First, I would like to thank all who participated in the 56th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nematologists in Williamsburg, VA. I would like to especially acknowledge the Local Arrangements Committee, Chaired by Jon Eisenback. Jon and his lovely wife Marilyn, along with Chuck and Elizabeth Johnson, Paulo Vieira, Noah Adams, and Steve Rideout, made sure everything ran smoothly. The Williamsburg Inn meeting venue was outstanding. As Program Chair for the 2017 SON Meeting in Williamsburg, I sent out the call for abstracts on May 22. We had 164 abstracts submitted. The technical program contained a Plenary Session organized by Jon Eisenback, 7 symposia, 9 contributed paper sessions, 2 workshops, a Student Oral Competition, and 64 posters. Scientific contributions were received from authors in 30 countries around the world. All the symposia, contributed paper sessions, and poster session were excellent, highlighting the cutting-edge nematology research of our members and colleagues. One of the most unique and memorable presentations of the meeting was the plenary session speech by Thomas Jefferson. What an inspirational speaker, and what timeless values and insights he shared! In addition to all the outstanding science and collegial interactions during the meeting, the food was amazing! It was also very convenient to have breakfast and lunch provided with your meeting registration and served right down the hall from the meeting rooms. Thanks Jon! Colonial Williamsburg was fascinating, with many interesting things to do and see.

One of my primary goals for the Williamsburg program was to have more opportunities for students to interact with long-standing members (older folks), to make them know how valued they are as members of SON. I think we made a good start in this direction with the student social, which was open to everyone, with the intent of giving students an opportunity to meet and speak with other members in a relaxed setting. I spent about two hours talking with various groups of students and was really impressed with their curiosity and professionalism. The student paper competition was the most competitive session I can remember. There were approximately 30 abstracts submitted for consider-
ation for the competition, and the Honors and Awards Committee had an extremely difficult job in selecting the 16 abstracts that could be presented in the competition sessions. Thanks to Richard Davis and everyone on the committee who participated in the selection of competitors, as well as judging the presentations. I think this is one of the most difficult and important aspects of the Annual Meeting Program. Another highlight of the meeting directed toward student interactions was the Industry workshop. This workshop was very well attended by students and gave them the opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion with many of our senior SON members working in industry positions.

The Cobb Bowl Competition was a great new addition to the meeting this year. The competition was fierce and was so much fun to watch! I was really impressed with how knowledgeable the contestants were. The session was organized and moderated by Jon Eisenback, and the questions were selected from his Nematology playing card decks. The contestants came prepared, sometimes even keeping Jon straight regarding answers. Jon also held a workshop on making the nematology playing cards and is welcoming submissions from the membership. Let him know if you have any ideas. I hope he will continue holding Cobb Bowl competitions at future meetings.

The Banquet and Awards Program was prepared by Richard Davis, Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee, and myself, with input from Jon Eisenback. There were 10 Bayer Student Travel Award winners, 8 Dow AgroScience Student Travel Award winners, one Nematology Solutions Associates Student Travel Award winner, and 3 Nathan A. Cobb Nematology Foundation Travel Award winners. The John M. Webster Outstanding Student Award went to Gary Phillips (University of Tennessee) and the Best Student Oral Presentation Award went to Emily Feist (University of Southampton), and the 2nd place winner was Wei Li (Clemson University). This year’s Syngenta Crop Protection Award went to Raquel Campos-Herrera, University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal for her outstanding research on roles of entomopathogenic nematodes in agricultural pest management. The award for Fellow of SON went to David Shapiro-Ilan. David has led an extremely productive research program at the USDA-ARS as a Research Entomologist at the Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research Lab in Byron, GA since 1999. David has authored 148 peer-reviewed journal articles plus 21 book chapters and > 40 trade journal/extension articles; he has co-edited 3 books and is inventor on 7 patents. David has been active in SON since 1993, serving on numerous committees and organizing symposia, as well as serving on the Executive Board as an appointed member, and as Vice-Chair of the Nathan A. Cobb Nematology Foundation. He has also served as an editor for JON for entomopathogenic nematodes, and will begin serving as the new Editor-in-Chief of JON beginning in January 2018.

I would like to welcome two new members to the Executive Board, David Bird and Cynthia Gleason. David Bird was elected as our new Vice-President, and is from the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, and Bioinformatics Research Center at North Carolina State University where he has led a prestigious and highly productive career in nematology research. David is an excellent addition to the Executive Board, and I look forward to collaborating with him during the coming year as he works on updating committees rosters in preparation for developing the scientific program for the annual meeting in 2019 (location to be determined). Our new appointed Executive Board Member is Cynthia Gleason. Cynthia began serving on the EB at this year’s meeting, replacing Axel Elling as a Liaison to the Ecology, Education, Graduate Student, and Industry Committees. Thank you Axel for your excellent service! Cynthia is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at Washington State University and has already begun interacting with committees and providing great input and ideas for future meetings.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank our Sustaining Associates and Meeting Contributors who made this year’s meeting so memorable; Bayer, Adama, Syngenta, BASF, Marrone Bio Innovations, University of Georgia, Nina Samoylovskaya, Monsanto, Dow, Novozymes, DuPont, Virginia Tech Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology and Weed Science, University of Delaware Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Nematology Solutions Associates, University of Maryland Extension, Virginia Tech Agricultural Experiment Station.

It was a pleasure seeing everyone who was able to attend the meeting in Williamsburg. If you were not able to attend in 2017, please plan ahead for the meeting in 2018 in Albuquerque, NM. The meeting will be held on July 22-25, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency – Downtown, adjacent to the Albuquerque Convention Center in the heart of downtown Albuquerque. This is a great location just two blocks from Central Avenue with its restaurants, shops, art galleries, tap rooms, and microbreweries. The venue is less than a mile from the Old Town historic district and two blocks from the rapid transit rail station to Santa Fe, about 70 miles (1.5 hrs) away. I know Billy Crow is very excited to be in charge of the technical program and is already planning great things. Let him know if you have any ideas or want to be involved in organizing a session. I hope everyone has a productive fall season!

All the Best,

Nancy Burelle
Dr. David Shapiro-Ilan Named as a Fellow

David Shapiro-Ilan is a Research Entomologist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) at the Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research Laboratory in Byron, GA. Dr. Shapiro-Ilan's career path included a B.S. in Biology from the University of Michigan; Peace-Corps Crop Protection Volunteer in Niger West Africa; an M.S. in Entomology from Louisiana State University (advisor was Dr. Jim Fuxa); Ph.D. in Entomology from Iowa State University (advisor was Dr. Les Lewis); Fulbright Post-doctoral Scholar at Volcani Center, Israel (advisor was Dr. Itamar Glazer); Research Insect Pathologist at Integrated BioControl Systems, Inc.; Assistant in Entomology University of Florida; and finally he joined USDA-ARS in 1999. Dr. Shapiro-Ilan's research program focuses primarily on entomopathogenic nematodes and their use in biological control. Dr. Shapiro-Ilan conducts research on all aspects of entomopathogenic nematodes including improvement of mass production systems (in vivo and in vitro), enhancing formulation and application technology, and elucidating fundamental aspects of behavioral ecology and infection dynamics. His research has resulted in a variety of discoveries and advancements in the field, a few of which are listed below:

- He discovered efficacious methods for using entomopathogenic nematodes against key peach and pecan pests such as pecan weevil, peachtree borer, lesser peachtree borer and plum curculio; as a result, application of nematodes to these targets has been initiated or expanded in various commodities.
- Dr. Shapiro-Ilan developed advanced methodology for in vivo nematode production systems. This research has resulted in five issued patents and adoption by industry.
- Dr. Shapiro-Ilan elucidated fundamental mechanisms of entomopathogenic nematode beneficial trait deterioration including establishing a genetic basis (e.g., inbreeding and “cheating agents”) and discovering mechanisms to overcome the problem through improved cryopreservation or selection of superior inbred lines; the inbred line approach has been adopted by several commercial companies.
- Dr. Shapiro-Ilan determined basic mechanisms in entomopathogenic nematode infection dynamics including the discovery of group movement behavior & novel attraction or infection cues (e.g., movement within electromagnetic fields).

Through his research endeavors, Dr. Shapiro-Ilan has published 148 peer-reviewed journal articles plus 21 book chapters and > 40 trade journal/extension articles; he has co-edited 3 books and is inventor on 7 patents. Selected awards include EEO/Civil Rights (2009), Excellence in IPM (SEB-Entomological Society of America, 2012), Federal Laboratory Consortium-Technology Transfer (2013), and > $4.7 million as PI/co-PI on competitive grants.

Professional service outside of SON includes an Adjunct Professor position at Fort Valley State University Department of Biology (2010-present) and at the University of Georgia Department of Entomology (2008 to present). Chair of Nematode Division Society of Invertebrate Pathology (2006-2008 & 2015-2016), Chair of USDA-NIFA S-1024 Microbial Control Working Group (2010-2012), Editorial Board Biological Control (2004-present), and Editor for the Journal of Invertebrate Pathology (2010-present).

Dr. Shapiro-Ilan has been active with SON since 1993; he served on the Student Poster Committee and Membership Committee, judged student competitions, and has presented well over a dozen papers at SON meetings including organizing or speaking in nine symposia. Dr. Shapiro-Ilan has been a member of the Entomophilic Committee and served as its chair (2001-2002); he also served on the Executive Board of SON as an appointed Director (2010 to 2012), and as Vice-Chair of the Nathan A. Cobb Nematology Foundation (2013 to 2016). He has served extensively as an editor for JON (2009 to present) and will be the incoming Editor-in-Chief.
Raquel received her Ph.D. degree with European Mention from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in 2006. During the next two years, she developed research proposals while supporting herself on short research appointments. In 2008 she was awarded a two-year fellowship from the Ramon Areces Foundation, followed by a Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowship in 2010, a Swiss National Science Foundation Postdoctoral contract in 2013 and a five-year, FCT Investigator Starting Grant in 2015. Her work was conducted in the laboratory Larry Duncan (University of Florida, 2008-2012), Carmen Gutiérrez Martín (University of Madrid, 2012-2013), Ted Turlings (University of Neuchâtel, 2013-2015), and in her own laboratory at the University of Algarve in Faro, Portugal (since 2015).

Raquel's body of published work comprises 40 peer-reviewed papers, 5 book chapters, and a book for which she was the sole editor. Nematode Pathogenesis of Insects and Other Pests is a prime example of Raquel's remarkable drive and effectiveness in raising awareness of the important current and potential roles of entomopathogenic nematodes in agricultural pest management. This comprehensive project was an outgrowth of Raquel's extensive research connections and outreach efforts. She has co-organized international symposia for meetings by SON, ONTA and Society of Invertebrate Pathology. She conducted (as sole instructor) multi-day workshops on molecular methods in ecology at universities in Brazil, Arizona, and Florida. She has been or is a co-mentor to three Ph.D. and two MS students. A clear indication of the import of her research and education program is that Raquel has spoken by invitation at nine symposia during the past 5 years.

