

## EDITOR'S CORNER

### What a Celebration!

It is a great pleasure to inform the readers of this Journal that the Gala 20th Anniversary Celebration of the International Workshop on Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology, July 6 to 14, 2000 at Kansas State University was a complete success when about 150 scientists and friends from 17 countries and 23 states came to the celebration. Some attended the Mini-Symposium and the majority of the participants continued on for the intensive hands-on workshop. It was a truly moving experience for the hosts, Daniel Y.C. Fung and Catherine L. Fung, who started this workshop series in 1981. How time flies. In a blink of the eyes 20 long years have gone by. So many people, so many memories, so many happenings went through our minds as we listened to reflections by friends and colleagues in the opening celebration session. Our eyes were misty in all the wonderful words said, all the plaques and presents given, and all the acclaims accorded to us by great colleagues and friends.

Of course, the success of the workshop series is the cumulative efforts of many, many people, including:

Kansas State University officials and administrators

Colleagues working with me on a daily basis

KSU Continuing Education Department personnel

National and international renowned visiting professors and lecturers

My large and dedicated group of graduate students, research associates, helpers, and secretaries

Diagnostic kit, system, instrument, and equipment related Industry Companies

Participants, students, and guests—since 1981 more than 2,000 scientists have participated in this workshop series from 55 countries and 46 States.

Family support. Our son, Francis, was with the workshop from the very beginning and participants have seen him grow from a little boy to a Ph.D. from Princeton University and now a family man with a loving wife, a daughter and a one year old little boy.

In the 20th Gala celebration we had Cecile Lahellec from France who gave a Food Science lecture followed by the Paul A. Hartman Memorial Lecture by Dean O. Cliver of UC-Davis. A beautiful gold medallion was struck for the occasion and presented to all speakers and participants. The group picture is enclosed to show the festivity of the celebration. The following two days we invited 15 past participants to give lectures as alumni fellows. It was great to hear the experiences

they had since they left the workshop. Some of them participated in the workshop more than 15 years ago. The regular workshop followed after the Mini-Symposium. During the workshop great talks were presented by Nelson Cox, Millicent Goldschmidt, Stan Bailey, Reginald Bennet, P.C. Vasavada, Scott Russell, Randy Phebus, Richard Obsert, Karl Schleifer, Ron Trewyn, and others.

Many exciting presentations, experiments and demonstrations were presented by experts from industry. It was truly a wonderful interaction of academic, industries, and government scientists in a most intense workshop.

Oh yes, we had a lot fun too which included the opening reception with a dance band, a couple of banquets, dinners, a picnic, a talent show, and a swimming pool farewell party. The group even spent an evening at the Fung home for a garden dinner party which featured a whole hog roast and some great Chinese food orchestrated by the Fungs and graduate students.

All in all it was an experience not to be forgotten.

The 21st workshop will be from July 6 to 13, 2001. I hope many of you can come to continue the celebration with us in science, food, fun, and great camaraderie.

DANIEL Y.C. FUNG  
Editor



**GALA 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON RAPID METHODS AND AUTOMATION IN MICROBIOLOGY AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, JULY 6, 2000**  
Hosts: Dr. Daniel Y.C. Fung (bow tie in Front) and Dr. Catherine L. Fung