Letter From Our New President

“It is going to be different.”

Steve Love, PAA President in 1999-2000, advised me that ‘change’ should be the main message of my first Insider letter. Your PAA is indeed changing, but change is not a bad thing. A wise old potato farmer once told me that if you keep doing something the same way, eventually you will be doing it the wrong way.

PAA members who attended the 85th annual business meeting on 26 April 2001 in St Augustine, Florida were receptive to new ideas. They decided to make the following changes:

Vision Statement:

Members voted to adopt a vision statement with five goals:
1. Foster strong partnerships between public and private potato professionals.
2. Link national & international organizations for a global approach to potato improvement.
3. Become the major resource for science-based information about the potato.
4. Utilize important emerging technologies for potato improvement.
5. Maintain a strong professional organization.

A breakdown chart of our Vision Statement may be found on page 3 in this newsletter or you may find a more detailed account on the PAA website: http://www.ume.maine.edu/PAA.

The Vision Statement grew out of the work of the PAA Vision 2000 Committee, chaired by Mary Powelson, with contributions from members Oscar Gutbrod, Steve Love, Creighton Miller, Richard Sawyer, Ron Voss and Pete Weingartner. The next step is to implement the goals. Richard Sawyer is going to chair that effort and has recruited other PAA members to help provide leadership for each of the five goals. They are: Ed Plissey, Maine & Duane Preston, Minnesota, Co-Chairs for Goal 1; Ron Voss, California, Goal 2; Richard Tarn, New Brunswick, Goal 3; Mel Henninger, New Jersey, Goal 4; and Joe Sieczka, New York, Goal 5.

Annual meeting in 2002

The 2002 PAA annual meeting fits well with goal #2 of the vision statement. PAA will meet jointly with the International Horticultural Congress (IHC) in Toronto Aug. 11-17. A joint meeting means that the format of the PAA meeting will change, but we have much to gain by linking with IHC. PAA members Richard Tarn and Leslie Copp are two key players who are to be commended for their efforts to bring about the 2002 meeting. More information is available by clicking on the ‘meetings’ section in the PAA website.

Membership dues

We also dealt with pocketbook issues at the 2001 meeting. Goal number five of our vision statement is about maintaining the financial strength of PAA. In light of recent financial concerns, members voted to increase the price of individual membership–our largest membership category–from $60 to $75 per year. We hope that members will

...Continued on page 2
News from Headquarters

To those of you who made it to the Annual Meeting in Florida, it was great seeing old friends again and meeting new ones. All the notes from the meeting will be published in an upcoming issue of the Journal.

A few highlights from the meeting are:

(1) The post office has notified me that there will no longer be any 1st class mail for Canada or foreign countries. The only option now will be 2nd class ($5/yr) which will be delivered by boat or Air Mail ($45/yr).

(2) It was also voted that if you decide you do not want to receive your Newsletter via e-mail there will be a charge of $5/yr to assist with shipping and handling charges. Those who have already paid their dues for the current year will not be affected until it comes time for renewal.

(3) The Membership Directory is now “online” under the ‘Membership’ section. Please let me know any corrections, additions, etc. that need to be made. I will be keeping the website updated with the most current information made available to you. You may also still purchase a hard copy for $5/each.

(4) We would like to hard copy for $5/each. You may also still purchase a most current information website updated with the current year will not be affected until it comes time for renewal. The only option now will be 2nd class ($5/yr) which will be delivered by boat or Air Mail ($45/yr).

Leadership Changes

Welcome to Greg Porter in his new position as PAA Vice President and Rob Davidson as a new Director on the PAA Executive Committee. Many thanks to former President Steve Love who moves off the Executive Committee and Oscar Gutbrod who continues to be active as Past President. Thanks also to all those who volunteered to become members or chairs of PAA committees.

Yes, PAA is changing, but I hope that you will welcome new ideas. I also hope that you volunteer your time, talents and treasure to help strengthen The Potato Association of America.

