to follow along on their own computer. Registration fees for workshops are set in consultation with APS headquarters staff to ensure costs are covered. Abstracts are not collected or published for workshop presentations.

“Visit the consultant” is a new workshop format that has been suggested. It has been proposed that several statistics-savvy plant pathologists could hang out their shingle to discuss, for a specific length of time, your experimental design or problems you are having with data analyses. Other topics could be covered with a similar format. Another idea for a workshop is to post “mock job descriptions” (academic, industry, government, etc.) prior to the annual meeting so that students, post-docs, and other early career professionals could “apply,” submit a resume, and be interviewed by one of several “employers.” Applicant material and interview performance would be critiqued by the employer. Each of these workshops requires a room, tables, and seating appropriate to the activity, a cost that would need to be covered by a registration fee for participation.

Field trips have been organized by a committee (Diseases of Ornamentals, Turfgrass Diseases) or interest group (vegetable or forest pathologists) with the assistance of members who reside close to the annual meeting site or who are familiar with what is of interest to the target audience in the vicinity of the annual meeting. A registration fee is required to pay for transportation and
Pest and Disease Training Strives to Improve Diagnostic Capabilities

The 2-week short course, “Pest and Disease Diagnostics for International Trade and Food Security,” was held at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster, OH, September 8–19. Nine scientists from Africa, Serbia, and South America participated in the course, which was organized by plant pathologist Sally Miller and entomologist Luis Cañas from The Ohio State University. The course provided training in classical and modern diagnostic methods for a broad range of plant diseases and pests, sanitary/phytosanitary (SPS) issues pertinent to international trade, diagnostic networking opportunities, and train-the-trainer programs.

The training is part of an effort to improve plant disease diagnostic capabilities in developing countries through the International Plant Diagnostic Network (www.intpdn.org), led by Ohio State and funded by the USAID Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program (IPM CRSP). The project brings together international and U.S. agricultural research centers, universities, agencies, and nongovernment organizations.

Laboratories and field trips provided hands-on learning opportunities. “This is a very useful course in my work…. I feel like I can implement each piece of information we gathered here in some part of my work and seriously improve it,” wrote one of the participants. The training covered a broad range of plant pests and diseases.

In addition to Miller and Cañas, instructors and assistants from Ohio State included Fulya Baysel Gurel, Pierluigi Bonello, Annemarie Nagle, Margaret Redinbaugh (USDA ARS), Melanie Ivey, Sawsan Elateek, Andreas Westphal, and Pierce Paul (plant pathology); Nuris Acosta, Hans Klompken, and Andy Michel (entomology); and Jeffrey LeJeune (Food Animal Health Research Program). In addition, Carrie Harmon (University of Florida), Mary Palm-Hernandez and Fan-Li Chou (USDA APHIS PPQ), and Cliff Sadof (Purdue University) participated as speakers and instructors.

Miller, who serves as director of the APS Office of International Programs, said that the workshop will be offered next summer in Wooster, August 10–21, 2009. More information can be found online at http://plantpath.osu.edu/extension/international/. Miller can be contacted by e-mail at miller.769@osu.edu or by phone at +1.330.263.3678.

APS Volunteers—Thank You for Your Invaluable Contributions!

More than 800 APS members volunteer every year to develop program content, review manuscripts, initiate outreach activities, manage the various APS boards and committees, increase plant pathology funding, keep members informed, participate in annual meeting planning, and commit themselves to supporting the science of plant health.

APS thanks all of these volunteers. If you are interested in putting your energy and skills to work for the field of plant pathology, please see www.apsnet.org/members/com/volunteer.asp for more information. For a complete list of volunteers, visit www.apsnet.org/members/salute.asp.

IMPORTANT APS DATES TO REMEMBER

January 2009
- 15 Nominations for the I. E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium due. www.apsnet.org/foundation/iemelhus.asp
- 23 Frank L. Howard Undergraduate Fellowship applications due. www.apsnet.org/foundation/apsundergrad.asp

February 2009

March 2009
- 9 APS Foundation Pioneer Graduate Fellowship in Plant Pathology applications due. www.apsnet.org/foundation/pioneerfellowship.asp
- 31 Student Travel Awards applications due. www.apsnet.org/foundation/travelgrant.asp
Fellowship to Attract Students to a Career in Plant Pathology

A special APS Foundation graduate student fellowship, supported by gifts from Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont business, is once again available to help attract students to careers in plant pathology, emphasizing disease resistance, host-pathogen interactions, and disease etiology of field crops important to the seed industry. The APS Foundation Pioneer Fellowship in Plant Pathology provides a $20,000 annual stipend to a student for up to 4 years, as well as an APS membership and an online subscription to one of the APS journals for the duration of the fellowship.

“I have made useful contacts in industry, academia, and within APS because of the APS Foundation Pioneer Fellowship in Plant Pathology. The funding was exceptional and has allowed me to expand many areas of my research. Make sure you take the time to apply!”

Applicants must have applied to become a doctoral student in plant pathology or a closely related discipline with a research emphasis on plant disease in agronomic crops. Continuing doctoral students may also apply. Further details on eligibility, application procedures, and selection criteria are described at www.apsnet.org/foundation/pioneerfellowship.asp.

The first fellowship was awarded to Robert Duncan, University of California-Davis, in 2005. Duncan found this fellowship to be significantly beneficial to his research and encourages other students to consider applying: “I have made useful contacts in industry, academia, and within APS because of the APS Foundation Pioneer Fellowship in Plant Pathology. The funding was exceptional and has allowed me to expand many areas of my research. Make sure you take the time to apply!”

Applications are due March 9, 2009. The recipient of the fellowship is to be notified in April and invited to attend the APS annual meeting, where the recipient will be recognized.

Online Application Process for the 2009 Student Travel Awards Opens Next Month

The online application process for the 2009 APS Student Travel Awards will open February 16, 2009, and continue through March 31, 2009. Award winners will receive $500. Information about the awards can be found at www.apsnet.org/foundation/travel.asp. When the process opens, the online application will be available at www.apsnet.org/foundation/travel. APS student members giving oral or poster presentations at the 2009 APS Annual Meeting in Portland, OR, held August 1–5, are eligible to apply. However, students who received an award in 2008 will not be eligible for another award until 2010. Applications are due by NOON Central Time on March 31, 2009, and advisor letters are due by NOON Central Time on April 6, 2009. These deadlines are strictly enforced; no applications or advisor letters will be accepted after the posted deadline.

Awards are available to all manners of study, including doctors of plant medicine, international students, as well as any area of scientific interest, including (but not limited to) virology, nematology, and forest pathology.

“I expect to see some interesting topics for this process,” says Courtney A. Gallup of North Carolina State University, chair of the APS Graduate Student Committee (GSC). “Hot topics developed through this application process are an effective way to communicate students’ interests to the society at large, potentially to be incorporated into future planning. I hope to see a few perspectives from the Caribbean and abroad so that we can generate international hot topics for the programming board. As a previous recipient, the award enabled me to attend the conference, establish important contacts, and become involved in various activities of APS.”

Eligible students are encouraged to review the following application requirements for the 2009 APS Travel Award. Applicants should consider preparing their responses in a word processing application prior to completing the online form. Once the form is available online, applicants can paste the content of their submission directly into the form.

