APS Announces New Internal Communications Officer

David M. Gadoury, senior research associate in the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology, Cornell University (CU), has been appointed internal communication officer (ICO) for a three-year term. Gadoury succeeds Danise Beadle, research scientist at Bayer Crop Science, who served as ICO for the previous six years.

Gadoury admits to being a bit intimidated at the prospect of following Beadle in the role of ICO, particularly after shadowing her for one year as part of training for the position. “Danise exhibits a level of organization and professionalism that I hope I can maintain. She is remarkably persuasive, as she was the one who contacted me regarding the position last year, and smart enough not to tell me precisely how hard she was working as ICO.”

“APS Council and Headquarters staff truly are admirable groups,” he added. “It’s an honor to be asked to join them, and I’m looking forward to working with both over the next three years.”

Gadoury will serve as ICO through 2014. The ICO oversees the communication and accomplishment of tasks and action items of APS Council, serves as a member of the Executive Committee, and with

Nominate Your Colleagues Who Deserve Special Recognition for 2012 APS Awards

The call is now being made for 2012 APS and APS-sponsored award nominations to be presented in Providence, RI, at the 2012 APS Annual Meeting. Nominations are open for all major APS awards as listed below and must be submitted on or before November 1, 2011.

- Award of Distinction
- Fellow
- Distinguished Service Award
- Excellence in Extension Award
- Excellence in Industry Award
- Excellence in Regulatory Affairs and Crop Security
- Excellence in Teaching Award
- International Service Award
- Ruth Allen Award
- William Boright Hewitt and Maybelle Ellen Ball Hewitt Award
- Lee M. Hutchins Award
- Noel T. Keen Award for Research Excellence in Molecular Plant Pathology
- Syngenta Award

Complete instructions and guidelines for submitting an award package are available at the link below.

Please note there is a new Nomination Form for inclusion in the package. The submission page link is included in the instructions at www.apsnet.org/members/awards/Pages/AwardsCallformnominations.aspx.

Strong Impact Factor Report for APS Journals

The new impact factors for Phytopathology (2.428) and Plant Disease (2.397) show an increase for the second year in a row and MPMI surpassed 4.0 again this year, according to the ISI Journal Citation Reports, published June 28, 2011. The impact factors are measures of the average number of times recent articles in a specific journal are cited by others.

The Five-Year Impact Factors increased for Phytopathology (2.728), and Plant Disease (2.444) rose for the third year in a row. This measure is determined by looking at one year of citations to five years of articles.

The Journal Half-Life Rating of MPMI increased to 6.9 years this year and Phytopathology and Plant Disease are again both greater than 10 years. This rating is based upon the number of journal publication years, going back from the current year, that account for 50% of the total citations received by the cited journal in the current year. This shows that the research published in APS journals remains relevant and important to others in our science over an extended lifespan.

The society thanks all the members who publish their research results in the nonprofit APS journals, helping to make us the leader in plant pathology research. Not only do your contributions make an impact on your science, they also help support the mission of the society.

Hawaii Highlights Coming Soon...

The October 2011 issue of Phytopathology News will include photos and updates of the 2011 APS-IPPC Joint Meeting in Honolulu, HI. Until then, check out meeting photos that were posted by members on the APS Facebook page (www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=9947802369) and daily photos taken during the meeting available at www.apsnet.org/meet. Mark your calendar now for the 2012 Annual Meeting, to be held August 4–8, 2012, in Providence, RI.

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Editor’s Corner

Weathering the Weather

Doug Jardine, Kansas State University, PhytoNewsEditor@scisoc.org

As I write this column, I have just completed a week-long tour of Kansas to assess disease levels in this year’s crops. Interestingly enough, one of the things that I was thinking about as I drove around the state was the disease triangle, or more specifically, the effect of environment on crop disease.

In northeast Kansas, where they have been fortunate enough to catch many of the rains that caused record flooding in the upper Missouri River basin, the corn crop looks terrific and may surpass a 200 bushel average without irrigation. Within the crop, wet weather diseases, such as gray leaf spot, were thriving and frogeye leaf spot, another moisture-loving disease, was beginning to appear in the blooming soybeans. And while the wheat has been harvested, reports of ergot, another wet weather disease, continue to be received.

Moving westward through the southern half of the state, the drought becomes profound. Soybeans were rapidly succumbing to charcoal rot and Aspergillus was not a problem in the dryland corn since the plants simply died before producing an ear. Since September 2010, Sublette, KS, has received a total of 2 inches of precipitation. How does one even grow a crop with 2 inches of rain in 10 months? And while Kansas is bad, there are places in Oklahoma and Texas where the drought is even more severe. According to official records, in the southern Great Plains, it is now drier than it was in the dust bowl days of the 1930s. Thankfully, through modern soil conservation practices, we have been able to keep the soil in place.

So, within a single state and a single growing season, we are simultaneously battling both wet weather and drought-induced diseases. It’s no wonder that my last column on the challenges of field research was written in the midst of a dust bowl days of the 1930s. Thankfully, through modern soil conservation practices, we have been able to keep the soil in place.

As I headed south of Interstate 70 on the east side of the state, the effects of this summer’s record heat and drought rapidly became evident. In an area that roughly includes the entire southeastern quadrant of the state, I could not find a single corn field that did not have some level of Aspergillus ear mold in it, a disease favored by hot, humid, and droughty conditions. In some fields, the infection level reached 50%. Of course, this particular disease is associated with aflatoxin and it remains to be seen just how big a headache this will be for producers as they proceed with harvest.

2010 Art in Phytopathology Submission: TMV-Infected Tobacco

Venkatesan Parkunan, Citrus Research and Education Center, Florida

TMV is one of my favorite pathogens. I got this picture long before my Ph.D. research from a tobacco field. I thought the mosaic pattern was really cool with the transparent effect as I took the picture with light passing through the leaves. While I kept playing around with this picture in Adobe Photoshop I came up with the idea to just cut down the letters T, M, and V through the mosaic pattern and make a mosaic of the letters, TMV. I thought it came out to be wonderful.
Letters to the Editor

Get into the Fields

I thoroughly enjoyed your editorial on “The Woes of Field Research,” [see July 2011 Phytopathology News] and would like to see you follow it up again in the future.

Not only are there few field pathologists being released into the world, but I feel there is something else you might want to comment on in the future. And that is finding a research niche for new graduates. In the U.S. rice community, I have observed that most of the research has gone molecular. This type of research lacks a field level analysis of complex traits and has resulted in an ever-increasing gap between basic and applied research. Within this gap lies a niche for those trained across disciplines. Only so many simple characters can be evaluated in the lab or greenhouse. Ultimately, the plant and pathogen have to go to the field, and someone needs to be there to see which one wins.

To quote Norman Borlaug, “To be able to produce, you need to get out of the offices, get into the fields, get your hands dirty and sweat...It is the only language that the soil and the plants understand.”

My colleagues and I really enjoyed the “you might be a field researcher” comments; especially the comment about the tape measure in the wind. Two years ago we not only had to measure off plots in gale force winds, but gave lessons at the same time on the Pythagorean Theorem with a 300-ft tape to technicians who had apparently skipped at least one class of geometry. a² + b² = “Why are we measuring diagonally across this plot?”

Steven Brooks
Plant Pathologist, RiceTec, Inc., Alvin, TX

You Might Be a Field Researcher...

Doug,

I found myself smiling as I read your recent article, “The Woes of Field Research” in the recent issue of Phytopathology News. I truly appreciated the piece and always enjoy your perspective.

From my experience, I would add a few more:
If you have ever had your plot markers mysteriously disappear, you might be a field researcher.

If you have ever had rabbits, raccoons, or antelope (fill in the blank with any other local fauna) harvest your plots before you, you might be a field researcher.

Keep up the great work!

