An Interview with

Robert Lichtwardt

Conducted by

Calder M. Pickett

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Q: This is November 1, 1995, and I'm Calder Pickett and I'm about to conduct an interview with Robert W. Lichtwardt, Bob Lichtwardt, who has been a friend of mine for a long time. I think we got to know each other years ago when we were both going to the Lawrence Unitarian Fellowship, something I want to ask him about later on. Bob, you retired this past spring, right? And what I would like you to do is to start off by giving us what I think of as some basic details about yourself. Tell us your date of birth and your place of birth, give us the names of your parents, and tell us what your father did for a living and so on just to get us started here.


Q: Oh, okay.

A: And I am therefore a Professor Emeritus of Botany after serving at KU for a little over 37 years. Well, I was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on November 27, 1924, and I was the fourth of what turned out to be six children that my parents had. The reason for being in Brazil was because my father was General Secretary of the YMCA in Brazil. He went down there around 1916. He had just married my mother and he stayed there for about 33 years and of the six children, all but one where born in Brazil, so technically, being born of American parents, but being born in Brazil, technically I have dual-citizenship.

Q: What was his name?

A: His name was Henry Herman and my mother's name was Ruth Moyer.

Q: Now the family background—was he German?

A: He was not German but his father had been born in Germany and there was German blood on my mother's side as well. He spoke some German, but he learned it in college, so that
gives you an idea that there wasn't much in the family.

Q: How long did you live in Brazil?
A: Well, I lived there almost continuously until I came to college in 1945.
Q: You did?
A: And my father would come up to the United States about every six years and stay here a year on what he called a furlough and then go back to Brazil again, so I actually started my schooling my first year in Cleveland, Ohio, where we were living at that time, and the second time that I can remember was when I was starting a freshman year in high school and that was in Oberlin, Ohio that time.

Q: What was it . . . you're the first person that I've talked with who has this kind of background. What was it like? Do you have vivid memories of living in Brazil?
A: Oh, I have very vivid memories and for the most part, they are very good memories. I think we all had—my brothers and sisters and parents—had a wonderful life down there. Not that it was easy, because we had to give up a lot of things not living in the United States, but it was, with all the trials and tribulations of growing up, it was overall a very wonderful experience, and I've never regretted that.

Q: Were there other children you were growing up with who had similar backgrounds and who . . . or were you going to school and associating with the children of Brazil?
A: Well, it's kind of a mixed bag because I started out the first four years going to Bennett College—that's really a school (it's called Colégio Bennett)—which was a private girls' school (they allowed boys to go through the first four grades) and then I transferred to the American School, which at that time was not very good until the American community took it
over and brought in a new principal and really did something better with it. It was still a small school, but many of my American friends were in the same situation as I, that is they had lived there for some years, maybe born down there, but in the American School, we had many nationalities, including Brazilian, but we had a number of people who were not American but who thought that the school was worth going to.

Q: Now, you said that there were other children in your family.

A: There were a total of six children, yes, and of course, we were fairly close. We lived in a typically Brazilian neighborhood—there were probably no Americans for miles and miles around. Most of my friends lived in places like Copacabana, where many of the Americans lived, and so I had both Brazilian friends and American friends. I say Brazilian and American, also English and other nationalities.

Q: What was it like in terms of the economic situation? Did your dad—this may be not the kind of question I should ask, but I'm kind of interested—working for the YMCA, did he make much money?

A: No, he didn't. I mean, we lived frugally, but we lived well. We never wanted for anything, really. But, my father and mother were both very good planners and my father never earned a lot of money, because he was very much interested in the work he was doing and he almost considered it kind of missionary work, in a sense.

Q: Yeah, I would guess. Did the Depression hit down there the way it did here?

A: It did, but we didn't feel it the way I heard about its happening here because we didn't have much change in our economic situation during that time, so it was not really an impact that we felt, and I learned more about the Depression after I came back to the United States.
permanently to find out what really was happening because a lot of that as a child I never really heard about since we did have news from the United States, but we didn’t receive newspapers regularly.

Q: How well do you speak Portuguese?

A: Well, I spoke it pretty fluently. I still could speak it. If I don’t have to speak very much, I can get by as a Brazilian.

Q: [laughter] That’s an incredible language!

A: It is.

Q: You know, we went on a trip over to Portugal and Spain with the Schilds. We had a terrible time trying to communicate! It just wasn’t like Spanish.

A: Well, I’ll tell you . . . if you’re talking about Lisboan Portuguese, there are Brazilians who find it hard to understand, so the Brazilian Portuguese is much closer to Latin, really, the way it’s spoken. You have certain dipthongs and so on that you use that make it different, but I’ve been doing research in Central and South America in recent years and my Spanish is still not up to par because it’s ruined by the Portuguese. I speak Spanish with a very strong Portuguese accent.

Q: I’m always interested in how and why people go on into certain fields, and in fact, one thing that interests me is why people go on to college. Was there an atmosphere of education in your home?

A: Oh, very definitely. My father met my mother at Oberlin College and she was in the Conservatory of Music. She did not complete her studies because she married before she did and . . . let’s see, what was the question you asked?
Q: Well, I was wondering about . . . were you interested in books and were you . . .?

A: Oh, about the college experience . . . we all just sort of assumed that we were going to go to college. In fact, five of the six of us went to Oberlin. And my oldest sister, brother and my other, older sister all went to Oberlin, so when my turn came, that's where I expected to go. In fact, I like to joke that that's probably why they let me in Oberlin College. It was because of the family tradition [laughter].

Q: What did you like to read when you were a little boy?

A: Well, I read . . . we had a library at school. We didn't have a city library that I went to, but in school, and I had periods when I would read different things. I read every mystery book that I could.

Q: Were you interested in science?

A: I was interested in science. I knew that when I was in high school, but unfortunately, we only had one science course, and that was chemistry.

Q: Oh really?

A: And so we would sort of try to work in a little bit of science. There was a classmate of mine. We thought we'd like to learn a little physics, so we got a high school physics book and we started learning a bit on our own and we did not have any biology course, which is, of course, the field I eventually ended up in.

Q: Yeah, that's something pretty basic in this country, at least it used to be.

A: Yes, right, but our school was small enough that we did not have anybody teaching that course, and as a result, we would sort of bug the chemistry teacher who knew some biology and we would dissect some frogs and we once dissected a cat and so on, just to learn a little bit
more about life, which is not the traditional way you learn it now, but that was part of my experience. And when I came up to the United States to college, I decided that I wanted to go into science, but I had no idea which field, and at Oberlin, most basic courses are one-year courses, so I took, you know, a year of physics and a year of biology and (actually it was zoology) a year of botany and I finally ended up in botany rather than zoology.

Q: Now, where did you play? What was the life like for you in that way? Were you near the water?

A: Well, one of the schools we had was right on the beach actually, I mean, just across the street from the beach. Another one was just a few blocks from the beach. They built a special school later because we used to use big old houses as schoolhouses and so living along the beach was part of my experience as I grew up, and I used to do a lot of swimming. Well, there was one beach in particular that was a favorite. And we had sports. We had teams in high school. They weren't very good teams, but we would occasionally play third or fourth teams of one of the athletic clubs in basketball, that kind of thing. So, we had some sports, and we did a little, you know, baseball, basketball. I also did belong to the YMCA, so I did a lot of swimming there, but it was wide-open pretty much on what you wanted to do for sports.

Q: I've always thought I'd like to go down there and see whether I could see the "girl from Ipanema," you know, along the beach.

A: They were all over, but . . .

Q: They probably wore more in those days.

