



NEMATOTOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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An AG*IDEA Nematology National Graduate Program:

Update from our discussion at the SON meeting in Corvallis

Thanks to all of those that attended the discussion session concerning the potential development of WWW-based distance education (DE) courses leading to a specialization in nematology and the awarding of a certificate and/or Master's degree through the auspices of the AG*IDEA platform. As a quick refresher, Dr. Cary Green, Associate Dean for Academic and International Programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University and I led a discussion on the first day of the 50th Anniversary meeting of the Society of Nematologists where we introduced the basics of AG*IDEA (Agriculture Interactive Distance Education Alliance; <http://www.agidea.org/>), which can be used as a platform for member institutions to deliver DE programs and/or courses in agricultural related sciences with other institutions. Please go to <http://www.agidea.org/> for an overview of the program and a list of the current member institutions.

Basically, if we were to offer a nematology program through AG*IDEA, it would be a collaborative project of member institutions to deliver mostly DE courses that would be jointly offered through each "member" institution. The nematology classes would all appear to emanate from the member institution from which the student was successfully enrolled, even if it were taught online by a professor at another member institution. Academic credit and degrees would also originate from the member institution from which the student was enrolled. Thus, even though the core nematology curriculum would be the same nationally, its name and the titles and numbers for the courses would be unique to each member institution and offered through their University's DE infrastructure (Sakai, E-learning, Blackboard, WebCT, etc.). The curriculum would be developed and evaluated by inter-institutional faculty teams and vetted to meet academic standards at all of the participating institutions. This last point was probably the mostly hotly contested issue

of the day, suggesting that there is still concern about quality control of the outputs of such an endeavor. That being said, when I asked for a straw poll of those SON members that were supportive and willing to volunteer with a proposal to AG*IDEA, about a quarter of the 50 or so participants raised their hands in support. I have since received supportive comments from several faculty suggesting that we should go to the next level and develop a proposal. We currently have SON member faculty at 12 of the 19 AG*IDEA member schools and many of the pending AG*IDEA schools and several faculty at non-AG*IDEA schools have gone to their administrators to inquire about becoming a member. The main question is how many faculty are prepared to develop or actively participate with teams in the development of DE courses for the Nematology curriculum? I would propose that those that volunteer are prepared to endure a rigorous vetting process given what we heard from some of our SON members at the discussion session. These DE courses will have to meet and exceed the criteria for scholarship for the best schools in the country.

As stated in the last NNL, the core curriculum would consist of two courses; introductory nematology (3 credits) and plant nematology (3 credits), with required participation in a (2 unit) hands-on plant nematology workshop that could take advantage of already available programs presented by Clemson and UC Riverside. Dr. Paula Agudelo at Clemson said that she was supportive of participation in such a plant-nematology workshop (lab). It would be valuable to have other geographical and timing options available for students for such workshops. Students could also choose from a number of additional courses to satisfy the 12-credit requirement for the certificate. Among other courses proposed are nematode morphology and taxonomy (3 credits), nematode ecology (3 credits), nematode physiology and molecular biology (3 credits), insect-parasitic

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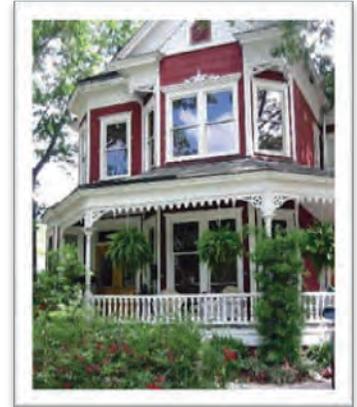
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Nematology Newsletter viewpoints are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the Society of Nematologists, the Executive Board, or the Nematology Newsletter Editor.