From her time as a Ph.D. student, Raquel has pursued questions involving EPN biogeography and the effects of habitat on their geospatial patterns. She was among the first investigators to recognize the potential advantages and adopt the application of quantitative real-time PCR methods to characterize EPN communities in nature. She has published papers reporting the design and use of species-specific primers-probe sets to measure more than 20 EPN species encountered in Florida and Western Europe, as well as a large number of fungal, bacterial and free living nematode species that prey on or compete with EPNs. The elegance of this system is that DNA from conventional samples of nematodes extracted from soil can provide a robust understanding of the community composition of EPNs and many of their natural enemies.

Raquel has characterized soil food webs extensively in both perennial and annual cropping systems. She quantified as many as 20 species of EPNs and their natural enemies in regional surveys that revealed certain soil properties which likely modulate the species composition of EPN communities in Florida citrus orchards. She monitored soil communities continuously for several years in diverse habitats to demonstrate that bacterial ectoparasites modulate EPN population dynamics. She discovered soil properties that induce trophic cascades by impairing the bacteria parasites, increasing EPN numbers and thereby reducing herbivory by weevil pests and associated infections by plant-parasitic oomycetes. Laboratory and field experiments have validated the causal nature of the relationships she measured between EPN species and biotic and abiotic factors. Her extensive surveys and subsequent experiments provided the basis for novel tactics to modify soils in ways that were shown to effectively increase biological control of soil-borne insect pests. These tactics have great potential and represent the first practical demonstration of conservation biological control utilizing EPNs.

Historically, efforts to utilize EPNs in agriculture focused mainly on commercial formulations, augmentation and efficacy of insect-EPN species combinations. Field-level studies of EPN ecology were limited primarily to the direct effects of soil properties on efficacy and occurrence. Raquel developed new tools and demonstrated how they can expand the scope of population-level research to encompass complex food webs. This approach yielded information about the capacity of plants to recruit EPNs in response to herbivory, the long term effects of mining pollution on communities of EPNs and free living nematodes, EPN competition with specific groups of free living nematodes and evolution of parasitism, and the relative importance of various nematophagous fungi in regulating EPN spatio-temporal patterns. An ongoing project employs suites of the qPCR sets as the most reliable means to evaluate the quality of information derived from Next Generation Sequencing protocols.

Raquel Campos-Herrera’s research is providing foundational information about the natural history of EPNs, the services they provide and ways growers can conserve and enhance those services. She has been exceptionally effective at organizing projects and resources to study these nematodes and disseminating research findings to colleagues and students. Her novel tactics to modify soils in ways that were shown to effectively increase biological control of soil-borne insect pests. These tactics have great potential and represent the first practical demonstration of conservation biological control utilizing EPNs. Historically, efforts to utilize EPNs in agriculture focused mainly on commercial formulations, augmentation and efficacy of insect-EPN species combinations. Field-level studies of EPN ecology were limited primarily to the direct effects of soil properties on efficacy and occurrence. Raquel developed new tools and demonstrated how they can expand the scope of population-level research to encompass complex food webs. This approach yielded information about the capacity of plants to recruit EPNs in response to herbivory, the long term effects of mining pollution on communities of EPNs and free living nematodes, EPN competition with specific groups of free living nematodes and evolution of parasitism, and the relative importance of various nematophagous fungi in regulating EPN spatio-temporal patterns. An ongoing project employs suites of the qPCR sets as the most reliable means to evaluate the quality of information derived from Next Generation Sequencing protocols.

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Thomas Jefferson Welcomes the Society of Nematologists to Colonial Williamsburg

The Honorable Thomas Jefferson opened the 56th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nematologists in the Plenary Session with a rousing speech admonishing the attendees to pursue science with an open mind that reveals the truth according to the facts uncovered. As a founding father of the United States he was the primary writer of the Declaration of Independence, and along with James Madison and others, helped author the Constitution of these United States. Mr. Jefferson began nearly forty years in public office at the age of 25 when he was elected a member of the colonial Williamsburg House of Burgesses. Mr. Jefferson went on to serve as Virginia delegate to the Continental Congress, Governor of the commonwealth of Virginia, United States Ambassador to France, the Secretary of State and Vice President under John Quincy Adams. As the third President of the United States, duly elected twice, he advocated religious freedom and tolerance, oversaw the Louisiana Purchase, and initiated the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Pacific northwest. He attended the College of William and Mary when he was 16 and was greatly influence by Professor William Small. In 1891, at the age of 76, Jefferson founded the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, designed its buildings, planned the curriculum, and served as its first rector. However, despite his many titles of office, he prefers to be known simply as a farmer from Virginia.
John Webster Outstanding Student Award

Gary Phillips (University of Tennessee) is presented with the “John Webster Outstanding Student Award” by Richard Davis, Chair of the N.A. Cobb Nematology Foundation.

Gary Phillips won the annual competition for the “John Webster Outstanding Student” award given by the N.A. Cobb Nematology Foundation for his paper entitled, “Nematodes as a learning tool for understanding biodiversity and the potential use of phoretic insect and soil dwelling nematodes as forensic post-mortem interval indicators.” Dr. Phillips’ research has demonstrated the biodiversity of nematodes. “During four years of research, 60,000+ nematodes were dissected from the gastrointestinal (GI) tract of 900 millipedes spanning 47 species in Rhigonematida and Oxyuridomorpha. *Coronostoma* spp., *Staruatostoma shelleyi*, *Thelasotoma* spp. and *Heth pivaris* are some of the 20+ new taxa that have been discovered in temperate North American millipedes.” He went on to demonstrate “...that soil-dwelling and insect-phoretic nematodes can be used in conjunction with insect data to help estimate forensic postmortem interval.” “These community composition changes appear to have predictable trajectories that could permit more precise estimation of time of death.”

Best Student Paper Awards

The battle to win the “Best Student Paper” was very competitive this year. Since there were so many entries, the field was narrowed to 16 in the first round that was based on the abstract submission. The final 16 competed in a head-to-head face-off that was narrowed down to a first and second place winner. Emily Feist from the University of Southampton won first place with her paper titled, “The effect of fluensulfone (Nimitz) on cysts of the potato cyst nematode *Globodera pallida*.” She demonstrated that “fluensulfone, at concentrations as low as 1 µM (0.29 ppm), completely inhibits *G. pallida* from hatching from cysts for a period of 28 days.” “Cyst exposed to ≥50 µM fluensulfone contained unhatched eggs that appeared granular with the structures of the enclosed J2 no longer visible, suggesting that the cyst and egg-shell are not able to protect the enclosed J2 at these high concentrations.”

Wei Li, from Clemson University, won the second place award. The title of her presentation was, “Plant hormone manipulation during reniform nematodes (*Rotylenchus reniformis*) parasitism effects on upland cotton.” Her research demonstrated “... how reniform nematode infection affects lateral root formation in cotton...” “RN infected cotton root systems had significantly higher fractal dimensions and fork densities, as well as longer total root length (p<0.05).” “...during nematode parasitism of cotton roots, reniform nematodes co-opt plant hormone pathways. The changes in auxins signaling and transport to establish feeding sites in pericycle cells may result in modified root system architecture.”
In the early part of her career, Virginia Ferris conducted research with a microscope, often from the spare bedroom in her home. Her passion for science never waned, and as the first woman appointed to the Purdue Agriculture faculty, Ferris helped pave the way for women in agriculture.

Though Ferris’ later research no longer required observation of the tiny worms—just extraction of their DNA—she kept the microscope, a device that she had been fascinated with in her youth. “When you compare what scientists find at the molecular level today with conclusions they based solely on microscope observations back then, many of their early conclusions still hold true today,” she said in the interview.

Ferris’ groundbreaking research was one more step in a groundbreaking career. Ferris’ passion for science began early in life. After high school, she packed her bags and a consuming interest in biology and left small-town Kansas for Wellesley College on the East Coast. At the all-women’s college, she found a competitive academic environment, female professors to serve as role models, and the self-confidence to more than hold her own when she entered Cornell University as the only female incoming graduate student in plant pathology.

Her years at Cornell shaped both her professional and personal life. She earned a Ph.D. in plant pathology, joined the Cornell faculty as an assistant professor, and began research in nematology. It was there that she met and married John Ferris, her colleague, major collaborator, and best friend until his death in 2000.

The couple left New York for the Midwest in 1956. “I used my last month’s paycheck from Cornell to buy a microscope,” Ferris said in the interview. It was difficult for women to obtain faculty positions, particularly in the conservative Midwest, so she set up a home lab and did research as a freelance consultant, first in Illinois and then in West Lafayette, when John joined the Purdue entomology faculty in 1958.

“Nematology was a young science,” Ferris noted in the interview. “I grew up right along with it.” She worked tirelessly, conducting research, editing professional journals, lecturing, and networking with other scientists. With their two children in tow, the Ferrises traveled extensively, collecting different species of nematodes, often processing soil samples in hotel bathrooms. She was already one of the foremost experts on nematodes when she was appointed to the Purdue Agriculture faculty in 1965.

Mentoring others in the lab and on campus, by 1974, she was a full professor in the Department of Entomology, having already added associate professor, assistant dean of the graduate school, and assistant provost to her résumé. By then she’d also been president of the Society of Nematologists, associate editor of the Journal of Nematology, and recipient of the Helen B. Schleman Gold Medallion Award, annually bestowed by Purdue’s Mortar Board chapter to a faculty or staff member for contributions to Purdue, especially in the promotion and advancement of women students and women’s issues.

“Few careers with which I have been made aware share the breadth of reach and stretch of scholarship demonstrated by the career of Dr. Virginia Ferris,” said Robert Walz, Indiana’s state chemist and seed commissioner, and a former colleague and student of Ferris. “She exemplified the authority of a respected academic pedagogue with high professional expectations of her students,” he wrote in a letter recommending her for the Purdue Agricultural Alumni Association 2017 Certificate of Distinction.

Virginia was named as Fellow of the Society of Nematologists in 1985 and as Honorary Member, in 2001. She loved to attend the annual meeting of the Society of Nematologists and remained up-to-date in the science by doing so. She often asked the most thought provoking questions in sessions that she attended and she became admired and loved by all of the members of the Society of Nematologists. We nematologists will greatly miss her.

(Obituary appended from the departmental website; photo of John and Virginia Ferris at the Third International Meeting of the Federation of Nematological Societies, Guadelupe, French West Indies, 1996 by Jon Eisenback)
M. R. Siddiqi — August 25, 2017

We are sad to announce the passing of Dr. Mohammad R. Siddiqi. Via his daughter Safia, Dr. Siddiqi suffered a recent fall and pneumonia, and passed away on Friday, August 25, 2017. More information will be posted as we receive it.

