

Ninety-second Annual Report of the American Phytopathological Society

Note: The Annual Report of the Society consists of three parts: The introduction (covering the annual meeting, summaries of selected groups, Society affairs, and APS affiliations), the Report of the Business Meeting, and the Report of Council Meetings all of which appear in the January 2001 issue of Phytopathology News or at http://www.apsnet.org/publications/phytopathologynews/Past%20Issues/2001_01.pdf .

The Report of the Treasurer, and the Fellows and Awards biographies, will be published in the January 2001 issue of Phytopathology or at <http://apsjournals.apsnet.org/toc/phyto/91/1>. The remainder of the reports (APS Officers, the APS Foundation, the National Plant Pathology Board, the Office of International Programs, Office of Public Affairs and Education, Office of Electronic Communications, the Society publications, the representatives/liaisons to other agencies, the APS committees, and the division councilors) will be available on request from APS Headquarters, as well as on APSnet.

The 92nd Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 12-16, 2000. The city of New Orleans is located along the banks of the Mississippi River and the shores of Lake Pontchartrain. Meeting participants enjoyed walking the streets of the famous Vieux Carré (The French Quarter), reveling with the crowds on Bourbon Street, shopping at the French Market, relaxing in Jackson Square, or visiting St. Louis Cathedral, the country's oldest active cathedral.

The official headquarters of the meeting was the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, located across the street from the Superdome. A total of 1,544 meeting registrants gathered to share research results, discuss new ideas, and meet with colleagues to consider issues of concern to plant pathologists. In addition to the scientific and business programs, annual meetings are also a time to enjoy the renewal of old friendships and make new ones.

President **Neal Van Alfen** welcomed participants to the APS Plenary Session, the theme of which was "Plant Pathology in the Future." President Van Alfen reflected on the changes in the past two generations and made predictions for the future including cities that are less polluting, more recycled wastes, and farmers living closer to the cities. He then introduced **Martina McGloughlin**, Director of the Biotechnology Program and the Life Science Informatics Program at the University of California, Davis, who spoke on "Biotechnology and the future of agriculture." Her report began with a brief review of the history leading up to modern biotechnology. She provided many examples of biotechnology products, processes and services. In the area of crop biotechnology, she listed examples of biotechnology contributions to agronomic traits (e.g. herbicide tolerance), quality traits (e.g. shelf life), novel crop products (e.g. oils) and renewable resources (e.g. biofuels). She emphasized some of the indirect benefits of biotechnology such as mycotoxin reduction in corn due to reduced insect damage in the ears and reduced post-harvest losses in pea seeds engineered with an α -amylase inhibitor. She closed her talk by emphasizing that plants are chemical factories, and through the use of biotechnology we can expect to see plants engineered to produce edible vaccines, anticancer agents in tobacco products and antibiotics.

Diana Wall, Associate Dean of the College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University, made a presentation on, "Plant pathology and ecology: Sustainability for the future." She began by indicating that there are many opportunities for ecologists and plant pathologists to work together, emphasizing the Ecological Society of America's Sustainable Biosphere Initiative with research emphasis on global change and sustainable ecological development. She summarized three recent events that will have wide ranging impacts. These were the Montreal Protocol dealing with methyl bromide, the Kyoto Protocol dealing with greenhouse gases, and the Convention on Biodiversity, which included a section on agricultural biodiversity. She outlined potential constraints to management due to these events including identification of organisms, the biology and ecology of host-plant relationships and chemical control. She emphasized the importance soil biodiversity and its role in enhancing fertility and yield and in buffering ecosystems. As a part of soil biodiversity, she addressed the importance of soil species diversity and the fact that our knowledge in this area is limited. She went on to highlight the importance of species diversity in a number of critical ecosystem functions such as nutrient recycling, degradation of organic matter, and sustaining soil structure. She outlined several biodiversity research priorities for the future and emphasized several international efforts such as the International Panel on Climate Change and the Global Biodiversity Assessment. In closing, she challenged plant pathologists to step up and participate in ecological and biodiversity issues.

The last invited speaker was **R. James Cook**, Washington State University, who spoke on, "Invasive pests, pathogens, plants and politics." He began by reviewing some of our past successes as well as past failures including white pine blister rust, chestnut blight, and Dutch elm disease. He outlined some current problems such as Karnal bunt, plum pox and sorghum ergot, as well as new strains of *Phytophthora infestans* in the U.S. and American strains of Dutch elm disease reaching Europe. He went on to note that our discipline is not alone, highlighting some of the insect and weed pests causing major problems including Asian long-horned beetles, Russian wheat aphid, wild oats, leafy spurge and the west Nile virus. He observed that these problems are now part of the political agenda, citing the 1999 executive order on

invasive species and the Invasive Species Council. There has also been a recent article in *Science* and a CAST issue paper. The sudden interest is due in part to the environmental concerns of pests such as the zebra mussel and the “biological pollution” of parks, as native species are pushed out by invaders. There are also trade issues and the concern over the introduction of organisms as bioterrorism. He outlined concerns that although plant pathology is clearly poised to take a leadership role, we currently do not have a place at the table, citing several problems to be addressed. He questioned whether we are training the next generation of practitioners to work at the interface of farmers and technology, and if not, will we be left behind. He ended by challenging the audience with three recommendations for the future. The first was a proposal that APS reach out to other societies to mount an aggressive campaign for genomic research and sequencing. The second is to develop an initiative for teaching and outreach using the newly instituted Doctor of Plant Health at the University of Florida as an example. Finally he called for increased leadership through the development of a Washington presence for the Society that could help us develop an aggressive initiative for increased funding for genomic research.

