



Peter and Pamela Tsao Endowed Graduate Student Scholarship Award



Presented annually to a meritorious graduate student in the Microbiology and Plant Pathology Department

The Peter and Pamela Tsao Endowed Graduate Student Scholarship Award was established on behalf of Drs. Peter and Pamela Tsao, who began their research careers at UC-Riverside in 1956. Dr. Peter Tsao is an authority on the biology, ecology, and pathology of species in the genus *Phytophthora* and on the biological and cultural control of soil-borne diseases of citrus and avocado caused by *Phytophthora* spp. His research included identification of *Phytophthora* spp. that cause diseases of numerous horticultural crops, development of a selective isolation medium for *Phytophthora* spp. that facilitated many studies on the genus and remains an important tool today, and the identification of factors that affect disease and population dynamics of soil microorganisms that has greatly advanced scientific knowledge in these areas. Dr. Pamela Tsao's research formed critical contributions towards an improved understanding of pear decline, insect vectors of plant pathogens, and the development of fungal species in three phyla that could be used as biocontrol agents for mosquitos. Pamela was a very dedicated and extremely careful researcher who not only maintained different species of these biocontrol fungi in the laboratory, but also their alternating mosquito and copepod (freshwater zooplankton) hosts.

The Peter and Pamela Tsao Scholarship will be awarded to **one** meritorious graduate student in the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology (MPP) at the University of California, Riverside. A faculty committee will identify the applicant that has demonstrated excellence in research and creative forward-thinking in their dissertation research. The prize consists of a cash award of \$1,000, an engraved plaque and an engraved certificate signed by the Department Chair. The award will be presented following the annual Microbiology and Plant Pathology Student-Invited Lectureship.

Eligibility

All graduate students currently enrolled and in good standing in a Ph.D. program in the MPP Department. *The student can be a member of any graduate program as long as they are working in the laboratory of a faculty member belonging to the MPP Department.* The student's research focus should be on soil-borne diseases of plants caused by fungi or oomycetes. Students may only receive this award once and are only eligible for one departmental award per year.

Application Process

To apply, please submit the following in **a single pdf** to the online submission form by February 16th, 2024:

1. A cover page including the title of the dissertation project, the name of the student applying for the award, and co-signatures of the student and the major professor.
2. A research statement that describes the student's dissertation project (3-page limit).
3. List of publications, presentations and awards.