SOCIETY OF NEMATOLOGISTS 51ST ANNUAL MEETING



Savannah, Georgia
August 12-16, 2012
Savannah Marriott Riverfront Hotel

AG*IDEA Nematology National Graduate Program *(continued from page 1)*

nematodes (1 credit), free-living nematodes (1 credit), nematodes affecting vertebrate animals (1 credit), and independent study in nematology (1 credit). All courses could be offered at both the graduate and undergraduate level. It was clear from the discussion that there were differing opinions about whether this should be a certificate program or a graduate program or not, but there seemed to be strong support for having certain classes available nationally to help round out a graduate students' training without the need of having additional nematologists on staff to teach those courses.

I am willing to volunteer the course that I teach DE for Introductory Nematology at the University of Florida as a starting point for development of a graduate survey course in Nematology

for AG*IDEA. We will need volunteers for the development of the other courses in the proposed curriculum (above) to put down in the proposal. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the development and teaching of any of the proposed DE courses, please contact me before February 1, 2012 so that we can work you into the proposal for AG*IDEA. Thanks again to all of those with an interest in this proposal.

Submitted by:
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NE-1040 Technical Committee Meets

The 2011 Annual Meeting of the Technical Committee of NE-1040 (*Plant-Parasitic Nematode Management as a Component of Sustainable Soil Health Programs in Horticultural and Field Crop Production Systems*) was held at the University of Vermont in Burlington and hosted by Dr. Deborah Neher. Although the conference room had what Bill Mai would have said was a gorgeous view of the fall colors on both Mt. Mansfield and Camelback Mountain, another highlight of the meeting was visiting Deb's new building and new laboratory, with state-of-the-art equipment.

Submitted by:
George Bird
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI, USA



Front Row (L to R): Deborah Neher, Tharshani Nishanthan, George Bird; Back Row (L to R): Senyu Chen, Jie Zhao, Jim LaMondia, George Abawi, Parwinder Grewal, Ernie Bernard, John Halbrecht, Don Dickson, Haddish Melakeberhan, Jim Preston

Educational Resources Available

The latest version of the presentation "Introduction to Nematodes" is now available on the SON and ONTA websites. Another educational resource, a presentation on the history of the Society of Nematologists, also is available. Both may be downloaded free of charge.

Both presentations can be found in the Educational Resources section of the SON web page at:

http://nematologists.org/education_slide_website.php.

Any suggestions or comments regarding these presentations should be addressed to Dr. Ed McGawley at emcgawley@agctr.lsu.edu.



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The John M. Webster Outstanding Student Award

THE NATHAN A. COBB FOUNDATION



Deadline for receiving nominations is February 1, 2012.

The Nathan A. Cobb Nematology Foundation is pleased to call for nominations for The John M. Webster Outstanding Student Award for 2012. This award is to recognize a graduate student who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in his/her thesis research in Nematology as well as other skills necessary to be a well-rounded scholar.

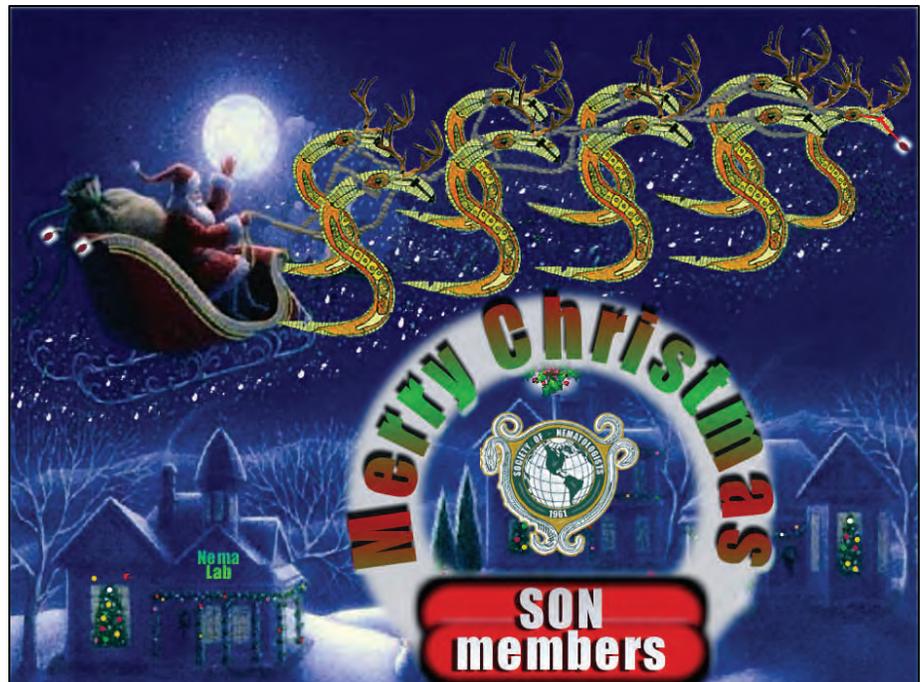
Students in their final year of a Master's or Ph.D. degree shall be eligible for this award and shall be nominated by a mentor or peer. The nomination will include a letter from the nominator, and a one-page description of his/her research written by the student. The nomination letter should describe the student's educational background, grade-point average, contributions and merit.