The Plenary Session was concluded by an address from President Van Alfen titled “Whither plant pathology?” He outlined several challenges facing agriculture. The first was the challenge to protect the environment while increasing food production by fifty percent. The second challenge was to deal with emerging and exotic pests. He noted that there have been 67 new invaders in California since 1992 and that seventeen percent of all California vascular plant flora are invaders. He addressed some of the current myths about agriculture and how we must approach debunking these myths. He discussed some of the challenges facing agricultural colleges as well as some of the general trends in academic institutions. He closed by outlining some challenges for plant pathology such as maintaining our identity while integrating with other disciplines. We must focus on science while serving commodities. We need to anticipate, detect and monitor new pathogens. We must institute ecologically based pest management. We must have tailored host resistance and management of pathogen populations. Lastly, we must manage the landscape to produce food and fiber while preserving our natural resources heritage.

A total of 635 contributed papers (180 oral and 455 posters in a total of 42 sessions) dealt with diverse aspects of research in plant pathology. Sessions dealt with the biology of plant pathogens, diseases of plants including detection, epidemiology, ecology and environmental plant pathology, molecular and cellular plant-microbe interactions, and plant disease management.

There were 24 symposia presented at the meeting on the following topics: “Genomics of Plant –Associated Bacteria,” “Pathogen Population Genetics and Its Impact on Breeding for Disease Resistance,” “Promise or Threat of Genetically Modified Organisms in Global Agriculture,” “The Role of Germplasm Collections in Genomics Research,” “Significance of Mycotoxins to Pathogens, Approaches for Diagnosing Turfgrass Diseases,” “Forest Pathology for the Last Century: A Retrospective and Directions for the Future,” “Herbicides and Herbicide-resistant Crops: Nontarget Responses to Disease,” “The Aflatoxin Elimination Program: A Model for Directed Plant Disease Research,” “Challenges and Opportunities for Tree Health in Intensively Managed Wood Fiber Production Systems,” “Implementing the Executive Order on Invasive Species,” “Meeting the Challenges of Urban Plant Pathology,” “New Visions for Epidemiology: Concepts from Vanderplank into the New Millennium,” “Genomics Technologies and Applications for Plant/Pathogen Interactions,” “Impact of Biotechnology on Plant Pathology,” “Update on Resistance Gene Cloning, Structure, and Function,” “Viral Genes Involved in Host Resistance and Susceptibility,” “Methyl Bromide Alternatives: Progress Towards Meeting the Deadlines,” “Pathogen Resistance,” “Will Public Perception and Fear Prevent Us from Utilizing Transgenics?,” and “Update on FQPA - Interpretation, Implementation and Practical Effects.”

In addition, there were five colloquia, six discussion sessions, four workshops, one working group meeting and one town meeting. These sessions were mostly on scientific subjects, but other topics included “Successful IPM Programs,” “Extension Diagnostics in the New Millennium,” “Innovation and Creativity in Plant Pathology,” “Successful Cultural Diversity Programs: Government and Industry,” and “Certification of Today’s Professionals.”

Pre-meeting events included a short course titled “Scientific Writing and Editing” a sugarcane pathology field trip, a forest pathology field trip, and two leadership workshops. Other tours, technical committee meetings, 56 APS committee meetings, breakfasts, luncheons, and socials attracted many participants during the meeting. The Grand Reception was held on Sunday evening following the APS Awards Ceremony. The reception provided an opportunity for participants to congratulate newly named APS Fellows and recipients of several prestigious awards (see **Awards**) while enjoying refreshments and heavy hors d’oeuvres.

Technical and committee posters and commercial exhibits were displayed in the main exhibit hall of the Hyatt Regency. Company representatives were available to explain their products and services and provide suggestions for their applications. Thirty-one exhibitors were represented in the commercial exhibits. The APS Press display featured 12 new titles and numerous other books, CD-ROMS, videotapes, teaching slide sets, note cards, Society T-shirts, sweatshirts, and caps. For the second consecutive year, APS Press hosted a book signing. Authors **M. Ulloa** and **R.T. Hanlin** were present to sign copies of their work the “*Illustrated Dictionary of Mycology*.” Authors **M.C. Shurtleff** and **C.W. Auer III** were also present to sign copies of their book “*Diagnosing Plant Diseases Caused by Nematodes*.”

President-elect **S. Slack** welcomed new meeting participants at the eighth annual First-Timer's Orientation. He started with a mixer activity to get participants acquainted with each other. He then gave an overview of the meeting structure and activities and how to network and become involved in the meeting. Many Council members were present and introduced themselves to the first-timers and offered to be of assistance when possible during the meeting.