Jeff Miller
Miller Research LLC, Rupert, ID

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As this comes to press in *Phytopathology News*, I will have just completed my year as APS president. First, I want to thank the support of the professional staff at APS Headquarters, fellow members of APS Council, individuals who have willingly taken on committee and board appointments, and the remainder of the APS membership for their support during my term as president. I also want to thank the leadership in each of the APS Divisions that I was able to get to know as I participated in division meetings this past year (all but the Pacific Division that will meet at the joint meeting in Hawaii). I was tremendously pleased at each of the division meetings with the depth and breadth of the student presentations and the vastness of science now covered by the enterprise that we call plant pathology. During this first year of the new governance structure, short “postcards” of accomplishments of APS Council have been used to try to keep members informed of council’s activities rather than narratives from the president. Please let APS officers know if there may be more effective ways for information to reach you.

As council moved to more strategic discussions this past year, there has been much said about the future of our discipline as the impact of the economic downturn came to fruition on the budgets of our home institutions and favorite funding agencies. As I indicated, the breadth of topics covered in student presentations in division meetings this past year makes it clear how much science falls under the umbrella of plant pathology. I imagine that each of you remembers reading in introductory biology or genetics about Darwin’s finches in the Galapagos and their variability and adaptation as they explored new feeding niches. Since the discipline of plant pathology emerged in the mid-nineteenth century, there has been variation and adaptation in what plant pathologists do as well. The variation in what plant pathologists do has grown as methodologies to study the environment, host and pathogen, and the three components of the disease triangle have developed and been adapted by plant pathologists to answer questions related to plant health. Can we go so far to say that the discipline of plant pathology has become too specialized and dispersed to no longer be considered a single “species”?

The well noted J. C. Walker in 1963, in the inaugural issue of *Annual Review of Phytopathology*, raised concern about “specialty” groups, suggesting “we are already showing signs of building a tower of Babel within our science, wherein plant pathologists will not understand each other’s lingo, to say nothing of their techniques and their philosophies. This must not happen.” Perhaps this was a reasonable concern in the launch of a new *Annual Review* series on plant pathology, for which the editorial committee indicated in the preface that one purpose of the articles in the series was the need to provide an “integration of knowledge.”

About the time that the *Annual Review of Phytopathology* came on the scene, the books *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson published in 1962 and *The Population Bomb* by Paul Ehrlich published in 1968 caused quite a stir. In *Silent Spring*, it was argued that the use of pesticides was irrevocably negatively impacting animals, birds, and humans; and this book has been widely credited with helping launch the environmental movement and Earth Day in 1970. *The Population Bomb* warned of potential mass human starvations and associated social upheavals in the 1970s and 1980s due to overpopulation, thus advocating immediate action to limit population growth. There are likely different perspectives on if we are better off or worse than nearly 50 years ago, but once again similar perspectives on a bleak future can be read today.

For several years, APS has engaged in several activities to look at the future of our discipline. This began with significant efforts by James MacDonald and David Gadoury on examining many aspects of education and attracting students to plant pathology and the demographics of those currently engaged in plant pathology (Plant Disease 93:1228-1237; 93:1238-1251). Additionally, Ray Martyn examined the changes that have occurred in the number of departments of plant pathology and in the organization of departments that offer programs in plant pathology (Plant Protect. Sci. 4:125-139). In his analysis, Martyn reported that since the mid-1970s there had been a drop of 47% in the number of departments that were identified solely as a department of plant pathology, with the number of departments at the time of publication at 16. He found “in 2008 at least 10 of the 53 departments surveyed no longer offered a graduate degree in plant pathology and many more offered only an ‘area of specialization’ in plant pathology.” Is this an indication that plant pathology as a distinct academic discipline has run its usefulness as a course of study at U.S. institutions? It would certainly appear to be the case for plant pathology as an undergraduate major since there are less than a handful of institutions that offer an undergraduate major in plant pathology in the United States. What does the future look like for the availability of courses of study leading to advanced degrees in plant pathology, and will they prepare an adequate number of professionals with the appropriate capabilities?

As I indicated above, the relatively recent self-examination of the status of plant pathology programmatic infrastructure comes at a time when the numbers on sustaining life on earth have once again become recurring headlines in the news. Many sources propose that by 2050 there may be up to 10.5 billion people on earth.

Currently there are about 7.68 billion acres of arable land in the world (see [http://one-simple-idea.com/Environment1.htm](http://one-simple-idea.com/Environment1.htm) supporting a population of approximately 7 billion people. One fairly dated sustainability figure (1994, [http://dicoff.org/page40.htm](http://dicoff.org/page40.htm)) suggests it takes 1.2 acres to support an individual. While we are likely more efficient producers of food and fiber since 1994, are we beginning to be at that tipping point of sustainability? If so, what will life be like by 2050?

In addition to considering just the availability of arable land, ownership has become a significant issue. The March 3, 2011, *New York Times* reported “prices for agricultural land surge across America’s grain belt” increasing as much as 23% in a year and possibly a new real estate bubble. In a June 8, 2011, article in *The Guardian*, it indicated that “major American universities...”
are working through British hedge funds and European financial speculators to buy or lease vast areas of African farmland." Chinese and Middle Eastern firms have previously been identified as "grabbing" large tracts of land in developing countries to grow cheap food for home populations. It is interesting to note that in March of this year, the oracle of Omaha, Warren Buffett, noted "Now, for $7 trillion (roughly all the gold in the world), there are roughly a billion acres of farmland in the United States. They're valued at about $2 1/2 trillion. You could have all the farmland in the United States, you could have about seven ExxonMobiles, and you could have $1 trillion of walking around money. And if you offered me the choice of looking at some 67-foot cube of gold and looking at it all day, you know, I mean touching it and fondling it occasionally, you know, and then saying, you know, 'Do something for me,' and it says, 'I don't do anything. I just stand here and look pretty.' And the alternative to that was to have all the farmland of the country, everything, cotton, and soybeans, seven Exxon Mobiles. Just think of that. Add $1 trillion of walking around money. I, you know, maybe call me crazy but I'll take the farmland and the Exxon Mobiles." So, while gold may be worth quite a bit, real value appears to be in having a place to grow food and the energy necessary for living.

Finally, in the June 13, 2011, issue of Time magazine, it was predicted that by 2030, and depending on the impact of climate change, the cost of the basic staples of paddy rice will increase between 72–107%, of wheat by 53–82%, of corn from 71 to 126%, and processed rice from 34 to 48%. For developing countries where a high percentage of income currently goes to food, these increases would likely be impossible to address.

Who will be there to meet these challenges? And will there be opportunities and resources to address these challenges? In looking at graduate enrollment tracked by NSF (www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf10320) from 1999 to 2008, there was a 28.7% increase in graduate enrollment in science and engineering. Unfortunately, plant pathology is lumped with other plant-related disciplines tracked by NSF, but using graduate student and post-doctorate membership in APS as a metric, student members and post-doctoral members in APS increased by 38.8% and 72.1%, from 2000 to 2010, respectively. Hence, although as a cohort the number of graduate students and post-doctorates in plant pathology may not independently be a big enough blip on the NSF radar screen, there has been significant growth in the number of students and post-doctorates who potentially find plant pathology an inviting vocational option. Perhaps as in the 1960s student engagement is being built on the expectation that their career will make a better society.

Walker (1963) ended his treatise on the future of plant pathology with a positive perspective: "de Bary and his contemporaries started us off on a fabulous journey in 1863. We have nothing to be ashamed of. There are many stimulating challenges in the century ahead. Plant pathology will be in the forefront of biological sciences in 2063, and 100 volumes of the Annual Review of Phytopathology will bear witness to steady progress all along the way."

We are nearly halfway through the hundred years started in 1963 with the first Annual Review of Phytopathology, and many of you will determine what happens during this next 50 as we close the book on where plant pathology will be 200 years since de Bary. So, I would like to leave you with a set of challenges to ponder that I believe are facing our profession as we complete the next 50 years of a century of Annual Reviews of Phytopathology.

1. Departments of plant pathology that have offered undergraduate programs generally had small undergraduate enrollments (~20) which eventually led to their closure as larger cohorts became the preferred metric for undergraduate programs. Is there a similar perspective envisioned for graduate programs in the future? What are and will be the metrics for department structure and focus in the future? APS members need to engage university administrators to assure that regardless of unit structure plant pathology programs will be in place.