The recipient of the award will receive a plaque and will make a 30-minute oral presentation of their

research in either a symposium or regular session at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Society of Nematologists in Savannah, Georgia (Aug 12-16, 2012). The presentation will be designated in the Program and Abstracts book as the John Webster Outstanding Student Presentation. The recipient may also present a different aspect of their research in the Student Paper or Poster Competition.

Please send nominations via e-mail to:

Dr. Koon-Hui Wang
Vice Chair, N.A. Cobb Foundation
koonhui@hawaii.edu
Phone no. 808-956-2455



In Memoriam

Brian Kerry (1948-2011)

Brian Kerry was important to many people all around the world and it will be impossible to mention more than a few of them. Born in the small Suffolk village of Botesdale, he gained his BSc at the School of Agriculture of Nottingham University, attended Imperial College for a year and completed Ph.D. studies at Reading University. He followed his university education by a career devoted to agricultural research. It was already clear when he embarked on the studies for his Ph.D., under the supervision of Nigel Hague, that he would forge strong links between the research side and the practical side in his chosen discipline. By the time he came to Rothamsted in 1973 he had made close friends in farming and the farming advisory services as well as in academia, and he continued throughout his career to make close friends everywhere.

As a direct consequence of his Ph.D. thesis work on the population biology of the cereal cyst nematode, and his close work with people in ADAS during a temporary appointment at the Reading centre, he began his research career with a study of the factors involved in the phenomenon of cereal cyst nematode decline under cereal monoculture. The deep understanding of the systems involved that his work provided led on to studies of the possibilities for the use of biological organisms for the control of other economically important plant-parasitic nematodes.

Although biological control was the mainstay of his research programme and attracted industrial support, he also worked in other areas of plant nematology, always with the very practical aim of improving nematode management in crop production. His research provided the data and information required for the publication of more than 100 research papers and the inspiration for a much quoted book.

Soon after joining Rothamsted's staff, colleagues remarked on Brian's skills and vitality and Roger Plumb recalls his wife Helen commenting on his potential for leadership within the institute. And she was right. Brian was appointed head of the newly formed Entomology and Nematology Department in 1987. He oversaw the amalgamation of what had been two separate and successful departments, and managed a new department of 90 scientific staff, including 28 Ph.D. students, with an annual budget of about £3.3 million. Brian was head of this department until 2000 and, in 1998, took on the

additional responsibilities of a position as Associate Director of Rothamsted, a position he held until his official retirement in 2010. He had been used to additional responsibilities from an early stage in his career. In 1981 he was seconded for six months to CSIRO in Australia as a Senior Research Officer; in 1989 he began a year's duty as head of Rothamsted's Crop Protection Division; in 1991 he spent two months as Regent's Lecturer in the Department of Nematology at UC Riverside; for almost four years beginning in 1994 he was coordinator of Rothamsted's programme on integrated crop protection; in 2002 he became head of the Nematode Interactions Unit (NIU); in 2004 the NIU became part of the Rhizosphere Biology Programme, with Brian as head; and in 2007 he became director of Rothamsted's Centre for Soils and Ecosystem Function.