The requirements for the application are as follows:

1. Submit the abstract from your oral or poster presentation for the 2009 APS Annual Meeting. (Abstracts for the 2009 APS Annual Meeting are due March 17 and must be submitted through the meeting submission process in addition to this Travel Award application.)
2. Make a case for a hot topic that you feel needs to be presented as a symposium at the next APS annual meeting (maximum length 2,999 characters). You must include the following:
   - What topic would you choose for such an event?
   - What is the significance of this topic with respect to current scientific and/or social contexts?
   - What are the implications of the topic for plant pathology and human or environmental welfare?
   - Why should APS host a symposium on this topic?
   - Provide names of actual speakers you think can address different aspects of your chosen topic and explain how their expertise will enrich the symposium.
3. Identify your graduate advisor or other sponsor in the field of plant pathology who will write a letter on your behalf explaining the following (deadline for the advisor letter is April 6):
   - What is the bearing of the student’s research and/or study program on plant pathology as it pertains to plant and/or environmental welfare?
   - How does the student’s research and/or study program fit into the research goals of your facility or academic institution?

Please Note: For students in nonthesis degree programs, e.g., doctor of plant medicine, the advisor/sponsor should comment on the student’s potential for a successful career in applied plant pathology.

“I recommend all eligible graduate students apply for the APS Travel Award,” says Gallup. "It is exciting to clarify your own interests in a way that motivates others. We look forward to honoring the most insightful and progressive ideas in all subjects.”
Frank L. Howard Undergraduate Fellowship Applications Due This Month

Do you have undergraduate students working in your laboratory who could benefit from the support of the Frank L. Howard Undergraduate Fellowship? If so, we encourage you to notify them about this opportunity. The application process is not involved or complicated and it provides an excellent opportunity for you to mentor an undergraduate in the basics of research.

The fellowship will be awarded for the summer 2009 or academic school term in 2009–2010. One award of $1,000 will be made for support of undergraduate research and may be used for stipend and research budget expenses. The sponsor or student should plan to present the results of their research at a regional or national APS meeting following completion of the research.

Undergraduate students are encouraged to apply immediately. Six copies of the application package are due January 23, 2009. Applications can be downloaded from www.apsnet.org/foundation/apsundergrad.asp.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact David Shew, N.C. State University, at david_shew@ncsu.edu or +1.919.515.6811.

Save Time, Save Paper—Renew Your Membership Online!

Watch your e-mail for a notification when your membership term is up for renewal. You will be sent a link to your personal renewal form where you can pay with a credit card. Renew within a week or two of receiving the e-mail, before the paper invoice is sent, and save time, paper, and postage. To thank you for your online membership renewal and for helping us to go green, you will be entered into a drawing for a Solio Universal Solar Charger. This charger uses the power of the sun to charge your personal electronic devices, including cell phones, MP3 players, GPS units, and more—perfect if you’re out in the field or travelling. The drawing will be held at the end of 2009. Renew online and be entered to win today!

Plant Management Network: Salute to Partners

The Plant Management Network (PMN) is a not-for-profit collaboration of the plant science community at large. PMN is jointly managed by the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and The American Phytopathological Society. Its mission is to enhance the health, management, and production of agricultural and horticultural crops. PMN achieves that mission by providing a one-stop shop Internet resource for applied plant and agricultural management information. Partners help support the network while sharing its benefits. Your organization’s participation provides support; publicizes your logo and website to PMN’s 350,000-plus annual visitors; increases regional, national, and international usage of your existing web-based information; and provides your employees or constituents with complimentary or discounted subscription access. For information on joining the PMN partners program, e-mail partners@plantmanagementnetwork.org.

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World’s Dirtiest Jobs in Plant Pathology—Make a Video, Win Fame (and $500)!

Yucky, nasty, rotten, melting piles of produce. Stinky and slimy cultures. Great green gobs of greasy, grimy tuber guck. Dirty, dusty, hot, and filthy field work. Plant pathologists do some of the dirtiest jobs in the world. It must be fun—why else would we do it?

This year, the APS Office of Public Relations and Outreach (OPRO) is again sponsoring the “World’s Dirtiest Job in Plant Pathology” video contest. Document your most disgusting and filthy job in a video of 5 minutes or less. The video selected as the dirtiest job will win the $500 grand prize. The winning video and other selected top entries will be featured at the 2009 APS Annual Meeting in Portland, OR, and on the APSnet homepage. The winning video and the runners up will be posted to YouTube, and the winning entry will be sent to The Discovery Channel’s “Dirtiest Jobs” to demonstrate that plant pathology also has some of the world’s dirtiest jobs.

The following rules and judging criteria apply:
1) Open to all APS members
2) The dirtier the job the better!
3) Document the fun and humor
4) Show the reason for getting dirty
5) The maximum file size for upload is 50 MB
6) File type must be in WMV, AVI, MOV, or MPG format
7) Increase viewer understanding of plant pathology

Deadline for entry is June 1. Enter your submissions at www.apsnet.org/members/opae/dppjc/Default.aspx. Entries will be judged by a panel of dirty experts. Winners will be notified by June 15. If you have any questions, please contact Marty Draper at mdraper@crees.usda.gov.

A sea of blue jackets swelled around the booth as APS volunteers held aloft peaches that were dead ringers for shrunken heads. Brown rot of stone fruit was the featured disease for the APS booth, sponsored by the Office of Public Relations and Outreach (OPRO), at the National FFA Career Show. Students, teachers, and chaperones alike were interested in learning more about this and other plant diseases. Even a representative from the Army booth came over to learn more about the mummified peaches!

APS members Marty Draper (USDA), Nicole Donofrio (University of Delaware), and Kiersten Wise (Purdue University) worked the booth for this year’s FFA Show in Indianapolis, IN, from October 22–24, 2008. They answered a plethora of questions about various subjects, including the featured disease and plant pathology-related careers. Volunteers also chatted with FFA students keen to share their own experiences with plant diseases they had seen in the field. APS members handed out several hundred instructor packets that contained experiments based on brown rot of stone fruit, accessible to any classroom instructor. Instructors ranging from middle school to high school seemed excited not only about the packets but also by the educational resources offered on the APS website. The Plant Pathology: Past to Present storybook was also of interest, as was the Gail Schumann/ Cleo D’Arcy book, Essential Plant Pathology.

Over the course of the 3-day show, the peaches in initial stages of brown rot (kindly inoculated and supplied by Gail Ruhl, Purdue University), became increasingly disturbing looking, eliciting the sympathy of the FFA participants and piquing their curiosity about plant pathology.
Recruiting for Molecular Plant Sciences at Virginia Tech Goes Digital

“Why not a YouTube movie about molecular plant sciences at Virginia Tech?” asks APS member and Assistant Professor David G. Schmale III. Schmale has a point. Today, prospective students can do almost anything online, including scouting graduate schools. Virginia Tech recently posted their new streaming recruitment video online, allowing students to scout their molecular plant sciences graduate program with the click of a mouse.

The video, created to attract the “best and brightest students to the field” allows prospective graduate students to more fully appreciate the new program through student and staff interviews, research opportunities, and their academic community. Best of all, they are able to take a virtual tour without ever having to step on campus.

When asked about its development, Schmale noted that, “Our faculty wanted to find a new way to reach out to graduate students around the world. A colleague and I grabbed a digital camcorder, prepared a few questions, captured some on-the-spot footage, and spent the better part of a weekend stitching it all together into a short video. The result was a video that drew nearly 400 views in under 2 weeks.”