Joe Guenthner
President, 2001-2002

...Continued on page 4
Vision for The Potato Association of America

“Preamble”

An expanded vision for The Potato Association of America is essential as we begin the new millennium. The potato will play an increasing role in human nutrition as natural resources become scarce due to an increasing human population and climate change. Heightened interaction between the PAA and other international potato associations is a critical goal. The PAA and its allied associations must strongly support the private sector through extension, research and commercialization efforts aimed at enhancing the role of the potato as the premier food source for the 21st century. To do this, the PAA must provide leadership to the global potato industry in the 21st century.

Goal 1
Foster strong partnerships between public and private potato professionals.

Objective 1A - Promote joint meetings with potato organizations, councils and boards.

Objective 1B - Create a committee structure for the PAA which includes key individuals from the private sector.

Objective 1C - At the annual meeting offer symposia and other activities of interest to potato professionals in the private sector.

Goal 2
Link national and international potato organizations for a global approach to potato improvement

Objective 2A - Sponsor joint meetings addressing subjects of mutual interest to international potato associations.

Objective 2B - Seek input from international potato associations in planning the annual PAA meeting.

Objective 2C - Provide a directory of potential PAA speakers and associated topics for meetings of international potato organizations and professional societies.

Goal 3
Become the major resource for science-based information about the potato

Objective 3A - Publish a premier science-based research journal on potatoes.

Objective 3B - Promote a premier Internet-base resource of information on all aspects of potato production.

Objective 3C - Develop & maintain a searchable database of PAA publications.

Goal 4
Utilize important emerging technologies for potato improvement

Objective 4A - Sponsor emerging technology workshops at the PAA annual meeting and at industry meetings.

Objective 4B - Promote public awareness & understanding of emerging technologies through publications & press releases.

Goal 5
Maintain a strong professional organization.

Objective 5A - Actively promote increased participation in PAA meetings by all membership groups.

Objective 5B - Refine the PAA organizational structure & operation to promote member involvement.

Objective 5C - Create an advisory council reflective of membership demographics.

Objective 5D - Stabilize PAA funding by increasing the number of sustaining members & enlarging the endowment.
As mentioned at the beginning, having a short term was not long enough. The Executive Committee was terrific to work with. All the committees did a great job within the approximately nine-month time frame. Now back to the normal twelve-month annual meeting schedule, actually sixteen months from the past meeting will be our next meeting. Lots of time to get even more accomplished for the Association! Our next meeting will be a big step towards meeting some of the Vision 2000 Committees goals.

From the Past President
...Continued from page 2

Oscar Gutbrod
Past President, 2000-2001

Symposia Presentation
Publication Guidelines

As discussed and voted at the 2001 annual meeting, the guidelines for handling the symposia were to be published in the Insider and also on the website. The new guidelines are as follows:

a) Symposia hosting sections are to have a single contact person for the journal to deal with in all matters regarding the preparation, review and publication of the symposia papers.

b) The symposia hosting contact person will submit symposia papers to the journal as a single package within 3 months of the symposium. The package will include: a Symposium Introduction (maximum of page - 8.5 x 11" paper); and all of the symposia papers to be published each of which will be about 12-15 pages in length (8.5 x 11" paper). Symposia papers should only include information presented during the symposia.

c) The Symposia package will be reviewed as other manuscripts and returned to the symposia hosting section contact for revision within a limited amount of time to enable publication within 6-9 months after the symposium.

d) The hosting section (via the contact person) will ensure all publication and reprint costs. Standard journal page and reprint charges will apply. Association members who are presenters are normally expected to cover their own publication and reprint costs. For non-member or special presenters, hosting sections will obtain the required funds for publication and reprints of the symposia papers from the executive committee or other sources.

Bud Platt
Editor in Chief, American Journal of Potato Research

2001/2002 Graduate Student Competition

Twelve students participated in the Graduate Student Competition at the 2001 annual PAA meeting, representing five countries: Turkey (1), Bangladesh (1), Canada (1), Chile (1), and the United States (8). There were two papers presented in the physiology section, two in production and management, seven in breeding and genetics, and one in pathology. The winners were David Zlesak, University of Minnesota, breeding and genetics; Alexander Johnson, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, breeding and genetics; Danielle Posch, University of Minnesota, breeding and genetics; Malay Saha, North Dakota State University, breeding and genetics; and, Andy Hornbacher, University of Idaho, production and management. All of the students did a fine job with their presentations and should be commended for the quality of their research and their presentation. The committee consisted of Kathy Haynes, Christian Thill, Mike Thornton, Barb Christ, Nora Olsen, and David De Koeyer. A special thanks goes to Barb Christ and David De Koeyer who filled in at the last moment when other members could not make the meeting. Also, special thanks goes to Eden Bioscience for sponsoring the competition this year.