The in-depth studies of biological control of nematodes and Brian's other work led to wide-ranging links with fellow nematologists around the world. Perhaps the best way of reminding everyone of the importance of these contacts is simply to list some of the countries where Brian had strong links – links that not only benefitted the research but also benefitted local studies of important species of plant-parasitic nematodes. These countries include: Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Germany, India, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Pakistan, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda, USA and Zimbabwe.

Brian's responsibilities were far from confined to the research programmes at Rothamsted. Almost as soon as he arrived in 1973 he took on staff union work when he became part of the local committee of the Institute of Professional Civil Servants. With Roger Cook he organised for the Association of Applied Biologists (AAB) a workshop at Rothamsted dealing with the latest issues and news about developments in nematicides as a tool for the management of plant-parasitic nematodes. That commitment to the aims of the AAB remained firm and Brian eventually became President of the AAB in 2004. Over his career he became a member of too many committees to mention by name, both within and without Rothamsted. The ultimate example of his work outside the research programme must be the work he did for the Rothamsted Research Redevelopment Project, in which he oversaw the £35 million capital development

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In Memoriam (continued)

(continued from page 5)

plan that resulted in construction of the showpiece Centenary Building. He made a huge success of everything he tackled.

This approach of achieving success in everything showed in a variety of ways. Chris Stafford was inspired by Brian to go on to study under Brian's old mentor, Nigel Hague, and then to complete a Ph.D., since when he has since gone on to run an extremely successful business in mosquito and nuisance ant control in Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Region and SE Asia. Haddish Melakeberhan was inspired by Brian when he set out to establish a career in the USA, having become a refugee from his own country of Ethiopia. Ignacio Cid del Prado also received inspiration from Brian's description of the importance of *Pochonia* species as potential biocontrol agents, and went on to isolate Mexican lines of *Pochonia* that are already in use for the practical control of root-knot and false root-knot nematodes in Mexico. Needless to say, this particular piece of inspiration was celebrated with a glass of tequila! Another person especially grateful to Brian is Leo Hidalgo-Diaz from Cuba, working under Brian's guidance to set up a production system for biocontrol agents of nematodes. The benefits of international links were also often two-way and, because Harish Gaur from India benefitted from time spent at Rothamsted with Roland Perry, Brian was able to work with Harish to establish an important joint research programme with India. Other important projects shared with Isabel Abrantes at the University of Coimbra, Portugal, allowed further exploitation of the potential of *Pochonia* as a biocontrol agent.

His last major project, and one very close to his heart, was the nematology capacity building initiative in east and southern Africa funded by the Gatsby Foundation. Together with UK partners, nematologists from Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe joined forces to form the Nematology Initiative for East and Southern Africa (NIESA). Nematology laboratories were equipped, in-country training courses on a variety of topics organised, M.Sc. and Ph.D. scholarships provided and scientific outputs disseminated at a number of international conferences.

One of Brian's key characteristics was the ease with which he got on with everyone, from students to peers. All of the people who worked directly with him

in his research projects came to know him and enjoy his company, but often gave him trouble in jest because they were so much at ease with him. Of course, the work was always done to scrupulously high standards once the joking was over.

The ability to speak to people with ease and to tell good stories – be they jokes or stories at his own expense from his many travels – also applied to his social life. First and foremost this was in the way that he looked after visitors to his research programme and department. They were always put at their ease and entertained royally, often at home with the generous support of Maxine. Sport was also important to Brian and he was always the most cheerful member of Rothamsted's hockey team. He made the 'right back' position in the team his own for a good number of years. Rothamsted was fortunate in having facilities for a good social side to life, and many were the parties in the famous Pavilion. Again, Brian's funny stories were appreciated by many, and the beer in the Pavilion was appreciated by Brian. He could be the life and soul of a party in the Pavilion.