The video captures department members discussing the cutting-edge science taking place at Virginia Tech, including developing novel resistance mechanisms for soybean and/or tobacco; combating birth defects associated with folic deficiency; genome sequencing; mass spectrometry to do hydrogen deuterium exchange; transcript profiling; bio-energy; quantitative real-time PCR; surface plasmon resonance, and much, much more. The video can be accessed online at www.molplantsci.org.vt.edu/.

Showcase Your Creativity with Plant Disease-Inspired Art!

Spiderwalk by Aruna Kilaru received the 2004 Best in Show Award.

The APS Graduate Student Committee (GSC) would like to announce the return of the Art in Phytopathology contest in 2009. All APS members are welcome to submit artwork, and graduate student participation is especially encouraged. Art in any medium is welcome, including micrographs, photographs, illustrations, paintings, sculpture, handmade crafts, video, animation, and other media. The GSC will present awards to the top entries at the APS meeting in 2009 ($200 for first, $100 for second, and $50 for third place).

Rules for Entry: Submissions will only be accepted in a digital format. Two- or three-dimensional art must be scanned or digitally photographed for online submission. Entries must be in jpeg format with a minimum of 300 dpi. All artwork must be original, related to the general theme of plant disease, and have been created by a current member of APS. Each entrant may submit up to three pieces. APS reserves the right to use, reproduce, or publish submitted artwork. A slideshow of the digital entries will be displayed at the 2009 APS Annual Meeting in Portland, OR, and posted on APS net after the meeting. Entrants should not bring artwork to the meeting.

To Enter: Send your artwork as an e-mail attachment to phytopathart@gmail.com. Include in the e-mail your full name; job title; university or company address; your e-mail address; the title of your artwork; a brief description of your artwork including the medium, dimensions, and what the art depicts; and your permission for APS to reproduce or publish the submitted artwork. Entries must be submitted by July 1, 2009. If you have any questions, please send them to phytopathart@gmail.com.

10th International Fusarium Workshop

The rugged coastline and azure waters of Sardinia were the site of the 10th International Fusarium Workshop held August 30 through September 2, 2008, in Alghero, Italy. Local organizers Quirico Migheli and Virgilio Balmas welcomed an international group of 230 Fusarium workers to a lively conference organized around topic areas ranging from genomics and systematics to diagnostics and disease management. Organized by the Fusarium Committee of the International Society of Plant Pathology, the Fusarium workshops are held every 5 years in conjunction with the International Congress of Plant Pathology. The next workshop is being planned for the 2013 Beijing meeting by the newly elected Fusarium Committee Chair Ulf Thrane and Vice-Chair David Geiser.

Spiderwalk by Aruna Kilaru received the 2004 Best in Show Award.
Students and Early Career Professionals of Plant Pathology: Win a Free Trip to Washington, DC, and Shape the Future of Your Field

The APS Committee on the Future of Plant Pathology Education seeks student and early career perspectives and ideas for a national summit on “The Future of Education in Plant Pathology and Related Disciplines” to be held March 19–20, 2009, in Washington, DC. The meeting will examine topics such as:

1. Attracting undergraduates into the plant sciences
2. Attracting undergraduate students into graduate programs
3. The future of “applied” or “field-oriented” research and education
4. The anticipated future needs of employers
5. The ability of graduate programs to meet the educational needs of the future
6. Paradigms for achieving educational objectives in an environment of reduced resources
7. Appropriate roles for professional societies, government, and the private sector

For a chance to participate, visit www.apsnet.org/members/ppb/futureofeducation.asp and download and complete the corresponding application form (students: www.apsnet.org/members/ppb/PDFs/Application_CurrentStudents.pdf; early career professionals: www.apsnet.org/members/ppb/PDFs/Application_EarlyCareer.pdf). Additionally, prepare a one-page, single-spaced essay explaining why you wish to participate in this meeting, addressing the following questions:

Students, we want to know...
• How do you rate your educational experience in plant pathology?
• What have you most appreciated, and what could be improved?
• How well do you feel you are being prepared for your first job?
• How do you feel the next generation of plant pathologists should be prepared?

Early Career Professionals, we want to know...
• How was your plant pathology graduate experience?
• What is your position now, and how long have you held it?
• What do you wish you had been taught before you left school?
• How do you feel the next generation of plant pathologists should be prepared?

Authors of award-winning essays will be named APS education fellows and will win a paid trip to Washington, DC, to participate in this important workshop. Here is your chance to shape the future of plant pathology education.

Who is eligible? All students working toward an M.S. or Ph.D. degree in plant pathology or a related discipline, preferably with at least 2 or more years of graduate school experience. For reasons of travel costs, student applicants must be enrolled as a student in a U.S. university and early career professionals with 1–6 years of professional experience beyond graduate school must reside within the United States.

Due date? Applications must be completed by January 9, 2009, and e-mailed to Caitilyn Allen, University of Wisconsin (cza@plantpath.wisc.edu), for consideration. Winners will be announced by January 30, 2009.
Another Memorable Annual Meeting for the Northeastern Division

Northeastern Division President-Elect James LaMondia (right) receives the American chestnut gavel from current President Daniel Cooley (left).

Caroline Grégoire, Université Laval, was the first-place winner in the NED graduate student competition. Mark Schall received the runner-up award in the graduate student competition.

The Northeastern Division (NED) of APS held its 68th annual meeting October 8–10, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency in Newport, RI. Local Arrangements Chair Nathaniel Mitkowski (University of Rhode Island) handled arrangements for 54 registrants. Those arriving early on Wednesday, October 8, were encouraged to tour the historic Newport mansions, ride a trolley through town, hike the famous “Cliff Walk” trail, or simply relax on one of several scenic beaches. The program began in earnest on Wednesday afternoon with the extension/industry meeting, presided over by Wade Elmer (Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station) and Secretary Daniel Cooley (University of Massachusetts). Fourteen reports from eight states, one report from industry, and an update from IR-4 were presented. The topic of Thursday’s symposium was “Mineral Nutrition and Plant Disease,” organized by Elmer and Andrew Wyenandt (Rutgers University). Presentations were given by invited speakers Lawrence Datnoff (University of Florida) on “Silicon in the life, performance and health of plants” and Elmer on “The influence of nitrogen-form chloride, and manganese in plant disease suppression.”

A total of 25 contributed papers was presented, including eight entered into the graduate student competition, which was coordinated by David Rosenberger (Cornell University). Caroline Grégoire (Université Laval) won the award with her paper entitled “Characterization of silicon absorption by Equisetum arvense.” A runner-up award was also given to Mark Schall (Penn State University) for his presentation “New developments in epidemiology of Ailanthus wilt.” In addition to the symposium and contributed papers, two outreach sessions were given on Friday. A seminar entitled “Turfgrass Diseases of the Northeast,” organized by Mitkowski, was given to more than 100 turf management professionals. Speakers were Mitkowski, Katerina Jordan (University of Guelph), Geunhwa Jung (University of Massachusetts), John Kaminski (University of Connecticut), Robert Wick (University of Massachusetts), and James Murphy (Rutgers University). A workshop entitled “Diagnosis, Visual Assessment, and Management of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes of Vegetables and Small Fruit in the Northeast,” was presented by Beth Gugino (Penn State University), George Abawi (Cornell University), James LaMondia, and Deborah Nehr (University of Vermont) to interested private and public members of the agricultural community.

