# The SIP Newsletter

Volume 37, Number 1 February 2004


**SIP goes Nordic!**

**37th Annual Meeting of the**
**Society for Invertebrate Pathology**
**7th International Conference**
**on *Bacillus thuringiensis***
**Helsinki, Finland**
**August 1-6, 2004**

The organizers of the next SIP Annual Meeting look forward to welcoming our colleagues from all over the world to participate in the exciting conference now being arranged at the northernmost locality in the history of the Society- above 60˚N. Invertebrate pathology has gained steady ground in the Nordic countries of Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Iceland during the past decades. An annual meeting of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology has so far never taken place in any of these countries, and we now are proud to host jointly the 2004 SIP meeting in Helsinki, Finland. This is also the first time in SIP history when several countries [more than two] have joined forces to organize the Annual Meeting. In addition to the five countries behind the organization, the proximity of Helsinki to the famous insect pathology groups in St. Petersburg, Russia [only 400 km from Helsinki] and the Baltic States offers a unique opportunity for SIP divisions to invite Russian as well as Baltic colleagues to attend this meeting at a marginal travel cost.

**Location.** Helsinki, the capitol of Finland, is also called the 'Daughter of the Baltic Sea', or the 'White City of the North'. It is a city of some 500,000 inhabitants – over 800,000 live in the metropolitan area. The city is compact because the downtown is confined to a small cape, surrounded by the sea and numerous islands from three sides. All major attractions are therefore within easy walking distance. Helsinki can be reached by air with frequent flights from all European hubs, and many direct flights from other continents (e.g., New York, Toronto, Tokyo, Bangkok). Participants are urged to explore other forms of travelling as well: by a ferry from Stockholm (Sweden), Luebeck, Travemuende, or Rostock (Germany), Tallinn (Estonia) … or by a train from St. Petersburg (Russia)! A car can be taken on the extremely frequent ferries, so traveling by car might be an attractive option for many. We wish to encourage all participants to take the opportunity to tour all the Nordic countries *en route* to Helsinki, and

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**



**Deadline for the next Newsletter is June. 1, 2004**

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Note: Toll Free numbers for Canada & USA only

of Europe. For Finland, abundant possibilities for pre- and post conference activities exist in and around Helsinki; for a selection, click at *'conference services'* under http://www.finlandconventionbureau.fi/ More exotic choices include guided wilderness birding trips, excursions to St. Petersburg, boating in one of the world's greatest archipelagos (over 20,000 islands), or canoeing on the endless network of over 180,000 lakes in the country. As the capitol of Finland, Helsinki offers a wide variety of possibilities for social activities. See http://www.hel.fi/tourism/html/english/artikkelit/index.html.

Within the Helsinki city limits, and right next to the Biosciences Campus of the University of Helsinki (including agriculture and forestry), is one of the best wetlands sanctuaries in the whole country [Viikki] with bird towers and walkways, and only 30 km from downtown Helsinki is a National Park, where it is easy to enjoy the stunning beauty and solitude typical of the last large wilderness areas in Europe [located in Northern Finland]. This is the Nuuksio Natural Park, one of the targets for our Tuesday excursions. See http://www.metsa.fi/natural/nationalparks/nuuksio/

**Venue.** The Conference headquarters and some of the accommodations will be at the four-star Hotel Grand

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The SIP Newsletter is published 3 times per year and is available on our homepage.

Submissions to the following sections are solicited:
**Forum:** More substantial articles on current issues of concern, limited to approximately five pages.
**Letters to the Editor:** Issues of concern can be brought to light here.
**Microbial Control News:** Information on new discoveries, "News Releases", formation of companies, etc., pertaining to microbial control.

We also depend on our members to supply us with information for the following sections: **Obituaries, Member News** (Retirements, Awards, Promotions), **Members on the Move** (New Addresses), **Positions Available/Wanted, Meeting and Workshop Announcements,** and other **News Items.**

Send all submissions directly to the Editor. Submissions via e-mail or on computer disk (MSWORD, if possible) streamlines publication and saves on costs. Please include a hard copy with any text sent via computer disk.

**Deadline for the next Newsletter is June 1, 2004.**

to enjoy the natural and cultural wonders of the North Marina right in the heart of Helsinki. Annexed to it is the Marina Congress Center, where the welcoming reception and the conference banquet will take place. All the scientific sessions will be held at the Helsinki University Main Building, situated within an easy walk from the Hotel Grand Marina, next to the main Cathedral at the Senate Square. For maps of the capitol area and street maps see http://kartta.hel.fi/. We have reserved the stateroom of the University for the SIP 2004 opening ceremony and plenary lectures, and four different lecture halls for the other sessions. Poster areas are in the wide corridors just outside the lecture halls, where coffee breaks will be set up.

The University of Helsinki traces its history back to the Royal Academy of Turku, which was established by the regency of Queen Christina. The founding is documented to date 26 March 1640. In October 1827 Tsar Nicholas I ordered that the university be moved to Helsinki, which had become the capital of Finland in 1812. It was officially renamed the Imperial Alexander University of Finland. The Main Building was completed in 1832 next to the Senate Square. Its monumental stair hall is one of its most interesting interior creations.

**Accommodations.** We have reserved rooms at three hotel categories, all within easy access to the University main building. Room rates will range from about 60 to 150 euro/night; student participants will have first priority to the least expensive rooms, of which only limited number have been made available.

**Weather in Helsinki.** Weather in July/August is at its best in Finland, although as always, variable. Days are still much longer than what most are used to (18-20 hours), and the daytime temperatures typically are around +25 ˚C, but could also be 30 ˚C … or just 20 ˚C. Night temperatures often are around 15 ˚C. Occasional rain showers are possible, but during the past couple of summers we have had severe droughts at this time of the year. Despite the usual pattern, delegates are advised to prepare also for cool and rainy conditions.

**Meeting format.** The program format has been adapted from the usual SIP format. The meeting will start on Sunday morning with the opening ceremony and Founder's Lecture session, continued in the afternoon with informal meetings and setting up of the posters. A welcoming mixer is on Sunday evening. Scientific sessions continue on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with a full program. Social activities have been scheduled on every other evening, so that after the mixer on Sunday, the BBQ will be on Tuesday, and the banquet on Thursday evening. Divisional meetings take place on Monday and Wednesday evenings. There will be student paper and poster competitions with generous awards provided by the Society. Student competitors will be limited to one presentation each (either a poster or an oral presentation). The Society's business meeting is planned for Tuesday morning.

**Tentative schedule.**

31.07.2004 Saturday, Council Meeting, all day (ca., 8:30 to 5:30 PM), Hotel Grand Marina

01.08.2004 Sunday morning: opening plenary followed by the Founder's Lecture
Afternoon: setting up posters, informal meetings. Sunday evening: Welcoming reception, includes beverages plus some food

02.08.2004 Monday AM: Plenary session; AM/PM: Symposia, Contributed paper sessions
Monday evening, Division Workshops and meeting

03.08.2004 Tuesday AM, Symposia, Contributed Papers, Society General Meeting
Tuesday PM 5-K race and excursion
Tuesday evening, BBQ (food, beverage and possibly entertainment)

04.08.2004 Wednesday AM: Plenary session, AM/PM Symposia, Contributed paper sessions. Wednesday evening, Division Workshops and meetings

05.08.2004 Thursday AM: Plenary session, AM/PM Symposia, Contributed paper sessions. Thursday evening, Banquet (food, beverage and possibly entertainment); end of meeting

06.08.2004 Departures

**Helsinki University**

| | 08-9:30 | c | 10-12 | Lunch | 13:30-15:30 | c | 16-18 | Evening |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sat | Arrivals; Council Mtg | o | Arrivals; Council Mtg | | Arrivals; Council Mtg | o | Arrivals; Council Mtg | Arrivals |
| Sun | Opening & Plenary | f f | … Founder's Lecture | | Setting up Posters | f f | Informal Meetings | Welcoming Reception |
| Mon | Plenary | e e | 4 x Symposia | | 4 x Symposia | e e | 4 x Symposia | Division WS, Mtg |
| Tue | 4 x Symposia | + | Society General Mtg | | 5 k, Excursions | | Excursions | BBQ |
| Wed | Plenary | t e | 4 x Symposia | | 4 x Symposia | + t | 4 x Symposia | Division WS, Mtg. |
| Thu | Plenary | a | 4 x Symposia | | 4 x Symposia | e a | 4 x Symposia | Banquet |
| Fri | Departures | | Departures | | | | | |

**Meeting Schedule**

**Preliminary List of Symposia and Workshops**

*Second-generation transgenic crops*
*Risk assessment and non-target effects of Cry toxins in sprays and transgenic plants*
*Genomics of B. anthracis, B. cereus, B. sphaericus and of Bti plasmids*
*New advances in research and development of insecticidal proteins produced by Bt*

*Entomopox vs. Vertebrate Pox Viruses, Comparative Pathology, genomics*
*Virus Ecology*
*Viruses of Aquatic Invertebrates*
*Genomic analysis methodology*

*Insect-Fungal Associations: Ecology and Evolution*
*Risk assessment and registration of fungal BCAs: how do we overcome the hurdles?*

*Can microsporidia be seriously considered as biological control agents?*

*Nematodes and cold adaptations*
*Infected EPN cadavers in the soil ecosystem*

*Promoting Microbial Controls: Meeting the Challenges*
*Bringing Pathogens from the Lab to the Field: Case Studies*
*Microbial control in greenhouse and nurseries*
*Microbial control in forest ecosystems*
*Status on microbial control products: News from the industry*
*Honeybee pathology*
*Microbial symbiosis*
*Oryctes virus – from discovery to classical microbial control agent*
*Role of Native Immune System/Molecular Host Response*
*Entomopathogen Proteomics/Genomics*
*Teaching biological control*
*SIP- the Past, Present and Future*

**Deadline for abstract submissions.** April 16, 2004, will be the deadline for receipt of abstracts for symposia, contributed papers, posters and other program information. This deadline will allow the Program Committee to prepare and distribute the program and abstracts to all SIP members before the meeting via the SIP web site (www.sipweb.org) and the conference web site (www.sip2004.fi). Abstracts received after the deadline will not be printed. Late submissions will be scheduled as posters on a space-available basis. We reserve the right to request that some contributed papers will be presented as posters. These presenters will be informed in advance of the publication of the program and abstract book. A printed Program and Abstract book will be available only to those registered for the meeting or to those having such requested through the SIP Office.