Professor Siddiqi developed his Natural Classification of the plant-parasitic nematodes in the premolecular era. In that time, it was a common view that the significance of the systematics and biodiversity research was close to its logical end. Dr Siddiqi successfully combined intensive search for completely new morphological characters with detailed features of nematode life histories and with their host-parasite relationships, especially in cases where the morphological characters were insufficient to develop logical and explanatory natural classification. The conservative taxonomists call him a ‘splitter’, but the Great Master’s intuition rarely failed, and this was confirmed recently in the molecular era; all the formal morphological classifications were rejected, but the synthetic morpho-biological classification of Siddiqi is still alive and it is actively cited by molecular phylogeneticists; only the ranks some taxa were changed (e.g., orders were lowered in ranks).

His attention to the small morphological details (‘his sharp eye’) was expressed in his famous, unique and finely precise morphological drawings of the many hundreds of species described by him. Even during the final stage of his research activities, Dr Siddiqi could not only find the differences between aphenlenchs and tylenchs, firstly citing them as different nematode orders, but he published his classical book “Tylenchida: parasites of plants and insects” (CAB International, 1986, 645 pp.; 2nd Edition, 2000, “Tylenchida: parasites of plants and insects”, 848 pp.). This is the final compendium on plant-parasitic nematodes based on the structured and synthetic classification developed by him. The morphology and biological features were analysed thoroughly by him as adaptations of morphological evolution and the development of host-parasite relationships. Professor Siddiqi is an author of nearly 300 research papers, in which he described more than 600 nematode species and proposed more than 200 genera and nearly 30 families. Starting his scientific career in his motherland, Uttar Pradesh state in India, Professor Siddiqi profoundly understood the enormous human potential of the developing Afro-Asian world. Continuing since 1966 his career in CAB International in U.K., he taught students from the British Commonwealth countries kindly, patiently, but insistently, demonstrating important morphological details of nematodes under the microscope and explaining the peculiarities of the nematode life histories. Developing his pedagogical and training activities, Mohammad Rafiq established the Afro-Asian Society of Nematologists in 1990 during the Second International Nematology Congress, at Veldhoven, The Netherlands; the Society is affiliated with the International Journal of Nematology (previously called the Afro-Asian Journal of Nematology). As a real scientist and ‘nematophile’ in terms of his British colleagues, Professor Siddiqi paid attention to modern European education for people originating from Afro-Asian civilizations, especially for women. All his five daughters received higher education in Great Britain and are very successful in their careers.

(From the Russian Journal of Nematology, 2015, Vol. 23:77-78)

George Muhia Kariuki — August 10, 2017

We are sad to announce the passing of Dr. George Muhia Kariuki who drowned in a Florida lake while snorkeling. He was a professor in the Department of Agricultural Science and Technology at Kenyata University in Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. Kariuki received a Ph.D. in plant nematology at the University of Florida in 2006 where he also was a post-doc from 2006-07. He had travelled to the United States, accompanied with his family, to attend the 56th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nematologists.

Dr. Kariuki supervised 3 Ph.D. students at the University of Nairobi and 13 Masters students at the University of Kenyatta, University of Nairobi, and University of Eldoret.
Norman A. Minton — October 12, 1924 - September 5, 2017

Norman Alton Minton, 92, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at Lynn Haven Health and Rehabilitation in Gray, GA. Funeral services celebrating his life were held on Sunday, September 10, 2017 in Spring Garden Methodist Church with burial following in Piedmont Memory Gardens in Piedmont, Alabama.

Norman was born on October 12, 1924 in Spring Garden, AL to the late Pearson and Clara Savage Minton. He faithfully served his country in the United States Army as a WWII veteran, serving two years in Europe with the Army Corp of Engineers and the remainder of the time in the Philippines and Japan.

He received a B.S. degree in Agricultural Education and a M.S. degree in Horticulture from Auburn University. In 1955, Dr. Minton joined the USDA ARS as an Assistant Nematologist in Auburn, Alabama. At the same time, he also enrolled part time at Auburn University and was awarded a Ph.D. in Zoology in 1960. In 1964, he was transferred to Tifton, Georgia to fill the position vacated by Dr. Joe Good.

His research dealt with managing nematodes on agronomic and forage crops. Dr. Minton was a strong advocate of interdisciplinary cooperative research. He worked on almost every agronomic practice likely to affect nematode populations including host-plant resistance, nematicides, crop rotation, tillage, and briefly with the parasitic bacterium Pasteuria penetrans. Dr. Minton identified resistance to Meloidogyne spp. in several forages. He also evaluated peanut cultivars for resistance to M. arenaria and M. hapla and the value of growing Meloidogyne-resistant soybean which resulted in a shift away from planting susceptible cultivars. Along with coworkers, he determined that in-row subsoiling of compacted soil reduced nematode damage to soybean and increased yields. Fracturing the hardpan allowed soybean roots to penetrate the subsoil where moisture was greater and there were fewer nematodes. In other cooperative work, he determined that high populations of M. incognita increased the incidence of Fusarium wilt in soybean and zinc deficiency in corn. Application of a nematicide reduced the severity of Fusarium wilt in soybean and zinc deficiency in corn.

Dr. Minton initiated several long-term crop rotation studies which were completed by others after his retirement in 1994. He was a charter member of the Society of Nematologists and was honored as a Fellow of the Society in 1992. Those who knew Dr. Minton will remember him a jovial and kind-hearted man.

In addition to his parents, Norman was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Doris Lorene Pope Minton. Left to cherish his memory is his daughter, Cathy Minton of Gray; sisters: Lucy Bell, Jean Napolitano, Dean Anteniza & Bronda Curtis; brother: Herman Minton.

Richard Sikora awarded the Anton deBary Medal by the German Phytomedicine Society

Richard Sikora was awarded the Anton-de-Bary-Medaille by the German Phytomedicine Society (Deutsche Phytomedizinische Gesellschaft e.V. - DPG) in September 2016 in Halle Germany, for his outstanding achievements in researching the importance of the soil ecosystem to improve plant health and for his work on biological control.
Position Announcement
Assistant Professor of Nematology
Department of Entomology and Nematology
University of California, Davis

Title:
Assistant Professor of Nematology. The Department of Entomology and Nematology in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Davis is recruiting an Assistant Professor of Nematology with a preferred emphasis in Plant Nematology. This is an academic year (9-month), Assistant Professor tenure-track position with teaching, research, outreach/engagement and service responsibilities and includes the expectation that the appointee will conduct mission-oriented research and outreach/engagement of relevance to the California Agricultural Experiment Station (http://caes.ucdavis.edu/research/agexpstn).

Responsibilities:
The Department of Entomology and Nematology is seeking applicants that use modern approaches and methods in their basic research and translate the resulting discoveries to the development of integrated management of plant-parasitic nematodes. The appointee is expected to establish a competitively funded research program using tools that enhance understanding of plant-parasitic nematodes and host-parasite interactions. The successful candidate will extend basic research to crop plants and integrated pest management to address critical or emerging issues aimed at reducing the impact of nematodes. The appointee will be responsible for teaching courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including for example, NEM 100 General Plant Nematology (4 units), NEM 110 Introduction to Nematology (2 units), ABI 50A Animal Biology Laboratory (2), NEM 201 Molecular and Physiological Plant Nematology (2 units), and contributing to participatory graduate seminars. The appointee is expected to teach formal courses in two academic quarters each year, and participate in curricular development for the Animal Biology Major. Participation in and development of outreach/engagement programs, and performance of departmental and university service is expected. This position is expected to work with extension educators and partners in allied industries.

Qualifications:
Ph.D. or equivalent degree in Nematology or appropriate area of Biological Sciences. Post-doctoral experience is preferred. Evidence of research excellence is expected. The candidate should have the ability to develop and instruct undergraduate and graduate courses and the ability to develop and conduct extramurally funded research in Plant Nematology.

Salary:
Commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications:
Application materials must be submitted via the following website: https://recruit.ucdavis.edu. The position will remain open until filled. To ensure consideration, applications should be received by November 30.

Required application materials include: 1) curriculum vitae including publication list, 2) up to three publications, 3) transcripts if the applicant is within five years of Ph.D. degree, 4) statement of research accomplishments, 5) statement of teaching accomplishments and philosophy, 6) statement of future research plans relevant to Plant Nematology, 7) Statement of Contributions to Diversity, and 8) the names, addresses, including e-mail, of four professional references. Additional inquiries should be directed to Dr. Becky Westerdahl, Department of Entomology and Nematology (College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences), email: bbwesterdahl@ucdavis.edu

UC Davis is an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity employer and is dedicated to recruiting a diverse faculty community. We welcome all qualified applicants to apply, including women, minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.
Five teams of three competed in the second N.A. Cobb Bowl, “Nematodes in Jeopardy”. The competition was keen, but the Florida Team composed of Lesley, Shova and Benjamin won first place. The team from Clemson University raised the bar by wearing sporty athletic team outfits, and managed to come in third.
Society of Nematologists Executive Board
56TH ANNUAL MEETING (2017)
1ST EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 8/13/17
LOCATION: Williamsburg, VA
ATTENDANCE: Patty Timper, Nancy Kokalis-Burelle, Billy Crow, Byron Adams, Andrea Skantar, Kathy Lawrence, Koon-Hui Wang, Paulo Viera (left for LAC task at 8:39 am), Guiping Yan, Cynthia Gleason, Axel Elling (joined at 2:00 pm), Erik Ragsdale (joined at 2:27 pm).

Guest: Jon Eisenback 8:37 am-8:50; Steve Thomas: 1:50-2:57 pm

Executive Board will be referred to as EB in these minutes.

1. Announcements: President Patty Timper thanked members of the EB for coming and participating throughout the year.

2. Call to order President Patty Timper called the meeting to order at 8:19 am EST time, seconded by Koon-Hui Wang.

3. Approval of minutes Byron Adam made a motion to approve the minutes; Kathy Lawrence seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approve of consent agenda Andrea Skantar made a motion to approve agenda, Lawrence seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Approve of minutes from electronic EB meeting Wang moved and Billy Crow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Executive Board Reports (See written report attached)
   a. Past President: Byron Adams
   b. President: Patricia Timper
   c. President-Elect: Nancy Kokalis-Burelle
   d. Vice-President: Billy Crow
   e. Secretary: Koon-Hui Wang
   f. Treasurer: Kathy Lawrence
   g. Editor-in-Chief, JON: Andrea Skantar
   h. Web Page Editor: Mario Tenuta (no report)
   i. Newsletter Editors: Jon Eisenback and Paulo Vieira

7. Other Reports (See written report attached)
   a. N. A. Cobb Foundation: Richard Davis
   b. Archives: Jon Eisenback

8. Standing Committee Reports (See written report attached)
   a. Biological Control – Louise-Marie Dandurand
   b. Ecology – Uffe Nielsen
   c. Education – Tom Powers (no report)
   d. Entomophilic Nematology – Harit Bal
   e. Extension – Travis Faske
   f. Finance Advisory – Kathy Lawrence
   g. Graduate Student – Christeena Sevy (no report)
   h. Honor and Awards – Richard Davis
   i. Industry – Axel Elling
   j. Long Range Planning – Byron Adams (no report)
   k. Meeting Site Selection – Billy Crow
   l. Membership – Inga Zasada
   m. Plant Resistance – Andreas Westphal
   n. Regulatory – Janete Brito
   o. Systematic Resources – Tesfamariam Mengistu

9. Affiliated Organizations (See written report attached)
   a. AIBS – Pete Masler
   b. IFNS – Axel Elling and Robin Giblin-Davis
   c. NSCA – (no report) need renewal this year. Task Systematic Resources Committee to renew.