2. Given that the goal areas of NIFA (Climate Change, Bioenergy, Food Safety, Nutrition and Childhood Obesity, and Global Food Security) are very broad in scope, do land-grant colleges and universities, and thus programs and departments generally unique to land-grant colleges and universities, such as plant pathology, have a significant niche in the NIFA mission? APS members need to engage federal officials so opportunities and support are available for plant pathology programs.

3. What skill set and breadth of experiential learning does industry envision as necessary for the successful "plant pathologist" candidate in industry? Does an incumbent need to be specifically labeled a "plant pathologist" to meet future needs of industry, or is there sufficient in-house training to develop capable individuals to where they need to be? APS members need to engage industry leaders so that scientists skilled in plant pathology are also prepared for other aspects of the industrial world.

4. What role should scientific societies play in facilitating strong disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs and activities at academic institutions? Are there specific areas in academic, extension, and research programs where scientific societies might have a beneficial or harmful role to the mission of the institution? APS members need to be engaged in APS so that the society best serves you.

There will always be a need for plant pathologists. Hence, my request is that APS members stay engaged in their workplace, in policy discussions, and in APS. It is up to us to make sure it is known that plant pathology is the science that addresses issues in plant health. If history is an indication of the future, institutions and departments will continue to morph under pressures not necessarily led by those in the unit. APS will morph as members provide input. APS is a member-driven organization that can continue to serve as a metaphorical center of origin for plant pathology as it serves as a common ground for all plant pathologists although we will effectively radiate out to new environments and fill the niches of plant pathology much like Darwin's finches. Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as APS president during the previous year.

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the presidential lineage of APS, develops strategic plans for the society. As the name of the office implies, the ICO also coordinates communications and dissemination of information within APS Council and among council and various committees, boards, and offices, the membership of APS, other scientific societies, and the general public.

Gadoury received his B.S. degree from the University of Rhode Island and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant pathology from the University of New Hampshire. He joined the department at CU in 1985. An overall goal of his research has been to identify those areas of pathogen biology, ecology, and epidemiology that are poorly understood and which severely constrain improvements in disease management programs. The research frequently spans disciplinary, institutional, and international boundaries. Current areas of interest include survival of the intercopp period and development of ontogenic resistance, particularly in powdery and downy mildews.

He has been a member of APS for 33 years, actively involved in reviewing and carrying out various editorial duties for APS journals. He chaired an ad hoc committee on the future of the profession for three successive APS presidents, shared the APS Lee Hutchins Award with Roger Pearson in 1991, and was elected fellow of APS in 2007. In addition to his appointment at CU, Gadoury is also a member of the faculty of the National Agricultural Research Service in Norway (Bioforsk).
Establishing a Supercontainment Facility: A USDA, APHIS-PPQ Pilot Program

Melanie Lewis Ivey, PPB Intern, ivey.14@osu.edu, and Margaret (Peg) Redinbaugh, peg.redinbaugh@ars.usda.gov

The objective of the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is to protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources. APHIS uses its umbrella of protection to assure its customers and stakeholders that it is rigorously monitoring against the introduction or re-emergence of both animal and plant pests and diseases that could limit production and damage export markets. Plant pests and pathogens are monitored and regulated by APHIS through the use of plant protection and quarantine (PPQ) permits and facility inspections. The current multistep process of receiving a permit for importation or interstate movement of plant pathogens or infected plant tissue or soil can take from one to three months, depending on the risk level of the pathogen and the availability of federal and state inspectors and requires the following steps: 1) researcher development of a standard operating procedure (SOP) for working with the requested pathogen and application submission; 2) APHIS-PPQ review of application for completeness and evaluation of pest risk; 3) APHIS inspection of facilities to be used for containment and mitigation of risk; 4) state department of agriculture consultation, inspection, and response; 5) development of permit conditions and agreement to permit conditions by permittee; and 6) issue of final permit. This process is required for all permit requests and by all persons requesting a permit. In departments and facilities where several plant pathologists are each working with a number of permitted organisms, the inspection process can quickly become repetitive, with multiple facility inspections within a very short period of time.

In the spring of 2010, in collaboration with Michael Kenney, biocontainment scientist, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, the Department of Plant Pathology at The Ohio State University (OSU) Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) participated in a year-long pilot program aimed at streamlining the federal and state facility-inspection process. The objective of the pilot program was to improve the efficiency of the inspection process through the use of a risk-assessment process. In short, the goal was to establish a supercontainment facility for working with plant pathogens. At the start of the program, the entire facility, including labs, greenhouses, growth chambers, and surrounding environments, was assessed by both federal and state inspectors for potential risk factors that could lead to the release of a permitted plant pathogen into the environment. Following the assessment, the inspectors identified areas and procedures within and surrounding the facility that were potential risk factors. In collaboration with departmental and OARDC administration, corrective measures were taken to reduce any identified risks. The second step in the pilot program was to develop a manual that included departmental general operating procedures (GOPs) and SOPs for the various types of pathogens, plant products, and insect vectors that are studied in the department. The manual also contains facility infrastructure maps and color images of structures or equipment specific to the containment facility. A copy of the manual can be downloaded from the OSU Department of Plant Pathology’s website at go.osu.edu/D7c. The final step in the pilot program was to establish a containment director position and a training program within the department. The containment director’s responsibilities include monitoring the containment facilities, maintaining copies of all APHIS-PPQ permits held within the department, providing copies of the department manual to new students and employees, and organizing and recording annual training sessions. The purpose of the training sessions is to ensure that all employees are familiar with the procedures required to work with permitted organisms and to update employees with changes associated with working with permitted organisms. Once all of these steps were completed, the facility was re-inspected by a local APHIS plant health safeguarding specialist to ensure compliance with recommended changes.

From our perspective, the supercontainment facility pilot program was a success. Some of the benefits to our department are listed below.

1. Recommendations on infrastructure and procedures that improved the overall security and functionality of our facility.

2. Elimination of multiple re-inspections for the permits applied for during the period of the pilot program, resulting in less time required to issue permits.

3. Improved communication between permit holders and federal and state inspectors.

4. Development of a comprehensive and dynamic manual that allows for efficient documentation of minor changes and/or additions to our facility, thereby eliminating the need for additional on-site visits from APHIS personnel.

In addition to these benefits, we took this opportunity to coordinate our institutional inspections with the APHIS-PPQ inspection. Before the start of the pilot program the OARDC Environmental Health and Safety Office had no official guidelines for inspecting facilities using permitted plant pathogens or insect vectors. The OARDC inspection team worked with us and the local APHIS plant health safeguarding specialist to develop guidelines that were suitable to the unique requirements for containing plant pathogens and vectors. We are currently working to coordinate our annual institutional inspection with the APHIS-PPQ inspection. Lastly, an unforeseen benefit of the pilot program was a rapid emergency response to a tornado that hit our campus in the fall of 2010. Because of the pilot program, the federal and state inspectors were very familiar with our containment greenhouse facilities, knew what permits were associated with our facilities, and understood our emergency response procedure. As a result, we were able to rapidly satisfy the regulatory agencies and ourselves that no accidental release of permitted pathogens had occurred. The relationship also facilitated the re-opening of our containment greenhouses within two short months of the tornado. It is our hope that this program will continue, and we encourage USDA-APHIS to proceed with what we see as a highly successful program in the future.
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**Plant Pathology Videos Win ChloroFilms Video Contest**

The Office of Public Relations and Outreach (OPRO) annually sponsors the APS Video Contest. In 2010, the winning videos of the APS contest were also submitted to the ChloroFilms video contest. ChloroFilms, [www.chlorofilms.org](http://www.chlorofilms.org), is a nonprofit project aiming “to promote the creation of fresh, attention-getting, and informative video content about plant life and to make the best of these videos easy to find from a single website.” The winners for ChloroFilms contest number four were recently announced, and APS-sponsored videos won two prizes.

The 2011 APS Video Contest had eight submissions—a record number of entries. Voting was recently completed and winners were announced at the 2011 APS-IPPC Joint Meeting in Hawaii. Check out the APS YouTube Channel, [www.youtube.com/plantdisease](http://www.youtube.com/plantdisease), to view a host of exciting videos related to plant pathology. Be sure to watch for an article in the October issue of *Phytopathology News* on the winners of this year’s Video Contest.

