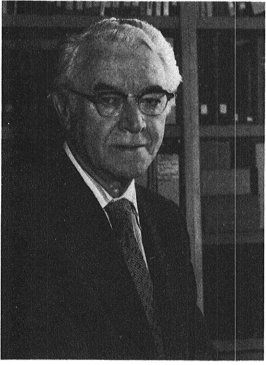


Charles Joseph Nusbaum, 1906–1987

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Charles Joseph Nusbaum, William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, died in Raleigh on 1 September 1987. Although he retired in 1973, he was an active participant in the Plant Pathology Department and scientific community until shortly before his death. His professional contributions, spanning more than five decades, included innovative research on numerous crops, distinguished graduate teaching, and active

participation in the development of outstanding extension and general university programs.

Dr. Nusbaum (Joe) was born in Salem, Oregon, on 24 August 1906. He was awarded the B.S. degree in 1929 from Oregon State College. From 1927 to 1930, he was a field research assistant, Division of Forest Pathology, United States Department of Agriculture. His graduate research on resistance in apple to *Gymnosporangium* was directed by Dr. G. W. Keitt at the University of Wisconsin, where he received the M.S. degree in 1931 and the Ph.D. in 1934.

After a 2-yr postdoctoral research appointment at Wisconsin, Dr. Nusbaum joined the faculty of Clemson Agricultural College. As a plant pathologist at the Edisto Experiment Station, Blackville, SC, he made significant contributions concerning the etiology and control of cucurbit and sweet potato diseases. During the years of World War II, he also served as an informal agricultural adviser to growers, industry, and the general public in South Carolina. His discovery of internal cork disease of sweet potato in the widely planted cultivar Porto Rico in the mid-1940s led to extensive research on virus diseases and breeding for disease resistance in this crop.

Upon moving to North Carolina in 1948, Dr. Nusbaum initiated research on several devastating diseases of tobacco. These maladies often had a complex etiology, and this led Dr. Nusbaum to recognize the importance of nematodes as plant pathogens. As a result, during a period when plant nematology was in its infancy, he became a competent, self-educated nematologist. Information developed by Dr. Nusbaum, incorporated with a legislatively funded pilot assay program, led to the establishment of a statewide nematode advisory service now operated by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Much of his research focused on cropping systems, related population dynamics of nematodes, and crop yields based on various sequences of crops involving tobacco, cotton, corn, peanut, sweet potato, and fescue integrated with numerous cultural and nematicide treatments. Data from these experiments provided a significant contribution to the concept of integrated pest management in the 1960s and provided a foundation for effective disease management practices. Dr. Nusbaum had a unique and special talent for developing an overview of complex etiological and ecological relationships involving numerous plant pathogens in the natural environment. His interests and reputation resulted in an appointment as visiting scientist at Rothamsted in 1966. While abroad, he visited the Institute for Phytopathological Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands, and attended the

International Tobacco Congress at Athens, Greece.

Dr. Nusbaum excelled as a classroom teacher and student adviser. For some 30 years, he taught the principles and concepts of science and plant pathology to graduate students. His classes were structured to stimulate maximum thought and participation by the student. Dr. Nusbaum's philosophy of graduate education embraced the idea that students and professor shared mutual learning experiences through which both benefited. His ability to integrate the lessons of the past with updated knowledge in plant pathology and related disciplines made his classes an exciting and rewarding experience. He directed the graduate research of some 25 M.S. and Ph.D. students.

His reputation as an able teacher and resource person extended far beyond the classroom and laboratory. He became a role model for many young scientists because of his research aptitude, pleasing personality, and unusual intellect. His beautiful drawings of diseased apple tissues were displayed for many years by Mr. Eugene Herrling, departmental photographer at Wisconsin, as an example to be emulated by graduate students. He was often the center of small group discussions that might continue for hours. Younger faculty, for whom he informally served as an effective mentor, were usually included. Moreover, his advice was actively sought throughout his career by growers, extension agents, research colleagues, and the administration.

In addition to his teaching and research, he served on numerous college and university committees, and was Interim Head of Plant Pathology during 1949–1950. Dr. Nusbaum was recognized for his scholarship and scientific excellence in many special ways. These include: William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professorship, 1956; president, Gamma Sigma Delta, 1958; president, Sigma Xi, 1959; Sigma Xi lecturer, 1960; Award of Merit, Gamma Sigma Delta, 1967; Man of the Year, Tobacco International, 1981; fellow, American Phytopathological Society, 1975; and honorary member, Society of Nematologists, 1983.

Charles Joseph Nusbaum and Virginia Lee Troutman were married on 17 September 1932 and enjoyed 55 years together. After moving to Raleigh, they soon developed familylike ties with the Plant Pathology faculty, students, and staff at North Carolina State College. As a result of this relationship and their desire to contribute to the future generations of plant pathologists, they established the Charles J. and Virginia Lee Nusbaum endowment for the Department of Plant Pathology in 1976. Income from this endowment sponsors a biennial Nusbaum Symposium, which addresses critical issues of our discipline, provides supplements to assistantships awarded to outstanding applicants, and recognizes the Ph.D. graduate with the outstanding dissertation in the department each year.

All of his many friends and associates valued and appreciated Dr. Nusbaum's contagious enthusiasm for learning. A man of unusual scholarship who espoused the finer things of life, he enjoyed music, was a serious student of history, philosophy, religion, and literature, and was also a talented artist and illustrator. An avid sports fan, Dr. Nusbaum's knowledge and recollection of athletes and their performances was phenomenal. A faithful member of the West Raleigh Presbyterian Church, he enjoyed teaching the Men's Bible Class for many years. He will be remembered as a truly distinguished colleague whose scholarly influence will live on in the lives of his many students, associates, and friends.