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PRESENTATION OF THE 2006 ASP DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO LILLIAN MAYBERRY

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Glasgow, Scotland, is an exciting venue to present a well-deserved honor to a tremendous lady. The members of the American Society of Parasitologists (ASP) Distinguished Service Award and Extramural Awards Committee, composed of Eugene Foor, Bruce Conn, Richard Clopton, and me, received a nomination by Reginald Blaylock, with supporting letters by Gil Castro, John Janovy, Jr., and Russell Broaddus. We evaluated, selected, and presented to Council the nomination of Lillian Mayberry for the award. Council approved the nomination.

Lillian, an unquestionable asset to ASP and the profession of parasitology, easily met all the criteria for this special honor: (1) Her longevity as an active ASP member is evidenced by continuous membership and regular attendance at annual meetings. She has been an active, loyal, enthusiastic member since 1968 as well as an active member of the Rocky Mountain Conference of Parasitologists and the Southwestern Association of Parasitologists. (2) She has demonstrated active participation on ASP committees. Lillian held 24 different positions, including secretary-treasurer from 1986 to 1993, president in 1995–1996, and cochair of the Auction Committee from 2001 to 2004 as well as similar positions in the 2 indicated regional societies. And (3) she showed exceptional service in positions of leadership and in promoting parasitology.

The ASP has been blessed to have had Lillian Mayberry as a strong, active member and leader in the Society. Most members know that the office of secretary-treasurer is the most demanding position a society member can hold. The office is the historical memory of the society, and it makes society activities, leadership, and annual meetings operate smoothly in a continuum through successive administrations. We have had several very good people in this position. When Lillian took over this office, she made life comfortable for the yearly stream of other officers to understand better their duties and when and how to perform them. She did this by identifying and standardizing society operations and creating handbooks that allowed officers and others to really comprehend their obligations and tasks. By writing instructions and discussing details face to face, Lillian, during the time before e-mail in the infancy of word processing, helped officers avoid anxiety, save time, and make duties and procedures seem easy.

Running the auction along with her husband and University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) administrator Jack Bristol, plus with the help of a series of highly competent and hilarious auctioneers, good overseers, marvelous items, and spirited participation of the membership, Lillian has made considerable money available for graduate student use. Moreover, the majority of her scholarship activities seem to have centered around interaction with her students and other students in the various ASP-related societies. Lillian has guided many of these students into parasitology or other health-related professions with her infectious optimism and has and continues to serve as an exceptional ambassador of ASP to various parties. She directs an abundance of her attention enticing women, educationally disadvantaged, honors students, and other students from relatively small institutions into science and her chosen field. In association with Jack Bristol, she has mentored more than 76 undergraduate research students and 17 master's degree students. She is a true friend to many of those students. As Gil Castro, a parasitologist and retired administrator at Lillian's own UTEP, said of Lil that his numerous conversations with her all eventually gravitated to some aspect of parasitology, a colleague, or former student, a behavior that demonstrates she is truly dedicated to ASP and parasitology.

Advice is not limited to budding parasitologists. Leslie Lozano, as a featured graduate of the top 10 UTEP seniors, presented formal remarks comparing her experience at UTEP to the operation of a clock. Lozano, a Marketing and Management major, at first considered herself as a cog in the complex machine serving as a responsible student worthy of the investment that others made in her. Then, as a graduate, she saw herself as the winding agent for current and future students who need to build momentum within the complex. She cited Lillian as 1 of 2 guardian angels advising her and taking a personal interest in her continuing growth. She sounds like a young Lillian!

Lillian's research scholarship efforts focused on subcellular to whole animal levels of host–parasite interactions, with an emphasis on intestinal coccidians and nematodes. This activity has produced more than 60 publications, of which 42 were primary publications in parasitology journals, and more than 110 professional presentations, plus about 30 invited seminars. The majority of the presentations were coauthored with her students, whom she directed into being independent, curious, and knowledgeable graduates.

Dr. Mayberry has not been ignored by others in regard to recognition. She has received more than a dozen honors, including a Fulbright Research Fellowship, 2 stints as a National Academy of Sciences Exchange Scientist in the former Yugoslavia, University Distinguished award for Teaching Excellence, and Professor of the Year from the University Honors Alliance, UTEP. She also has been honored with several awards for her excellence in community service.

We are very proud of you, and I feel privileged here at the 11th International Congress of Parasitology in Glasgow to award you this prized ASP honor for your distinguished service. Congratulations!