

2012
One Hundred and Fourth Annual Report
Of the American Phytopathological Society

Annual Meeting

The 104th Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society (APS) was held at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island, August 4-8 2012. Over 1,500 attendees representing 45 countries were present. President Carol Ishimaru welcomed participants to the APS plenary session, “Communicating Science.”

The plenary session was a significant departure from the customary lecture series. Two facilitators from the Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University (Evonne Kaplan-Liss and Valeri Lantz-Gefroh) led the audience through an interactive session focused on improving our communication skills. The plenary session followed on the heels of two workshops held before the plenary (“Distilling Your Message,” and “Improvisation in Science Communication”) involving several invited APS members. APS members became integral, interactive participants in the two-hour presentation, as the facilitators led them through the various challenges encountered in dealing with a variety of audiences from outside of our particular specialty. The complete video of the plenary session is available under the annual meeting archives on APSnet. More information on further training is available from the [Center for Communicating Science](#).

Awards and Honors Ceremony

APS regularly honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the science of plant pathology. The awards were presented this year at the Opening General Session of the APS Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, to allow membership the opportunity to extend well wishes and congratulations throughout the meeting. The following were honored as this year’s APS award recipients:

APS Fellows: Yehoshua Anikster, Richard M. Bostock,
Xianming M. Chen, Bruce B. Clarke, Margery
L. Daughtrey, Kenneth B. Johnson, Deborah A.
Samac, Ariana H.C. Van Bruggen, Guo-Liang
Wang

Excellence in Extension Award: Gail E. Ruhl

Excellence in Industry Award: William R. Landis

Excellence in Regulatory Affairs and Crop Security: Robert
P. Kahn

Distinguished Service Award: Randall C. Rowe

Excellence in Teaching Award: William W. Bockus

International Service Award: Lawrence E. Datnoff

Ruth Allen Award: Jeff L. Dangel

Lee M. Hutchins Award: Andrea Ficke, Megan Kennelly, and
Lisa Hoffman

**Noel T. Keen Award for Research Excellence in Molecular
Plant Pathology:** Vitaly Citovsky

Syngenta Award: Rodrigo P.P. Almeida

Additional details on the awardees are available at www.apsnet.org/members/awards/

Recognitions also included the APS Foundation International Travel Award, 12th I.E. Melhus Symposium Presenters, the Schroth Faces of the Future Early Career Professionals Symposium Awards, the Raymond J. Tarleton Student Fellowship Award, the Pioneer Fellowship in Plant Pathology Award, the APS Student Travel Awards, and the APS Public Policy Early Career Internship.

At the **President’s reception**, the following members were recognized for completing their terms in Council, Offices, Boards or Special Committees:

John Sherwood, APS Immediate Past President
Randy Rowe, Treasurer
Anne Dorrance, Senior Councilor-at-large
Rick Bennett, Director – Auxiliary Meetings Board
Margery Daughtrey, EIC – APS Press
R. Mike Davis, EIC – Plant Disease

Not present but acknowledged were:

Frank Wong, EIC – Plant Disease Management Reports (PDMR)
Gary Stacey, EIC – MPMI

Year in Review

APS ICO (Internal Communications Officer), David Gadoury prepared an article focusing on the new structure and functionality of Council which appears in the January 2013 *Phytopathology News*, Volume 47, Number 1, pages 10-12. The balance of the “Year in Review” is included herein.