10. Old Business
    a. Other business from the Consent Agenda (see New Business)
    b. Budget 2016-2017: (more detail in written report)

Overall SON membership is down, but net income is up. Membership dues and annual meeting profit were the main incomes. In this meeting, 125 rooms were reserved, but only 90 rooms were occupied. Local Arrangement Committee (LAC) might have to pay a fee for the rest of the rooms (10-35 rooms). Some members had confusion when called in or login online and thought the rooms were all booked, so some members had to go to other hotels. If charged, there will be a 20% fee. The meeting made good profit for the society. The Journal of Nematology cost about $4000 more than last year. Skantar thinks the $23,387 expenses for JON was higher than expected. Skantar explained that this could be due to our annual meeting this year was one month later than last year. Charge for Allen Press (editorial manager) is for 4 issues; Sheridan Press charges might be for 5 issues. We also published more papers per issue this year, which might be the reason why JON cost more than last year.

LAC projected an expense of $75K for this year’s meeting, Vieira said that LAC tried to save money by bringing in projectors, screens and poster boards. Due to high cost of renting additional poster boards beside those included, LAC bought 20 boards at very affordable price. It would cost >$3000 to rent those from the hotel. Jon Eisenback also brought in sound system himself. LAC saved expenses on program book printing, but spent more on inviting special speakers due to special request.

Lawrence added that this year’s web design charges were the main spending from the EB. Other expenses were as projected by Senyu Chen. We did give out more student awards this year partly due to receiving more donations from sponsors such as Syngenta. Student travel awards were...
It is not clear where the $5,000 gift come from. Adam said that might be from updating the Widely Prevalent Nematodes list to USDA APHIS. Lawrence will check with Steve Thomas and Chen. Last year, Timper used that $5000 gift for inviting speakers.

In general, SON is doing fine financially. Business office was projected to spend $10K but no charges were received so far. Patty Timper suggested that the $1000 gift from Syngenta should move to gift item in the budget. Lawrence added that meeting sponsors’ donation was not listed in this budget yet, once added, the meeting expense would look less.

Some challenges faced are: 1) when members pay membership with credit card on SON website, it only showed the payees’ e-mails, not their names; hence it is difficult to track the new members; 2) membership numbers are down, 3) some international students that received awards need cash instead of check due to difficulty in bank transaction.

Eisenback and Vieira came into the meeting room to hand EB members their registration packages and program books. Timper asked if tours were included in the meeting. Eisenback said that it cost too much to include a tour in the program but a self-guided tour ticket was included in the registration package for members to visit the colonial street and it was good throughout the meeting. People can visit the street at flexible time, this also save cost for the society.

Timper suggested the treasurer to share the budget report with EB once in a while during the electronic meetings, instead of once a year during annual meeting. Credit card fee costs less to the society now because we fold in the abstract fee with the registration. Credit card fee is not a % charge but a charge by transaction. Crow pointed out that if a PI pays registration for all the lab members in one transaction, it would cost the PI less on credit card fee. Currently, the meeting registration through the website only allow each transaction to pay one registration at a time. Recommend the web editor to enable one person to pay for multiple registrations. Crow suggested that we tell members at the business meeting that the reason why registration is high this year is due to combining abstract and meal in the registration. This approach actually helped the PIs to cover some expenses for students rather than letting the students having to pay for every meals. If we are able to save cost on credit card fee, it will also reduce handling cost for business office. The South Africa meeting required wire-transfer to pay registration fee which was also a costly transaction. Timper asked Lawrence to work with LAC next year to keep similar registration fee. Timper also suggested Lawrence to write down anything that is potentially an obstacle challenged by the treasurer into Ops Manual.

ESN (European Society of Nematologists) is hosting a meeting in 2018. It will be good to ask their program organizers to involve early career nematologists when they contact our VP for invited speakers. Crow asked when we have the join meeting in ICN, do we still have the same change of term in EB? Timper said yes.

Lawrence wrapped up the budget report saying that: although we don’t have an endowment fund anymore, SON investment is doing very well. SON did transfer some money to Cobb Foundation in the past. Zasada suggested that we should start using the money we gained from the investment.

Break at 9:45-10:07 am

c. Journal transition to Exeley Inc. and author charges
Skantar reported that JON received more manuscripts submission in 2017, but overall numbers of publication in 2017 was slightly lower than last year, probably due to more rejections. Quality of submission is lower, many are not following guidelines. Usually we published a shorter version of the JON guidelines once a year in SON Newsletter. The checklist in bullet point requirement at the beginning of the manuscript submission is helpful but some authors checked the bullets but not necessary followed the instruction for publication. Impact factor of JON is on the right track. Cost of JON publication is mostly on page charge and type setting. Colored graphs do cost more, and more authors like to submit manuscript with color now. Sheridan cost about 30-50% less than Allen Press. Better editing by editors reduces publication cost, but it is not clear how much the cost would be reduced. The main challenge is getting reviewers to agree to review especially on symposium papers. Editors need to make a cut off time to wait for reviewers to respond to review. Kokalis-Burelle asked about the technical editing charges by publisher, as they can’t edit much on scientific editing. Skantar said we are considering to transition journal publication to Exeley – Exeley is willing to allow us to select services we want, we hope to get a cheaper publication cost compared to Sheridan. Now JON has an average of 9-10 papers per issue.

Timper said that the main concern on JON publication is to cut costs. Two approaches: cutting cost on publishing, and charging submission fee to cover some costs. Now the journal is posted on Florida website for free. Exeley is offering a new option to publish our journal. The model used in Exeley will help with SON web exposure (See https://www.exeley.com/mainMenu for samples of the last two issues of JON posted in Exeley). They will move our archive issues and upload to this website. They can also add DOI for each manuscript. Skantar thought that this would be money well spent for the society. Timper asked if we could get the specific publication cost and color graphic cost as this will help in decision-making. Kokalis-Burelle asked if it would be better to keep the editorial mode within the current Peer Track system so that we don’t have to start a reviewer list again. Timper asked if it is ok to still keep JON on Florida Center for Library Automation website (http://journals.fcla.edu/jon) as a backup until Exeley publication of JON system takes off. Skantar said Exeley also offers supplemental figures and prepress options. Lawrence said we could use the investment account to pay. Timper suggested we try Exeley for now.

Timper raised the question on whether it would be well received if we start to charge manuscript submission fee. Roland Perry had suggested a flat publication fee for members vs non-members. However, now lots of authors are non-members. Timper suggested charging $150 for members and $200 for non-members; and charge more for other additional options (color or not). Now it costs SON about $4000/issue or $400/manuscript. For Plant Disease, APS is charging $50/page for the first 6 pages, $80/page thereafter. Timper said we should promote on SON webpage that JON is an open access journal. If we go to BioOne to offer open access publications, some countries will not have access to the journal. Timper asked if these proposed changes for manuscript publication is acceptable? Skantar said the purpose was mainly to offset publication costs, not necessarily to cover all publication costs. Crow said that’s a good start we can increase the price later. Kokalis-Burelle said if it is too cheap, people might not value it. Skantar said this type of
publication is also mobile friendly. Crop Science is charging $500/manuscript. If we make a
cost comparison from different journals, members / authors would understand. If we charge
publication fee more than membership fee, then we will encourage more memberships. Based
on some of the price comparison, Timper suggested that we charge $200 for members, $400
for non-members for each manuscript publication. Skantar added that currently we have
plenty submission.

Lawrence made a motion for JON to charge publication fee of $200 for member and $400 for
non-member per publication as open access publication to offset publication cost of JON. Guiping Yan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Yan said that this charge is considered cheap and acceptable because if we com-
pare price with APS, Plant Disease publications easily cost $300 per paper and Plant Disease
is not an open access journal. Most open access journal cost more than $1000 per paper. JON
is one of the core value of SON, thus it is well justified for EB to try to subsidize JON. JON
had been costing the society historically, thus charging a nominal flat fee is justifiable.

Timper called to vote, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Timper asked when the publication charge should be effective. Skantar suggested for De-
cember because December is when the next issue would be published and new editor will
take over. Kokalis-Burelle asked if Exeley also make webpage. Their webpage is prettier than
our current SON webpage. Skantar said that webpage could enhance the JON paper submission.
So far Ono Design is difficult to work with and still doesn’t produce a membership list.
Timper added that we also need to find out if members can pay publication fee through the
current SON website. Most common situation is that the publication fee is not paid by the
first author. Thus, we need to have a website that can facilitate this.

Steve Thomas said that we can download information as a spreadsheet from the current
website. Lawrence said that the credit card statement only showed e-mail. We need the name
for membership list. Ono Design is using 'Stripe' as the company that processes credit card
payments. Timper would like to ask Mario Tenuta to work with treasurer to add the following
information to the webpage at time of registration, so that Stripe report should show: name,
e-mail, membership number, and membership status. We need to know the number members
because it affects the number of award for fellow of the society. The nomination is usually
called in March.

Timper suggested that we start to charge publication fee based on submitting date starting
from January. Skantar asked if there is a contract that we need to complete with Sheridan.
Kokalis-Burelle thought that we had already honored the contract we signed up. Inga Zasada
has the Sheridan contract. Skantar said we need to have enough time for advertising to allow
authors to be aware of the publication fee. Timper said the editor has the final say on the noti-
fication of accepting a publication. For example, the editor can add a statement when notifying
the authors on the status of their manuscript: “Your paper will be accepted for publication
pending on payment of publication fee, please visit the website to pay”. Even if we might not
be started with Exeley publication yet, Timper said we like the publication fee to be effective
on January 1st. We need Mario Tenuta to add the payment of publication function to the
webpage, and allow this information to be accessible by Editor-in-Chief. The charges should
happen upon the final acceptance before the galley proof. Since the charge is not by page, so
we can do that before the galley proof stage. It is the Editor-in-Chief prerogative to approve a
paper. Mario Tenuta can investigate with Ono Design if publication payment can be added to
the current webpage, it shouldn’t be an additional charge from Ono Design. Need to make sure
different payment rates for member vs non-member. Just need one author as member to login
to pay. By starting this in January would also allow notification time for Sheridan.

Nancy Kokalis-Burelle said that we are moving in the right direction for the Journal.

Timper and Cynthia Gleason both concerned about whether we should waive publication fee
for authors from the third world countries especially if they have technical difficulty to pay the
publication fee. Byron Adam agreed that it is important for us to do so.

