Greetings to the Potato Association of America family. The first half of my tenure has passed quickly and this is due in a large part to the excellent Board of Directors and the expertise of the personnel at Association Management Resources (AMR). I would like to express my specific appreciation for the contributions by our continuing Treasurer Larry Hiller, and the PAA administrator Angela Richardson.

The organization for the 104th meeting of the PAA is progressing quickly. The meeting will be held July 19–23, 2020 in Missoula, Montana. The co-chairs Nina Zidak and Jessica Rupp, are working closely with Angela Richardson (our Administrator) and Erin McLaughlin (the Event Manager) at AMR. The meeting venue is the Holiday Inn Downtown Missoula, Montana. This year’s symposium will be presented jointly by the Breeding and Genetics and Plant Protection Sections, entitled “Diploid Breeding”. There will be many activities planned during and around the meeting for attendees and their guests so keep an eye on the official meeting site for details. Missoula will be a beautiful and exciting venue.

PAA HIGHLIGHTS SINCE THE LAST INSIDER:

• Outreach to industry through PAA members’ submissions of monthly articles (with acknowledgement of authors being members of PAA) in Spudman. Article titles have included “The North American Seed Potato health Certificate: One-stop shopping for seed potato health info” and “Guatemalan potato growers seek oblong alternatives to Loman”. This continues to be a good venue for PAA outreach to industry and I have appreciated working with Zeke Jennings, Managing Editor of Spudman, in the development of topics and the identification of authors.

• PAA, in collaboration with the National Potato Council, held their annual PAA Poster Session with research presented by PAA members at Potato Expo 2020 in Las Vegas, NV. This year several PAA members were once again invited to present their
research in oral presentations at the Innovation Hub. PAA President-Elect Mark Pavek oversaw the PAA poster session. Thank you, Mark!

- Discussion and acceptance of the contract between AMR and PAA by the BoD for 2020

- Identification of Marc Ghislain by the International Relations Committee and his confirmation by the BoD as the International Guest Speaker at the upcoming annual meeting in Missoula. Dr. Ghislain will discuss the work he is leading to release late blight resistant potato in Africa in a popular local variety that has 3 resistance genes from potato relatives (cisgenics / intragenics). My thanks to Peter VanderZaag, and the other members of the International Relations Committee in identifying and suggesting Dr. Parker.

- We continue to update our standing rules and policies and procedures as we enact our new bylaws and work to create a seamless union between the PAA and the management resources at AMR.

- With AMR’s expertise, continued updating of the PAA website to make it more attractive and user-friendly as well as updating Wild Apricot database for greater utility.

I want to extend my thanks and appreciation again to all of members of the Board of Directors, Chairs and members of the standing and Ad hoc committees and of course the entire team at AMR for helping usher the association into the next decade of the new millennium. As ever members are encouraged to reach out to me or any of the members of the Board with your ideas for improving the function, outreach and recognition of our society.

Kent F. McCue  
President, 2019–2020

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**Outstanding Extension Project Award**

PAA recognizes good potato work annually. This is an appeal to seek nomination(s) for the Outstanding Extension Project Award. Please forward your nomination(s) with a brief description of the project work by the individual or a group, and a note as to why the nominee deserves to be recognized.

For more complete information and instructions for nominating, see Outstanding Extension Project Award on the PAA website.

The recognition will be given at the 2020 PAA annual meeting in Missoula, Montana July 19-23, 2020.

Noah Rosenzweig, 2018–2019  
EPM Section Chair

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**2019-2020 Board of Directors**

*President:* Kent F. McCue

*Vice-President:* Mark Pavek

*Secretary:* Darrin Haagenson

*Treasurer:* Larry Hiller

*Past-President:* Rich Novy

**Directors**

Dennis Halterman  
Jeff Miller  
Roy Navarre  
Helen Tai  
Addie Waxman  
Jonathan Whitworth

**Section Chairs**

*Breeding & Genetics:* Laura Shannon

*Certification:* Gordon Henry

*Plant Protection:* Drew Glascock

*Physiology:* Amber Gotch

*Extension, Production, Management:* Yi Wang

*Utilization & Marketing:* Tina Brandt
Nominations for Honorary Life Membership

One of the most significant ways to recognize outstanding contributions to the potato industry and to our organization is the awarding of Honorary Life Membership (HLM). This is the highest award bestowed upon an individual by The PAA. Each year at the Annual Meeting, this award is given to deserving individuals and is considered by many attendees the highlight of the Banquet.

