Voting Opens May 5 for Vice President and Councilor-at-Large

The APS Nominations Committee is pleased to announce that Margaret Daub, North Carolina State University, and Mary Palm, APHIS PPQ, are running for vice president of APS. Candidates for councilor-at-large are Paul Vincelli, University of Kentucky, and David Weller, USDA ARS and Washington State University. Members may cast their votes for the 2015 APS election through May 29, 2015.

Profiles and statements of vision for the candidates for office begin on page 62 of this issue. APS members were sent an e-mail on May 5, 2015, with instructions for voting (members without an e-mail address were sent letters). Ballots must be submitted by May 29.

Additionally, a new developing country scientist membership option, to build international engagement in APS, was approved by APS Council for a vote of membership; details will be included in the coming election ballot.

Remember, all votes are confidential. Please contact Cindy Scheller (cscheller@scisoc.org) if you did not receive an e-mail. Results of the 2015 election will be announced in the July issue of Phytopathology News and on the APS website.

New Tomato MD App Featured in the LA Times!

Jeff Spurrier, a freelance writer for a variety of newspapers and magazines, recently featured Tomato MD in the LA Times Home and Garden Section. In the article, Spurrier described the Tomato MD app as “a new tool that is as essential in the garden as a trowel” against insects, parasites, fungi, viruses, bacteria, nutrition, weather, too much water, too little water, and nematodes.

He also mentioned that Tomato MD offers “fast identification of a plant’s problem” and is “set up to take you through the most difficult part of dealing with a sick plant: what’s wrong and what is causing it.”

Read more of what Spurrier had to say about Tomato MD at www.latimes.com/home/la-lh-tomato-md-20150323-story.html. Tomato MD and its sister app, Turf MD, are part of the APS Plant Health family of apps for the Android and Apple/iOS devices.

Get the Turf MD and Tomato MD apps by searching for “Plant Health from APS” in your app store and simply downloading the apps!
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Remember, the vice president will be involved in society leadership for the next four years and the councilor-at-large for the next three. The average voter turnout by APS members in our annual elections is only 25%! In 2014, it was a paltry 21%. People, we are heading in the wrong direction! Many members will claim that they are only interested in receiving the journals and are not interested in society governance and thus do not vote. Consider, however, that those members elected each year will eventually be responsible for the selection of the editors-in-chief of the journals, which will in turn impact the long-term quality of the journals through the editorial boards that they appoint. They will also be ultimately responsible for the quality of future annual meetings since the vice presidential candidate, during their year as president-elect, will serve as the chair of the Annual Meeting Program Committee.

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Editor’s Corner

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Material should be no more than six months old when submitted. Submission of materials as electronic files, via e-mail, will speed processing. For information on submitting electronic images contact Amanda Baumann at amanda@scisoc.org. Deadline for submitting items for the July 2015 issue is May 15, 2015.

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Please Vote!

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

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CADRE Call for Mentors

Renee Rioux, NewLeaf Symbiotics, rrioux@newleafsym.com

It is no secret that mentors help us achieve success. No matter where we are in our careers, a mentor can provide support, advice, and direction. Sometimes, finding a mentor is an easy and natural process. Other times, mentors are found through matching programs offered by employers. However, identifying and establishing a relationship with a potential mentor can be a challenge in many situations. The many important benefits of mentorship make it crucial that means to overcome this hurdle are found. Consequently, the APS Career Advancement Development Resources and Education (CADRE) website is proud to offer new mentoring resources to APS members at all career levels.

CADRE, with support from the Leadership Institute, APS Council, and the Early Career Professionals Committee, is in the process of initiating two new mentoring programs designed to meet the needs of APS membership. The first of these is a mentor-matching program. This program will use an online questionnaire to match potential mentees to mentors in their area of interest. The second program is an online mentoring forum. This will be housed within the CADRE area of the APS website and will provide a means for society members to pose questions about professional development, careers, and other mentoring-related issues. Forum moderators will then contact relevant experts to answer the posted questions in a manner that is accessible online to all APS members.

Why am I writing about this here? Because we need you to be a mentor! The only way for these programs to be successful is for APS members from all sectors and stages in their careers to offer their skills and expertise as mentors. We need current graduate students to help incoming students navigate their early graduate school career. We need early career professionals to guide graduate students and post-docs as they move forth into professional careers. We need individuals who are well established in their fields to assist others as they identify and follow their own career paths. The programs are designed to work with your schedule—once a mentor and mentee are matched, the frequency and form of their meetings is entirely up to them. Similarly, mentors interested in contributing to the forum can choose their area of expertise and the number of times they can be asked for contributions in a given time period.

In addition to helping this APS initiative get off the ground, the benefits of mentoring are numerous. Mentors help their mentees make connections, embrace new technologies, consider novel methods, and more. More often than not, the line between mentor and mentee becomes blurred and the information exchange is equal. If you are interested in becoming a part of these great projects and contributing to APS as a mentor to the next generation of plant pathologists, please contact cadre.mentoring@gmail.com and express your interest in becoming a mentor.

New Fungicide, Biocontrol, and Nematicide Trials Published in PDMR

Access more than 10,000 efficacy trials for just $40 yearly through the Plant Management (PMN) Network. Volume 9 of Plant Disease Management Reports (PDMR) has just been published, and it includes more than 350 new trials on the latest fungicides, nematicides, and biological controls covering various crops. In total, PDMR (www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/pdmr) contains more than 5,000 reports. Additionally, 5,000 online efficacy trials from PDMR’s preceding publications, Fungicide & Nematicide Tests (F&N Tests) and Biological & Cultural Tests for the Control of Plant Disease (B&C Tests) published between the years 2000 and 2006, are also available on the same site. Users can search the reports by keyword or browse by section. Keyword searches can include product names, active ingredients, host crops, and authors. Sections include cereals and forage crops; citrus, tropical, and vegetable crops; field crops; ornamentals and trees; pome fruits; seed treatments (for all crops); small fruits; stone fruits and nuts; and turfgrass. Each one- to two-page report consists of a summary outlining trial conditions and results. Test plot trial data, also in the report, includes treatment rates, application timings, and pertinent efficacy data for each product tested.

APS members can have continuous access to all volumes of PDMR, F&N Tests, and B&C Tests online for just $40 yearly. This subscription also includes access to other PMN resources, which include the Plant Health Progress journal, webcasts, image collections, proceedings, and more. To subscribe or learn more, visit www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/subscriptions.
New APS PRESS Title Presents Latest Knowledge of Tropical Mycology in Easy-to-Understand Format

English and Spanish Editions Available

APS PRESS announces a new key mycology reference and textbook that provides critical information on all major groups of fungi found throughout the world’s tropical regions.

This new and important book, *Introduction to Mycology in the Tropics*, offers thorough coverage of Basidiomycota, Ascomycota, lichens, further groups of true fungi, Straminipila (Heterokonta), and slime molds found in the world’s tropical regions—including their etymology, systematics, geographical distribution, ecology, morphology, life cycles, biochemical aspects, and their importance to humans.

In total, roughly 1,000 fungi and fungus-like organisms are covered in this comprehensive book written by Meike Piepenbring, an internationally recognized expert who has taught tropical mycology for nearly 20 years, as well as written more than 100 articles and book chapters on the subject. Producing Spanish and English editions simultaneously is a first for APS PRESS and was made possible with the help of multiple financial sponsors.

While the book’s title suggests that those with backgrounds in tropical mycology will find it useful, this book provides basic knowledge on fungal diversity for academics, professionals, and enthusiasts in any branch of mycology. It enables users to recognize fungal groups in the field, analyze cellular structures, and understand the ecological importance of fungi. *Introduction to Mycology in the Tropics* provides a range of features that make this book both informational and user friendly.

- Chapters are logically organized according to the systematic classification of fungi
- Easy-to-read call-out boxes feature special topics of interest
- More than 500 images, drawings, and diagrams offer stunning visual coverage of tropical fungi, their interactions with insects and other animals, and plant disease symptoms caused by these fungi
- Diagrams of significant fungal species’ life cycles—some presented for the first time in a didactically suitable format—help readers understand the complexity of fungal development
- Tables offer critical details on phytopathologically important fungi
- Added insights on fungi important to humans, including edible and poisonous mushrooms, medicinally important fungi, and other active compounds
- Up-to-date systematic concepts and taxonomic names
- Comprehensive reference sections, a detailed glossary, and a comprehensive index to stimulate further reading

This comprehensive book also applies to a wide range of disciplines outside of mycology, including phytopathology, medicine, naturalism, ecology, botany, zoology, chemistry, biotechnology, and food engineering.

Preorder *Introduction to Mycology in the Tropics* or *Introducción a la Micología en los Tropicales* today. Visit [www.shopapspress.org](http://www.shopapspress.org) or call toll-free 1-800-328-7560 in the United States and most of Canada. Call +1.651.454.7250 from elsewhere. This book is expected to ship in June 2015.

Latest Studies in Mycology Titles Now in the APS PRESS Bookstore!

Volumes 78 and 79 of the *Studies in Mycology* series are now available at the member discount rate.