The Program Committee solicits your contributions of abstracts for meeting presentations. Instructions for abstracts will be available at the meeting web

site after mid-February. Oral presentations will be limited to 12 minutes with an additional 3 minutes for answering questions. Because of concurrent sessions, moderators will be instructed to keep to the scheduled times. Digital projection equipment will be available, but be prepared to present using slide projectors (2" x 2") or overhead transparencies as backups.

**Deadline for registration:** April 30, 2004, is the absolute deadline for early paid registration. The registration fee includes access to the scientific and social program, Program and Abstract book, mixer, barbecue, conference dinner, refreshments during the conference, and transportation during the conference.

**Cancellation policy.** Cancellations are only accepted before July 9, 2004. After that date, returns cannot be guaranteed due to commitments to the conference organizers.

**Social program.** The social events for this year's meeting will begin on Sunday evening with the mixer. Tuesday will be a busy day: the 5K race is scheduled for the afternoon, and it will take you through the forest on a hilly terrain at the Solvalla Sports Training Center (part of a network of training sites for Finnish athletes). Afterwards you can splash into a lake and/or take a Finnish sauna to wash the sweat off! Excursions on Tuesday afternoon will offer choices between a quiet walk in the Nuuksio National Park, a cruise in the Helsinki archipelago, or a visit at the Marimekko™ factory outlet. The 5K race awards will be presented at the barbeque taking place on Tuesday evening. The Society banquet will be held at the Hotel Grand Marina on Thursday evening. Student awards and the Founder's lecture award will be presented at the banquet.

**Invitations.** Those requiring invitations for obtaining visas should write to the Executive Secretary of the meeting, Ms. Lena Huldén (lena.hulden@helsinki.fi)

**Dates to Remember**
**Deadline for submission of abstracts: April 16, 2004**
**Deadline for early registration: April 30, 2004**
**Deadline for cancellation: July 9, 2004**

**Contacts**
Heikki Hokkanen
Local Arrangements Committee Chair
E-mail: heikki.hokkanen@helsinki.fi

Joergen Eilenberg
Program Committee Chair
E-mail: Joergen.Eilenberg@ecol.kvl.dk

## ADDITIONAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Industry Update Workshop**
The Microbial Control Division will hold an industry update workshop at the 2004 SIP meeting in Helsinki, Finland. Industry representatives are invited to present information on recent developments in microbial control products. If you have new product information to present, contact:
Dr. Wendy Gelernter
Phone: (858) 272-9897
FAX: (858) 483-6349
E-mail: gelernt@pace-ptri.com

### Student Travel Awards

***SIP Travel Award Application General Instructions***

**(Please note!!! These instructions apply to all awards, including Division awards)**

Students and their supervisors are advised to watch the Newsletter and SIP website for specific information regarding travel awards.

Applicants must be students enrolled in a university degree program. They need not be members of the SIP or of any Division sponsoring a travel award.

Applications for Division-sponsored travel awards should be sent to the Division offering the award (see individual announcements and instructions below). The subject matter of the presentation should pertain to the Division. Individuals submitting oral presentations to a Division will automatically be considered also for the Martignoni Award.

Applications with oral presentations on subjects unrelated to that of any Division offering an award should be sent to the Chair of the Endowment and Student Awards Committee for Martignoni Award consideration.

There is no limit on the number of awards a student may apply for in a single year. However, while

students meeting all requirements will be considered for multiple awards (for example, one or more Division-sponsored awards and the Martignoni Award), they will be eligible to receive only one travel award per year. Each student will be eligible to receive the Martignoni Award only once. Eligibility to receive Divisional awards more than once will be determined by each Division independently. Students should consult Division chairs for current guidelines

*Required Information*

1. Curriculum Vitae. This should include the applicant's name, address, institution, earned degrees, current degree program, honors and awards, research experience, and a list of publications and previous presentations.

2. A short biographical sketch and description of scientific interests and goals.

3. A letter from the supervisor should provide a recommendation, verification of student status, and confirmation that the research being presented was conducted by the student.

4. Presentation abstract. The application must include a one-page summary of the presentation including title, authors, and affiliations (this may be the abstract submitted to the Annual Meeting Program Committee). The student's research contribution represents one of the most important selection criteria. Therefore, the abstract should be crafted with care, succinctly describing the research rationale, any unusual or novel methods, and the principal results. An explanation of the significance of the research findings should be offered in conclusion, based on sound interpretation of the results.

5. Brief (one page) description of experimental and analytical methods employed in conducting the research reported in the presentation abstract.

***Deadlines***
Deadline for submission: April 1
Committee decisions: May 1

Successful applicants will receive an official communication from the appropriate Committee Chair and should confirm their acceptance and participation as soon as possible. The award will be presented at the meeting, but if necessary for travel, can be sent earlier.

**Mauro Martignoni Student Travel Award**
All students of invertebrate pathology are invited to compete for the fourth annual Mauro Martignoni Student Travel Award. An award of US$750 will be presented to support travel to the Annual Meeting and International Colloquium in Helsinki, Finland (August 1-6, 2004). The recipient is required to submit an abstract and give an oral presentation based on his/her own work. As mentioned in the General Instructions, students submitting an oral presentation abstract to Divisions for travel awards will automatically be considered for this award. The student is not required to be a member of SIP and the subject matter may relate to any area of invertebrate pathology or microbial control. An award presentation will be made at the Colloquium, but arrangements may be made for receiving the funds in advance.

Students not applying to Divisions for travel awards should send application information via e-mail to:
Dr. Stephen Wraight, Chair, Student Awards Committee: E-mail: spw4@cornell.edu

**Bacteria Division Student Travel Awards**
The Bacteria Division is pleased to announce the availability of up to three travel awards, equivalent in value to US $500, to support the costs of a student who will attend the 2004 SIP Annual Meeting in Helsinki. The award is intended to defray the expenses of a student presenting either a poster or an oral communication as first or second author at the meeting. The award is based both on financial need and on scientific excellence in the areas of invertebrate bacteria, bacterial products or related topics, including transgenic plants and interactions with other microbial agents, plants and invertebrates, etc. Students from any country are eligible and do not need to be members of the Bacteria Division.
Contact:
Dr. Juan Ferre, Chair, Bacteria Division
E-mail Juan.Ferre@uv.es.
Mailing address (only if e-mail is not possible)
Departamento de Genetica, Facultad de CC. Biologicas
Universidad de Valencia Dr.
Moliner 50, 46100-Burjassot
Valencia, Spain

**Fungus Division Student Travel Awards**
The Fungus Division will award two US$500 travel awards to help research students attend and present at the 2004 SIP meeting in Helsinki, Finland. The student award recipients are expected to make a presentation (oral or poster) on their research and the subject matter should pertain to invertebrate mycology.
Contact:
Dr. Stefan Jaronski, SIP Fungus Division
E-mail: sjaronski@sidney.ars.usda.gov
Mailing address (only if e mail is not possible):
Pest Management Research Unit
USDA ARS NPARL
1500 N. Central Ave.
Sidney MT 59270, USA

**Microbial Control Division Student Travel Awards**
The Microbial Control Division will award up to three US$500 travel awards for attendance and presentation of research at the 2004 SIP meeting in Helsinki, Finland. The student award recipient is expected to make a presentation (oral or poster) and be the first or second author. The subject matter of the presentations should pertain to microbial control of insects.
Contact:
Dr. Kerstin Jung
SIP Microbial Control Division
E-mail: k.jung@bba.de.
Mailing address (only if e-mail is not possible):
Federal Biol. Res. Centre
Inst. for Biol. Control
Heinstr. 243
Darmstadt D-64287 GERMANY

**Microsporidia Division Student Travel Awards**
The Microsporidia Division will present up to two US$500 student travel awards for attendance and oral or poster presentation of research at the 2004 SIP meeting in Helsinki, Finland. The subject matter should pertain to invertebrate microsporidia.
Contact:
Dr. Lee Solter, SIP Microsporidia Division
E-mail: lsolter@uiuc.edu
Mailing address (only if e mail is not possible):
Illinois Natural History Survey
140 NSRC
1101 W. Peabody Dr.
Urbana, IL 61801 USA

**Nematode Division Student Travel Award**
The Nematode Division announces two $US500 Student Travel Awards for the 2004 SIP meeting in Helsinki, Finland. Applications will be accepted for both oral and poster presentations on subject matter related to nematodes and/or their bacterial symbionts.
Contact:
Dr. S. Patricia Stock, Nematode Division Chair
E-mail: spstock@ag.arizona.edu
Mail (only if e-mail is not possible):
Department of Plant Pathology
Forbes 204
The University of Arizona
1140 E. South Campus Dr, Tucson, AZ 85721-0036,

**Virus Division Student Travel Awards**
The Virus Division of SIP will present a minimum of two student travel awards of US$500 for attendance and presentation of research at the 2004 SIP meeting in Helsinki, Finland. The student award recipient is expected to make a presentation (contributed paper or poster) and be the first author. The subject matter of the presentations should pertain to viruses of invertebrates.
Contact:
Dr. John P. Burand, Virus Division Chair
E-mail: jburand@microbio.umass.edu.
Mailing address (only if email is not possible):
Department of Entomology, Fernald Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Amherst, MA 01003 USA

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

During the past three months, the Council, along with advisory input from Division Chairs who are ex-officio members of the Council, has been active

in making a number of decisions. In our "mid-year meeting" via e-mail, I proposed that the Mauro E. Martignoni Travel Fund, which is the most prestigious award given to a graduate student, be increased from $500 to $750 and Council unanimously agreed that this was an appropriate expenditure of SIP funds. At the same time, I have requested that the Divisions maintain their graduate student travel awards at $500 for the Helsinki meeting and provide a minimum of two within a Division.