PAA members are encouraged to nominate candidates for HLM to be presented at the 2020 104th Annual Meeting in Missoula, Montana. Nominated individuals should have made significant contributions to the potato industry and/or The PAA. Contributions may come from activities related to research, extension, education, production, processing, marketing, utilization or any of the other facets of the potato industry which may be appropriate. HLM awards may be given to individuals outside of The PAA. Instructions for HLM nomination, selection procedures and desired candidate information can be found on the PAA website: http://potatoassociation.org/membership/committees/honorary-life-member

Completed HLM nominations and all supporting documentation should be submitted electronically in MS Word or PDF format to Past President Rich Novy, and are due by March 27, 2020. This is the Final Call for Honorary Life Membership Nominations!

Rich Novy, 2018–2019 President
rich.novy@usda.gov

Now Accepting Nominations for PAA Directors and Vice-President for 2020-2021

We are currently accepting nominations for the 2020-2021 PAA Board of Directors for the following positions:

• **Vice-President of PAA in 2020-21**
  *(Succeeds to PAA President in 2021-22)*

• **2 Directors (3-year terms ending in 2023)**

Per the PAA bylaws, there needs to be at least TWO nominees for each position

Nominators please include a few, brief sentences stating why you believe your nominee(s) would be good candidates for the Directors or Vice-President positions. Please note that detailed information, such as CV, statement of qualifications, and headshot are not required in your nomination.

Please forward nominations (self-nominations are accepted and welcomed as well) to the chair of the 2020 Nominations Committee, Rich Novy at rich.novy@usda.gov by Friday, March 27, 2020. Rich will follow-up with potential nominees to ensure their acceptance of the nomination and for subsequent inclusion of their names on the ballot for voting by PAA membership.

Thank you!
This is the Second and Final Call for Papers to be presented at the 104th Annual Meeting of the Potato Association of America, to be held July 19 - July 23, 2020 in Missoula, Montana. PAA members are invited to present papers dealing with all facets of the potato industry. Authors are required to submit abstracts for papers they plan to present, whether orally or as a poster. At least one author must be a current member of the PAA. Graduate students who are PAA members are encouraged to present oral papers and enter the Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Award Competition. Authors of invited papers for the Symposium are also requested to submit an abstract.

**PAA ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**

Abstracts for the Annual Meeting can be submitted online at http://paa.apexabstracts.com

This website requires you to login. If you have not already setup an account (note this account is separate from the one you setup for your PAA Membership), click “Setup New Account” and follow the instructions to create a login. If you have submitted abstracts through this website before but forgot your password, click “Reset Password”. Once you are in the system, on the left side of the screen click “My Titles and Abstracts”, and then click “Add New Title/Abstract”. The abstract text can be written in the box provided or you can copy and paste your text from a word editing document. The maximum length of abstract text is 300 words. If you would like to save the abstract, without submitting, click on “Save Changes”. To go back to a saved abstract, login and click on “My Titles and Abstracts” and select the abstract you want to edit. Abstracts can be edited until the deadline, which is March 27, 2020. When you are ready to submit, click “Save and Submit”.

**PRESENTATION GUIDELINES**

All oral paper presentations will be 15-minutes. Authors should plan a 12- to 14-minute presentation with the balance of time devoted to questions. This year all oral PowerPoint presentations will be uploaded before the meeting using this online abstract/presentation submission system. Presentations must be uploaded no later than July 17, 2020. Further instructions will be sent after the abstracts are received. Display boards will be provided for posters. Poster presenters will be notified about the allowed dimensions for posters via email several weeks prior to the meeting.