In the 2008 election for secretary-treasurer, a tie occurred between candidates Russell Tweddell (Université Laval) and Gugino. Members agreed during the business meeting to allow both candidates to serve consecutively. Members attended the banquet on Thursday evening and were welcomed by APS President James Moyer. Following dinner, NED President Cooley passed the American chestnut gavel to LaMondia. The NED officers for 2008–2009 include LaMondia—president; Norman Lalancette (Rutgers University)—vice president; Tweddell—secretary-treasurer; Wick—division councilor; and Cooley—immediate past president. In 2009, the NED will meet in Québec City, Canada.
The American Phytopathological Society has established a very strong foundation over the course of the last 100 years, as so superbly conveyed in “The 100-Year History of APS” and the “APS Centennial Oral History Project.” The Centennial Celebration in Minneapolis, MN, clearly displayed our society’s “history of excellence” as well as its “future of promise.” Over the course of 4 days, attendees were not only able to reflect on key accomplishments and discoveries but also see glimpses of our future. Below are some of the building blocks our members have laid in 2008 to remain “a diverse global community of scientists that: provides credible and beneficial information related to plant health; advocates and participates in the exchange of knowledge with the public, policy makers, and the larger scientific community; and promotes and provides opportunities for scientific communication, career preparation, and professional development for its members.”

**Detailed APS Annual Report and Treasurer’s Report Available Online**

A detailed version of the 100th Annual Report is available at [www.apsnet.org/members/gov/2008](http://www.apsnet.org/members/gov/2008). The Report of the Treasurer is published in the January issue of *Phytopathology* and is also available at the link above.

### APS 2008 Highlights

**Centennial Celebration**—The final year of planning for the 2008 centennial year was full of activity. The first centennial project, an 18-month calendar, was distributed in San Diego, CA, to all attendees. From that point forward, the Centennial Planning Committee and the Scientific Programs Board, along with hundreds of additional volunteers, were actively engaged to guarantee all attendees a spectacular centennial. Nearly 2,000 attendees participated in the meeting in Minneapolis and experienced the chance to take in all of the unique aspects of this Centennial Meeting from historical displays to in-depth Plenary and Centennial Sessions. More than $250,000 was raised in sponsorship from industry, academia, and related organizations to ensure a truly memorable event for all participants. Several of the materials that were created for the meeting are being archived on APSnet at [www.apsnet.org/centennial/](http://www.apsnet.org/centennial/) for ongoing reference, including a photo journal of the meeting, a timeline of historic events, an online version of the *Memorable Milestones* book, the entire video collection from the oral history project, and captured webcasts from all of the plenary speakers.

**APS Membership Growth from 1908-2008**

![Graph showing APS Membership Growth from 1908 to 2008](image)

APS Membership Growing Strong—APS total membership reached a record high in 2008, with 5,232 members in June 2008. and is still the leading journal of “applied” plant pathology. Digital scanning of all back issues of *MPMI* and *Plant Disease* is complete. *Phytopathology* is nearing completion, with a 2010 target date. Recent financial endorsement from council ensures past *Phytopathology News* issues will also be digitized. APS members continue to establish profiles in APS Journals Online, thus tracking citations, saving favorite articles, and receiving alerts when the journals publish on their topics of interest. More than 500 members signed up for profiles at the APS Centennial Meeting.

**APS Governance**—An ad hoc committee was appointed at midyear to conduct a comprehensive assessment of APS’s current governance structure and whether its structure is in alignment with, and will allow APS to meet, its future goals. The committee will be providing recommendations for consideration by council at their upcoming meeting.

**International Societal Relations**—An ad hoc committee was appointed at midyear to develop a plan for increased cooperation with our international society counterparts, by identifying opportunities that might be explored and best methods for initiating collaborations. The cooperation with the Chinese Society for Plant Pathology (CSPPP) is currently in place as a pilot program as part of this effort. The committee had the opportunity to meet with leaders of the Royal Netherlands Society of Plant Pathology (KNPV) and the Japan Phytopathological Society (JPS) during the centennial for exploration of cooperative efforts, and several proposed ideas are currently being investigated.

**Auxiliary Meetings Board**—Council approved the formation of this board at the 2008 Annual Meeting based on the recommendation by the same named ad hoc committee. The charge of this new board will be to oversee the selection, investment, planning, delivery, and assessment of all scientific meetings of the society held apart from the APS annual meeting and divisional meetings. The board would also be charged to generate ideas for scientific meetings on important issues that are timely and of broad interest to regional, national, or international constituencies.

**APS PRESS**—With new publications such as the second edition of *Compendium of Onion and Garlic Diseases and Pests, Phytophthora: Identifying Species by Morphology and DNA Fingerprints*, and *ASSESS 2.0: Image Analysis*
Software for Plant Disease Quantification, the financial growth of the society has been ensured by the activities of APS PRESS in 2008. In addition, expansion in co-marketing with mycology titles from Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures (CBS) and other publishers has added more titles for APS members and increased efficiency for APS PRESS. Future releases include three compendia (on sugar beet, hop, and wheat diseases), a book on bark-inhabiting tree-pathogenic fungi in the *Cryptonectriaceae*, and a two-CD image database and teaching resource entitled *Virus Diseases of Plants*.

**Plant Management Network**—The written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among APS, the American Society of Agronomy, and the Crop Science Society of America for the shared management of PMN and its strategic direction was signed in 2008. By sharing management, PMN hopes to ensure fulfillment of the needs of members of each of the three societies and related organizations. The main provision of the MOU was the establishment of a Joint Executive Committee (JEC) composed of two representatives each from the three societies. They have been charged with providing overall strategic direction and development for PMN; ensuring PMN supports the interests of the partner societies; optimizing maximum value to PMN’s key audiences; proposing and initiating new PMN initiatives; and overseeing PMN’s long-term financial success. Focus on Soybean (FOS), launched in December 2007, has now published more than a dozen educational/training webcasts covering various aspects of soybean production and pest management (www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/fos), with others scheduled. The site also includes RSS feeds to keep users apprised of new content. The idea of focus topics was developed to provide a means of deliberately acquiring content of interest to targeted audiences. PMN also had record traffic of more than 350,000 site visitors in 2008.

**Leadership Forum**—APS sponsored its sixth Leadership Forum, embarking on a series of focused discussions with the leaders of offices, boards, committees, and council. An initial survey prior to the meeting solicited input on the major trends and issues shaping the science of plant pathology and APS. Responses were reviewed, common themes identified, and an aggregated summary of trends and issues was created and discussed at the forum. From these topics, the following questions were addressed: How can we better predict, prepare for, and react to changing threats and plant health … with a systems approach? How can we increase translation advances in basic science into production agriculture? If students saw plant pathology as an incredible option, how would plant pathology need to look? How do we advance integrative thinking of our historical expertise, as well as other sciences and other disciplines? How can we capitalize on current public interest in food supply and safety issues to enhance our professional relevance and the public’s knowledge? With whom may we need to partner, align, and collaborate, and in what new forums/discussions may we need to have a presence, to better drive our destiny (support and funding)? How do we better take advantage of the rapid change in technical and communication technology? How can a very successful research and outreach system effectively be adopted and applied on a global scale? And finally, what are the most significant changes we need to make to become truly intergenerational and multicultural? Responses provided the APS Executive Committee with the information needed for consensus areas of action and updated APS priorities for 2008–2009 (see www.apsnet.org/members/gov/CurrentPriorities.pdf).