This funding level will be discussed further in Council in Helsinki. In other actions, some of the navigation bars on the SIP website (e.g., Membership, most of the Newsletter, and Search) will be closed to non-members this spring. At the Iguassu meeting in Brazil in 2002, Council had voted to "lock down" certain sections of the website to members only by March 2003. However, due to a number of reasons including Executive Secretary Margaret (Peg) Rotstein's move from North Carolina to Tennessee and the upgrade of the SIP server, this action was not implemented at the designated time. Council has established that most menus on the navigation bar will be open to non-members (e.g., Home, About, front page of Newsletter, Jobs, Officers, Links). More information on this action will be forthcoming.

In a move to use electronic voting for officers and other actions that require membership votes, Council has been discussing the possibility of having the upcoming election of officers to be conducted through the website. This approach was highly successful for the voting of the SIP logo. The advantages of the electronic ballot are the potential for higher participation of the members, a reduction of mailing costs to the Society and voters, a tally system that only requires the Teller's Committee to confirm the results, and maintenance of a system such that a voter's choice remains anonymous. The disadvantages are that a mailed ballot would still be required for those members without access to the Internet and the breach of the Constitution and By-Laws.

The first disadvantage is not a major issue as mechanisms exist to overcome it; however, there was concern expressed by several members of Council that knowingly violating the intent of the Constitution and By-Laws, even though archaic, would set a poor precedent. The Constitution and By-Laws (Article II, Section 2 of the By-Laws) explicitly states that the voting for officers will be with a mailed ballot with the ballot being placed in a blank envelope and then mailed to the Secretary in an envelope with the name and address of the voter. Accordingly, in keeping with the intent of the Constitution and By-Laws, the 2004 voting for officers will be by mailed ballots. During the past year, however, Jim Harper has been examining various amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws including the use of electronic ballots for voting and will make recommends to Council in Helsinki. Those changes, if approved by Council, will be brought forth at the General Business Meeting for approval by the general membership.

Division Chairs and various committees have also been actively working on behalf of the Society since the Burlington meeting. Division chairs are busy organizing symposia, the Local Arrangement Committee for the Burlington meeting has been wrapping up their financial reports, and the Local Arrangement Committee for the Helsinki meeting are working feverishly to organize the scientific and social programs. I would like to highlight the work being done by the newly appointed Student Affairs Committee. The committee has been working diligently with Todd Ugine (US-Microbial Control) as Chair and the members consisting of Claudia D. Perez Ortega (Mexico- Bacteria), Heather Smith (US- Nematodes), Ernst Jan Scholte (Netherlands – Fungi), Christina Campbell (Canada – Microsporidia), Clare Nixon (UK-Virus) and Serafin Gutierrez (France-Virus) with John Vandenberg serving as a faculty advisor. This committee has put together guidelines for their charge as well as organizing activities for Helsinki. To assist this committee, Council has provided "seed money" of $300 to support its activities.

In other committee highlights, Elizabeth (Betty) Davidson and her History Committee have nearly finalized their task. Soon, the Society's history such as the formation of the Society, meeting sites, Founder's Honoree and Lecturer, honorary members, and current and former officers will be posted on the website. An area that needs work will be identifying former student award winners, and that information will have to be reconstructed from past Newsletters. Other committees have been actively working and/or will be preparing their reports shortly.

One of the high priorities of SIP has been to re-negotiate the contract of our Executive Secretary, Peg Rotstein, to a new four-year contract. Her current contract expires on March 31, 2004, and

Vice-President Just Vlak, Treasurer Suzanne Thiem and I have re-negotiated Peg's contract, which was finalized in January. In addition to the contract, we will conduct an annual performance evaluation. The Council approved both the contract and the performance evaluation. Accordingly, Peg will remain as our Executive Secretary through March 31, 2008 and we look forward to continued interactions with her.

During the past 36 years, the Society has not had a logo. Several attempts to create a logo were unsuccessful for a variety of reasons. Ted Andreadis and his Logo Committee solicited and selected from over 100 submissions eight logos that were presented to the membership for the final vote. I thank Ted and his committee for their efforts and all those who took the time to design and submit a logo and who voted for their favorite one. The new logo is unveiled with this Newsletter.

Although much of the Society's business is done at our annual meetings, a significant amount is also done throughout the year. I thank all who keep our Society active and moving forward.

*Harry Kaya*

## CANDIDATES FOR SIP OFFICES

### PRESIDENT

**Just Vlak**

Just M. Vlak received his MSc in Biology (with honors) from the University of Utrecht in 1971 and his PhD in 1976 from the same university studying human adenovirus DNA replication. In the same year he took a position as assistant professor at Wageningen University to start up invertebrate virus research at the Laboratory of Virology and to introduce animal virology and insect pathology in the teaching programs. His sabbatical year in 1980 with Dr. Max Summers at the Department of Entomology at Texas A & M University, College Station, further shaped his scientific career. He served as a member of the University Council (1994-1997) and chaired the Biology program (1998-2002). In 1982 he was promoted to associate professor, in 1986 to senior lecturer and in 1996 to full professor (distinguished chair). Since 2002 he is also Scientific Director of the Wageningen Graduate School 'Production Ecology and Resource Conservation'. He holds an honorary professorship from the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

He served on many national and international committees, including the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses as Executive Officer (1984-1988) and as chairman of the Invertebrate Virus Subcommittee (2002-2005). He is a member of the American Society for Microbiology, the British Society for General Microbiology and, of course, the Society for Invertebrate Pathology (since 1979). He has been editor (1987-1994) and editorial board member (1986-1987; 1995-2000) of the Journal of General Virology and associate-editor of the Journal of Invertebrate Pathology (1993-1996), a position renewed in 2000. At present he is also an editorial board member of Archives of Virology.

His research over the last two decades revolved around the biology, pathology and molecular genetics of baculoviruses and its applications in biotechnology and microbial control. The major emphasis was on the structure and function of baculovirus genes, on baculovirus genomics and phylogeny, on the engineering and ecological behavior of (recombinant) baculoviruses and the application of baculovirus vectors for vaccine development. He and his team initiated the development of Spod-X$^{R}$ as a commercially successful bioinsecticide for the control of beet armyworm and completed the sequencing of three baculovirus genomes (*Spodoptera exigua* MNPV, *Helicoverpa armigera* SNPV, *Heliothis zea* SNPV). Major research interests right now are related to baculovirus functional genomics, ecogenomics and

competitive fitness. Recently he became interested in viruses of aquatic organisms, in particular white spot syndrome virus of shrimp, one of the largest animal DNA viruses to date and a member of a new virus family. He published about 200 papers in peer-reviewed journals, 350 abstracts, and edited three books related to invertebrate pathology.

Just Vlak is a long-time member (since 1979) of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology and contributed over 90 papers to its annual meetings and international colloquia. He has also contributed directly to the operation of the Society, serving in various capacities. In 1986 he chaired the organizing committee of the IVth International Colloquium on Invertebrate Pathology and Microbial Control held in Veldhoven, and again in 2001 the 34th Annual Meeting of the Society held in Noordwijkerhout, both the Netherlands. He has been a member of the 'Meetings Board Committee' 1987-2002 and chaired this committee from 1994-2002. He served on the Nominating Committee in 1995. He is now Vice-President of the Society (2002-2004).

As president Just Vlak will serve the Society by serving its membership and by promoting scientific interactions to the benefit of fundamental and applied aspects of invertebrate pathology and microbial control. He will do so in close collaboration with council members, divisional chairs and other officers of the Society. He also plans to enhance the international recognition, representation and visibility of invertebrate pathology and microbial control in the biological sciences. He will encourage young scientists to become involved in activities of the Society, will reach out to underprivileged colleagues from around the world and further promote the international character of the Society. Finally, he will promote invertebrate pathology as multidisciplinary but integrated, unifocal discipline driven by exciting and high quality science with major societal impact. He would like to see the Society for Invertebrate Pathology thrive and form as a condensation point by not only by providing good science, but also generating an amicable social infrastructure.

## VICE PRESIDENT

### Dr. Wendy Gelernter

**Education:** 1976: B.S. in Agriculture, Cornell University; 1984: Ph.D. in Insect Pathology, University of California, Riverside. Thesis: "Isolation and identification, genetic variation and control potential of a nuclear polyhedrosis virus from the beet armyworm, *Spodoptera exigua*."

**Wendy Gelernter**

**Experience:** 1995–present: Owner and Research Director, PACE Consulting. PACE is an independent agricultural and environmental consulting company that provides applied research, pest management, agronomic, education and information services to the agricultural, turfgrass and horticultural industries. 1990–1995: Director of Biopesticide Commercial Development, Mycogen Corp.; 1985–1990: Product Manager for Bioinsecticides, Mycogen Corp.; 1984–1985: Research Scientist, Mycogen Corp.

**Professional Activities:** 2001–2003, Chair SIP Microbial Control Division; 2000–2004: Chair, SIP Fundraising and Endowment Committee; 1999: Member, SIP Audit Committee; 1998–2002: Chair, SIP Nominating Committee**;** 1994-1996: SIP Secretary**;** 1989–1993: Chair, SIP Membership Committee; 2000–2006: Editorial Board, Biocontrol Science and Technology; 1999–2000: Chair, Agricultural Biotechnology Task Force, National Alliance for Independent Crop Consultants; 1998–present: founding member, International Biopesticide Consortium for Development; 1996–2000: Association of Applied IPM Ecologists, Executive Board Member; 1996: Co-organizer, USDA national forum on insect resistance to *Bacillus thuringiensis*; 1994–1995: Chair, Insect Pathology subsection, Entomological Society of America; 1994: IPM Innovators Award, California Environmental Protection Agency; 1993–1994: Board of Reviewing Editors, Journal of

Economic Entomology; 1991–1995: Member, Bt Resistance Management Working Group

**Memberships:** Society for Invertebrate Pathology, Entomological Society of America, National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants, National Association of Science Writers, Association of Applied IPM Ecologists

**Interests:** Microbial control of scarabs, development and commercialization of microbial pesticides, biopesticides in the developing world, *Bt* resistance management

SIP is not your typical scientific society. Yes, we offer many of the benefits that scientists have come to expect from their professional organizations, including high quality annual meetings, a useful and informative website, an excellent newsletter, access to special publications, and reduced rates on key journals. But SIP is unique in offering even more – a supportive and cooperative community that values the broad spectrum of the disciplines it encompasses as much as it does the diversity of its membership. Our annual meetings serve the dual purpose of advancing scientific knowledge in invertebrate pathology, while at the same time promoting international collaboration, and reinforcing friendships.