Monday, August 14 was designated as "APS Foundation Day," and prizes and gifts donated by various companies and academic departments were given to thank members for their contributions to the Annual Giving and Endowment Fund, Named Student Travel Awards, and General Student Travel Grants. Fourteen graduate students were awarded named travel grants of \$400 each in honor of **John M. Barnes, C. Lee Campbell, Eddie Echandi, Zahir Eyal, John F. Fulkerson, Joseph P. Fulton, Janell Stevens Johnk, Don E. Mathre, Luis Sequeira, Malcolm C. Shurtleff, H. David Thurston, Harry W. Wheeler** the **Caribbean Division**, and **Virology**. Nine graduate students were recipients of APS Council and Foundation travel awards.

The 2000 **I.E. Melhus** Graduate Student Speaker Award went to **A.E. Glenn** of the University of Georgia, Athens, who spoke on "Another factor of significance to mycotoxic fungi: Detoxification of plant antimicrobial compounds by *Fusarium* species."

The APS Placement Service provided a convenient mechanism and location for interaction between job seekers and prospective employers. The eighth annual deBary Bowl, emceed by **D. White, C. D'Arcy**, and **E. Stromberg** provided an opportunity for teams representing APS Divisions and APS Council to display their knowledge (or lack thereof) of the history of plant pathology, definition of terms, and the names of organisms, diseases and fungicides. The Pacific Division Team of **L. du Toit, R. Gilbertson, T. Murray, E. Bentley, N. Ramsey, R. Saylor, R. Bulluck, S. Marek, D. Sands** and **R. Forster** fought there way back through the loser's bracket to win this year's contest. The competitive spirit of meeting attendees was also brought out in the annual Plant Disease Diagnosis Contest sponsored by the APS Teaching and Diagnostics Committees. The sixth annual Networking Breakfast and Business Meeting, held on Tuesday morning, was well attended with 62 special table topics from which to choose (see **Report of the Business Meeting**).

Headquarters. Headquarters staff completed a reorganization during this past year. The reorganization decentralizes many of the responsibilities, allowing the executive vice president to concentrate on strategic planning. The reorganization will also allow staff to better work with APS members to complete the objectives of the current five-year strategic plan.

Headquarters staff spent many hours over the past year working on the development of the Society's electronic communications. As a result, a new web page with increased user-friendliness, *APSnet* III, was launched during the summer. Two other important projects, *Plant Health Progress*, a new electronic journal aimed at practitioners of applied plant pathology, and the *APSnet* Education Center, aimed at elementary and high school teachers also came to completion. The Education Center began with twenty plant disease lessons, an extensive illustrated glossary, several lab exercises, and resource guides for three educational levels.

Several short courses were again offered in 2000. The Ecology of Urban Soils attracted a diverse group of 140 professionals, but that attendance was not enough to recover overhead and direct expenses and a significant loss occurred. Two other short courses developed specifically for members were offered in New Orleans just prior to the Annual Meeting. The courses were "A Molecular Primer" and "Scientific Writing and Editing." The new APS Meetings Board will work with the APS Director of Scientific Services to establish goals and develop protocols for future short course offerings.

During the year, all APS journals were published on schedule. More *Plant Disease* papers are appearing with interpretive summaries in the on-line version. On-line enhancements including color photographs and figures and e-mail links to corresponding authors are becoming increasingly popular. *Plant Health Progress* has a full editorial board and is actively seeking manuscript submissions. Partnerships with the Agronomy Society of America, the Crop Science Society of America and the University of California, Davis have been formalized and others are in varying stages of progress.

APS Foundation. Two new members joined the Foundation board this past year. **D. Mathre** joined the board in August to replace **M. Cline**, who completed her three-year term. **A. Glenn**, incoming chair of the Graduate Student Committee, will replace **T. Mitchell**.

The first cash prizes from Foundation funds designated for this purpose were made available at the New Orleans meeting. The Lucy Hastings de Gutierrez Fund provided a \$1,000 prize for the APS Excellence in Teaching Award and the John and Ann Niederhauser Fund provided \$3,000 (\$2,000 to the recipient and \$1,000 to the international program of their choice) for the APS International Service Award. As of July 1, 2000, colleagues, former students and friends of honorees have created 21 named travel funds. Fourteen of the 23 \$400 student travel awards made for the 2000 New Orleans meeting came from these funds.

The APS Foundation, with financial assistance from APS Council and Divisions, will institute a new membership initiative for advanced undergraduates and first-year graduate students beginning in Fall 2000. This program

will encourage students to join the Society earlier than they might otherwise in order to receive two years of electronic access to the journal of their choice for the price of one.

The seventh annual "Foundation Day" and a booth in the registration area drew members' attention to the contributions of APS Foundation and encouraged donations from 125 meeting attendees, totaling \$18,285. It is of note that all named travel funds got at least one donation each. APS Foundation continues to strive to enhance the science and profession of plant pathology in innovative ways.

Office of International Programs. The Office of International Programs (OIP) cosponsored the symposium "Promise or Threat of Genetically Modified Organisms in Global Plant Health" in New Orleans. They again hosted a booth at the meeting. The 2000 booth featured a display developed by **J. Steadman** on the Bean Cowpea CRSP.