*Studies in Mycology* No. 78: *Species Diversity in Aspergillus, Penicillium, and Talaromyces* offers six articles describing the ecology, diversity, nomenclature, and new taxonomic concepts of *Aspergillus, Penicillium*, and *Talaromyces*. A total of 40 new species and three new taxa are accepted.

Volume 79, *Studies in Mycology* No. 79: *Fungal Pathogens of Food and Fibre Crops*, focuses on emerging and established fungal diseases that pose a serious threat to global food supply. This issue also contains six contributions, including a revision of the genus *Bipolaris*, which has species that are commonly associated with leaf spots, leaf blights, root, and foot rots of field crops in the Poaceae, including rice, maize, wheat, and sorghum. In total, 47 species are accepted, and a taxonomic key is provided for their morphological identification.

Find a more detailed description of these books—and the cutting-edge mycology articles contained within them. Search for these titles at [shopapspress.org](http://shopapspress.org) (product numbers 51004 and 51011). APS members, save 10% off the regular price with your order!

Learn More about Cowpea mild mottle virus in the U.S.

In support of the National Plant Disease Recovery System (NPDRS), the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) and APS will host an exciting webinar entitled, “Threat of Cowpea mild mottle virus to bean, soybean, and other legume production in the U.S.—What we know and don’t know about this exotic virus.” The webinar, hosted by Judith Brown, University of Arizona, will address an exotic seedborne virus, Cowpea mild mottle virus (CPMMV), that infects a wide range of cultivated legumes that poses a threat to U.S. soybean production. The virus causes severe mosaic and/or necrotic symptoms in leaves, stems, and pods in many bean (*Phaselous* species), cowpea (*Vigna* species), and soybean (*Glycine max*) varieties grown in the Americas. The webinar will take place on May 19 at 12:00 p.m. (CDT). Registration is now open online and is free to all members ([www.apsnet.org/meetings/meetingcalendar/Webinars/Pages/CowpeaMildMottleVirus.aspx](http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/meetingcalendar/Webinars/Pages/CowpeaMildMottleVirus.aspx)).
**Southern Soybean Disease Workers Gather for the 42nd Annual Meeting**

The 42nd meeting of the Southern Soybean Disease Workers (SSDW) was held March 11–12, 2015, at the Pensacola Beach Hilton in Pensacola Beach, FL. Vice President Trey Price coordinated the local arrangements, and the meeting, was presided over by President Craig Rothrock. This year, 62 people attended the meeting including members representing universities, USDA, the United Soybean Board, and industry. SSDW meets annually and has collected disease loss estimates from 16 soybean-producing states since 1974. The soybean disease loss estimates have been widely utilized and are regularly published to serve as a guide for such organizations as the North Central Soybean Research Program, the United Soybean Board, as well as local soybean promotion boards when allocating funds for pathology research. In addition to meeting on an annual basis, the proceedings from the meeting are forwarded to numerous libraries throughout the United States.

This year’s meeting began with the first round of the graduate student paper competition, with eight presentations on the first day. A banquet was held during the evening and awards were presented to Loren Giesler (The Boyd Padgett Beat the Bushes Award for Excellent Fundraising, presented by Price), Heather Kelly (Future Leader, Friends of Southern IPM, presented by Henry Fadamiro), and Jim Marois (Distinguished Service, SSDW, presented by Schneider). During the second day, seven more students participated in the graduate competition bringing the total to 15 students representing Louisiana State University (LSU), Mississippi State University (MSU), University of Tennessee, and Southern Illinois University (SIU). Jeff Standish (MSU, coadvised by Maria Tomaso-Peterson and Tom Allen) won first place for his presentation “Investigating Fungicide Sensitivities Beyond the QoIs in Cercospora sojina from Mississippi.” Eduardo Chagas da Silva (LSU AgCenter, Ray Schneider) won second place for his presentation “A New Perspective on Cercospora Leaf Blight Symptoms on Soybean.” Nick Frederking (SIU, Jason Bond) won third place for his presentation “Efficacy of Seed Treatments for Management of Fusarium virguliforme and Heterodera glycines.”

Students received monetary awards and plaques for their accomplishments given by Rothrock, outgoing president.

Several presentations on important topics in the southern soybean production system followed the graduate student symposia on both days. Topics included frogeye leaf spot, Cercospora leaf blight, and “mystery disease” management in Louisiana; Soybean vein necrosis virus in Alabama and Mississippi; use of molecular tools to detect QoI resistance in C. sojina; ILrVO seed treatment for soybeans, assessment of fungicides for frogeye leaf spot management, random point assignments to determine the impact of SDS; and cultural and chemical controls on seed quality, stand, and yield in Arkansas.

Additionally, we’d like to thank our sponsors without whom the meeting would not be possible: Arysta LifeScience, BASF, Bayer CropScience, Cheminova, DuPont, FMC, Pioneer, and Valent.

The officers for SSDW for 2015–2016 are Price, LSU, AgCenter—president; Terry Spurlock. University of Arkansas—vice president; Danise Beadle, Eurofins Agroscience Services, Inc.—secretary; Patricia Bollich, LSU, AgCenter—treasurer; Allen, MSU—chair, Disease Loss Estimate Committee.

The next meeting of SSDW will be held in Pensacola Beach, FL, March 9–10, 2016.
Navigating Your Network

Janna Beckerman, Purdue University, jbeckrm@purdue.edu

As plant pathologists, we are well aware that the world is about relationships. Relationships can exist in many different ways, and as scientists, we take great joys in defining these relationships. Biologically speaking, we often define these relationships as symbiotic, commensal, mutualistic, or parasitic. Symbiosis, a term first used in a biological context by the father of plant pathology, de Bary, in 1879, describes an association between different species; this term was previously used to describe people living together in community. Mutualism describes a process where both creatures benefit, compared to commensalism, where one benefits, but the other is not harmed. Finally, parasitism is a term plant pathologists are quite knowledgeable about and which needs no introduction.

Although we are most familiar with these terms in a biological context, we can and often do evaluate our interactions with other people this way, too, which makes the prevailing mentoring paradigm, the guru-adviser model, so interesting. It is a fantastic model, assuming you have the right chemistry between both members. Unfortunately, that doesn’t always happen. In fact, I suspect it rarely happens. Simply stated, most of us never find that one guru. It is a quest akin to a “soul mate”—an idealized person who makes everything right. If you think about it, that is a lot of pressure on one person. This person is expected to assist in the navigation of institution; nurture a fledging research, teaching, and/or extension program; and guide you through a process of evaluation and tenure, expanding your professional networks, all while helping you create work/life balance. And other than the satisfaction of knowing that the guru helped, there isn’t much in it for the guru.

In thinking about the guru model, and why I haven’t been successful in finding one, I realized that I still can’t do these things for myself on a regular and consistent basis without really screwing something up—which is probably why so few of us actually find this person. What I’ve also realized is that there are numerous people, not one, who have helped me throughout my career, and continue to do so. In this way, I have a personal advisory board, and a network of mentors that have helped me develop my career. Developing a network of advisors allows me to take advantage of the strengths and mitigate the weaknesses of my mentors, in effect developing that “perfect guru” as a sum of the best parts.

So, instead of looking for the near-mythical perfect mentor, what about assembling your own personal advisory board or a network? Something that is at worst, commensal, and at best mutualistic? Networking, unlike mentorship, is predicated on mutualism. That established person you may wish to know may be your first choice. Meet again for coffee, lunch, or over a poster session while at the APS Annual Meeting. Call, e-mail, or text. And don’t forget social media—“friend” or “follow.”

It is really about how you interact, your “chemistry.”

Many people think that they should only network with people at their career level or higher—but learning from younger, less-experienced people will develop some of the strongest and even richest connections you ever have.

Be open minded. Different isn’t bad. In order to experience anything new, you have to be open to the experience first.

All of us, at one time or another, need some combination of encouragement, professional development, intellectual communion, a role model, a champion, access to opportunities, feedback, emotional support, and yes, someone to set us straight and reel us in when we fall off the tracks. And we can all be that person to someone else, just not maybe all of the time. That’s a lot to ask of any one person. So, instead of looking for that guru, consider how you can develop your network of people.
OPRO Mid-Year Meeting Summary

Monica L. Elliott, OPRO Director, melliott@ufl.edu

The Office of Public Relations and Outreach (OPRO) met at APS Headquarters in December to review the past year and plan for the next. OPRO’s major activities center around career and science fairs as listed below.

**U.S. Science & Engineering Festival—April 2014**

This festival draws thousands of people of all ages into the Washington, DC, Convention Center. Hands-on activities that can be viewed quickly, but make a point, are absolutely essential. The demonstration of water-splashed spores was useful and the “band-aids” handed out with the APS logo and reminder that “Plants Get Sick Too” helped to reinforce our message that the world needs plant doctors to keep plants and the world healthy. However, it is hard to compete with a walking panda and other high-profile displays. For the next festival in 2016, our goal is to find or make hats that will catch people’s attention, e.g., a corn hat with smut, while at the booth or walking around the convention halls.