But there are too few people benefiting from what SIP has to offer. Our membership rolls have been stagnant over the past several years. And while our meetings are extremely well attended, the high cost of travel makes it difficult for many scientists and their students to attend on a regular basis. SIP needs to grow a bit, and I believe that this growth can be accomplished without sacrificing the warm and personal nature that so uniquely characterizes our Society. Possible approaches towards this goal include expanded efforts to publicize our annual meetings and to implement membership drives, especially in those regions where future annual meetings are planned. Further student involvement in SIP needs to be encouraged via awards, travel grants, and consideration of a greater role for students in Society affairs. Additional travel grants for scientists who have financial difficulty in attending the meetings should also be explored. Concerted efforts to broaden our fund-raising appeals and to focus member's volunteer efforts on these activities should make it possible to bring the benefits of SIP to a larger audience.

**Dr. Lawrence (Lerry) Lacey**

**Education:** M.S. (1975) and Ph.D. (1978) in Entomology at the University of California, Riverside with emphasis on insect pathology and medical entomology.

**Lawrence (Lerry) Lacey**

**Experience and Professional Activities:** Since obtaining his Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside, Lerry has worked on a variety of pathogens of medically and agriculturally important insects in several locations worldwide including: the Amazon Research Institute, Brazil; the Onchocerciasis Control Program in the Volta Basin, West Africa; the Japanese beetle control project, Azorean Archipelago, Portugal; the USDA European Biological Control Laboratory, Montpellier, France; several locations within the USA; and others in Central and South America, the Middle-East, Oceania and across Asia. He is currently assigned to the USDA-ARS Yakima Agricultural Research Laboratory in Washington State working on basic and applied aspects of insect pathology and microbial control of insect pests of tree fruit and potatoes.

Lerry has been a member of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology since 1981 and served SIP in a number of roles including: Secretary (1990-1992) and Trustee (1992-1996) of the Society; Member-at-large (1989-1991), Secretary-Treasurer (1983-1985, 1995-1997), Chair-elect (1997-1999), and Chair (1999-2001) of the Microbial Control Division; Chair (1984-1986) and member (1982-2002) of the Membership Committee; Chair of the Safety Committee (1983-1987); Chair (1991-1992) and member (1989-1994) of the Endowment Committee; member of the Meeting Site Committee (current); member of the SIP History Committee (current); Chair of the New Initiatives

Committee (1994-1998); editorial board member of the *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology* (current); on the local arrangements and scientific program committees for the VIth International Colloquium on Invertebrate Pathology and Microbial Control, Montpellier, France (1994); scientific program committee for the VIIIth International Colloquium on Invertebrate Pathology and Microbial Control, Foz de Iguaçu, Brazil (2002); and over the past two decades has organized several workshops and symposia on a variety of topics in insect pathology for annual meetings. He has also served on the Governing Board of the Entomological Society of America and in several other ESA roles (Chair of Section C [biology, ecology and behavior], Chair of Subsection Ce [Insect Pathology], Governing Board liaison for the International Affairs Committee, member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Medical Entomology*, and as the microbial control Subject Editor for *Environmental Entomology* [current]). He is also a member of the International Organization for Biological Control.

Lerry envisions a significant role for insect pathology and SIP in the acceptance and implementation of sustainable control of insect and mite pests that is safe and environmentally friendly. In addition to development of effective microbial control agents, public awareness of their benefits as alternatives to conventional pesticides will be essential. He believes SIP can have effective influence on growers, public health workers, policy makers and the general population through education and promotion of the benefits of microbial control agents. Promotion of our science and Society will also ensure that a future generation of insect pathologists will be here to meet this continuing challenge.

## SECRETARY

### Dr. Lorraine Braun

**Education:** B.Sc. (Advanced, Biology) 1974, University of Saskatchewan; M.Sc. (Biology) 1987, University of Saskatchewan; Ph.D. (Entomology) 1996, University of Alberta. Doctoral Thesis: A new tissue model for evaluating effects of *Bacillus thuringiensis* toxins on insect midgut epithelium.

**Professional Experience:** Biologist, secondment to Canadian International Development Agency, Tanzania Canada Wheat Project, Arusha Tanzania (1988-1990); Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon SK (1996-present).

**Lorraine Braun**

**Membership:** Society for Invertebrate Pathology from 1993: Organizing Committee and Co-Chair, Scientific Program, 1997 Annual Meeting (Banff). Entomological Society of Canada from 1993: Chair, Marketing Committee ESC (2000-2003); Regional Director for Saskatchewan 2003-2005. Entomological Society of Saskatchewan from 1985: President (1998-1999); Organizing Committee and Treasurer, Joint Annual Meeting of the ESS and Entomological Society of Canada 1999. Biocontrol Network member from 2000, "Innovation Tools for Discovery and Testing" theme. Orthopterists Society from 1988: Organizing Committee Triennial Meeting Pan American Acridological Society 1985 (Saskatoon).

**Interests:** Thirty years of work experience with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in pathology and biological control have narrowed my focus down to: microbial control of insect pests of canola; development and use of *in vitro* insect midgut techniques for assessment of *Bt* toxicity; use of insect parasitoids for biocontrol of *Lygus*, diamondback moth and bertha armyworm.

### Dr. Peter Krell

**Education:** B.Sc. (Hons) 1970. Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.
M.Sc. 1974. Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada "Tipula iridescent virus (TIV) replication".
Ph.D. 1980. Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada "Polydnaviruses of parasitic hymenoptera".

**Peter Krell**

**Experience:** 1980-1981. Visiting Research Scientist, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX (host, Max Summers), Characterization of polydnavirus from *Campoletis sonorensis* parasitoid wasps.

1981 to present. Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor of Microbiology, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.
1995-1996. University of Wageningen, Wageningen the Netherlands, C.T. de Wit Fellowship in Ecology, (host, Just Vlak). Functional analysis of heterologous baculovirus oris.

**Memberships:** Society of Invertebrate Pathology, 1981 to present.
Canadian Society of Microbiologists, 1981 to present.
American Society of Microbiology, 1980 to present.
American Society of Virologists (founding member), 1981 to present.
Entomological Society of Ontario, 2000 to 2002.

**Professional Activities:** Editorial Board, Canadian Journal of Microbiology, 1995 to present.
Editorial Board, Biocontrol Science and Technology, 2002 to present.
Editorial Board, Biological Control Theory and Application in Pest Management, 2003 to present.
Chair and Vice Chair, Virus Division Society for Invertebrate Pathology, 1996-2000.
Chair and Vice Chair, Virology Section, Canadian Society of Microbiologists, 1992-1996.
Chair, Local Organizing Committee Guelph, Canadian Society of Microbiologists, 1998.
Member, Polydnavirus Study Group, International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses, 1987 to present.
National member (Canada), International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses, 2003 to present.
Chair (2001) and member (1999/2000), Scholarships/Fellowships Selection Committee in Cell and Molecular Biology, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada.
Consultant, M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs in Biotechnology for Ontario Council of Universities, 1999-2000.
Member, Board of Directors, Biocontrol Canada Network, 2003-2004.
Member, Board of Directors, Spectradigital Corporation (S. Deshpande CEO), 2003 to present.
Program Leader, TN2 Sawflies, tree nurseries and managed stands, Biocontrol Canada Network, 2001 to present.
Member, committees of Biocontrol Canada Network [Education, training and communications (ETCC); socio-ethics working group (SEWG); and Joint training and networking subcommittee of the project supervisory committee and the ETCC (JSC)], 2001 to present.
Invited Speaker, International, Japan (1984); Spain (1996); China (2003); Korea (2003).
Runner, Society of Invertebrate Pathology, 1994 (Montpellier) to present.

**Interests:** Molecular biology of insect baculovirus replication, transcription and DNA replication. Viral genomics and proteomics, insect molecular biology. Development of animal-based veterinary vaccines. Education in microbiology.

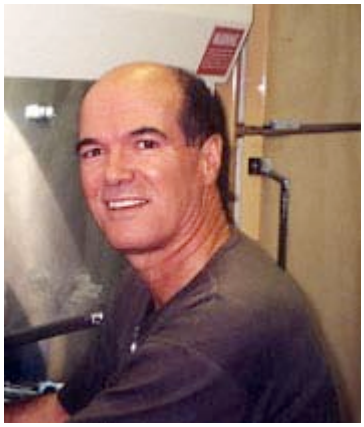
**TRUSTEES**

**Dr. Bonifácio Peixoto Magalhães**

**Education:** B.Sc. Agronomy University of Brasília, Brazil,1977.
M.Sc. Insect Biology, University of São Paulo, Brazil, 1983.
Ph.D. Cornell University, USA, 1990.

**Experience**: Researcher III, Embrapa Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, Brazil, 1990 – Present

Researcher II, Embrapa Rice and Beans, Brazil, 1983-1990.
Researcher I, Embrapa Oriental Amazon, Brazil, 1978-1983.



