

Excellence in Teaching Award

This award was established in 1987 by the APS Council in recognition of excellence in teaching plant pathology. The award is presented to individuals with active responsibility for one or more courses in plant pathology and recognizes the individual's distinguished proficiency in teaching, as indicated by development and effectiveness of courses taught.

Edward J. Braun



Edward J. Braun, professor of plant pathology at Iowa State University, was born in Chicago. After receiving his B.A. degree in botany at Miami University, OH, he studied plant pathology at Cornell University, completing his M.S. degree in 1975 and Ph.D. degree in 1977. Dr. Braun is outstanding in three areas of teaching and education: he is an extremely effective and concerned classroom teacher and adviser, a developer of innovative and relevant teaching techniques and courses, and a local and national leader in curriculum and course modernization for plant pathology.

At Iowa State, Dr. Braun has developed and taught nine courses. He is recognized for keeping course content innovative, current, and relevant. He began using computer simulation and special problem-solving and writing units in his "Basic Principles" course over 15 years ago, long before these activities were common. Recently, he initiated a poster session for students that brought excitement to students and faculty alike. Colleagues and students use words such as dedi-

cated, enthusiastic, exciting, approachable, outstanding, committed, and friendly to describe Dr. Braun. He is recognized both on campus and nationally as a very effective, innovative, and motivational teacher.

In 1994, Dr. Braun taught a new, videotaped offering of his basic course for off-campus students. In volunteering for this effort, he re-emphasized the importance of extended educational opportunities. In this new era of extended education, Dr. Braun is considered a national pioneer in plant pathology.

Dr. Braun is a driving force in curriculum modernization. He is in charge of the development and initiation of Iowa State's new Inter-departmental Plant Health and Protection Curriculum. He is presently on Iowa State's Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee and is chair of the College of Agriculture and Departmental Curriculum committees. The college committee is charged with the implementation of new core requirements, elements that cut across agricultural curricula and affect teaching styles. His grace in handling difficult situations is appreciated by faculty and administration alike. As a member of the APS Plant Pathology 2000 Committee, Dr. Braun was involved in writing a strategic plan for guiding plant pathology teaching into the 21st century. Presently, he serves as chair of the APS Teaching Committee.

Dr. Braun is one of the premiere educators in plant pathology. His excellence in the classroom and in policy development and implementation makes him exceptional. Dr. Braun has become one of the most respected educators in the field of plant pathology today.