

**2013**  
**One Hundred and Fifth Annual Report**  
**Of the American Phytopathological Society**

## **Annual Meeting**

The 105th Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society was held jointly with the Mycological Society of America at the Austin Convention Center in Austin, Texas, August 10-14 2013. Over 1500 attendees representing more than 45 countries were present. President Michael Boehm welcomed participants to two APS plenary sessions based on the meeting theme: Mind the Gap. The first session, held on Monday, August 12, was entitled “Minding the Gaps – Yielding Tomorrow’s Solutions, and featured three invited speakers. Deirdre Ortiz, a food industry professional at the Kellogg Company presented “Standing in the Gap for Nutrition”. Simon Tripp, senior director of the Battelle Memorial Institute’s Technology Partnership Practice then presented a talk entitled Agbiosciences: A leading driver of Science and Technology-based economic growth for North America. The third and final presentation was by Michael B. Hofner, vice president of the Ohio State University’s office of distance education and eLearning, and was entitled: “Is the landscape of higher education shifting? MOOCS and everything in between”. Plenary session II held on Tuesday, August 13 featured a single speaker, the author Joe Robinson, who spoke on the topic of “Striking a better balance: balancing stress at work and home. Complete videos of both plenary sessions are available under the annual meeting archives on *APSnet*.

## **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 Austin, Texas, 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:** Caitilyn F., Allen, Anne M. Alvarez, James C. Correll, R. Michael Davis, Jose, C. Dianese, Frederick E. Gildow, Mark L. Gleason, Douglas J. Jardine, Robert R. Martin, Mark Mazzola, Allison H. Tally

**Excellence in Extension Award:** S.T. Koike

**Excellence in Regulatory Affairs and Crop Security:** L. Levy and Mary E. Palm

**Distinguished Service Award:** S.C. Nelson

**Excellence in Teaching Award:** C.F. Gonzalez

**International Service Award:** J.C. Comstock

**Ruth Allen Award:** Y-H Lee and S. Kang

**Lee M. Hutchins Award:** G.W. Sundin

**Noel T. Keen Award for Research Excellence in Molecular Plant Pathology:** S. Kamoun

**Syngenta Award:** L.J. du Toit

Additional details on the awardees are available at [www.apsnet.org/members/awards/](http://www.apsnet.org/members/awards/)

Recognitions also included the APS Foundation International Travel Award, 13th 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:

**Carol Ishimaru**, APS Immediate Past President

**Walt Mahaffee**, Senior Councilor-at-large

## **Year in Review**

**APS ICO** (Internal Communications Officer), David Gadoury has prepared an article focused on the priorities and actions of Council as his annual report which appears in the \_\_\_\_ *Phytopathology News*, Vol. , pages ..\_\_\_\_. The balance of the “Year in Review” is included herein.

## **Society Affairs**

### **Membership**

APS membership as of June 30, 2013 was 4670, a slight decrease from the past year.

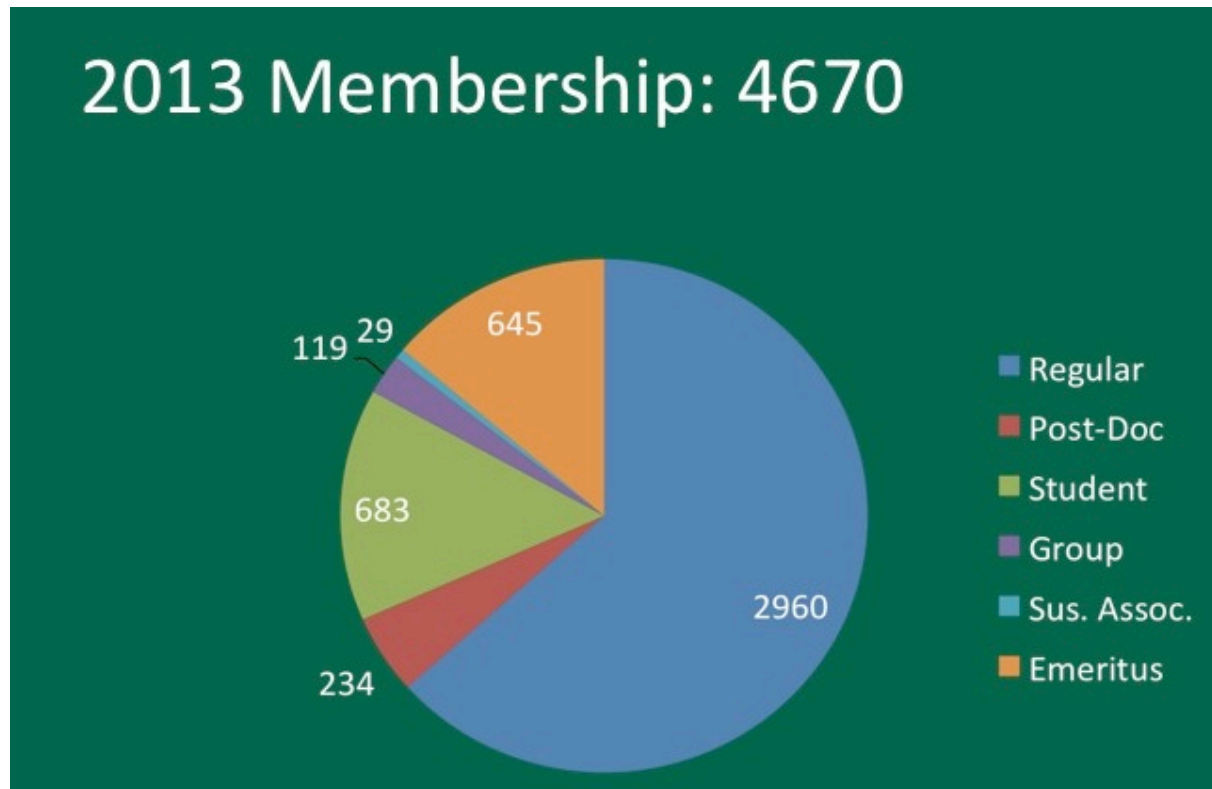
- The percent of membership residing outside the United States remained stable from recent years at 34%. The five countries with the largest number of members in 2013 were China (224), Canada (163), Japan (120), Brazil (77), and Australia (71).
- Relatively small changes were seen in total membership and within most membership categories with one exception. There was a substantial increase in the number of student members in one year (from 628 in 2012 to 683 in 2013). Postdoctoral membership was virtually unchanged from 2012. The trend of fewer graduating students finding it necessary to enter postdocs prior to finding permanent employment, as was seen in 2012 (see previous annual report) apparently continued in 2013, despite the increased numbers of graduating PhDs.

### **Membership by Category:**

**Regular members** - 2960

Down from 3108 in 2012

<b>Student members</b> - 683	Up from 628 in 2012
<b>Post-doctoral members</b> – 234	Up from 232 in 2012
<b>Groups</b> –119	Down from 128 in 2012.
<b>Sustaining associates</b> - 29	Up from 27 in 2012
<b>Emeritus/life members</b> - 645	Up from 634 in 2012



#### **Deceased Members – July 2012- July 2013**

Ernest E. Banttari  
Nestor E. Caroselli  
Donald M. Ferrin  
Gary D. Franc  
Larry F. Grand  
Richard I. Hamilton  
J. Dean Hansen

Robert G. Kenneth  
Charles H. Kingsolver  
Hideo Koike  
James E. Kuntz  
H.M. Marasas  
Marco A. Marchetti  
Jaehwan Roh

Calvin B. Skotland  
David L. Strider  
Homer D. Wells  
Roy Alton Young  
Ali Mohamed Zaid  
Stanley J. Zontek

#### **Financial**

The APS Report of the Treasurer for 2013 will be published in the March 2014 issue of Phytopathology News.

#### **Future Annual Meeting Sites**

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

#### ***Report of Council Meetings in 2013***

**February 11-13, 2013 at Syngenta Biotechnology and North Carolina State University.** Council met from 11 to 13 February, beginning opening remarks and open dialogue, as well as a tour of Syngenta Biotechnology, Inc. This was an opportunity to interface with Syngenta leadership and experience first-hand the environment of some of our industry colleagues. Michiel van Lookeren Campagne, President Syngenta Biotechnology, Inc., welcomed APS Council to Syngenta.

Council then considered the Financial Strategy of APS in a discussion chaired by APS treasurer Steve Slack. A Financial Motion to establish an Early Career Professional Development and Training Fund was submitted by APS Foundation. The APS Foundation Board requested that Council approve a \$50,000 matching grant to the Foundation in support of the Early Career Professional Development and Training Fund over a

3-year period. This was subsequently approved. The APS Office of Education was then discussed. Council understands and aligns with the strategic role of APS Office of Education and is satisfied that it encompasses the strategic vision of APS in this area. The draft OE Strategic Plan was presented at the NCAC meeting, where it was well received.

Industry Collaborations and linkages were then discussed by Council. Based on knowledge gained in prior discussions, Council identified key initiatives and action plans for implementation. The APS Office of Industry Relations (OIR) is currently working on identifying speakers to visit university departments; and will develop a list of those speakers to post to Department Heads. APS need to ensure the department heads are aware of these efforts. Industry visits can be coordinated with university seminar coordinators. OIR will consider virtual visits to departments. Sandy Pierson will host the department heads meeting at the 2013 APS annual meeting in Austin and vice president Rick Bennett has been communicating with this group to develop a standing committee to formalize the department head meetings under the structure of an APS committee. APS will insure communication between OIR and the department heads group. There is a need to identify a cadre of industry colleagues who communicate well together and can bring that to council and to departments. There is also a need for industry colleagues to act as mentors to increase student awareness and interest in industry.