**Bonifácio Magalhães**

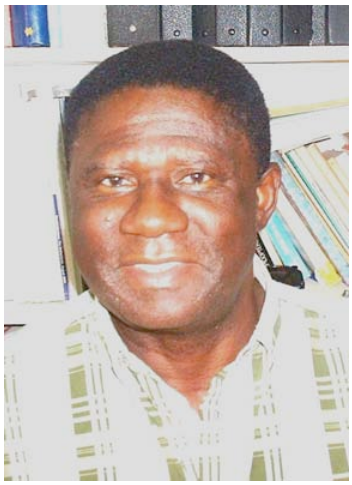
**Memberships:** Society for Invertebrate Pathology, Member; Microbial Control Division; Program Chair, 2001; Member at Large 1996 – 1997.
Brazilian Entomological Society (Sociedade Entomológica do Brasil), 1980 – present.
Latin American Mycological Association, 2003
Brazilian Society of Microbiology, 2001 – present

**Professional Activities:** Post-doctoral Research (Sabbatical), Entomology and Nematology Department, University of Florida, November 2002 – June 2004.
Editorial Board (Biological Control), Neotropical Entomology, 1998 – 2002.
Chief Executive Director - Embrapa Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, Brazil, 2000 – 2001.
Counselor for the Chief Executive Director - Embrapa Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, 1999 – 2000.
Supervisor for the Biological Control Unit - Embrapa Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, 1992 – 1993.
Project Leader - Development of Mycoinsecticides to Control Grasshoppers in Brazil, Embrapa Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, 1994 – 2002.
Project Leader - Dry Mycelium Production to Control Insect Pests, Embrapa Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, 1991 – 1994.
Host-Country Principal Investigator at Embrapa Rice and Beans, Brazil, for a project to develop the microbial control of bean and cowpea pests in Brazil funded by the Cowpea and Bean Research Support Program / Boyce Thompson Institute at Cornell University, 1984 – 1987.

**Interests;** Insect pathology with emphasis in insect mycology aiming the development of mycopesticides. Drying conidial biology and virulence factors of insect fungi. The use of mycopesticides to control grasshoppers and locusts as part of an integrated management system.

**Dr. Nguya K. Maniania**

**Education:** B.Sc. (1971) in Natural Sciences and Geography, Institut Pédagogique National (IPN), Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo; M.Sc. (1974) in Biology, IPN, Université Nationale du Zaïre; Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies (DEA) in Entomology, 1980, Université Paris VI (Pierre and Marie Curie), France; Doctorat 3ème cycle (1983) in Insect Pathology, Université Paris VI; Doctorat de l'Université Paris VI (1991) in Insect Pathology, Université Paris VI.



**Nguya Maniania**

**Experience:** Resident Fellow, INRA, La Minière, France, 1984-1985; Research Associate, European Parasite Laboratory (EPL)/USDA/ARS, Paris, France, 1985-1987; Research Scientist, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Kenya, 1989-present; Lecturer in Insect Pathology, African Regional Postgraduate in Insect Science (Ph.D. degree), ICIPE, 1989-1995; Head of Entomopathology Unit, 1999-present.

**Memberships***:* Society of Invertebrate Pathology, 1986-present; member of Endowment Committee, 1997-1999; member of Endowment Committee and Student Awards Committee, 2000; Member at Large, Microbial Division, 1999-2000; member of Student Awards Committee, 2001-present; New York Academy of Science; African Association of

Insect Scientists, served as Treasurer from 1989-1997; member of Entomological Society of Ontario.

**Interests:** Microbial control of insect pests and disease vectors, interactions insect/plant/pathogen, delivery systems for pathogens.

**Dr. S Patricia Stock**

**Education:** B.Sc. Zoology, 1985, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of La Plata, Argentina.
Ph.D., Natural Sciences (emphasis Parasitology), with honors, 1992, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of La Plata, Argentina.

**Professional Activities**: Editor, Journal of Nematology (2002-present), member of the Editorial Board of Nematologica Mediterranea (Italy, 2000-present); Chair, Nematode Division of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology (2002-present); Society of Nematologists Committees: Entomophilic Nematodes (Chair, 1999-2000, Vice-Chair, 2003-present); Systematic Resources Committee (Member, 2000-2003); Organizer and lecturer of a mobile Latin American course on "Systematics and Biology of Insect Parasitic and Pathogenic Nematodes" (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica) (1998-present); USDA-NRI Reviewer for the Entomology and Nematology Program (2002, 2003); NSF Reviewer for the Biotic Surveys & Inventories and Systematics and Population Biology
Programs (2001, 2002, 2003); Invited Organizer and lecturer of the Entomopathogenic Nematode Symposium, FICN, Tenerife, Canary Island (2002); Invited Organizer and Chair of the Nematode-Bacteria Interactions Symposium, SON, Quebec, Canada (2000); Organizer Entomopathogenic Nematode Symposium, Foz do Iguasu, Brazil (2002); Organizer of the Entomopathogenic Nematode Symposia, Society of Nematologists (1999; 2000; 2001).

**Interests**: My research spans the fields of Nematology, Entomology and Plant Pathology encompassing classical and molecular based systematics, ecology, biodiversity and evolution, and the development of biological control strategies using nematodes to control economically important pests. My laboratory's research interests are: Nematode phylogenetics, including the use of nucleotide sequence data (nuclear and mitochondrial genes) and morphological traits to infer relationships for insect-parasitic, entomopathogenic (EPN) and free-living nematodes. Another area of interest is the biodiversity of nematodes and their role in ecosystem function (multitrophism, role of nematodes in food webs in agricultural and natural systems, EPN-plant parasitic

**Patricia Stock**

nematodes interactions, EPN-plant-pathogens interactions). We are actively engaged in survey and inventory projects in different geographic regions of the world including North, Central and South America, Asia, Africa and Europe). Additionally, we are studying the ecology and genetics of plant-parasitic and entomopathogenic nematode populations from agricultural and natural ecosystems. My laboratory has an active research program on insect pathology and the use of EPN as biological control agents. The overall objectives of this program are to develop entomopathogens as effective biocontrol agents against major agricultural pests, and to develop a basic understanding of the ecology and behavior of insect parasitic nematodes.

**Dr. Zhihong Hu**

**Education:** B.Sc. in Science, 1986. Department of Virology and Molecular Biology, Wuhan University, Wuhan 430000, P.R. China
M.Sc. in Science 1989, majoring in Virology, Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wuhan, 430071. Thesis title: Plaque assay of *Buzura suppressaria* nuclear polyhedrosis virus
Ph.D. in Science 1998, majoring in Virology, Department of Virology, Agricultural University, Binnenhaven 11, 6709 PD Wageningen, the

Netherlands. Thesis title: Characterization of the *Buzura suppressaria* single-nucleocapsid nucleopolyhedrovirus genome: a (phylo)genetic study.

**Zhihong (Rose) Hu**

**Employment record and research experience:**
Assistant professor 1992-1994
Associate professor 1994-1997
Professor 1997-present
Director general: 2000-present

Present position: Professor; Director General of Wuhan Institute of Virology; project leader, and director for the Key Laboratory of Molecular Virology, Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.
Since 1989, she has been employed by Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences and has been the project leader of about 20 projects on virology. Her research experience is mainly on the virology of baculovirus.

**International Research Experience:** 1993-1994:
Postdoc; Department of Virology, Agricultural University, Binnenhaven 11, 6709 PD Wageningen, the Netherlands.
1995-1996: Visiting scientist; Department of Virology, Agricultural University, Binnenhaven 11, 6709 PD Wageningen, the Netherlands
1997-1998: Visiting scientist; Department of Virology, Agricultural University, Binnenhaven 11, 6709 PD Wageningen, the Netherlands
2001-2001: Visiting scientist; Laboratory of Molecular Virology, Great Lakes Forest Center, 1219 Queen St. E., Sault Ste. Marie, ON. P6A 2E5, Canada

She has published more than 50 peer-reviewed papers and several invited chapters.

## MEMBER NEWS

**Pam Marrone & Bob Granados**
**Award Winners**

### Two SIP Members Receive UC Davis College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Award of Distinction

Dr. Robert (Bob) Granados, Boyce Thompson Institute, Ithaca, New York and Dr. Pamela Marrone, President and CEO, Agraquest Inc., Davis, California received the highest honor bestowed by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of the University of California, Davis, the College Award of Distinction. At the Annual Harvest Festival on November 14, 2003, Dr. Granados, who received his undergraduate education at UC Davis, was recognized for his many significant contributions in basic and applied virology and his pioneering research in insect tissue culture. Dr. Marrone was recognized for her distinguish service and support to the College and University and to California agriculture. She serves in many different capacities and provides leadership to the university community. Dean Neal Van Alfen presented the awards to Dr. Granados and Dr. Marrone. There was a reception for previous and current awardees

before the ceremony, followed by the formal award ceremony, and then a post award wine tasting reception for the awardees and guests.

**Bob Granados receives the Award of Distinction from Dr. Celeste Rose (left), Vice Chancellor of University Relations, and Dr. Neal Van Alfen (right), Dean of the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences.**

## OBITUARIES

Dr. Patrick V. Vail died on Sunday, February 8, 2004. Dr. Vail was the Director of the USDA-Agricultural Research Service's Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory, Parlier, California, from 1982 until he retired in February of 2003. Pat received his BA and MS degrees from California State University, Fresno, and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside in 1967, and was among the first graduate students in Entomology. Pat had been with the USDA since 1962.

Pat was a nationally and internationally recognized authority in the fields of entomology, insect pathology, microbial control of production and post-harvest pests, entomogenous viruses, mass rearing, in vivo virus production, basic insect biology, pest management, and insect ecology. He personally conducted research on alternative methods of insect control such as induced sterility, pheromones, and cultural practices as they might be used in pest management systems in pre- or post-harvest situations. He discovered the nucleopolyhedrovirus isolated from the alfalfa looper in 1966 while a staff member of the USDA-ARS Boyden Entomology Laboratory on the U.C. Riverside campus. His research on this virus changed classical views about the specificity of baculoviruses. He also developed in vitro methods for its production and plaque assay. The virus is used in agriculture research and as an expression vector for the production of unique biologically active compounds of importance to human and veterinary medicine and biology. Gross annual revenues from the baculovirus based expression system exceed $1 billion dollars annually.

Pat was a research scientist and program manager, serving as a Research Leader and Laboratory Director at several ARS locations during the 41 years of his professional career. He published over 200 articles in scientific journals and other media. Pat provided technical leadership for complex, comprehensive and productive research programs on vegetable, cotton, and post-harvest insects (fresh fruits and vegetables and dried fruits and nuts). Under his direction and leadership, outstanding accomplishments and progress were made in developing new non-chemical alternatives for insect control in both the pre- and post-harvest areas. Pat served as head of the Insect and Pest Control Section of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, Austria, from 1975-78 with responsibilities for Agency tsetse fly and tropical fruit fly programs.

