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.

Edward J. Braun

Edward J. Braun, professor of plant pathology at Iowa State University, was born in Chicago. After receiving his B.A. degree in botany at Miami University, OH, he studied plant pathology at Cornell University, completing his M.S. degree in 1973 and Ph.D. degree in 1977. Dr. Braun is outstanding in three areas of teaching and education: he is an extremely effective and concerned classroom teacher and adviser, a developer of innovative and relevant teaching techniques and courses, and a local and national leader in curriculum and course modernization for plant pathology.

At Iowa State, Dr. Braun has developed and taught nine courses. He is recognized for keeping course content innovative, current, and relevant. He began using computer simulation and special problem-solving and writing units in his “Basic Principles” course over 15 years ago, long before these activities were common. Recently, he initiated a poster session for students that brought excitement to students and faculty alike. Colleagues and students use words such as dedicated, enthusiastic, exciting, approachable, outstanding, committed, and friendly to describe Dr. Braun. He is recognized both on campus and nationally as a very effective, innovative, and motivational teacher.

In 1994, Dr. Braun taught a new, videotaped offering of his basic course for off-campus students. In volunteering for this effort, he reemphasized the importance of extended educational opportunities. In this new era of extended education, Dr. Braun is considered a national pioneer in plant pathology.

Dr. Braun is a driving force in curriculum modernization. He is in charge of the development and initiation of Iowa State’s new Interdepartmental Plant Health and Protection Curriculum. He is presently on Iowa State’s Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee and is chair of the College of Agriculture and Departmental Curriculum committees. The college committee is charged with the implementation of new core requirements, elements that cut across agricultural curricula and affect teaching styles. His grace in handling difficult situations is appreciated by faculty and administration alike. As a member of the APS Plant Pathology 2000 Committee, Dr. Braun was involved in writing a strategic plan for guiding plant pathology teaching into the 21st century. Presently, he serves as chair of the APS Teaching Committee.

Dr. Braun is one of the premiere educators in plant pathology. His excellence in the classroom and in policy development and implementation makes him exceptional. Dr. Braun has become one of the most respected educators in the field of plant pathology today.

Excellence in Extension Award

This award was established in 1988 by the APS Council in recognition of excellence in extension plant pathology. The award is presented to those involved in formal plant pathology extension with recognized superior contributions in developing or implementing leadership roles in local, regional, or national honor societies or professional organizations.

Howard F. Schwartz

Howard F. Schwartz was born in Grand Island, NE. He received a B.S. degree in agronomy from the University of Nebraska and an M.S. degree in plant pathology and plant breeding from the University of Minnesota. In 1977 he received his Ph.D. degree in life sciences (plant pathology) from the University of Nebraska. He joined CIAT in Cali, Colombia, as a senior research bean pathologist in 1977. His program emphasized development of germ plasm resistance to priority fungal and bacterial pathogens of beans in Latin America and eastern Africa. He collaborated with and trained national program scientists and students from these areas.

In 1980 he joined the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Colorado State University as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1985 and to professor in 1991. His appointment is 50% research and 50% extension. His program addresses fungal and bacterial disease problems of major row crops.

Shortly after joining the department Dr. Schwartz assumed leadership and coalesced the bean research/extension group into a dynamic interdisciplinary team that provides strong support to the industry.

While Dr. Schwartz’s program emphasizes personal interaction with clients, he is also a leader in innovative delivery technologies, as exemplified by his leadership in the development of a statewide network of electronic weather stations (COAGMET) and the application of this technology to weekly pest alerts (BEANET and ONIONED). These programs allow rapid distribution of IPM information and timely application of appropriate strategies. Dr. Schwartz has also been instrumental in development of time-sensitive IPM information for satellite transmission. The system provides timely pest alerts and digitized illustrations of disease problems. This technology is on the cutting edge of information delivery and is the type of innovative information dissemination that will be critical to the future of extension plant pathology.

Dr. Schwartz has edited five books and bulletins on dry bean problems. He has authored 16 book chapters, more than 90 papers in trade and scientific journals, and 25 extension bulletins, as well as contributed to newsletters and releases. He has produced five videotapes on onion and bean disease management and is developing a library of digitized electronic images (>3,000) of plant pests and production practices for CD-ROM products and satellite delivery of IPM programs for Colorado and the surrounding region. Dr. Schwartz has also served as an associate and senior editor of Plant Disease.

Dr. Schwartz also serves as an advisor and committee member in the departmental graduate program and has been involved in training international graduate students.

Dr. Schwartz is an exceptional colleague and extension specialist whose good humor, enthusiasm, and commitment are emblematic of our Society and this award.