**May at APS Headquarters in St. Paul, MN.** On 15 May 2013, Council reviewed the participation and provided an overview of the Thought Leader Meeting held immediately before the meeting of Council. A document was drafted with a list of next steps to be shared with the membership at the Austin meeting. Development of the financial strategy of APS was reviewed by APS treasurer Steve Slack, who also presented the recommendation of the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC). With respect to the FY14 Budget: FAC recommended that the 2014 budget be approved by council as submitted. President elect Rick Bennett then chaired a discussion of Associated Organizations. APS is now reviewing such linkages strategically. Documentation was provided on guiding principles regarding these linkages. This affirms that the key contacts are provided to the APS vice president as the point of contact for domestic associated organizations. The contact matrix will be reviewed annually at the spring council meeting and provided as a resource on the Council Collaboration Site of APSnet.

#### **August 2013 at the APS annual meeting in Austin, Texas.**

Prior to the beginning of the annual meeting, Council convened the first meeting of a group to be called the Strategic Exchange Forum. This was comprised of Council, key headquarters staff, and the leaders of key APS boards, offices, and committees. Feedback from the SEF was collected and posted on the Council Collaboration Site with the minutes. This first meeting of the SEF was rough and a bit disjointed; perhaps as expected for a new entity. The purpose of the SEF was unclear to the participants, and the amount of pre-meeting reading was excessive. Breakout groups were arranged under one goal of the strategic plan, and perhaps had little else in common. Their charge in the breakout group was unclear, and there was not sufficient time for in-depth discussions. Suggestions from the breakout groups, some of which were interesting, were usually off their assigned strategic goal. SEF participants enjoyed the PPB presentation, and would like to hear similar (brief, e.g. <30 min) presentations from other administrative groups such as OPRO. If the SEF is to meet again at the annual meeting, the following issues should be effectively addressed:

- Participation of SEF in developing topics for discussion by the SEF
- More time for group interaction, and inter-group interaction, less lecturing the group
- Make time for each group leader to very briefly highlight their best ideas before the SEF adjourns
- More cohesive and goal-oriented breakout groups.
- Early identification of groups and pre-SEF communication among groups so they can hit the ground running
- Early appointment of a leader for each breakout group
- Submission of a written summary from each breakout group to the ICO before the end of the annual meeting.

Council held it's general meeting on Friday, 9 August. Liaison communication during meeting: There was discussion of the need to clarify the roles of Council liaisons to Administrative groups. The Liaison is to insure that groups maintain alignment with the APS strategic plan, focus on the Council-defined mission for each group, and maintain relevant horizontal communication with other administrative groups and subject matter committees. A new annual reports dashboard was created and used for the first time. Most administrative groups succeeded in uploading their reports by the deadline, although some reports lacked a narrative section that will be required to prepare the annual report of the society. Narrative reports are also essential to the APS historian. Some submitted reports do not contain objective metrics of activity. Some adjustments in the report form will be needed to avoid additional requests to provide additional content or focus. The possibility of adding a feature to the reports dashboard to enable a response from Council was raised, as was the need to build an accessible archive of the reports as a form of institutional memory.

Impact statements were again discussed as critical to documentation and communication of impact. Documentation and communication of impact remain as key strategic issues for APS. There is a need for impact statements, and these can perhaps be solicited from administrative groups and subject matter committees. Such statements have been requested repeatedly by PPB. A template used at Cornell University to generate impact statements was circulated to the Councilors at Large and Staff for review. Incentives for administrative groups or subject matter committees (e.g., partial funding of symposium) to encourage submission of impact statements were discussed, but no action was taken.

**October 2013 at APS Headquarters in St. Paul, MN.** Council met from 13 to 15 October to discuss several focus topics, the first of which was APS International Engagement. Talo Pastor-Corales reviewed the Office of International Programs (OIP) and future direction. President Abawi began with a statement emphasizing the importance of communication among the administrative groups and committees of APS, and APS Council. To this end, Council invited the director of OIP (Talo Pastor-Corales) to meet with Council.

of Plant Pathology and Peruvian Plant Pathology Society last week, where there was broad participation from South American countries. There is significant opportunity, and great interest in APS membership. Group membership in APS is largely "under the radar" in nearly all countries

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outside the US, but when discovered it is very popular. Increasing visibility of group membership, or other alternative memberships may be very important for future growth of APS. This is not seen as a revenue drain, as the choice is between group membership, or no membership; not group vs regular membership. There is no lost revenue due to lower journal subscription among this population. Thus, it was suggested that APS promote group membership in developing countries, with “developing” determined by the definition provided by the World Bank. The mission of OIP has historically emphasized developing countries and those in need. However, the mission of OIP is global. There should be a need-based focus, but APS has many international members in developed countries who should be served. This was deemed especially important with APS hosting the ISPP meeting in 2018 in Boston. It was suggested that OIP to take a broader look beyond developing countries as a part of its mission. A motion was made, seconded and passed to charge the President to establish a task force to develop an inventory of all international/global activities for which APS is currently involved and suggest ways that APS can move the society forward in this area: e.g., Where are the markets of the future? Where can technology impact our ability to reach various areas of the world? Members residing in these other countries may need to be involved in this process, albeit not necessarily by membership on the task force.

Under Focus Topic 2, Council discussed open access to APS journals. The chairman of APS Publications Board, Nik Grunwald, reviewed current understanding around open access, and discussed a new value-add model, where APS could aggregate content from sources outside of APS and make unique data packets for members. It was suggested that APS could develop a new PLoS-one-like journal as a pilot to test the model. An alternate suggestion was to adjust one of the existing publications into this new PLoS one model and run simultaneously with current model to monitor and determine acceptance for broader future approach. APS will initiate due diligence and develop proposal for council, with cost estimates for a pilot plan for open access on the PLoS1 or PeerJ model, with sustainability as key. Consider MPMI and PMN as pilot journals for this effort.

Under focus Topic 3, Council discussed the future of Cooperative Extension by video link with several invited guests, including Dr. Helene Dillard, director of Cornell Coop. Ext., Tom Burr, Director of NYSAES, and Mike Hoffman, Associate Dean and Director of Cornell AES; as well as Mohamed F.F. Khan, NDSU and UMN Coop Ext, and Chair APS Ext. Committee. Dr. Dillard stated that for the past 11 years budget cuts have been significant in NY: affecting from 2,100 staff to 1,500 staff in the counties. A broad array of programs have been cut. The funding levels and sequestration challenges are large, as Extension is considered discretionary funding (easy to cut). Awareness of Extension is a major issue. Very few people know about Extension. In a poll about Extension in New York, 62% had never heard of the Coop. Ext. Service. Of those who have heard of it, more than half were not familiar with work being done by CES. There is more awareness in agriculture sector, but this is a small part of total population. Dillard found that in dealing with funding decision-makers, the topic of safe and reliable food resonates more than “agriculture”. We need to think about how to best approach the discussion. Use value-add statements to get a more traction. Attention is paid when requests are made in terms of jobs and tax revenue, rather than a request for tax dollars with no return to the government. Dr. Burr noted that state appropriation in NY has been cut by 30%. This has not been offset by Federal funds. Although APS may focus on advocacy in Washington, funding decisions that primarily drive CES services downward are made at the country and state levels, not in Washington. Dr. Hoffman stated that emphasis is now on competitive funding in DC, which is deemed universally good. However, capacity building (Federal Formula) funds are very important. Buying power of Federal Formula Funds is now equivalent to that of 1982.

More specific and targeted examples of impact of our research and outreach are needed. Ultimately, Federal level advocacy is helpful, but state level and county level advocacy is critical. Extension is the living laboratory of the university. This message has been largely lost in some states. The university machine generates the applied research that can then be extended. But, Extension is a 2-way street for our discipline: we need CES for outreach and impact, and CES provides us with ideas for researchable questions. We, as a profession, need to keep in contact with the Farm Bureau. In concluding discussions it was agreed that there are several initiatives underway within APS that are relevant to documentation and communication of impact. This is a strategic issue for APS under Goal 5 of our Strategic Plan. Counselors at Large will develop a template by which APS can collect impact statements through the network of APS subject matter committees.