A: They wore more. I wouldn't say considerably more then, but they wore more, that's for sure. Yes.
Q: You know, this whole matter of being brought up there. You know, I've talked to people who were brought up in other cultures. George Worth, for example, I didn't know until recently that he was brought up in Germany, and that was very interesting for me to learn. Or Austria? Austria. It was Austria.

A: I remembered it was some place in Europe.

Q: Yeah, yeah, but this is the first time I've talked to someone who was brought up in Brazil. You said that when your father came back to this country, that you got some of your education here then?

A: Well, I started. I did my first year in school in Cleveland, and that's because my parents were living there, which was the home of my mother's father. We lived near him. And the second time, we were living in Oberlin because I had a brother and sister there, and this way, my parents could rent a house and they would have a place to live there. So, I did my freshman year there, and those are the only two years. The first time we came up, as I recall from what my parents have said, I was one year old and obviously not of school age.

Q: Well now, where did you graduate from high school?

A: It was the American School of Rio de Janeiro and I actually graduated when I was sixteen, the reason being that the school year in North America is out of phase with the school year in South America and it was a question of either overlapping years or catching up somehow, so I actually, through a little special studies and tutoring and so on, I made up one of the years this way and graduated when I was sixteen.

Q: Was it like an American school? You said that it didn't have as much science but .
A: Oh, very much like an American school in terms of subject matter and except for the fact that everybody had to take Portuguese, which you might imagine, but I took French and I took, you know, mathematics and algebra and English and the whole gamut of courses, but the choice was not as great as you would get at today's schools here.

Q: What year was that you graduated?

A: 1945.

Q: 1945. Well, now . . .

A: Excuse me, I beg your pardon. It was 1941. I went to school in 1945 at Oberlin, and that's a four-year gap.

Q: Well now, what about World War II? How did that affect you?

A: Well, I was down in Brazil when the war broke out and I spent most of a year learning shorthand, typing, skills like that, and those skills got me a job with the Naval Attache's Office in the Embassy, and, when the war accelerated, this was transformed into the Naval Operating Base for the South Atlantic fleet in Rio, and I worked there several years in a disbursing office and I was never . . . I was as a civilian, never in the Navy or in the Army, and I had tried to enlist in the Navy because I would have enlisted at something above the normal enlistment level . . .

Q: Well, now were you an American citizen?

A: Yes.

Q: Or Brazilian or what?

A: Oh, I have both citzenships, actually.

Q: You still do?
A: Yes, right. And the reason I have American citizenship is my parents are American and I was registered with the American consulate at birth, so that gave me American citizenship and Brazilians consider anybody born under whatever circumstances in Brazil as a Brazilian citizen. There were a number of my friends, some in business—whose fathers were in business—or in the diplomatic corps, who also had dual citizenship, having been born down there.

Q: Well now, you were there in Rio during the war, then?

A: Yes, and as I say, I was not in the Navy. I tried to enlist because I knew my name would come up sooner or later, but strange as it may sound today, because I wore glasses, even with 20/20 vision with glasses, they would not take somebody for what they called "limited duty" in a foreign country, and I was told that if I really wanted to enlist I'd have to go back to the United States and pay my own transportation—go back to the United States and enlist there. But shortly after I was turned down by the Navy because of my eyesight, I was drafted or received a notice from the Army, and they turned me down for the same reason. So, I did my service, really, as a civilian.

Q: And then in 1945, you came back to this country and went to Oberlin?

A: Right.

Q: You said that there was never any question really about where you would go.

A: Well, I never really considered any other place and it was, you know, sort of the family school and college and so on.

Q: Well, actually it's a first-class place, isn't it?

A: It is, it is. I doubt that I'd be able to get into it today.

Q: Oh, really?
A: Well, no. It has very high standards and it's one of the three or four really good small liberal arts colleges.

Q: Very small?

A: Well, at that time, there were only about, I think, a total of two thousand students and that may have included the Conservatory of Music and there was a seminary school at the time there which no longer exists. It was not a religious school, although it had been founded by people with religious convictions.

Q: Well now, is that in a town called Oberlin?

A: It is. Yes.

Q: And is that near Cleveland?

A: It's near Cleveland, south of Cleveland. It is the first co-educational school in the United States and they have quite a history also of having, during the Civil War, taken slaves and squirreled them away in houses and so on.

Q: Oh yeah, I think that's something I heard.

A: So this was happening in a lot of cities but that's one of the traditions that they have. This was also a non-racial . . . a bias that was not a racial bias.

Q: Was Harriet Beecher Stowe there?

A: No. No.

Q: Some famous figure from the abolitionist movement or literature . . . there's some name that's . . . well anyway. Did you live at home?

A: When I was at Oberlin?

Q: Yes.
A: No, by that time my parents had gone back to . . . no, in fact they had . . . they were living in this country . . . no, they had gone back to Brazil when I started there and I was living in a dormitory. They had one men's dormitory and then later I moved to a private home. My father, being very careful financially, had paid the tuition of all the children. He was not able to pay for my room and board, or at least the board part, so I had a job throughout college. In fact, it's kind of funny, my last two years—I used to wait tables prior to that—but my last two years, I was offered what was the equivalent of a board job, acting as a chauffeur for the retired professors next door. One of them was the retired head of the psychology department and he had lost a leg due to some circulatory problems and my job was to take him for a drive every afternoon and, on Sundays, a longer drive. When I was offered this job, I said, "Well, this is a great job." I knew what the job was about because one of my housemates had been the chauffeur of this fellow. And I said, "But I don't drive a car." And he says, "Oh, you'll learn!" [laughter] So, I went out in the car and practiced two or three times and got my license and went and became a chauffeur.

Q: That was before automatic transmissions.

A: Right. Before then. When we were in Brazil, you see, we had had a car. We had an old Essex. With a big family, it was one with two extra seats in it and my parents had sold that when they came up to the United States previously, and when going back the last time, they decided not to have a car because there was good public transportation and virtually all the children were already in the United States. So, they relied on public transportation, which was really quite good and cheap in Rio de Janeiro. And I never had the opportunity to drive a car. I'd been behind the steering wheel twice in my life for a few minutes.
Q: Now, how did you get into botany? You said that you had had no . . . that you were interested in science, but you didn't know . . .

A: Right. I took a number of science courses at Oberlin and I had one brother who had already graduated and gone to medical school and I had another brother, my slightly younger brother, who was headed for medical school—they both became medical doctors, urologists. And the zoology department at that time was very medically oriented and I decided I was going to be different from my brothers, so I went into the botany department, which was a very small department at the time. Now, it is merged with biology into a biology department, so the two original zoology and botany departments no longer exist. But I was influenced, I think, a great deal by one of the professors. The head of the department, incidentally, was Paul B. Sears, who was a very famous ecologist, and he was a good teacher and so forth, but the other professor of the three in the department was George T. Jones. He was not an enthusiastic lecturer at all, but he had this phenomenal knowledge about botany, about biology generally. And I went into the area of mycology, which is the study of fungi, and interestingly enough, three of my classmates out of the small department also became mycologists, or people who worked with fungi as plant pathologists.

Q: I wonder why you got there? Did you have any interest in things like that?

A: Not really, no. One of the things that opened my eyes a lot was that George T. Jones offered a year course in what he called "field biology" and it was really a course in field biology—everything from ornithology to mushrooms to plants and I guess I owe him a debt of gratitude there because it was in that course that I met my future wife, Betty.

Q: Betty was a student there?
A: Yes.

Q: In that also?

A: Yes, she graduated from Oberlin, as did two of her brothers, also.