Society Affairs

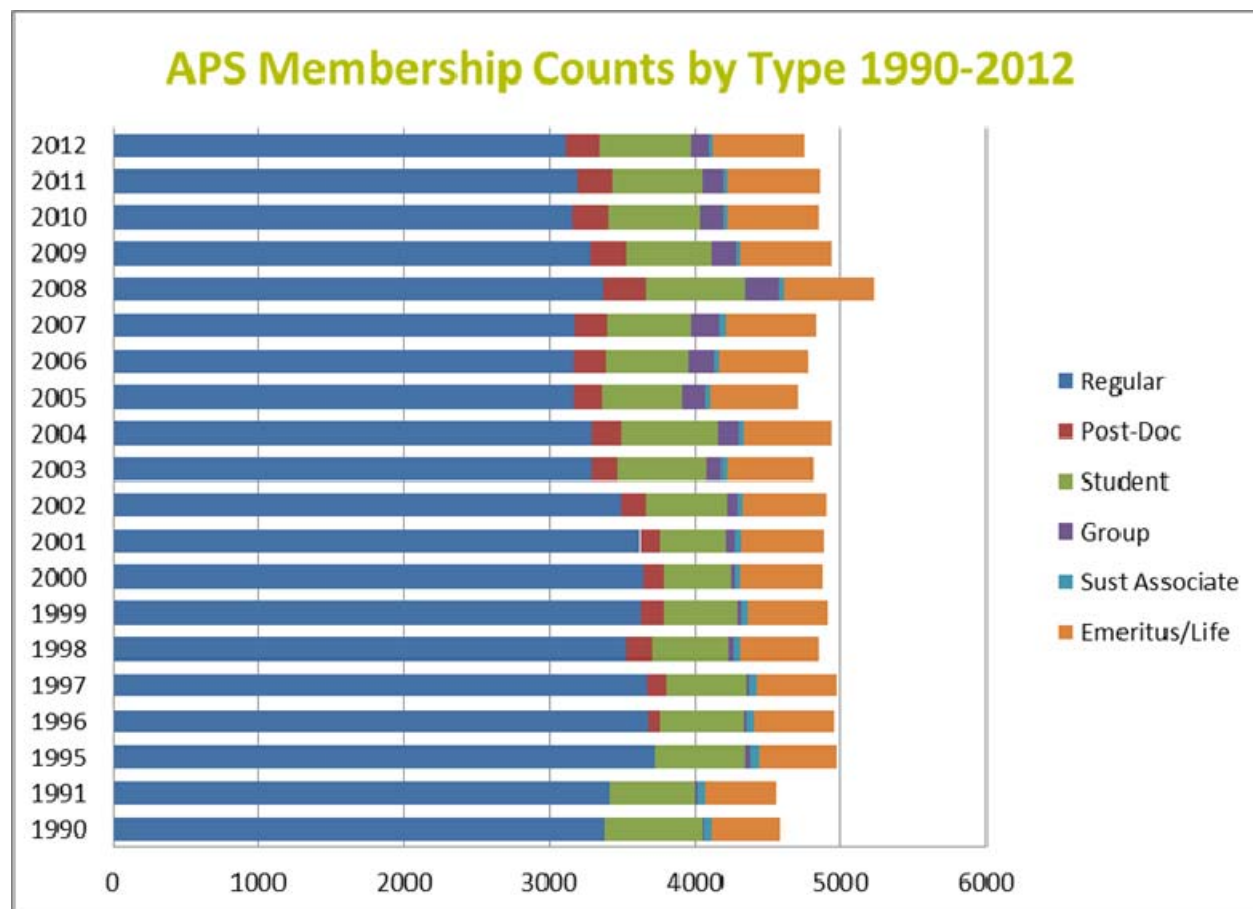
Membership

APS membership as of June 30, 2012 was 4,757, a slight decrease from the past year.

- The percent of membership residing outside the United States remained stable from recent years at 35%. The five countries with the largest number of members in 2012 were China (216), Canada (180), Japan (145), Brazil (74), and Australia (73).
- Relatively small changes were seen in total membership and within most membership categories: a slight increase in the number of student members in one year (from 615 in 2011 to 628 in 2012); and a minor decline in post-doctoral members (from 242 in 2011 to 232 in 2012)

Membership by Category:

Regular members – 3,108	Down from 3,190 in 2011
Student members - 628	Up from 615 in 2011
Post-doctoral members – 232	Down from 242 in 2011
Groups –128	Down from 142 in 2011.
Sustaining associates - 27	Down from 31 in 2011
Emeritus/life members - 634	Unchanged from 2011



Deceased Members— July 2011–July 2012

Kent M. Beckman
Louis Beraha
Richard D. Berger
Fields W. Cobb, Jr.
Henry W. Crittenden
Elroy Curl
James L. Dale
Ellis F. Darley

Jerome E. Dimitman
William S. Gazaway
Roger D. Goos
A. Juergen Hansen
Oliver V. Holtzmann
Carl J. Jones
Harold E. Kazmaier
Joseph Kuc

Jung Hoon Lee
Walter F.O. Marasas
Harold S. McNabb, Jr.
Oren W. Spilker
John B. Taylor, Sr.
John M. Taylor
Michael G. Tiffany
Walter M. Zeck

Financial

The APS Report of the Treasurer for 2012 will be published in the March 2013 issue of Phytopathology News.

Future Annual Meeting Sites

2013 Austin, Texas, August 10-14, 2013 (Joint with MSA)

2014 August 9-13 Minneapolis, MN (Joint with CPS)

Report of Council Meetings

Winter: Council met from 19 to 21 January 2012 in Tucson, Arizona. On day 2 of the meeting, guests Larry Stowell, Gerald Holmes, and Eric Tedford joined Council. The focus of the meeting was strategic planning. Steve Nelson introduced a process for evaluating new products and member services. The aim was to better determine how we invest for the future of APS and provide a process for innovative ideas. Criteria for evaluation were identified and defined, and weighting factors were discussed. An important criterion for evaluation will be “customer value.”

The future of Plant Pathology was discussed as it related to the future pipeline of plant pathologists. Several previous articles dating back to 1963 on the future of the discipline were briefly reviewed to place in context the (perhaps) natural tendency of senior scientists to take a somewhat pessimistic view on this topic. This was followed by a summation of the results of a census of self-identified plant pathologists and plant pathology graduate students in the United States’ university system. The purpose of the census was to assess changes in faculty and student numbers since the previous census in 2007 (see: Plant Dis. 93:1228-1237). The census also captured name changes, splits, and mergers of departments. When possible, respondents were briefly interviewed regarding prospects for refilling vacant or soon-to-be vacated positions. The following acuity trends were discussed: both positive and negative changes in faculty numbers were relatively small; there was a 5% decline overall between 2007 and 2011 (from 673 to 642); most departments are slightly smaller, but many are slightly larger; change was not related to either department size or whether or not the department was multidisciplinary; many departments still anticipate significant retirements within five years, but express cautious optimism regarding refilling many of the vacated positions.

The following student trends were also discussed: graduate student numbers are up by 19% from 2007 (from 685 to 812); many mid- to large departments have nearly doubled enrollment; relative increase was not related to department size; there was no consistent theme to increases; some departments appear to have developed more aggressive recruitment programs.

The following action items were identified:

- (1) Make APSnet THE portal for REU and career opportunities ensuring sensitivity to Google search priorities.
- (2) Ramp up recruitment efforts at NCUR, FFA and others? Most importantly, start on metrics of these efforts, e.g., track contacts and determine efficacy of efforts.
- (3) Get recruitment materials to department chairs/grad program coordinators/key faculty.
- (4) Identify key plant pathology faculty in conglomerate departments to avoid missing this cohort by focusing just on APS department chairs.
- (5) Given that stimulating courses are one of the two most influential draws to the professions, integrate activities of the APS Teaching Committee and new Office of Education to develop video content for the following: (i) social media platform recruitment video; (ii) a plant pathology version akin to the Great Courses or the PBS series [“The Western Tradition”](#); and (iii) a workshop where teaching faculty can share tips for developing courses with potential for high enrollment.