**APSnet Content Management System**—Following approval of council at the midyear meeting, the Office of Electronic Communications (OEC) is now overseeing the redesign of APSnet from its current static site to a content management system (CMS). OEC members have provided an initial taxonomy for use in organizing the information on the CMS system. Work started this year on structure and design, with conversion of all content planned for 2009 and completion by the end of calendar year 2009.

**Public Policy Board**—Numerous issues were addressed by the PPB in 2008, including food safety (provided information and resources to FDA, CDC, and USDA food safety initiatives; added a food safety specialist to PPB membership; worked with the APS Food Safety Interest Group; and cohosted a national workshop in October); culture collections (addressing the critical condition and need for a multifaceted microbial culture resource; holding a national workshop in fall 2007, with financial support from ARS and APHIS, with a larger, expanded workshop planned for January 2009); USDA research agency reorganization (continued monitoring implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill provisions and congressional activities that will restructure USDA and its research programs); genomics (organizing a workshop in 2009 to review the state of the plant-associated microbial genomics, need for additional sequences of crops and associated microbes, and opportunities for accelerated studies); industry issues (identifying high-priority issues for industry as a whole and in particular developing an enhanced relationship with the EPA through an annual meeting with leadership and development of an APS-EPA roundtable); and the establishment of an APS-OSTP fellowship (an APS fellow will work directly within the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy [OSTP], providing an opportunity for an APS member to spend several months at OSTP each year to advise and inform policy on plant science issues).

**Financial Advisory Committee**—To allow for efficiencies and strategic initiatives in member value initiatives, FAC developed a transitional rotation plan for its reorganized membership. Revised membership, as approved at midyear, will consist of a treasurer (chair); treasurer-elect (if appropriate); president-elect; vice president; one editor-in-chief, chair, or director of an APS board or office (current or within the last 5 years); and two councilors (may serve on FAC beyond term as councilor). These changes reflect the removal of the president and improved flexibility of other business centers in participating in an advisory role.

**Office of International Programs**—Proposals for the OIP Global Experience, a program aimed at helping plant pathologists work with scientists and extension personnel in developing countries in training and outreach efforts, was launched at the APS 2008 Centennial Meeting in Minneapolis. Funds, made possible by the proceeds from the OIP Silent Auctions, will be used to support APS members in conducting short courses, workshops, or training programs in collaboration with a host country cooperating institution. Development of outreach materials as well as diagnostic tools will also be supported.

**Member Input to APS Council**

The APS Council will meet again for their midyear meeting, February 19–22, 2009, at APS headquarters in St. Paul. If you have matters you would like brought before the council, please send comments or concerns to APS Secretary Danise Beadle (danise.beadle@bayercropsience.com) by February 15, 2009.
Recently student members were asked, “How did you get interested in plant pathology?”

Jalal Soltani, Leiden University, the Netherlands

From my childhood, I have had an interest in (micro)biology, and I still remember a photo of a bacterium in my preliminary school book. I did my B.Sc. degree in plant protection at Bu-Ali Sina University in Iran because I realized that phytopathology would fit my interest in the microbial world. Reading the biographies of Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch at that time also inspired me. Moreover, I like to be in nature and in the lab, and I found that phytopathology fits both! During my M.S. at Tarbiat Modares University in Iran, I studied plant pathology. I was interested in phytobacteriology and an inspiring figure for me then was the Iranian phytobacteriologist, Prof. Dr. Heshmatollah Rahimian. Although I didn’t have the chance to work in his lab, I wrote my master’s thesis on the “Bacterial blight of walnut.” After completing my B.Sc. and M.S. studies as cum laude, I was awarded a grant from the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of Iran to do my Ph.D. studies abroad in molecular phytobacteriology. I decided to go to the lab of Prof. Dr. P. J. J. Hooykaas at Leiden University, the Netherlands, to work on Agrobacterium tumefaciens genetics.

Dipak Sharma Poudyal, Washington State University, U.S.A.

When I was in the last year of my B.Sc. in the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS), Tribhuvan University, Nepal, a farmer called me to solve a problem in a rice field. Rice was at early dough stage and severely infected by neck blast. It was already too late to spray a fungicide. Later, the farmer told me that he lost almost 80% of rice yield, the major stable food and income source for his family. This tragedy sensitized me to the importance of disease as a threat to food security. Realizing these facts, I decided to major in plant pathology for my M.S. degree at Tribhuvan University with Dr. R. R. Pokharel, who showed me how to conduct applied research with a low budget. After I got my M.S. degree, I joined the Department of Plant Pathology, IAAS as a lecturer. While working in collaboration with CIMMYT scientists, the encouragement I received from Dr. E. Duveiller and Dr. R. C. Sharma further reinforced my decision to develop my career as a plant pathologist. From my present training as a Ph.D. student, I can acquire the cutting-edge theoretical and practical knowledge and skills needed to contribute to a future with healthy crops and secure food supplies for our community.

Introducing MemberSpeak

Joyce Loper, Editor-in-Chief, Phytopathology News

This month, Phytopathology News is introducing a new column—MemberSpeak—to feature APS members and their experiences as plant pathologists. In this issue, MemberSpeak features our student members. One hundred student members of APS, selected at random, were contacted by e-mail with a request to submit a paragraph in response to the question “How did you get interested in plant pathology?” They were asked to write about the experiences and the people who inspired them and how plant pathology fits into their career goals. The five students who submitted paragraphs will be featured in the January and February issues of Phytopathology News. Many thanks to these students for their help launching this new column by sharing their fascinating stories with us!

In future months, MemberSpeak will feature voices of APS members on a variety of topics. Do you wonder what your colleagues could be thinking? Take a look at MemberSpeak each month! And, if you have a burning question, please send it in—it could become the topic for the next column.
People

Awards

Alan Collmer recently received Cornell University’s 2008 Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Basic Research from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Candidates for this award are recognized for scholarly contributions to their discipline as determined by the quality and number of their publications and awards from professional societies. The Awards Committee specifically acknowledged Collmer’s pioneering research program to identify the molecular basis for bacterial-plant interactions in plant diseases caused by *Pseudomonas* spp. and the many advances in basic biology of host-pathogen interactions that have resulted from it. Collmer has been at the forefront of his area of research from his earliest days as a graduate student at Cornell, and he continues with the same enthusiasm and dedication to excellence 30-plus years later.

Kenneth E. Damann Jr., a professor in the Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology at Louisiana State University, recently received the Eastern Illinois University Distinguished Alumni Award. Damann specializes in mycotoxicology and aflatoxin in corn.

Larry Madden has been named distinguished professor of plant protection in the Department of Plant Pathology at The Ohio State University. The professorship is part of an endowment in plant protection. Madden, who served as APS president from 1996 to 1997, is an elected APS fellow and recipient of the 2008 Erikkson Prize in Plant Pathology.

Meeting

APS Immediate Past President Ray Martyn participated in the XIV Congress of the Spanish Society of Plant Pathology in the ancient Roman walled city of Lugo, Spain, September 15–19, 2008. While there, Martyn presented a keynote address “The Profession of Plant Pathology: A U.S. Perspective.” Martyn’s talk drew heavily on data and information compiled by two APS ad hoc committees: the Committee on the Future Education of Plant Pathologists, chaired by Jim MacDonald (UC, Davis) and the Committee on the Future Status and Prospects of the Profession of Plant Pathology, chaired by David Gadouey (Cornell), as well as a survey of plant pathology department heads from the United States. The congress was attended by approximately 350 scientists from around Spain and Europe and from as far away as Columbia, South America. Field trips for the congress attendees included tours of the Ribeira Sacra (Sacred Bank); the ancient wine grape vineyards along the Sil River, first cultivated by the Romans in the fifth century; and a tour of the Atlantic coastal city of A Coruña, home to the oldest lighthouse still in operation, built during the second century. The congress was filled with exceptional scientific oral and poster presentations and concluded with a closing banquet and recognition of the congress organizers and society officers.

