

**APS Pacific Division
Report to Council
February 2006
Gary Grove, Councilor**

The Pacific Division held its 2005 meeting in conjunction with the Soil Fungus Conference. The 2005 conference occurred at the Portland Hilton and Executive Towers in downtown Portland during the last week of June. About 90 people were in attendance. The meeting consisted of several well-attended paper sessions and a powdery mildew workshop. The workshop was organized by Gary Grove and was attended by over 40 individuals.

Lyndon Porter of the USDA-ARS in Prosser, WA was elected President of the division. Other division officers are Mike Yoshimura (Treasurer), Gary Grove (Councilor), and Barry Jacobsen (outgoing President). Ellen Bentley agreed to assume editorial responsibilities for the division newsletter.

Future meeting sites were discussed. The 2006 meeting will be held in Boise, ID during the week of June 12. The 2007 meeting will be held in conjunction with the national meeting in San Diego. Pacific and Caribbean Division officers are discussing a joint meeting in 2008. Possible venues include Guam and Grand Cayman.

Elsa Petit, Jose Ramon, and David Doll, all of UC-Davis, won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the Student Paper Competition, respectively. Travel Awards were presented to Elsa Petit of UC Davis and Loukas Kanetis of UC-Riverside. Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Bill Brown, Mike Matheron, Pete Bristow and Doug Gubler. The retirements of Pete Bristow, John Menge, and Pete Thomas were announced.

Those present at the business meeting expressed strong support for several APS initiatives. Among them were the Plant Management Network, open journal access, suspension of the DeBary Bowl, activities of PPB, and the digitization and cross-referencing of APS with other journals. The issue of maintaining our membership numbers was on everyone's mind. In the Pacific Division there has been a noticeable reduction in the number of "practical" plant pathologists and private sector plant pathologists. These demographic changes have the potential to negatively affect division and national membership. The other issues discussed were the editorial policies of APS journals, particularly *Phytopathology*. Strong support was voiced for *Plant Disease* and *Plant Health Progress* and for the overall "electronic" efforts of headquarters. Members indicated that despite a significant improvement during the tenure of EIC Chris Mundt, the editorial policies of *Phytopathology* were still plagued by a "culture of rejection". Many attendees indicated a desire to attract non- (and perhaps future) members to division meetings. Workshops and field tours focused on local plant health issues were identified as possible means to accomplish this.