The next focus topic was dedicated to discussion of the Coalition for a Sustainable Agricultural Workforce (CSAW), presented by APS past president John Sherwood, who reviewed the status of the survey of CSAW participants in the workforce development survey. Participation was garnered from a relatively small percentage of CSAW members. Reluctance of industry to share what was viewed as proprietary information on workforce development was an impediment to broader participation. Nonetheless, ten large companies responded and defined the hiring market as totaling approximately 1000 MS/PhD position in plant sciences in the next 5 years. Of these, it was estimated that roughly one-third would be in plant pathology/plant protection. Lack of complete participation was not viewed as an impediment to using this data for estimates of total workforce demands. It would be necessary to estimate the percentage of the total sector employment represented by the 10 participants, and then scale the numbers up proportionally. Admittedly, this is an imperfect process, but it is also a well-accepted practice in workforce planning, and has counterparts in population biology and epidemiology (i.e., we have in-house expertise in APS to make these calculations). It will be critical to make these estimates ASAP, as we need to define the size of the “ask” when we approach decision makers about support for workforce development, and also when we discuss the issue with CSAW members, who need to know the consequences of inaction regarding the total workforce demands outside of their proprietary interests. Sherwood and others commented on the importance of work experience as the feeder system of the workforce development pipeline, as reflected in the survey, as well as APS ad hoc committee reports on the future of the profession. Various departments have obviously “got it”, as REU (Research Experience for Undergraduate) programs are now operating at many departments, and have resulted in a modest increase in graduate enrollment (ca 20% over 2008 levels). As the present output in plant pathology is somewhere between 80 to 100 PhDs per year, this is still insufficient. The university demand alone to meet projected retirements, despite projected downsizing, is in excess of this amount through 2020, and the academic sector represents only about 30% of the job market for PhDs in plant pathology. It is obvious from current funding models for graduate study in the discipline (core-funded assistantships and grant funded assistantships) that the university system output will not meet this demand without an approximate doubling of support for graduate programs in the discipline, specifically in the form of securely funded assistantships that can be used for recruitment. Lack of secure funding has a corrosive effect on the ability and enthusiasm of faculty to recruit sufficient numbers of graduate students, despite the critical workforce needs and excellent employment opportunities for graduates.

## **Annual Reports of the Committees, Boards, and Offices of APS**

**International Society Relations Committee: Recent activities:** ISR has submitted a report on guiding principles on establishing relationships with plant pathology societies across the world. This report was approved by council. ISR developed the manual of operations for the committee. The APS-CSPP agreement was reviewed and suggested that a meeting take place between our president and the CSPP leadership. This meeting will take place in August. Focus: We have focused on developing a comprehensive list of plant pathology societies that have requested some interaction with APS. We will be reaching out to leadership of those societies. Highlights: Based on the guiding principles, we will reach out to select societies who have an interest in collaborations.

**Nominations Committee: Recent activities:** Working with Headquarters staff, we coordinated the nomination, application, and election process for the officers of APS. With a strong slate of candidates, the election was held in May. Sally Miller was elected Vice President and Eric Tedford was elected Councilor at Large. The percent of members voting increased by 5% compared with 2012. Focus: We will: 1) Oversee a robust process for soliciting nominations and applications for the CAL and VP positions; 2) Evaluate applications for these offices and select the two candidates for each office, based on the needs of Council and the society and being fully aware of diversity issues; and 3) Work with APS headquarters staff in coordinating all aspects of the election. Highlights: Continue coordinating the nomination, application, and election process for Vice President and Councilor at Large.

**Financial Advisory Committee: Recent activities:** The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) worked closely with the Director of Finance to update the APS Financial Strategic Plan and monitor the financial position of the society throughout FY2013, which ended June 30, 2013 with an unaudited net income of \$269,385. FAC worked with key APS staff in preparing FY2014 proposed budget (net income of \$70,619) which was approved by Council in May, 2013, and became effective July 1, 2013. FAC met in January, 2013, 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 APS Foundation Board on their budget and financial requests to achieve strategic goals. FAC worked with the Headquarters Operations Committee on several issues that dealt with the fiscal health of the headquarters facilities and staff as well as transition issues related to staff leadership. Mary Palm was appointed to replace Jim Adaskaveg, who completed his term on FAC at the August, 2013 annual meeting. Focus: FAC advises Council on proposals that have financial implications during the year and, additionally, develops a list of recommendations for the President and Council to consider to help guide and focus future actions that will help sustain APS financially. Eight recommendations were generated by FAC in January 2013 emphasizing the development of innovative technology based products, enhancing value-added programming particularly associated with the annual meeting, advocating for APS management of PMN, and promoting sustainable business centers to support member programs. FAC developed and Council adopted a financial dashboard to enable FAC and Council to quickly monitor year-to-date progress on key indicators in the current annual budget. Highlights: FAC will continue to monitor progress on current recommendations and to fully utilize the dashboard developed in the 2013 fiscal year. FAC plans to move its annual meeting into the March/April time frame to provide more time in the current year to build next year's budget (July 1-June30 cycle). This process provides an opportunity for generating better budget estimates from our business centers and enables us to better project income/cost estimates for the upcoming annual meeting. Updated financial recommendations will also be generated for Council consideration at this meeting. FAC has decided that future annual meetings will be held at HQ in order to facilitate participation of key staff in discussions and plans. Current planning cycles include adoption of proposed budgets by Council at their May meeting, which will fit nicely with the proposed FAC scheduling change.

**Publications Board: Recent activities:** Two virtual focus issues (VFI), comprising a select group of papers from all three APS journals on a key topic area with an introduction about the significance of the collection, were assembled and published electronically. The first VFI on *Xylella fastidiosa* was very successful: articles in the VFI accounted for 4,061 downloads in the first four months of availability. A second VFI entitled Current Reviews in Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions was made available in May 2013; further volumes in this series are planned. The APS Publications Board met for a conference call in April 2013 to discuss emerging trends in electronic publishing and recent innovations in financing scientific journals and to evaluate their impact on APS journals. The board discussed author-paid publishing with open access to all readers in place of subscriptions, as used by the PLoS family of journals, and the lifetime "subscription" model with unlimited submission and publishing privileges, as started by PeerJ. A survey was distributed to readers and authors to assess Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions. Publication trends were analyzed for the three primary APS journals. Between 1994 and 2012, the numbers of articles published per year decreased in Phytopathology and Plant Disease and increased in MPMI. Across all 3 journals, the total number of pages published increased, because the average length of articles increased for all three journals. This is probably the main reason why income from APS journals has increased, even though the number of articles published has decreased, as income is based on page charges. The 2012 Impact Factor (IF) for Phytopathology, 2.968, increased over 2011, and the IF for Plant Disease, 2.455, and MPMI, 4.307 remained constant. Several mini-reviews in Phytopathology were cited about twice as often as the average article. This illustrates that the Pub Board journal enhancement funds used to reduce page charges for review articles are having the desired positive impact and increasing IF. Focus: Innovations and changes in electronic publishing and financing of scientific journals. Highlights: Improve turnaround time for article review by implementing slight changes if approved by editorial boards: Invite 4 reviewers until 2 reviewers accept; cordially thank reviewers that did not accept in time; I hope that this will provide incentive to accept review. • Develop and implement better social networking tools for APS publications to improve altmetrics of each article; easy tweeting, sharing of article titles. • Monitor the transition occurring with PMN and work to incorporate the new PMN Editorial Board into the Pub Board structure. • George Sundin, editor-in-chief of Phytopathology, and Mark Gleason, editor-in-chief of Plant Disease, will deliver a talk at the International Congress of Plant Pathology meeting in Beijing on publishing in APS journals. • The PMN website portal will be redesigned. The platform will be switched to Atypon to upgrade options available to authors, e.g. better searching, cross-ref. linking, citation management, cross-journal search, and custom-saved search. • Plant Health Progress will begin quarterly issues in Jan. 2014. This is to position the journal to be able to apply for an Impact Factor after several years.

**Divisional Forum: Recent activities:** Divisional Forum Representative Report, 2012-2013 L. Datnoff and D. Schmale The Divisional Forum (DF) Representatives have been charged with discussing and facilitating subject disciplinary and membership issues at the Divisional level for APS Council. DF met by phone in August, September, November 2012 and in February and May 2013 to plan, discuss and implement these subject and membership issues. In addition, DF held their third in person meeting on 16 June 2013, in Tuscon, AZ, just before the joint meeting of the APS Caribbean and Pacific Division. At this meeting, progress on the 'Engagement Plan' and draft guidelines for financial strategic

planning of the Divisions was discussed. The DF accomplished many tasks that included adding additional resources to the Divisional Resources website (<http://www.apsnet.org/members/apsleadership/comm/Pages/DivisionalResources.aspx>). These included guidelines for merging divisional and annual meetings, a meetings checklist, and division services from APS HQ; supporting a new symposium for top graduate students from each of the Division meetings at the 2013 annual APS meeting in Austin. This symposium will have seven speakers from all six APS Divisions. New officers were elected for 2013-2014. Dan Roberts was elected to serve as DFR representative to APS nominations committee. David Rosenberger was elected to serve as the next DF Chair. Tim Brenneman was elected Ex-Officio member of the DF. Finally, an article that highlighted our activities for our meeting in Tuscon, AZ was written for a PhytoNews. Focus: Translating divisional issues to APS council • Nurturing professional development of graduate students and early career professionals at the divisional level • Ensuring the health and financial independence of APS divisions. Highlights: Continue the Forum's understanding on how each Division runs their individual meetings by holding Forum's semi-annual meetings at each Divisional meeting (i. e. North Central and Southern). • Continue to discuss and facilitate subject disciplinary and membership issues as they arise per the DF engagement plan.

