

# Division News

## 2007 Potomac Division Meeting Highlights

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The 2007 APS Potomac Division Meeting was held March 21–23, 2007, in Blacksburg, VA, home of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI & SU). The meeting started off with an informative tree walk around Blacksburg led by **R. Jay Stipes** and a tour of Latham Hall and the Plant Disease Clinic led by **David G. Schmale III** and **Elizabeth Bush**, respectively. The technical program got off to great start with the symposium “Outstanding collaborations between basic and applied plant pathology programs,” with contributions from **Darcy Partridge**, VPI & SU; **Prakash Hebbar**, Masterfoods USA/USDA-ARS; and **John E. Kaminski**, University of Connecticut.



Officers of the APS Potomac Division (2007–2008) pictured with the president of APS, Jan Leach (right). From the left, **Kathryne L. Everts**, division councilor-elect; **David G. Schmale III**, secretary-treasurer; **Daniel P. Roberts**, president; and **Inga A. Zasada**, vice president.



**Sasha Marine** (left) and **Mark Schall** (right) were the 1st and 2nd place winners, respectively, of the 2007 APS Potomac Division Graduate Student Competition. **Daniel P. Roberts** (center) presented the awards.



**William Bruckart** (left) and **Robert Mulrooney** (right) were presented with the Potomac Division Distinguished Service Awards.

“Diagnostics and detection: New directions” was the focus of the second symposium, with contributions from **Eileen Luke**, Purdue University; **Mary E. Palm**, USDA-APHIS; **Vessela Mavrodieva**, APHIS-PPQ; and **Marty A. Draper**, USDA-CSREES. Six outstanding papers were presented during the Graduate Student Competition, with contributions from five VPI & SU graduate students (**Peta-Gaye S. Change**, **Sasha C. Marine**, **Venkatesan Parkunan**, **Shanna M. Chriscoe**, and **Shuangchun Yan**) and one graduate student from Pennsylvania State University (**Mark J. Schall**). First place for the student paper competition was awarded to S. C. Marine, and second place was awarded to M. J. Schall. The technical program finished with a “Bridging engineering and agriculture” symposium, with contributions from D. G. Schmale III, VPI & SU, and **Norman Schaad**, USDA-ARS. **Kathryne L. Everts**, University of Maryland, is our division councilor-elect, and D. G. Schmale III will be the new secretary-treasurer. The Memorial Fund Travel Award went to **Jianjun Feng**, USDA-ARS. The Division Distinguished Service Awards were presented to **Bob Mulrooney**, University of Delaware, and **William Bruckart**, USDA-ARS.

The meeting concluded with a Bridging Engineering and Agriculture Field Day at VPI & SU’s Kentland Farm. **N. Schaad** and **Aaron Sechler** conducted a real-time PCR demonstration; **Benjamin R. Dingus** and D. G. Schmale III conducted a plant pathogen sampling flight with an autonomous unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV); **Craig A. Woolsey** acquired



**Norman Schaad** and **Aaron Sechler** conducted a real-time PCR demonstration at the Bridging Engineering and Agriculture Field Day.



Examining petri plates after a plant pathogen sampling mission 100 m above the earth at the Bridging Engineering and Agriculture Field Day.

live video from an autonomous UAV flying over the Kentland Farm; **Brandon Horvath**, **David McCall**, and **Shawn Askew** demonstrated an autonomous mower on the turfgrass airstrip at the Kentland Farm; and **Charles Reinholtz** and **Alfred Wicks** coordinated a demonstration of autonomous ground vehicles with applications to agriculture. ■

## 2007 National Soybean Rust Symposium

Presented by APS in cooperation with related organizations

December 12-14, 2007 • Louisville, Kentucky

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