2002 Graduate Student Competition
Special Announcement

Any graduate student who intends to enter the competition in 2002 in Toronto should submit their abstract directly to the PAA (not the IHC). If a student also wants to present at the IHC, they will have to submit twice (once to the IHC - due date October 15; and again to the PAA - due date February 15). The general announcement for the graduate student competition will be made in the next newsletter.

Kathy Haynes, Chair
Graduate Student Competition Committee
Toronto 2002 - PAA-IHC Joint Meeting

Call for PAA 2002 Papers

REMINDER: Abstract Submission is October 15, 2001

At our April meeting in St. Augustine, it was great to hear so many people planning to be in Toronto in 2002. The attractions of meeting in Toronto were well illustrated in the banquet presentation by Leslie Copp, LAC Chair.

The PAA program is established and integrated with the Congress program. For PAA members much of the scientific program will centre on the 4-day Potato Symposium and its daily themes of breeding, production, protection and utilization. Watch for information on the keynote speakers and abstracts of their presentations which will be posted on the IHC website. In Florida it was decided that Section chairs would serve as a PAA advisory committee to the Potato Symposium Committee.

Call for Papers

PAA members should have received the Call for Abstracts with their last Insider. The information is also available on the IHC website (http://www.ihc2002.org/) - since electronic submission is preferred you should check this any way. Submitted titles and abstracts of original work will be reviewed by the Scientific Program Task Force and the Symposium conveners. Symposium conveners will select up to 30 papers for oral presentation as part of each symposium. Other contributions will be designated “symposium-linked” posters and the authors will be invited to speak at one of the poster discussion sessions. The symposium keynotes presentations, the oral presentations and the symposium-linked posters will be published in Acta Horticulturae - there will be a volume for each symposium.

All contributed papers will be presented as posters except those specifically selected for oral presentation. All posters will be scheduled for presentation to a Congress-wide audience during four one-hour poster sessions, and they will all remain in place for the duration of the Congress.

Important dates in the processing of submissions are:
- Abstract submission deadline: Oct. 15, 2001
- Notification of oral/symposium-linked presentation: March 1, 2002
- Registration deadline for abstract to be in abstract book: April 15, 2002
- Acta Horticulturae manuscript deadline: Aug. 17, 2002

Graduate Student Competition

The Graduate Student Competition is being managed by the PAA - it is completely separate from the IHC Call for Abstracts. The call for graduate student papers will appear in the Insider in the usual way and at the usual time.

Workshops

Each PAA Section is organizing an evening Workshop. Sections have put a lot of work into Workshop programs and when we left St. Augustine most of these were planned. The detailed information is being prepared for the PAA and IHC websites. The workshops will provide great profile for potatoes and for the Sections.

To keep up-to-date with program information check these inter-linked web-sites:

The Potato Association of America -
http://www.ume.maine.edu/PAA/business.htm

International Horticultural Congress -
http://www.ihc2002.org

Or contact:
- Chair, Toronto LAC - Leslie Copp
  U. of Guelph; Tel: 519-824-4120 ext 6249;
  E-mail: lcopp@uoguelph.ca

- Convener, IHC Potato Symposium - Rickey Yada
  U. of Guelph; Tel: 519-824-4120 ext 8915;
  E-mail: ryada@uoguelph.ca

- Chair, PAA-IHC Liaison Committee - Richard Tarn
  Potato Research Centre, AAFC, Fredericton; Tel: 506-452-3260; E-mail: tarnr@em.agr.ca
PAA Members in the News

Dr. Alvin F. Reeves II, died at his home on May 5, 2001. He was born in Richmond, Indiana in 1941. A national merit scholar receiving his B.S. & M.S. degrees from Indiana Univ. and his Ph.D. from the Univ. of California-Riverside. As a faculty member at the Univ. of Arkansas, Al conducted research on tomatoes. For the past 25 years, he was the potato breeder at the Univ. of Maine where he took pride in the several new potato varieties he developed.