**Awards and Honors Committee: Recent activities:** Sixty seven nominations for awards and honors were reviewed for 2013; 2 more than 2012/6 more than 2011. No nominations were received for the Award of Distinction. Only one each was received for the Industry & Hewitt awards; neither was deemed worthy so those three awards will not be given in 2013. The committee continues to be concerned about the low number of nominations for many awards (Intl/ Industry/Hutchins/Hewitt/Regulatory Affairs). Many Fellows are being nominated for excellence awards for which they are not eligible – a solution for this is proposed below. There were no new nominations for the Regulatory Affairs and Crop Security award. This is troubling since this is a new award that was pushed strongly by the Regulatory Affairs committee with the idea that there was a backlog of qualified members. That committee needs to drum up more nominations or this award will not be given very often (which may be OK). The committee thought that some sort of recognition for existing Fellows is warranted, such as a pin or symbol on name tags at the annual meetings. Several issues related to nomination format were discussed and are elaborated among the Action Items. The committee thought it would be a good idea for previous members of the AHC to write an article in Phytopathology News on how to prepare a nomination. This document could be updated and linked to the Awards web pages for future reference. APS staff member Marci Smith was very helpful by maintaining excellent records, collating and recording nominations, conducting due diligence on nominee eligibility and helping with planning and logistics for our meetings. Action Items: •We recommend discussing the eligibility wording on emeritus members for Fellow awards in the APS Manual of Operations. We will discuss whether the wording should be changed to state explicitly that the maximum number can be 0.25% of emeritus members and whether this should be considered a separate category of Fellows. •We recommend encouraging previous members of the AHC to write a short article for Phyto News on how to write a good nomination and how to obtain the required information without notifying the nominee. The article also could mention that Fellow is considered a terminal award and Fellows are not eligible for excellence awards for the same professional accomplishments. This article could be updated and linked from APS Awards web pages to provide nominators background (and AHC committee members!). Actionable items: To drum up more nominations, we recommend the committee chair or suitable representative give a short address to the Department Chair breakfast stressing which awards typically are undersubscribed in nominations and stressing how to write a good nomination. •We recommend developing a symbol for Fellows that could be made into a pin or printed on name tags at the annual meetings. This would provide additional recognition for Fellows but would be distinct from the ribbons given to new Fellows. A floret like that given to AAAS fellows or something similar might be nice to give to current and future APS awardees to wear on their clothing as a symbol of attaining the distinction of APS fellow. •To eliminate Fellows being nominated for excellence awards for which they are not eligible, we recommend that the text stating the requirements for Fellow eligibility for other awards be moved or copied from the Fellows web page to the main Awards web page so that it is seen by all nominators. We also suggest that this text could be improved by changing it to, "Note: Fellows are not eligible to be nominated for excellence awards except when the new nomination is in an area of accomplishment different from that on which the Fellow nomination was based, and the new accomplishment has occurred after recognition as a Fellow. A period of 5 years should elapse between recognition as a Fellow and nomination for an award of excellence. The nomination of a Fellow for an award of excellence must specify how the contributions in the current nomination differ from those on which the original Fellow award was based." •For Fellows, there is some confusion about indicating the basis of the nomination on the award cover page. Some nominators only indicate one category on the cover page while mentioning others in their cover letter, while other nominators checked several. To avoid future confusion, we recommend changing the current wording from, "Note: Please indicate the primary basis for this nomination" to "Note: Please indicate the basis for this nomination - check all that apply".

**APS Historian: Recent activities:** My major activity is the promotion, through publications and presentations, of an awareness of the history of the APS and plant pathology among Society members, other scholarly communities, and the general public. One of my principal goals this year has been to form new collaborations with APS members who have expressed interests in pursuing historical projects. To this end, I currently am collaborating with Dr. Frank Dugan on an annotated international bibliography of historical plant pathology sources. Our objective is to make the bibliography widely available by inclusion in the History Section of the APS website. The annotated bibliography will provide an invaluable reference resource for APS members and others who wish to learn more about the history of plant pathology worldwide. In addition, I also am collaborating with Dr. Timothy Paulitz and other members of the Conference on Soilborne Pathogens (formerly the Fungus Conference) to write a history of that group to coincide with their 60th anniversary next year. We also are planning special historical presentations for the upcoming annual meeting in San Rafael, California. Started in 1954 by researchers from the University of California, the Conference has become one of the best known and important associations in plant pathology focused on soilborne pathogens. Another primary activity is a recent agreement with Dr. Linda Hanson, APSnet Feature Editor, to provide regular contributions to the Feature series on historical aspects of plant pathology. Recently I submitted an article on the unusual participation of the public in the former USDA Barberry Eradication Program for stem rust control to appear in August. One of my other major activities is the development of new 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. For this activity, I am working closely with Michelle Bjerkness at APS Headquarters and archivists at Iowa State University. Another one of my key activities continues to be answering historical queries and facilitating document requests on a routine basis from APS officers, headquarters' staff, and members. Whenever possible, applicable materials are photocopied or photographic prints/negatives are either made or electronic images sent on to the APS member. Focus: Promoting, particularly through publications and presentations, an awareness of the history of the APS and the discipline of plant pathology. • Developing improved strategies for the preservation of APS historical records. • Answering queries and facilitating document requests on matters related to the history of APS and plant pathology from APS officers, headquarters' staff, Society members, and others. Highlights: A major goal for the upcoming year is to serve



as a collaborator on new historical projects with APS members. I am collaborating with Dr. Frank Dugan on an annotated international bibliography of historical plant pathology sources for the History Section of the APS website. The annotated bibliography will provide an invaluable reference resource for APS members and others who wish to learn more about the history of plant pathology worldwide. I also am collaborating with Dr. Timothy Paulitz and other members of the Conference on Soilborne Pathogens (formerly the Fungus Conference) to write a history of that group to coincide with their 60th anniversary next year. We also are planning special historical presentations for the next annual meeting in San Rafael, California. The Conference has become one of the best known and important associations in plant pathology focused on soilborne pathogens. • In agreement with Dr. Linda Hanson, APSnet Feature Editor, I will provide regular contributions on historical aspects of plant pathology to the Feature series. To initiate the history features, an article on the novel participation of the public in the former USDA Barberry Eradication Program for stem rust control is scheduled to appear on the APS website in August.

**Office of Electronic Communication (OEC):** Recent activities: Last year, OEC proposed to enhance the 'Careers' section of the APSnet by collecting and curating resources related to professional development and ethics in collaboration with other committees and boards. However, OEC learned in March that the Council had approved a proposal by the Early Career Professionals Committee for developing a similar online resource. OEC members had a phone conference in April to discuss as to how best OEC could support the development of the proposed online resource. Following this meeting, Chair of OEC called one of the proposers to learn more about their plan and to identify specific areas to which OEC could contribute. Chair of OEC plans to participate in their organizational meeting during the annual meeting in Austin. Focus: Current, the APSnet provides a very limited amount of information related to professional development and ethics. Only resources available in the APSnet (under the 'Careers' menu) are job/internship openings and a brief introduction to careers in plant pathology. The need for acquiring professional skills (e.g., how to interview, to prepare manuscript and proposal, to make effective oral presentation and poster, to teach, to communicate with the general public, to establish and manage a lab, etc.) and ethics (e.g., clearly understanding do's and don'ts to ensure scholarship and research integrity and professional ethics) continues to increase. However, unfortunately, many students often learn them in an ad hoc manner or through trial by fire. Some scientific societies provide such resources via their web site (e.g., American Society of Plant Biologists at [http://my.aspb.org/?page=C\\_Index](http://my.aspb.org/?page=C_Index); AAAS at <http://www.aaas.org/careercenter/>), and some (e.g., American Society of Agronomy, American Society for Microbiology, Entomological Society of America) do not. OEC believes that the proposal to build such educational resources is timely and will serve early career members greatly. Highlights: OEC will closely work with the group that will design the online professional development resource to support them. • OEC plans to write a white paper that outlines the impact and potential applications of web technologies to advance research, education and outreach in plant pathology. • OEC will support the APS Pub Board and the HQ IT office in identifying and developing new e-products.