Byron Adam moved that we can add some language to the letter of publication payment so that
authors with difficulty to pay publication fee can be waived the publication payment. This is
up to the Editor-in-Chief to decide. Lawrence seconded the motion, all in favor. Motion passed
unanimously.

Lunch break at 11:47 am.

d. Web page – Phase II
Roxana Myers and Steve Thomas said that some of the Phase II works are done. However, the
membership list is still not up on the website. Thomas said that the Phase II had made the
meeting registration work easier. Adam said membership information is in the database. Mario
Tenuta was on sabbatical leaves and Ono Design wanted additional charge to train new person.

e. Business Office transition (see New Business)

11. New Business:

a. New Board Members: Cynthia Gleason (Liaison) and David Bird (VP).

b. New Business: See above.

c. Student Competition – This year more students enter student competition than what
we can fit into two sessions. A total of 30 students’ abstracts were submitted to enter compe-
tition, the Award and Honor Committee had to turn down some to only allow 16 students
to compete. Honor and Award committee prejudged student abstracts to select the top 16 to
enter the contest. Nancy Kokalis-Burelle forwarded all the students that select to participate
in competition but was not selected to present in other oral sessions. Timper asked should we
separate students in competition into categories (Applied vs Molecular)? Otherwise, are there
other models that we can do to allow more students to compete? Or we can check if the stu-
dents were in competition last year and give more opportunities to other students. This might
not be a problem every year. Lawrence asked should we award MS and Ph.D. separately. It’s
encouraging to see high number of students participated. Should we recruit more judges? We
had eliminated the poster competition years before because poster judging takes lots of effort.
Kokalis-Burelle said we could consider to do poster competition again because many students
were sad that they didn't get in the oral competition.

Both Koon-Hui Wang and Byron Adam suggested 3-minute slide presentation (thesis) / elevator pitch approach. We should set a rule that no slide animation is allowed in this slide presentation model. Students would have good practice to present effectively. This can allow all students that apply for competition to present. Let the students choose which format they want to present. Crow suggested we should give more awards to student. Can ask the Award and Honor Committee (AHC) to recruit more members to consider additional student competition. Timper reminded that it is difficult to recruit more members into AHC as 50% of the members need to be previous awardees but we can recruit more judges. The ops manual only stated a much lower student award amount. EB can tell AHC that we would like them to add two more members to the committee. Make two student competition sessions, students can select one of these sessions: "Conventional" vs "3-minute presentation". Then we will have 10 members in AHC, with more than half being previous awardees. Offer higher awards for the 15-min talk than the 3-min talk. AHC can consider to judging students by categories (Applied vs Molecular). Crow suggested asking student advisors to guide the students on which session to participate. Or we can limit to one student per lab/adviser to participate in the 15-min presentation. 3-min talk will not have questioning period.

Lawrence moved that we increased the two student awards to $500 for 1st and $250 for the 2nd place. Crow seconded the motion. Discussion on whether or not we can afford the 3rd place. If AHC decided to have the 3-min talk then we can award $300 for the 1st place and $150 for the 2nd place. Adam argued that we award the same amount for the 3-min talk as the 15-talk. It's a different skill set and can be more challenging for the 3-min talk. Discussion on question time is not conclusive. So $500 and $250 for the 1st and 2nd place for both student presentation competitions. Crow added that we let the AHC to decide how many models of student presentation competition for that year. Let the student choose the competition they want to participate. All in favor, no oppose, motion passed unanimously.

Timper asked Wang to make changes in the ops manual to reflect the modification in student award amount.

d. Budget 2017-2018 (Reported in New Business)

e. Business Office (Steve Thomas) - combine old with new business

Steve passed around reports on his monthly activities. He told EB that he would stay on as Business Office Manager for one more year. Most of his time was spending on straightening 501(C) 3 certification and copy of Article of Incorporation of SON. He had figured out the person to contact in Kansas, SON was incorporated in Maryland. However, we might have moved, and the document for Article of Incorporation might not be in Maryland. Thomas said starting in January, he might free up his time from teaching Nematology. Meeting registration name list does not allow him to sort names by last names. Need more work to improve SON webpage to stream line the business operation. Myles from Ono Design wanted to have only one point of contact and will charge more to train new person. Things associate with website still need to be addressed. Membership renewal report does not show member's name. Stripe, the credit card gateway, only shows usernames and e-mails. This made it difficult to generate membership directory.

Credit card transaction fee can be a combination of % of pay amount and number of transactions. If basing on username and e-mail can help to figure out member list, next problem will be if the member changes their username. We need to have a person to be the chain of command for all issues related to website. It’s up to Tenuta and Ono Design to decide what to do next. Not clear on whether Ono Design will make the directory or just prepare the data base for us, so that SON can make the directory ourselves. Tenuta is tasked to resolve this. Adam said previously the membership number assigned to each member is the way to go. Maybe we need to go back to generate membership number. Thomas said we can still trace back who is member or non-member by their e-mails.

Thomas listed future need for business office is to centralize a list of SON vendors and accounts (list of all accounts that SON deal with). Please send all this information you know to Thomas. He will update them into the website or secure them with the business office. Old credit and debit cards (Square Space) have been canceled. Adam said the Square Space account might be from the previous business office, and we no longer need this. Thomas is in the process to transfer the account to pay webhost to whatever Ono Design likes to get their payment from.

Adam made a motion to authorize business office to hire an accountant to renew the 501(C) 3 status and help with annual tax status. Lawrence seconded. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Currently, webpage related issues are the main challenge. Timper said going forward, we should hire a contract person for business office again that are not hourly paid. Ask Steve for an idea on how much to compensate a person. This had previously been done in SON, but if the person work longer than certain hours, than it will be charged by hour. Timper said it will be good to hire someone that know the society well, similar to the Schmitt had done. We want to compensate the person decently. Timper and Adam thank Thomas profusely for taking care of the business office without compensation.

Timper reminded that we need to make sure Regulatory Committee knows that USDA provided SON a $5000 for maintaining the widely prevalent nematode list. Russell Bullock and Tonia Quintero will be the contact person. Joseph LaForest will be at the meeting to discuss more about this at the Regulatory Committee meeting.

Timper reminded that we need to make sure Regulatory Committee knows that USDA provided SON a $5000 for maintaining the widely prevalent nematode list. Russell Bullock and Tonia Quintero will be the contact person. Joseph LaForest will be at the meeting to discuss more about this at the Regulatory Committee meeting.

b. SON Website - content from committees

To increase membership, Inga Zasada (Chair of Membership Committee) suggested EB to encourage each standing committee to produce videos, plan for symposia, grant writing sessions, or upload a list of resistant cultivars on website to increase visibility of the Society and make use of the investment profit generated to provide incentive for members to contribute to the website. Timper gave an example for Resistant Committee to generate a list of resistant cultivars of different crops would be very valuable information. She encouraged committees or individuals to upload educational content to SON website through screening and review of the Education Committee. We can protect the website with password so as to provide additional benefits for membership. EB can evaluate committee proposals and provide funding for different web projects. It is important to go through a reviewing process (maybe by Education Committee) to make sure the content is valid. Kokalis-Burelle suggested that some techniques from a journal article could be made into videos. Adam said liaisons could tell all committees to do this. No need to be restricted to Nematology. Adam said we could promote any science, advocate for
Nematology, so we can let agency to allocate fund for science.

Kokalis-Burelle said that we need to announce the amount that we can spend for these activities. EB can grant money to different committees after evaluating their proposals. This could all be promoting the science of Nematology. Example can be YouTube videos, creating a database with useful information. These will be useful for teaching in Nematology too. We want to engage students to do this. Skantar added techniques, video competition, and snap chat in 30 seconds. See examples of ideas proposed by Zasada in her Membership Committee written report.

Crow made a motion for EB to entertain a grant proposal competition for SON standing committees to propose website projects that can promote the science of Nematology. Successful proposals will be granted upon review from EB. Kokalis-Burelle seconded.

Discussion: Adam said we should draft a RFP. Projects should not be limited to website information, they can be a training workshop. Eric Ragsdale asked should we draft the RFP now. Timper said we should announce this to the members at the committee meetings. Then we asked Zasada on the available amount in the account. Timper will start a RFP draft and send out to EB to review soon. Lawrence will ask Zasada how much we can spend and what guidelines should be followed to spend investment fund. If individual has ideas, they should go through a committee to submit a proposal. Kokalis-Burelle suggested that we set a similar deadline to abstract due date for next meeting (around March). So that we can send out award at the meeting. Students probably would want to come up with an idea.

All in favor, no oppose, motion passed.

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting, Axel Elling seconded. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted
by Koon Hui Wang.

Call for Nematode Trading Card Submissions

Please consider making your submission(s) to the first Nematode Trading Card Competition by the Society of Nematologists. The resources for making the cards in Adobe®Photoshop or Photoshop Elements can be downloaded from the Nematology Newsletter dropbox. Six different templates are available for the following categories: 1. People (red background), 2. Nematodes (green background), 3. Habitats (yellow background), 4. Morphology (orange background) 5. Symptoms (purple background) and 6. Control (blue background). The back of the cards will be provided to unify the cards into common packs. The brown, black and white card back shown below was a cover that N.A. Cobb proposed for a journal of nematology. Each template is made up of 5 layers for images and 6 layers for text.

Our plan is to print Nematode Trading Cards Pack number two and give it to the attendees of the 57th Annual Meeting of the in Albequerque, can submit as tition that you will be selected for the second deck.

The card for Wilfrida Decraemer was presented to her on the occasion of her retirement from the University of Ghent. Hopefully it will be accepted for printing in the second deck. The first deck was distributed to the attendees of the 56th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nematologists in Colonial Williamsburg, VA.

Please download the templates and start making your cards for submission for the second pack. The deadline for submitting cards is May 30, 2018. If your card is selected, you will receive a free pack of cards. If you have any questions on how to use the templates, please feel free to contact Jon Eisenback (jon@vt.edu).
MEETING DATE: 8/17/17
LOCATION: Williamsburg, Virginia
ATTENDANCE: Nancy Kokalis-Burelle, Patty Timper, Katty Lawrence, Andrea Skantar, William (Billy) Crow, Koon-Hui Wang, David Bird, Guiping Yan, Cynthia Gleason, David Shapiro, Eric Ragsdale.

GUEST: Jon Eisenback

(Executive Board will be referred to as EB in these minutes).

1. Call to order Nancy Kokalis-Burelle called the meeting to order at 8:09 EST time, so moved by Koon-Hui Wang.

2. Approval of agenda Patty Timper made a motion to approve the agenda, Billy Crow seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Kokalis-Burelle welcomed David Bird as vice president.

3. Old business

Will start electronic meeting soon after finishing off some old meeting staff.