Pat was often invited to present the results of his research, as well as provide technical advice regarding the needs, development and initiation of research programs by international organizations,

such as the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency and Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology in Nairobi, as well as the Entomological Society of America (national and branch), American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Science Foundation, U.S.-Israeli Binational Agreement for Research and Development, industry and private agricultural groups, commodity marketing orders, Environmental Protection Agency, USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Energy, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Defense, National Cotton Council and Cotton Incorporated, post-harvest groups, and universities. Pat held many positions in regional and national societies and was the President of the Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America in 1989. In 1992, Dr. Vail was one of three USDA scientists to be assigned to the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).

Pat was the instrumental force in gaining support of the agricultural community for the new ARS San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center as well as the construction of the 80,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility. He saw his dream of a new Center come to fruition in 2001 when the laboratory on Peach Avenue was closed and moved into the new facility in Parlier.

For his efforts on behalf of research and agriculture, Pat received the USDA-ARS Distinguished Scientist of the Year Award in 1995 for first isolating and then conducting basic and applied research on a virus exceedingly important to insect pathology/ microbial control, genetic engineering, and human and veterinary medicine and the United Nations Environmental Programme Certificate of Appreciation in 1995. In 1996 he received the United States Department of Agriculture Award for Personal and Professional Excellence for "Sustained international contributions to entomology, insect pathology/microbial control, and human and veterinary medicine" from the Secretary of Agriculture. In 1997 Pat received the School of Natural Sciences Distinguished Scholar Award from California State University, Fresno. As a member of The Japan Varietal Testing World Trade Organization Group, Pat received the Secretary of Agriculture's Honor Award for Personal and Professional Excellence for exceptional performance, creativity, and perseverance in successfully challenging, in the World Trade Organization, Japan's long-standing varietal testing trade restrictions, June 1999.

In his spare time, Pat enjoyed traveling with his wife Susan, and visiting his three daughters who live in Miami, Lake Tahoe and Los Angeles. Pat was well known for his excellent tennis prowess, fishing, and construction of large-scale radio controlled airplanes. He will also always be remembered for his dry wit and optimistic outlook on life.

Services were held at the Newman Center at Fresno State on Thursday, February 12, 2004. Remembrances may be sent to: Cancer Center, Saint Agnes, c/o The Foundation, 1111 East Spruce, Fresno, CA 93720 and the Hines Hospice, 1616 West Shaw, Suite B6, Fresno, CA 93711.

*Antoinette A. Betschart*
*Director, Pacific West Area*
*USDA/ARS*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Student Affairs Committee Debut**

The 2003 Annual Meeting of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology in Burlington, Vermont, under a directive handed down from the SIP Council, brought about the formation of the Student Affairs Committee. This newsletter is an excellent forum to introduce the seven members of this committee: Christina Campbell (Microsporidia), Serafin Gutierrez and Claire Nixon (Virus), Claudia Dolores Perez Ortega (Bacteria), Ernst Jan Scholte (Fungi), Heather Smith (Nematode), Todd Ugine (Chair, Microbial Control) as well as our newly appointed faculty advisor Dr. John Vandenberg. We'd like to share with you the committee's Mission Statement and welcome students to contact the committee to voice ideas and concerns on how we might best serve them. With monetary support from the SIP Council, we are planning activities for the upcoming SIP meeting in Helsinki.

Mission Statement

The Student Affairs Committee exists to address the concerns of the student body to the Executive Committee, to nurture strong student-faculty and student-student relationships, and to promote the importance of students in their role as the future of Society of Invertebrate Pathology.

If you are a member of the Society and know of a current or potential student member, please share with them a copy of this newsletter. To contact the committee, send email correspondences to tau2@cornell.edu.

*Todd A. Ugine*
*Student Affairs Committee Chair*

**Nematode Course: Biology, Ecology and Systematics of Insect Parasitic Nematodes. An Alternative for IPM of Agricultural and Urban Pests,** San Jose, Costa Rica - March 23 to 27, 2004

The course will be taught in Spanish at the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology (IBCM), Universidad de Costa Rica from March 23 to 27, 2004.

Details on course agenda, registration fee, lodging, and other aspects related to the course will soon be posted. If you are interest in attending this course please contact local organizer and coordinator, Lorena Uribe-Lorio at lorenau@cariari.ucr.ac.cr or Patricia Stock at spstock@ag.arizona.edu or visit Dr. Stock's website for updates (http://ag.arizona.edu/PLP/faculty/stock.html).

Maximum number of participants: 25

El curso sera dictado en Espanol en el Instituto de Biologia Celular y Molecular (IBCM) de la Universidad de Costa Rica del 23 al 27 de Marzo, 2004.

Detalles sobre la programacion del curso, arancel, alojamiento y otros aspectos referentes a este curso seran actualizados en breve. Si ud. esta interesado en participar por favor contacte la organizadora local, Lorena Uribe-Lorio ( lorenau@cariari.ucr.ac.cr) o Patricia Stock (spstock@ag.arizona.edu) o viste el website de la Dra. Stock (http://ag.arizona.edu/PLP/faculty/stock.html).

Cupo maximo de participantes: 25 personas.

**Midwest Institute of Biological Control: Insect Pathology Short Course**

The Midwest Institute for Biological Control will hold a short course on Insect Pathology June 28-July 1, 2004 at the University of Illinois. The course will summarize the infectious diseases of insects including the bacteria, fungi, nematodes, protists, and viruses. The morphological, biological and pathological features of these organisms will be covered, as well as their use and potential for use in biological control/IPM programs. Live materials will be available for laboratory sessions and participants will learn diagnostic techniques for each pathogen group. We will also cover microbial control, epizootiology, and diseases of beneficial insects.

The course instructors will be Dr. Rich Humber (USDA/ARS, Ithaca, NY), Dr. Lerry Lacey (USDA-ARS, Yakima, WA) and Dr. Lee Solter (Illinois Natural History Survey/University of Illinois). For maximum benefit to participants, course enrollment is limited to 20. Registration will be $150 for university students and $300 for non-students, including post-doctoral researchers. Rooms will be available on campus at a daily rate of approximately $23.50 per person/double and $36.15 per person/single; other options will be included with the registration packets. A "Ladybird Scholarship" will be made available to one university student, which will cover costs of registration and on-campus shared double room. More information about this scholarship will be included with registration packets, which will be available approximately April 1, 2004.

Inquiries should be addressed to Dr. Lee Solter, Illinois Natural History Survey, 140 NSRC, 1101 W. Peabody Dr., Urbana, IL 61801, ph. (217) 244-5047, messages: ph. (217)-333-6656, fax (217) 333-4949, Email: lsolter@uiuc.edu

**International Course: Application Of Biological Control In Agriculture, Sevilla, March 11-12, 2004**

Many fungi, nematodes and insects are pests of plants causing severe damage to crops. Many agrochemicals used to control these organisms have created resistance in the populations of plant pests and pathogens, resulting in decreased control efficiency. These chemicals, which are used to control plant pests and diseases in our fields and glasshouses, are often toxic compounds causing both environmental and health problems. Several of these compounds have been banned in many countries and the current process of phasing out the ozone-depleting substance, methyl bromide, which is used as a fumigant to control fungi, nematode and insect crop problems, will increase the problems their targets cause in agriculture. Therefore, the possibility to use microorganisms for

non-hazardous biological control of plant pests and diseases should be encouraged. To be able to use nematophagous fungi for biocontrol on a larger scale we need to increase our research efforts to learn more about the life of these organisms, and their interactions with nematodes, plants and other soil organisms, on ecological as well as cellular and molecular levels. In the present Course we will review and discuss some of the recognized research that has been performed on biocontrol agents. Based on recent discoveries the invited speakers will also propose the best ways of biocontrol application in the different agronomic models.

The Course is prepared for students, specialists and professionals related with biology and agronomy of cultivated plants: Agronomists, Forestry experts, Biologists, Biotechnologists, Biochemists, Microbiologists, Pharmacists and Environment experts.
Contact:
Curso Internacional Biocontrol
Instituto de Estudios El Monte
Hacienda Cartuja – Avda. del Aljarafe s/n
41940 Tomares (Sevilla)
Teléfono: 954 890300; Fax: 954 890303
Email: ieje@elmonte.es; www.institutoelmonte.com

## MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

***Moving??***

Please prepare a paragraph including information about past and present postings, new address, telephone, fax and email address and send to your Newsletter Editor for inclusion in the Move Section in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Please also inform the SIP Office of your new address. The address of the Office is also found on page 2.

Xiao-Wen Cheng accepted a faculty position in the Department of Microbiology, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio in July of 2003. He continues to work on insect viruses as his research area, although he now has a 40% teaching assignment in Virology and Molecular Biology. His new contact information is:
Xiao-Wen Cheng
Assistant Professor
Department of Microbiology
32 Pearson Hall
Miami University
Oxford Ohio 45056 USA
Tel. 513-529-5429
Fax. 513-529-2431
Email: chengx@muohio.edu

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**Post-doctoral position** available immediately for an individual to (1) study pathogenesis of *Metarhizium anisopliae* in insects (2) genetics of conidiation in *Metarhizium*. Expertise in molecular biology, in vitro mutagenesis, PCR-based methods and good knowledge of insect biochemistry are required. Salary will be commensurate with training and experience. Duration is approximately 2 years. There is also an added opportunity for teaching microbiology in the biology department. Contact information for applicants: Please send curriculum vitae, summary of research interests and names and e-mail address of three references to:
Dr. Michael J Bidochka
Department of Biology
Brock University
St. Catharines, Ontario
Canada L2S 3A1
Email: bidochka@brocku.ca

**Supervisory Research: Entomologist/ Chemist (Biochemist) /Ecologist/ Physiologist/ (Research Leader)**GS-14/15. The United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, is recruiting a Research Leader for the Biological Control of Insects Research Laboratory at Columbia, Missouri. As Research Leader, the incumbent will be responsible for planning and directing long-range research programs and projects, managing finances, human resources, equipment/facilities; interaction with agency administrators and cooperators at universities and industry. The incumbent will also conduct personal research in which molecular, biochemical, physiological, microbiological, genetic, genomic/and or behavioral approaches will contribute to the knowledge of insect nutrition and immunity, insect/pathogen interactions, plant/insect/insect interactions and/or insect ecology. As Research Leader, the incumbent will provide supervision to a small staff of scientists and

support personnel. A Ph.D. is preferred. U. S. citizenship is required. Salary is commensurate with experience ($79,344-$121,330 per annum). Comprehensive benefits packages include paid sick and vacation leave, life and health insurance, and a savings and investment plan (401 K type) are available in addition to the federal retirement plan. A full copy of the vacancy announcement (#ARS-X4W-0086) is available on the ARS website at www.ars.usda.gov/careers. Applications must be postmarked by March 29, 2004. USDA, ARS is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Contact information for applicants: For information on the research program and/or position contact Dr. Arthur McIntosh (Tel. 573 875-5361 Ext. 222) or via e-mail at mcintosha@missouri.edu.