**Outreach**

**APS Announces Its First-Ever Field Crops Rust Symposium**

APS is proud to announce the creation of the first-ever Field Crops Rust Symposium to be held December 14–16, 2011, in San Antonio, TX. The primary purpose of this symposium is to “circle the wagons” among the scientific community and compare notes, exchange ideas, and forge new relationships.

Field crops rust diseases have become more important in recent years. Specifically, new concerns have surfaced with diseases, such as wheat stem rust, new races of wheat stripe rust, southern corn rust, soybean rust, and sugarcane rust, which demand that the scientific community make strategic advances—rapidly and on multiple fronts.

The keynote address for the symposium will be given by Philip Pardey from the University of Minnesota, concerning “Rust Diseases Within the Larger Context of Food Security.” The lecture will help the audience understand the fundamental issues related to food security and the hazards impacting global food production.

The Field Crops Rust Symposium Program Committee, chaired by Erick DeWolf of Kansas State University, has developed a program that will encourage cross pollination of ideas and discussion among the field crops rust scientific community. Watch for other meeting highlights coming soon.

**Tomato Disease and Insect Pest Diagnostics Workshop in Ghana**

Twenty-one scientists from Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone participated in the IPM Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) Tomato Disease and Insect Pest Diagnostics Workshop at the University of Ghana (UG), Legon Biotechnology Center, June 20–24. The goal of the workshop was to increase technical capacity in West Africa for advanced plant disease and insect pest diagnostics. The workshop emphasized hands-on laboratory exercises in PCR, serology, and microscopy as appropriate for identification of pathogens and pests of tomato. Organizers of the workshop, sponsored by USAID through the IPM CRSP West Africa Regional Program, International Plant Diagnostic Network and Plant Virus Global Project, were Sally Miller (The Ohio State University), Bob Gilbertson (University of California-Davis), Don Mullins (Virginia Tech), and Rodney Owusu-Darko and Eric Cornelius (UG). Instructors were, in addition to Miller, Gilbertson, and Cornelius, Carlyle Brewster (Virginia Tech), Lava Kumar (IITA-Ibadan), Joseph Lamptey and Moses Mochiah (Crops Research Institute, Ghana), and Seloame Tatunyaku (UG).

“Pythium Suppression and Vermicomposting” produced by Cornell University was a second-prize winner.

“The Role of Recognition in Host-Parasite Interactions” produced by the University of California-Davis was the first-prize winner.
In another showing of involvement of APS membership in guiding the activities of the society, 35% of members participated in the March 2011 APS Membership Satisfaction Survey. This response rate is well above industry standards and a clear sign that the membership is interested in continuing to improve the value and relevance of APS. This survey was the fifth in a series conducted since 1998, in conjunction with the independent research firm Readex Research, to better understand and respond to the needs of APS members. Below are key findings and recommendations.

Value and Awareness Improvements
The results identify the following core set of offerings as providing the highest value to the greatest number of APS members: APSnet, the online journals, the APS Annual Meeting, APS PRESS products, Phytopathology News online, APSnet Feature stories, the online Membership Directory, and the Common Names of Plant Diseases online database (see Table 1 for the response ratings for the top-valued APS products/services). The 2011 results see online delivery of APS content continuing to eclipse print in terms of involvement and value, a trend that shows no sign of changing.

Overall awareness of APS offerings has increased since 2007. Members are now more familiar with the APS Foundation and online offerings, including Plant Health Progress, MPMI, Plant Disease, Phytopathology News, and Phytopathology. Other offerings with more familiarity include Plant Disease Management Reports and the Plant Management Network. A few offerings that are still unfamiliar to many members (41–47%) include newer items, such as division enhancements via the Divisional Forum and APS topical meetings. The activities of three major offices (Office of Industry Relations, Office of International Programs, and the Public Policy Board) were considered unfamiliar (38–42% of members), but all have increased in familiarity by 7–8% since 2007. Helping all members (especially newer members) become knowledgeable about all the activities of the society and the full array of membership benefits that APS offers is challenging.

Active Engagement
Members are eager to volunteer, and the percentage of members volunteering has increased from 18 to 22%. In addition, members are giving more of their time, with the average number of hours spent as an APS volunteer increasing from 9.6 hours in 2007 to 11.2 hours in 2011. A question new to the 2011 survey asked members if they anticipate their APS volunteer time increasing, staying the same, or decreasing in the next two years. As shown in Table 2, 40% indicated their volunteer time would increase, compared to only 4% who thought it would decrease. About half (52%) responded it would stay the same. Younger and less-tenured regular members, along with student/post-doc members, those in developing countries, and those in academia, are more likely than others to indicate their APS volunteer time will increase in the next two years. Member feedback on why this volunteer time is fulfilling and rewarding is key to continue the growth in member participation.
Possibilities
Common themes from member comments indicated that important programs of the society need to include advocating for increased funding, supporting members in finding jobs and building careers, and controlling/reducing membership and meeting costs. Anecdotal evidence in 2007 and 2011 responses suggested rising concern with the viability of the profession itself with specific qualms regarding erosion of funding, diminishing size of academic departments, and the decline in employment prospects.

When presented with an array of possible new initiatives by category (Education, Advocacy, Industry, Publications, and International Programs), members expressed preference for:

- **Industry**: Exploring applications for development of field-trained plant pathologists (55%)
- **Advocacy**: Promoting increased funding for fundamental research and applied questions relevant to agriculture (47%) and promoting an education pipeline that attracts plant pathologists for the future (43%) with a high percentage (43%) of members also expressing a willingness to personally advocate for their profession by contacting national or international policy makers on a periodic basis (three to four times a year)
- **Publications**: Including one to two invited review articles per journal issue to increase impact factor (44%)
- **Education**: Promoting plant sciences indirectly to students by interacting with teachers (43% of core membership supporting)
- **International Programs**: Joint memberships with sister organizations (41%)

Overall Evaluations
As in past surveys, a series of questions asked for agreement/disagreement with statements about the society. The largest portion of members (95%) agreed that APS is a credible, beneficial source of information and rate the members (95%) agreed that APS is a credible, beneficial source of information and rate the society positively in all other dimensions as well, with above 90% "strongly agree" ratings for: "I am associated with a strongly feel that APS is a valued organization in which members are engaged."

The survey results indicate that APS is balancing the needs and interests of all society members.

Understanding member interests and needs is necessary to continue to improve the value and relevance of APS membership for the constantly changing demographics of plant pathology and must be a key priority for APS. APS Council and key leaders of boards, offices, forums, committees, and journals are utilizing the survey findings to ensure their priorities and activities are in line with member intentions. Membership participation and feedback in this and other surveys is vital for APS to continue to be a valued organization in which members are engaged.

Table 3. Overall Opinions of APS
% agreeing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Membership is a good value for the price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>82%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2011 base: 920 APS Core members

Any segments with special programs it would tend to be the vulnerable membership segments, but the survey results indicate that APS is engaging.

APS Volunteer Coordinator Needed for NPDRS Program

APS seeks a volunteer coordinator to work with USDA on the National Plant Disease Recovery System (NPDRS) program. The basic responsibilities of this position are to 1) preside over two consecutive annual NPDRS workshops (planning and agenda development for the meetings are handled by USDA with the advice of a planning committee for which the APS coordinator is the lead); 2) select APS members to participate in the annual workshops (USDA participants are selected by USDA); and 3) select chairs for development of the specific NPDRS recovery plans.