**Future Farmers of America (FFA)—October 2014**

The University of Kentucky provided the perfect plant specimen for our booth at FFA. The diseased pumpkin had distinct lesions that were sporulating, which provided the perfect connection to the spore dispersal demonstration, for both teachers and students. Teachers view the spore demonstration as an easy and cheap demonstration tool. Students ask questions about how to control diseases, which allows us to point out companies with plant breeding programs, pesticide developers, etc., that are located in close proximity to the APS booth.

The board is considering presenting at the teachers world portion of the FFA convention.

**National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT)**

As with FFA, the spore dispersal demonstration was a good way to connect with teachers. But, we would like to go further in 2015 and have submitted a proposal for a session at the next NABT conference in Providence, RI.

**Agriculture Future of America (AFA)—November 2014**

This career event and student leadership conference is attended by a highly selective group (~150) of college students with an interest in agriculture-related fields. The students are primarily interested in obtaining internships, which is why it is so critical for universities and companies to list plant pathology internships on the APS website. The main questions students had were “what do you do?” and “what did you do to obtain your position?” The APS brochure on how to apply to graduate school was well received. We next plan to develop brochures listing internships and plant pathology department contacts.

**Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS)—March 2015**

During the MANRRS conference, a one-day career fair is held, which allows APS to inform both students and teachers about plant pathology and the huge range of careers that are available. Once again, the spore dispersal demonstration was used to “catch their eye” and then OPRO members answer their questions and provide information regarding graduate school, plant pathology department contacts, and future jobs.

Future outreach activities we would like to develop are for the general public and youth. Proposed new activities or outreach ideas include:

**Plant Pathology Science Festival Tool Box**

It simply isn’t possible for OPRO to take the APS booth to every science festival in the country. But, there are plant pathologists and APS members in every state. Thus, it should be a shared responsibility among all APS members to inform the general public and especially youth about the importance of plant pathology. OPRO will be developing an example of how one could set-up a “plant doctor” booth at a science festival or student recruitment event by providing a “tool box” to every plant pathology department or group in the United States. We also know that some departments already have great outreach events and tools, and it would be nice to have those ideas shared with all APS members via *Phytopathology* News articles and perhaps at a future annual meeting.

**Development of Science Fair Project Ideas**

One problem that high-school teachers and their students encounter is how to obtain plant pathogens to use in the classroom or for science fair projects. Even though *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* is considered a BSL-1 biological agent under the INTEL science fair rules, many students still don’t work with this pathogen because they don’t have access to it—they don’t know a plant pathologist and the simple mention in the Carolina Biological Supply Co. catalog that a permit may be required prevents some school districts from allowing it to be ordered. We propose to develop a framework for projects, with a series of open-ended questions, to provide ideas and inspiration, along with contacts in each state, for obtaining certain plant pathogens.

As part of OPRO’s mission to support APS members, OPRO is a sponsor of a session at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Pasadena entitled “Engagement in Plant Pathology: You Can’t Start Too Early.” The APS Foundation and OPRO will be funding a professional production of a CD by the de Bary-tones, a plant pathology band based at the University of Wisconsin. This CD will be sold via APS PRESS.

Regarding the OPRO Board, two major changes will occur in 2015. **Nicole Donofrio** has been approved by APS Council as the new director of OPRO. APS Council has also approved an addition to the OPRO board of a one-year voting position for a graduate student representative. ■
Phytobiomes: An Extension Perspective

Yazmín Rivera, APS Public Policy Intern, yaz.rivera@gmail.com, Ann B. Gould, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Gould@njaes.rutgers.edu

We’ve all heard about the Phytobiomes Initiative spearheaded by APS (and if you haven’t yet, please visit the webpage, www.phytobiomes.org). In summary, this initiative arose from an APS Council request to the APS Public Policy Board (PPB) to advocate for strategies to increase food quality and security for an increasing human population. Reaching these goals will require comprehensive knowledge of plant biomes, or “phytobiomes,” which encompass all of the living organisms (microbes, insects, other plants, etc.) in, on, and around plants as well as their surrounding environment. A multidisciplinary, systems-level approach that includes research on both fundamental and applied levels will be essential.

For decades, we have seen that the products of research are preceded by years of increased attention and investment (Beachy et al., 2014). For example, public and private investments in technologies, such as DNA sequencing, have resulted in more efficient production of hybrids and thus better yields for farmers. Similarly, reverse and forward genetics and genetic engineering have revolutionized agriculture by increasing the understanding of how plants respond to environmental and biological stresses in their environment as well as our ability to manage them. To meet the demands of this century, the next agricultural revolution will need to focus on understanding whole phytobiomes using the latest “omics,” computational, and next-generation precision agriculture technologies as well as powerful systems and modeling approaches.

The goal of the Phytobiomes Initiative is to drive sufficient funding toward research to enable a comprehensive understanding of phytobiomes to improve crop productivity. Meeting this goal will require that scientists with diverse expertise work together to understand how knowledge of phytobiomes might reveal novel plant disease control strategies, how to remediate contaminated soils or rebuild depleted soils, or how to improve food quality and safety. Furthermore, the research outcomes from this initiative will have to be effectively communicated to those who can apply new technologies at the field level to ultimately increase yields of food, feed, and fiber. Therefore, the platform in which the Phytobiomes Initiative puzzle sits must include extension and education.

Following the 100-year celebration of the Smith-Lever Act that founded what we now know as the cooperative extension service as an integral part of land-grand universities, the Phytobiomes Initiative promises to bring research that can once more change the face of agriculture. Despite a decrease in funding in the last 20 years, extension programs have continued to address a wide variety of issues from agriculture to economics and environmental sciences. With approximately 2,900 offices nationwide and a plethora of programs directed at diverse audiences, the cooperative extension service will play a pivotal role in disseminating and implementing the research products from this initiative.

The role of the extension service, however, does not end there. Cooperative extension programs help to educate the general public about the importance and protection of agricultural systems and resources. Increasing awareness in the general public of phytobiomes and their importance for agriculture will help gather support for increased research funding. This will be a challenge when so many other pressing issues are at hand, but educational programs targeted to the right audiences can lay the groundwork for an increase in attention by policy-makers. Furthermore, programs and resources that serve youth and their communities (for example, 4-H programs) will help to spread the excitement of new ideas, like the Phytobiomes Initiative, to what will be the next generation of scientists.

A roadmap for how to approach phytobiomes research is being developed, starting with discussions at the meeting, Phytobiomes 2015: Designing a New Paradigm for Crop Improvement, to be held in Washington, DC, June 29–July 2, 2015 (www.phytobiomes.org). Please consider attending this meeting to promote the perspective of extension in this roadmap.

References:

Pick Up a Souvenir on Your World Travels

Do you have upcoming world travel plans? Pick up a souvenir! The APS Office of International Programs (OIP) is excited to host the 11th Annual Silent Auction, and we need your treasures. The proceeds from the auction will fund the OIP Global Experience Program (www.apsnet.org/members/outreach/oip/Pages/GlobalExperience.aspx). If you are interested in contributing to this unique event, fill out the donation form on the Silent Auction website (www.apsnet.org/members/outreach/oip/Pages/SilentAuction.aspx). If your organization would like to sponsor this year’s auction, information and the sponsorship form are also available on the Silent Auction website. The Silent Auction will take place at the APS Annual Meeting, Sunday, August 2, 2015, in Pasadena, CA.
USCCN: Preserving, Storing, and Maintaining Microorganisms at KSU

The United States Culture Collection Network (USCCN) announces a formal hands-on course on Preserving, Storing, and Maintaining Microorganisms. The course will be held at the Fungal Genetics Stock Center at Kansas State University (KSU). Course content will be provided by CABI instructors and augmented by members of USCCN. Topics include specific methods for strain preservation, assessing preservation success, as well as regulatory issues for sharing microbes, and quality management systems for microbe collections. Specific methods for maintaining or preserving bacteria, archaea, fungi, algae, nematodes, and plant viruses will be described. Opportunities to conduct specific techniques will be available in the KSU plant pathology teaching laboratories.

Instructors include David Smith, Matthew Ryan, and Anthony Kermode, all of CABI, UK, as well as David Nobles of the UTEX algal collection, Timothy Todd of KSU plant pathology, Kevin McCluskey of the Fungal Genetics Stock Center, and guest content from KSU plant pathology faculty.

Participants will be invited to bring their most recent poster for a casual dinner activity and will receive a certificate of completion from USCCN. Registration will be $750 for a two-day event, August 13–14, 2015, in Manhattan, KS. Priority will be given to U.S. registrants and some scholarships may be available.

For more information and to register, please see www.usccn.org.

Presented in collaboration with the U.S. National Science Foundation Research Coordination Network for a community of microbial germplasm repositories (grant DBI-1203113) and CABI (www.cabi.org/services/microbial-services).

Phytobiomes 2015
Designing a New Paradigm for Crop Improvement

June 30–July 2
Washington, DC, U.S.A.

The Phytobiomes 2015 workshop provides a venue for multidisciplinary exchange focused on the successes, gaps, and future needs for phytobiomes research. Hear from a diverse range of speakers, and contribute to discussions working toward the development of a roadmap for advancing our knowledge of phytobiomes.

Attendees are encouraged to submit phytobiomes-related abstracts for poster presentations, and early career professionals and graduate students may also apply for a $1,000 travel award (10 available).