Q: Well now, was that her major, too? Was she in botany or in the sciences?

A: No, she majored in history.

Q: But she was in a science class.

A: She was in the science class. Her father was a parasitologist, a biologist at the University of Illinois.

Q: What was Betty's last name?


Q: You got married when?

A: We got married in '51, after . . . well see I started . . .

Q: Oh that was several years after, yes.

A: Yes. Well, actually I finished Oberlin in 1949 and thought I'd go on for a Master's there, and did one semester there, but it became obvious to me that they didn't really have the broad offering of science courses, that if I wanted to become a professional biologist I should have, so it wasn't exactly . . . well, let me put it this way. Betty was already enrolled at the University of Illinois in a master's program and so that was my choice of where to go.

Q: Now, did Illinois have a strong reputation in botany?

A: Oh yes. They had a very good department, as they did in many departments. But it was a good department—far, far bigger than what I had experienced at Oberlin and with science it's so important to have really good instruction, you know. I never regretted going to a small
school for my undergraduate work—in fact, I would advise it for a lot of people—but for graduate work, it's not really as appropriate, and for a scientist especially.

Q: Well Illinois, that's a splendid institution.

A: It is, yes.

Q: Huge.

A: Yeah. This was the Urbana campus. The main campus.

Q: Yeah, you were in Urbana. And you went there then in 1949?

A: Yes. Well, I went there actually in '50 because I did one semester at Oberlin.

Q: Okay.

A: And then I got my master's degree in 1951, and then my Ph.D. in 1954.

Q: So, you did them separately.

A: Yes.

Q: Did you have a master's thesis?

A: Oh yes.

Q: What was it?

A: Well, it was basically on the group of fungi that I'm still studying even today in my retirement. I've done research in various different areas of mycology, but this has been my long-lasting interest. And I did my Ph.D. also, a much more expanded version, on the same group of fungi. These are fungi which are associated with insects and other arthropods and they live actually in the intestinal tract, in the gut. They're fascinating from the point of view of their evolution, how they specialized . . .

Q: I don't think of that as being botany, at least . . .
A: Right.

Q: You know, I think of trees and shrubs. [laughter]

A: Yes. My degrees are in botany with an emphasis on mycology. Actually, for my Ph.D., I had minors in plant pathology and bacteriology, but the reason a microbiologist, such as myself, was in the botany department was because this was kind of traditional. Probably the reason is that many people who studied fungi in order to earn their bread and butter were plant pathologists. Now, plants have many pathogens that are not fungi. They have viruses, bacteria and various nematodes and various other agents of disease, but the vast majority of them are fungi, so if a person was going to study fungi, they'd probably study plant pathology, too. Since in plant pathology you have to know your plants, mycologists often ended up in botany departments.

Q: Who was your advisor, Bob?

A: In Illinois, it was Leland Shanor and he—who died just a few years ago after he retired—he was a well-known mycologist who then left and went to Gainesville and later he was at the University of Florida from where he retired.

Q: And then you got your Ph.D. in 1954?

A: Yes.

Q: Oh. What happened then?

A: Well, I had a one-year National Science Foundation post-doctoral fellowship. They had just started these and I got one of the first ones, to spend a year doing research. Most people would go to another institution and spend the whole year there, but I worked mine so that I was traveling around doing field and laboratory work at various different places. In Panama, I spent
three months with Betty—she accompanied me—and then the rest of the time was spent in Brazil in various parts of Brazil—mostly in the Amazon region.

Q: Oh really?

A: Yes. So, I was centered in Belem, which is the city at the mouth of the Amazon and from there I got down as far as São Paulo, and I spent a time in Rio. Not in the city, actually. I was working at one of the universities on the outskirts.

Q: Well, was there a reason for going down into Latin America to study in your field?

A: Well, this group of organisms that I was studying, and still am studying, was known almost entirely from Europe and the United States and I wanted to broaden the experience with these fungi. The reason is that a lot of microbiologists work with cultures, and we do have cultures of many of these, but most of them are unculturable so the only way you can study them is to find them in the field and bring them into the laboratory and work with them in whatever way you want to work with them—physiologically, ecologically or in other ways.

Q: Did you get there into the jungle then in the Amazon?

A: Oh yes, we were there. Starting in 1984, I've made four trips to Costa Rica, and I've worked in the lowland tropical forests and in the cloud forests. In fact, I've worked in several different ecological regions of Costa Rica, and nobody has worked . . . basically no work has been done in the tropics except for this work that I've done.

Q: Were you in pretty primitive country?

A: In Costa Rica?

Q: Well no, in Brazil.

A: Brazil. Oh, we got into some pretty far out places, but none . . . no place was really
Q: Nothing like *At Play In the Fields of the Lord*? Have you read that?
A: No, I haven't.

Q: Oh my. I tell you. That's about missionaries in Latin America, in the Amazon.
A: Yeah. Of course, Belem was a city at that time of maybe 200,000. We got up to Manaus, which is a thousand miles up the Amazon. I wanted to get into some virgin forest, and they had to drive me way out of Manaus—because, you know, things have been cut down and it's been so devastated—to take me to an area that they thought was virgin forest, and it was nothing like what I find in parts of Costa Rica, for example.

Q: Was the breakdown in the Amazon region ecologically that we've been reading about, was that going on back in the '50s or was that a comparatively recent development?
A: That's comparatively recent in the sense that there's always been slash-and-burn agriculture by people along the rivers, primarily—particularly natives, but not exclusively natives like the Portugese and others who came into the area. And they would slash and burn these areas and work them for maybe two years before they became nonproductive and then they'd move someplace else, allowing fifty, sixty or more years for these things to recoup. Some people say these areas never recover entirely. They had not built roads into the Amazon. You could fly in and you could take boats, but what started this destruction of the tropical forests was when they started building roads in, and that's when it all started and continues today.

Q: How did Betty like going down there?
A: Well, she enjoyed it. Part of it was not easy living but otherwise, you know, you're traveling constantly and hauling things around and so on. And I'd sometimes be out in the field
while she was . . . she could help me do some collecting as she has done on other occasions.

Q: But you came back then and went to Iowa State.

A: In '56, yes. I was . . .

Q: How did that happen?

A: Well, I was working overseas and trying to locate a job, too, for when I came back and I had the possibility of two jobs. One was at Ohio State and the other was a post-doctoral fellowship at Iowa State University, at that time, Iowa State College. So, that had been prearranged and I went there for two years. I was working on a project there and then I came to the University of Kansas.

Q: Well now, on the post-doctoral fellowship, are you doing any teaching or is that mainly research?

A: No, not at all. Just strictly research. And when you asked me about how we got along, it was pretty tight financially because . . .

Q: I bet.

A: . . . the National Science Foundation paid me little for the trip. They paid most of my transportation and a bit of Betty's, but my stipend was $10 a day, if you can believe it. [laughter] And, for instance, when I was on Barro Colorado Island in Panama for three months, our living expense for both of us was $10 a day, so we had to do a lot of scrimping. We took boats down there and down to Belem. Otherwise, we flew, and we flew back to the United States, but we had to save everything we could, because as you know, whenever you travel, you always spend more money than if you're really just settled in one place.

Q: Yeah. I guess I'd have been scared, or I'd be scared about disease and things like that
if I were in countries of that sort.

A: Well, I'll tell you an interesting story. The evening we arrived in Manaus, up the Amazon, I needed a hat. I'd lost a hat and so I went to the market, which was closing down, and met a couple who had a hat to sell and when they found out we were Americans—I was speaking Portuguese, of course, but Betty (she could speak a little bit of Portuguese) was obviously a foreigner—they were really interested, because their daughter had married an American and had come back to the United States. Their daughter's child had had polio, it had flu, they'd had all kinds of things. And this lady, in the middle of the Amazon, said, "You know, it must be terrible to live in a country with all those diseases!" [laughter]

Q: Well, how about that!

