

THE NEW TEAMF. A. Wood, Head

Dr. Francis A. Wood was appointed Head of the Department of Plant Pathology, effective July 1, 1973. He received the B.S. and M.A. degrees from the University of Missouri and the Ph.D. from Minnesota in 1961, with a major in Plant Pathology.

Al has been a faculty member at Penn State University since 1961. There he taught courses and did research in forest pathology, epidemiology and in the effect of air pollution on plants. Recently his principal interest has been in pollution of environmental systems and he has been Assistant Director of the Center for Environmental Studies at Penn State.

His experience and talents in pollution studies have brought him world-wide recognition and he has been in constant demand as consultant and as a speaker on the subject as well as in the fields of forest pathology and epidemiology.

Choosing a new head for the Department was a process that demanded much time from many people. As a result, the present members of the Department, as well as the Administration are satisfied that they have a man of proven ability and distinction and one who will provide the best possible leadership for the Department.

D. W. French, Assistant Head

Dr. David W. French was appointed Assistant Head of the Department in February, 1973. This is a new position and as incumbent Dave will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Department.

Dave received the B.S. in forestry at the University of Minnesota and the M.S. and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology and forestry. He became instructor in Plant Pathology in 1950, advancing to professor in 1963.

Dave's contributions to the University and to the public have been numerous, diverse and valuable. He teaches outstanding courses in forest pathology, and in field mycology at Itasca. He has advised over 50 M.S. and Ph.D. candidates, some of whom have won wide distinction. His researches have resulted in more than 80 publications. His administrative ability has resulted in numerous all-university and other committee assignments and appointment as Associate Director of the Itasca Biology Sessions.

His thorough knowledge of his profession results in constant demands for advice about diseases of trees and deterioration of wood products. In spite of other demands on his time, he remains a competent practicing forest pathologist.

AS THE HEAD SEES IT

Dear Old Timers:

I consider it an honor and privilege to have been appointed Head of the Department of Plant Pathology of the University of Minnesota. The decision to come to Minnesota was based on my desire to administer research, extension and teaching programs in Plant Pathology, the realistic and enthusiastic attitude of the departmental faculty with respect to development of the Department of Plant Pathology, and a series of commitments from the University administration. Regarding the latter, the University administration agreed to the following: the establishment of a new full-time position in Plant Pathology Extension; that positions vacated by the retirements of Professors Eide and Moore during 1973 and Dr. Christensen during 1974 would remain in the Department; that a new position in research and teaching would be top priority in the College of Agriculture 1973-74 request of the state legislature; that the Department could establish a position of either administrative assistant or Assistant Department Head for the purpose of aiding the Department Head in administration of the Department; that there would be an increase in research funds available to the Department. Moreover, the overall positive attitude of key administrators at different levels indicated that they were committed to the development of excellence in Plant Pathology. Within this framework, I am quite optimistic about the future of Plant Pathology here at Minnesota and I hope that our efforts will make each and every one of you not only proud to have graduated from one of the oldest and most well-known departments of Plant Pathology in the world, but also proud to be associated with a department that is striving to develop top-flight programs relevant to the immediate needs of mankind.

We plan to maintain the areas of traditional strength such as cereal rusts and forest tree diseases and to expand our efforts to the pressing problems associated with population increase, environmental deterioration, and the increasing demands for leisure time and attendant recreational needs. We plan to publish Aurora at least semi-annually and I will keep you informed of our progress in this space.

The administrative structure of the Department has been revised and all activities of the Department have been classified as either program development or operations. The Department Head, assisted with an executive committee of five faculty members and one student will work with the faculty in program development. The position of Assistant Department Head has been established in the Department, and Dr. David W. French was recently appointed to that position. Dr. French will be responsible for day-to-day operations within the Department, including all matters that pertain to facilities and services. This arrangement should free much of the time of the Department Head to work with the executive committee and faculty in program development.

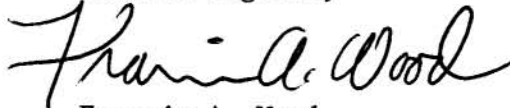
We have initiated a building renovation program and are presently searching for funds to remodel the west entrance to the Plant Pathology building and the headhouse area, the seminar room, the preparations laboratory, and the photography lab. The fund situation is relatively tight at the present time, as most of you know, but we will continue to explore possibilities.

Much time has been spent in consultation with the faculty in an effort to realign faculty members' programs to agree more closely with their interests and talents. This phase of program development has been completed and will be used as a basis for determining the nature of future faculty additions. I will provide you with a detailed listing of faculty assignments in the next edition of Aurora.

We are in the process of defining the nature of the new extension position and the future of the positions vacated by Professors Moore and Eide. Upon completion of our deliberations, job descriptions will be developed, and we will begin to advertise. Filling these positions will probably be the single most important thing that we do in terms of future development of the Department for some time to come. As a consequence, I want to solicit your assistance. Job descriptions should be out within a month and I would appreciate it if you would give careful consideration to our needs and provide us with background material on any outstanding candidates that you might know.

The Second International Congress of Plant Pathology will be held during early September of 1973 and we have planned a Minnesota Alumni function. It will be held on Saturday night, September 8, 1973, in the Curtis Hotel. We have included an information form and a request that you indicate whether or not you will be able to attend. A brief program has been planned and we hope that it will be a fun-filled evening as well as an opportunity to reminisce with other Old Timers. I sincerely hope that each and every one of you will be able to attend and I look forward to seeing you. In the meantime, we would enjoy hearing from you.

Warmest regards,



Francis A. Wood
Professor and Head