The responsibilities of the position would take place immediately but be minimal until the specific schedule for the upcoming NPDRS meetings is determined. The commitment could be for four years if the current schedule of NPDRS meeting alternate years is followed with the next meeting not likely to be scheduled until 2013. The length of appointment could be reduced or extended as the meeting schedule is determined. All of the details of guidance and funding are handled at USDA, but the incumbent is expected to effectively work with USDA personnel, the APS Auxiliary Meetings Board, and APS staff in conducting the workshops. Nominations, including self nominations, are sought by September 30, 2011, and can be sent to msmith@scisoc.org. Applications should consist of a current CV and statement of interest in the NPDRS program not to exceed two pages. For full consideration, applications should be sent to msmith@scisoc.org by October 28, 2011.
Division News

Fostering Extension and Industry Interaction Through the APS Divisions

Wade Elmer, Divisional Forum Representative, Northeastern Division, Wade.Elmer@ct.gov

One of the many ways the APS Divisional Forum (DF) has proposed to promote and strengthen the divisions is to foster better participation and interaction between the extension and industry components in each division. Joining researchers with extension and industry promotes awareness, stimulates cooperation, and opens up new opportunities for funding and research. One avenue the DF has proposed for achieving this goal was to instigate informal gatherings at the annual meeting of each division. The inspiration for this particular approach was based on the success of the extension/industry meeting currently held at the Northeastern and Potomac Division Annual Meetings. Any member can participate in the meeting and can present information, such as new disease reports, recent outbreaks, unresolved diagnoses, emerging pests (pathogen or insect), and extension-related problems. Industry members can provide updates on new product lines, label changes, and regulatory issues. Experience has shown that an informal “show and tell” works best. Many members in these divisions consider this meeting to be the most informative part of the annual meeting. To support this initiative, the DF will attend the 2011 extension/industry meeting at the Northeastern Division Meeting at Rutgers University on October 12–14, 2011, to observe how best to advise their own divisions. For information, contact your DF representative or Wade Elmer (Wade.Elmer@ct.gov). You can also download a PDF of the Full Engagement Plan here: www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/Documents/Divisional_Forum_Engagement_Plan_2011_Final.pdf.

2011 Northeastern Division Meeting

The 2011 meeting of the APS Northeastern Division will be held in conjunction with the 100th anniversary celebration of plant pathology at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, October 12–14, 2011. Call for papers and online registration opened in July 2011. More information on the meeting and the formal invitation from Northeastern Division President Russell Tweddell is available on the division’s website at www.apsnet.org/members/div/nc.

Pacific Division Announces 2011 Awardees

Congratulations to APS Pacific Division graduate students who were awarded grants by the division for travel to the APS-IPPC Joint Meeting in Honolulu. Winners include Renuka Attanayake (advised by Weidong Chen, Washington State University [WSU]), Deana Baucom (advised by Rebecca Creamer, New Mexico State University), Kaitlyn Bissonnette (advised by Juliet Marshall, University of Idaho), Stephanie Heckert (advised by Jay Pscheidt, Oregon State University); Dipak Sharma Poudyal (advised by Xianming Chen, WSU), Stephanie Slinski and Cassandra Swett (advised by Tom Gordon, University of California-Davis), and Lydia Tymon (advised by Dennis Johnson, WSU). The students received their awards at the Pacific Division Luncheon and Awards Ceremony held on Monday, August 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. during the meeting in Hawaii.

Digital Resources, Free to Public

National Academies Press
Now Offering Entire Online Book Catalogue at No Charge

The National Academies Press recently announced it would offer its entire PDF catalog of books for free, as files that can be downloaded by anyone. The press is the publishing arm of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council. They publish books and reports that scientists, educators, and policy makers rely on. Barbara Kline Pope, executive director for the press, said it had previously offered 65% of its titles—ones that were narrow in scope—for free. “The 35% that we are adding today will reach a wider audience, and we are doing it because it’s central to our mission to get this information to everyone,” she said. The press has published a set of instructions for downloading the free PDFs available at www.nap.edu/about/about_pdf.html#19.

Massive Plant Protection Thesaurus Available for Free

The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) now offers its free Plant Protection Thesaurus (EPPT) covering organisms important in agriculture and crop protection. Data includes preferred (and other) scientific nomenclature, common names in many languages, taxonomic position, as well as other classifications. EPPO notes that, at present, about 28,000 plant species (wild plants, cultivated plants, and “weeds”), 19,200 animal species (especially insects, mites, and nematodes), and 4,300 microorganisms (including viruses) are listed in EPPT at http://eppt.eppo.org. The thesaurus includes core data files of the Bayer codes managed in EPPT by EPPO and now considered to be EPPO codes. A licensing arrangement is available for EPPT users who wish to incorporate EPPT core data into a separate information system. (Excerpt from the EPPO/EPPT website.)

IMPORTANT APS DATES TO REMEMBER

October 2011
28 NPDRS coordinator applications due

November 2011
1 Nominations due for 2012 APS Awards
The Plant Management Network (PMN), a nonprofit publisher of applied crop science information, announces the launch of Focus on Corn (www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/foc), its latest resource for growers, consultants, and applied researchers.

Focus on Corn features webcasts and other science-based informational tools ultimately meant to help practitioners protect and manage their corn crops even more effectively. The central feature of Focus on Corn is its 24/7 on-demand educational webcasts. University professors and extension specialists recognized for their expertise and research on corn management practices author and present the webcasts.

The Focus on Corn resource launched with six starter webcasts. One new webcast will be published on Focus on Corn each month. Each of these new webcasts will be open access for a period of at least 60 days. As long as users visit the site monthly to see each new webcast during the open-access period, all webcasts may be viewed without a subscription. Current freely available webcasts include the following:

- Plant Parasitic Nematodes of Corn by Tamra Jackson, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- Residue Management, Nitrogen, and Tillage in Continuous Corn by Emerson Nafziger, University of Illinois
- Weed Competition in Corn by Bill Johnson, Purdue University
- Southern Rust of Corn and Differentiating Between Southern and Common Rusts by Jerald “Snook” Pataky, University of Illinois
- Corn Silage Management: Seeding Rate Studies by William J. Cox, Cornell University
- Corn Drying by Ken Hellevang, North Dakota State University

Focus on Corn is governed by an Editorial Board led by Carl Bradley, assistant professor and extension plant pathologist at the University of Illinois, and Harold Reetz, principal of Reetz Agronomics.

Like PMN’s other webcast resources, Focus on Corn’s Editorial Board chooses topics based on the interests and needs of practitioners. They also nominate and confirm speakers based on their knowledge and expertise with corn crops, as well as their ability to communicate with growers.

PMN (www.plantmanagementnetwork.org) is a cooperative not-for-profit resource for the applied agricultural and horticultural sciences. Together with its industry, university, and nonprofit partners, PMN provides fast electronic access to crop management solutions for growers and their advisers. PMN focuses on publishing high-quality, applied, and science-based information. PMN is cooperatively managed by the American Society of Agronomy, The American Phytopathological Society, and the Crop Science Society of America.

Win $1,000 in the Garden Photo Contest!

Share your great garden images with the community and enter to win cash prizes! Register for free online and submit your images at www.hortmag.com/gardenphotos. The grand-prize winner will receive $1,000 and a one-year subscription to Horticulture and DavesGarden.com! All winners and runners-up will be published in the upcoming issue of Horticulture and online at Hortmag.com and DavesGarden.com. The five categories for contest entries are Wildlife, Animals, and Insects in the Garden; The Edible Garden; Garden Landscapes; Seasonal Gardens (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter); and People in the Garden. Submit your photos by September 30, 2011.

The Final Soybean Rust Identification Short Course

After six educational years, the final Soybean Rust Identification Short Course will be held at the North Florida Research and Education Center (NFREC) in Quincy, FL. The meeting will begin on September 21, with a southern hospitality welcome dinner at NFREC, and continue through September 23. This year’s meeting will review all the latest research being conducted on soybean rust in the United States, as well as provide opportunities to discuss the past, present, and future resources available to manage this disease. The course will have a hands-on field identification training session and also educate participants about laboratory techniques used to confirm the presence of this fungal pest.

The Quincy area is served by the Tallahassee Regional Airport (TLH) and rides will be arranged to transport participants to and from the hotel and meeting site. Visit the short course website for more information and registration at www.sepdn.org/meetings or contact Nicholas Dufault at +1.352.273.4623 or nsdufault@ufl.edu.

Call for Nominations for the UMN 2012 E. C. Stakman Award

The E. C. Stakman Award is granted to individuals of any country or nationality for outstanding achievements in plant pathology. The award may be given for documented achievements in the areas of research, teaching, outreach, international development, or for any combination of these areas. Preference will be given to candidates actively engaged in these areas; only occasionally will lifetime achievement awards be considered.

Nominations must include a brief biographical sketch of the nominee, a complete curriculum vitae, and two letters from persons who can address the scientific contributions of the candidate. Nominations and supporting materials for the 2012 E. C. Stakman Award are due by December 15, 2011.