**Postdoctoral position** available in pathobiology laboratory dealing with oysters. Responsibilities will include identifying and isolating genes of oyster host defense proteins recently purified in our laboratory, characterizing their expressions and assessing their roles in oyster disease resistance. A background in invertebrate immunology is preferred and experience with a broad range of techniques in cellular and molecular biology is required.
Contact information for applicants: To apply submit a letter of application, CV, description of your technical expertise and the names of three references to:
Dr. Jerome F. La Peyre
Cooperative Aquatic Animal Health Research Program
Department of Veterinary Science
111 Dalrymple Building
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

**M.Sc. Student Opportunities.** We are looking for 2 students interested in insects and insect diseases. The research done for the M.Sc. degree will be part of a larger, Canada-wide program under the Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, Improving Farming Systems and Practices Initiative (IFSP) Pesticide Risk Reduction Program. The target pests are root weevils in strawberries. One student under the supervision of Doug Strongman (SMU) will determine levels of indigenous disease in root weevil species and assess the potential of biocontrol agents for control of the pests. This person should have some background in either entomology, mycology, or both. A second student will work on some aspect of weevil life history so should have some entomology background. Kenna MacKenzie (AAFC, Kentville) will supervise this project. The stipend is $16,000 per year for 2 years with the opportunity to supplement this (up to $17,300) with teaching assistantships in the department and graduate scholarships.
Contact information for applicants: The work will start in May, 2004 so send a CV and copy of a transcript to Dr. D.B. Strongman, Biology Department, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS Canada, B3H 3C3 (or by email) as soon as possible. We will accept applications until the positions are filled. Inquiries: Email: Doug.strongman@smu.ca or MackenzieK@agr.gc.ca

**Chair, Department of Plant and Soil Science, The University of Vermont.** The University of Vermont (UVM) seeks a Chair of the Department of Plant and Soil Science (PSS) in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with an academic appointment as Associate or Full Professor with tenure. Candidates must have a doctorate degree in plant science, a nationally recognized research program, record of scholarly achievement, commitment to undergraduate and graduate education, and strong communication and administrative skills. Full information about the position can be found at http://www.uvm.edu/~pss/

Applications, including a letter describing the individual's qualifications, a curriculum vitae (with research funding history and scholarly accomplishments), and names of five references (with contact information), should be sent by March 15, 2004 to:
Dr. Thomas C. Vogelmann
Chair, Search Committee for the PSS Chair
C/o Dean's Office, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
The University of Vermont
Morrill Hall
Burlington, VT 05405
Phone 802-656-0422
Email: Thomas.Vogelmann@uvm.edu

The University of Vermont is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

## POSITIONS WANTED

**Postdoc in Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Virology**. I am a Ph.D. just graduated from Dept. Biotechnology, College of Life Sciences, Wuhan University, P.R. China. For my M.S. degree, I focused on the transferring of the insecticidal gene of *Bacillus thuringiensis* to other species. For my Ph.D. programme, I studied the interaction of baculovirus capsid protein with its host cellular factors. I am familiar with cell culture, cDNA library, Bac-to-Bac system, yeast two hybrid system, expressing and purifying proteins from E. coli, yeast or insect cells, constructing the recombinant through homologous recombination. I have an overall understanding of modern molecular biology and immunology as I teach Molecular Biology and Immunology to the undergraduate students of Wuhan University independently.

Contact Information: Songya Lu
Email: lvsy68@sina.com.cn

## FUTURE MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

**2004 Annual Meeting of the Society of Protozoologists, June 2-6, 2004**
The 56th Annual Meeting of the Society of Protozoologists will be held at Bryant College, Smithfield Rhode Island, June 2-6, 2004. Details for the meeting, including registration, travel, and housing will be posted on the SOP website http://www.uga.edu/~protozoa/ and distributed by e-mail over the coming months. We do NOT plan to mail hardcopy material by postal service, so check the Society website for updates.

Our goal is to develop an outstanding program of symposia, special lectures, presentations, and activities, while keeping meeting costs affordable. Low-cost housing will be available on the Bryant Campus and reasonably priced motels are situated nearby. The campus is about 20 minutes north of Providence, RI and about one hour south of Boston, MA. Providence airport is served by many airlines, including Southwest, and is a short (~30 min) drive from the Bryant Campus.

We anticipate the meeting will give broad coverage of protists (phototrophs and heterotrophs alike) and plan to feature special platform sessions to address selected topics in protistology. If you have ideas for topics or wish to organize one of these sessions, please contact the program chair, Wayne Coats. If you would like to help with meeting arrangements, please contact the local organizer, Gaytha Langlois.
Contact Information:
D. Wayne Coats, SOP 2004 Program Chair
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
P.O. Box 28
Edgewater, MD 21037
Ph: 443-482-2271
Fax: 443-482-2380
coats@serc.si.edu
http://www.serc.si.edu

**IOBC, Trentino, Italy, June 9-13, 2004**
Following the meeting of the Phytopathogens Working Group in Kusadasi in 2002 and the meeting of the Temperate Climate Working Group in Victoria BC in 2002, and in cooperation with the Protected Crops Mediterranean Working Group, we will organize a meeting in S. Michele, Trentino, Italy. Phytopathology and entomology colleagues from S. Michael all'Adige will organize the meeting, which will take place in a research center that is equipped with all necessary facilities. S. Michele all'Adige is situated in Northern Italy, in the foothills of the Dolomites, easily is accessed from outside Italy.

The theme of the workshop will be: Management of plant diseases and arthropod pests by BCAs and their integration in agricultural systems. This theme necessitates that all papers and discussions focus on systems where at least one microbial BCA or other alternative means for disease control is involved. The aim is to encourage the discussion between entomologists and plant pathologists. In order to fill gaps that are evident in the field of true integrated disease and pest management, significant time will be devoted to discussions on integration, holistic approaches and gaps in information and knowledge. As in the past, we will publish proceedings with short papers of the presentations in the frame of the IOBC/WPRS Bulletin.
Inquiries:
Scientific program- Dr. Ilaria Pertot:
ilaria.pertot@ismaa.it
General- Dr. Yigal Elad: clady@volcani.agri.gov.il

Local arrangements: Evita Bondi, Trentino Holidays: evita@thol.it

**Apply Now For The 2004 IOBC-NRS Student Award**

The Nearctic Regional Section of the International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC) presented its second annual award for Outstanding Graduate Student in Biological Control to Jonathan Lundgren of the University of Illinois in 2003. Now is the time for you- or your promising graduate student(s)- to apply for the 2004 award. The recipient will be recognized at the IOBC NRS Informal Conference held at the Annual Entomological Society of America meeting at Salt Lake Utah, USA next November. The awardee will receive a cash award of $250, and will give the lead talk in the IOBC-NRS symposium during that meeting. (The symposium will concern "Emerging Issues in the Biological Control of Aphids," but a student's research does not have to concern that insect to qualify for the award.) Many invertebrate pathology projects *do* qualify as biological control.

All individuals who are enrolled in a graduate program and are members of the IOBC-NRS at the time of the application deadline are eligible. Students may join IOBC-NRS at the time of submitting their application (dues are $15); for more details see the
Web site at
http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/iobc/nrs.htm
Students who are not planning to attend the Entomological Society of America Meetings would ordinarily be less likely to be considered for the award.

Also, while Ph.D. students nearing completion may be more likely to be able to demonstrate scholarship and achievement than M.S. students, promising M.S. students are also encouraged to apply.

The deadline for the application is April 1, 2004. Please:

- send a letter that details the significance of your research and its relevance to biological control;
- include a 2 page CV that includes contact information, education, honors & awards, presentations, and publications; and
- ask 2 referees to send letters of reference to Dr. Rob Wiedenmann, President-Elect IOBC-NRS, at the email address below..

We also ask that you confirm your plans to attend the Ent. Soc. meeting in Salt Lake City in November 2004 in your letter. To facilitate sharing of applications among the Student Award Committee members, we ask that you send the documents as Microsoft Word attachments to <rnwieden@uiuc.edu>. A decision will be made and the recipient notified in time for the recipients' talk title and abstract to be entered in the ESA online submission system.

**August 7-11, 2004. Annual Meeting, Society Of Nematologists**

Estes Park, CO, USA.
Contact: SON, PO Box 311, Marceline, MO 64658, USA. Email: SON@mcmsys.com. Fax/phone: 1-660-256-3252.
Web: http://www.nematologists.org/annualmeeting

**NATO Advanced Research Workshop: First Workshop on Microsporidia from Invertebrate and Vertebrate Hosts**, **July 12-15, 2004** in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic. The goal of the workshop is a wide exchange of scientific information on Microsporidia, intracellular protists that have recently attracted attention in view of their assignment to fungi, and their association with immunosuppressed humans. This workshop will be the first to bring together insect pathologists, fish and human parasitologists, and molecular and cell biologists who study Microsporidia in Europe, Mediterranean countries, Russia, Canada, and USA. Please, send the registration form
(http://www.paru.cas.cz/microsporidiaworkshop/)
to Oleg Ditrich as soon as possible. Decisions about the registration fees and individual travel grants for participants from NATO Partner States and a limited number of the invited speakers will be made dependently on the information obtained from your registrations forms.