A second focus section examined industry partnerships, and considered the role and actions APS could take that will serve industry members and foster partnerships with industry toward shared goals. Industry guests discussed the scientific gaps from an industry perspective, and training students for applied plant path research. Caution was urged not to promote “applied” as a lower level of science. The push should be for “broad training” and ability to perform translational research. Molecular studies are now often “applied studies.” The distinction is now less relevant than 20 years ago, but attitudes change more slowly. The issue of a lack of respect from academia for industry research was cited. A possible solution to the poor image is to be much more active in presenting industry research in visits to academic departments. For example, industry seminars on careers in industry could be presented to departments and thereby attracts students.

Spring: Council met from 22 to 24 April 2012 at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul. The meeting focused on the refinement of the strategic plan as a follow-up to the winter planning meeting. The future of the profession was discussed with reference to short- and long-term strategies. Immediate high-priority items to be addressed in the short term were: (i) funding for the discipline, including research, teaching, and outreach; and (ii) documentation and communication of impact. It was also recognized that these two issues were interdependent. Various coping strategies were discussed to deal with the forgoing. APS will play a role in facilitating activity to assist members, departments, and agencies in need. Brian Olson, chair of OIR, met with a subset of Council to discuss the development of a high-level meeting between industry leaders and Council in 2013, if possible, to be integrated within the framework of CSAW. As a precursor to this meeting, APS will develop a survey to quantify the plant pathology workforce needs for the near term. Council voted to provide \$6,500 to support the Divisional Forum meeting June 18–19, 2013, to evaluate the short-term progress of the Engagement Plan and provide a report to Council in a timely manner.

Annual: Council met on 8 August 2012 in Providence, Rhode Island. Guests included Kellye Eversole, Jan Leach, and Angela Records. They presented an overview of the APS Public Policy Board activities, which was followed by discussion. One issue raised was that in addition to the focus of PPB on Washington, that PPB might provide input to discussions relevant to the future of departments and government units at the state level, where many budget wars are underway that will have significant impacts on the profession. In particular, impact statements that are either tailored to particular states or regions, or which transcend state or regional considerations might prove beneficial. The Committee on Committees reported that they are now requesting that annual reports from subject matter committees include two impact statements specific to their sub-discipline. Over the next few years, COC will move the deadline for submission of scientific sessions prior to the meeting so that activity of subject matter committees will become more strategically focused. Despite repeated encouragement from Council, some subject matter committees are still spending the bulk of their time at the annual meeting in brainstorming and then rapidly developing proposals for symposia and workshops. Plans call that chairs to be provided with leadership training, specifically on how to run a meeting, develop agendas, etc. COC is sending at least three letters annually to keep chairs instructed and engaged.

Compiled Narrative 2012 Annual Reports

International Society Relations

The committee met for the first time in Providence so that members could meet and review the charge. We identified potential partners to target. We have been approached by an international society to investigate collaborative opportunities. Before we make any commitments, the committee needs to identify the principles for entering into the partnership and suggest how the partnership will be maintained.

Nominations

The committee developed a slate of candidates for the Vice President (VP) and Councilor-at-Large (CAL) positions from the nominations submitted last fall. There were 46 names submitted for VP and 55 for CAL. After making contact with all those nominated urging them to apply, we had a slate of 5 and 13 candidates who applied for VP and CAL, respectively. There were excellent candidates, thus, the decision of the nominations committee on who to ask to run in the election was a challenge.

FAC

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) worked closely with the Vice President of Finance to continually update the APS Financial Strategic Plan and monitor the financial position of the society throughout FY2012, which ended June 30, 2012, with an unaudited net income of \$415,572. FAC worked with key APS staff in preparing the proposed FY2013 budget (net income of \$-204,732) which was approved by Council in April, 2012, and became effective July 1, 2012. The approved FY13 budget has a negative net income to reflect significant investments Council will be making in several business centers. FAC met in January 2012, and developed a set of recommendations to the APS President and Council aimed at improving the financial position of the Society. On several occasions throughout the year, FAC reviewed financial motions that came to Council and provided recommendations for Council action. FAC worked with President Ishimaru on several financial issues facing the Society. FAC worked with APS Foundation Board as they developed their FY13 budget. FAC worked with the Headquarters Operations Committee (HOC) on several issues that dealt with the fiscal health of the headquarters facilities and staff as well as transition issues related to staff leadership. Timothy Paulitz was appointed to replace Margery Daughtrey, who completed her second term on FAC at the August 2012, annual meeting.

Publications Board

The 2011 impact factors for all **APS Journals** were the highest ever: 2.799 for *Phytopathology*, 2.449 for *Plant Disease*, and 4.431 for *MPMI*. The editorial board of *MPMI* would like to raise the impact factor to 5.0 by publishing more review articles and two focus issues per year. Review article authors expect page charges to be waived for invited reviews. If page charges are waived for all review articles, this may reduce income from the journal.

The first ever **Virtual Focus Issue for APS Journals** is in production. It is a collection of 18 articles on *Xylella* published between 2010 and 2012 in the 3 APS journals. The title of the issue is “*Xylella fastidiosa*: Multi-Pronged Research Efforts Shed New Insights into Its Complex Biology, Disease Mechanisms, and Management Strategies.” George Sundin led the effort to assemble the issue. It will be available as open access to all articles until the end of 2012.