Appointments

Gary Munkvold, an associate professor of plant pathology at Iowa State University, has been appointed chair of the Graduate Program in Seed Technology and Business (STB) at Iowa State University.

Student Awards/Degrees

Joanne Morello recently completed her Ph.D. degree from the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology at Cornell University under the direction of Alan Collmer. Her thesis was entitled “Identification of extracellular components and early regulation steps in the type III secretion system of *Pseudomonas syringae*.” As part of her project, Morello discovered a fundamental difference in the way that production of the type III injector is regulated in plant and animal pathogens. She is currently a post-doctoral scientist continuing her studies on the regulation of the *P. syringae* type III secretion machinery in the laboratory of Collmer.

Ohio State University students Laura Bruner, Kate Gearhart, Amanda Hayes, Amber Hoffstetter, Kara Riggs, and Nicholas Weidenbenner have been honored with the A. J. Hoffmann Scholarship from the Department of Plant Pathology for the 2008–2009 academic year. Each student received a $1,000 scholarship and will have their name engraved on a department plaque. The scholarship, established in memory of greenhouse vegetable producer A. J. Hoffmann, recognizes outstanding undergraduate academic achievement. In addition, Bruner also received the National FFA Organization’s prestigious Star of Agriscience Award at their annual convention October 25–28, in Indianapolis. Bruner, a member of the Pettisville FFA Chapter in Ohio, was presented with a $4,000 check and a plaque. Hayes was one of five Ohio State students selected for a Brazil Research Exchange Program at São Paulo University, November 3–7. Hayes presented her honors thesis research, “Greenhouse sanitation: Efficacy of disinfectants on cutting blades using Tobacco mosaic virus on petunia as a model.” Dennis Lewandowski is Hayes’s advisor.

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Awards

Alan Collmer

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Kara Pivarski recently completed her M.S. degree from the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology at Cornell University under the direction of Teresa Pawlowska. Her thesis was entitled “Comparison of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi spore diversity and abundance between flowering and nonflowering *Amnophila breviligulata*.” As part of her project, Pivarski discovered that plant density, as well as the inflorescence status of *A. breviligulata*, are predictive factors in the richness of the arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal community associated with dune vegetation of the northeastern coast of the United States. She is currently employed in the lab of Mary Lou Guerinot in the Biology Department at Dartmouth.

Jo Ann Asselin recently received her Ph.D. degree from the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology at Cornell University under the direction of Steven Beer. Her thesis was entitled “Characterization of *Eopl* and its putative chaperones from strains of *Erwinia amylovora* and analysis of *Arabidopsis* and apple lines transformed with the *hrpN* gene.” As part of her project, Asselin discovered that a gene of *Erwinia amylovora*, the fire blight pathogen, differs in many strains that infect apple and pear versus those that infect blackberries and raspberries; and alteration of the gene alters the host specificity of certain strains. She is currently employed as a postdoctoral researcher in the programs of David Coplin and David Mackey at The Ohio State University, Columbus.

Sara Carpenter recently received her M.S. degree from the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology at Cornell University under the direction of Steven Beer. Her thesis was entitled “Characterization of two pathogenicity genes of *Erwinia amylovora* and development of materials for plant pathology outreach and education.” During her time at Cornell, Carpenter developed an innovative outreach project aimed primarily at secondary school biology students in New York State. Currently, Carpenter is pursuing the M.A.T. degree at SUNY, Cortland. However, she still is active in the Beer program, where she is working to adapt her innovative educational program describing the molecular biological aspects of fire blight for grower and extension audiences. This effort involves also Juliet Carroll of New York’s Fruit IPM program, an undergraduate student, and Beer.

Rishi Ram Burlakoti completed his Ph.D. degree in plant pathology under the direction of Tika B. Adhikari at North Dakota State University (NDSU). His thesis was entitled “*Gibberella zeae*: Population structure, mycotoxin profiles, real-time PCR quantification, and host resistance.” Burlakoti received the 2008 Graduate School Research Award from the College of Agriculture, Food Science, and Natural Resources at NDSU. He was selected for this research award from a pool of students from nine departments. He was also honored by Phi Kappa Phi and Gamma Sigma Delta, NDSU chapters for his academic excellence. He is currently working as a post-doctoral researcher with Stephen M. Neate in the Department of Plant Pathology at NDSU.

**Retirement**

Joseph P. Hill was appointed assistant professor of plant pathology at Colorado State University (CSU) in 1978 in what was then the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. During the intervening 30 years, Hill retained his sanity and pathology focus while the department reorganized and changed its names to the Department of Plant Pathology and Weed Science and, 10 years ago, to the Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management. Joe came to CSU from Pennsylvania State University, where he received his B.S. degree in horticulture in 1969 and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant pathology in 1974 and 1979, respectively.

At CSU, Hill had a distinguished career in teaching and made many valuable contributions to the department’s undergraduate and graduate programs up to his retirement in January 2009. He had full responsibility for BSPM 361 “Elements of Plant Pathology” and AGRI/IE 116 “Plants and Civilizations,” which he developed with two colleagues. These courses see increased student enrollment due to the high quality and enthusiasm of his teaching. Hill was a significant coteacher with Whitney Cranshaw for more than 30 years in the well-liked graduate class on “Interactions of Insects and Diseases.” With as many as 700 students enrolled in his classes annually, Hill was constantly searching for and updating information and anecdotes to relate to the class material and instill a love of learning in his students.

Hill has made significant outreach and research contributions to the wheat, barley, and potato industries of Colorado during his tenure at CSU. In 1996, he received the Presidential Award presented by the Master Brewers Association of the Americas (MBAA) as coauthor (with close colleague William M. Brown Jr.) of the outstanding paper on “Integrated management of barley stripe rust disease: A case study in successful international cooperation.” He received his fifth consecutive award for Distinguished International Involvement at CSU by the Department of International Education in 2007, highlighting his quality of service to the department, college, and university.

Hill was a patient and supportive advisor to undergraduate and graduate students over the years. He spent many hours helping North American and international graduate students improve their written English so their theses or dissertations could be completed. Hill’s former graduate students are found around the nation and the world in productive positions.

Hill and his wife Beth Ann are looking forward to an active retirement of enjoying their two grandchildren.

If you would like to share your experiences, memories, and best wishes with Joe and his wife Beth, please contact Maggie Hirko at +1.970.491.1930 or Maggie.Hirko@colostate.edu or send letters to Colorado State University, Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management Department, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1177 U.S.A., by January 31, 2009, or as soon as possible.

**In Memory**

International plant pathology lost a master of our science, Dragoljub Šutić, who passed away September 27, 2008. Šutić was born on November 3, 1919. Šutić received a B.S. degree in agronomy from the Faculty of Agriculture in 1949, a B.S. degree in biology from the Faculty of Natural Sciences in 1954, and his Ph.D. degree in plant pathology in 1955 from the University of Belgrade, Beograd, Yugoslavia.