**Office of Public Relations and Outreach:** Recent activities: To support the APS Education Initiative to increase the number of undergraduate students who choose plant pathology as a career, the Office of Public Relations and Outreach (OPRO) has attended the following association events: Future Farmers of America; National Association of Biology Teachers; Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences; National Conference on Undergraduate Research; and Agriculture Future of America Leaders Conference and Opportunity Fair. At each event, OPRO exhibited a professional APS booth using the "Plants Get Sick Too" theme. Vertical banners provide examples of diseases in either field or greenhouse crops (depending on the venue), and the career banner emphasizes what people can do with a plant pathology degree. The "Don't Get Caught with Your Plants Down" T-shirts are displayed and raffled off at most events. These T-shirts are a hit and really draw people into the booth. We plan to capitalize more on this theme in the future. Different sub-themes are used to engage booth visitors, depending on event location and availability of disease samples. A packet of information is provided to all teachers with career poster, career brochure, APSnet Education Center information, Plant Pathology Department contacts and examples of disease lessons. Similar information is provided to interested students. Bookmarks developed with the theme "You can change the world too, become a plant pathologist" are available to everyone. 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. With funding provided by APS Council, short videos (no longer than 20-30 sec) are in development to try to catch the attention of the general public, but especially young people, to inform them that plant diseases are important and there is a need for people to work on these diseases. Since we have been told repeatedly by teachers that human doctors are the primary scientific professional grade school and high school students encounter, we are emphasizing that "Plant Doctors" are also needed to maintain a healthy world with healthy people. These videos will be uploaded to APS YouTube channel, and advertised as widely as possible. Five were completed by the 2013 APS annual meeting and were available for viewing at the OPRO booth. Focus: 1) Education Initiative (Outreach to Students and Teachers) To support the APS Education Initiative to increase the number of undergraduate students who choose plant pathology as a career, OPRO determined that there are three steps in this process. Currently, the majority of our activities are focused on this initiative. Step 1: Attract K-12 students to science by interacting with the students and their teachers. Step 2: Attract science-oriented high school students to plant sciences/biology undergraduate majors, either directly or via their teachers. Step 3: Attract plant sciences/biology undergraduates to plant pathology graduate programs, either directly or via their professors. 2) Provide APS members with materials to use in their own outreach efforts to students, teachers and the general public. Highlights: To facilitate our outreach efforts, OPRO board members and other APS members will be attending the events listed below on behalf of APS. New materials are being considered as give-aways, and an update of the booth is on-going. For the AAAS and Science and Engineering Festival, we are developing hands-on activities targeted for middle through high school grade students. It is a requirement for participation in these events, and these activities will be useful for some of the other events we attend. a) Future Farmers of America Convention (FFA) b) National Association of Biology Teachers Conference (NABT) c) Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANNRS) d) National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) e) Agriculture Future of America Leaders Conference and Opportunity Fair (AFA) f) AAAS Family Science Days (new for 2014) g) Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, DC (new for 2014) PlantingScience: We will continue to participate with this group, along with the Office of Education, as this group moves ahead with their new website and new modules. While it seems unlikely that plant pathology modules will be included at this point in time, we will continue to encourage APS members, especially graduate students, to participate as mentors. Mentoring Workshop: Proposal for mentoring workshop is being considered for 2014 annual meeting. Career Center: The career center page on APSnet needs to be updated to attract students. Videos: Ten short videos (no longer than 20-30 sec) are in development to try to catch the attention of young people that plant diseases are important and there is a need for more people to work on these diseases. Since we have been told repeatedly by teachers that human doctors are the primary scientific professional grade school and high school students encounter, we are emphasizing that "Plant Doctors" are also needed to maintain a healthy world with healthy people. This is being funded by APS Council, separate from current OPRO budget. These will be uploaded to APS YouTube channel, and advertised as widely as possible. Actionable items: Please make sure that every

item that APS produces has the APS web address on it. No one is going to remember what APS stands for and most people tend to type [www.aps.org](http://www.aps.org), which leads to the American Physical Society. So, it is crucial that [www.apsnet.org](http://www.apsnet.org) is listed everywhere! It is also crucial to continue to maintain the [www.plantdisease.org](http://www.plantdisease.org) web address, as that address is redirected to the APS website.

**Office of Education:** Recent activities: The APS Office of Education (OE) became active in 2011 so it is still in its early phases. Since August 2012 OE has been strategizing vigorously. OE has held monthly conference calls and carried out significant planning efforts through those calls. We developed a strategic plan. We expanded the board membership from six to nine plus the director, establishing a diverse board with representative members nicely aligned with our future goals. Additionally, we have active participation from ex-officio members including the director of Office of Public Relations and Outreach and the Editor-in-Chief of the APSnet Education Center/Plant Health Instructor. We will sponsor a special session on on-line courses at this year's APS annual meeting and are developing proposals for future meeting special sessions. Because additional focus was needed to take the next step from our strategic plan to an action plan we had a two-day retreat at APS headquarters in June. We were successful in outlining our near term (1-3 year) goals. These include the following six primary goals: 1. Coordinate the development and dissemination of educational content and activities (Content Coordination Subcommittee); 2. Develop engagement plan for continual interfacing with other APS entities and external organizations involved in education and outreach (Engagement Plan Subcommittee); 3. Promote the internationalization of education in plant pathology (International Education Subcommittee); 4. Sponsor education sessions at annual meetings (APS Meeting Subcommittee); 5. Develop framework to support education/outreach components of Federal grants submitted by APS members (Educational Outreach and Engagement Infrastructure Subcommittee); 6. Outreach to non-land grant Institutions (Outreach to Non-Land Grant Institutions Subcommittee). Subcommittee involvement and leadership including OE board members and other interested parties for the above efforts is being established currently. Finally, OE will introduce its second director (Dr. Thomas Mitchell, The Ohio State University) at the 2013 APS annual meeting. Focus: We have now defined the primary immediate goals for OE. These goals are encompassed in the 6 subcommittees mentioned above. The current phase is establishing working subcommittees and beginning work in earnest to begin to accomplish those goals in the next year. Some scientific/societal issues that we are attempting to address through these goals are: 1) Determining the need for and coordinating the development of content valuable to membership (for example determining through interaction with departments and faculty needs for course development and shared content). 2) Providing value to membership by leveraging educational content (for example providing plug-in educational components for grant applicants etc). 3) Developing creative ways to address defined voids in educational areas (for example establishing an industry sponsored field research camp that can introduce participants to industry careers, provide difficult to obtain field training, be an education component for grant applicants). 4) Provide exposure to instructional strategies to enhance learning outcomes (for example sponsoring workshops and special sessions at APS meetings). Highlights: Six primary goals for the upcoming year include: 1. Coordinate the development and dissemination of educational content and activities (Content Coordination Subcommittee); 2. Develop engagement plan for continual interfacing with other APS entities and external organizations involved in education and outreach (Engagement Plan Subcommittee); 3. Promote the internationalization of education in plant pathology (International Education Subcommittee); 4. Sponsor education sessions at annual meetings (APS Meeting Subcommittee); 5. Develop framework to support education/outreach components of Federal grants submitted by APS members (Educational Outreach and Engagement Infrastructure Subcommittee); 6. Outreach to non-land grant Institutions (Outreach to Non-Land Grant Institutions Subcommittee). Subcommittee involvement and leadership including OE board members and other interested parties for the above efforts is being established currently. Finally, OE will introduce its second director (Dr. Thomas Mitchell, The Ohio State University) at the 2013 APS annual meeting.

**Office of Industrial Relations (OIR):** Recent activities: OIR and industry members are in the process of creating an APS online course to inform graduate students, early career professionals and the general membership about careers and career opportunities in the private sector. This activity was initiated after a 2012 APS Council directed meeting where industry members were asked, "What can APS do to help industry?" A major concern for industry members and their respective companies is finding qualified candidates who have a broad applied plant pathology background along with good interpersonal skills (leadership, creativity, innovation, teamwork, accountability, and communication). Focus: Outreach to APS members about careers and career opportunities in the private sector. Highlights: Develop and launch an APS online course to inform graduate students, early career professionals and the general membership about careers and career opportunities in the private sector. Create an industry speakers bureau where industry members are asked to meet with students and faculty to discuss careers in the private sector.

**Leadership Institute:** Recent activities: The broad focus of the Leadership institute is the overall improvement of the pool of candidate members that makeup APS volunteer leadership. The Leadership institute has traditionally offered leadership skills training at annual meetings, and will continue to do so this year and into the future. Moving forward, we plan on starting a recruiting effort designed to broaden and diversify the pool of members willing and able to become APS leaders. The current efforts are focused on making APS leadership and committee membership an attractive and viable option for early career plant pathologists. Focus: improving, increasing and diversifying the pool of potential APS leaders. Highlights: Increase outreach efforts to recruit talented leadership candidates from the ranks of early career professionals, post-doctoral researchers and graduate students. Focus on diversifying the ranks of potential APS leaders. Train leadership candidates to fully reach their leadership potential. Increase Leadership Institute presence in APS social networking.

**Office of International Programs (OIP):** Recent activities: The APS Office of International Programs continues to assist plant pathologists in developing countries to obtain access to books, journals and other sources of information through the Library Assistance Program (LAP). In 2012, the LAP, coordinated by Mohammad Babadoost, provided 220 books and 13 volumes of journals to libraries of 10 universities and research/extension centers in nine countries, including Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Egypt, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nepal, Tajikistan, and Turkey. The main issue continues to be funding for shipping, and recipient institutions are encouraged to at least partially support shipping costs if possible. OIP also has a budget line item to cover shipping costs for LAP. Mohammad, Megan Kennelly and Amer Fayad formed a sub-committee to work with APS Foundation to finalize the Books for the World initiative. The OIP Silent Auction raised \$2,986 during the August 2012 APS annual meeting, all of which came from sales of donated items. Proposals for workshops in Haiti and Kyrgyzstan were selected for funding in 2013. The latter workshop, on plant disease diagnostics held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in conjunction with the Turkish-Kyrgyz University, has taken place and a poster will be available during the 2013 Silent Auction to publicize the project. There were no applicants for the JANE award, and one person was awarded the \$2,000 International Travel Award. OIP supplemented the \$1500 Foundation award by an additional \$500. OIP was not successful in a bid for a special session on biological control. Dr. Jenifer Huang McBeath continues to work with the Chinese Society for Plant Pathology to encourage cooperation with APS. Sally Miller will rotate off the OIP Board as Director after the 2013 annual meeting; the new Director is Talo Pastor Corrales. Focus: The OIP Board is focused on international collaboration, particularly but not



exclusively, between APS members and plant pathologists worldwide. The Global Experience award requires a matching commitment from the host country and encourages any APS member to participate. The JANE award offers an opportunity for research abroad. OIP also offers assistance to pathologists in developing countries through the Library Assistance Program and the International Travel Award. Highlights: We will 1) work to increase corporate sponsorship of the OIP Silent Auction; 2) finalize the Books for the World program with Foundation; 3) continue the LAP, transitioning leadership from Babadoost to Kennelly; 4) submit ideas for one or more special sessions for the 2014 annual meeting; 5) develop stronger ties with USAID and other international development organizations; and 6) manage Global Experience, International Travel and JANE award programs.