For *Phytopathology*, the number of days to first decision has been reduced to an average of 34.5 days in 2012. This is improved from a range of 46-58 days between 2008 and 2011. The first Focus Issue in the history of *Phytopathology* on Human Pathogens on Plants is planned for March, 2013. The iThenticate software has been successfully utilized since the beginning of 2012 to check for plagiarism in submissions; this add-on has been very easy for the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) to implement.

Submissions of manuscripts and Disease Notes continue to increase at *Plant Disease*. The new editorial board under EIC-elect Mark Gleason was approved, and orientation is scheduled for fall 2012 at headquarters. *Plant Disease* will implement iThenticate in January 2013.

MPMI is publishing a focus issue on plant-nematode interactions in fall 2012. The journal also will publish a virtual focus issue containing all of the mini-reviews published during the past 3 years. The new editorial board under EIC-elect Jane Glazebrook was approved, and orientation is scheduled for fall 2012 at headquarters; 12 of the 15 current senior editors are continuing their service.

The summer submission for *Plant Disease Management Reports* Vol. 6 was completed with a few delays due to an earlier-than-expected transition between EICs. A total of 123 reports were accepted. The “Instructions for Authors” page on the *PDMR* web site will be reorganized so authors can get pertinent information without scrolling excessively on the page. The sample report will be revised to reflect use of Fisher’s LSD or equivalent statistical test. Gerald Holmes, Valent, addressed the *PDMR* editorial board about standardizing report submissions in a way that allows for obtaining summaries across trials. The group was generally in favor of exploring this concept, and a committee was named to explore the feasibility of such a change.

Materials published in the **APS Education Center** in 2012 include one introductory topic (“Introduction to Fungi”), two disease lessons (“Daylily Rust” and “Rapid Blight of Turfgrass”), and three Spanish translations. “The DeBary Award for Outstanding Children’s Literature,” inaugurated this year, is open to nominations from APS members and the public. Scott Gold, OE, attended the meeting to inform committee members of activities undertaken by the OE.

Submissions to *Plant Health Progress* have increased as of mid-year 2012 compared to the decrease in 2011. The acceptance rate for 2011 was 79%.

Since the mid-year meeting, five books have been published by **APS PRESS**: *Fusarium Wilts of Greenhouse Vegetables and Ornamental Crops* edited by M. L. Gullino, J. Katan and A. Garibaldi; *Illustrated Dictionary of Mycology*, 2nd ed. by M. Ulloa and R. T. Hanlin; *John S. Niederhauser: Recollections of a Life in Science and Agriculture*, by P. D. Peterson, C. S. Griffith and R. S. Turner; *Application of Information Theory to Epidemiology* by G. Hughes; and *Tomato Health Management*, edited by R. Michael Davis, Ken Pernezy, and Janet C. Broome. APS PRESS showed a small surplus of \$18,000 for this year. Plans are to use the journal platform (Atypon) to deliver online books to libraries along with the journals, beginning with the last 8 compendia. AACCI PRESS is currently adding their books to their journal platform for online delivery; APS compendia will follow immediately. The compendia platform will be more complicated. If it is quicker to add our newer books first, APS PRESS will go that route. Books will also be reformatted for delivery to tablets (via Amazon), beginning with *Hungry Planet*—enhanced with links to lesson plans, websites and podcasts. E-book coding has been ordered for an additional five to 10 APS PRESS books and

staff has begun checking them for quality. Checking for accurate conversion of E-book and online book coding has added a significant number of hours to the publishing process. The number of book copies sold was down 25% from last year, partly because one of the books in FY12 was the impressive but expensive. *Smut Fungi of the World*: 1480 pages, priced at \$499. This is likely to change in FY13 as there will be more books published than in FY12 and with several at lower price points. Marketing efforts will be emphasized to bolster income during this period as we invest in costly new format development. An online image database is being created that will be available via subscription to members in 2013. Council has provided approval to use additional funds to speed the development of e-books and apps. Electronic delivery of APS PRESS material has a high initial cost, but this goal is essential to the sustainability of APS PRESS's enviable position as a trusted scientific information source. Margery Daughtrey is finishing her second term as Editor-in-Chief of APS PRESS; Tim Paulitz will take over as EIC in January 2013, and Darin Eastburn will be the Associate EIC.

Phytopathology News

The *Phytopathology News* Advisory Board met in Providence. Items that were discussed included making adjustments to online delivery of *Phytopathology News* to ensure higher open rates and visibility to members and sending a hard copy to each department head. Conversion of *Phytopathology News* to a phone/tablet version was also discussed to take place of the current online flipper version. There was also discussion about soliciting appropriate phytopathology related cartoons (think Far Side) from readers for inclusion in each issue.

Divisional Forum

The DF met in New Brunswick, NJ in conjunction with the NE Division meeting. The DF learned how the NE runs their extension/industry dialogue and how this might be a model for all Divisions to use per the Engagement Plan.

Each Divisional Forum Representative presented the Education and Extension program concepts to the leadership of their respective division. It was voted on and approved by all the Divisions. Divisions were successful in either implementing one or both of these programs.

The DF developed a new symposium at annual APS meetings that will showcase the top students from each of the Divisions. This symposium will help foster leadership development by proving graduate students with speaking experiences at scientific meetings and broaden the engagement and visibility of APS Divisions. Each Divisional Forum Representative presented this concept to the leadership and members of their respective division. It was voted on and approved by all the Divisions, and each Division decided on how students will be financially supported to attend. Mechanism(s) for securing long term funding for the students to participate are still being discussed.

The DF developed a [resource page](#) to link the Engagement Plan and other tools for the DFRs .

The DF discussed, reviewed, and voted against a central funding from Industry to support the Divisions.

The DF discussed the review of abstracts for publications and Dan Roberts is working on the details.

Recommendations for divisional and national meetings when they are in the same region are being developed.

