



Peter Sikorowski
1926-2000

Peter Sikorowski, 73, Professor Emeritus of Insect Pathology, Mississippi State University, died at home on Saturday, May 13th, after a lengthy battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Betty, and two children, Pete Jr. and Lila, and six grandchildren. Peter was born in 1926 in Poland and began his post-secondary education at Der Universitat Koln, Germany in 1947. In 1950 he came to the United States. After working in New York for a couple of years, he enrolled in Forest Management at Utah State University where he received his B.S. in 1957.

He subsequently completed his M.S. in Plant Pathology at Oregon State University in 1960, and his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at Washington State University in 1964, where he studied interactions between fungi and insects in the deterioration of stored grains. From 1963 to 1968, he conducted research on the pathology of the clear lake gnat at the University of California, Berkeley, and then joined the Department of Entomology at Mississippi State University.

Peter enjoyed a very productive career and published more than 100 refereed manuscripts and numerous book chapters. His long and successful career focussed on a variety of research areas including microbial control of clear lake gnats, fire ants, boll weevils, pecan weevils, tobacco budworms, corn earworms, and southern pine beetles. Peter is recognized as an expert on cytoplasmic polyhedrosis virus and on the role of insect pathogens in mass-reared insects. Peter was an extremely dedicated researcher and teacher. He was the major advisor for many M.S. and Ph.D. students at Mississippi State University, and he taught many students in his Insect Pathology course over the years. His students enjoyed his practical and hands-on teaching style. Peter possessed a great sense of humour, and he was always generous with his advice. He successfully balanced his scientific career with his family life, and Peter was a dedicated family man and avid gardener. Peter will be missed by his many friends and colleagues.

Submitted by G. Doug Inglis, June 2000