**APS Foundation: Recent activities:** The Foundation Board continues to highlight and promote specific funds each year. This year we are promoting the Mathre Education Fund. The Board also has renamed the Early Career Professional Development Fund to the Steven C. Nelson Early Career Professional Development Fund and will introduce it at the APS meeting. The Board has initiated a \$100,000 campaign for this fund. Focus: The Foundation's primary objective is to promote the professional development of new scientists and society leaders by providing travel assistance to the annual APS meeting where they have the opportunity to interact with other members and become engaged in the workings of the society. "Tomorrow's leaders are today's students". Highlights: The Board will continue to promote the various funds in an effort to increase the corpus of each. The Foundation finished up its 25th anniversary with resounding success. It took the Foundation 20 years (1988-2000) to reach a \$1 million portfolio. This year (2013) the portfolio is almost \$2 million. The Board also is discussing initiating a new fund called "Books for the World", a collaboration between Dr. Anne Alvarez, APS PRESS and the OIP. In addition, Foundation is in discussion with Industry on how to promote internships in applied plant pathology.

**Public Policy Board (PPB): Recent activities:** In our role as advocate for the APS and her members, PPB has prepared 'white papers' and advocated in Wash DC and elsewhere for agricultural research funding, funding for establishment and preservation of culture collections, plant pathology and food safety, and to raise awareness of the importance and relevance of extension and engagement. PPB members participate in the NSF-funded Research Coordination Network for the US culture collection network, and we continue to hold discussions with USDA-ARS concerning funding for positions and preservation of culture collections. As an outcome of the USDA-NIFA funded workshop on Human Pathogens on Plants held in 2012, PPB members collaborated to publish a paper in Phytopathology describing a plan for multidisciplinary research (Phytopathology 103:306-15). PPB provided comment and/or participated in 'listening' and 'stakeholder' sessions for NIFA funding, NPDN funding, and other timely issues. PPB currently mentors three early career interns on policy work. We also mentor a Public Policy Fellow and placed her with USAID in Wash DC; PPB has started discussions with USAID to possibly place another Fellow in the future. PPB informs/educates membership with a monthly newsletter, the Eversole blog and TWEETS, newscapsules, Hot Topics session at APS meetings; co-sponsorship of sessions at APS Meetings, Get Engaged booth at APS Meetings. Through our advocacy visits to Washington DC and interactions of PPB members with EPA personnel, we have developed stronger relationships with EPA; we continue to work to get funding to support a Subject Matter Expert (SME) at EPA. On behalf of PPB, Eversole Associates continues to monitor important areas such as the Food Safety Modernization Act Guidance Documents and Regulations, and other regulatory issues, such as Biotechnology issues. PPB is currently revising the Biotechnology Policy statement for APS. Much of PPB's efforts are towards building and maintaining relationships; for example, we are working to build relationships with the Office of Science and Technology, where we are urging for greater recognition of agriculture and agricultural research. Focus: Advocate for: -Funding for agricultural research to ensure a healthy, safe and secure food supply -Preservation of microbial collections important to plant pathology -Education and training of plant pathologists to meet future demands of agriculture. Highlights: Continued advocacy for (1) funding for agricultural research, and (2) funding and staff support a for preservation of microbial collections important to plant pathology -Revisiting APS's policy on the use and labeling of genetically engineered crops -Raise membership awareness of issues that will impact APS, such as Open Access and Open Data -Recruit and place a new Policy Fellow -Planning retreat this fall to identify future areas of focus.

**Annual Meeting Board (AMB): Recent activities:** The AMB in concert with the presidential lineage has completed the second annual meeting planning cycle (Austin) 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 schedule app available to attendees for the third time at the 2013 meeting. The third programming cycle using this new model of meeting planning is underway for the 2014 meeting in Minneapolis. For the first time, special session submissions are open concurrently for the next two annual meetings (2014 and 2015) to promote potential collaborative organization opportunities. Focus: Maintaining the quality of the APS annual meeting as a hallmark of our society, to provide a venue for knowledge transfer and professional development. Highlights: Use APS member-driven programming to continue planning for 2014 annual meeting with regular communication between AMB, presidential lineage and HQ staff, and representatives of CPS, our joint meeting partner in Minneapolis Begin 2015 planning using advance-submitted session ideas from new web pipeline.

#### **APS Subject Matter Committees**

**Nematology:** There are no activities of the committee from the past year to report. Those present at the committee meeting in Austin discussed currently advertised and upcoming university faculty positions that relate to the biology and / or management of nematodes. Those attending the meeting also discussed numerous possible topics for special sessions at the 2014 and 2015 annual meetings of APS. Possible topics that were discussed included biological control, interactions of plant-parasitic nematodes with other pathogens, regulatory aspects of plant nematology, the molecular basis of plant nematode parasitism and a hands-on workshop on nematology techniques. A sub-group was identified to meet at the Austin meeting to further develop ideas and plans for special sessions at the 2014 and 2015 annual meetings of APS.

**Extension:** The Extension Committee coordinated a high profile symposium at the 2013 APS-MSA National Meeting in Austin Texas on the topic area of documenting impact in research and extension. Development of the symposium was the effort of an ad-hoc subcommittee coordinated by Chair Amanda Gevens. Much discussion was had in previous year and at the national meeting regarding the role/capacity of extension in educating the next generation of plant pathologists and agricultural scientists - as well as our role in 'advertising' plant pathology.

**Collections and germplasm:** The primary focus of our committee in the past year continues to be the development and support of the National Microbial Germplasm System and the activities of two of our members (Kevin McCluskey and Ric Bennett) in hosting the USCCN workshops

that were held throughout the year. Additionally, at this year's annual meeting the former APS Ad hoc committee on the standardization of host/pathogen sets gave a proposal to become a sub-committee of this group. Councilor-at-large (Jeff Jones) and Ric Bennett both thought that this would be an appropriate addition and proposed this to the Council later at the meetings. It was decided that we would poll the entire committee (not just Austin attendees) to have final approval to make this group a sub-committee.

**Diagnostics:** The committee approved in 2012 an initiative to find what are the training needs of diagnosticians and availability to give training among APS and NPDN members to encourage adoption of new technologies and methods. The intent is to facilitate professional growth and development using the highest quality scientific standards among diagnosticians. A Diagnostics Training Survey was designed by members of the committee with help from the APS Membership Manager. The results were compiled and the survey revealed that more training is needed in PCR, primer design, sequence data analysis and interpretation. Morphological identifications of fungi and of certain groups of pathogens were also identified as areas where the respondents felt they need further training. Although many members responded to the survey it was decided to send it out again using the same and other channels to have a broader representation among APS members. Adoption of cutting edge techniques in diagnostics will also attract a new generation of diagnosticians who are excited about using cutting edge methods and technology. A Special Session on "Status and Challenges in Identification and Diagnosis of Graminicolous Downy Mildews" was co-sponsored by the Regulatory Plant Pathology, Emerging Diseases and Pathogens and Diagnostics Committees. The committee is organizing a Symposium for 2014, the proposal has been submitted and is entitled "Diagnostics: A Pebble in the Pond of Plant Health Research". This session seeks to highlight the influence diagnostics has had, and continues to have, on the field of plant pathology using specific case studies of past and present phytopathological events. Co-sponsoring committees are Early Career Professionals, Extension, Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection.

**Integrated pest management:** The committee conducted the following activities last year 1. Two proposals were prepared for special sessions at the APS meeting in Texas, but was not approved by the APS. 2. Submitted a proposal to APS for a 5-minute video idea (the committee didn't win the award) 3. The committee members have been focussing on IPDM research and extension activities throughout the year at their respective positions and have made considerable impact in achieving the goals of APS in dissemination of IPDM-related information in U.S and globally.

**Biological Control:** Members submitted ideas for 2013 APS Annual Meeting Special Sessions and developed a new Biological Control Committee mission statement. The Biological Control Committee will focus on the following initiatives in 2014: - Improving our networking with each other via APS Sharepoint platform - Promoting and, if selected, organizing the special session for the 2014 APS Annual Meeting titled "Myths and Realities of Biopesticides: Academic, Industry and Grower Perspectives" - Developing a special session for the 2015 Annual Meeting titled "Effective Transfer of Disease Control Technologies from the Lab to Growers: Developing your results into products growers can use" - Developing the following topic into a Councilors' Challenge video: Biological Control Working in The Real World.

