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The American Society of Parasitologists Newsletter



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From the *Editor* of the Newsletter

Consider publishing your parasite poems, posting a link to your favorite "parasite lecture," providing an actual parasite lecture, or otherwise send "something" in to the editor. Your contribution is valuable and anything sent in to me will be considered for publication. This is also an opportunity to permanently archive something that you would like to see published. It will be archived on the ASP web site (and in the Manter Laboratory ASP archives) in perpetuity. See below.

Sincerely,

Scott Lyell Gardner, Ph.D.

Data from photographs (last news letter)-
Horse and Man in Asia [Mongolia] and brake
repair in South America [Bolivia]

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear ASP friends and colleagues,

I want to start by saying how honored I am to serve you as ASP president this year. Since my first ASP conference poster presented in 1977, I have cherished my work and friendships in this great organization. In these 32 years I have seen a lot of change in the society, but overall the change has been progressive and has characterized a consistently viable society of dedicated scientists.



Bruce Conn, ASP president 2009, at field research site working on *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* in the great lakes, 2009.

When we said our farewells as we left our annual meeting in Arlington, Texas last June, little did we realize the profound changes that would occur in our lives as scientists. In just a little over 9 months the world has experienced profound changes in the global economy, which extends from banking practices to global trade, and ultimately into how and to what extent scientific research is funded. In that time the United States has elected a new president whose administration is developing policies that are much different from the federal policies of previous years, and are likely to impact the life and work of scientists in the U.S. as well as Canada, Mexico, and the other 50 or so countries in which ASP members live and work. At the same time, the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in China, changes in Russian foreign policy and the continuing expansion of the European Union have worked simultaneously to shift global relationships in ways that perhaps were not



anticipated when we met last June. Now in the early months of 2009, we are seeing unprecedented new cooperation between industry and academe; examples that could have the biggest effect on parasitology are the new models of collaboration between university biomedical research institutes and "Big Pharma," the large pharmaceutical companies.

Some of these changes present difficulties for us as a scientific organization, but others present opportunities, at least in raising the awareness of how important our work is to the continuing health of the human enterprise on this planet. Among the most negative changes have been the dramatic cuts in budgets by many universities as the economic recession has devalued university endowments, while unusually high unemployment and scaling back or closing of businesses have depleted government coffers due to loss of tax revenues. Yet, on the positive side, at least in the U.S., federal funding for scientific research and education seem to be poised for substantial increases. But the impact of most changes, whether positive or negative, remain to be seen, and can be influenced by how we, the scientific community, respond.

My theme for this year as ASP president is "Parasites on a Shrinking Planet." This theme implies that change is occurring and will continue to occur in ways that make parasitology an increasingly relevant science. We all know how much the world has shrunk in terms of rapid worldwide transportation opening new opportunities for parasites and hosts to travel, thus changing the epidemiological dynamics of the diseases we study. Before the last few months, however, I think that few of us realized how thoroughly linked the entire global financial enterprise is, and thus how small our planet has become in economic terms. So there is no better time to ramp up our efforts to engage in scientific work that focuses on global problems and utilizes collaboration across national boundaries. A good place to start is by putting even greater effort into strengthening our own organization, the ASP, which provides a strong basis for engaging the shrinking world of both parasites and scientists.

Briefly, I offer some suggestions for ways to increase our effectiveness as an organization. First, I encourage you to make attendance at our national conference a major priority. The location this year in Knoxville, Tennessee will be easy to reach for most, and economical as well. The annual meeting is the best place for networking, and especially for getting our students involved in networking as they build their careers.

But, remember that the ASP is not simply one organization. Through our regional affiliates, we reach many other scientists who cannot or do not attend the national conference. This year as ASP president, I have attended

meetings of the Rocky Mountain Conference of Parasitologists, and the New England Association of Parasitologists. I already have scheduled to attend the Southeastern Society of Parasitologists and the Annual Midwestern Conference of Parasitologists over the next couple of months, and will try to attend others as well. These meetings are generally small, friendly, affordable, packed with excellent science, and extend parasitology into many corners of North America that are not served as well by the national meetings alone. If possible, support both your regional affiliate and the national organization by attending both this year.

Encourage colleagues to join ASP, and especially support new memberships for students. Our membership fees are still a bargain, and students can still join for a mere \$15. Having larger numbers of members helps us by encouraging more participation in conferences and other networking opportunities such as the website, by encouraging more publication in the *Journal of Parasitology*, and by showing a stronger presence to legislators who determine funding for our discipline.