• Abstracts for poster presentations due May 5 (extended)
• Early career travel awards submissions due April 30
• Advance registration rates through June 15
  • $300 Professional
  • $200 Student

Meeting schedule, speakers, sponsors, and more online: phytobiomes.org/meeting

The Phytobiomes Initiative is coordinated by APS and other partner organizations.
Margarite E. Daub

Professor, Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, North Carolina State University (NCSU), Raleigh, NC

Area of Specialization: Molecular biology of fungal pathogenesis, photoactivated toxins, genetic engineering for disease resistance.


Brief Description of Professional Achievements: I joined the department of Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University in 1983 in a research and teaching position. In research, I have had a long-term focus on studying the role of light-activated toxins in pathogenicity by Cercoospora species and related fungi, including studies on mode of action, biosynthesis, and resistance. I have also conducted research on engineering crops for disease resistance, and, most recently, have begun investigating pathogenicity mechanisms in the banana-Mycosphaerella fijiensis interaction. In the Department of Plant Pathology, I taught the undergraduate general plant pathology course and graduate fungal-plant interactions course. In 1999 I was appointed Head of the Department of Botany, now the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology formed through departmental realignments. In my role as Department Head, I provide leadership for the department’s teaching, research, and extension missions. I have continued with my research, and remain active in teaching including professionalism courses for graduate students and co-teaching an advanced fungal genetics course. I have had the opportunity to advise many graduate students and postdoctoral scientists, and have been active in interdisciplinary graduate training programs. I recently served as co-PI for an NSF-funded ADVANCE program, working to foster advancement of women faculty through department head workshops and faculty leadership training. I am currently leading an initiative to develop a research center that brings together plant biologists, bioinformaticians, and engineers to harvest the promise of systems biology to address problems in sustainable crop production. On a national level I have had the opportunity to serve on NSF and USDA grants panels, and served as panel manager for the USDA NRI plant pathology panel. I have been a member of APS since 1976, and have had the privilege of serving in diverse roles, including 10 years on the editorial board of Phytopathology, chair of the Publications Board, and member of Council. During my term on the Publications Board, we worked to strengthen the publications mission of APS and to facilitate the transition in journal publishing to open-access, on-line formats. Most recently I served as a member of the APS Governance Committee, leading to the restructuring of Council, as well as participating in the May 2013 “Thought Leader” workshop.


Statement of Vision for APS: I have been a member of APS for 37 years and have benefited from its many activities both as member and volunteer. APS is a vibrant and visionary society that serves diverse clientele and missions for a science of fundamental importance to the sustainability of our planet, yet remains poorly understood by the public. Primary to the mission of APS is the dissemination of knowledge, both of primary research on basic and applied advances in our science, as well as knowledge about the impact of plant disease on agriculture, the environment, society, and history.

My volunteer service in APS was grounded in the publishing side of the society. As a nominee for vice president, I welcome the opportunity to provide leadership to continue to strengthen our publication mission, which I view as central to the future of our society. I am also excited about the opportunity to promote and enhance two other critical roles of our society: our role in educating decision-makers and the general public and the importance of fostering interaction and professional development of our members. We are facing a time of sharply diminishing federal and state support for scientific research. We are also seeing increasing public suspicion and rejection of scientific understanding of issues critical to agriculture, from denials of climate change to fear of GMO crops. Our members, our science, and society are well served by efforts by APS and by our members to educate policy-makers and the general public about the scientific foundation of these issues, the challenges we face in ensuring a sustainable and safe food supply, and the importance of funding scientific research. We have been well served by the activities of our APS Public Policy Board and of our online outreach materials. I see strengthening and enhancing our outreach and educational mission, to decision makers and to the public, as a critical function of APS.

I am also interested in enhancing another important role of the society, that of fostering interaction and professional development of our members. As a department head as well as coleader in a campus initiative to foster faculty development, I am frequently asked to speak on topics related to professional development for faculty and students. One lesson that I always impart is the role that APS has played in my professional advancement, from providing critical professional contacts to the many leadership opportunities that I have had. When I look back on my career, I owe much of my success to contacts and volunteer and leadership opportunities obtained through APS. To sustain a vibrant science, we need to support and promote connections and opportunities for our members, fostering members’ professional advancement, which in turn brings recognition to our science and APS.
Mary E. Palm

National Coordinator of Citrus Pest Programs, USDA APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), Riverdale, MD

Area of Specialization: Systematics of plant pathogenic fungi, diagnostics of regulatory pathogens, invasive and emerging plant diseases.

Academic Record: B.A., 1976, St. Olaf College; M.S. and Ph.D., 1979 and 1983, University of Minnesota (UMN).

Brief Description of Professional Achievements: I have spent my career with APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) in the National Identification Services, where my passion for fungal systematics has intersected with agricultural biosecurity. Most recently, I supervised the National Specialists and the Remote Pest Identification Program. In order to inform PPQ leadership on the feasibility and utility of using molecular technologies for detection or identification at ports of entry, I led a pilot study pairing several technologies with some of PPQ’s Plant Inspection Stations. I established, staffed, equipped, and led the PPQ Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory from 2006 to 2011, which provided timely final, federal confirmation of quarantine pests. I served on the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) Operations Committee (2006–2014) and helped coordinate NPDN and PPQ diagnostic efforts. For more than 20 years, I was the PPQ national mycologist, which gave me the opportunity to identify fungi from all parts of the world, participate in trade negotiations, and provide leadership in pest identification. I coorganized an International Workshop (2007) sponsored by the Sloan Foundation and Consortium for the Bar Code of Life to determine the appropriate approach to including fungi as part of the Bar Code of Life efforts.

My interest in science policy and interagency collaboration came to a head when selected to be the APS Public Policy Board Fellow at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (2010–2011). While there, I created the framework for an interagency initiative using challenges and prizes to answer food safety questions. I advanced the administration’s efforts to manage scientific collections and continue as a member of the Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections (2010–present). I was a member of the team that developed USDA’s Scientific Integrity Policy (2012–2013) as required by presidential memorandum. I currently lead the $20 million USDA Huanglongbing (HLB) Multiagency Coordination initiative where, with 15 federal, state, and industry representatives, I coordinate Federal research with industry efforts to fill gaps, reduce duplication, and speed progress in finding tools to help the citrus industry fight HLB.


Awards and Honors: APS Excellence in Regulatory Affairs and Crop Security (2013); MSA Fellow (2003); Distinguished Alumnus, Department of Plant Pathology, UMN (1999); Vice President Gore’s Hammer Award, Digital Image Pilot Project Member; USDA: 2010 Partnership Award for Innovative Program Models (NIFA-NPDN); Honor Award for Excellence, Group, Asian Soybean Rust (2006); Honor Award for Personal and Professional Excellence-Urgent Response Group for Emergency Needs in Taxonomy (1999).

Statement of Vision for APS: As a member since 1977, APS has been key in shaping my professional life. I’m proud of our society and our ever-important role as an international leader in the science of plant pathology, as well as a trusted source of knowledge and information.

The APS Vision states that we “… will be 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.” I am committed to helping APS strive for and realize that vision.

To move our vision closer to reality, we need to address challenges and identify opportunities. Publishing in the electronic age is a challenge and Nik Grunwald is leading the effort to find opportunities by assessing trends, alternative models, and new technologies. Already we moved to an XML-based workflow that will benefit members, including more rapid publication. We continue to examine and make decisions about our publication model and strategy in order to remain competitive and be “…the globally recognized resource for plant health information and knowledge dissemination.”

Attracting students to our profession is another challenge and opportunity. Highlighting the diversity of career paths available to APS members will help draw students and ensure the continued relevance and vibrancy of APS. While there are fewer faculty positions available in academia, many plant pathologists now have successful and fulfilling careers in the federal, state, or industry sectors. It is important that we highlight other career opportunities, e.g., politics, journalism, and public policy. Those individuals educate the general public, as well as policy-makers, about the importance of science and agriculture in general, and plant pathology in particular. How could a student resist plant pathology once he/she saw the many exciting career opportunities?

Most of us are aware of the daunting challenge of feeding 9.6 billion by 2050; and that in the face of climate change. This will require increased funding as well as international and interdisciplinary partnerships. The Phytobiomes Initiative and APS Council’s efforts to document impact are two efforts to support increased funding. We have an awesome opportunity to develop and strengthen our international partnerships as we host the 2018 International Congress of Plant Pathology.

I am honored and humbled to be nominated for vice president. If elected, I will strive to ensure that we engage members and serve them wherever they live or work, value and recognize our volunteers, and communicate the impact of our discipline. I will endeavor to maintain and strengthen APS as an innovative, financially stable, forward-thinking, and high-quality professional society.

Overall, I believe the challenge is great but the opportunities are many. If elected, I promise to work with APS Council, membership, and staff to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities in order to lead APS toward our vision.

Candidates continued on page 64
Candidates for Councilor-at-Large

Paul Vincelli

Management of plant diseases; molecular detection of pathogens; sustainability of food systems; climate change and agriculture; genetically engineered crops; international agriculture.