If you have questions, contact Darrin Haagenson, PAA Secretary, at darrin.haagenson@usda.gov or Erin McLaughlin, PAA Event Manager at emclaughlin@managedbyamr.com

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**J.R. Simplot Photo of the Halseth Quilt: 103rd PAA Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba**

July 30, 2019 At the 103rd annual meeting of the PAA in Winnipeg, Manitoba, J.R. Simplot & McCain received the matched winning bids for Carol Halseth’s beautiful quilt. Annually the quilt is auctioned off and proceeds go to the Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Award Endowment Fund, supporting graduate student activities and potato research. This year, the combined bids raised more than $20,000 for the fund. The traditional colors, scenery, French fry and potato designs represent the Manitoba potato growing region. After purchasing the quilt, J.R. Simplot framed and displayed it in the factory in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, Canada. The Simplot Portage la Prairie potato processing factory is currently undergoing expansion.
Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Award Competition

This is the Final Call for the Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Award Competition (FLHGSRAC) of The Potato Association of America to be held at the 104th Annual Meeting in Missoula, Montana.

The purpose of the FLHGSRAC is to promote graduate student participation in PAA through presentation of research papers at the annual meeting. Participants are also encouraged to submit manuscripts for publication in the American Journal of Potato Research.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Author(s) must be a graduate student at the time the abstracts are due March 27, 2020.

2. Graduate students must be members of The PAA and may not use their advisor’s ID. Membership information is found on The PAA website at http://potatoassociation.org/membership

3. First place winners from previous PAA meetings are not eligible to participate.

4. Research reported must have been done while a graduate student.

5. The paper must be orally presented. Poster papers and symposium presentations do not qualify for the FLHGSRAC.

6. Students are required to submit abstracts for papers they wish to present in the competition.

7. No new students may register after the deadline or at the meeting.

8. Winners will be announced and honored at the annual banquet. Students who participate in the competition will receive a free banquet ticket supplied by the PAA office.

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR JUDGING:

Papers and presentations will be judged on the following basis:

A. Abstract (16.6%)
B. Organization (16.6%)
C. Effective use of time (16.6%)
D. Effective use of visuals (16.6%)
E. Presentation style (16.6%)
F. Impact of the research (16.6%)

Up to five awards may be made at the discretion of the committee in the amount of $1000 for 1st place; $750 for 2nd place; $400 for 3rd place; $300 for 4th place; $200 for 5th place. For more information, contact:

Paul Bethke, Chair PAA, FLH Grad Student Research Award Competition, USDA/ARS Vegetable Crops Research Unit, 1575 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706 USA
Phone: 608-890-1165 ~ Fax: 608-262-4743
E-mail: paul.bethke@usda.gov

Meetings and Events

MARCH 9-12, 2020
PotatoesUSA Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, USA

JUNE 11-12, 2020
Europatat Congress, Brussels, Belgium

JULY 6-10, 2020
21st EAPR Triennial Conference in Warsaw, Poland

JULY 19-23, 2020
104th PAA Annual Meeting, Missoula, Montana

SEPTEMBER 2-3, 2020
Potato Europe, Villers Saint Christophe, France
The Montana Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) is pleased to host the 104th Annual Meeting of the Potato Association of America at the Holiday Inn in Downtown Missoula July 19-23, 2020.

REGISTRATION
Registration information is available at http://www.paaevents.org

ACCOMMODATIONS
The Holiday Inn Downtown Missoula is conveniently located in the heart of Missoula and is just steps away from vibrant shopping, dining, live-music, outdoor recreation, festivals, farmer’s markets and more. The hotel offers the following complimentary services: airport shuttles, area-wide transportation based on availability within a 5-mile radius, self-parking for all guests based on availability, Wi-Fi, a fitness club, spa, restaurant and lounge. Rooms are available at the discounted rate of $179 plus tax if booked by June 18, 2020. Reservations may be made by clicking the hotel link from www.paaevents.org or by calling the hotel directly at 406-721-8550. Please be sure to mention our group code of “PAA 2020” to receive the discounted rate.

GETTING TO MISSOULA
Delta Airlines, Horizon, Northwest Airlines, United Express, and Allegiant Airlines serve the Missoula International Airport.

THINGS TO DO
Check out destinationmissoula.org for more information on the best of what Missoula has to offer or to plan an extended stay while visiting us for PAA 2020.

Optional social activities will be planned for PAA 2020 Delegates and information will be updated at www.paaevents.org as it becomes available. Please check back often, as we will continue to add details as they become finalized.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us, or our PAA event planner, Erin McLaughlin, at emclaughlin@managedbyamr.com (734.239.8022)

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2020 meeting in Missoula!

PAA LAC2020 Committee and Co-Chairs,
Nina Zidack
Jessica Rupp