A: So, you can see the viewpoint is different.

Q: How did you happen to come to KU?

A: Well, when I was Iowa State, the post-doc was really for three years, but like a lot of post-docs, you're kind of looking for jobs, and I found out about a job here and was offered an interview and decided that this would be a good place to come to and I basically never regretted it. I think it was a good choice.

Q: Well now, that was sometime before the big umbrella situation and the biological sciences came about out of that.

A: That's correct, yes.

Q: There was a department of botany.

A: Correct. There was a Department of Zoology. Ron McGregor was chair of the Department of Botany.
Q: Oh, okay, yeah! McGregor!

A: And he became the first chair of the Division of Biological Sciences, which came about due to a grassroots movement. There'd been a department of physiology also, and things were shuffled around. Botany stayed as botany as it is today, but there was a shuffling of departments, ending up with about five departments, and of course, the departments grew tremendously during the '60s and now we also have Microbiology included, which is a new event. They were a separate department until just recently—until last year.

Q: Who else was in the department then?

A: Robert Baxter and there was Rufus Thompson, who was a phycologist and Bob Baxter was a paleobotanist. There was Worthy Horr.

Q: Yeah, I remember that fabulous name!

A: Yeah, right. He was a great, great fellow. And let's see, who else was here at the time? That was pretty much it.

Q: Now, these were all in botany?

A: All in botany, yes. Of course today, with the Division of Biological Sciences, a number of people have joint appointments in more than one, I mean, in two departments. I'm entirely in Botany, but we have people who are in Botany and Physiology and Cell Biology or Botany and Systematics and Ecology.

Q: I remember back in the '50s and I think through much of the '60s one of the truly popular science courses that the kids elected was the one called "Trees and Shrubs."

A: Right. There still is one course like that. That was popular. It was not for majors. There were no prerequisites. Another one that we offer now which has been offered for years is
"Urban Botany." "Trees and Shrubs" doesn't exist under that name. There's one called "Kansas Plants," which deals more with native and introduced plants, whereas "Urban Botany" deals more with plants like you'd find around in the city used as ornamentals and planted on the campus. They're still popular courses.

Q: What were the expectations that the department had of you when you came? Were you going to be doing mainly research or teaching and research?

A: Oh no. Always teaching and research. We don't hire anybody who doesn't do teaching . . .

Q: Yeah.

A: . . . like other departments in the university. But I had a heavy teaching load compared to what has come about now.

Q: How big was it?

A: Well, I had, you know, like twelve contact hours—that's pretty high.

Q: You did?

A: Yes.

Q: I didn't know that anybody outside the School of Journalism did that! [laughter]

A: Yes.

Q: There were times, you know, I taught sixteen hours, as I remember.

A: You see, what isn't factored into this—and this is very important to people in science—is the graduate programs and graduate students, because I've had over twenty graduate students, and some of these have gotten both a master's and a Ph.D. Some just one or the other. But we spend a lot of time with those students—with them daily, working with them daily—so,
that can be quite a load in addition to what one is doing teaching in the formal setting of a classroom.

Q: Did you interview other places or did you just come to KU?

A: Well, I had had this offer, which was essentially an offer, from Ohio State. I didn't go there. I chose not to go there. That would have been what we call now a tenure-track position. But, they had had a lot of problems in the department, and I didn't want to be in a department that had a lot of antagonisms and so forth. So, I did not interview at other places, but I have interviewed at others after I arrived at KU—one or two—but I really wasn't very much interested in the other jobs. I've had other opportunities to apply for other jobs—in fact, been requested to apply for other jobs, like many of us do, but decide not to pursue that.

Q: This was 1957?

A: That I came? Yes.

Q: Did you have to interview with George Waggoner?

A: Oh, yes. I would have interviewed with him and I don't know whether . . . Dean Nelson, too, I suppose.

Q: Oh, I'll bet, yeah.

A: Yeah, sure. Yes. And so, I made the circuit that way, but I will say that the process today for getting positions is much, much more rigorous than it was in those days. We didn't have Affirmative Action, which has been a good thing in the sense that it used to be that the heads of departments—call them chairs, or whatever you want to call them—not in my case, but they would sort of select the person they wanted and bring them in. That was it. Sometimes there was barely an interview.
Q: I was hired on the telephone.

A: Yes. And that was the way that it was done and of course, that can lead to the big boys' club syndrome and it's a lot better now. In fact, a lot of the new people we've had in biology have been women and they're very good people, so this has been a help. But what I'm saying is that it's so much more difficult now. Not only necessarily because it's more competitive, but in the review process, the screening that one goes through and so on is so much—sort of like getting promotion and tenure. It's tremendously more complicated now by many factors. It's more difficult.

Q: Were you located in Snow Hall?

A: I was located in Snow Hall.

Q: Was that where you spent most of your teaching days?

A: Until we moved to Haworth Hall when it was built. The new Division. In fact, I was the first person to move in because I was due to go out on fieldwork, so they allowed me to be the first to move in.

Q: What classes did you teach, Bob?

A: Well, when we had a botany department, there was a big botany course, and that was a laboratory course, and I taught mycology courses. Actually, mycology has been sort of a tradition here. Arthur Mix, whom I sort of replaced, had died following an operation, and he had been chair of the department, and he was a mycologist. And so, I taught mycology courses, and I taught plant pathology. And I'm still teaching—until I retired—I was teaching those and then, another subject that has interested me a lot, is medical mycology.

Q: Wouldn't mycology be a rather specialized area for most children going to school?
A: Well, it might be, although it's a very broad subject, because there are many aspects of mycology just as there are in botany or animal sciences. I mean you can emphasize ecology, population biology, physiology, biochemistry, etc., etc. But, it's a course that also teaches certain basic biological principles. There are aspects of cell biology, for example, that are not covered in other courses, which you get from mycology.

Q: I want to talk with you in a while about some of your research and so on, but first, before that I'd like to talk with you about a few other things. Where did you and Betty live when you came here?

A: Well, we first rented a house on 22nd Street Terrace.

Q: You didn't do Sunnyside?

A: No. No. Two doors from George Worth. And then we bought one of these houses unseen, in east Lawrence on Maple Lane, one of the projects which we were going to stay in for a few years and then move, but we ended up staying much longer. We had purchased a lot where we now live on Terrace Road and we were saving up money to be able build a house, which we subsequently did, and that's where we now live.

Q: Now the children came along in—what?—'59 that I see . . . '59 and '62. I was asking Nola about that.

A: Yes.

Q: You know she used to teach Sunday School out there . . . well, I taught Sunday School for one disastrous year at the Fellowship. [laughter] I don't think I ever had any of yours. I think they would have been a bit younger than the time I was teaching.

A: It could be. Yes. Yes. They were going to the Sunday School at the time.
Q: What were their names?

A: Well, Ruth Elizabeth was our oldest, and Robert Thomas—he's Robert Thomas, so he's not a "Jr."—he's our son. Those are the two children that we have.

Q: Where are they now?

A: Well, Ruth is in Lawrence. She works at the KU Bookstore and Rob is now living in Olathe. He was living in Lawrence until earlier this year. He's moved to Olathe because he is taking a course with a travel academy. He wants to go into the travel business, and he's also working, so he's doing both.

Q: That's where my daughter teaches school.