Academic Record: B.S. and M.S., 1981 and 1983, Rutgers University; Ph.D., 1988, Cornell University.

Brief Description of Professional Achievements: Three years in the Peace Corps were my inaugural professional experience. During graduate study, I worked with onion farmers in New York to develop a predictive system to reduce fungicide usage. My initial professorial appointment was at the University of Wyoming, where I covered all extension plant pathology responsibilities. Since joining the faculty at UK in 1990, I have covered pathology of corn, turfgrasses, and forages. I have taught several courses, though I have a special fondness for introductory plant pathology, students’ first exposure to our discipline.

Examples of significant accomplishments in applied research include demonstrating the agronomic value of Aphanomyces-resistant alfalfa; documenting resistance to QoI fungicides in turfgrass-infecting strains of Pyricularia oryzae and designing management programs for these; and modeling fungicide runoff from turfgrasses. I have taught hands-on workshops on real-time PCR to applied plant pathologists in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Recently, I led extension programming at UK on three emotionally challenging topics: climate change, agricultural sustainability, and GMO crops.

Service to APS: Service as editor and reviewer has been my most important contribution to APS. Such service is important for maintaining the high scientific standards of our society, as well as assuring clarity in communicating our science. I have served three terms as editor of various sections of Plant Disease Management Reports (and its predecessor publications). I also served as senior editor of the APSner Education Center and The Plant Health Instructor and two terms as senior editor for Forage and Grazinglands. I review manuscripts regularly for APS journals and APS PRESS books. I have worked on APS committees, including the Awards Committee, the Teaching Committee, the OIP Awards Committee, and the Southern Division Membership Committee. I have served on the Chemical Control Committee, as well as the Environmental Quality and Plant Health Committee, which included chairing the latter and moderating a session entitled, “Fate of Pesticides in the Environment.” My service on these particular two committees illustrates the broadminded, comprehensive approach I seek to adopt on complex issues.

Other Professional Service: Member and chair of several UK promotion and tenure committees; member, Southeast Climate Consortium (2014–present); Climate Science Rapid Response Team (present–2012); UK Sustainable Agriculture Curriculum Coordinating Committee (2005–2010); cochair, Program Committee, National Plant Diagnostic Network National Meeting (2008–2009); president, Gamma Sigma Delta Kentucky Chapter (2008–2009); and a wide variety of service activities at departmental, college, university, and regional levels.

Awards and Honors: Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Nicaragua (2014); Fulbright Senior Specialist in Agriculture Award to Uruguay (2013); Whitteker Award for Excellence in Extension, UK (2012); UK Provost’s Award for Outstanding Teaching, (2011); Great Teacher Award, UK Alumni Association (2011); Outstanding Service to Extension Award, Kentucky Association of County Agricultural Agents (2010); UK Provost’s Distinguished Service Professorship (2007); APS Excellence in Teaching Award (2007); Fulbright Scholar Award to Uruguay (2005); Master Teacher Award, Gamma Sigma Delta, Kentucky Chapter (2004).

Statement of Vision for APS: My first priority for APS is to continue the history of excellence in conducting and communicating science and its relevance to human society. Recently, I have led extension programming on the controversial topics of climate change and GMOs. My experience in these topics has strengthened my respect for the importance of scientific societies in helping our fellow citizens and representatives make informed decisions regarding scientific topics of great public importance. Well-crafted, evidence-based position papers from scientific societies are critical to the development of science-based government and business policies, as well as a testament to a shared ethic of the scientific community to serve the public. Globally, APS is a vital source of credible information deriving from individual scientists as well as from communities of scientific experts. We place a high value on reproducible, peer-reviewed evidence, analytical thinking, and challenging of professional biases. Supporting our APS membership in upholding this standard is a high priority for me.

Also important is continuing to value diversity in APS—diversity in the broadest possible sense. APS is wonderfully diverse, which is evident to anyone who attends our annual meetings. Gains in gender representation have strengthened our scientific community, and one hopes for continued gains in ethnic and racial representation. As a scientist who has lived and worked in several countries, I greatly value our global membership (35%), another indicator of our diversity. Our membership includes scientists from diverse industries with interests in plant diseases and their management. These scientists greatly enrich our society and broaden our intellectual exchanges. Our diversity extends to scientific questions (even those that may appear “settled” to most of us) and to philosophical perspectives about how to best meet the food and fiber needs of present and future generations. While APS has limits in its ability to meet all needs of its members and to fully represent the viewpoints of each member, it is essential to foster a welcoming atmosphere for any and all with an interest in the biology and management of plant diseases. This is an area of strength for me with respect to serving as councilor-at-large: an ability to listen, weigh, and communicate diverse points of view.

Addressing challenges to sustainability is increasingly important in agricultural sciences. These challenges are immense and growing. Yet how fortunate we are that, as plant pathologists, our daily work can contribute to meeting these challenges now and in the future.

I recall my excitement upon joining APS. However, my appreciation for APS has only grown since those early days of discovery as a graduate student. I look forward to giving my “grain of sand” in continuing our tradition of scientific excellence.
David M. Weller

Research Leader, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Root Disease and Biological Control Research Unit, Washington State University (WSU), Pullman.

Area of Specialization: Soilborne pathogens, biological control, rhizosphere microbiology, and disease-suppressive soils.

Academic Record: B.S., 1974, Miami University; M.S. and Ph.D., 1975 and 1978, Michigan State University (MSU).

Brief Description of Professional Achievements: I discovered plant pathology as an undergraduate, but my passion for our discipline was ignited during my M.S. research on common blight of bean. After graduate school, I accepted a post-doc with ARS at WSU and three years later was hired as a research plant pathologist. In 1999, I became research leader with responsibilities for the fiscal and personnel management of my unit, which consists of three other scientists and ARS and WSU staff, students, and post-docs. I have conducted research on a variety of root diseases of small grains, but my focus has been on biocontrol of soilborne pathogens, antibiotic production in the rhizosphere, and disease-suppressive soils. I am especially proud of the research conducted by my students, post-docs, and ARS colleagues, who elucidated the microbial basis of take-all decline and the role of antibiotics in pathogen suppression. Service to others has been an integral part of my career. I am an adjunct professor in the Plant Pathology Department and have served WSU as a member of the Plant Biosciences Building and Biotechnology Research Complex Committees, Marketing and Communications Leadership Council, and student committees. My ARS service includes Pacific West Area (PWA) acting assistant director; Patent Committee; special emphasis program manager, disability employment; OSQR Focus Group; Plant Diseases Action Plan Committee; and Research Leader Advisory Council. I have also worked at Utrecht University, the Netherlands, teaching, mentoring students, and conducting research. Another rewarding role is directing the outreach program "Pumping-Up the Math and Science Pipeline," which I founded in 2006 to promote STEM education among underserved youth. We recruit volunteers from ARS, WSU, and other colleges to teach in rural schools and in schools and science camps on Native American Reservations, and also to mentor research interns. More than 2,500 youth have received unique STEM educational opportunities and a broader vision of life choices.


Awards and Honors: Willie Commelin Scholten Chair in Phytopathology (2003, 2013) and OECD Fellow (2004–2005, 2013), Utrecht University; USDA Secretary’s Honor Award, Diversity Category (2011); WSU Martin Luther King, Jr., Distinguished Service Award (2010); WSU College Assistance Migrant Program Award (2009); ARS PWA EEO/Civil Rights Award (2006); APS Fellow (2001); AAAS Fellow (1999); APS Ruth Allen Award (1997).

Statement of Vision for APS: APS continues to be a voice for plant pathologists globally, providing state-of-the-art information about plant health. APS also provides a platform to share ideas, collaborate, gather at meetings, recruit and train future pathologists, and facilitate career preparation and development. In addition, APS has the important mission of educating policy-makers, funding agencies, the larger scientific community, and the public about the importance of plant diseases. These core functions must be kept strong as we move further into the 21st century. As a forward-looking society, APS has sought to best position the discipline of plant pathology to meet current and future societal needs and disease problems. Historically, APS has been organized around plant pathology departments at land-grant universities, which has helped to create a robust membership and a volunteer spirit that underpins all of its functions. However, the walls between disciplines are dissolving, with some departments merging into broader plant biology programs. To keep our future membership numbers strong, APS must continue to reach out to scientists who work outside of traditional plant pathology departments. In addition, we need to continue to grow our membership among overseas and private-sector scientists. The challenge for APS will be to provide the right blend of services, publications, and programs for a membership with increasingly diverse interests, expertise, and expectations of the society. We must ensure that overseas members feel connected to the society given that travel to APS meetings is often not possible for them. We can do more to honor the contributions of this portion of the membership. Another challenge will be to help ensure that there is sufficient food production for a growing population. To accomplish this goal, APS must continue to play a leadership role in strengthening relationships and coalitions among scientific societies, private industry, and other groups so that collectively we can speak with one voice about the need for research, outreach, and the training of scientists. The job of rallying support for the resources needed to enhance food production is beyond the abilities of any one organization. I support increasing outreach activities at all levels. Historically, our publications have provided a steady revenue stream to support APS activities, but the business of scientific publishing is evolving rapidly and becoming more competitive. APS must keep pace with changes in publishing and the expectations of scientists. Thus, the society must seek new sources of revenue to offset expected declines in funds generated by our publications. APS is underpinned by a dedicated professional staff. We must continue to maintain and reward our world-class staff and always recognize the volunteerism of our membership. I envision an APS that is increasingly more diverse and nimble enough to encompass all the needs of a membership that is becoming more scientifically specialized. I pledge to work for all APS members and to help keep our society vibrant, relevant, and dynamic!
New Joseph Kuć Student Travel Award Established

The APS Foundation is pleased to announce the establishment of the Joseph Kuć Student Travel Fund, made possible by the generous contribution of Mrs. Karola Kuć. The late Joseph Kuć was deeply passionate about teaching and was internationally recognized for his research on plant-pathogen interactions, the biochemical basis of plant defense, and induced resistance.