Bruce Conn, ASP president 2009, teaching lab.

ASP has long been active in pushing for legislative support of research and education. This past December, as another function of my presidential role, I attended the meeting of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents in Washington DC. I learned a lot about science and public policy, taught a lot of chemists, physicists, and other society presidents about parasitology, and was able to present our interests to several senators and congressional leaders and staffers. In helping to draft a joint letter to Barack Obama and his transition team, I was able to insert language supporting federal funding of agricultural and veterinary research that had received scant mention in Obama's original Grand Challenges.

Speaking of the *Journal of Parasitology*, another important thing I would encourage you to do is to submit your best research to our journal. The print



quality is still among the best in the world, while the price is among the lowest and the distribution is among the broadest. Through our new electronic access for both new and past issues, authors in JP now get immediate access to readers all over the world. Also, an excellent journal draws attention to all parasitologists affiliated with the ASP, thus encouraging more collaboration and other support.

Speaking of collaborations, try to develop new joint projects with ASP members in other countries. As parasitologists, we truly do work with systems that are global in their impact, and our work is enriched by joining with scientists from other areas. ASP truly is an international society, with members from nearly 50 countries. Our members are leaders in parasitology around the world, and by working together across borders we can do even more. The recent joint meeting with the Mexican parasitologists in Merida was a good step, but we can continue to facilitate better research on parasites and parasitic diseases even in years when meeting jointly is not possible.

Finally, we need to continue working to educate the public about the importance of infectious and zoonotic diseases. This is perhaps the greatest opportunity that we have before us today. The public and the officials responsible for the public welfare are more aware than anytime in recent history about the importance of the very things about which ASP members are experts. Emerging pathogens, invasive species, changing climate, and related issues are making headlines daily, with incessant calls for expertise to deal with concerns related to the health of humans, livestock, and wildlife. By rising to meet these needs, we increase the prospects for future jobs for our students, and healthier living for our neighbors.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve with you. I look forward to seeing you in Knoxville in August. Until then.....

Best wishes,

David Bruce Conn, Ph.D.
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THE BEYOND

It seemeth such a little way to me,
across to that strange country "The Beyond"
for it has grown to be
the home of those whom I am so fond.

And so for me there is not death,
it is but crossing with bated breath a little
strip of sea,
to find one's loved ones waiting on the shore,
more beautiful, more precious than before.

Clipping - anonymous, collected by the parasitologist Dr. Eloise B. Cram, PhD., borne June 11, 1896, Davenport, Iowa, who passed away February 9, 1957, San Diego, California. I saw this poem at the desk of my major Professor the late William D. Lindquist, at his office, Dept. of Infectious Diseases, Kansas St. University, Manhattan, Kansas, USA, during the year 1977, while working on my Masters Degree. I have kept it for 32 years and now I would like to share it with members of ASP through the ASP Newsletter.

Professor Roy D. Meléndez, DVM
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Venezuela

We all thank you for this contribution and for the historical perspective that you give us in the ASP. -ed

DICK AND JOHN COLUMN NUMBER 8

WORKING TITLE: **SLIDES,
ELECTRON
MICROGRAPHS, ETC.**

Dear Dick and John:

After 33 years of fighting the never ending battle against parasitological ignorance and seeing the picture of you two grinning parasitologists wearing retirement fedoras, I have decided to join the ranks of retired geezers and live off the government. As I am cleaning out my office and lab, I have come across some 47 boxes of Kodak carousels containing an uncountable number of 2x2 slides of parasites, invertebrates, tissues, hosts, collecting sites, electron micrographs, etc. I have digitized the really good ones, so that's been done. Any idea on what I might do with those slides and carousels?

Your colleague and almost emeritus,
About-to-be-a-retiree.

Dear About-to-be-a-retiree:

First, let us congratulate you on graduating to the rank of retiree and geezer! Second, your letter made us realize that although we have discussed what to do with all those old reprints, books and even those pickled specimens of worms and hosts, we have never considered what to do with all those Kodachrome slides, electron micrographs, etc. So let us thank you for your timely question.

The problem you face is not unusual. Both of us have similarly wondered what to do with those old slides, etc as we faced retirement. We have several suggestions; hopefully our readers will find some of them to be useful.

1) you have some old glass colored lantern slides* or those glass electron micrograph negatives*, take them to a stained glass window maker. We believe that they would make beautiful stained glass windows for your home or office. They would be particularly attractive in your home office, especially when surrounded by your walls insulated with your old reprints, and when seated in your arm chair made from those old biology texts as described in our previous columns. It would allow





you to experience true art in the stained window, while have that warm, cozy and secure feeling from the science of your insulation and chair created from knowledge.