In Memoriam

I am sure many of you were shocked to learn of the sudden death of our colleague, Al Reeves. We had seen him happy and healthy the week before at the PAA meeting in St. Augustine. Al was currently serving as chair of the Finance Committee and was one of three founding contributors to the PAA Endowment Fund. It would be a fitting tribute to Al, if those of us who were prevented by distance and time from attending his funeral, made a donation to the endowment fund in his memory. Lori Wing has agreed to notify the family with names of those who contribute and your contribution will be acknowledged in The Insider and on the PAA website. Remember, that the opportunity to honor deceased PAA colleagues and friends will continue to be available. Please make checks payable to the PAA Endowment Fund with the notation “in honor of...” and send to Lori at headquarters.

Respectfully,
Creighton Miller, Chair
PAA Endowment Committee

The Aroostook County Farm Bureau is also setting up a memorial fund for Al. Monies raised will be used to publish and distribute the “Guide to Northern Maine Potatoes” written by Al Reeves with assistance from Kevin M. McCarty and Al Bushway. This publication is intended as a guidebook for the Northern Maine Museum of Science to be distributed in potato bookbags statewide by Maine Agri-Women. Donations for this fund can be sent to: Aroostook County Farm Bureau. Information may be found at: http://www.umpi.maine.edu/~mccartnk/reeves.htm

Mike Corey, Executive Director
Maine Potato Board

N. S. “Bud” Wright passed away on April 4, 2001. He received his HLM status in 1981. Bud was raised in British Columbia on a family farm where the principal products were milk and potatoes. His interest in potatoes began as a boy on the farm and as a member of what is now called a 4-H Potato Club. He received his BSA and MSA degrees from U. BC in 1944 and 1946, respectively. In 1946, he was appointed to a newly-established Agriculture Canada Laboratory of Plant Pathology. The lab was later consolidated with Entomology, Pedology, and Virus Chemistry to become the Vancouver Research Station. In 1958 he became Head of the Plant Pathology section and remained there throughout his career. Bud was also very active in the PAA, serving as President 1977-78, a Director, a member of the Pathology Section and on the Editorial Board.

Denis Kirkham

Member Activities

PAA members, Drs. H.W. (Bud) Platt, John Bamberg, Charles Brown, Bill Fry, John Helgeson, and Debra Inglis recently attended the International Workshop on Collaborative Research on Potato Late Blight: Building Strategies and Synergies, Warsaw, Poland, June 6-9, 2001. The workshop was hosted by the Res. & Scientific Exchanges Div. (RSED) of the USDA’s Foreign Agric. Svcs. (USDA-FAS), the Cornell Univ.-Eastern Europe-M exico (CEEM) Internatl. Collaborative Project on Potato Late Blight Control, and the Mlochow Res. Ctr. of the Plant Breeding & Acclimatization Institute (I HAS) of Poland. The International Potato Center (CIP) in Lima, Peru served as moderator and reviewer of the workshop.

About 50 invited scientists from 14 countries were involved with scientific presentations on LB research (pathology & potato breeding) and in discussions on the current LB problems occurring in all potato producing countries. These disease problems involve dramatic increases in disease, the use of fungicides and in crop losses which have resulted from changes in pathogen populations, fungicide-resistance, and loss of varietal resistance. Future strategies and synergies for research into the pathogen, host resistance, and integrated disease management were developed to address the worldwide need for disease control and food security. For more information, contact Bud (platth@em.agr.ca)

Bud Platt
Agric & Agri-Food Canada

On June 1, 2001, Alan Westra became assistant manager of the NY Seed Improvement Project. He will still continue to perform the administrative duties that were associated with the Chief Inspector position in the seed potato program, so
any inquiries regarding seed potatoes should be directed to him. His new address and phone numbers are: Asst. Mgr., NY Seed Improvement, 103C Leland Lab, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY 14853; P: 607-255-9869; F: 607-255-9048.