Committee on Committees

The Committee on Committees consists of the three Councilors-at-Large (A. Dorrance, W. Mahaffee, and Jeff Jones) and member services Staff (Cindy Scheller).

The CALs play a significant role on APS Council, serve as liaisons to APS Offices and Boards, and have a renewed dedication to serving the membership through increased interaction with the committee leaders. Although varied, the activities this year focused on key goals in the 2011–2012 year which are listed below. Items in *italics* are recommendations/action items based on the activities of the Committee on Committees this year.

- Continued the greater communication of issues to and from general policy and subject matter committees to council (COC) and/or offices and boards
- Continued liaison activities to lead the committees to greater activities outside of the meeting planning and meeting cycle. There are two areas that we would like to highlight for this:

1. Five committees proposed webinars, which are in development for the following committees. The winners of the \$1,000 were:
 - a. Graduate Student Committee: “Where Are We Headed? The Future of Plant Pathology?”
 - b. Industry Committee: “Securing a Job and Succeeding in the Private Sector.”
 - c. Diagnostics Committee: “Diagnosis of Diseases Caused by Bacterial Plant Pathogens.”

Other submissions:

- d. “Bacteriology: Visualization of molecular interactions between pathogenic bacteria and plant hosts”
- e. “Diseases of Ornamentals: Educate audiences on the prevalence and potential threats of propagating and distributing aesthetically pleasing virus-infected ornamental plants”

Challenge here was: who should review if posted at the Office of Electronic Communications APS website? Currently, these webinars will be treated as committee activities and posted to committee websites. If a clear guide/expectation for review is developed then they could be moved to another location on the APS website and open to all members

There was an issue over the cost of a microphone to record the webinar—member services supplied this, but not currently in membership budget. *Therefore, budgeted costs should be considered for future endeavors.*

2. Each Committee updated/developed mission and vision statements

All are posted on committee webpages— as a result of this process, many were revised and one committee has changed its name.

- Continued with the timeline and generic letters to guide incoming COC members activities in future years (fall, winter, and spring letters).

Changes in interactions and communications with the committees:

- In addition to the meeting with the Chairs and Co-chairs of each committee, at least one Councilor met with almost all of the committees during the 2012 meeting in Rhode Island. This put a face with the COC as well as began the communication process. Many ideas were generated at the committees and it was often very timely to address questions on how to put those ideas into action.
- The COC reviewed the 2011 annual committee reports during the fall Council meeting. Based on that review, we sent individualized letters to Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs that specifically responded issues raised in the reports. We chose to send all communications to both

Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs so that they could work together as a team. Some committees responded and we continued the exchanges until the issues were resolved or projects advanced. As part of this exercise, we used committee reports to identify issues that needed to be communicated to other committees, boards and offices and/or council. We sent notes to the appropriate groups with the information provided by the committee and the suggestion that the group contact the specific committee. *The review of Committee Annual reports by the COC should continue to be scheduled as part of the fall council meeting each year. If the review occurred at the start of the meeting, important issues raised could be discussed at the meeting.*

- An individualized letter was sent to each committee in October 2011, February 2012, and May 2012. This letter responded to ongoing concerns for each committee and asked for progress or offered help if appropriate. The letter provided a list of ideas for increased non-meeting activities including suggestion of increasing nominations from the committees for Awards, quarterly letters, webinars. *This proactive approach should be continued with the quarterly letter, we found this best to follow the Council retreats.*
- Several committees are also interfacing throughout the year through the interactive website. *The activity on this site should be monitored. It would be good to share the ways committees are using this website with other committees, possibly through the newly formatted Committee Chairs meeting.*
- Continued the approach where each COC began three-year relationships between committees and individual CALs. As new CALs rotate onto the COC, they will be matched up with committees that they can shepherd for the three years that they are on COC.
- The COC changed the committee annual report form specifically to include non-meeting related activities. This will help committees to recognize that national meeting programming is not their sole *raison d'être*. The following question was added to the report form:
 - 3. Besides planning a session, what other activities did the committee engage in and what is planning for coming year?
- Wrote a motion to provide funds to COC to use to promote activities of the committees in directions the COC would like to lead them. \$3000/year was agreed to. *COC will need to develop guidelines for using the funds once they have been given to a committee; develop goals for the next few years for 'contests' for the funds; criteria for judging and mechanisms for advertising the new opportunity. It would be great if these activities could also provide content for moneymaking activities by the society.*

National Meeting Activities and Changes:

- CALS attended and encouraged committee leaders to attend the First Timers Orientation at the national meeting.
- CALS attended as many of the committee meetings as possible to get a feeling for the operation of committees in general. *ICAL, JCAL and incoming JCAL should continue to attend all committee meetings to enhance their liaison with the committees.*
- Continued the new format of the Annual Meeting Chair and Vice Chair Orientation to a webinar. This allowed committee leaders to learn their rolls in advance of the meeting and plan to use the traditional time of the orientation to build committee leadership. *The leadership training of Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs needs to be further developed for the coming years. We want these leaders to lead and not just follow in the footsteps of those that have gone before them.*

Management of COC and Governance Issues

- Updated the timeline for COC activities to be used and adjusted by staff helping COC and future COC members to guide activities. *Each year the SCAL should revise the timeline to optimize and add activities.*
- In addition to their duties on the COC the CALs participated as fully integrated members of council, liaised with committees, boards and offices. Specifically, Anne Dorrance liaised with the Office of International Programs; *Phytopathology News* and Nomination Committee. Walt Mahaffee liaised with the Office of Industry Relations, Innovation Forum, FAC, and coordinated the Volunteer Award nominations and selection process. Jeff Jones liaised with Office of Electronic Communications.
- For the Volunteer Award: *There were nominations this year, the CALs have a plan in place in the event that no nominations are received.*