A: Oh, yes?

Q: She teaches at Olathe East. That's quite a burgeoning area over there.

A: I imagine.

Q: They're really booming. Who were your friends when you came?

A: Well, we had a number of people. George Worth was one because we lived close to him so we had got to know him. I see a lot less of him now than I would like to, but partly because we're more physically separated. Ken Armitage. We knew them. We had gotten to know Bob Nunley and his future wife, and we had people in the department that we associated with, you know, like Rufus Thompson and Bob Baxter.

Q: Did you go right into the Lawrence Unitarian Fellowship when you came or was that something that later developed?

A: It was just starting. It was just starting.

Q: Well, that wasn't your background though?
A: We had gone to a Unitarian church in Urbana, Illinois, and so we weren't unfamiliar. We were not a member of the church but when we came here, we felt that that was a need, and when we heard that one was being organized, we went to the organizational meetings and joined. Yes.

Q: What was your attraction? Why that instead of, say, Methodists or Presbyterians?

A: Well, I don't know exactly why except that my view of religion is much more associated with ethics and morality and the good aspects of religion rather than the ritual and so on, and my parents were quite religious, but they never belonged strictly to one church. While in Brazil they belonged to the Union Church. There are Union Churches in several countries which are nondenominational Protestant. I used to go to different churches when I was in college. I enjoyed the services and so on, but I never really, let's say, tried out the different churches in Lawrence because it was quite early on. I think the fall that we arrived, if I recall correctly, that Mary Boyd and Ellen Gilles and some others, and Ambrose Saricks, got together to try to form a fellowship. And as you know, the history of Unitarianism in Lawrence is old, but did not survive originally, but this one has survived now since, I think it's 1957. The fall of 1957.

Q: You were there several years before we came in.

A: Yeah.

Q: We weren't part of the founding group.

A: Yes.

Q: I think we started about 1960, mainly because we wanted a place where our children could go to Sunday School.

A: Yes.
Q: And also, we were attracted in ways similar to the ways that you were attracted.

A: Well, we met in many different places before they acquired the building that they now have on Pleasant Valley.

Q: Strong Hall.

A: Strong Hall. We met occasionally in the little chapel here, we met in several other campus buildings. We were meeting also at the Medical Arts Center—that's where the organizational meetings were. There's a room down in the basement there. Intellectually, we thought it was much more stimulating and we liked the people that were involved in it. We thought that they were very compatible.

Q: You know when the news came about Sherry Rowland, Nola and I were talking about that because we had known what he had been doing for 35 years, because that's the first place where I had heard about that was when he gave a talk on that out at the Fellowship.

A: Yes, yes, right.

Q: And so this came as no surprise at all when that happened.

A: I must admit we have not been attending recently.

Q: Yeah, we haven't either.

A: But it's more because of other activities that we are involved in. I was actually the first chairman of the group.

Q: Oh.

A: And I was asked to do this, and did so because there weren't many—people like Ambrose Saricks should have been logical, you know, but he didn't want to do it, so it was foisted off on me.
Q: I think Betty was an officer the year I was chairman.

A: Could be. Yes.

Q: It was right along in there, I remember working with her some on that back in those days. Well, the 1960s. You were teaching and you were doing your research. How much time did you have for research, Bob?

A: Well, I made time, which means that the teaching was not always twelve contact hours because biology has sort of an unwritten rule of thumb that you teach usually one or two courses and a second course might be a seminar course, provided that you're being productive in research and I've had grants almost continuously which then obligate me to put in so much of my time. I've had sometimes two grants at one time, like 10% on one grant and 20% on another, but what you end up doing is you do your teaching and then you spend a lot of evenings and weekends doing the research and other activities as well.

Q: What kind of grants did you have?

A: Well, I've had almost continuous National Science Foundation grants.

Q: You have, huh?

A: Yes. Since 1958 or so, I think with the exception of one or two years, and I've had a couple of National Institutes of Health grants. So, I've been fortunate to be well-supported and as a matter of fact, although I'm retired, I'm completing one three-year grant for the National Science Foundation. And my great, great fortune: I've just obtained a new National Science Foundation Grant for five years, so you can see I'm going to be . . .

Q: Well, when are you going to retire, Bob?

A: [laughter] I hope not for a long time in the sense of true retirement, but I'm doing
what I want to do. Actually, I'm putting in as much time now as I ever did but I enjoy very much
the work that I'm doing and it's also being very challenging because this new grant requires
training of other people so I'm going to have postdoctoral fellows involved and several graduate
students over the five-year period, so it's going to keep me busy.

Q: Well, now did this mean that you were traveling around the world to do this or were
you doing a lot of that work here?

A: Well, I've done a lot of traveling, in part because with this group of fungi and studying
their evolution and how they became specialized to live in association with many kinds of
arthropods, I have to go where they are and I'm interested in a subject called biogeography, which
is a study trying to understand not only where things are but why they are there. And how they
got there and we have evidence, for example, that some of these fungi in Australia and New
Zealand probably had common origins in Gondwana in the what is now left as Antarctica. And
how they get distributed around the world you can only study if—in their evolution—you can only
study if you really have a better perspective on what's around in the world, so I've done quite a
bit of traveling during this time.

Q: Were you teaching in summers, then? You must have been gone a great deal of the
time in the summers.

A: Much of this work was done during the summers and I've never taught during the
summers.

Q: Never?

A: No.

Q: My gosh.
A: Except that I've had graduate students whom I am responsible for during the summers, because I've always had at least one, sometimes several, graduate students at a time. On some occasions, I've made special arrangements. For example, I've been down to Australia and New Zealand a couple of times and because I didn't want to be there in their mid-winter.

Q: Where did you go in Australia?

A: Well, in Australia, the first time I went there I was in generally the Sydney area but I got up to Queensland. The second time, we were in Melbourne as a center . . .

Q: Did you go into the Outback?

A: Not the real Outback, no. But I've been in Tasmania. The last time I was there we were also in Western Australia in the Perth area and south of there doing fieldwork.

Q: Have you been to the Galapagos?

A: No, I have not.

Q: Did you see the recent article—where was it?—National Geographic or Smithsonian or somewhere on the disappearance of some of the species in a great part of the places being inundated by tourists?

A: Well, I've heard about this. I probably didn't see the article you did. There was also a television program, I think, on the Galapagos that I did not catch.

Q: Maybe that's where I saw it.

A: Yes. There was a film on it. I unfortunately did not get to see it, but I've heard and read something about this problem.

Q: Well now, this . . . I'm kind of jumping around, but things keep hitting my head. This very word "ecology"—I don't even remember the word when I was a boy in college—it seems to
me that the word came into our consciousness, oh back in the '60s.

A: Yes.

Q: I think Rachel Carson had a lot to do with it.

A: Exactly. She really started the movement, but you're perhaps thinking of it more in terms of the conservation movement, which is one aspect of it and that's what Rachel Carson did.

Q: Well, it's also the kind of thing that you do.

A: Yes. Basically, ecology can be used in a very broad sense, and today they break it down into various kinds of fields, like population ecology, community ecology, and so forth, but my type of ecology is trying to understand the relationships of these organisms, which is not just ecological but it's physiological and many other aspects.

Q: How many articles do you suppose you've done?

A: Well, I don't have a count. I'm probably pushing ninety papers in reviewed journals.

Q: How about books?

A: I have one book and it's a biological monograph of this group.

Q: Did this assist you in your movement along the academic ladder? Let's see here, you came as an assistant, associate in '60 . . .

A: Yes.

Q: . . . and professor in '65. Well, that's pretty good.