**Host resistance:** No recent activity reported.

**Biotechnology:** The Biotechnology committee decided to sponsor a special session for 2013 continuing the dialog within APS about the impact of GE crops on society members. Session was not approved (strategic goals 2, 3 and 5). Committee decided that membership turnover is a big problem for sustaining committee activity and that we need to stabilize membership before we can accomplish anything long term or substantive. We decided to have a web-based discussion of our top scientific concerns, to begin September 2014, followed by writing impact statements for council. Committee resolved to support Forest Pathology Committee for special session, plus to submit a proposal for a Biotechnology special session for the 2014 meeting. Committee also discussed that Public Policy Board made no attempt to get input from the Biotechnology Committee on updating its policy on crop biotechnology or mandatory labeling of GMO crop products. This reflects on the low profile of the committee and needs to be changed.

**Virology:** The APS Virology Committee provides a forum for discussing issues in plant pathology that are important to plant virologists. An excellent White Paper condensing the urgency of more funding for plant pathogenic viruses research was generated this year. The paper was submitted to the PPB and is under consideration. The committee provides information to members on current issues in virology by sponsoring or co-sponsoring symposia, workshops, and discussion sessions. This year two excellent symposia were organized: "Virus Intracellular Accumulation and Movement as a Target for Disease Control", and "Filling the Gap: Understanding Factors Driving Expanding Distributions of Plant Viruses". These two symposia encapsulated abundant knowledge in the virus accumulation and intracellular movement as the culmination of disease and in understanding of the factors driving expanding virus distribution and variability, respectively. These topics were discussed in the context of changes in climate, cropping systems, and changes in domestic and international movement of plant materials, as well as the impact of virus evolution on its expanding distribution. The special and technical virology sessions were very well attended. Remarkably, one of the special sessions had a Graduate Student as co-organizer and co-moderator, and that is encouraging. For the next year, three special sessions were proposed and again, a Graduate Student is a co-organizer in one of those. The committee actively solicits external funding for the sessions and gratefully acknowledges sources. This year three private and two governmental entities donated sufficient funds to cover the expenses of all the foreign speakers. The committee supports the creation and preservation of plant virus collections and associated reagents, etc., as a resource that will benefit all plant virologists. The committee is still supporting the creation of mini-collections of plant viruses as a start. The membership of the committee was increased in about 25 % this year. The committee continues to work closely with USDA/APHIS widely prevalent plant virus group in updating the list of viruses in different states. In conclusion, one more year, the Virology Committee actively served the membership of the APS.

**Turfgrass pathology:** This past year, several members of the turfgrass pathology committee have assisted APS in reviewing content for a new iPhone app. The app is being designed for turfgrass professionals and includes information about turf diseases including photos, effective controls, and a diagnostic key for field identification. For the 2013 Annual Meeting, Lee Miller organized a turfgrass field tour through central Texas. The tour included a variety of golf courses, a baseball field, and a racing infield; and allowed participants to learn more about the biotic and abiotic stresses of turf in central Texas. The turfgrass pathology committee also co-sponsored a well received special session entitled "Interactions and Mechanisms of Symptomless Plant Symbioses". Restrictions on the use of pesticides to control plant diseases are increasing in areas across the United States. Turfgrass pathology committee is planning a special session for the 2014 Annual Meeting in MN to address the impact of this legislation on turf disease management. This session will include presentations from CPS members experienced with pesticide restrictions imposed on turf areas in Canada. The Turfgrass Pathology Committee continues to serve as a valuable forum for members to exchange information and ideas about the current state of turfgrass disease management.

**Crop loss assessment and risk evaluation (CARE):** The Crop Loss and Risk Evaluation Committee (CARE) consists of participants who are proponents in addressing crop loss and risk in plant pathology to improve crop loss evaluations and estimation procedures on direct yield as well as indirect cost levels incorporating a multidisciplinary approach to assess disease, yield, and quality of the crop in the field. The activities of the committee over the last year have been centered on discussions regarding topics which may be developed for symposia in 2014 and 2015, and how this committee may be able to link with other committees for co-sponsorship of symposia of mutual interest. Two concepts have been developed and were submitted for consideration within the 2014 program plan on wheat diseases and food security, respectively. A third topic surrounding the use of large datasets for quantifying crop loss and driving factors in epidemics of plant diseases was developed for the 2015 program submission. Moreover, three additional ideas have been developed during the 2013 annual meeting and will be discussed within the group over the coming year. The CARE committee was awarded \$1000 for the 2012 Councillor's Challenge (to develop a video concept describing impact of plant pathology). The winning idea was suggested by Alissa Kriss, whom along with other members of the committee was involved in the submission of her "whiteboard animation" concept. This concept used the whiteboard animation approach to depict the valuable role played by plant pathologists in protecting plants, particularly our food supply. Ways to develop the concept and/or how best to use the award are being discussed. The committee is also looking at concepts to bid for the 2013/14 Councillor's Challenge designed to attract undergraduate students to a career in plant pathology. Discussions amongst committee members recently have also questioned the most appropriate acronym for this committee and would like to discuss with APS Council a change to the more appropriate, full acronym, CLARE (Crop Loss and Risk Evaluation Committee).

**Soil microbiology and root diseases:** The soil microbiology and root disease committee has continues to discuss the importance of proper sampling methods as well as ever evolving methods for identifying individual members of a soil community as well as comparing community diversity across different soil samples and environments. To address this issue the committee sponsored a special session at the 2012 annual meeting entitled "Exploring the Micropolis: Sampling, Identifying and Analyzing the Diversity of Microbial Communities." The sessions was very well attended as many in the society are interested in the use of next-generations sequencing to complete metagenomic analyses of soil communities. This committee will continue to ensure technologies and analyses being completed on soil microbial communities by scientist outside our discipline is relayed, discussed and potentially presented to members of APS. The other major activity being initiated by our committee is the updating of all members on the current methods being used in soilborne pathogen research. Two ideas are being discussed. The first is an update of the book "Methods of Research on Soilborne Phytopathogenic Fungi" published by APS Press in 1992." Many advances have occurred since this time and an update is long overdue. The second idea is the development of a series of web-videos that will be hosted on the apsnet.org website and youtube that will act as tutorials to disseminate many of the methods currently being used in labs across the globe.

**Mycology:** The mycology committee has continued to be active and provide input in regards to the "One name, One Fungus" changes being made after revisions to the Botanical Code of Nomenclature. By ensuring the voice of plant pathologists is heard during the process of deciding which name will be given to specific pathogen we will ensure the highest standards are met while ensuring names of relevance to the field of plant pathology are not neglected or forgotten. Members of the mycology committee have also been active and provided input in regards to the "1000 fungal genome" initiative begin sponsored by the DOE Joint Genome Institute. By encouraging members to take part in the initiative we are trying to provide opportunities for members to learn about new sequencing technology and efforts such as the "Comparative Fungal Genomics with MycoCosm" workshop at the 2013 APS meeting. Once again the foray sponsored by the Mycology Committee was well attended providing both mycologist and non-mycologist alike an opportunity to learn, share, and enjoy the chance to connect with colleagues. Due to its success another foray is planned for the 2014 APS meeting in Minneapolis, MN. Finally, the committed sponsored or co-sponsored four special sessions at the 2013 meeting and plan to sponsor or co-sponsor several special sessions at the 2014 APS meeting.

**Forest pathology:** In preparation for the 2013 annual meeting in Austin, the Forest Pathology Committee exchanged ideas via email for special sessions for the upcoming 2014 meeting. This included a May Newsletter sent by Matt Kasson which requested members to Submit their ideas/proposals for special sessions. The committee agreed that in order to represent the interest of our members, we needed to come up with several session ideas prior to the annual meeting to ensure representation at the 2014 meeting. We agreed on several priority topic areas including biotechnology, current perspectives on historic pathogens/diseases, and the emergence of beetle associated phytopathogens.

**Regulatory plant pathology:** Sponsored a special session at the 2013 meeting, entitled "Status and Challenges in Identification and Diagnosis of Graminicolous Downy Mildews". • Developed four impact statements of regulatory plant pathology. • Supported sponsoring a special session, and co-sponsoring three special sessions at the 2014 meeting. • Supported the development of a webinar on pest permitting by APHIS. • The APS Excellence in Regulatory Affairs and Crop Security Award was awarded to Mary Palm and Laurene Levy. This award was first established by the Regulatory Committee.

**Bacteriology:** During the last year the Bacteriology Committee has been working towards keeping the APS members up to date with scientific discoveries and has been involved in the Council challenges to help disseminate the importance of plant pathology to our society. Our committee co-organized the session "Small noncoding RNAs: new paradigms in plant-microbe interactions" that attracted hundreds of participants during the 2013 APS meeting, and also co-sponsored "Insect-transmitted bacterial diseases: passing the gift". Three sessions are being proposed or co-sponsored by our committee for the 2014 APS meeting. Through participation in the Council challenges we have developed ideas for videos to increase the visibility of research in plant pathology. We have also established a Sharepoint website that we hope will help in the communication among members throughout the year.

**Graduate student:** Our committee has made an effort to make a social media presence with a committee Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/APSGraduateStudentCommittee>), and will be working on expanding to Twitter and Instagram. This will increase committee contact, communication, and member participation in ongoing projects during the year to work towards a strong, proactive, and united professional organization (Goal 2) and increased opportunities for professional growth and development (Goal 4). This year, the Graduate Student Committee continued work on the "Where Are We Headed?: The Future of Plant Pathology" webinar series, adding webinar uploads from Ray Martyn and Sally Miller. This contributes to Goal 2. The Graduate Student Committee worked closely with the Early Career Professionals and the Committee for Diversity and Equality to put forth the Career Advancement and Development Resource and Education (CADRE) proposal, which was approved by Council. The Graduate Student Committee will continue to support this project, which relates to Goal 4. Our committee chair worked closely with APS Foundation to run the 2013 Student Travel Award Program, which directly relates to Goal 4. Our committee ran the 2013 Art in Phytopathology competition, which relates to Goal 2.