Please send your nominations to Carol Ishimaru, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Minnesota, 495 Borlaug Hall, 1991 Upper Buford Circle, St. Paul, MN 55108-6030. Applications can also be e-mailed to lages001@umn.edu.

For more information and application materials, please go to the University of Minnesota’s Department of Plant Pathology webpage at http://plpa.cfans.umn.edu/HonorsAwards/ECStakmanAward/index.htm.

Phytopathology News 135
First Annual Symposium of Zamoranos

Alumni of Zamorano University in Honduras, or “Zamoranos,” gathered for the 1st Annual Symposium of Zamoranos in the United States, held at The Ohio State University (OSU), Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster on May 21. The event included more than 50 students and scholars from nine Latin American countries and around the United States, including OSU, Purdue University, Louisiana State University, and Kansas State University (KSU). Zamorano University is an international agricultural university attended by students with diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds from throughout Latin America. Many Zamoranos come to the United States to pursue graduate studies or employment in agriculture- and plant-protection-related fields. The purpose of the symposium, which included oral and poster presentations, was to showcase the scientific contributions of Zamoranos and highlight the many mutual benefits between Zamoranos and their U.S. and Latin American connections. Zamorano plant pathologists were active at the symposium, including Jorge David Salgado, a Ph.D. student in plant pathology at OSU, and Christian D. Cruz, OSU alumnus (M.S. 2008) and currently a Ph.D. student in plant pathology at KSU.

Forty-Seventh SASPP Congress

The 47th Southern African Society for Plant Pathology (SASPP) Congress was held at the Berg-en-Dal Conference Centre in the Kruger National Park, South Africa, from January 23 to January 26, 2011. The congress was organized by the University of Pretoria, CSIR, and Syngenta SA. Theresa Aveling (Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute) was the chair and Quenton Kritzinger (Department of Plant Science) was the secretary of the Organizing Committee.

The congress was attended by 198 delegates. Aveling opened the congress Sunday evening followed by the J. E. Vanderplank memorial lecture presented by Chrissie Rey. Of the 12 international delegates attending, five gave keynote addresses, namely Guro Brodal (Norway), Burt Bluhm (United States), Kevin Hyde (United Kingdom), Wojciech Janisiewicz (United States), and Paul Birch (United Kingdom). Marieka Gryzenhout presented the Ethel Mary Doidge Memorial Address. There were a total of 59 oral presentations, of which 32 were presented by postgraduate students, and 66 poster presentations. Social events included a Welcoming Reception on Sunday, January 23, the traditional “John Mildenhall Stakes” on Monday, January 24, and a Conference “Bush Banquet” on Tuesday, January 25.

Honk If You Like Fungi

Congratulations to Steven Brooks, winner of the APS bumper sticker contest. Brooks inspired both of the winning bumper stickers given away at this year’s joint meeting. Meeting attendees could pick up “Honk If You Like Fungi” or “Pest or Pathogen or Both?” bumper stickers. Thank you to all the creative minds who gave suggestions for the APS bumper sticker contest. Be sure to proudly display your bumper stickers and share your passion for plant pathology with others!
Student Degrees/Awards

The Ohio State University (OSU) Department of Plant Pathology honored Ph.D. candidates Daniel J. Anco and Gautam S. Shirsekar with the 2011 C. C. Allison Award. The award, which includes a plaque and $800 for each recipient, recognizes high achievement in research and service to the department. Anco’s research, under the guidance of advisors Mike Ellis and Larry Madden, centers on the epidemiology of Phomopsis cane and leaf spot on grape, with the goal of developing a predictive model for the sporulation of Phomopsis viticola on infected grape vines. The overall objective of his research is to improve the timing of early-season fungicide applications for disease control. He was selected as a presenter at the I. E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium for the 2011 APS-IPPC Joint Meeting and has been active in APS and department activities. Anco’s digital imagery was named Best in Show for the 2010 Art in Phytopathology competition, and he has organized several events and fundraisers for the Plant Pathology Graduate Students Association (PPGSA). Shirsekar is studying with Guo-Liang Wang. His research focuses on understanding the molecular basis of ubiquitination-mediated programmed cell death and defense responses in rice. He was awarded a prestigious University Fellowship in 2006–2007, served as the PPGSA president in 2009 and has served on the program’s review panel. Shirsekar is first author on a 2010 review article “Role of ubiquitination in plant innate immunity and pathogen virulence” in the Journal of Plant Biology (53:10-18) with coauthors L. Dai, Y. Hu, X. Wang, L. Zeng, and G.-L. Wang.

Muhammad Bhatti recently completed requirements for an M.S. degree in seed technology and business from Iowa State University (ISU) under the direction of Gary Munkvold. Bhatti is the sixth graduate of the ISU Graduate Program in Seed Technology and Business, an online, nonthesis M.S. degree program launched in 2007 to serve the needs of working professionals in the seed industry and related organizations. Bhatti is currently employed as a cotton pathologist with Monsanto Corp. in St. Louis, MO.

Juliane Evans recently completed requirements for an M.S. degree in plant pathology from Washington State University under the supervision of Timothy Murray. Her research project was on genetic variation in Cephalosporium gramineum, the causal agent of Cephalosporium stripe on wheat, focusing on population structure and reproductive mode of C. gramineum. She determined that asexual reproduction appears to be consistently occurring within C. gramineum among populations tested. She also observed a large amount of morphological and genetic variation with a great number of isolates over time and space. Her supervisory committee included Xianning Chen and Tobin Peever. Evans grew up in Hummelstown, PA, and earned a B.S. degree in biology from Messiah College, in Grantham, PA. Her future plans are to study veterinary medicine at Oklahoma State University beginning this fall.

Andrew V. Gougherty recently completed requirements for his M.Sc. degree in ecology and evolutionary biology from Iowa State University (ISU). Gougherty was the recipient of an ISU Research Excellence Award for his research “An epidemiological comparison of the U.S. and Canadian Plum pox virus eradication programs.” This award honors ISU students whose research accomplishments are among the top 10% at ISU in overall quality. Gougherty was also one of four students selected to participate in the prestigious I. E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium, Today’s Students Making a Difference in the Field of Plant Disease Epidemiology and Disease Management, that was held during the 2011 APS-IPPC Joint Meeting. Gougherty’s major professor was Forrest W. Nutter, Jr. Gougherty is currently working as a research associate in the Department of Plant Pathology and is planning to enter the Peace Corps in the near future.

Suraj Gurung recently completed a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology from the Department of Plant Pathology at North Dakota State University (NDSU), Fargo, ND, under the direction of Tika Adhikari. His dissertation was entitled “Genetic diversity of Pyrenophora tritici-repentis and association mapping of tan spot resistance in spring wheat landraces.” Gurung grew up in Siddharthanagar-9, Nepal, and earned his B.Sc. degree in agriculture and an M.S. degree in plant pathology from the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS), Tribhuvan University, Nepal. His M.S. thesis research, carried out under the direction of Sundar M. Shrestha, was “Epidemiology of Cochliobolus sativus and P. tritici-repentis of wheat and characterization of host resistance on wheat.” He received the APS North Central Division Travel Award to attend the division’s annual meeting in Rapid City, SD, in 2010 and the Frank Bain Scholarship from the Department of Plant Pathology, NDSU, in 2010. Gurung was also involved in several research projects that included association mapping of Stagonospora nodorum blotch (SNB), spot blotch, Septoria tritici blotch (STB), and bacterial leaf streak (BLS) of wheat. In addition, he also conducted population genetic analysis of Mycosphaerella graminicola (STB), C. sativus (spot blotch), and Xanthomonas translucens pv. undulans (BLS). During his study at NDSU, he was the author and coauthor of 14 papers published in peer-reviewed journals. Gurung is currently working as a post-doctoral scholar at the Department of Plant Pathology, University of California-Davis, and his current research project is focused on “Recurrent migration of Vorticillium dahliae: A stealthy and
Pervasive threat to California and U.S. specialty crops under the supervision of Krishna V. Subbarao at the U.S. Agricultural Research Station, Salinas, CA.