A: Yes. A lot easier to get promoted in those days.

Q: Well, yeah it was. I don't think I would have been promoted in the 1970s.

A: Oh, I'm sure you would have, but . . .

Q: Oh, I don't know. I think it would have been a terrible hassle. I was on that
University Promotions Committee . . .

A: Yes.

Q: . . . two different terms . . .

A: Yes.

Q: . . . and I used to become infuriated.

A: Yes. I was on that recently for three years and it’s a daunting process but it was so much easier I think when I was promoted. You had to submit various things and documentation and so forth, that’s for sure. But you didn’t have to do it to the detailed extent that you do today with multitudes of letters from students, from colleagues, evaluations of people who have heard you teaching in the classroom, watched you—you didn’t use to do that. Possibly, in the older days, there were more people promoted who should not have been promoted.

Q: You know how I got promoted? Clarke Wescoe called me one night and told me that he was going to promote me to full professor.

A: Oh, great.

Q: Well, I had been in rank for some time and I had been acting dean of the school .

A: Yeah.

Q: I think that in terms of other people at that time, in comparison, I think I deserved it, but I think it would have been terribly hard in the ’70s and ’80s.

A: But going back to your question about these things helping in the promotion process, I’m sure it did, but the criteria used in science I think are somewhat different from the criteria used in the humanities or arts in the sense that I get the feeling that it’s very difficult to become promoted to full professor—let’s say in a field in humanities—if you haven’t written at least one
book.

Q: Yeah.

A: And many of my colleagues, who are very prolific, have never written books. Now, all of us have contributed chapters to books, but this one book probably didn't—well, in fact, the book came out after I was promoted, so that couldn't have had anything to do with it. But they do look, in all scholarly fields, at your productivity and it's measured differently.

Q: Well, I used to sit on that committee and sometimes feel that I was miscast because I would be frankly overwhelmed. I didn't know, really, about some of those things. I could look at scholarly journals and so on, but they weren't in fields that I had any knowledge of and so I just had to do a lot of guessing.

A: Well, this is true in the College Promotion and Tenure Committee, that you have fields that are very unrelated, and so you have to rely on the standards that they use, which are usually stated in the promotion forms. You know, what are the expectations?

Q: Well now, I see you were chairman for two different three-year terms.

A: Right. Yes.

Q: How come they were divided like that? Was that the way your department operates?

A: Well, yes and no. McGregor was chairman for many, many years and he gave that up when he became chair of the Division of Biological Sciences, and the chairman who took over then, Ray Jackson, left to go to Texas Tech and we generally, I would say, in biology, we don't consider this a terribly big honor, in the sense that somebody has to do it and we want it done right. If you perhaps look at some of your esteemed colleagues and some of them can be scholars, they can be great teachers, they can be this, that and the other, but maybe they don't have the
organizational—they don't want to push papers or do other things that may be required—and so, I suppose sort of by default I became chair and then later I agreed to do it again. The second time, however, when I did it, I made it quite clear that it would be for three years and then we would have a successor already in mind, which we did have.

Q: Did you like being chairman?

A: Oh, it wasn't bad. I think it's very important and that's why I was willing to do it. And to me, the most important aspect of it is the personnel aspects—trying to get the faculty to be productive in teaching as well as research, and solving problems when they would come up. We would have occasional problems with students, most of which could be resolved just by talking it out and doing a few fairly simple things. A chair should be kind of a leader, and I don't know how much leading I did, but you try to get the right direction to the department. But, we've had—you know, as chair, you're sort of locked into a given faculty, and so you try to do the best you can with that faculty. And I think another important thing is harmony because I would never have stayed at the University of Kansas if they had personnel problems such as I've heard at some other universities, or even certain departments in this university.

Q: Well, you probably had to cut back a lot on your research though when that happened.

A: I was not willing to do that, so what happened was that I simply worked longer hours. I must say that I had a one-year experience that isn't on my vita, when Ron McGregor went on sabbatical leave and that was more difficult because we were still a Department of Botany and we had one secretary who did—you know, no computers—did the typing, took care of accounts, was the receptionist, did everything, and I think she was fairly new to the job, too, so both of us were learning during that semester. But now, in the division of biological sciences, we have a
wonderful support staff and it is much, much easier to have transitions of chairpersons—or leaves or whatever—and to keep things going, hopefully well.

Q: Now, you've mentioned that you were on the Promotions Committee. Did you do much other committee work?

A: I've done other committee work. When George Waggoner was here, I was on the College Planning Committee, I think it was called. We did a lot of talking, not much actual—well, we didn't implement many plans, if you know what I mean.

Q: Yeah, I've heard this.

A: And I've served on a number of other committees. Of course, with the GRF, the research funds, I've been on committees that have been appointed for that purpose. I've served on a number of committees within the Division and in the Department. So, I've done quite a bit of committee work.

Q: Now, you have a very imposing list of professional societies.

A: Yes. Well, some of the societies I have been quite active in, and the principal one is the Mycological Society of America, which is the principal society. For some time, I was active in the Kansas Academy of Science. The Botanical Society of America has certain sub-committees that I've been involved in—not sub-committees necessarily, but they have different sections and I was chair of one of the sections there—but the major society is really the Mycological Society of America. I've served as President and I was Editor-in-Chief of the journal for five years, and been a council member.

Q: Well, I don't know how you were able to do all these things! It sounds kind of overwhelming to me. I think I did a lot, but gee, when I look at this, it seems to me that you
were doing many more things than most people do.

A: Well, perhaps.

Q: Maybe you thrive on it.

A: In some ways, you know, having an interest in my profession, I've always attended at least one annual meeting or an international meeting, so I've been active in the society and it makes the profession so much more personal, because I know a lot of mycologists in the country and in the world—not all by any means, but I mean I know a number of them whom I see at meetings and am able to correspond with them, and so forth. And so that's been one of the pleasures, as a professional, being involved in the profession, and that's not unusual at all, of course, because many people involve themselves in societies for that reason. There are other societies which I have been members of for a long time but—AAAS, for example, I am mostly interested in that because I get Science; I've only once attended a meeting. In fact, I gave a paper as a graduate at one of the regional meetings up in Chicago when I was at Illinois. That was my first paper presented. Some of these—the Japan Mycological Society—I was in Japan and I've been a member for many years and just this year, as a matter of fact, I was elected as an honorary member, which pleased me because I know some of the mycologists there, having spent six months in Japan doing work there.

Q: Maybe you're like a man named Frank Luther Mott, who was the dean of journalism at the University of Missouri for many years. He wrote an autobiography called Time Enough. He was asked about the title and he said that that came from his philosophy of life: that a person can always find time enough to do all the things that he wants to do.

A: Yeah.
Q: And he did all kinds of things and worked it in. Part of it is discipline, too, isn't it?

A: Well, my general outlook on this is that you shouldn't over-extend yourself. In other words, what you take on, you should try to do well and not do, you know, kind of a half-assed job on it. So, anything I take on like this, I've tried within my abilities to do as well as I can. There are some committees that I've been on that never meet, never do anything and so there's not much you can do except maybe make a decision on occasion. But, I've tried at least to take on things that I feel I can at least put in enough time and effort and help to the ability I have.

Q: One of the things that moved me toward early retirement was the frustration of being placed on committees where I had no interest.

A: Yes.

Q: And no capacity. I really couldn't understand how I could make any contribution.

A: Yes.

Q: Things like that.

A: I think we've all been on such committees.

Q: You just need to get off and leave it to somebody else.