Guidelines have been developed for the Library Assistance Program to help determine which libraries or institutions could benefit from the new technology that makes a full year of journals available on a single CD-ROM. OIP awarded **L. Sequeira** and **G. Smalley** certificates of appreciation this past year. Sequeira's was in recognition of his outstanding contributions to OIP, and Smalley's was for having served as the OIP Newsletter coordinator for five years. **S. Fernandez** was awarded the grant from the JANE Fund for a late blight oospore study.

Office of Public Affairs and Education. For the first time, the Office of Public Affairs and Education (OPAE) underwent a change in leadership. **G. Bergstrom**, the director since OPAE's inception in 1996 stepped down. **G. Tylka** will replace him. Also rotating off the board will be **D. Albaugh, J. Carroll, D. Gross, and M. Powelson**. OPAE drafted an APS Position statement that was commented on by members during the Annual Meeting. Following some minor changes resulting from the member input, APS Council approved the statement. Other activities included sponsoring printing and distribution of the "Plants Get Sick Too!" poster for youth and teachers. They coordinated efforts for participation of University of Kentucky members in a booth at the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences Conference held in Kentucky in April. They sponsored APS awards to four young scientists for their plant pathology achievements at the International Science and Engineering Fair held in Detroit in May. Interaction occurred with more than 1,000 educators at the National Science Teachers Association Annual Meeting in Florida. OPAE cosponsored the town meeting with the Extension and Diagnostics Committees held in New Orleans. This session brought Master Gardeners from New Orleans in contact with plant pathologists for presentations on diagnosis, principles of plant health management, and an open forum where they could ask questions to the "plant doctors." They also prepared several press releases on diverse topics such as "Are Your Roses Sick? Tips on How to Nurse Them Back to Health," "The Plant Doctor is In – Top Gardening Tips for 2000," "Plum Pox Found in North America" and "Nation's First Doctor of Plant Medicine Degree Established."

Office of Electronic Communications. The Office of Electronic Communications, working with headquarters staff, brought on line three new electronic products, *APSnet* III, the *Plant Health Progress* journal and the Education Center (see **Headquarters**).

National Plant Pathology Board. The National Plant Pathology Board (NPPB) provides scientific input to APS officers, federal policy makers and agency personnel, and works with other scientific organizations and coalitions on matters of interest to the science of plant pathology. They alert Council to issues that APS may wish to take positions on. Specific issues addressed in 2000 included a response to the proposed National Organic Program. The primary response was that the proposed standard would give a false sense of microbial safety, since previously approved USDA seals for foods all were related to food safety. Full comments are available on *APSnet*. They provided a response to President Van Alfen on a query regarding APS policy on biocontrol of plants producing illicit compounds. Currently items under development are a prospective position paper on biotechnology applicable to plant pathology, and responses to the FDA on food additives and fumonisin levels in human foods and animal feeds. The Board met in Washington, D.C. with the objective of meeting federal agency personnel and opinion makers to determine the status of support for agricultural research and outreach. It was determined that agricultural matters were not in the forefront of federal policy makers and appropriations committee members and that collectively we must work together for such support.

Anne Vidaver resigned as chair of the NPPB due to her appointment as chief scientist for the National Research Institute. **O.W. Barnett** was appointed interim chair. **B. Carroll** and **J. Sherwood** were appointed to one-year terms while a Council appointed ad hoc committee studies the function and structure of the NPPB with the charge of reporting back to Council with recommendations on any needed changes.

Awards. Six APS members were honored as Fellows of the Society at the 2000 Annual Meeting in New Orleans: **C. Lee Campbell** (awarded posthumously), **Margaret E. Daub**, **Roger Hull**, **Robert A. McIntosh**, **Robert D. Riggs**, and **Laveran W. "Pete" Timmer**. Election as a Fellow is a reflection of the high esteem in which his or her colleagues hold a member. The award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions in extension, research, teaching, or other activity related to the science of plant pathology, to the profession, or to the Society. The Excellence in Extension Award was presented to **Mike Ellis**. **Glen R. Stanosz** received the Excellence in Teaching Award. The Ruth Allen Award, for outstanding contributions to the science of plant pathology was presented to **James C. Carrington** and **William G. Dougherty**. The Lee M. Hutchins Award, for the best contribution to basic or applied research on diseases of

perennial fruit plants was given to **Gareth Hughes**. The Novartis Award, recognizing significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge of plant diseases or their control was presented to **Gary P. Munkvold**. **Christopher C. Mundt** was the recipient of the International Service Award. The Industry Award was not presented in 2000.

Society Affairs. APS membership as of June 30, 2000 was 4,873, which was a decrease of 33 over 1999. Membership by category was 3,638 regular (an increase of 17); 457 student (a decrease of 38); 146 post-doctoral (a decrease of 23); 27 group (a decrease of six); 43 sustaining associate (a decrease of two); and 560 emeritus/life (an increase of 17). The percent of membership residing outside the United States remained constant at 31% for the fourth consecutive year. There was a decline of eight percent in the numbers of both student and post-doctoral members. The following members were reported as deceased at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans: **Carl W. Boothroyd, Carl J. Eide, Zahir Eyal, David W. French, Richard L. Gabrielson, Robert Hanau, Alan Jarworski, Bill L. Jones, J. Frank Killebrew, Richard A. Meronuck, Larry W. Moore, Joseph A. Pinckard, Daniel A. Roberts, Harlan E. Smith, and Halbert H. Thornberry.** **Ann Neiderhauser**, a very special friend of the Society also passed away during the year.