He was then awarded a 1-year post-doctoral leave to specialize in plant virology in the
Šutić is the author of more than 160 scientific papers and book chapters and four books and the coauthor of three books. His primary research interests were plum pox potyvirus (Sharka), graminaceous viruses, vegetable viruses, sugar beet viruses, and host-plant resistance to viruses. He led the development of successful international cooperation on these research areas in addition to other subjects.

He was principal investigator on four international research projects: 1) Sharka or plum pox virus diseases; 2) selection of superior indigenous ecotypes and genotypes among Prunus spp. plus investigation of resistance of selections and cultivars to the Sharka (plum pox) virus; 3) seed transmission of forage legume viruses (all three counterpart projects United States-Yugoslavia); and 4) Sharka, la maladie à virus des arbres fruitiers (collaborative project France-Yugoslavia).

Šutić exuded enthusiasm with a pleasant, cooperative demeanor with scientists in many countries. His wife preceded him in death. Survivors include his son Miroslav; daughters Branislava and Dragoslava; and grandchildren.

Lewis F. Roth, 94, professor emeritus in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University as a mycologist and his Ph.D. degree. In 1940, he was hired at the University of Wisconsin, where he earned his Ph.D. degree. In 1940, he was hired at Oregon State University as a mycologist and plant pathologist. He continued there until his retirement in 1979 and remained active in an emeritus role until very recently.

Roth was born in Poplar, MT, on the Sioux-Assiniboine Indian Reservation. His dad was an agricultural advisor for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The family moved to Oxford, OH, where he attended Miami University, graduating with a B.A. degree in botany. Roth then enrolled at the University of Wisconsin, where he earned his Ph.D. degree. In 1940, he was hired at Oregon State University as a mycologist and plant pathologist. He continued there until his retirement in 1979 and remained active in an emeritus role until very recently.

In 1942, he enlisted in the Navy and spent 3 years as division officer and paymaster on the escort aircraft carrier CARD. After release from active duty, he continued with the Office of Naval Research and retired after 22 years with the rank of commander. In 1945, he married Evelyn (Lyn) Swaim. They had two daughters. Swaim became a close colleague in much of Roth’s work. He was particularly fond of the memory of Swaim’s contributions to his mistletoe research at the Pringle Falls Experimental Forest. They were trying to trap the sticky mistletoe seeds as they were forcibly discharged from the plants, but the seeds just bounced off of the targets Swaim was holding up as traps. The seeds were caught very efficiently in Swaim’s hair, however. Not only did the marriage survive the subsequent painful combing, but Roth realized that the resilient needles of trees were the natural landing place for mistletoe seeds, not rigid branches and boles.

Roth believed that successful management of disease in the forest relied first and foremost on foresters using the tools of silviculture and forest harvest. Roth’s goal in teaching was to instill forestry students and professionals with the necessary knowledge of pathogen biology and ecology, allowing them to establish and maintain healthy, productive forests.

His Ph.D. research, with A. J. Riker, explored the interactions between soil environment, Pythium and Rhizoctonia, and pine seedlings and led to one of the early demonstrations of effective biological control of damping-off disease. He and his graduate students demonstrated the systemic colonization of ponderosa pine by Elytroderma, thus explaining the recurrent nature of pine needle cast epidemics. They clarified the infection biology and measured the impacts of several tree decay fungi. Roth and his students elucidated the growth and behavior of two invasive Phytophthora species and, with Forest Service silviculturists and university ecologists, established the basis for successful management of cedar root rot. Roth worked with company foresters and graduate students to understand Armillaria root rot in ponderosa pine and then applied the information in large-scale demonstrations of management techniques. Similarly, with his students and Forest Service research silviculturists, he worked out the dynamics of dwarf mistletoe seed dispersal and infection of ponderosa pine. This led to one of the first epidemiological models in forest pathology and to practical recommendations for growing pine in the presence of mistletoe.

Roth was elected fellow of The American Phytopathological Society in 1980 and, in 2000, was coreipient of the first Outstanding Achievement Award from the Western International Forest Disease Work Conference (WIFDWC). He was cited for “Pioneering work on Phytophthora lateralis, Armillaria, and dwarf mistletoe, and for inspiration and leadership of a generation of plant pathology students and colleagues.” In 2005, Forest Service colleagues dedicated the Lewis Roth Dwarf Mistletoe Trail on the Deschutes National Forest to commemorate and continue Roth’s contributions to public understanding and appreciation of mistletoe.
Classified Policy

You can process your job listing at www.apsnet.org/careers/jobpost.asp. Your posting will be live within 3–5 business days and will remain on the website for up to 3 months or until a listing closed date, at which point it will drop off the listing. Fees for posting online are $25 member/$50 nonmember for graduate or post-doc positions and $200 member/$250 nonmember for all other positions. To have your job listing also included in Phytopathology News, simply select the option on the online form (there is an additional $30 fee). If you have any questions contact the APS Placement Coordinator (applacement@scisoc.org).

Research Group Leader for TSL+ Genetic Control of Crop Disease

The Sainsbury Laboratory (TSL) is evolving its scientific mission so that TSL not only provides fundamental biological insights into plant-pathogen interactions but also delivers novel, genomics-based solutions that will significantly reduce losses from major diseases of food crops, especially in developing countries. TSL seeks an outstanding individual to lead this component of its mission. The successful candidate will have an excellent track record of research leadership and innovation in a relevant area and will be highly skilled and strongly motivated to apply new scientific insights and new technologies to deliver effective disease control in crops. The appointment comes with generous support from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, and the successful candidate will join four other research group leaders based in the laboratory’s state-of-the-art research facilities on the site of the John Innes Centre in Norwich. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found. Informal enquiries should be directed to Sophien Kamoun (sophien.kamoun@tsl.ac.uk) or Jonathan Jones (jjonathan.jones@tsl.ac.uk). Please e-mail formal applications with a CV, names of three referees and a two-page statement of research interests to HR@tsl.ac.uk, quoting the reference number TSL+01/2009. Applications will be reviewed beginning February 1, 2009. Salary: Negotiable. Closing Date: July 20, 2009 (This closing date is open until the position is filled.) Contact: Kim Blanchflower, The Sainsbury Laboratory, Norwich Research Park, Colney Lane, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7UH U.K. Fax: +1 01603 45 00 11; E-mail: kim.blanchflower@tsl.ac.uk; Phone: +1 01603 45 0466; Web: www.tsl.ac.uk.

Assistant Professor—Plant Virology

The Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position in plant virology at the assistant professor level. Research efforts will focus on the biology of plant viruses and their interaction with plants in relation to food, forest, ornamental, or energy-related crops important to the region. Possible areas of research include the epidemiology and control of plant virus diseases; the genetics, biochemistry, and cell biology of virus and host functions in virus replication, spread, virulence, and pathogenesis; and virus-vector relationships. The incumbent will be expected to interact with other programs to form a bridge between basic and applied research. Exciting opportunities exist for collaboration with colleagues in virology, plant biology, microbiology, biotechnology, and related disciplines within the department, college, and university. The incumbent will mentor graduate and undergraduate students and support the teaching and training missions of the university. The position carries a 70% research/30% teaching distribution of effort and a 9-month appointment. The University of Wisconsin attracts excellent graduate students and offers high-quality research and teaching facilities. Madison, the capital of Wisconsin, is a picturesque and progressive city with a strong economy and a vibrant cultural environment. The University of Wisconsin is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Requirements include a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology, virology, or related discipline; a strong foundation in the principles and concepts of plant pathology and relevant research experience; effective oral and written communication skills; and a positive attitude for teamwork, including the ability to lead and motivate others. To apply, submit a curriculum vitae, a cover letter with a statement of research and teaching interests, a copy of undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and three letters of reference to Professor Amy Charkowski. Applications received by January 9, 2009, will be assured full consideration; review of applications will continue until a suitable candidate is identified. Closing Date: January 9, 2009 (This closing date is open until the position is filled.) Contact: Amy Charkowski, Department of Plant Pathology, 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706 U.S.A. Fax: +1.608.263.2626; E-mail: amycz@plantpath.wisc.edu; Phone: +1.608.262.7911; Web: www.plantpath.wisc.edu.

