



## **John L. Hess**

**Fellow and**

### **Ivey E Lewis Distinguished Service Award**

John L. Hess has been honored as Fellow of the Virginia Academy of Science (VAS) and also awarded the Ivey E Lewis Distinguished Service Award for 2002.

John is not only a well-recognized, active member of the Academy, but also has contributed significantly to science in all three possible categories: as an outstanding scientific researcher, as an inspiring University teacher, and as one who provided significant leadership in the Academy.

John was born in Landisville, Pa., in 1939; he received a Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from Michigan State University in 1966. He has been employed by Virginia Tech since 1967. At present, he is Professor and Head of the Department of Biochemistry at Virginia Tech.

Some of us who have worked with him for VAS and, more recently, on reviewing and editing the manuscript on the history of VAS, realize that John is a very modest person, who would not allow much-deserved praise on his accomplishments or even his photograph to be included in the VAS history. His modesty is probably the reason that his works have not been recognized earlier by the VAS.

His scientific research includes the study of metabolic interactions related to oxidative metabolism and oxidative stress in higher plants and animals. This research has been well-recognized by grants received from federal agencies (USDA and NIH) totaling more than \$419,000 between 1988-1995. His research publications, just between 1990-1997, include 18 co-authored papers. John also was invited to participate in four international meetings between 1993-1998.

The Virginia Tech chapter of the Scientific Research Society of Sigma Xi benefitted from John's work, by selecting him as President-elect, President for 1984-1986, and as Executive Secretary from 1988 to present.

We also recognize in John an excellent college teacher. His classes at Virginia Tech attract the largest number of students that the classroom can hold. For example, during the Spring semester of 1999 he had 110 students in the course: Concepts of Biochemistry. He was awarded the Certificate of Teaching Excellence by Virginia Tech in 1986. He serves as mentor and research advisor for minority college students and to high school students participating in summer programs at Virginia Tech.

John's work for VAS spans the past 26+ years. He served as Director of the Virginia Junior Academy of Science (VJAS) between 1975-1978. Under his leadership, the number of high school students attending and the number of research papers submitted for presentation at the VJAS increased substantially.

During 1995-1997, John co-chaired with Tom O. Sitz the Local Arrangements Committee for the 75th VAS Anniversary Meeting at Virginia Tech in 1997. As it turned out, it was one of the most successful VAS meetings.

John has served VAS with distinction as President during 1999-2000. Most recently, he sacrificed his free summer as a teacher in 2001 to chair the four-member reviewing and editing committee for the publication of the history of VAS. One of the co-signers of this nomination worked closely with John on this project, and can testify that the raw manuscript much benefitted from his work and leadership. To our great relief, the book has just been sent to the printer. This is the reason for not submitting this nomination letter earlier.

We all believe that we have an excellent case with John L. Hess, Jr., for recognizing his longstanding distinguished services - as teacher, administrator, and researcher - to the Commonwealth of Virginia and as a volunteer contributor to the Virginia Academy of Science. Therefore we recommend his election to become a Fellow of VAS and also to grant him the Ivey F. Lew/s Distinguished Service Award for 2002.