The Society completed fiscal year 1999-2000 with an audited income of \$3,649,864. The expenses were \$3,698,139 for an operating deficit of \$48,275 (1.3% of income). A complete report of the finances is available on request from APS Headquarters, and the Treasurer's and Auditor's Reports will be published in the January 2001 issue of *Phytopathology* or at http://www.apsnet.org/publications/phytopathologynews/Past%20Issues/2001_01.pdf.

APS Publications continue to provide the largest source of income to our Society. While their content reflects the input of many APS members as authors, the success of our journals, *Phytopathology News*, and APS Press publications depends on members who serve as volunteer editors and reviewers. Staff at APS headquarters also play an important role in the quality and timely production of all APS publications.

There were 169 research papers published in *Phytopathology* from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000, up seven percent from a year ago. This is the second consecutive year there has been an increase in the number of papers published. Just under half of the accepted papers originated outside the United States. In addition to the research papers, five Letters-to-the-Editor, one Mini-review, and 907 abstracts wither published in *Phytopathology*. In its second year, the "Analytical and Theoretical Plant Pathology" section continues to attract many theoretical papers previously published as letters. Manuscripts are published on average within 89 days of acceptance. This is less than half the time to publication from 10 years ago. New senior editors this year included **D. Bird, D. Cuppels, D. Fravel, R. Gilbertson, S. Hulbert, A. Jarosz, R. Nelson, K. Subbarao, and X.B. Yang**. The editorial staff has been working on new cover designs that will include color. The electronic version of the journal continues to gain popularity within *APSnet*.

Plant Disease published 1,304 pages in the 12 issues from July 1999 through June 2000. Included were 182 Research papers, nine Special Reports, 12 Feature Articles, 180 Disease Notes, and 12 Focus articles. The acceptance rate for manuscripts was 60%, compared to 66% for the previous year. Average time from acceptance to publication was 89 days, up six days from last year, but comparable to 1998. Manuscripts were received from 35 countries, reflecting the international nature of the journal. Ninety-eight percent of Disease Note manuscript submissions were electronic, 1% on diskette, and only 1% were submitted as hard copy. Many of the articles published in *Plant Disease* now include interpretive summaries. Interpretive summaries are included only in the on-line version of the journal. These are available in the public access area of *APSnet*.

Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions (MPMI) published 128 papers in 1999. Another 11 were accepted in 1999 and published in 2000. Sixty-eight papers were accepted for publication between January 1 and June 20, 2000. The time from receipt to publication increased by 18 days while the time from acceptance to publication remained constant at 85 days. Submissions in the area of symbioses continue to increase whereas the number of papers submitted in the viral area has continued to decline. The number of color pages published continues to increase. Fifty-three published articles contained color figures in 1999. Through August 2000, 54 articles were published with color. This increase in color pages is a reflection of the increased need for authors to publish color images, the competitive cost for color publication at *MPMI*, and the high quality of color images in the journal. Through August 2000, 66% of the papers published originated outside the United States. **J. Leach** will complete her term as editor-in-chief on December 31, 2000. **H. Spaink** will replace her. Retiring senior editors are: **J. Dangel, M. Daniels, M. Harrison, S. Lindow, A. Osbourn, P. Palukaitis, H. Spaink and V. Williamson.** **J. Glazebrook** and **F. Govers** assumed duties as senior editors in September 2000. The remaining new senior editors, **D. Haas, J. Kronstad, J. Schultz, J. Stugaard, and M. Udvardi** will begin their terms in January 2001. The position assumed by F. Govers in Oomycete-Plant Interactions represents a new area of emphasis for the journal.

Phytopathology News, both the hard copy and the on-line version are the main means of communicating information within the APS. The on-line version continues to be well received and is now more easily located on *APSnet*. The hard copy averages about 16 pages per month. More and more members are accessing the newsletter in its electronic version. The spirited debate on "Digital Diagnosis at a Distance" has continued through the year and open discussions on "controversial issues" are encouraged. Items of interest to membership such as OPAE, travel grant awards, scholarships, and happenings of membership continues to dominate the news.