The fund has been established to foster student interest in plant pathology and to help underwrite the cost of attendance to the APS Annual Meeting.

Kuć, professor emeritus of plant pathology at the University of Kentucky (UK), was born on November 24, 1929, to Peter and Helen Kuć in New York City. After graduating from the Bronx High School of Science in 1947, he went to Purdue University (PU), where he received B.S. (1951), M.S. (1953), and Ph.D. (1955) degrees in biochemistry. His doctoral research was mentored by Forrest W. Quackenbush and involved one of the earliest studies that demonstrated the active production of antimicrobial compounds by plants as part of their defense against disease.

He joined the faculty of biochemistry at PU as an assistant professor in 1955 and reached the rank of full professor in 1963. In 1974, he became professor of plant pathology at UK and was named distinguished alumni professor in 1978 and research professor in 1993. He retired from UK in 1995. While at PU, he spent a year at the Agricultural University at Wageningen on a Fulbright Travel Grant and a fellowship from the Netherlands Research Council. He also received a Fulbright fellowship to help start a biochemical research program at the University of Montevideo, Uruguay, as well as fellowships from the Biological Institute in São Paulo, Brazil, and the Coffee Rust Institute in Lisbon, Portugal, to advise and provide guidance on coffee rust research. While at UK he was awarded a Senior Scientist Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in 1980 and an additional award in 1990 to continue research in Germany.

Kuć was internationally recognized and respected for his research on plant-pathogen interactions and the biochemical basis of plant defense. While at PU, he and his students did some of the very first work on the chemical induction of disease resistance using the apple—apple scab pathosystem. He also pioneered research on the role that constitutive and induced antimicrobial compounds play in defense against fungal pathogens in potato and carrot and some of the earliest studies on the role of pathogen produced elicitors in triggering host defense responses. During the late 1960s, some of his research attention shifted to the phenomenon of induced resistance in which prior infection of a plant with a pathogen or nonpathogen can activate host defenses that protect the plant against subsequent infection by the same or other pathogens. This phenomenon, known as “induced resistance,” became another area for which he became internationally known.

After moving to UK in 1974, he continued his research on the elicitation and suppression of antimicrobial terpenoids in potato and greatly expanded his research on induced resistance to disease in tobacco and cucumber—two plant systems that have been used as models for this disease resistance phenomenon. He authored or co-authored more than 300 papers and was in great demand as a speaker at symposia, meetings, and universities around the world.

Anyone who ever took a course from Kuć knew that he had a tremendous passion for teaching and took this responsibility very seriously. He was widely respected as an excellent, enthusiastic, and passionate instructor. His courses were challenging, but he was always willing to assist students to help them learn the material. For most of his career at PU, he taught one or both semesters of the general biochemistry course for beginning graduate students and advanced undergraduates. At UK, he developed and taught a one-semester course in plant biochemistry. His commitment to teaching was also clearly seen in the excellent mentoring of graduate students (46 Ph.D. degrees and 22 M.S. degrees) and 37 post-doctoral fellows and visiting scientists. These students and scientists came from 32 countries in addition to the United States and added a true international flavor to his program.

Kuć received many awards during his career, including the Campbell Research Award from APS, the Thomas Poe Cooper Award for outstanding agricultural research at UK, and the William Sturgill Award for outstanding contributions to graduate education (also from UK). He received the medal for outstanding achievement in international plant protection at the 11th International Congress on Plant Protection and a certificate of merit from the Charles A. Lindbergh Fund. In 1995, he received the Monie A. Ferst Award from Sigma Xi and was also named to the order “Pour le Merit” for his contributions to plant immunization research. He is a fellow of APS, and it is a testament to his excellence in mentoring that five of his former graduate students are also fellows of the society.

His passion for science and research was matched only if not surpassed by his devotion to family. He married a fellow PU student, Ruth Shaffit, and they had three children. Ruth passed away in 1989. While on sabbatical in Germany in the early 1990s, Joe met Karola Maywald, and they were married in 1991. Joe passed away on February 29, 2012, and is survived by Karola, three children, a step-daughter, and two grandchildren.

Additional contributions to the fund may be made through the APS Foundation website (www.apsnet.org/members/foundation/donate) or by sending a check to APS, 3340 Pilot Knob Road, St. Paul, MN 55121 U.S.A.

Anna Thomas Named Raymond J. Tarleton Student Fellow

The APS Foundation is pleased to announce Anna Thomas as the 2015 recipient of the Raymond J. Tarleton Student Fellowship. A native of India, Thomas is a Ph.D. candidate at North Carolina State University under the advisement of Peter S. Ojambo and Ignazio Carbone. Her research project is focused on understanding the biology, epidemiology, and population genomics of Pseudoperonospora cubensis, a recently resurgent pathogen that causes cucurbit downy mildew (CDM). The project's
primary objectives are to establish the role of overwintering sources of inoculum in seasonal outbreaks of CDM in the southern United States and to elucidate the genetic mechanism for host specialization in P. cubensis with its various cucurbit hosts. Her work combines principles of applied epidemiology, comparative genomics, and population genomics to answer these fundamental research questions. Her research has provided direct evidence for sexual reproduction among P. cubensis and identified the presence of host-specific evolutionary lineages and their association with different mating types. Currently, she is examining the diversity of the P. cubensis population and will apply island metapopulation models to track the seasonal movement of the pathogen population in the United States. The Raymon E. Tarleton Fellowship will help fund the genotyping of isolates using a double digest restriction-site-associated DNA sequencing (ddRADseq) technique. Results from this study will shed more light on the distribution of different lineages in the United States, their association with different cucurbits, and the mating types of the pathogen. A comprehensive understanding of the current population structure of P. cubensis will help inform the design of durable management strategies for CDM.

15th I. E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium Award Winners

Congratulations to Kiersten A. Bekoscke, Robin Choudhury, Zachariah R. Hansen, André Aguiar Schwanck, and Stephen Wyka on being selected as speakers for the 15th I. E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium to take place during the 2015 APS Annual Meeting in Pasadena, CA.

The 15th I. E. Melhus Symposium—From Local to Global: New Developments in Disease Risk Prediction and Crop Loss Assessment—is sponsored by the APS Crop Loss and Risk Evaluation (CLARE) Committee and the APS Foundation. Awardees will receive a $500 travel award from funds provided by the I. E. Melhus Fund. Graduate student speakers for the symposium were selected by an expert panel of judges who evaluated research summaries provided by the applicants and letters of nomination. The CLARE Committee, the APS Foundation, and award organizer Clive Bock (USDA ARS SEFTNRL) wish to extend a special thanks to Peter Ojiambo (North Carolina State University), Kelsey Andersen (Monsanto), and Andrea Ficke (Bioforsk) for serving as judges for the symposium.

Bekoscke is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology at Cornell University under the advisement of Kerik D. Cox. Her presentation is entitled “Understanding antibiotic resistance in Erwinia amylovora: Impacts on disease management and epiphytic bacterial populations in apple orchards.” Bekoscke’s research focuses primarily on streptomycin resistance in Erwinia amylovora, the causal agent of fire blight on apple and pear, and aims to elucidate how increasing applications of streptomycin can impact naturally occurring bacterial populations in the apple phyllosphere.

Choudhury is working on a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology at the University of California, Davis, with Neil Mc Roberts. His presentation is entitled “Epidemiology and control of spinach downy mildew in coastal California.” Choudhury’s research focuses on understanding the temporal and spatial patterns of spinach downy mildew disease, specifically dynamics related to airborne spore load and weather variables.

Hansen is seeking a Ph.D. degree in the section of plant pathology and plant-microbe biology at Cornell University under the guidance of Christine Smart. His presentation is entitled “A three-pronged approach to late blight management: Host resistance, diagnostics, and understanding pathogen diversity.” Hansen’s research focuses on the biology of Phytophthora infestans and improving late blight management.

Schwanck is currently working on a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology at the Université de Toulouse, France, with Laetitia Willocquet. His presentation is entitled “Epidemiological concepts and methods to predict the effects of plant morphology and partial resistance components on sunflower black stem epidemics.” Schwanck’s research involves the use of components of resistance concept to identify predictors of sunflower resistance to Phoma macdonaldii through controlled environment, greenhouse and field experiments, and several steps involving a range of multivariate analysis.