Melanie L. Ivey, a Ph.D. candidate in plant pathology at The Ohio State University (OSU), was awarded a Blair F. Janson and Wilmer G. Stover Travel Award. Ivey is studying with Sally A. Miller at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster, where she is employed by Miller as a research associate and will be the department’s first student to earn a doctorate while working full time. Ivey’s work in research, teaching, and extension centers on vegetable production practices and food safety, detection of phytopathogen and human pathogens in plant ecosystems, disease diagnostics, and molecular approaches to studying taxonomic relationships among plant pathogens. She was awarded an OARDC SEEDS graduate research grant for studies on *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 on lettuce and an OARDC SEEDS Small Industry Matching Grant for work on angular leaf spot in cucurbits. She is a senior or coauthor on 11 publications and two book chapters from her work in Ohio and is first author on three OSU Extension Fact Sheets. Ivey is currently an APS Public Policy Board intern and very active in APS endeavors. A novel aspect of her dissertation involves incorporating principles from the social sciences to understand how vegetable producers obtain and process agricultural and food safety information to improve the development and delivery of extension resources. Ivey earned a B.S. degree from the University of Guelph and an M.S. degree from the University of Western Ontario. She has been employed by OARDC since 1999 and is active in OARDC and department programs.

Jaimin Patel received a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology from the Department of Plant Pathology at North Dakota State University (NDSU), Fargo, ND, under the supervision of Tika Adhikari. His Ph.D. research was focused on *Pyrenophora triticci-repentis*: QoI sensitivity monitoring, partial toxin purification, and can spot resistance mapping. Patel grew up in Anand, Gujarat, India, and obtained an M.S. degree in plant pathology from Anand Agricultural University, India. His M.S. research was on “Powdery mildew of mustard and its management.” At NDSU, he received competitive training, such as “new and emerging agricultural pests, diseases, and weeds” at Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Italy; “Oomycete bioinformatics resources training workshop” at Virginia Tech University (VTU); “mass production of quality bioagents” at Bangalore, India; and “laboratory short course on lipid-effector interaction” at VTU. These short-term trainings were supported by external funding. Patel has accepted a postdoctoral scholar position with the Department of Plant Pathology, University of Florida, to work under the direction of G. Shad Ali at IFAS, Mid-Florida Research and Education Center, Apopka, FL.

Lina M. Quesada-Ocampo received her Ph.D. degree in plant pathology in December 2010 from Michigan State University (MSU) under the direction of Mary Hausbeck. Her dissertation is entitled “Host range, host resistance, and population structure of *Phytophthora capsici*.” Quesada-Ocampo has been the recipient of research fellowships to support her studies. The Plant Sciences Fellowship and the A. L. Rogers Endowed Research Scholarship are especially prestigious within the Department of Plant Pathology at MSU and they were awarded to Quesada-Ocampo in acknowledgement of her many research accomplishments. She also received the MSU Paul Taylor Fellowship yearly from 2007 to 2010 and travel awards for the Oomycete Molecular Genetics Workshop and the Oomycete Bioinformatics Workshop. She is currently working as a visiting research associate on functional genomics of *Poaceae* and *Brassicaceae* under the direction of C. Robin Buell in the Department of Plant Biology at MSU.

Three young junior high and high school students trained in plant-pathology-related projects won top-notch awards at several highly competitive Manitoba Science Fairs in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Ashali Wanigasekera (Acadia Junior High, Grade 9) won a gold medal at the Manitoba School’s Science Symposium (MSSS), a Platinum Award, and a $250 scholarship for Best Investigation (Sr 1-3 category), at the Youth Encouraging Sustainability Showcase (Y.E.S.) and a certificate
Illinois high school student Andelyn Russell won a Gold Award for her science fair project in plant pathology addressing hydroxamic acid content, drought stress, and resistance to bacteria in corn presented at the Illinois Junior Academy of Science State Science Fair at the University of Illinois. Her project was also chosen for Best in Category for the Senior Division in Botany. Russell noted that experimenting in this area of plant pathology was a wonderful, engaging experience, and she learned more about the scientific process than she ever had before.

Plant biology professor and active APS member Sheng Yang He was named one of the nation’s most innovative plant scientists by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (GBMF). He was chosen from a list of 239 applicants to become one of 15 HHMI-GBMF plant science investigators. HHMI and GBMF collaborated to create this new initiative, which aims to increase funding for fundamental plant science research. In order to increase funding for plant science research, HHMI and GBMF chose 15 plant scientists from across the nation to become HHMI-GBMF investigators. HHMI and GBMF will fund their investigators’ research for the next five years. He’s research focuses on understanding how bacteria infect plants to cause disease, and he hopes it will help plant scientists and farmers reduce disease infections in crop plants. Because many of the weapons plant pathogens use to attack plants are similar to those used by human pathogens, he said his research also is relevant to the study of human health.

Awards

Dilantha Fernando, professor, Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba (U of M), Winnipeg, Manitoba, is the recipient of a U of M Merit Award for 2010 for outstanding achievements in teaching, research, and service. Each year, eight academics are selected to receive this award from across all faculties of Life Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Engineering in the combination category. Fernando was selected for his outstanding contributions to teaching and research on wheat and canola pathology, supervising several master’s and Ph.D. students, post-docs, and visiting scientists, publishing three book chapters and 12 peer-reviewed articles, registering two rapeseed cultivars with the canola breeders, and being a coapplicant to a patent. In addition, the award recognized Fernando’s services to professional organizations. Further, the award recognized his invaluable service to the farming communities around the world where he travels often to lecture to undergraduate and graduate students in universities, conduct workshops, and participate in farmer training programs. Fernando has received the Merit Award in 2004, 2006, and 2009.

Collaboration

Natasha Acheampong, international affairs specialist with the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), Washington, DC, visited the Department of Plant Pathology at Washington State University, Pullman. Acheampong serves as an international affairs specialist for the Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program in USDA FAS. The program aims to promote food security and economic growth by increasing scientific knowledge and collaborative research to improve agricultural productivity, by training international agricultural research scientists, faculty, and policy-makers. Acheampong has been with the agency for five years and received her degree in international relations from Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. Prior to her appointment with USDA, she was an associate at Greenlee Partners, LLC, and program coordinator at OIC International, a Philadelphia-based not-for-profit organization that provides citizens of the developing world with tools to secure a better future.

New Positions

John E. Bowman recently joined USAID’s Bureau for Food Security as a senior international affairs specialist. Bowman will be working on the Presidential Initiative known as “Feed the Future” (FtF), serving as a technical expert in horticulture, postharvest losses, food safety, and IPM. He will be managing several of the Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs) and will be helping roll out the FtF country implementation strategies in Africa. Bowman has worked at CIMMYT, CIAT, three multinational agribusiness companies (including PepsiCo), and has more than 17 years of experience managing USAID agricultural projects. Most recently, he managed a USAID poultry supply chain activity in Vietnam that linked small farmers to markets and raised

People continued on page 140
People continued from page 139

awareness about avian influenza and food safety. With a new role at USAID focused on crop production, Bowman hopes to once again serve on the Advisory Board of the APS Office of International Programs. Bowman earned a doctorate in plant pathology from the University of Illinois-Urbana under J. B. Sinclair and an M.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison under Luis Sequiera. He has worked on agricultural development projects in more than 35 countries.

Frank P. Wong

was recently named technical service specialist for the northern fungicide business of the United States for the Environmental Science Division of Bayer CropScience LP. Wong received his doctorate in plant pathology from Cornell University and his bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from the University of California (UC) Davis and previously served as an associate specialist in cooperative extension and as a plant pathologist at UC Riverside. He has also served as the APS Public Policy Board subject matter expert working with EPA, providing information on plant diseases and disease management. He is currently a member of the APS Publications Board, the ad hoc committee on innovation and entrepreneurship, and the Pacific Division. Wong will bring his expertise to the technical and research and development team for the fungicide business with a focus on providing solutions for turfgrass diseases.

