study their development and ultrastructure. Those cultures now service the study of chytrids worldwide, including the first chytrid genome and several NSF projects. As an Associate Research Scientist, Joyce does not teach formal university courses, but scientists and students are frequent visitors to her laboratory, and she is often invited to give demonstrations and lectures on the recognition and culture of chytrids. She has mentored three graduate students and numerous undergraduates, as well as helped train graduate students through the NSF-PEET program. Joyce has served the society as Associate Editor of *Mycologia* and also has chaired the Biodiversity Committee.

Dr. Thomas Volk is a pioneer mycologist on the Internet, and a renowned teacher, and he has given extraordinary service to the Mycological Society of America. His website "Tom Volk's Fungi" is the most authoritative general site about fungi. This website, together with his service to the North American Mycological Association, makes Tom an important bridge between amateur and professional, and it also reflects the high quality of his teaching for which he received the Society's Weston Award. His research has covered various aspects of mushroom biology and medical mycology and he is a very knowledgeable field mycologist. He is much loved by his students. His service to the MSA is exemplary. He was the Society's first webmaster. He has been Councilor and served on many MSA committees, including Electronic Communications, Amateur Mycology, Long Range Planning, Mycology Teaching and Education. And we all know a MSA meeting without Tom's camera would not be an MSA meeting. And today we get to turn the tables on Tom and take his picture for the Newsletter to honor his service to the Society.

Thomas Volk
(photo by Scott Redhead)

Honorary Awards Committee: Dave McLaughlin (Chair), Martha J. Powell, James B. Anderson, Carol A. Shearer, ex officia, Past Chair

MSA Honorary Member: Angela Restrepo and Gioconda San-Blas

Honorary members are distinguished senior scientists with a long record of significant contributions to the science of fungal biology and who reside in and work in countries other than the U.S. and Canada.

Dr. Angela Restrepo of the Corporación para Investigaciones Biológicas, Medellín, Colombia, has been proposed as an Honorary Member of the Mycological Society of America. Dr. Restrepo is as distinguished a mycologist as you are likely to find anywhere. She has devoted her career to Latin American fungal diseases and is the expert on paracoccidioidomycosis, the South American relative of histoplasmosis and coccidioidomycosis. She has published more than 300 papers and 32 book chapters, including clinical studies, life history, ecology, and immunology studies, and studies employing molecular methods. After obtaining her Ph.D. at Tulane University she returned to Columbia and a teaching position at the University of Antioquia. Faced with political instabilities in the country in the 1970's she had to leave the University. She then raised the money to start a private center, the Corporación para Investigaciones Biológicas, which is one of the premier medical mycology research centers in Latin America. At the center, she has helped train a generation of mycologists and medical researchers. More than 160 scientists have been trained at this institution and one of her colleagues estimates that Dr. Restrepo personally trained at least 100 of these scientists. Although she is retired, she still works full time at the Corporación para Investigaciones Biológicas. Dr. Restrepo has been recognized in her own country, including the Columbian Academy of Science, but also by the Medical Mycology Society of the Americas, Canadian Society of Mycology, International Society for Human and Animal Mycology (ISHAM), Venezuelan Society for Infectious Diseases, VIII International Congress on Paracoccidioidomycosis, and has even had an award named for her. We are late to recognize her impact on mycology and the infrastructure of mycology in Latin America, but we still have the chance to do so.

Angela Restrepo

Dr. Gioconda San-Blas, of the Mycology Laboratory in the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research and the Simón Bolívar University. Dr. San-Blas is synonymous with Venezuelan mycology and is an expert on the agent of the Latin American systemic mycosis, paracoccidioidomy-

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cosis. Her work on *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* and yeasts relies on a variety of techniques including cultural work, genetics, ultrastructure, biochemistry, and DNA sequencing. Her international reputation is solidly based on over 100 refereed publications, many in internationally circulated journals and in book chapters. She also has edited three books on pathogenic fungi. She has been remarkable in continuing to do what she does under difficult political conditions in her home country. Dr. San-Blas has organized, or helped to organize, many *Paracoccidioides* meetings in Latin America, and International Society for Human and Animal Mycology scientific meetings, the Latin American Mycological Congress, and the 8th International Mycological Congress. She also is visionary, having organized Virtual Mycological Congresses using posters on the web. Dr. San-Blas has provided leadership for mycology nationally and internationally. She has been president of the Venezuelan Mycological Association, the Latin American Mycological Association, and is currently Vice-President of the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology. She also has served as Secretary General of the International Mycological Association. Dr. San-Blas is a dedicated instructor, teaching not only at her home institution, Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research, but also at the University of Venezuela, Simón Bolívar University, and other universities throughout South America and Mexico. In her career, she has mentored the theses of 20 students.She is on the editorial boards of *Mycopathology* and *Antonie van Leeuwenhoek* and has been an associate editor of *Medical Mycology* for 15 years. She is the first woman to become a member of the Venezuelan Academy of Sciences, and is also a member of the Latin American Academy of Sciences. She already is an honorary member of three other mycological groups: Asociación Latinoamericana de Micología, Sociedad Argentina de Micología, and Asociación Mexicana de Micología. One of her nominators wrote, "I am confident that she will be more than an honorary member as we try to forge better ties with our colleagues south of the Equator."

Gioconda San-Blas

Honorary Awards Committee: Dave McLaughlin (Chair), Martha J. Powell, James B. Anderson, Carol A. Shearer, ex officia, Past Chair

MSA Graduate Fellowships: Sara Branco and Tami McDonald

Two MSA Graduate Fellowships are awarded annually to promising graduate students in mycology. Applicants are evaluated on the basis of their scholastic merit, research ability and promise shown as a mycologist.

Sara Branco is a PhD candidate from the Committee on Evolutionary Biology at the University of Chicago. Sara received a degree in Biology from the University of Lisbon (Portugal) in 2001. She has been a fungal enthusiast since she was 16 and conducted her first scientific study on fungi while finishing her undergraduate degree where she compared fungal communities from different forest types in Sintra-Cascais Natural Park (Portugal). Between 2001 and 2004 Sara was hired by the Montesinho Natural Park (Braganca, Portugal) to study the macrofungal communities associated with Mediterranean oak forests. Meanwhile she was also involved with teaching activities at the School of Agriculture of Braganca (Portugal). Sara was then selected for the Fulbright Commission Award and started her PhD at the University of Chicago. She is interested in the evolution of symbiotic fungi in extreme environments and studies the local adaptation of ectomycorrhizal fungi to serpentine soils under the supervision of Dr Gregory M. Mueller. Her study focusses on ectomycorrhizal fungi from serpentine and non-serpentine Mediterranean oak forests and uses a combination of field surveys, common garden experiments, and morphological and molecular techniques. Currently she spends most her time at the Field Museum of Natural History.

Sara Branco

Tami McDonald is a PhD candidate in the Department of Biology and the University Program in Genetics and Genomics at Duke University under the supervision of Dr. François Lutzoni. She received her Master's degree from the Department of Plant Biology at the University of Minnesota where she resolved a species complex in the lichen genus Sticta with Dr. Clifford Wetmore. She has also worked on secondary metabolism in Aspergillus in Dr. Nancy Keller's lab in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin. She is now investigating epigenetic silencing in lichens using a variety of molecular approaches.

Tami McDonald

Student Awards Committee: Jinx Campbell (Chair), Jean Marc Moncalvo, Andrew Methven, Kentaro Hosaka, Brian Perry, Lori M. Carris, ex officia, Past Chair