Wyka is currently working toward an M.Sc. degree at the University of New Hampshire under the guidance of Kirk Broders. His presentation is entitled “Characterization and distribution of fungi associated with needle defoliation of eastern white pine (Pinus strobus).” His research focuses on understanding the ecology and epidemiology of the pathogen(s) that have caused widespread defoliation of white pine throughout New England and aims to develop climatic models to predict disease severity and epidemic risks.

The Irving E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium Fund was established with the goal of enhancing graduate student professionalism in honor of this influential plant disease epidemiologist. Melhus served as APS president in 1926 and was elected into the first class of APS fellows in 1965. APS gratefully acknowledges financial support for the 15th I. E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium from the CLARE Committee, Monsanto, and the APS Foundation.
People

Student Award

Shannon Carmody, an M.S. student in the Department of Plant Pathology, Washington State University (WSU), recently received the Alexander A. Smick Scholarship in Rural Community Service and Development. With the $2,000 scholarship, she will develop a “Plant Pathology 101” workshop this fall in Mount Vernon, WA, to provide outreach to Spanish-speaking farmers in the Skagit Valley, under the direction of her major professor Lindsey du Toit. The curriculum for this workshop will be designed by Carmody to help beginning farmers answer the question “What’s wrong with my plants?” The workshop will deliver basic information on plant pests, diseases, and nutritional problems, using simultaneous Spanish-English services. Carmody will develop a set of diagnostic questions to help farmers try to understand the problems they see happening in their fields. Carmody hopes that these funds can be used to develop a relevant and replicable workshop that could be used by others working with similar farming communities in the Pacific Northwest. Carmody came to WSU in January 2015 after working in organic seed and agriculture for six years. Most recently, she was the operations director for Viva Farms, a land-based farm business incubator in the Skagit Valley of northwestern Washington that helps beginning farmers and farm workers transition to farm ownership. Prior to that, she worked for five years as the public programs director at Seed Savers Exchange in Iowa. Carmody grew up in Rock Island, IL, and graduated with a double major in environmental studies and international relations from Beloit College in Beloit, WI.

Awards

Hanu Pappu, professor of the Department of Plant Pathology, Washington State University (WSU), received the Faculty Excellence in Research Award this year. The award was sponsored by the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS), WSU, and the selections were made by a panel of faculty and staff from the college. Pappu joined WSU as associate professor in October 2002 and promoted to professor in July 2010. He served as chair of the Department of Plant Pathology from 2008 to 2013. He has received numerous prestigious awards including OECD fellow, Bulb Research Institute, the Netherlands in 2006; WSU CAHNRS Dean’s Meritorious Service Award in 2012; Professor B. P. Pal Distinguished Chair, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi in 2013; OECD fellow, Institute for Virus Research, Torino, Italy, in 2013; International Research Fellow, Japan Society for Promotion of Science, Government of Japan, 2015; and APS fellow in 2015. Pappu’s research focuses on viruses and viral diseases of horticultural crops, including biology and molecular ecology and epidemiology; molecular methods for virus detection and diagnosis; gene structure-function relationships; use of RNA and DNA viruses as tools for studying virus-host and virus-vector interactions; and conventional and biotechnological approaches for disease management.

Richard A. Sikora, professor emeritus of the University of Bonn, a 1970 University of Illinois graduate, and recipient of the 2009 APS International Service Award, has been awarded a position as senior fellow from the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Sikora was given a five-year research grant to develop a research forum to study the “impact of sustainable intensification of agriculture on food security, environment, and human well-being in Southern Africa.” His team of six senior fellows will evaluate a broad array of production-limiting factors, such as soil and environmental degradation, climate change, pest and diseases, post-harvest losses, and water availability. The team will analyze scenarios and develop strategies focused on resolving the food and nutritional security problems of the region. A roundtable meeting, expert workshops, and an international symposium on food and nutritional security are planned for the future.

New Position

Neil C. Gudmestad, university distinguished professor of plant pathology at North Dakota State University (NDSU), was recently named the Neil C. Gudmestad endowed chair of potato pathology by NDSU President Dean Bresciani. The endowed chair position recognizes Gudmestad’s many research contributions to the management of potato diseases over a 38-year career. Forty donors, including potato growers from 13 states, processors, and agricultural chemical manufacturers, contributed to the endowment. A 50% state match brought the total endowment to $6.3 million. The primary purpose of the endowment is to ensure that a successor can be identified to continue the research program at a high level after Gudmestad’s eventual retirement. An advisory group has been established consisting of nine donors, five of whom will rotate. Gudmestad began an uninterrupted career on potato diseases at NDSU in 1977. He completed a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology from NDSU in 1982 and became an assistant professor in 1985 with responsibilities for the management of seedborne diseases of potato, a research emphasis that continues today.
Among his many awards, Gudmestad received the Meritorious Service Award by the National Potato Council in 2000. More recently, he was a corecipient of the Vice Chancellor Award in Excellence by Texas A&M AgriLife and the IPM Team Leader Award, Entomological Foundation, Entomology Society of America, both in 2012 and for research on zebra chip disease. In 2014, he was a corecipient of the NIFA Partnership Award for Mission Integration of Research, Education, and Extension.

In Memory

Michael (Mike) Menn Martin was born on November 6, 1927, and passed away on February 27, 2015, at the age of 88. Martin obtained a bachelor of commerce degree and then a bachelor of science degree in agriculture from the University of Natal (UN), South Africa. He became a lecturer at the University of Natal in 1958 and obtained a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology from the same institution in 1976. His dissertation was on purification and electron microscopy of the Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV). In 1977, Martin was appointed professor at the UN in the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology, specializing in virology. He became head of the Department from 1977 to 1987, succeeding the first head of department, Susarah Truter, who started the department in 1955. Martin was then followed by Frits Rijkenberg, Mike Walls, and Mark Laing as heads of the department.

Martin studied plant virology. His early Ph.D. research was undertaken in the Netherlands in the Department of Virology at the University of Wageningen (UW), as there were no virologists at UN until his appointment. Interestingly, the current incumbent of the virology post at the University of KwaZulu Natal (the former UN), Gus Gubba, also studied TSWV for his Ph.D. degree. While at UW, Martin worked with T. H. Thung, D. Noordam, and J. P. H. van der Want in the Laboratorie voor Virologie. Martin’s subsequent research interest was plant immunology, in particular how systemically acquired resistance is initiated and transmitted in plants in response to viral infection. The meticulous studies he conducted were about 30 years ahead of the field. In the past 10 years, various breakthroughs have been made on this topic, and we now know there are several forms of systemic plant resistance. Martin was delighted to discover that the latest developments on disease resistance priming, systemically acquired resistant, induced systemic resistance, and RNA silencing tie in so well with his earlier innovative research.

Martin also introduced the study of plant disease epidemiology at UN, based on the ground-breaking works of J. E. Vanderplank, also an alumnus of UN and a South African plant pathologist who pioneered plant disease epidemiology globally. As a result of Martin’s foresight, the University of KwaZulu Natal now offers two courses in plant disease epidemiology. He had the exceptional intellect to understand and lecture in two very different fields, virology and epidemiology, recognizing their parallel importance. Martin’s plant pathology lectures were a bit of a “curate’s egg.” He lectured from knowledge stored in his remarkable brain, without notes, so the lectures could be a bit disorganized. What made them special was that they were delivered with passion, spontaneity, and a sense of curiosity which gave students a glimpse into the real world of plant pathology, the unknowns, and fascinating questions facing plant pathologists, with all the opportunities and possibilities this presented.

Martin inspired many students to pursue plant pathology as a career, including John da Graca (director of the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Citrus Center), Mike Wingfield (University of Pretoria, South Africa), and indirectly, Lindsey du Toit (Washington State University), Alison Robertson (Iowa State University), and Ken Craddock (Eastern New Mexico University).

Martin was an intellectual and a gentle, well-spoken man, and an extraordinarily kind individual. He was truly egaliitarian, one who attached no importance to status, race, title, or money. He was a religious person, expressing his beliefs in the most positive way, by living his daily life in a religious spirit, in his engagement with the world and his fellow human beings. Martin was married to Melloney (nee Morton) for 58 years, and they had four children, Marian, Carrin, Viviene, and James, as well as four grandchildren.

Submitted by Mark Laing, professor and chair of plant pathology, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

EDITOR’S NOTE: In the April 2015 issue of Phytopathology News, a shortened version of Raoul Robinson was included. Please note that the full version is available online at http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07060661.2014.1001109#.VTfT3JNla4p.

Here are just a few of the headlines you missed from the APS Twitter feed.