Names of outstanding Committee Chairs to be considered for further leadership in APS:

Rubella Goswami, Past Chair Committee for Diversity & Equality
Jason Woodward, Past Chair Teaching Committee
Kira Bowen, Past Chair Crop Loss Assessment and Risk Evaluation
Don Ferrin, Past Chair of Diseases of Ornamental Plants
Carla Garzon, Past Chair of Soil Microbiology and Root Disease
Peter Ojiambo, Past Chair of Epidemiology

APS Historian

One of my major activities involves the promotion of an awareness of the history of APS and plant pathology for Society members, other scholarly communities, and the general public. This is accomplished primarily through historical publications and presentations. This year I completed (with Historians Steve Turner and Clay Griffith) a decade-long project to annotate the memoirs of John S. Niederhauser. *John S. Niederhauser: Recollections of a Life in Science and Agriculture*, which was published by APS PRESS this past May. John Niederhauser's memoir offers an exciting narrative of the life and career of a remarkable 20th century plant pathologist and his work in international agriculture, especially for aspiring young pathologists. With the generous assistance of the Niederhauser family, I worked with APS Press to reduce the price of the book to make it more affordable for a younger audience. Recently, I began a new activity that involves collaboration with Historian Christina Matta, University of Wisconsin on a reappraisal of the famous scientific debates between Erwin F. Smith and Alfred Fischer on the existence of bacterial diseases of plants. We are working on a manuscript for submission to the *Journal of the History of Biology* later this year.

One of my major activities continues to be focused on developing strategies for improving the preservation of APS historical records (documents and photographs) at both APS Headquarters and the Society's historical collection at Iowa State University, especially those documenting Society activities of the past 25–50 years. Currently, I am attempting to locate and assemble key documents and photographs and devise strategies for improving the status of our recent and future historical documentation. To this end, I am working closely with APS Headquarters staff and Laura Sullivan, assistant archivist, at Iowa State University.

Another key role as APS Historian continues to be answering queries and facilitating document requests on a routine basis from national and divisional APS officers, headquarters staff, and Society members on matters related to the history of plant pathology and of the APS. Frequent questions also concern the appropriate storage and preservation of historical materials. Often, individuals are searching for biographical

information, a particular historical document, or a unique historical photograph. Whenever possible, applicable materials are photocopied or photographic prints/negatives are either made or electronic images sent on to the APS member.

OEC

Since the inception of the Internet in the 1990s, a bewildering array of web-enabled tools and applications have been rapidly transforming our daily lives at multiple levels ranging from how individuals communicate and work to how various organizations function. The Office of Electronic Communication (OEC) plans to write a white paper that outlines the impact and potential applications of web technology in plant pathology. Through this paper, we hope to highlight how certain online tools and resources can help APS to transform plant pathology research, education, and outreach and why APS should lead, not follow, this transformation (goals 3 and 5).

Considering that APS has been actively exploring mobile apps and associated e-products to generate new revenue streams and to provide an improved service to members (Goals 1 and 3), OEC discussed pros and cons in developing some of the existing and planned products during the annual meeting. Some members have directly participated in developing such products. As new products and proposals for new products become available, their experience will be quite helpful in evaluating them. OEC will work closely with the APS PRESS and the HQ IT office to facilitate the development and improvement of e-products.

As outlined above, OEC is interested in enhancing the Careers section of the website by generating and curating educational resources related to professional development and ethics in collaboration with other committees and boards (Goal 4). During the 2012 meeting in Providence, OEC discussed a few potential topics to cover and committees to contact.

OPRO

The Office of Public Relations and Outreach (OPRO) changed its primary focus in 2010 to concentrate on outreach to students and teachers to complement and support the APS Education Initiative, which is reflected primarily in Goals 4B and 5B. Over the past fiscal year, OPRO sponsored booths at the following conferences, which are attended by either students (high school, undergraduate and graduate) or teachers (high school, community college, and university) or both.

- SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) is a mix of students (all grades) and teachers.
- NABT (National Association of Biology Teachers) is a mix of high school and college teachers.
- FFA (Future Farmers of America) is a mix of high school students and teachers.
- NCUR (National Conference on Undergraduate Research) is only undergraduate students.
- MANRRS (National Society for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences) is a mix of students (all grades) and teachers.

OPRO has developed a professional APS booth using the “Plants Get Sick Too” theme. Vertical banners provide examples of diseases in field and greenhouse crops. The career poster was turned into a vertical banner for display. Different sub-themes used to engage booth visitors this year were based on corn smut or pumpkin diseases. To capture teacher contact information for future use, a Kindle was raffled off at three of the conferences. A packet of information was provided to all teachers with career poster, career brochure, APSnet Education Center information, Plant Pathology Department contacts, and examples of disease lessons. New bookmarks were developed with the theme “You can change the world too, become a plant pathologist.” The bookmarks emphasize contributions by plant pathologists (jobs) as well as plant diseases. Most of these resources, including the banners, are available for members to use at their own outreach events by printing at a local print shop, or having items shipped to them by request to APS Headquarters.

Although not a direct OPRO activity, two OPRO board members served on the committee that helped develop the professional video released at the annual APS meeting and now available to all APS members for student outreach purposes.

OPRO continues to sponsor the ever-popular APS YouTube video contest. A new category was added for the 2012 contest – “What is a Plant Pathologist?” Since the trend had been upward regarding the number of submissions, we were surprised to have only two this year.