APS Press published eight new books, two new slide sets, and one video in FY 2000. The Press sold 24,560 books, including 13,076 compendia, 576 symposia, three monographs, 84 classics, 1,046 plant health management books, and 9,775 other books (non-series titles, B&C Tests, and F&N Tests). Additionally, 677 slide sets, 625 CR-ROMS, four videodiscs, and 83 video tapes were sold. The current inventory at APS Press includes 160 book titles, 46 slide sets, three videotapes, four CD-ROMS, one videodisc, and two diskettes. Gross income for the fiscal year was \$1,111,546, and expenses were \$1,117,662 for a net surplus of \$6,116. In response to a request from Council and the Financial Advisory Committee to increase revenues, the customer service staff will be reduced and there will be increased prices for most books and slide sets, and increased charges for domestic shipping and handling. Volume 55 of F&N Tests will be offered both in hard copy and on-line. Beginning in 2001, B&C Tests will be offered in an on-line version only. With the launch of the new *APSnet*, the APS Press Bookstore now has e-commerce capabilities. **S. Douglas** completed her three-year term as editor-in-chief. **R. Ploetz** is replacing her. Retiring senior editors are **M. Daughtrey**, **T. Gottwald**, **R. Loria**, **M. McGrath** (B&C Tests), and **R. Raid** (F&N Tests). The new editorial staff includes **C. Becker**, **J. Jones**, **G. Hughes**, and **G. Moorman**.

APS has now completed two years of the current five-year strategic plan. Objectives that have been completed include establishing a process for change to the governance structure of the Society, creation of a Meetings Board, and the launching of *APSnet* III and the *Plant Health Progress* journal. Other areas addressed but not yet completed include the development of agreements with the library community for electronic journal access, the need for a Society representative in Washington, D.C., and the bringing of new products to completion to increase cash flow. Priorities identified for action in the upcoming year include linkages to other societies, the APS European office and volunteerism.

APS Affiliates. APS representatives and liaisons continue to serve as important contacts with other societies and agencies. **B. Jacobsen** reported on the activities of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), which serves as a key source of timely and reliable scientific information on agricultural issues for legislators, regulators, and the media. This past year CAST initiated a Biotechnology Communications Initiative with the goal of serving as an objective resource on Ag Biotech issues in Washington, D.C. Two communication workshops to assist in developing scientist media communications skills were completed. CAST has implemented procedures whereby it can respond to media requests within four hours with reviewed responses. CAST provided testimony in Washington on agricultural biotechnology, invasive plant species, biodiversity, animal agriculture and the global food supply, carbon sequestration and climate change. CAST will continue to support member societies through continuation of the "Conversations in Change" program. This grant-funded program will be carried out in 2001 with the Institute for Conservation Leadership and will focus on leadership development via a workshop in 2001. CAST publications in 2000 include Biodiversity, Invasive Plant Species, Animal Agriculture and Global Food Supply, Applications of Biotechnology to Crops: Benefits and Risks, Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia: Land and Sea Interactions, Estrogenicity and Endocrine Disruption, and Relevance of Soil Testing to Agriculture and the Environment.

E. Davis, APS representative to the Society of Nematologists (SON) reported that representatives of both SON and APS are working on the process of organizing the program and activities for the 2001 joint meeting in Salt Lake City.

S. Alexander is the APS liaison to the National Committee on Worker Safety Standards, which is composed of representatives from the Weed Science Society of America, the Entomological Society of America, the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants, and APS. The purpose of the committee is to develop recommendations for the exemption of qualified plant protection research and demonstration workers from certain requirements of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). These recommendations will then be presented to the EPA for revision of the WPS (40CFR Part 170). The committee has commented that researchers and their research employees are capable, by virtue of their knowledge, training, and experience, of determining the appropriate precautions to be followed when working in pesticide treated areas, and therefore should be excluded from the WPS. Many researchers have erroneously assumed this position in the past. This proposal will provide legal protection for researchers and their assistants, and the institutions involved that has not been previously available. A proposal based on the use of Pesticide Applicator Training Category 10 certification to meet the suggested EPA guidelines was reviewed but not supported. It was indicated however, that other avenues might be available including exemption with exceptions.

M. Sulzinski, APS liaison to the Coalition for Education in the Life Sciences (CELS) reported that the APS grant request (\$5,000) for the Carnegie Teaching Academy Seed Grant Program to foster "scholarship and teaching" within professional societies was not funded. CELS has undergone significant administrative changes and has recently established a close affiliation with the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). CELS primary commitment remains with networking professional societies and further developing web based linkages, and sponsorship of science education based programs. CELS initiatives in progress include an updated CELS web page on the AIBS server and the submission of an application for NSF funding to support educational projects. Sulzinski reports he is seeking to identify ways in which APS can be more participatory in CELS activities and that their new administrative structure should foster this.

C. Stiles reported that the Mycological Society of America (MSA) met with the XVI International Botanical Congress, in 1999. This was the first IBC to be held in North America in 30 years. Some 4,700 delegates representing 85 countries attended the Congress. About 60 different societies and organizations cooperated in carrying out this Congress, including both APS and MSA. Several symposia at the IBC involved evolution of fungi, including one on "Fungal-Plant Interactions: Evolutionary Trends from Pathogens, Mycorrhizae and Lichens." The MSA met in Burlington, VT in 2000 and will meet jointly with APS and SON in Salt Lake City in 2001.

T. Kucharek reports that the National Institute for the Environment has formally changed its name to the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) and has formed a partnership with the National Science Foundation to aid funding. NCSE will be guided by the needs of the "stakeholders", will educate society and pertinent officials about the importance of comprehensive scientific environmental programs and studies for the optimization of political decision making, and will develop an on-line information dissemination system. The National Science Board has recommended that "environmental research, education, and scientific assessment should be one of the highest priorities for NSF." With this in mind, there have been calls for increased funding that may potentially be available to plant pathologists.