A: Yes. Well, fortunately I haven't been on . . . I've been on some fairly inactive committees, or where only once or twice a year you need to do something, but by and large, I guess, I've tried to turn down things that I've felt that were completely ineffective or where my contribution would not be as good as somebody else's.

Q: Well, how about the university government kind of thing? Did you get involved in any of that?

A: No, I have not been involved in that, partly because I've been so busy that I felt that
I really couldn't do a decent job. If I did that, I'd have to give up something else and I wasn't willing to give up anything. The teaching sort of comes first. Especially if it's scheduled teaching, you are expected to meet classes and so forth, so you set that time. The research, some of it, has to be done on some kind of a scheduled basis, but one can sometimes push that aside, and committee meetings you have to take care of matters that are coming up, or are involved in the actual meeting, and so, you know, you sort of have to schedule your time pretty tightly sometimes.

Q: What are your memories of that protest era on our campus and around the country? Your memories or your response?

A: Well, I first met this actually when I was in France at the University of Montpellier in southern France.

Q: Oh really?

A: But it wasn't anything violent. I was working with a French woman who was the most experienced researcher in this area that I'm interested in (she's now retired). But she put me up in a building that the dental students had taken over and she was fearful for my safety. I myself was not concerned. But the students would occupy the building during the day and then at night they'd leave and the next day they were back again. [laughter] I was living up on the top floor so I had a key to this huge door leading into the building and I was not supposed to turn on a lot of lights, and so on, except where I was living. There were all sorts of commotions going on around what was essentially the cafeteria at the university, and so on. But it was very peaceful. And here in Lawrence, it was really quite upsetting, and one of the things I think that upset me most was the distrust that people were giving each other—students and students, students and
faculty and vice versa. And that to me was a blow. You didn't have this—I hate to use this term because it's often misused—the "collegiality" that should be part of every campus. Of course, the possibility of danger, too. In fact, I remember one night sleeping overnight in Snow Hall—several of us did—because the word was out that somebody was going to bomb one of the buildings. And that kind of thing is out of place in our society and especially out of place in a university. But it was real, and so there were real concerns and out of it maybe the students gained something. I'm not sure, but they gained more in governance.

Q: Well, yeah. The more I look back on that period, the more I look back at it in a negative way. I don't know. I don't know that a whole lot was accomplished. I think they helped bring the war to an end . . .

A: Yes.

Q: . . . and I think they helped bring about a certain amount of racial justice, but I don't think they helped university atmosphere or curriculum very much.

A: No. No. I think that was almost entirely negative. The university governance. I think it was about that time that students had to be represented in faculty meetings and on other committees, and our students have always been useful participants in those types of positions where they represent the students. I understand that the students were not too happy going to, what?, faculty meetings and the college and putting in time and it was sometimes hard to get enough of them there.

Q: I was on the Graduate Council and we couldn't get them to come to the meetings.

A: Yeah. Right. So, it wasn't all gravy in terms of what they would get out of it.

Q: Of course, I couldn't understand what capacity some eighteen-year-old kid had for
determining what the goals of the department should be or what the curriculum should be and so on. I didn't think that that was very likely and yet that was the kind of thing that was happening from time to time.

A: Right. The good part is, I think, that it's always wise to get the opinions of students. They're outvoted anyway in most cases, but they can express opinions and you can get a better feeling. We do a lot informally in our department, as they do in a lot of departments. That is, we talk to students, we have scuttlebutt with the students and so on, so if there's problem arising, we're usually aware of it. But, I think it makes the students, at least, feel that they are also aware of what's going on behind those closed doors and gives them some feeling of some input. So that, I think, is good for morale. I must say that I'm not sure that this is general throughout, because there have been situations like, well unionization of assistants, for example, the GTAs. I heard almost nothing about that among our students and they weren't, I don't think, particularly interested. I have no idea how they voted, but it wasn't the red-hot issue that it was with students of some other areas of the university.

Q: Well, I guess I feel the same way about graduate student unions as I do about some kid who comes from a reservation to Haskell and in his first year decides that the area out south of Haskell is sacred land.

A: [laughter] Yes.

Q: The graduate student who is here for one year or two years. I remember back then Francis Heller said that students were transients, and oh, how they hated that! But he was right! That's exactly what they are!

A: Yes. In that sense.
Q: You know.

A: Except for the very, very few that continue on or come back.

Q: Yeah, yeah, that's right. There are few like that.

A: And I'm not talking about the perennial student. There are those, too.

Q: Yeah, yeah.

A: But there are a few that come back and some people, like Ron McGregor, was a student here and then he did, you know, his graduate studies here—I mean he was a real product of KU. Yeah, I think that my concern about that particular issue is that I don't know how much it's going to benefit them. That's my concern. If it's going to benefit them in some substantial way, I say that that's great, but . . .

Q: I guess I'm glad I'm gone. Bob, do you have any particular students about whom you have good memories? People who have gone on to accomplish themselves in society and in your profession, your field?

A: Yeah, well, I have still fairly close contact with some students. I've lost contact with two or three of the twenty-one or so students that I've had.

Q: Who are some of them?

A: Well, more recently, one of my most recent students—he just got his Ph.D. in December and he's continuing on as a post-doc with me—this is Roger Grigg. The one just prior to that, Martin Huss, is teaching at Arkansas State University in eastern Arkansas. Some of these, I'd say the majority of the students have gone into education but I have three, one of them who got an M.D. and is working in a hospital in St. Louis. I have another who's working for Miles, Inc., a pharmaceutical firm. He's in Elkhart, Indiana. I have two working for—three, I
guess—three working in the government. One in Beltsville, and one down at a USDA laboratory in Georgia and another in Peoria. Unfortunately, I have had a couple of women Ph.D.s who did not carry on professionally, you know, who became housewives, essentially. I say "unfortunately" simply because it would be nice if they could have made use of their training and expertise. I don't have any students who have been, you know, Nobel laureates or anything like that by any means, but I've had some good students. At least two of my students have retired. They were at the retirement dinner that was held this last spring for me and I was awfully pleased to see at least one of them whom I hadn't seen since he left. He was a dean, actually.

Q: Yeah.

A: A dean at Tuskegee. A black student. A very good student. He looks just like he did then, still the same good-looking person that he was at the time that he was a student here.

Q: How were you in the classroom as you look back on yourself?

A: Tough. Lenient?

Q: No, do you think that you were strong as teacher? Do you think that as a classroom teacher, or do you think that your greater strength was in research?

A: I've enjoyed teaching and I regret that, but I still will have students involved in this program that I'm working on now. No, I always took teaching very seriously and enjoyed it and have always been involved in lower level courses, too. Starting with "General Botany" which then I got involved in several lower level biology courses and I've been involved in that at the 100 and 400 level for some time. My more advanced courses are smaller courses which I teach as lecture/laboratory courses—that is, we have three two-hour periods during the week in which lecture or lab or both and I've enjoyed that very much. And I have been nominated for some
awards, never received them here, although I have one award from the Mycological Society of America, which is . . .

Q: Yeah, I want you to say something about the honors and awards you have. You've got a nice list there it seems to me.

A: Well, the one from the Mycological Society was the William H. Weston Award for Teaching Excellence in Mycology. Weston was a very famous lecturer at Harvard University, one of these people that even those not taking the course would come just to hear him lecture, and so he was an outstanding teacher, and this was an honor that I appreciated because it did recognize the teaching that I've done, which would probably be most from the point of view of mycologists, the number of students I've had and what they've done and so forth. So, I sort of regret it, but under the circumstances now it gives me so much more freedom to do what I want to do without having to meet the classes at certain times of the week.