** (Comment from JO) DS is definitely showing his age. With the introduction of digital image recording and storage, many of our colleagues, at the beginning of their scientific careers, have never heard of lantern slides or seen glass negatives from the electron microscope. With digital cameras capturing images and PowerPoint to create presentations, our younger colleges have missed the thrill of spending days and days in the darkroom exposing and developing 3" x 4.5" glass plates covered with emulsion for a ten minute talk with a lantern slide projector (a projector with a 6" diameter lens and a body looking vaguely like a anti-tank weapon).*

(Comment from Editor) Interestingly, at the last Parasitology Seminar (held in the Manter Laboratory each Thursday at noon for the past 40 years) we pulled out some lantern slides that came directly from Dr. Robert E. Kuntz. Some were made in 1949 when he was at the Naval Medical Research Unit-2 (NAMRU-2) in Taiwan and some were made at (NAMRU-3) in Cairo. The slides were interesting from a technological and parasitological / historical perspective. 1) None of the students had ever before seen an actual lantern slide projector, 2) The slides shown depicted people in Egypt working to control Schistosomiasis (or Bilharziasis – depending on where you may be from) by draining ditches, and other control work.

2) Consider taking your favorite images, perhaps those you have already digitized to your local Xeroxing store and have them enlarged into posters. Have them printed on to T-shirts, mugs, bolo tie neck slides, baseball caps. The opportunity for creativity is almost endless. Wow, who could resist a T-shirt with an angry macrophage, a fluorescent cercaria, or an *Echinococcus* Cyst with all those beautiful young larvae! They would be real conversation pieces and probably money makers at local gift stores, flea markets, and annual conventions of pathologists. Remember you can not live too well off the government, so supplemental income is always welcome. At one time (DS) had an electron micrograph of a macrophage engulfing a blood trypanosome. The pseudopodia were gently embracing the trypanosome and DS entitled it "Tough Love". Unfortunately, he can no longer find the slide or he would have had the coolest T-shirt to wear for our Annual ASP Meeting.

3) Some Sigma Xi Chapters have a yearly art-science contest. We have seen some amazing enlarged color photos of stained histological sections! They were incredible abstract art. If you have any of these, have them enlarged and framed. Although these are great conversation pieces, the walls of your home may already be filled with great scientific art from the ASP auction and you may not be able hang your own work at home. We believe that the strength of your art would make it very sellable, perhaps better than any Jackson Pollack abstract! It is time to contact local art galleries for representation. We suggest that might find a more favorable reception from the gallery owner if you do not mention parasites. Instead, use phrases such as, relevance to human suffering, global impact on humanity, organic forms, etc.



4) Your scientific images from old EMs and or parasite slides can be used to make greeting cards. They could be used in correspondence with all your old parasitology friends. We are convinced that a card with a *Taenia* scolex on it for your Mother-in-law's birthday with such a clever statement such as "I am hooked on you" will be greatly appreciated. Slides could be made into large paper sheets of very interesting and clever wrapping paper for wedding gifts, Christmas gifts, etc. What bride and groom would not appreciate wrapping paper with the photograph of a loving *Shistosoma* mating pair and a few clever well chosen words, "loving for life".

5) There are also other possibilities, for example we previously discussed making mobiles from your old reprints, you certainly could do the same with prints of your micrographs, etc. (see past D&J articles in the ASP Newsletter). You could even laminate some of them, punch holes in one end and use them to hang from you Christmas tree or from your chandler. But if all else fails, our best idea, and one that we have used with our reprints, is to keep some of them and during those long cold winter nights, share them with friends and neighbor while sitting in front of the fire with a little liquid refreshment, or break out a box of two of your slides and have your own slide show. Ignore the snoring that you might hear from your guests. The show should remind you of all the excellent research and teaching that you have accomplished over your career and make the evening much sweeter!

6) Finally, if none of the above appeal to you, send an advertisement to the ASP Newspaper and offer to give some young beginning faculty member who is scheduled to teach parasitology your slide collection. We both know that when we were just beginning at the University, it would have been great to get boxes of teaching slides. If this does not work, we believe that some community colleges who teach microbiology, parasitology or diagnostic parasitology would be delight to receive your collection. Certainly there are colleagues in lesser developed countries who might find it difficult to obtain good teaching materials and would be very grateful for such pertinent teaching aids.

