

Frederick Dana Hess: A Remembrance

When he shall die
Take him and cut him out in little stars
And he will make the face of Heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with night
And pay no worship to the garish sun
Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*
Juliet speaking in Act III, Scene II

Dan Hess died August 4, 2000. One of his last acts was to create an endowment fund for graduate study in applied agriculture at the University of California-Davis, where he obtained his Masters (1973) and Doctoral (1975) degrees in plant physiology. Dan was born March 22, 1946 in Tacoma, WA and grew up on a farm in central Washington. He was and will be remembered as a wonderful teacher, an outstanding research scientist, a good administrator, and a fine man. It was not unusual, but it is most worthy of note that among Dan's last acts was one designed to benefit students he will never know.

After his selection as the outstanding graduate student by WSSA in 1975, the faculty of Colorado State University's Department of Botany and Plant Pathology was fortunate to recruit and hire Dan in 1976 as an assistant professor of weed science. My colleagues and I knew that we had hired a very bright, capable young scientist. We were all disappointed, but not surprised, when he moved to Purdue's Department of Botany and Plant Pathology in 1977. His research was on modes of action of several important herbicide classes and he taught advanced weed science courses on the physiology and mode of action of herbicides. In 1985, only 10 yr into his career, he was selected as the outstanding research scientist by WSSA.

Dan left Purdue in 1985 to work with the Zoecon Research Institute in Palo Alto, CA as the Director of Plant Science research. After a merger, he became Director of Biology and Biochemistry research for Sandoz Agro, Inc., a position he held until he was promoted to Vice-President of the North American research division of Sandoz in 1995. In 1998, he left Sandoz to begin and lead a new agricultural research unit, AffyAgro within the Affymax Research Institute. The new venture was dedicated to introducing new technology to improve agrochemical research.

Throughout his career, he was first and foremost a weed scientist. He maintained his interest and skill as a teacher by continuing to teach in the annual Purdue University Herbicide Action Intensive Course and was an affiliate fac-

ulty member at Purdue and the University of California-Davis. His interest and dedication to weed science was demonstrated by his service and contributions to numerous WSSA committees and was further affirmed by his service as President of the Society in 1998. He was internationally known among weed scientists and was the author of more than 50 scientific articles and book chapters. His last article will appear soon in *Weed Science*.

Dan was one of the few truly gifted teachers who could take complex scientific matters and explain them so all could understand. His gifts as a teacher were the result of hours of hard work and continual preparation, but he made it all—the great teaching, the good writing, and the great research—look so easy. His was an example of how to do many things well and we all continue to benefit from his work. His contributions to weed science and agriculture are his legacy to us.

Dan is survived by his wife Deborah of Emerald Hills, CA, three children Tiffany Dodge of Palo Alto, CA, Scott Hess of Miami, FL, and Tonya Weaver of St. Paul, MN, and three grandchildren. His mother Sylvia Hess lives in Woodland, CA and a sister Judy Walden lives in Honolulu, HI.

The family requests that memorial gifts be contributed to the student endowment fund Dan created. Contributions may be sent to:

UC Davis Foundation
F. Dan Hess Endowment for Applied Agriculture
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Environmental Sciences
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