**Phyllosphere microbiology:** The APS Phyllosphere Microbiology Committee activities include the preparation of the 2014 and 2015 program sessions and the development of the APS Phyllosphere Microbiology virtual issue. For 2014, the committee has submitted a special session on Live, dead or something in between: viability versus culturability of pathogenic bacteria on plants. A session on phyllosphere yeast function and diversity is planned for 2015. The committee also contributed suggestions to the policies and procedures guide for virtual issues.

**Mycotoxigenology:** The committee organized and supported the symposium "Emerging Issues of Mycotoxins in Food Safety", which was held at the 2013 APS Annual Meeting in Austin, TX. The committee is proposing to hold two symposiums for the 2014 Annual Meeting at Minneapolis. The title of the proposed symposiums are: Frontiers in Biosynthesis and Management of Mycotoxins and Epidemiological Considerations in Mycotoxin Management. Plans to hold another symposium for the 2015 meeting were discussed.

**Evolutionary genetics and genomics:** The Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics committee has been engaged in identifying the latest developments that advance our knowledge on evolutionary and population genetics, breeding applications, molecular genetics, and genomics. Within this context the committee sponsored the Workshop "Genotype-by-Sequencing" (L. Cadle-Davidson, K. Hyma, M. Jimenez-Gasco, organizers). This excellent workshop was very well received and was attended by 100 registrants, and given the significant interest shown by APS member the committee proposed a follow-up symposium for the 2014 Annual Meeting that will focus on applications of Genotype-by-Sequencing that will provide examples of the potential of this new technology to improve our understanding on plant and pathogen biology (L. Cadle-Davidson, Nicole Donofrio, organizers). The committee proposed a workshop focusing on analysis of population genetic data using R (Niklaus Grunwald, Zhian Kamvar, organizers). Population genetic analysis is always a top priority and it is a timely topic that will be well received by APS members. The committee also discussed potential symposia and workshops for the 2015 meeting that will be further discussed among committee members during 2013-2014.

**Diversity and equality:** Preliminary discussions and prioritization of 2013 goals, including best practices and CADRE website ideas as described below. Mission statement: The Committee for Diversity and Equality assists members in areas such as training, career development, professional growth, and networking; facilitates development of social contacts; promotes communication and interaction among members with diverse backgrounds; enables integration of all underserved or underrepresented groups into the organization. Each year, the Committee for Diversity and Equality hosts a social and leadership opportunity; in 2012 the event was entitled "Networking: YOU Take the Lead" in which 75 attendees participated in an interactive training followed by a social. Next year's social will address a similar professional development topic. Another initiative includes checklist of best practices for interactions with diverse individuals or groups (example: mentor and student relationships). This is an idea that began from one of our 2012 objective planning sessions. The suggested guidelines will be developed and shared through outlets such as APS Facebook and Phytopathology News. Finally, the committee cosponsors the CADRE initiative with Early Career Professionals and Graduate Student Committees. Our committee has agreed to submit essays and/or videos for at least 3 topics related to diversity in our society, including "Handling Difficult Workplace Interactions." Topics will vary according to feedback from committee members.

**Vector-pathogen complexes:** The continued and new activities supported by this committee are to 1) advance and disseminate basic knowledge of the complex and dynamic nature of vector-borne plant diseases; 2) to enable and develop new vector-based management strategies to control vector-borne pathogens; 3) to engage students and early career professionals in high quality vector-pathogen-plant research symposia; 4) to encourage cross-talk with other APS committees to identify commonalities and to synergize action on issues relevant to plant pathology; and 5) to initiate discussions and develop APS-supported forums for education and mentoring programs for developing scholars engaged in vector-pathogen research.

**Pathogen resistance:** During the 2012 National Meeting, held in Providence, RI, the Pathogen Resistance Committee sponsored a symposium on the development of resistance within numerous plant hosts as well as bacterial and fungal species. Since that time the authors of those presentations have been developing chapters to go into a book that will be published by APS Press. The book will act as an update to the book "Fungicide Resistance in North America" that was published in 1988. In addition, the membership of the Pathogen Resistance Committee developed a glossary of terms involved in pathogen resistance to send to the EPA as well as to be used as a glossary at the book outlined above. The glossary that was developed is similar to those developed by the Entomological Society as well as the Weed Science Society to send to EPA and help guide information regarding the widespread development of resistance in numerous scientific systems that deal with plants. As a committee we believe this will increase our exposure to the society as well as help more clearly define important terms that are necessary to help convey information regarding the development of resistance within the greater realm of plant diseases and plant pathology.

**Industry:** Primary activity towards professional growth and development by sponsorship of graduate student industry luncheon. This year's event was excellent and approx. 150 students sat at tables of 8 and asked questions directly to one or two industry reps per table. Several members have worked with OIR led by Brian Olson towards realizing a "Practical guide to the private sector", aka "Industry 101". We coordinated the "New products and services" session which had high attendance this year. Maintain opportunity for close communication / interaction across plant health related industries, and with other groups esp. with PPB and OIR.

**Epidemiology:** In 2012 APS annual meeting at Providence, RI, Epidemiology Committee sponsored or co-sponsored four special sessions and one workshop. Neil McRoberts and Carla Thomas organized a session titled "Left of Boom! Information: Form, Content, and Use in Epidemic Prediction" where discussions were made to consider events prior to an outbreak (i.e., the left of the event (the Boom!)). The session examined new approaches and related them to traditional approaches to disease detection and prediction, also highlighting common information across these methods using case studies. Lawrence Brown and Neil McRoberts organized a session titled "Right of the Boom: Deciding to Act, React, or Let Go in a Fluid Data Environment", which was the complimentary session to "Left of the Boom!". This session considered prospects for improved disease forecasting and detection. The session explored frameworks and measures for decision support in regulatory agency decision-making to the right of the Boom! (after an outbreak). Our committee also co-sponsored with Forest Pathology, Emerging diseases and pathogens, and vector-pathogen Complexes to host a special session "Thousand Cankers Disease: A Threat to Eastern Black Walnut Throughout Its Native Range and Beyond". In this session, thousand canker disease on walnut trees (*Juglans* spp.) which is newly emerging disease in the eastern US is discussed to emphasize current knowledge of TCD and highlight research gaps. Laurence Madden hosted a very popular epidemiology workshop titled "Mixed Models for Analysis of Factorials in Plant Pathology", where participants learned the MIXED and GLIMMIX procedures of SAS to analyze factorial data from different experimental layouts. Emphasis was placed on the use of new graphical methods for assessing factor

effects; incorporation of random effects in the statistical model; and utilization of modern methods for performing multiple comparisons of means. In 2013 APS annual meeting at Austin, TX, Epidemiology committee is cosponsoring a workshop titled "Sampling Terms, Concepts, and Best Practices for Plant Pathologists" with Crop Loss Assessment and Risk Evaluation (CARE); Pathogen Forensics. Also cosponsoring a special session "Innovations in Microbial Forensics and Plant Biosecurity" with Microbial Forensics Interest Group; Emerging Diseases and Pathogens; Crop Loss Assessment and Risk Evaluation (CARE).

**Early career professionals:** Recognizing the need for professional development resources to be available to all APS membership throughout then year, the Early Career Professionals (ECP) committee, in partnership with the Committee for Diversity and equality as well as Graduate Student committee, developed and submitted a proposal to APS Council to create a website known as CADRE (Career Advancement and Development Resource and Education). The CADRE initiative was approved by APS Council in February. Since that time, ECP put together a list of topics to be covered on the website, an attack plan, and solicited volunteers for a new ad hoc CADRE committee to continue its implementation. ECP also has developed two ideas for symposiums for the 2014 or 2015 meetings: a symposium on use of social media to reach the digital age generation (with the Graduate Students help), and a symposium discussing how to succeed in non-academia positions.

**Diseases of ornamental plants:** The Disease of Ornamental Plants committee had some discussion in regard to potential topic for discussion in future: 1. Epidemiology of impatiens downy mildew. 2. Mission statement that reflect the direction of the committee. 3. Trying to determine an efficient approach to document impact of members work.

**Chemical control:** No recent activity.

**Teaching:** The teaching committee is in the process of compiling a syllabus bank for undergraduate plant pathology courses. Solicitation and collection efforts began last August, and will continue this year. These will be summarized to create a curriculum development and teaching resource for all undergraduate plant pathology educators. Individual syllabi will be made available for viewing, contingent upon author permission. The syllabi will be categorized by class type: laboratory-based, non-laboratory, and online.

**Post harvest pathology:** The committee has had several discussions concerning hot topics in postharvest pathology and food safety. We also have been involved in increasing awareness of the importance of plant pathology as our committee won the councilors challenge last year entitled "This is your world, this is your world without plant pathologist". The committee has had many phone and email correspondence throughout the year pertaining to various issues regarding planning for symposia and organizing potential field trips.