OPRO provided funds for three early career professionals (Kari Peter, Kate Fiedler and Kristi Fenstermacher) to attend “Standing Up for Science,” a one-day media workshop at The Broad Institute in Cambridge, MA. Information learned was shared with the OPRO board at our annual 2012 meeting and Kari Peter is joining the OPRO board. OPRO members participated in two of the workshops conducted by the Center for Communicating Science, which has provided fresh ideas for expanding information to students and the general public.

Office of Education (OE)

The APS Office of Education (OE) completed its first year of activity. Several initiatives were started including board recruitment, monthly panning conference calls, a special session proposal for the 2013 APS meeting on online courses, production of a poster presented at the [Association of Public and Land-grant Universities](#) meeting in June outlining the various APS teaching committees and efforts. Additionally, through discussions at the APS meeting in Providence and the upcoming APS Council meeting at OSU some additional potential coordinated educational efforts are outlined in the attached table. Additions/deletions of efforts are expected in response to the OSU Council meeting discussions.

Office of Industry Relations (OIR)

OIR met 11 October 2012, to develop an action plan for the online course “Careers in the Private Sector.” OIR plans to have the course completed by July 1, 2013 for an introduction at the 2013 APS Annual Meeting and 2013-14 academic year. Over the next nine months, frequent online meetings, email exchanges, and use of the OIR SharePoint website will be the standard operating practice for all APS members interested in contributing to this project

APS Advisory Committee on Plant Biosecurity

The Advisory Committee on Plant Biosecurity has drafted a report/manuscript that details the outcomes from a workshop convened at the 2011 APS Annual Meeting. That workshop, “Protecting Plant Systems,” covered the current and projected challenges to plant systems, the infrastructure that is currently in place to address those challenges, and the perceptions of APS members with regard to the challenges and infrastructure. This can be considered as a report to Council.

Leadership Institute

The APS Leadership Institute hosted three workshops at the APS Annual Meeting in Providence. Teri Balser, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Florida, facilitated two all-day workshops, “Leadership I: Finding Your Style” and “Leadership II: Working with Others.” Leadership I focused on what it means to be a leader in a range of contexts, discussed different leadership styles, and through a series of exercises and case studies, raised participants’ awareness of their own styles and how these fit with those of others. Building on the knowledge gained in Leadership Institute I, the Leadership II workshop helped individuals go deeper in their understanding of the interpersonal aspects of leading and managing and explore ways to apply their understanding to areas of conflict or change in their professional, personal, and societal lives.

Each workshop had about 25 registrants with different levels of professional experience and from various APS sectors, including university, government, and industry. Participants ranged from graduate students and early career professionals to mid-level and senior faculty, department chairs, and individuals holding management positions within their organizations. In the afternoon of the second day, a panel of past and current APS presidents—Jim Moyer, North Carolina State University, Jacque Fletcher, Oklahoma State University, and Mike Boehm, The Ohio State University—shared their insights and perspectives on leading with the workshop participants.

A half-day workshop geared toward graduate students and post-docs was sponsored by Monsanto Co. and coordinated by Emilio Oyarzabal, also of Monsanto, and a member of the APS Leadership Institute Committee. The workshop, facilitated by Sherry Harsch-Porter of the Porter Bay Group, Inc. in St. Louis (www.porterbay.com), was entitled Understanding Your Behavioral Style. The workshop utilized results from each participant’s DiSC personal assessment that was completed prior to the workshop.

Rick Bostock, University of California-Davis and Christine Smart, Cornell University were the founding co-chairs of the committee and recently stepped down after the Providence meeting.

Bill Schneider, USDA ARS and Janna Beckerman, Purdue University were appointed chair and vice chair of the committee by APS Council to serve three-year terms.

Office of International Programs (OIP)

Since August 2011 the Library Assistance Program (LAP), under the stewardship of Mohammad Babadoost, has shipped 284 books and 32 journal volumes to libraries in five countries (China, Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan and Turkey). Shipping charges were covered by funds provided to the OIP and through a donation from Gowan Chemical Co. Mohammad Babadoost donated \$1,000 from his International Service Award to help fund LAP core activities.

OIP received five proposals for the JANE Award funded by the 2011 John and Ann Niederhauser Endowment. The winning proposal was “Reducing Reservoirs of Black Pod Rot (*Phytophthora megakarya*) through On-farm Composting of Cocoa Pod Husks” by Njukeng Jetro Nkengafac, Institute of Agricultural Research for Development – IRAD, Cameroon and Patricia Milner, USDA ARS, Beltsville, MD (\$3,800). Two proposals were received for the Global Experience program, and “DNA-Based Detection of Plant Pathogens – Barbados” by Angela T. Alleyne, University of the West Indies and Paul Vincelli, University of Kentucky was awarded \$4,000. There were no applicants for the International Travel Award. Talo Pastor-Corrales led the Awards Committee.

The 2012 OIP Silent Auction conducted during the Annual Meeting in Providence was another success, raising approximately \$2,000 to support the Global Experience Program.

OIP is working with APS Foundation, APS Press and Anne Alvarez to develop the “Books of the World” program, and identify books and target beneficiaries of the program.

OIP submitted a symposium proposal on biological control for the 2013 annual meeting.

Foundation

The Foundation launched the Public Policy Endowment campaign at the 2011 Hawaii meeting and has aggressively continued it through 2012, raising nearly \$120,000 to date.

Foundation celebrated its 25th anniversary at the Providence, Rhode Island meeting, complete with a celebration cake and refreshments and a commemorative 25th anniversary flash drive. An aggressive solicitation at the meeting resulted in the second highest total contributions collected from an annual meeting: \$22,976.

For the 2012 Providence meeting, Foundation awarded \$35,000 in travel grants.

The APS Foundation continues to explore ways to enrich opportunities for our students and early career professionals and we are pursuing alternative strategies for new endowments.