7) On a serious note, select your best slides and take your old slide shows of basic parasitology into the grammar and high schools. Kids are always fascinated by worms crawling in and out and love to have good information to relate to squeamish parents and siblings at the dinner table. Your efforts might, in the long run, stimulate interest in parasitology and increase ASP membership.

We hope this helps. Let us know if there are other problems that we have not yet addressed. We may not have all the answers but that has never stopped us from discussing your problems. We are here to help and ease you into the rank of your fellow retiree.

Dick and John, Brothers in Parasitism

PS: We would like to thank Professor Darwin Wittrock, a soon to be retiree, for this question and suggestions that stimulated this article.



Remember our motto: "You are never too young to consider retirement." We are only here to help you over those retirement hurdles. Write us if you have problems. The Dick and John Retirement Consults, Inc. are only here to serve you.

The authors of this column might be or might not* be found at the following:

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* remember they are retired!



AN URGENT REQUEST TO TAKE POLITICAL ACTION

Fellow Parasitologists,

Two months ago we had some events celebrating the life and works of Charles Darwin, who would be 200 this year. Part of the celebration included the screening of the movie "Flock of Dodos", and a couple of talks by Barbara Forrest from Southeastern Louisiana University at Hammond. For those of you who do not remember her name, she coauthored the book "Creationism Trojan Horse: The wedge of Intelligent Design" with Paul Gross. In that book they detail the agenda of the Discovery Institute to usher the teaching of Intelligent Design into the schools of the United States. They also document the fight of a group of parents in Dover, Pennsylvania against the School District Board and their plans of allowing the teaching of Intelligent Design in the classrooms (you can google *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District* to find more details). Happily, Justice John E. Jones determined that Intelligent Design could not be considered science, therefore, there was no basis for teaching it in the classrooms and its teaching would violate the constitution. In contrast, last year Governor Bobby Jindal (R., Louisiana) signed a Bill to allow the use of supplemental information when teaching evolution. If you would like to read the bill just visit the following link:

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/billdata/streamdocument.asp?did=482728>

It is not that long.

I urge all the members of the American Society of Parasitologists and members of all the affiliated societies to become familiar with the wording used in this bill. A similar bill may be presented at your state soon. In short, the senate of the State of Louisiana mandates that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education assists teachers with the supplemental information and materials to promote "critical thinking skills, logical analysis and open and objective discussion of scientific theories being studied including, but not limited to, evolution, the origins of life, global warming, and human cloning."

The bill states that if the school system so requires, the teachers shall discuss the materials provided by the school board. It also establishes that the ruling pursues no religious intentions and determines that the State Board in conjunction with each "city, parish or other school board" must determine a manner to implement and regulate the discussion of those materials.

I will leave the interpretation and action to each individual member of the society. Yet, I remind all the members that action is necessary. First, Intelligent Design has been determined unscientific (does not follow the scientific method) and has clear religious connotations. The teaching of those materials will compromise the separation of church and State, the academic freedom of the teachers (who **MUST** teach science, not religion) who would be required to discuss Intelligent Design, and



will have a devastating effect on a generation of young Americans. In this regard, I will emphasize the later for two reasons. First, those children would come to the University classrooms in few years without knowledge of the scientific method and its application. And second, we cannot afford losing an entire generation that would not embrace the application of science to the solution of the world's problems (have you seen the news today?).

I urge the members of ASP to draft a statement to be sent to the Senate of Louisiana, and other states that are considering passing a similar bill. In that statement I propose that we highlight the fact that Intelligent Design is not a scientific theory, therefore it does not constitute an alternative to the understanding of evolution as phrased in Senate Bill No 733.

In case you are interested, please, send a message to agustinjz at zoology.siu.edu, we can organize something concise very quick.

I want my cereal, with church separated from the State.

F. Agustín Jiménez, Ph.D.
Department of Zoology
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THE PASSING OF A PARASITOLOGIST

With great sadness we report the death of a dedicated parasitologist. Dr. Reinalda Lanfredi died in March, 2009. Dra. Reinalda Marisa Lanfredi was a prominent parasitologist in Brazil and was known world-wide, especially for her work on filarioid nematodes. She worked in the USA early in her career and in Brazil she was loved by her many students, colleagues, and friends. She headed the Laboratório de Biologia de Helmintos Otto Wucherer at the Instituto de Biofísica Carlos Chagas Filho, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. She will be missed by all of us. Scott Lyell Gardner



Dr. Reinalda Lanfredi at the Instituto do Oswaldo Cruz, 28 September, 2008



MEETING DATA

PLAN FOR THE 2009 ASP MEETING [Knoxville, TN].