Journal -- Andrea Skantar: Currently there are three parts to JON publishing: formatting manuscript with Allen Press, type setting with Sheridan, and hosting of journal site at Florida Online Journals. In addition, promotion of the journal is also part of the effort to improve the journal. Exeley Inc. can provide all these services. Skantar is getting all the prices for different services of Exeley. We might keep the editing with Allen Press. Skantar checked with Inga Zasada, she has the original Sheridan contract term and will let her know if we had honored the contract with Sheridan. The contract was signed at least 6 years ago. Skantar said we should try to avoid having all qualified reviewers to re-register in Peer Track. She will ask Exeley if we change the editorial office, the data base of current reviewer list could be transferred over. If we switch, we are anticipating to start with Exeley in March. Some search engines in Peer Track are difficult to get information, particularly when preparing the table of content. A spreadsheet to keep track on each manuscript progress would be helpful. Kokalis-Burelle said she used to start a new table of content for the next issue soon after editing of one issue is completed.

We had decided in the 1st EB meeting that we will start charging in March ($400 for non-member, $200 for member). It is preferred that authors pay publication fee through SON website. Exeley can also process publication fee, we need to decide if we want Exeley to serve as publication payment site. This discussion will be followed up in electronic meeting.

David Bird asked if this payment requires a P.O. Timper said this is most likely paying by credit card. Recap from the 1st EB meeting: we would consider to let Editor-in-Chief to waive payment for members from third world countries that have difficulty making payment, but would not give waiver to non-members. No waiver of publication fee for developed countries.

Kokalis-Burelle thanked Skantar for finding out this option. Symposia publications has been difficult to find reviewers, but we will not hold up an issue just for papers that are difficult to get reviewers. Members at the business meeting seemed to be all onboard regarding the publication charge. David Bird said that we can attract some C. elegans scientists to publish in JON. Billy Crow suggested that if we host C. elegans symposia in future meetings, we could attract them to publish in JON.

4. EB Liaison reports from standing committees:

Eric Ragsdale:
   a. Honor and Award committee (HAC): Ragsdale was asked to be the Chair of the committee, but he can’t, so the committee is looking for a new chair. Patty Timper said she is willing to serve as HAC’s chair again. HAC Chair’s duty is quite heavy including ordering plaques and organizing review of abstracts. Timper said we will keep the 15 min presentation to a minimum number. Might ask Ragsdale to run the judging of the new 3-min presentation competition. She enjoyed serving as HAC chair before. Timper asked if we should change the policy on 50% of HAC members need to be past awardees in the Ops Manual. Crow said there are some suggestion to include multiple career (senior vs junior scientists) in the committee. Most agree that we need to change this in the Ops Manual. No need to vote on. Kokalis-Burelle granted an executive order to make this change in Ops Manual.

HAC likes the idea of a lightning talk (3-min talk) that ties in with a poster, but would like the students to make a one-slide power point presentation (graphical abstract) for the competition. Crow said he is planning on holding this in next year’s annual meeting in Albuquerque. We don’t know how many will choose to sign up for this competition. We don’t need to limit this to Ph.D. students. Crow will need to make decision on numbers of regular student competition vs 3-min lightning talk competition.

[Eisenback came in the room to report on LAC progress in wrapping up the meeting: Eisenback said that although we reserved 120 rooms, only 90 rooms were occupied. So we had to pay 20% of penalty for rooms that were not occupied. However, Eisenback said it is not a worry, the meeting made enough money to take care of this. David Shapiro recommended that in the future, we asked the hotel to allow SON to add more rooms with the group rate if we passed the number of rooms originally we need to reserved.]

David Bird suggested that we organize the 3-min talk in a special session in the evening. This can avoid conflict with other concurrent sessions. Timper said we could organize that right before the poster session. Kokalis-Burelle said we could also schedule the program tighter. In this meeting, some challenges in the meeting program were that some students changed from talks to posters, or some students did not check what category they want to present in. This could be due to the online abstract submission form not being clear to some students. Crow reminded Bird to ensure to update Tenuta on the committee member list and ask to post every committee member lists online.

   b. Membership Committee: The committee did not meet this year. Zasada is the only member in the committee that does not rotate off this year. She will reform the committee. This is an important committee. Zasada has some good ideas to reconstitute the committee.

Crow took this opportunity to remind David Bird to make sure each committee submit their updated roster, listing their chair and vice chair. If committee member numbers are low, then VC can ask the existing committee members to contact people to join their committee. Crow gave an example for this year where the former chair and vice chair of Student Committee both could not participate in this year’s meeting, they are either graduating or are not able to organize any activities. So Crow stepped in to invited another student, Rohiyih Drydahl-Young, to take over as chair. She organized a workshop this year, and reformed the student committee.
c. Systematic resources: Danny Humphreys-Pereira – planned to organize a *C. elegans* symposium next year. They had not asked for funding yet. The Regulatory Symposium this year was highly supported, with lots of international speakers. Nancy Kokalis-Burelle encouraged the invited speakers to join SON as members. Lawrence said we can start by offering $1500 for each symposium that need funding first, before allowing to request more funding. Previously we offer free registration to invited speakers by refunding the invited speakers. Only one speaker was waived and fully compensated due to various reasons. They also wanted to publish a children's book. There are lots of interest from their members to host a joint meeting with the Society of Invertebrate Parasitology (SIP) or the Hermitical Society. We are yet to hear an update on site selection for 2019. Byron Adams proposed to host a meeting in Utah but he will be on sabbatical soon. We could find out where SIP will hold their meeting in 2019 and will asked David Chitwood about 2019 meeting of Helminthological Society.

d. Biological Control (BC): The committee wants to publish an e-book for SON website, upload biological control photos, and request funding to organize symposia for Microbiome, Biological Control Metabolite, or New Biological Control Products. Timper suggested to Crow to ask them to just focus on organizing a Microbiome Symposium. BC committee wanted to start their own twitter account. The student committee has already set up a twitter account. Skantar said that the BC twitter account should be unified with the SON twitter, it was set up by Grewal, the student found it. David Bird and Kokalis-Burelle agreed that we should discourage to have multiple twitter accounts (e.g. graduate student committee) or Facebook accounts. All interested should just join our SON twitter account. Skantar will follow up with the students and ask them to merge the student twitter and SON BC twitter (lead by Rohiyih) with SON twitter. Nancy asked if we should expand the board to have a public relation liaison to report.

Guipin Yan:

e. Entomopathogenic Nematodes (EPN): They did not have physical meeting, but four members joined a video conference call and came up with an idea for a symposium – “Abiotic and biotic stress on EPNs.” EB encouraged them to ask for funding.

Regarding the grant proposal idea, Steve Thomas said that SON cannot give grant funding directly to committees due to tax status issue. Timper said we will find out more from tax attorney. If not allowed, we can go through Cobb to grant the funding or give it out as awards. Timper said we can start by drafting the RFP. If not allowed, we can go through the Cobb Foundation. Most often the payment will just go to pay companies that do the services needed for the committees. Then the treasurer pay for the bill, thus this would not have a conflict with tax exemption status. Lawrence said that we should discuss about setting a budget for granting proposals. Lawrence will discuss this among the Finance Committee. Crow said we should decide who should oversee this RFP. Timper said the EB will review the proposals, and the President will oversee the whole process, the Treasurer will pay the bills, and we shall advertise the RFP in the newsletter and list serve. Kokalis-Burelle would like to ask Tenuta to set up in the website so that when new members sign up, it will automatically notify Koon-Hui Wang to add new members’ e-mail to SON List serve.

Yan continued to report for EPN committee: They would like to prepare videos on how to apply EPNs. Timper said that the committee members were excited about making videos. Video is good for education, extension, especially for teaching a class. Crow would like Harit Bal to send an update of EPN committee members and their end of year report. Timper added that many committees did not include their activities in the end of the year report. There are misconception that committee report is to report their proposal for meeting activities. All committees need to submit their end of the year progress reports. Program chair will decide which committee to receive the funding requested.

f. Regulatory: Steve Thomas was at the meeting and they were skyping with other members. He let the committee know about the $5000 gift from USDA as part of the effort for this committee to generate the Widely Prevalent Nematodes (WPN) List each year. We didn’t get the gift last year. So it is very important for the committee to keep updating the WPN list. Tom Power is the current chair, Russ Bullock is the vice chair, Tonia Quintero and David Chitwood are new members. Kokalis-Burelle asked Liaison (Yan) to remind the committee to do the WPN list. The committee also propose to create a nematode distribution map with the help from Joe LaForest. They planned to work with Extension Committee. Janet Brito said that there will be a “Seed-borne Nematode Disease Symposium” at the 2020 International Congress of Nematologists (ICN). Kokalis-Burelle asked Yan to ask them for a symposium in 2018.

g. Plant Resistance to Nematodes: Cynthia Gleason and Nathan Schroeder are new members, along with four more new members. This is a big committee. They proposed a symposium for next year on “Mechanisms of resistance of plant genotypes to multiple PPNs” and planned for posting a “Host plant resistance information to the website.”

h. Extension: Travis Faske was the chair, Joe Noling is the new chair. The committee planned to work with Regulatory Committee on the nematode distribution map. They also wanted to upload existing videos on SON website, and they made a list of YouTube videos to be posted online. They are not going to organize a symposium in 2018 since they had been organizing symposia for the last four years. New members: Abolfazi Hajihassani and Billy Crow.

i. Long Range Planning: No report, all members are on the EB board, so no need liaison to report.

Eisenback suggested that we can grant students that registered as non-member a one-year membership, hope that they will continue as members next year.

Timper moved that we write a letter to students that registered as non-members to grant them a one-year membership next year. Guiping Yan seconded. Discussion: Kokalis-Burelle will write a letter to the students. Steve Thomas should be able to make them SON members. Lawrence can get the list of non-member student registrants to Nancy. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Cynthia Gleason:
j. Ecology: Zane Grabau is the chair, Marisol Quintenella is the vice chair, and they recruited 6 new members (including students) this year. Gleason will ask the chair to send in the committee roster to their liaison soon. They planned on organizing a hands-on workshop in 2018 on “Multivariate analysis for nematode ecology” and they wanted to make a nematode ecological resource list on SON website. They would like to request $2,000 to invite multiple external speakers. They might want to request for more funding later but will let the program chair decide if they can get more funding. Crow said that this workshop theme is also one of the many plans listed by Biological Control committee, maybe they can collaborate.

k. Industry: Katerina Riga is the chair. No new members. Not asking for budget. They were going to plan for a Speed Dating Social (otherwise known as one on one talking, industrial face time meeting) between students and industrial representatives. One of the Marrone’s representative is on the committee and is very supportive of this.

l. Education: Ann MacGuidwin is the chair, Peter Masler is the vice chair. Gary Philips and Peter DiGennaro are new members. No budget was requested and no plan of symposium for next year. But they will develop outreach media. They also plan on recommend one nematologist to TedTalk. EB suggested that Gary Philips would be a good one to put forward for TedTalk. The committee also plan on putting “Story of economic importance” on SON website.

m. Graduate Student: New chair is Ruhiyiy Dyrdahl-Young, Shova Mishra is the vice chair. All are new members. They were not sure how much budget to request. They like the student social organized this year but would like to have icebreakers to force people to socialize out of their own group. They suggested to make a sheet for them to find out who is who throughout the meeting, organize a “Scavenger Hunt” and not just limited this activity to the social time. The winner gets a price. They are disappointed that there is no poster awards. They want announcement to be made about student committee meeting as very few students attend the meeting. Lawrence said that we can put up announcement on the message board, or announce it after the plenary session. They proposed a symposium on “A Day in the Life” by inviting professors and industrial reps. Skantar said that they can ask about “A Day in the Life” during the social. They also wanted to organize a grant writing workshop. Kokalis-Burrell said that maybe they should also add in USDA scientists’ “A Day in the Life”. Timper said organizing “A Day in the Life” as a symposium might be too boring. Suggest to change symposium to: “Career options”, with speakers from industry, academia, government, etc. Few years ago we invited Mary Purcell-Miramontes from NIFA to talk about grant writing. Cynthia Gleason suggested a symposium on “How to start a new company”. Billy will follow up with Ruhiyiy.

n. Finance committee: The committee discussed about the grant funding to be offered by EB to promote SON projects. The committee decided that we will pay the bills directly to vendors that provide services. That can avoid the tax exemption conflict.

