

**IN DEDICATION TO
DR. HARRY C. YOUNG, JR.**

Harry C. Young, Jr., professor emeritus in the Department of Plant Pathology at Oklahoma State University, passed away 22 February, 2009, in Wichita, KS, at the age of 90. Young grew up in Wooster, OH, where he attended public schools and obtained a B.S. in botany from The Ohio State University in 1940. He was awarded an M.S. degree in plant pathology in March 1943 and Ph.D. in plant pathology and plant breeding from the University of Minnesota in June 1949. Young began his career at Oklahoma State University in 1950, where he spent his entire career and retired in 1982.

Young was a U.S. Army Air Corps Captain during WWII and served from 1943–46. He was trained as a photography analyst and, later, was a Technical Supply Officer for the 379th Fighter Squadron, 362nd Group, Fighter Command, 9th Air Force in the European Theater.

Young made notable contributions in plant pathology research and in training graduate students, several of whom have made significant contributions to the science of plant pathology. Young's area of research included developing disease-control programs involving the diseases of fruit nursery stock, small and coarse grain cereals, and turfgrasses; the population dynamics of combinations of genes for pathogenicity in the wheat leaf rust fungus, *Puccinia triticina*; the specifics of disease progress of stalk rot of maize caused by *Diploidia zae*; and disease-monitoring programs, especially for diseases of wheat, oats, triticale, and barley. He served on several committees of the American Phytopathological Society including Plant Disease Detection, Disease Management, Epidemiology, Disease Loss Appraisal, Disease and Pathogen Physiology, and International Cooperation.

Young conducted two special research projects of particular interest to him. One was the role of the alternate host in the pathogenic variability of the wheat leaf rust pathogen. This study was conducted at the University of Minnesota and supported by a sabbatical Leave from Oklahoma State University, a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, and a grant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1961–62. Second was the comparison of variability in pathogenicity of wheat leaf rust populations in the presence of two different alternate hosts of the pathogen (species of the genera *Thalictrum* and *Anchusa*) and in the absence of any alternate host. This study was conducted at the Estacao Agronomica Nacional, Oeiras, Portugal, and was supported by a Fulbright Hayes Senior Post Doctorial Fellowship and a grant from the Fundacao Caluste Gulbenkian de Lisboa in 1969–70.

Young's three major avocations in life were golf, light plane flying, and skiing. The former led to intensive study of disease and disease control of turfgrass pathogens, particularly in bent grass greens. He was a member of the Oklahoma Golf Course Superintendents and the Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation, providing them with disease control counsel throughout much of his career until he retired in 1982. He continued playing golf after his 90th birthday. His private plane flying greatly enhanced his supervision of State and Regional research plots and in visiting research stations in the southern Great Plains. He continued flying until about age 87. His desire to ski resulted in him and wife Joan, married since 1943, moving to Pagosa Springs in the southern mountains of Colorado after retirement.