Anne Alvarez retired from the Foundation Board after serving two terms and Molly Cline joined the board in Providence.

Public Policy Board (PPB)

Towards **Goal 4 (Increased opportunities for professional growth and development)**, PPB has actively promoted members at all levels. We are active in nominating PPB members or general APS members for key advisory boards or committees (e.g., nominated Scot Hulbert for a National Academy committee to assess USDA-AFRI programs). We are particularly active in engaging Early Career Interns in PPB activities and promoting their careers. As examples, our current Interns were invited to co-develop or comment on PPB white papers or policy commentaries, and are involved in authoring or coauthoring newsletter articles. They participated in engagement activities at the APS meetings, including the co-chairing of a Listening Session with NIFA Director Ramaswamy, co-organizing and speaking in PPB sessions, and manning the PPB “I’m Engaged” booth. Even past Interns still participate in PPB activities; Melanie Ivey presented at one of the PPB sponsored symposia at the APS meeting. Two new Early Career PPB interns were selected.

Furthermore, our former intern and the current APS PPB Policy Fellow Angela Records spear-headed the “I’m Engaged” campaign, co-organized and spoke at a PPB session at the meetings, presented comments at stakeholder meetings in Washington D.C. on behalf of PPB, coordinated meetings with policy makers to promote NPDN. She helped organize the Food Safety workshop in Maryland, and was a key participant in the Culture Collection meeting in Kansas City. She’s amazing, and a bargain for APS advocacy!

Towards **Goal 5 (Prioritization and action on issues most relevant to the future of plant pathology)**, PPB has worked to promote APS member issues to relevant policy and funding decision makers. A major focus for the past few years has been to support increased funding for all agricultural research, extension, and education programs at the USDA, the NSF, the Department of Energy, the National Institutes of Health, and the Food and Drug Administration. Activities in this regard have included meetings with policymakers (Eversole, Records, PPB members) and working with other organizations to prevent cuts and urge support for increases in programs.

A specific example of one of our funding efforts is our continued advocacy for funding and staff support for preservation of microbial collections important to plant pathology. PPB collaborated in an effort that was successful in getting funding as an NSF-Research Coordination Network. PPB member Rick Bennett is a co-PI on the grant, and K. Eversole is on the advisory board for the group. Bennett, Leach, Eversole, and Records participated in a workshop to launch the NSF-RCN in Kansas City. We will continue to work with this group to promote future support for collections.

The PPB channeled a considerable amount of time into promoting continued funding for NPDN. These efforts included organizing and accompanying NPDN reps in Washington D.C. (Eversole, Records, J. Leach); promoting NPDN in whitepapers and with policy makers; encouraging APS members to solicit support with their Washington D.C. representatives.

The Food Safety initiative also required considerable attention this year. PPB sponsored a workshop with food microbiologists February 2012 (funded through NIFA). A newsletter article describing the workshop was written by PPB member Barak, and Leach. Eversole coauthored a *Phytopathology* article ("Human Pathogens on Plants: Designing a Multidisciplinary Strategy for Research with Fletcher and Tauxe). In addition, the PPB continues to promote multidisciplinary activities with the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP). For the third year in a row, K. Eversole & Fletcher organized a human pathogens on plants symposium focused on the role of plant pathology at the annual IAFP meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. PPB member Barak presented an overview of the February 2012 workshop and S. Rideout highlighted the role of extension plant pathologists through a presentation. Eversole and Records also organized a symposium on human pathogens on plants at the EU IAFP meeting in 2012.

PPB developed and provided policy statements, stakeholder comments, and comment/opinion responses related to plant pathology and agricultural sciences. We advocate for APS-related policy and funding issues with decision makers during our policy visit to Washington D.C. in March 2012. We represented APS interests at inter-societal and government planning efforts (at no cost to APS) (e.g., Plant Summit, Phenomics, etc.). A white paper on the Plant Summit was reviewed by PPB, and the completed paper has been posted on APS site (Oct 2012).

To inform our members of these activities, we publish monthly newsletter articles and organize many activities at the APS meetings. For example, we educated members in policy issues or funding opportunities through our "Get Engaged" booth at APS meetings, by hosting the Director of NIFA (Ramaswamy) at the APS meetings for Listening Sessions, by hosting symposia at the APS meetings, and by holding an Open Forum on Hot Topics at the APS meetings. We continue to blog, post News Capsule entries, and, when needed, we target specific groups with relevant information.

We continue to build relationships relevant to regulatory issues. For example, we have been working with EPA to continue a position for a Plant Pathology Expert. Jim Mueller (PPB member) has led the effort to solicit funding from industry for support of this position at EPA. We also have regular interactions with EPA, APHIS, and the FDA.

Emerging Diseases and Pathogens Committee

We have little to report this period. The Committee met only once—at APS in Providence RI—to share and discuss emerging disease reports. We anticipate participation in the mandated revision of the USDA-APHIS list of Select Agent Plant Pathogens in 2013, and the EDPC Chair has been invited to facilitate prioritization of emerging pathogens at the 2013 USDA/APS National Plant Disease Recovery System (NPDRS) Workshop, Beltsville, MD, (date TBA). Several EDPC members will be participating in the NPDRS meeting as well.

AMB

The AMB in concert with the presidential lineage has completed the first annual meeting planning cycle (Providence) using the new, technology-driven programming tools put in place in fall 2011. Use of these tools, plus an increased hands-on effort from the AMB, reduced presidential lineage time formerly used to organize sessions and place them into the annual meeting schedule. These same tools were incorporated into the mobile app schedule available to attendees for the second time at the 2012 meeting. The second programming cycle using this new model of meeting planning is underway for the 2013 meeting in Austin.