Nicole A. Ward

joined the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Kentucky (UK) in August of this year. Ward has a B.S. degree in horticulture science and a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology and crop physiology from Louisiana State University. In her exciting Ph.D. research, under the direction of Raymond Schneider, Ward examined the mycoparasite, Simplicillium lansonispentum, and investigated its potential for biological control of the soybean rust pathogen, Phakopsora pachyrhizi. Having obtained promising results, she is now exploring licensing by a biotechnology company. Ward also has extensive experience gained from running her own landscape contracting business in New Roads, LA, and as a licensed irrigation technician, arborist, and pesticide applicator. She published a monthly newsletter for her clientele and has been a regular contributor to the Baton Rouge City Social. Ward has received numerous prestigious awards, honors, and speaking invitations and is the senior author of the Cercospora leaf blight section in the newly revised Compendium of Soybean Diseases and Pests, Fifth Edition, to be published by APS PRESS. Ward’s extension obligations will focus on woody plants, fruits, and ornamentals. Ward brings an exceptional breadth of knowledge and experience in plant pathology and horticulture to her new position at UK.

Presentation

Robert Wick, professor of plant pathology in the Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences Department, University of Massachusetts, led a workshop on plant biotechnology and disease diagnostics at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute in Joydebpur, Bangladesh, in January. The goal was to teach Bangladeshi plant pathologists modern biotechnology-based techniques and conventional methods for the accurate diagnosis of plant diseases. The workshop was the result of a grant that Wick received from the Conservation, Food, and Health Foundation. Wick received a Fulbright award to work in Bangladesh in 2006, and has established ongoing relationships there, helping to establish a plant diagnostic clinic and conducting periodic workshops. He has worked in extension and diagnostic plant pathology his entire professional career; primarily with vegetable and ornamental crops and diseases caused by nematodes.

Retirement

Jim Percich retired from the University of Minnesota (U of M), Department of Plant Pathology, on January 5, 2011. Percich obtained an M.S. degree in biological sciences from Michigan State University (MSU) in 1969. After teaching high school biology in Detroit, MI, Percich returned to graduate school at MSU, where he obtained a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology in 1975. After completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Wisconsin, Percich joined the U of M Department of Plant Pathology as a research fellow in 1976 and was appointed assistant professor in 1977. In 1983, he was promoted to associate professor and in 1989 to professor. His initial appointment focused on research into the diseases of wild rice, which was being domesticated as a paddy-grown crop. The focus of much of his research was management of foliar diseases of wild rice that were a consequence of intensive management practices applied in paddy production. From 1982 through 1986, he conducted research on diseases of sugar beets. In 1987, his research responsibilities expanded to include diseases of asparagus, peas, and dry beans. In particular, he focused on control of Aphanomyces root rot of peas. During the period from 1987 through 2010, his research efforts emphasized the management of Fusarium root rots of dry beans that are a particular problem for growers in central Minnesota. In this effort he developed a network of collaborators that included faculty in the Department of Soil Water and Climate and cooperating growers interested in integrated management approaches for improving dry bean yields. His research efforts resulted in the publication of 68 peer-reviewed papers and more than 120 abstracts.

Percich was a dedicated and popular instructor who taught and advised graduate and undergraduate students for 33 years of his 34-year career at the U of M. As a graduate faculty member, he advised six M.S. and 10 Ph.D. students and taught six different graduate-level courses in applied plant pathology or mycology. These courses included mycology, the biology and ecology of fungi, biology of plant diseases, plant protection compounds, and chemical control of plant diseases. He was also a member of more than 70 graduate committees. Percich was also a committed contributor to the department’s and the college’s undergraduate programs. From 1977 to 1994, he advised undergraduate students in the Plant Pathology Department’s Plant Health Technology Program and Integrated Pest Management Program. His teaching philosophy was based on his view of the plant pathologist as a practitioner of disease diagnosis and disease management methods. In this role he focused on plant pathology in practical “real-world” applications of mycology and plant pathology. This principle motivated his use of the teaching laboratory as an integral component of instruction in plant pathology. His reputation as a graduate instructor was reflected in the popularity of his courses among students in plant pathology, agronomy, and horticulture.

In his retirement, Percich plans to spend time in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, continue with his hobby as a photographer, and participate in volunteer work with the Masons and other organizations. He’s also made a commitment to continue the tradition of morning coffees in the Department of Plant Pathology—a tradition that he helped initiate.
Post-Doctoral Fellowship—Canola Pathology/Physiology

The post-doctoral fellow will take a leadership role for a plant science section of the Marine Bioproducts Research Laboratory. A number of marine bioproducts, including those from seaweeds and marine invertebrates are used in agriculture. These products promote plant growth and impart biotic and abiotic stress tolerance in plants. These beneficial effects are a result of a coordinated biochemical and molecular changes in the plant elicited by these marine bioproducts. The successful candidate will investigate the effect of marine bioproducts on 1) eliciting inducing resistance in canola against stem rot caused by Sclerotinia sclerotiorum and 2) quantity and quality of canola oil. Research responsibilities will include data collection and analysis, writing reports, proposals and manuscripts, and performing experiments and supervising technical staff and students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The successful candidate will be expected to demonstrate research productivity through publication in relevant refereed journals and through dissemination of results at scientific and industry meetings. Applicants must have a Ph.D. degree in plant science, molecular biology, biochemistry, or microbiology. Demonstrated skills in scientific methodologies and standard molecular techniques and publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals are also required. Please quote competition #11-042CH-CB in your cover letter and, if sending via e-mail, in the subject line when applying, and forward to Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Human Resources Consultant, P.O. Box 550, Truro, NS, Canada, B2N 5E3. Fax: +1.902.896.7078; e-mail: NSAC-JobApps@gov.ns.ca. Submissions must be received by midnight on August 18, 2011. For more information about the position, please contact B. Prithiviraj, Department of Environmental Sciences, NSAC, Truro, NS, Canada, B2N 5E3, by phone +1.902.893.6643 or via e-mail at bprithiviraj@nsac.ca.

Post-Doctoral Research Associate—Soybean Breeding and Disease Resistance

A post-doctoral research associate position is available at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in the Field Crops Plant Pathology Program in the Department of Plant Pathology. This position is joint between the laboratories of Craig Grau and Paul Esker and collaborates closely with the Soybean Agronomy program of Shawn Conley. Also, the incumbent will have the opportunity to interact and collaborate closely with researchers from several land-grant institutions in the North Central region. Job responsibilities include both research and extension activities related to research regarding breeding for disease resistance to Sclerotinia stem rot of soybean. The candidate should have a strong background in the use of molecular biology tools aimed at studying breeding for disease resistance, including the use of association mapping. Additionally, the incumbent should have a solid understanding of screening methods for disease resistance and statistics. The incumbent is expected to publish research in refereed journals and has the opportunity to contribute to extension knowledge transfer through various channels like newsletters, field days, and grower meetings. The incumbent will work with established faculty members in the development of research and extension interests, including the writing of new grants. Initial funding is available for one year, with renewal contingent on satisfactory performance. A Ph.D. degree in plant pathology, plant breeding, or closely related field, with experience in molecular mechanisms of disease resistance is desired. Submit letter of application describing research interests and professional goals. Please address specific qualifications as highlighted above. Additionally, please provide current CV, transcripts, and names and contact information for three references to Paul Esker, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706, e-mail: esker@wisc.edu; phone: +1.608.890.1999. This position is open until a qualified candidate is identified. ■

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Phytopathology August 2011, Volume 101, Number 8


September 2011, Volume 101, Number 9


September 2011, Volume 95, Number 9

## Calendar of Events

### APS Sponsored Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 2012</td>
<td>5-6 — APS Southern Division Meeting.</td>
<td>Birmingham, AL.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/south/meetings">www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/south/meetings</a></td>
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### Upcoming APS Annual Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 2011</td>
<td>4-8, 2012 — Providence, RI.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2011</td>
<td>10-14, 2013 — Austin, TX.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2011</td>
<td>9-13, 2014 — Minneapolis, MN.</td>
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### Other Upcoming Events

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 2011</td>
<td>5-7 — Resistance 2011.</td>
<td>Rothamsted Research, United Kingdom.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bart.fraaije@bbrc.ac.uk">bart.fraaije@bbrc.ac.uk</a></td>
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For the most current listing go to [www.apsnet.org/meetings/meetingcalendar](http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/meetingcalendar).