The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) held its annual meeting in Philadelphia in November 1999. **M. Simini** reported that over 2,500 participants representing 45 countries attended. There were 63 platform sessions, more than 50 poster sessions and eight interactive poster sessions. The symposium, "Assessing the Risks of Chemical Releases to the Atmosphere" was co-hosted by **G. Biddinger** and APS representative M. Simini. Invited speakers included APS members **J. Laurence, W. Manning, S. Shafer** and **J. Skelly**. Fifteen short courses were taught including, "Integrated Design of Constructed Wetlands," "Soil Toxicity Evaluation," and "Regional Risk Assessment and Population/Landscape Ecology." Arrangements are being made to display APS materials at the 21st annual meeting of SETAC, to be held November 12-16, 2000 in Nashville, TN.

The first annual meeting of the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) Scientific Advisory Council (SAC), formerly the ATCC Board of Scientific Directors, was held on November 11, 1999. Affiliate representative **R. Nelson** reported the following actions. The ATCC was to ensure that the society members on the ATCC web page are linked to their respective society web sites. The APS web site can be visited from the ATCC page. R. Nelson will put the electronic report for the 1999 meeting onto the APS Society web page or newsletter. R. Nelson will be interacting with **U.B. Gunasinghe**, Collection Biologist overseeing the Plant Virus Collection, and others to enhance the visibility of ATCC to members. Alternative funding to support the Plant Virus Collection is also being sought. ATCC wants to emphasize that it is a research institution as well as an archiving agency. SAC members will continue to participate on Collection Review committees.

Future. The 2001 Annual Meeting will be August 25-29 at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, UT. It will be held jointly with the Society of Nematologists and the Mycological Society of America. Sites and dates for future APS meetings are: Midwest Express Center, Milwaukee, WI, July 27-31, 2002, Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, NC, August 9-13, 2003, Long Beach, CA, 2004 (dates to be determined).

The New Orleans meeting was a success with respect to the goals of providing opportunities for scientific and social interaction, dissemination of scientific information, and consideration of issues of concern to plant pathologists. This meeting continued the tradition of successful APS gatherings. The new approach to program planning continued to provide an excellent and diverse program for attendees.

Report of the Business Meeting

The Seventh Annual Networking Breakfast and APS Business Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2000, in the Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Attendees were able to select tables with or without designated table topics for discussion during the first hour of the session. Following a plated breakfast, President **N. Van Alfen** called the business meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. He thanked the exhibitors, donors, and sustaining associates for their support as well as the members of the APS headquarters staff. Secretary **D. Jardine** reported on the membership of the Society and gave the necrology report. Treasurer **J. Sherwood** summarized the financial status of APS. Publications Board Chairman **G. Shaner** acknowledged the retiring editorial boards of *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions*, *Plant Disease* and APS Press. He announced that the APS Bookstore was now set up for e-commerce. Beginning in 2001, Both *Biological and Cultural Control Tests* and *Fungicide and Nematicide Tests* would be available in on-line format only. **J. MacDonald** reported on the activities of the Office of Electronic Communications reviewing progress on APSnet III, the *Plant Health Progress* journal and the APSnet Education Center.

President Van Alfen then reviewed the accomplishments of the past year as they pertained to the Strategic Plan. Under Goal 1 of the plan, an APS Meetings Board has been established with the responsibility for planning annual meetings, short courses, workshops, special conferences and on-line forums. Pertaining to Goal 2, APS Council has initiated a study that will identify potential new governance models. A special Council committee has been charged to

make recommendations for structure changes. In relation to Goal 3, the Financial Advisory Committee is conducting regular reviews of all APS financial activities. Under Goal 4, we have created on-line symposium workshops and courses and continue to increase the number of APS Foundation Student Travel Awards. In summary, he recognized the outstanding staff and dedicated volunteers who help make the Society run smoothly. He reported that although the Society is financially stable for the short term, we face major financial challenges as we adjust to changes in the publishing world. Finally, APS needs to project a more visible image among public policy makers.

President Van Alfen's last order of business was the recognition of awards and service. The 23 Travel Grant awardees were asked to stand and be recognized. They were **S. Prasad, S. Marek, C. Herron, F. Wong, S. Pereyra, A. Cochran, J. Mirabile, R. Cancro, G. Weiland, M. Patil, P. Esker, C. Avila-Adame, J. Batten, J. Flowers, N. Charlton, K. Cheung, E. Gatch, T. Hughes, W. Qi, D. Rotenberg, J. Smith, I. Thompson, and A. Whitfield**. Also recognized were the Storkan-Hanes Foundation Fellows. They were **M. Kim** of the University of Nebraska, **E. Mullins** from Penn State University, **L. Davidson**, from Cornell University and **S. Miller** from Oregon State University. Retiring Council members recognized with plaques were Past President **C. Windels**, Senior Councilor-at-Large **J. Loper**, Division Councilors **G. Chastagner** and **T. Burr**, and Editors-in-Chief **J. Leach, G. Shaner** and **S. Douglas**. Also recognized was the retiring director of the Office of Public Affairs and Education, **G. Bergstrom**. The new members of Council were announced. They are: **J. Fletcher**, Vice President; **J. Andrews**, Junior Councilor-at-Large; **B. Christ**, Northeast Division Councilor; **M. Matheron**, Pacific Division Councilor; **A. Biggs**, *Plant Disease* Editor-in-Chief; **R. Ploetz**, APS Press Editor-in-Chief; and **H. Spaink**, *MPMI* Editor-in-Chief.