16,000 banana plants will be destroyed to stop a disease ruining the industry in Australia http://bit.ly/1yBciUb
A Farmer Ant’s Unique Fungal Crop http://nyti.ms/1E9raAB
Natural GMO: Rice borrows stronger defense from other plants http://bit.ly/1NXhTLe
The Future of the Postdoc: What is academia going to do with all of them? http://bit.ly/1DHkdRN
After 350 years of academic journals it’s time to shake things up http://bit.ly/1ccQoMT
Panama disease detected in Pakistan, Lebanon http://bit.ly/1IRNTgh
Idaho barley yellow dwarf outbreak forces replanting http://bit.ly/1GTs8wb
Blackleg confirmed in N. Idaho canola fields http://bit.ly/1CQZszC
Outbreak of Microdochium Patch in Tall Fescue http://tinyurl.com/q99e497

Get the latest and greatest plant disease news as it happens! twitter.com/plantdisease
Assistant Professor of Microbiology

Iowa State University, Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, is seeking to fill a tenure-track faculty position in microbiology at the assistant professor level. The successful candidate is expected to focus on teaching and on the scholarship of teaching and learning in microbiology. The position involves 80% teaching and 20% research effort. The teaching responsibilities will be a general microbiology course for non-majors, involvement in an accompanying laboratory course, and one or more new courses developed in areas of interest and/or need. These areas may include, but are not restricted to, environmental microbiology, soil microbiology, and plant-microbe or insect-microbe associations. The successful candidate is expected to focus their research program on the scholarship of teaching and learning; those seeking a laboratory research-focused faculty position should not apply. The Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology co-administers an active and expanding laboratory-rich microbiology program for undergraduates. Candidates must have a Ph.D. degree in microbiology or a related field as well as communication skills. The successful candidate will have demonstrated an exceptional ability or potential for effective teaching in microbiology or a related field. Applications must include a CV, a statement of teaching philosophy and interest that includes ideas for future scholarship in teaching and learning, as well as evidence of teaching effectiveness, and a sample syllabus of a course of interest (one-two pages). Please submit your application and the names and e-mail addresses for three references to www.iastatejobs.com/postings/10277. Complete applications should be received by April 27, 2015. For questions please contact microsearch@iastate.edu. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Research Faculty—Extension Plant Pathologist

The University of Idaho Department of Plant, Soil, and Entomological Sciences seeks a general plant pathologist to join the multidisciplinary team at the Parma R&E Center. The position is a 12-month, tenure-track position; 30% research/70% extension. Salary commensurate with qualifications/experience. The successful candidate will develop an externally funded, internationally recognized research and extension program emphasizing applied plant pathology. Position responsibilities will be focused on, but not limited to, advancing the understanding and resolution of disease problems in seed crops such as onion, carrot, sweet corn, and alfalfa and other major crops in the area including onions, mint, corn, beans, sugar beet, fruit and potato. The candidate will also have responsibilities for extension services covering ornamental crops through the Master Gardner program. A component of the position will be the development and oversight of a “for-pay” plant diagnostic clinic, with the goal of supplying local agricultural industries with access to professional and up-to-date disease diagnostics. To be considered, interested individuals must complete the online application at https://uidaho.peopleadmin.com/hr/postings/8596, including a letter of application addressing the responsibilities of the position as well as each required and desired qualification, CV, academic transcripts, three letters of reference, and contact information for references. Any required documentation that cannot be submitted online, i.e., academic transcripts and letters of reference, should be sent to Phillip Wharton, Search Committee Chair, University of Idaho, Department of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences, Aberdeen Research and Extension Center, 1693 S 2700 W, Aberdeen, ID 83210; +1.208.397.4181; pwharton@uidaho.edu. Closing date is May 8, 2015.
Resistance to Strobilurin Fungicides by the Wheat Blast Pathogen
Vanina L. Castroagudín, Paulo C. Ceresini, Samanta C. de Oliveira, Juliana T. A. Reges, João L. N. Maciel, Ana L. V. Bonato, Adriano F. Dorigan, and Bruce A. McDonald

Inhibition of the Butternut Canker Pathogen by a Bark Extract
M. J. Moore, M. E. Ostry, A. D. Hegeman and A. C. Martin

Similar Effector Repertoires Between Pathogenic and Saprophytic Verticillium Species
Michael F. Seidl, Luigi Faino, Xiaoqian Shi-Kunne, Grardy C. M. van den Berg, Melvin D. Bolton, and Bart P. H. J. Thomma

First Report of Canna yellow mottle virus in Kenya
T. A. Agneroh, S. A. Bratsch, and B. E. Lockhart

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April Issues Bring Significant Improvements for APS Journals
Starting with the April issues, Phytopathology, MPMI, and Plant Disease will publish papers in full-text html online using an XML-first workflow. XML is a web-specific language for presenting information effectively on the Internet. Our move to XML will bring several significant improvements and is a timely upgrade to our publishing strategy. These improvements include:
• Enhanced discoverability
• Social media sharing
• Faster turnaround times
• Better presentation on mobile devices

Genomic Analyses of Cherry Rusty Mottle Group and Cherry Twisted Leaf-Associated Viruses Reveal a Possible New Genus Within the Family Betaflexiviridae
Case Investigation and Forensic Evidence for a New Plant Disease: The Case of Lettuce Corky Root
Reconsidering Leaf Wetness Duration Determination for Plant Disease Management
A Core Gene Set Describes the Molecular Basis of Mutualism and Antagonism in Epichloë spp.
Genome, Transcriptome, and Functional Analyses of Penicillium expansum Provide New Insights Into Secondary Metabolism and Pathogenicity

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TRENDING
MPMI Focus Issue
The Good, the Bad, and the Unknown: Genomics-Enabled Discovery of Plant-Associated Microbial Processes and Diversity
Alternative Splicing in the Obligate Biotrophic Oomycete Pathogen Pseudoperonospora cubensis
Resistance to QoI Fungicides Is Widespread in Brazilian Populations of the Wheat Blast Pathogen Magnaporthe oryzae
The Plant Microbiome at Work
Ultrastructural Changes and Putative Phage Particles Observed in Sweet Orange Leaves Infected with 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus'

SPOTLIGHT
Resurgence of Cucurbit Downy Mildew in the United States: A Watershed Event for Research and Extension
G. J. Holmes, P. S. Ojiambo, M. K. Hausebeck, L. Quesada-Ocampo, and A. P. Keinath

Call for Papers
MPMI Focus Issue—Noncoding RNA-Mediated Regulation of Plant-Microbe Interactions

Join your APS colleagues and publish your next paper in the leading plant pathology journals.
### Calendar of Events

**Other Upcoming Events**

#### May 2015

       [www.globalengage.co.uk/plantgenomics.html](http://www.globalengage.co.uk/plantgenomics.html)

14-16  **Enhancing Risk Index-Driven Decision Tools for Managing Insect-Transmitted Plant Pathogens.** Pacific Grove, CA.  
       [http://ucanr.edu/sites/tospo](http://ucanr.edu/sites/tospo)

16-20  **Xth International Symposium on Thysanoptera and Tospoviruses.** Pacific Grove, CA.  
       [http://ucanr.edu/sites/ISTT10](http://ucanr.edu/sites/ISTT10)

18-21  **CROPS 2015.** Huntsville, AL.  
       [http://hudsonalpha.org/crops](http://hudsonalpha.org/crops)

#### June 2015

18-21  **35th New Phytologist Symposium—The Genomes of Forest Trees: New Frontiers of Forest Biology.** Boston, MA.  
       [www.newphytologist.org/symposiums/view/37](http://www.newphytologist.org/symposiums/view/37)

#### August 2015

9-13   **International Congress on Invertebrate Pathology and Microbial Control.** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.  

10-28  **2015 Rice Research to Production Course.** IRRI, the Philippines.  
       [http://ricediversity.org/r2p](http://ricediversity.org/r2p)

24-27  **XVII International Plant Protection Congress.** Berlin, Germany.  
       [www.ippc2015.de](http://www.ippc2015.de)

30-Sep  **CCC/EUCHIS 2015.** Münster, Germany.  

#### September 2015

14-15  **Third Plant Genomics Congress: USA.** St. Louis, MO.  
       [www.globalengage.co.uk/plantgenomicsusa.html](http://www.globalengage.co.uk/plantgenomicsusa.html)

14-16  **Resistance 2015.** Rothamsted Research, Hertfordshire, United Kingdom.  
       [www.rothamsted.ac.uk/resistance2015](http://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/resistance2015)

14-16  **Australian Plant Pathology Conference.** Fremantle, Western Australia.  

#### November 2015

29-Dec  **36th New Phytologist Symposium—Cell Biology at the Plant–Microbe Interface** Munich, Germany.  
       [www.newphytologist.org/symposiums/view/38](http://www.newphytologist.org/symposiums/view/38)

#### December 2015

5-11   **Plant-Parasitic Nematode Identification Workshop.** Clemson, SC.  
       [www.clemson.edu/calif/nematology/short_course.html](http://www.clemson.edu/calif/nematology/short_course.html)

8-10   **Soilborne Oomycete Conference.** Hawks Cay, Florida Keys.  
       [http://oomyceteconference.org](http://oomyceteconference.org)

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**APS-Sponsored Events**

|                 | 19-23 Caribbean Division Meeting. Mexico City, Mexico. [www.apsnet.org/members/division/carib](http://www.apsnet.org/members/division/carib)  
| August 2015     | 1-5 APS Annual Meeting. Pasadena, CA. [www.apsnet.org/meet](http://www.apsnet.org/meet)  
|                 | 1-5 Pacific Division Meeting (in conjunction with APS Annual Meeting)  
| July 2016       | 30-Aug 3 APS Annual Meeting. Tampa, FL.  