

Fellows and Honorary Member Committee Report

The current Fellow and Honorary Member Committee consists of myself, Joan Campbell and Kassim Al-Khatib. Kassim will be rotating off the committee this year and a replacement will have to be added. One must be a Fellow recipient in order to serve on the committee. Joan will be chairman of the committee following the 2018 WSWS annual meeting in March 2018. I will rotate off the committee after the 2019 WSWS annual meeting.

For the 2018 annual meeting the committee had three Fellow nominations, but no Honorary Member nominations. For the first time in several years, the nominations included a nomination for fellow from the private sector of the WSWS, as well as two from the public sector. It appears to be more by tradition than by rule, but only two fellow awards are presented annually; in keeping with that custom, the committee selected, pending the WSWS president and WSWS board concurrence, Kai Umeda, University of Arizona (public) and Dr. Phil Munger, recent retiree (November 2016) from the BASF Corporation (private). The third nominee, Dr. Curtis Thompson, Kansas State University will remain an active nominee for the Fellow award for the next two years.

Kai Umeda: Probably anyone who has attended the WSWS annual meeting more than a few times, will probably hear the name Kai Umeda and instantly associate him with weed science, turf and the Western Society of Weed Science. Kai holds an Associate Degree from Cabrillo College, a BS from the University of California, Berkley in Pest Management and an MS degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in Plant and Soil Science. Kai has been an active member of the WSWS since 1985, he has served as President, Program Chair as well as numerous committee assignments including chair of Constitution and Operating Procedures and Chair of the Education and Regulatory Section; he has served on the Nominations Committee, Public Relations Committee, Student Paper Judging Committee and the Local Arrangement Committee. Kai has also been a recipient of the Presidential Award and participated routinely as a host for the Student Night Out program. From 1981 to 1993, Kai was a Research Biologist and Field Research Agriculturist for American Cyanamid. From 1993 to the present, save for two sabbatical leaves for the WSSA and at the University of Hawaii, he has been with the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arizona.

Dr. Phil Munger: Phil hails from Painesville, Ohio. He was first introduced to agricultural chemicals working as a field technician during the summers of his junior high and high school career at the Diamond Shamrock facility at Painesville.

Phil did his undergraduate work at Ohio State University receiving his BS in Agronomy in 1981. In 1983 he earned an MS in Agronomy and Weed Science from Texas Tech University and in 1986 he received his PhD in Plant Physiology and Weed Science from Texas A&M University. Phil has been a member of WSWS since 1997 and served on several WSWS committees including Finance and was a board member of WSWS as the Member at Large. He has also authored and presented research papers at WSWS meetings. Phil was also active in a number of other regional and national scientific organizations including, but not limited to WSSA, ESA and APS, Southern Weed Science Society, California Weed Science Society and California Association of Pest Control Advisors (CAPAC). Phil began his employment with BASF in 1986 as a Field Biologist at College Station, Texas. During his tenure with BASF, Phil worked at several BASF facilities, including Triangle Park, North Carolina, Dinuba, California and a four year stint Limburgerhof, Germany. He retired from BASF in November of 2016 and began an independent agricultural research company in San Joaquin, California in 2017.