IMPORTANT DATES: Final registration: February 29, 2004 [note: this is earlier than the website indicates]; abstract submission deadline: May 31, 2004. Information about working aims, tentative program, call of abstracts, members of the local and international organizing committee, costs and more conference details you can find on the website. Looking forward to seeing you all in Prague in July 2004!

*Yuliya Sokolova, PhD*
*Meeting Co-Director*
*Laboratory for Microbial Control*
*All-Russia Institute for Plant Protection,*
*St. Petersburg, Russia*

## Future SIP Meetings

*SIP 2004!!*
Helsinki, Finland
August 1-6

Joint Nordic Meeting

SIP 2005
Anchorage, Alaska
August 7-11

SIP 2006
Wuhan, China

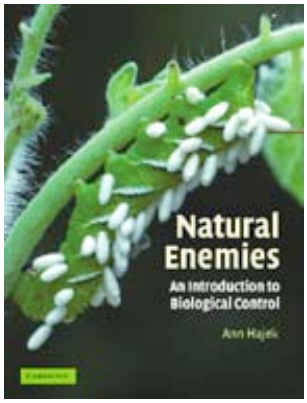
**August 15-21, 2004. 22nd International Congress Of Entomology**, "Strength in Diversity"
Brisbane, Australia
Contact: Carillon Conf. Mgmt., PO Box 177, Red Hill, QLD 4059, Australia.
Fax: 61-7-3369-3931.
Email: ICE2004ccm.com.au.
Phone: 61-7-3368-2644.
Web: http://www.ICE2004.org

## PUBLICATIONS

**Natural Enemies: An Introduction to Biological Control. 2004, by Ann Hajek**
**Cambridge University Press**
**ISBN 0521653851 (paperback $50)**
**ISBN 0521653852 (hardback $110)**
**394 pp.**

A note from the author:
Since 1997, I have been teaching an introductory course on biological control for non-major undergraduates. Over time, many entomology majors have also taken the course. I've consistently had good enrollment in the course, ranging from 25-45 each time it has been taught, with students coming from a diversity of majors. I have been frustrated by lack of an appropriate up-to-date book on biological control to use for this course, so I've now written a book for this purpose. It was published by Cambridge University Press in February and the paperback version will cost $50. The book covers the major strategies used in biological control; different types of natural enemies used for biological control of invertebrates; vertebrates, weeds and plant pathogens; and the ecological underpinnings behind each type of biological control. My philosophy in coverage of topics was to cover all subdisciplines and demonstrate the breadth and diversity within field of biological control. Insect pathologists would want to know that the different groups of arthropod pathogens are covered individually to enlighten readers about uses of pathogens for pest control. Non-target issues are discussed along with present day use of biological control and integration of biological control with other pest management strategies. Throughout the book, specific examples and case studies from around the world are provided. The book includes many illustrations, graphs and tables, along with selected references for further reading at the end of each of the 19 chapters. I believe that the best way to expand and strengthen biological control is to teach a broad audience about this field so I hope that you will put this book to good use.

*Ann E. Hajek, Department of Entomology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-0901*
*aeh4@cornell.edu, (607) 254-4902*



### *Book Reviews for the SIP Newsletter*

If you would like to have your book reviewed or if you would like to review a book, please contact our book review editor:

Dr. James Becnel, USDA/ARS,
CMAVE
P.O. Box 14565
Gainesville, FL 32604 USA
Tel. (352) 374-5961
Fax. (352) 374-5966
e-mail:
jbecnel@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu

## MICROBIAL CONTROL NEWS

**Initiative Opens Access to Literature**

A decades-long struggle by thousands of researchers, academics, and students in many developing countries to gain access to the world's current scientific literature has significantly lessened with creation of a recently announced new multi-partner international initiative.

The Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) initiative was established to provide free or low-cost access to over 400 key journals in agriculture, food, nutrition, and related biological, environmental, and social sciences to researchers and students in qualifying not-for-profit institutions in eligible developing nations.

Information at the easily navigated and attractive AGORA website http://www.aginternetwork.org/en/ (available in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish) directs users to policy details for eligibility, registration, and privacy, as well as a listing of participating publishers and partnering agencies. Clicking on "journals" leads to an extensive list of journals that can be browsed.

While AGORA--a global partnership recently announced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations--is clearly a huge step forward, it is limited to those journals (and their issues) that are online, and obviously it requires that users have access to both a computer and the worldwide web.

*IPMnet NEWS - December 2003 - Issue 120*

## ERRATA

Reju D' Cunha, a winner of the Microbial Control Travel Award, noted that he earned his M.S. degree in 1998, not 1988 as listed in the November 2003 Newsletter.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

As we go to press with the February issue, we are introducing the new SIP logo in the header of the Newsletter. This is quite exciting because the Newsletter is one of the most frequent and conspicuous uses for a bold new design. We are thus faced with making some artistic and formatting decisions: Color or black & white? What font would be most appropriate and best emphasize the design? How should the heading be arranged and what information should it contain? (And, no, we will not plagiarize "All the News Fit to Print"!).

What this means is that you may see a few different attempts to create an appropriate heading for our newsletter. Please bear with us, and feel free to contact any of us with your comments and suggestions.

*Lee Solter*
*Gernot Hoch*
*Vince D'Amico*

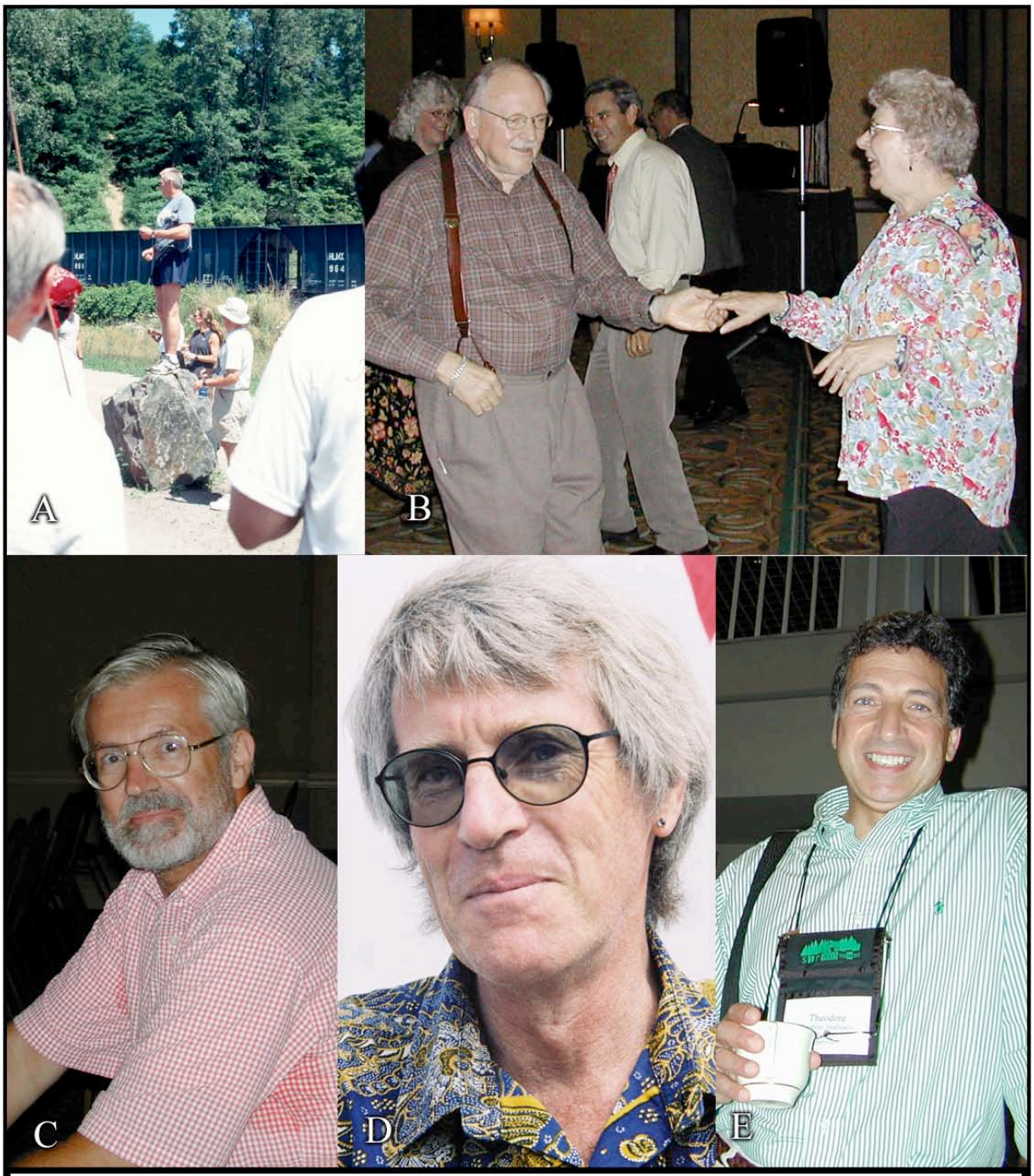
### *Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues for 2004*

To ensure that your membership remains current and that you continue receiving the Newsletter, please return your dues notice with payment or access the web site for online dues payment. Please contact the SIP Executive Secretary if you have questions or need information about payment. (See Page 2 for addresses.)

The New Logo!!!



Thanks and congratulations to artist Yayan Anugrawan of Canberra, Australia for providing the winning design.




(A) At the races and on the rocks. (B) Don and Mae Roberts cutting up the rug after the banquet. (C) Ron Weseloh (D) Vaguely "rock star" in aspect, a raffish Dave Moore. (E) A hypercaffeinated and smiling Ted Andreadis.


(A) Greg Dwyer and John Burand. (B) Trouble may be "brewing", two-fisted style. (C) Mickey, Lee, and Jim; comrades-in-arms. (D) Don Roberts and Max Bergoin. (E) Charlotte Nielsen speaks and Houping Liu listens. (F) A classic *and* classical Bonifacio Magalhaes.