

MAY 2002



SOUTHERN SECTION AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS NEWSLETTER

2002 ANNUAL MEETING

This year's meeting in Athens went remarkably well. We extend our thanks to our local host **Dr. Deb Mohnen** for her efforts both before and during the meeting that helped to make things run so smoothly, and for eliciting so much interest in the meeting among local graduate students. Thanks for the pictures too, Deb!

The host site, The Georgia Center, was a very good place for our meeting. We had much readily available, first-rate help. The banquet, especially, was very pleasant and the meeting room was equipped with AV equipment that caused no trouble and projected very nicely!

Special thanks to our sponsors:

Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.

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American Society of Plant Biologists

Virginia Tech

Without their generosity this meeting would not have been possible.

Turnout was comparable to that of recent meetings with 60-odd in attendance with 9 posters and 12 oral presentations. This is the second year that Power Point presentations were an option for talks, and undoubtedly have become standard fare for future meetings.

We thank **Dr. Tim Sherman** for organizing the excellent symposium on Metabolic Regulation Mechanisms. All three speakers presented clear and very interesting material related to regulatory processes.



SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

Left: **Drs. Rob Ferl** and **Mike Salvucci**, (pictured with Dr. Ruth Grene). Right: **Dr. James Mahan**



The **Distinguished Service Award** was presented by Dr. Cindy Putnam-Evans to **Dr. Cyndy Galloway** (pictured here with her parents and Dr. Mel Oliver) in recognition of her selfless contributions to the Southern Section. Cyndy has been there for the Section for many years, serving in many different capacities and always giving her all. A well deserved congratulations, Cyndy!

The quality of student presentations seems to get better every year. This year two awards were presented for graduate student talks. One award went to Anne Marie Zimeri, University of Georgia (*Arabidopsis thaliana* contains four ancient and diverse classes of metallothionein) and the other was presented to Denise J. D'Abundo, Louisiana State University (*Effects of leaf submergence and oxygen concentration upon the growth of Rice (Oryza sativa) seedlings*). We had a number of really impressive posters by undergraduates as well. This year's award for best undergraduate poster went to Matt Keogh, Rhodes College (*Evidence of Amyloplasts in the Distal Elongation Zone of Corn Roots*).

We thank the Student Presentation Judging Committees (**Drs. Caryl Chlan, Cindy Galloway, Mel Oliver, Dalton Gossett, Rob Ferl, Caryl Chlan** and **Bill Outlaw**) for making the tough calls!



NATIONAL ASPP NEWS

From Joyce G. Foster, Southern Section Representative

The most noteworthy news from the parental society involves the ongoing discussion of a possible new name for Plant Physiology. The Editor-in-Chief of the journal has been urging ASPB to consider a change. However, it is unclear what the outcome will be. If you have thoughts on the subject, please send them to the national office.

A more detailed report of the most recent ASPB Executive Committee Meeting is posted on our web site (www.ss-aspb.org).

MEETING SITE FOR 2003

After a very close vote, it was determined that this coming year's meeting will be held at the University of North Texas at Denton.

In 2003, in addition to providing financial help to students making oral presentations, additional money will again be available to minority students to offset costs of attendance. Application for these awards will be available later in the fall on our web site.

ELECTION RESULTS

Elections results were announced at the General Business meeting at the conclusion of the symposium. **Dr. Tim Sherman** was elected Chair of the Southern Section, **Dr. Ruth Grene** will serve as Vice-Chair, and **Dr. Caryl Chlan** will be our new Secretary-Treasurer for 2002-2003. Our current chair, **Dr. Jay Mellon** has graciously accepted a position on the Executive Committee.

SOUTHERN SECTIONS ARCHIVIST?

Much has happened and many individuals have passed through our sectional rolls since our charter in 1940. We would like to make available information on the history, lists of officers, and award winners for the Southern Section through our website. Traditionally a few individuals have taken an active role in documenting such things, with the last compilation made by Drs. Jim Henderson, Fred Wolf, and Clanton Black about 10 years ago. We are looking for a volunteer to pick up where they left off and to act as *Southern Section Archivist*. If you are interested in aiding the section in this capacity, please contact Dr. Tim Sherman.

THE SS-ASPP WEB SITE

Remember that the web site for the Southern Section is up and running. (www.ss-aspb.org). It also can be accessed via the national ASPB site. The site contains information about meetings (past, present, and future), current officers (contact info, brief bio, and picture), current and past newsletters, news of interest to society members and students, and links to relevant sites (e.g. ASPB, regional university's departments with plant biology programs, etc.). The site is also used for registration and title submission for each year's meeting. As mentioned above, we are in the process of adding historical records and we also plan to have provisions for online voting.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OPTION

With the advent of easy electronic publication and widely available access to the Internet, we are now delivering your Southern Section Newsletters and Call for papers to you electronically. As a member, you are notified by email of the availability of the newsletter. This substantially cuts the Section's mailing costs and allows us to use those funds to offset the costs of student subsidies provided at each year's meeting.



Anne Marie (above), and **Denise D'Abundo** (below), winners of the graduate student competition, with **Dr.**



Matt Keogh, winner of the undergraduate competition, with **Dr. Caryl Chlan**

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