The 2009 ASP Annual meeting will occur at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Knoxville, TN, from 13-17 August, 2009. You can visit the Crowne Plaza web site at: <http://www.crowneplaza.com>, for more information on the Knoxville edition of the hotel. Sharon Patton and Charles Faulkner are the co-chairs of the Local Committee. Watch for more information both on the ASP web site and in the Journal.

Next Meetings for the ASP are planned:

2010; 22-25 June, Colorado Springs, CO

>>>Note that the deadline for submitting your abstract has been extended to 30 April, 2009. <<<

Other Meetings.

THE XIITH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARASITOLOGY (ICOPA) (2010).

To be held in Melbourne, Australia, from **15-20th August 2010** at the new Exhibition and Convention Centre. All are invited to join the parasitology community at this exceptional facility that lies in the heart of Melbourne in close proximity to the scenic Yarra River and the associated parks, multicultural restaurants, cafes and bars.

Check the web site of David Gibson for more meeting data:

<http://www.diplectanum.dsl.pipex.com/purls/index.htm>

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY - A FEATURE OF THE ASP NEWSLETTER



Oruro, Bolivia 1986.



Near Villa Tunari, Bolivia 1993. Kids ready to load into our Landcruiser for a trip to their new home. In the background see harvested coca leaves drying in the sun with coca fields in hills beyond.



American Society of Parasitologists, 84th Annual Meeting, August 14-17, 2009

Knoxville Tennessee: Venue and Local Attractions

Our meeting venue this year is the Crowne Plaza-Knoxville. Just 20 minutes from McGhee Tyson Airport, the Crowne Plaza is situated in a superb location in downtown Knoxville that is convenient for touring, dining, and shopping. Walk to the Old City and Market Square to enjoy over 30 eateries, nightlife, shopping, and outdoor concerts.

Knoxville offers visitors the perfect mix of small town charm and big city fun. The city is on the banks of the Tennessee River and in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. Surrounded by unsurpassed natural beauty, visitors can easily travel to the six national parks located within 90 miles of the city. Knoxville has something for everyone. Shoot a few hoops and explore the interactive exhibits at the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, visit the world class Knoxville Zoo, tour the University of TN, enjoy the local history, nightlife, dining, shopping, museums, or take advantage of the numerous parks and gardens located within the heart of the city. The beauty and natural resources surrounding Knoxville mean limitless opportunities for fun and adventure.



We are planning a BBQ and Bluegrass cruise on the Tennessee River for an optional Sunday evening activity. Participants will have the opportunity to take in the scenery and enjoy live entertainment while they cruise the river on an authentic paddle wheel river boat. The Tennessee River takes its name from the Cherokee Indian village Tenasi and is the largest river system in the Southeast. Today it is possible to go anywhere in the world by following the Tennessee downstream until you reach the Ohio and into the Mississippi, and all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. Our cruise will be approximately 2 hours with a full BBQ buffet and features one of Knoxville's finest "*banjo pickin'-foot stompin'-hand clappin'*" Bluegrass bands.

An exciting Scientific Program that will stimulate thought, provoke discussion, and inspire is being planned. Special sessions include symposia on teaching parasitology, veterinary parasitology, a second Associate Editor's symposium, as well as the 2009 Clark P. Read Mentor Lecture and the Barclay-McGee Lecture. In addition, we will have some traditional favorites such as the annual Coccidiosis Conference and the annual Student Auction.

Knoxville Tennessee is the place where past, present, and future come together in the shadow of the scenic Cumberland Plateau and the foothills of the biodiversity rich Great Smoky Mountains. We know your experience will be memorable. Mark the calendar and make your plans to attend the 84th Annual Meeting.



DIGITAL COMMONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Check the digital commons web site at UNL. If you have not visited our Journal of Parasitology digital [FREE to ANYONE ANYWHERE] version, here is the link

(<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/jrnlparasitology/>)

Also - don't forget the free version of the Dictionary of Invertebrate Zoology:

(<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/parasitology-manterlab/>)



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Note to Members -

The ASP Newsletter welcomes news stories, articles, poetry, images, and synthetic research papers. Please send your text electronically to the editor as an e-mail and attach as an MS Word document. Drawings, photographs, charts, or tables can be sent as B/W or color TIF files at 300 dpi. Please send TIF files one at a time. A general rule is to limit photograph size to 3"x5". You may attach both text and graphic files to your email message.

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