Anna Hale received the NPC’s Auxiliary Scholarship for 2001-2002. The scholarships are awarded to graduate students pursuing advanced studies, which enhance the potato industry. Selection is based on academic achievement, leadership abilities, and potato-related areas of graduate study. Anna earned her B.S degree in Genetics from Texas A&M Univ., and is working on a Ph.D. in the Dept. of Horticultural Sciences. Her primary thrust is investigating phytochemical compounds in the potato that are known to enhance human health. She believes that both the public and scientific community often overlooks the health benefits of the potato. Her research involves looking at the functional properties of the potato that could be linked with the reduction or prevention of major diseases, including stroke, certain forms of cancer, heart disease, and nutritional based diseases. The research aims to determine the antioxidant capacity of the potato and to determine specific compounds in the potato contributing to this capability. Anna also played a major role in initializing, creating and maintaining the PAA website until its move to Headquarters in 2000.

**National Potato Council press release**

May 3, 2001

**Dr. Carlos Ochoa** recently received the Pokorny Award for Excellence in Plant Genetic Resources Conservation in a ceremony at the National Academy of Sciences on May 9, 2001. The award reflects Dr. Brown’s life-long efforts to collect, preserve, understand and share plant genetic resources. Dr. Ochoa was chosen from a group of 30 world-class nominees by an internationally recognized selection committee of experts in genetic resource conservation. Dr. Ochoa’s career has spanned more than 40 years of collecting, studying, and improving potato germplasm from his base at CIP, the International Potato Center, where he is currently senior scientist emeritus. Some of his accomplishments that were noted are: the collection and classification of more than 12,000 accessions of wild and cultivated potato species and discovered 80 wild species, about 1/3 of those known to exist. He has developed at least a dozen improved potato varieties that are now cultivated commercially on 70,000+ acres in Peru, about 20% of the country’s potato growing area. Along with several published scientific articles and books on potato taxonomy and breeding. He accepted the award gratefully and will use the prize money to help underwrite publication of his lifework.

**Patikia Doctor**

CIP Press Release

Nell I. Mondy was usually the only woman in chemistry wherever she went. How the young woman from the deep South broke into the male-dominated academic world, improving food and nutrition from India and Nigeria to Peru and Poland and becoming an international expert on the common potato, is the focus of her new autobiography, “You Never Fail Until You Stop Trying: The Story of a Pioneer Woman Chemist” (Dorrance Publishing, 2001 and the Cornell Campus store).

“My purpose in writing this book was to encourage today’s young women to pursue science as a career option,” says M ondy, now 80. “Although it may have been more difficult for women to succeed in chemistry 50 years ago, the process still remains challenging. I hope these pages will inspire others who encounter difficult challenges and obstacles in their lives to keep trying.”

“You never fail until you stop trying” is the personal motto M ondy has used for over 70 years, and it has taken her around the world and back, allowing her to make history. Not only did M ondy’s expertise in biochemistry reap a fruitful teaching career that spanned more than four decades and a research career of more than 50 years, both at Cornell, but also took her to 47 countries where she presented papers, worked as a consultant or conducted research.

This book includes numerous photos, anecdotes, excerpts from correspondence and a summary of M ondy’s research.

**Cornell News Service**

May 31, 2001
Position Announcements

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Univ. of Minn.

Tenure-track, 12-month research and teaching position focusing on potato diseases with an emphasis on disease resistance. The successful candidate will develop an independent research program including molecular and classical methods, teach in the graduate and undergraduate curricula, and participate in outreach activities. Minimum qualifications: Ph.D. by date of appointment in plant pathology or related discipline; background in disease resistance research; publication record in referred journals. Desired: experience in potato research, teaching, and grant-writing; coursework or experience in genetics, molecular techniques, and breeding; willingness to collaborate. Salary: competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus standard University benefits. Send C.V., transcripts, a written statement of research, teaching and career goals (indicate subjects you are interested in teaching), and have 3 letters of recommendation sent to: Dr. Linda L. Kinkel, Chair, Plant Pathologist Search Committee, 495 Borlaug Hall, Univ. of M innesota, St. Paul, M N  55108 USA. We will begin reviewing completed applications on September 1, 2001. The University of M innesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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In Honor of Alvin F. Reeves II

Creighton Miller

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