Evolutionary Microbiologist

The Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, University of California, Riverside, invites applicants for a 9-month, tenure-track open-rank position. The position will be available July 1, 2009, and carries a 50% research appointment in the Agricultural Experiment Station and a 50% teaching appointment in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. The Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology currently has 17 ladder-rank faculty and four cooperative extension specialists. This position will carry out studies of microbial gene or genome evolution, phylogenetic reconstructions of microbe evolution, comparative genome analysis, comparative structural biology, and/or evolution of metabolic pathways. The research will be primarily basic in nature and may focus on eukaryotic or prokaryotic microbes that are saprophytes, pathogens, organisms important in industrial microbiology, etc. The research methodology may be largely theoretical or integrate both theoretical and experimental approaches. The position will join a vibrant community of researchers studying microbe-plant, microbe-animal, and microbe-environment interactions from evolutionary, ecological, molecular, and biochemical perspectives. The successful applicant will have access to modern campus facilities in genomics, bioinformatics, proteomics, and microscopy to support their research. A competitive start-up package is available. The successful candidate will advise both graduate and undergraduate students and contribute to both graduate and undergraduate teaching in microbiology and evolutionary biology and, possibly, bioinformatics and statistics. A Ph.D. degree in a relevant field and a proven ability to conduct innovative research are required. Evaluations of applications will begin January 5, 2009, but the position will remain open until filled. Closing Date: January 5, 2009 (This closing date is open until the position is filled.) Applicants should send curriculum vitae, statements of research and teaching interests, a complete list and selected reprints of publications, and three letters of reference. Contact: Marie Lanathoua-Gaton, University of California, 1435 Boyle Hall, Department of Plant Pathology, Riverside, CA 92507 U.S.A. Fax: +1.951.827.3719; E-mail: marieg@ucr.edu; Phone: +1.951.827.4431; Web: www.plantpathology.ucr.edu/new/index.php.

Post-Doctoral Research Associate in Plant Biosecurity

The Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science seeks a post-doctoral research associate in plant biosecurity to study the aerobiology of the potato late blight pathogen, Phytophthora infestans. The individual will 1) culture, propagate, and inoculate plant pathogens in the laboratory and greenhouse in preparation for field experiments; 2) operate/program remote weather stations, data loggers, and remote atmospheric volumetric sampling devices; 3) trim, analyze, and curate meteorological data from field experiments; 4) perform methodologies to detect plant pathogens from aerobiological samples; 5) monitor plant disease epidemics; 6) keep accurate and detailed records for scientific publications, grant proposals, and reports; and 7) work with an interdisciplinary team.
of investigators at other institutions. The candidate should have a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology, plant biology, or microbiology. The successful candidate will have demonstrated research accomplishments in addition to effective communication and interpersonal skills. **Salary:** Salary is commensurate with experience. **Closing Date:** January 15, 2009 (This closing date is open until the position is filled.) Applicants should complete the faculty application online at [www.jobs.vt.edu](http://www.jobs.vt.edu) (job posting number 081143) and submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, a list of three references, and a statement of research interests as an attachment to the online application. **Contact:** David Schmale, Virginia Tech, 403 Latham Hall, Department of PPWS, Blacksburg, VA 24061 U.S.A. Fax: +1.540.231.7477; E-mail: dschmale@vt.edu; Phone: +1.540.231.6943; Web: [www.vt.edu/](http://www.vt.edu/).

### Explore Career Opportunities with the APSnet Career and Placement Center

Now’s your chance to land your perfect plant pathology job or find the best candidates in plant pathology. The APSnet Career and Placement Center has always been a great way to bring job seekers and employers in the plant health field together. The service allows members and nonmembers the chance to view all available job openings or post a résumé/curriculum vitae for free. Or you can search for available candidates, narrowing your search by specialty and even post an available job opening for a small fee (member discounts apply). Visit [www.apsnet.org/careers](http://www.apsnet.org/careers) and search for available positions or candidates, explore all of the opportunities the Career and Placement Center has to offer, and don’t forget, your ad could also appear in an upcoming issue of *Phytopathology News*.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Call for Papers**

Online submission of abstracts will take place **February 1 – March 17, 2009.**

The March 17 deadline applies to the submission of both oral and poster presentations. Acceptance of oral presentation submissions will be limited to the first 240, so you are encouraged to submit oral presentation abstracts early. There is a limit of one (1) oral presentation per submitter or presenter. There is no limit to the number of poster submissions. Remember to fully edit and proof your abstract before submitting.

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### Affiliated Organizations

- **Chinese Society for Plant Pathology**: $15, $10
- **International Society for Plant Pathology**: $16, $16

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www.plantmanagementnetwork.org  

### APS Sponsored Events

**February 2009**
- 1-2 — APS Southern Division Meeting. Atlanta, GA. www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/activities/societies/aps/SouthernAPS.html

**March 2009**

**May 2009**

**June 2009**
- 21-23 — APS North Central Division Meeting. Ames, IA. www.apsnet.org/members/div/northcentral

**August 2009**
- 1-5 — APS Annual Meeting. Portland, OR. http://meeting.apsnet.org
- 1-5 — APS Pacific Division Meeting (held jointly with APS Annual Meeting). Portland, OR. www.apsnet.org/members/div/pacific

**October 2009**
- 28-30 — 2009 APS Northeastern Division Meeting. Québec City, Canada. www.apsnet.org/members/div/northeastern

**December 2009**
- 9-11 — National Soybean Rust Symposium. New Orleans, LA.

### Other Upcoming Events

#### January 2009
- 12-16 — XV Latin American Congress of Plant Pathology. Santiago, Chile. www.puc.cl/agronomia/congresosalf
- 20-22 — Real-Time PCR Workshop. Lexington, KY. (pvincell@uky.edu)

#### March 2009
- 23-25 — Joint Meeting of the 55th Annual Soil Fungus Conference and the 41st Annual California Nematology Workshop. Salinas, CA. soilfungus.ars.usda.gov/
- 24-26 — Sixth International IPM Symposium. Portland, OR. www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium09/

#### April 2009

#### May 2009
- 17-22 — The 8th International Plant Growth-Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR) Workshop. Portland, OR. http://capps.wsu.edu/pgpr/

#### June 2009

#### July 2009
- 5-10 — XXI International Conference on Virus and Other Graft Transmissible Diseases of Fruit Crops. Neustadt an der Weinstrasse, Germany. www.icvf.phytomedizin.org/
- 19-23 — 14th Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions. Québec City, Canada. www.ismpminet.org/meetings

#### October 2009

#### November 2009
- 10-13 — Indian Phytopathological Society’s 5th International Conference. New Delhi, India. www.ipsdis.org

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For the most current listing go to www.apsnet.org/meetings/calendar.asp.