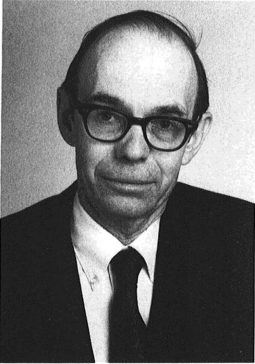


Willard Kendall Wynn, Jr., 1932–1989

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Friends, colleagues, and students were shocked and saddened by the death of Willard Kendall Wynn on August 26, 1989. Willard, generally known as "Will" by his friends and colleagues, had been a member of the faculty of the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Georgia at Athens for 21 years.

Will, the son of Willard Kendall and Mary Edna Wynn, was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, on March 28, 1932. After growing up in Raleigh, Will enrolled at North Carolina

State University and received a B.S. degree in agronomy in 1955. He served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1957. During 1957–1958 he studied plant pathology at Cornell University. He served as an instructor of biology at Brewton-Parker Junior College at Mt. Vernon, Georgia, from 1958 to 1959. In 1959 Will entered a graduate program in plant pathology at the University of Florida and in 1963 was awarded the Ph.D. degree. His dissertation entitled the "Photosynthetic phosphorylation of chloroplasts of oats in relation to crown rust infection" was the beginning of a career-long interest in the physiology of host-parasite interactions.

Dr. Wynn began his professional career in 1963 at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Yonkers, New York, as an assistant plant pathologist. He concentrated on the study of the physiology of the rust fungi but also was involved in work on the resistance of strawberry to the red stele pathogen, *Phytophthora fragariae*. In these early years of his career two of Will's highest priorities were to search for excellence in whatever he did and to serve others with his intellectual talents. Each of his investigations was thoroughly designed and critiqued before initiation in a methodical search for new knowledge. In addition, he would spend relentless hours helping others with their studies. This was at a stage in his career when most professionals would concentrate almost entirely on their own careers.

In 1968 Dr. Wynn accepted a position as associate professor of plant pathology at the University of Georgia. He came to Athens at a time when the Department of Plant Pathology was in a rapid expansion phase. Will provided badly needed teaching and research expertise in the areas of disease physiology and host-pathogen interactions.

Throughout his professional career Dr. Wynn maintained a strong interest in the physiology of parasitism and host resistance. His work was concentrated on the rust fungi. Dr. Wynn's greatest research contribution was probably the thoroughly and clearly presented explanation as to how germinating urediniospores of rust fungi locate host stomates during the prepenetration phase. By using ingeniously prepared polystyrene leaf replicas, he showed that germinating urediniospores were highly successful in locating stomates by responding to certain topographic features present on the leaf surface. Electron micrographs from his laboratory showing appressorial formation by *Uromyces phaseoli* over stom-

ates of bean are so perfect and striking that they are used in textbook illustrations. Through the years Dr. Wynn contributed significantly to our understanding of the role of plant surface phenomena in the infection process of plants.

Will was recognized for his special competence in physiology of disease and for his general competence in scientific analysis and methodology. Because of his abilities in these areas, Dr. Wynn's advice was sought after, not only by students and colleagues at the University of Georgia, but by professionals at other institutions. He was patient in providing suggestions, encouragement, and inspiration to all who sought his advice.

Dr. Wynn was called on frequently to review National Science Foundation and other research proposals. He also served on the Review Panel of the Biological Stress Program of the USDA Competitive Research Grants Office and was a regular reviewer of manuscripts for journals. Dr. Wynn was known for his high standard of objectivity, fairness, and reasoned thinking in his reviews.

Dr. Wynn was active in the American Phytopathological Society. He served as an associate editor of *Phytopathology* and as chairman of the Disease and Pathogen Physiology Committee of APS.

In his acceptance letter for his position at the University of Georgia, Will mentioned his interest in teaching and working with students as one of his primary reasons for accepting a university appointment. His 1968 decision to devote a major portion of his career to shaping and stimulating young scientific minds proved to be a fortunate one for the hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students who studied under his direction. He was known for his genuinely unselfish dedication to quality education and for his willingness to make the time commitment to ensure that his knowledge and expertise were available to all those who needed his counsel and encouragement.

Dr. Wynn's breadth of scholarship led him into teaching an unbelievable variety of courses. He taught an introductory plant pathology course for 14 years. During his tenure at the University of Georgia he also taught graduate courses in advanced plant pathology, biochemical techniques for biologists, host-parasite relationships, and plant pathological methods. In all his graduate courses Dr. Wynn taught students how to be critical in designing experiments and interpreting experimental results and how to write effectively. He demanded a great deal from students but was even harder on himself. He spent countless hours keeping his courses current and comprehensive. He was immediately accessible to students at all times. Will was unequalled in his use of a one-on-one teaching method.

Dr. Wynn served as departmental graduate coordinator for several years and was very much appreciated by students. He was given the Plant Pathology Graduate Students Most Valuable Professor Award and in 1968 received the Georgia Agricultural Alumni Association Distinguished Faculty Award for teaching.

Dr. Wynn is survived by his wife, Connie, and two daughters, Maris and Lauren.