5. Old Business:
Timper asked Jon Eisenback to send contacts of meeting sponsors so that she can send thank you letters to all sponsors. Timper will also follow up with Axel Elling to write thank you letters for industrial support.

Cobb Foundation received fewer donations compared to before. Richard Davis is targeting prominent people as advocates for different funds. Previously, some people requested that their donation will not go into investment fund but go directly to travel awards.

Timper suggested that we ask Jon Eisenback to carve a “thing” to hand off to the incoming President because the old gavel is lost.

6. Adjournment Lawrence moved, Timper seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am EST Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
by Koon Hui Wang.
SOCIETY OF NEMATOLOGISTS
56TH ANNUAL MEETING (2017)
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 8/16/17
LOCATION: Williamsburg, VA
Executive Board will be referred to as EB in these minutes.

1. Call to order: President Patricia Timper called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm EST time.

2. Appointment of Parliamentarian Jon Eisenback

3. Approval of agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Eisenback, Thomas seconded, all in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of minutes: A motion to approve minutes from the 55th Annual Meeting held in Montreal, Canada was made by Andrea Skantar, Steve Thomas seconded, all in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Passing of Members: President Timper acknowledged the passing of members in the past year including Dale Ivan Edwards, Robert Vincent Anderson and Bill Brodie. Most recently, right before the meeting, our heart felt loss of Virginia Ferris and George Kariuki. A moment of silence was observed for 1 minute.

6. Executive Board Reports:
   a. President – Patricia Timper
      The EB would like to encourage a greater presence of members on the SON website, and increased visibility of SON on the World Wide Web so as to promote the science of Nematology. The EB would like to solicit standing committees to submit project proposals and requests for funding from EB to achieve this goal. A RFP will be announced on when to submit your proposal. Examples of committee project include generating plant-parasitic nematode distribution maps, listing nematode resistant cultivars for different crops, uploading nematode images or cool videos on biological control, and producing videos on different techniques in nematological studies. The EB wants more students to enroll and engage in committees. Besides holding symposia and workshops, we want various projects that can get recognition by new members, or attract new members to the society. We will make access to some of these products password protected to increase benefits for membership. We also want to encourage students with great ideas to post on SON website. These proposals will be reviewed by EB. If selected, SON will sponsor the proposed project based on the budget requested. Our goal is to increase SON visibility in the public.
   
   b. President-Elect – Nancy Kokalis-Burelle: Thanks everyone that helped in putting the meeting program together. Beside the Local Arrangement Committee that did a fantastic job, she thanked all the speakers, section chairs, and symposia organizers for a productive meeting.
   
   c. Vice-President – Billy Crow: He spent most of his time this year trying to reorganize committee membership list and update them on SON website. Nothing more to add to the written report. Recruitment for 2019 meeting site selection has been made. There are proposed locations but nothing is confirmed.
   
   d. Past-President – Byron Adams: Nothing to add. He spent most of his effort in office this year advocating for science in general.
   
   e. Secretary – Koon-Hui Wang: Nothing more to add.
   
   f. Treasurer – Kathy Lawrence: Not present, but had submitted a budget report that will be posted online.
   
   g. Editor-in-Chief (EIC) – Andrea Skantar: Regarding social media, there are >1000 that joined our facebook/twitter accounts from many countries. She encouraged members to tweet or share information on facebook, or members can send information to Skantar to tweet out.

Regarding the status of the journal, a PowerPoint was presented to the members. First Skantar welcomed our incoming SON EIC-David Shapiro-Ilan and new editors: Horacio Lopez-Nicora, Ian King, Raquel Campos-Herrera. Skantar will be rotating off from EIC in December.

In the PowerPoint, Skantar showed the track of number of manuscripts received, and time from manuscript submission to decision made since 2012 (when Nancy Kokalis-Burelle became EIC). Number of manuscripts received by JON is steadily increasing with close to 100 manuscripts in 2016. Time from submission to first decision is on the decline. Skantar encouraged members to accept editors’ invitation when asked to review, and greatly appreciated prompt response to requests. If you are the perfect person to review it, the editor will wait for your review, but please avoid long lingering responses.

Cost of Journal publication is increasing. Ever since we went to open access, the journal costs an average of $15k/yr, or $4k/manuscript. The Florida Center for Library Automation website that is hosting our open access journal (http://journals.fcla.edu/jon) is great for a free service, and is very responsive. However, the website is quite bare bone with limited functions. We are considering possible ways to offset the cost of journal publication. Exeley Inc. in New York City provides publication services for open access journals. Their server can improve the public appearance of JON. The EB and EIC are considering this publication option. Exeley also generates DOI for each article with links to references, can work on digital preservation of journal content, and presence online. It provides journal and author’s info-metrics, crosscheck on indexing tools, and offers payment service tools. This is an option if SON website can’t receive payment for publication. It allows formatting for review on mobile device or computer, provides authors an array of tools such as who read the paper, and your paper publication track. It is convenient for tenure track faculty as it provides the impact of your publications by generating a dashboard for each paper and each author, and where the readers are from. This website can link to many social media platforms. They provide options to publish graphical abstracts, and visual abstracts of your paper. It is a free journal hosting site, which is a great option. Exeley has uploaded two latest JON issues on their website (https://www.exeley.com/journal/journal_of_nematology). You can set up an alert to notify you when new publications are posted, and be linked to the DOI number. Web version, supplemental files are easy to attach, can choose pre-formatted / preview options. The journal is online. Timper asked if we need to move away from Sheridan? Skantar said we have not decided yet. We need to confirm the cost. Will work with Exeley Inc for options we want. They also use Peer Track, but Skantar wants to make sure we don’t have to sign up reviewers all over again. Exeley is ok if we want to keep Allen Press for our reviewing platform, and they can just do the publishing. In the last 6 months, we have more papers per issue.
Its good time for a change.

- h. Web Page Editor – Mario Tenuta: Not present.
  i. Newsletter editors: Eisenback and Vieira -- Reminded the members that this is a newsletter for members, so please submit any interesting news you want to publicize to web editors. They want pictures, PDF, papers or articles. This is a good opportunity to show case what your lab is doing. Eisenback said he will only serve for one more year.

7. Other Reports: Written reports will be published on the SON website.
   a. N. A. Cobb Foundation – Richard Davis, President: Reminded members that the importance of NA Cobb foundation which was established 20 yrs ago as an independent non-profit foundation to benefit the science of Nematology. It is operated through donation by people like you. With several endowment options, donations will add up. In recent years, the donation amount has been declining. You can donate to the Cobb Foundation through the SON website when you renew your membership.
   c. American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) – Pete Masler: Nothing to add.
   d. International Federation of Nematology Societies (IFNS) – Andreas Westphal: IFNS is in the process of fundraising to support 50 student travel awards. They are planning to write a proposal to get grants to support as many scientists as possible to travel to the congress. Between 2017 and 2018, IFNS councilors are planning the meeting program. A draft of the program will be submitted to SON and other societies for review around May 2018. You can find updated information about 2020 ICN on their website. It is estimated that registration will be $700 for regular members and $500 for students. If you have ideas of potential topics for symposia please submit to Robin Giblin-Davis or Andreas Westphal. The council aims to streamline the registration process. Videos are on the website about meeting location, hotel price range, walking distance from meeting site and safety. This should be a great meeting.
   e. Extension – Plan to generate Nematode distribution maps, and potentially making videos.
   f. Finance Advisory – Lawrence -- not present.
   g. Graduate Student – plan to make student webpage.
   h. Honors and Awards – Richard Davis – try to increase opportunities for students to participate in presentation competition.
   i. Industry – Axel Elling – not present
   k. Meeting Site Selection – Billy Crow: Will follow up through online reports. Timper asked for any members on the floor that might like to volunteer for hosting a meeting for 2019. Tesfamariat Mangistu asked if we are considering having a joint meeting with other societies like Society of Invertebrate Pathology (SIP). They often host the meeting at similar time as SON. David Shapiro-Ilan said that it is worthwhile to explore. SIP usually host 200-300 people, but some time they host meetings abroad. Timper said we can't handle an international meeting before 2020, but we can explore joint meetings.
   l. Membership – nothing to add.
   m. Plant Resistance – nothing to add.
   n. Regulatory – Janet Brito – Planned to organize a symposium for 2020 ICN on Seed-born nematodes (soybean, bean crops).
   o. Systematic Resources – Tesfa Mangistu – Planned to reach out to high school students by providing high quality education materials online. They are still discussing about potential symposium topic for 2018.

9. Old Business
   a. 57th Annual SON Meeting (2018) -- Steve Thomas shared a video on meeting site location in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Meeting date will be July 22-25, 2018. He passed around booklets about Albuquerque. The meeting will take place in a hotel at Down Town (Hyatt Regency Hotel), located in the middle of the city, $119/room, free parking. He selected this location rather than in the old town (which is close to down town) because it has easy access to the airport, and participants can go to down town easily. For sightseeing, people can visit the old historic town or the south nearby. LAC is considering to rent the botanical garden for SON banquet event. Unique to the area include regional vegetation at the botanical garden, mountains on the east have lots of cultural activities such as native American culture.
   b. Reducing the publication cost of JON: Timper informed the members that the Executive Board is considering a publication fee for the journal. Originally, EB was considering Elsevier publication model, but had a concern that small colleges or scientists from third world countries could not access the journal for free. This would affect JON impact factor. Now we are exploring publication with Exele, which offers many options like Elsevier but would be a significant saving for the society. We want to propose charging a flat publication fee for either members ($200) or non-members ($400). There will not be a page charge. Considering this as a publication charge for an open access journal, our fee is of minimal cost. The Society is willing to subsidize the rest of the publication cost. Ernie Bernard made a comment that comparing this to another taxonomic journal, this is very cheap for open access. SON previously was charging $80/page, which had discouraged many authors. Jim LaMondia agreed that this approach also would be a member benefit. Timper said the idea is also to increase SON membership numbers.
   c. SON Business Manager – Steve Thomas has been volunteering to run the business office for the society since last year, it helped us to get through the transition stage with the website down last year. However, Thomas will step down from Business office after next years meeting. Timper preferred that we go back to hire someone that is closely associated with the society to run the business office. Steve Thomas asked members to provide him feedbacks and comments about the business office, so that he can pass down the lesson learn to the next Business Manager.