At this point, the gavel was turned over to incoming President **S. Slack**. President Slack thanked Neal for all of his efforts on behalf of the Society during the past year. He announced that the 2001 Annual Meeting would be held jointly with the Society of Nematologists and the Mycological Society of America at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah on August 25-29.

In closing, President Slack noted that the strategic planning process is critical for both the present and the future. Council is attempting to decentralize much of the daily business so that it can, along with the headquarters executive staff, spend more time on strategizing.

Report of Council Meetings

President **N. Van Alfen** presided at the midyear Council meeting held at APS Headquarters February 25-27, 2000, and at the Council meeting held in New Orleans, August 12 and 16, 2000. President **S. Slack** presided at the meeting of the new Council on August 16, 2000. All Council members were present except **R. Nyvall** and **N. Keen** at the midyear meeting and **J. Leach** and **R. Nyvall** at the annual meeting. Persons completing terms on Council are listed in the **Report of the Business Meeting**. Customary reports were presented at both the midyear and annual Council meetings, including reports of the president, secretary, treasurer, the editors-in chief of APS publications, the Councilor's Forum, the Financial Advisory Committee, APS Foundation, the Offices of Public Affairs and Education, Electronic Communications and International Programs, the National Plant Pathology Board, several APS committees, representatives to APS affiliates, and APS headquarters. Reports were made available on *APSnet* before the meetings to streamline discussion during Council sessions.

A major effort on President Van Alfen's part was to decentralize much of the discussion on issues to the appropriate boards, offices or committees, asking them to come to Council with recommendations that could be voted on with minimal discussion. To that end, the 2000 midyear and annual Council meetings were the shortest in memory. APS publications are in good health as reported by the respective editors-in-chief (see **Society Affairs**). Council approved the establishment of a new electronic journal and a web-based education and learning center. **T. Murray** and **G. Schumann** were appointed the inaugural editors-in-chief of *Plant Health Progress* and the *APSnet* Education Center, respectively. They have editorial boards in place and both the journal and the Education Center can be accessed on *APSnet*.

Much of the two meetings were taken up by discussions of governance as it relates to Goal 2, Objective B of the Strategic Plan. Councilor's Forum was given the initial charge to study our current governance structure and make recommendations on how we should proceed. At the midyear meeting, **H. Ernstahl**, a consultant with experience working with societies, led Council through a series of exercises to help give us some direction on several key issues related to governance. As a final action, President Slack appointed a special Council Structure Committee to bring back recommendations on proposed governance structures for discussion and vote by Council.

The structure of the National Plant Pathology Board and the need for a consultant in Washington, D.C. were other key issues debated by Council. A request for funds for a consultant was denied at the midyear meeting. President Slack appointed an ad hoc committee to recommend a structure for the Board and review their charge as written in the Manual of Operations. In other business, a new award, the William Boright Hewitt and Maybelle Ellen Ball Hewitt Award was approved by Council at the midyear meeting. The award is for young scientists who are within five years of having completed their doctoral or post-doctoral work. Council formally established a Meetings Board to coordinate the

planning and coordination of all meetings and courses offered by APS, and to create and maintain policies relative to meetings and courses. It was approved that the Societies cost/revenue centers review their income and expenses and develop and implement a modified budget for FY 2000-2001 that would be as balanced as possible. Each cost/revenue center was assigned a recommended budget target for increasing profits or decreasing losses. Motions were also approved charging APS Short Courses to become financially “breakeven or better” after expenses for overhead within a three year period. It was also approved that the membership directory will no longer be printed. A plain paper copy will be available from headquarters for a fee. The National Plant Pathology Board was charged with organizing an initiative to pursue funding for sequencing of plant pathogens and developing a list of high priority organisms. A motion to discontinue the print version of *Phytopathology News* was defeated. The ad hoc Constitution and Bylaws Committee was reappointed to continue their work to update these documents. It is recognized that APS needs a policy for solicitation of funds from private industry. In this regard, the Industry Advisory Council was charged to develop such a policy for approval by Council. An ad hoc committee to study linkages and partnering with other societies was also appointed. This is particularly important in regards to developing policies for electronic journal subscriptions for libraries. The Electronic Technology Advisory Committee was disbanded. Council approved Long Beach, CA as the site for the 2004 Annual Meeting.

Council also approved a biotechnology position statement following considerable input from meeting attendees. The statement is: *“The American Phytopathological Society supports biotechnology as a means for improving plant health and increasing plant productivity.”*

All Council meetings are open to any member of APS and minutes of the Council meetings are available on *APSnet*. Members should feel free to attend and talk with any Council member about issues of concern to them or suggestions for the improvement of our Society or the benefits that it provides to members.

Douglas J. Jardine
Secretary