

Excellence in Teaching Award

This award was established in 1987 by the APS Council in recognition of excellence in teaching plant pathology. The award is presented to individuals with active responsibility for one or more courses in plant pathology and recognizes the individual's distinguished proficiency in teaching, as indicated by development and effectiveness of courses taught.

Gail L. Schumann



Gail L. Schumann was born in Cincinnati. She received a B.S. degree in botany from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant pathology from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. In 1987 Dr. Schumann became an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she successfully integrated plant pathology into an upper-level course in integrated pest management. She also developed several new and modified courses, including a course in plant pathology for nonscience majors that

serves to educate students of diverse backgrounds about critical issues in agriculture and plant pathology. A textbook developed for the course, *Plant Disease: Their Biology and Social Impact*, was published by APS Press, St. Paul, MN, in 1991 and is one of the few current texts on plant pathology written for nonspecialists.

Dr. Schumann's excellence in teaching has been widely recognized. One of her students in the course using her text, wrote "that every student should be required to take this course prior to graduating from this University. It enables you to appreciate the world around us. I will never look at it the same way. She is outstanding. Although I had no interest in this course initially, I found it to be a very interesting class. The class is designed to teach intro biology and it does a good job. . . . What is best about the class was that many of the issues covered are relevant to the present. Gail Schumann was an energetic teacher who always made herself available to students."

In another written course evaluation a student commented that she was "one of the few who is truly professional and still remains a humanitarian." Not surprisingly, her students have nominated her for the University Distinguished Teaching Award and for Advisor of the Year. She received the Outstanding Teacher Award from the Turf Management Program in 1988 and from her college in 1991; the APS Genesis Award for Teaching in 1988; and the Lilly Faculty Teaching Fellowship from her university in 1991. This Excellence in Teaching Award is especially fitting for this professional and caring teacher who carries the banner of plant pathology into the classroom.