10. New Business
   a. Recognition of Support for 56th Annual Meeting:
      Timper thanked all the industry involvement in this meeting. She especially thanked those industry representatives that spent their valuable time sharing experience at the Student Committee workshop. In addition, Timper also thanked each industry that contribute money to support this annual meeting: Bayer, Monsanto, Dow AgroSciences, Syngenta, Novozymes, Dupont, ADAMA, Marrone BioInnovations, Virginia Tech Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology and
Weed Science, University of Delaware Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Nematology Solutions Associates, LLC, University of Maryland Extension, and Virginia Tech Agricultural Experiment Station. Their contribution meant a lot to the society.


c. Business from the floor: Nothing to report.

11. Recognition of Service to SON:
   a. Timper handed a plaque to Andrea Skantar, Editor-in-Chief of JON, she will rotate off at the end of December, 2017.
   b. Timper handed a plaque to Web Editor, Roxana Myers, who served as interim web editor for additional 6 months beyond her term. Our current web editor, Mario Tenuta, is on sabbatical leave. She had put in extensive efforts in rebuilding the society website, and helping in transition of the business office to new operation.
   c. Timper thanked the Local Arrangements Chair, Jon Eisenback, and his committee for a fantastic program and meeting. Jon Eisenback thanked his committee, Marilyn Eisenback, Chuck Johnson, Paulo Vieira with great insight, and student Noah Adamo.
   d. Many thanks to the editors that are rotating off:

12. Installation of Officers
   a. Editor-in-Chief - David Shapiro-Ilan
   b. Vice-President – David Bird
   c. President-Elect – Billy Crow
   d. President – Nancy Kokalis-Burelle
   e. Past President – Patricia Timper

First order of business, Kokalis-Burelle presented a plaque to Timper thanking her for her excellent service and leadership for the society.

13. Adjournment Eisenback moved, Andrea Skantar seconded to a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 pm EST. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
by Koon Hui Wang.

Bayer Travel Student Award Winners

Axel Elling (left) presented the Bayer Travel Student Awards to Timothy Frey, Xinyuan Ma, Deepak Rajendran, Arjun Upadhaya, Diego Leitao, Athena Yi-Chun Yeh, Anil Babu Baniya, Lois Taylor, and Alfonso Cabrera. (Flor Castellanos Bosarreyes and Xiaodong You not pictured).

DOW Travel Student Award Winners

The DOW student travel award winners included Rebeca Sandoval Ruiz, Mychele Batista da Silva, Laura Ney, Josiah Marquez, Kanan Kutsuwa, Nathan Redding, Wei Li, and Ziduan Han.
Shalini Yerukala won the Nematology Solutions Associates Student Travel Award.

Dennis Chang and Manjula Kularathna won the N.A. Cobb Endowment Student Travel Award, and Philip Waisen won the Economic Nematology Endowment Student Travel Award from the N.A. Cobb Nematology Foundation.

Students that Competed for the Best Student Paper

The number of students that entered the competition for the Best Student Paper was so high that the Honors and Awards Committee was forced to select the top 16, based on their abstract submissions, to participate in the oral part of the competition. Thus all of the competitors were already winners! They included (First Row) Sheng-Yen Wu, Wei Li, Emily Feist, Rebecca Sandoval-Ruiz, Benjamin Waldo, Shova Mishra, Dennis Chang, and Paul Han, (Second Row) Deepak Rajendran, Arjun Upadhyaya, Cole Harder, Satyendra Pothula, Kanan Kutsuwa, Philip Waisen, and David Dyer (Absent - Josiah Marquez). Congratulations to Emily Fiest, first place winner, and Wei Li, second place winner. Thanks go to all of the members who served as judges and a round of applause goes to all of the students who competed!
An Alternative BPI Dish for the Frugal (and Myopic) Nematologist

Nathan Schroeder
Assistant Professor of Crop Sciences
Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) dish is a very convenient tool for the handling and manipulation of small numbers of nematodes. To my knowledge, these dishes are not commercially available and would need to be custom manufactured. None of the commercial alternatives (e.g. 24-well plates) combines the sloping walls and autoclavability of the BPI dish with the frugal scientist's budget. As a substitute to the BPI dish, my lab uses the packaging provided with my Acuvue Oasys (Johnson & Johnson) contact lenses. These contact lens cases hold 1 mL of solution and fit snugly into a 6-cm Petri dish. The contact lens cases provide a convenient handle and labelling surface. The dishes are optically clear and have sloping walls for easy picking. Although I can’t comment on their long-term stability, we have autoclaved the dishes using a 20 minute dry cycle and did not observe any loss of integrity. The primary downside to the contact lens case is the tendency of nematodes to stick to the sides of the dish in most solutions. To prevent sticking, we include a low concentration of a non-ionic surfactant (0.01% Triton X-100) without any obvious deleterious effects to the nematodes.

Comparison of traditional BPI dish (top left) and a contact lens case (top right). Coiling spiral nematodes (Helicotylenchus spp.) in a contact lens case imaged with a dissecting microscope at 5x zoom.

Stephen Thomas is already making plans for a great meeting in Albequerque, New Mexico. Plan now on attending the 57th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nematologists!
All attendees were cordially invited to attend an awesome Student Social with free pizza and beer.

This event was for students to socialize with each other and to talk with nematologists of world renown.

It was a stunning success! A great time was had by all. Our students are the best!
The Poster Session at the 56th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nematologists
More Posters....
Sessions and Coffee Breaks
The Awards Banquet Reception
More Photos of the Banquet & Reception
Resolutions of the 56th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nematologists in Colonial Williamsburg, August 17, 2017

THANK YOU; I wasn’t sure how receptive you would be, since Nancy was too embarrassed by her choice of Resolutions speaker to list him in the program.1

WHEREAS, The Society of Nematologists met for the 56th time in the lovely and historic town of Williamsburg, Virginia, at the splendid Williamsburg Lodge, August 12–16, 2017; and

WHEREAS, this beautiful area, with the establishment of Jamestown and later Williamsburg, formed the basis for our form of government, thereby sanctifying this area as hallowed American soil; and

WHEREAS, the Williamsburg gardener St. George Tucker maintained the largest nut collection in Virginia, a tradition continued to the present day along the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, some Englishmen still haven’t gotten over the surrender at Yorktown, as evidenced by an esteemed English colleague known only as Mr. X eating a substantial breakfast in the hotel dining room, then bolting out of there (claiming it was “free”) and stiffing Joe Noling with the check; and

WHEREAS, the 56th annual meeting was SON’s first official bilingual conference (English and Virginian); and

WHEREAS, the meeting opened with an inspiring oration from the third President of the United States, His Excellency Thomas Jefferson, who reminded us of freedom, liberty and the value of facts, and reminded us further that these values keep us from taking that step back to barbarism; and

WHEREAS, our Society of Nematologists embodies these virtues every year by meeting, following the ancient command to “Come, let us reason together;” and

WHEREAS, this elite Society is manifestly composed of the brightest and most intelligent biologists on the planet, especially its student members and Don Dickson, not to mention that SON members are the most attractive organized group of scientists of any society; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Eisenback and Elizabeth Johnson cheerfully and efficiently ran the registration desk among many other duties, but favoritism, as usual in Virginia, reared its head; the first speaker of the day, this Jefferson fellow, did not submit an abstract and did not pay a registration fee; and

WHEREAS, the breadth of knowledge presented at this meeting was astounding; how many scientific societies hear about cannibalism and high-throughput sequencing in the same morning? And

WHEREAS, every speaker carried through with skill and confidence, with Emily Feist receiving the “cool and calm” award when the computer rebelled during her presentation; and

WHEREAS, many of us are wasting our time on new approaches to nematode management – just follow Ole Becker’s approach and look for rusty old cans of stuff sitting on a lab shelf; and

WHEREAS, possibly the hardest specific job at the meeting was that of the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee, Richard Davis, for the 16 student papers this year were astonishingly interesting, significant, and beautifully presented -- I salute you, sir; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Society of Nematologists expresses its appreciation to President Nancy Kokalis-Burelle for the truly excellent scientific program that demonstrated once again the vitality, importance and fascination of nematode-based research; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Society of Nematologists expresses its deep thanks to, and affection for, the 2017 Local Arrangements Committee, for the flawless planning and execution of the 56th Annual Meeting: the esteemed LAC chair and our dear friend Jon Eisenback; the long-suffering Marilyn Eisenback; Chuck Johnson; Elizabeth Johnson; Paulo Vieira; and Noah Adamo. Everything you did was for your nematology brothers and sisters, and we appreciate it from the bottom of our hearts.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest C. Bernard
Resolutions Chair

1Said to be an honest oversight, fingers pointed in several directions.

2Later determined to be an honest mistake...
Williamsburg (just in case you missed it)
Dear Nematology Newsletter Readers and SON members:

Two items are listed for your consideration. Since we know that students are the future of our discipline, please consider supporting the Nathan A. Cobb Nematology Foundation: http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/societies/nacobb/projects.shtml. This foundation’s primary purpose is to raise money to provide travel for students to scientific meetings.

You will soon receive a reminder to pay your 2018 dues for the Society of Nematologists. To continue to be a member in good standing, please pay your dues before January 1, 2018. Also, please make a generous contribution to the Nathan A. Cobb Nematology Foundation with your tax-deductible support to the Foundation when you renew your SON membership at http://nematologists.org/products/.

Jon Eisenback and Paulo Vieira, Editors
Nematology Newsletter

Please submit your contributions to the Nematology Newsletter at the following email address: nematology.newsletter@gmail.com

Most of the photographs contained in this newsletter are available for download as high resolution images at the following URL: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u0uye3m34va8yuf/AAA-o9FKj3SoK9pmtZuyu7ea?dl=0.
Lesion nematode family: a female, male, second-stage juvenile, and egg (Pratylenchus penetrans (Cobb, 1917) Filipjev and Schuurmans Stekhoven, 1941)

This high resolution mosaic photomicrograph of an adult female, adult male, second-stage juvenile, and egg of lesion nematode, Pratylenchus penetrans, is a free resource from the Nematology Newsletter and the Society of Nematologists. You are welcome to download a full high resolution version of this photograph from the NNL Dropbox website.

Please credit J. D. Eisenback if you want to use it on a website or in a publication.

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