Another sport that Brian dedicated himself to for a while was running. In 1986 he completed the London Marathon in a very respectable time of 3 hours and 45 minutes. The run took it out of him but his completion of it was typical of the way that he both worked and played hard, and so got the best out of his life. One of the ways in which he relaxed from all the hard work was by indulging his life-long hobby of bird watching, a hobby that he was able to pursue in all continents.

Perhaps his crowning glory in terms of awards was the MBE that was awarded to him by the Queen at Buckingham Palace in 2008. But he also received important awards in recognition of his contribution to nematology research, being made a Fellow of the Society of Nematologists (1993) and given special awards by the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (2003) and by the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America (2011).

Brian's outgoing, cheerful personality made him friends wherever he went. Everyone who knew him developed great respect for him. He had a way of making you feel that you were the most important person in the world as he spoke to you; a rare gift and something that we will all miss greatly.

(continued on page 7)

In Memoriam (continued)

(continued from page 6)

Brian is survived by his wife Maxine, his daughter Anna, his brother and his mother. We extend our condolences to them.

Prepared by
Ken Evans and other friends of Brian

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John Percy Hollis

(1918-2011)

John Percy Hollis passed away in Chatsworth, CA on June 11, 2011. A veteran of the U. S. Army Air Corps, he served during World War II. He is buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

After graduating from Oklahoma A&M (Oklahoma State University), he completed his Ph.D. degree at the University of Nebraska. In 1954, he was hired by Louisiana State University, where he remained a faculty member in the plant pathology department until his retirement in 1984. During this time, he published numerous research articles in the *Journal of Nematology*, *Phytopathology*, and other journals, with an emphasis on improving production of two crops of major importance to Louisiana farmers: sugar cane and rice. Dr. Hollis received a Fulbright Scholarship in 1961 and

in 1973 he was named a NATO Senior Fellow. He spent many years working on the swarming phenomenon of nematodes (especially *Tylenchorhynchus martini*) and straight head disease of rice. He served as a supervisor and mentor for many American and foreign graduate students over the years.

His personal interests were varied and included mountain climbing, sailing, gardening, cashew farming, and international travel. He enjoyed spending time with his family. Upon his retirement, he and his wife, Cathy, moved to San Antonio, TX and ultimately to Northridge, CA. His wife of 64 years, Cathy preceded him in death in 2008. He is survived by four daughters (Sue Taylor, Jan Walberg, Barbara O'Rear, and Megan Javidi), one son (John W. Hollis), seven grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Prepared by I. K. A. Ibrahim and S. R. Stetina

Walid I. Abu-Gharbieh

(1935-2011)

Dr. Walid I. Abu-Gharbieh, Professor of Plant Nematology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Amman, Jordan, died on October 15, 2011 in Amman, Jordan. He graduated from Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt in 1958 with B. Sc. degree in Agricultural Sciences. He received his Ph. D. degree in Plant Nematology in 1968 from the University of Florida, Gainesville. He joined the Faculty of Agriculture,

University of Amman, Jordan in 1968 and worked on surveys, ecology, host-parasite relationships, and control of plant parasitic nematodes. Throughout his years at the University of Amman, he supervised the graduate studies and research of many graduate students. He was a very active member in the Society of Nematologists, International Meloidogyne Project (IMP), and Arab Society of Plant Protection.

Prepared by I. K. A. Ibrahim

Editor's Corner

The Nematology Newsletter is what you make it!

A big "Thank You" to all of the members who contributed articles, photos, and graphics to the NNL during 2011!

Please keep those contributions coming in 2012. The deadline for submissions for the March 2012 issue is February 29, 2012. Submissions received after that deadline will be included in the June 2012 issue.

If possible, prepare your articles using Word and send any images as jpg files. I will do my best to acknowledge all submissions that I receive, so if you send something and do not hear back from me, please do follow up to be sure that I received it. Please send your submissions to:

nemanews@gmail.com.

The new SON web page was recently launched (see image below). Hopefully, you have taken a few minutes to explore the new site. What do you think of the new look? Feel free to send comments and suggestions to our Web Site Editor, Byron Adams, at byron_adams@byu.edu.

Wishing all of you a safe and happy 2012!