Q: How about the community? Did you do much in either the community of Lawrence or the community of Kansas? Or were you involved in local organizations or anything?

A: Well, I belong to a number of organizations, many of which are sort of allied to preservation and so on, but I've given talks, you know, the Flower Club and to grade schools and to Audubon Society and I even gave one in Topeka to the—I can't remember what they're called—the Trailpackers or something like this.

Q: Could be.

A: Probably the thing that I've been involved with a good deal has been—I'm always an unpaid consultant for these things—but he Midwest Poison Center uses me as a reference for mushroom poisonings. I got a call just today—it wasn't about a mushroom—but I got a call from
a detective sergeant, he called himself, about a poisoning case, I suppose in Lawrence, but I don't know the details. But this involved a flowering plant and not a mushroom. I get calls from occasional doctors or other hospitals, and now we have a group of people in Lawrence who are pretty knowledgeable about mushrooms and poisonings.

Q: Do you go out looking for mushrooms in the spring?

A: When I can, I do. Yes. We have a group in Lawrence . . .

Q: I'd be scared to death to try to do that.

A: Well, I never eat anything that I can't . . . of course, a lot of my collecting is not for eating purposes, but I never eat anything that I can't identify to a species. But there is the Kaw Valley Mycological Society, which is made up mostly of amateurs . . .

Q: Yeah?

A: . . . in town, and they meet regularly on a monthly basis and during the season when there are mushrooms, they go out at least once a month to collect and have a good time and exchange knowledge.

Q: I've never heard of that.

A: Yes.

Q: That's interesting.

A: They meet in the library every—I don't know what it is—every second or third Wednesday, and have a series of programs. I've given a number of lectures there, but I've been on call even with the Lawrence Hospital here, the emergency room and so, sometimes at rather odd hours of the night.

Q: Do you do any volunteer work?
A: I don't do any volunteer work, as such, except for this, which is sort of a . . .

Q: Well, you've probably got other stuff to do. I know some people . . . I go to Audio Reader once a week and some of the other stuff . . .

A: I see, yes.

Q: . . . I don't know. I think that's volunteer enough, some of the things that I do.

A: Yeah, it's nice that you do that, though.

Q: Bob, do you ever just travel for the fun of it?

A: Well, I love to travel, but I must say that virtually all my traveling has been in connection with my research.

Q: Well, you ought to do some just for the fun of it.

A: I would like to do that now that we're retired, but Betty has been extremely busy in her work with planning. I don't know if you know about that.

Q: No.

A: But, she is very much interested in city planning . . .

Q: Oh, yeah.

A: . . . land use and city planning and that's practically a full-time job, at times. So, we haven't taken, since I've retired, we haven't taken any trips, except for a couple of less fortunate trips like a service for one of her brothers who died in California and we did go to a wedding in California, so we took a few days to travel down the coast there. We've done much less traveling than we would like to do.

Q: Well now, where have you been other than Latin America, Australia and New Zealand?
A: Well, the last trip . . .

Q: You said Japan.

A: Yes. Yes. I was there for six months. The last trip I made was down to Chile. That was during the school year and the way I worked that is I ended my classes a week early and did it over Christmas, New Year's and came back before the classes started again. But Costa Rica—I've been there four times. And of course, I was in Brazil on this post-doctoral fellowship. In Europe, I've been in France several times for varying periods of time—from anywhere from six weeks to much less time. Briefly in Switzerland. I spent a month up in northern Sweden above the Arctic Circle working, and perhaps I've covered most of the foreign countries. Hawaii's not a foreign country, but I spent three months there.

Q: Well, kind of.

A: It's another tropical area.

Q: Were you able to take your children with you on some of these jaunts?

A: The only one—Betty went with me to Europe in 1980 when I spent a month in England with a colleague of mine, Steve Moss, who also spent eighteen months on a post-doc with me here and in Europe. But other than that, when I had a sabbatical, it was in Hawaii and Japan, we had the family with us. Our children were young then—they were two and five, I guess, in age and so that kept Betty busy, as you might imagine. Especially in Japan where we were living in a Japanese house way out in a Japanese neighborhood.

Q: I hate to ask you about hobbies because it sounds to me as though your main hobby is your research.

A: You're pretty close. [laughter]
Q: How about other things then?
A: Well, . . .
Q: Do you like to read?
A: I like to read. I don't do nearly as much as I want in terms of reading, let's say particularly reading novels, and I'm hoping that I can get into that more. But I have so much reading that I would like to do. I've got a stack of scientific journals that's about two feet high that I need to get through. Every time I go on a trip, they accumulate. So, I don't put as much time into that as I'd like, but I would like to do more reading.
Q: How about gardening?
A: Well, by necessity.
Q: I think of you as a botanist.
A: No, I don't do much gardening. Betty is the gardener.
Q: Oh really?
A: I do the mowing and the digging up of the garden and the physical labor, but she's the one who does the planning.
Q: Do you know much about individual plants and so on? I mean, could you take me on a tour of the campus—I'm not asking you to, by the way—but could you take me on a walking tour of the campus and tell me what the trees are and the shrubs and so forth?
A: Right. I know a number of them, but I don't know all of them by any means because being a mycologist I can always say that, "Well, I'm really a mycologist, you see."
Q: Yeah.
A: And then when they ask me one of the 700 or more species of mushrooms that we find
in Kansas alone, I can say, "Well, I'm really a botanist!" [laughter] No, not really. But, I know some, but I don't know a lot of wildflowers the way I might if I really wanted to train myself in that area. I've never had an occasion to require it but . . .

Q: Yeah.

A: . . . I never have sat down to train myself in that area.

Q: There was a fellow who was in the Buildings and Grounds department here and I can't remember his name. But we went to Hawaii with him and it was wonderful on that trip because he was telling us all the plants and what we were seeing and so on.

A: All introduced, probably, every one you saw.

Q: Yeah, it was really nice. We were riding along in New Zealand and we asked the bus driver, "What's that pretty shrub alongside the road there?" And he didn't say anything for a minute and then he said, "Well that is what is known as 'an alongside-the-road shrub'!" That's the kind of answer that most of us would give.

A: Right. It didn't have yellow . . .

Q: He wasn't trying to pretend!

A: Right. Right. It wasn't yellow flowers was it?

Q: Probably.

A: 'Cause gorse has been introduced into New Zealand.

Q: Oh yeah, of course, gorse. We were somewhere where they were complaining about gorse because . . .

A: Oh, I've been on South Island in New Zealand and it's a major problem in a lot of the pastures.
Q: Well, I think that maybe it was in New Zealand where we heard this complaint.
A: Yeah.
Q: Yeah.
A: It's just gone wild and it's something that's hard to eradicate.
Q: Yeah. So, you don't get out there in the yard and do that work?
A: No, we have a garden and we have lawn . . .
Q: I was interested in that walk that you have. Did you make that walk that you have leading up to your house? The walk made of wood?
A: Yes.
Q: That's wonderful.
A: Yeah. I made that and the deck in front, and it was designed by Al Thomas. Do you remember Al Thomas?
Q: Oh yeah, oh yeah.
A: And he drew it out and I built it.
Q: Were you able to do much of that kind of stuff? Do you . . .
A: Oh, I've done quite a bit of that but, you know, more recently, not so much. But when we need it, I do it.
Q: You ought to see some of the stuff Al Schild makes.
A: I imagine.
Q: It's incredible. He makes canes. He gave me this beautiful cane. Oh, it's just so beautifully shaped. He works it all up himself.
A: I wish I had more time to do that kind of thing.
Q: Now, if you were born in 1924, you actually were a bit over 70 when you retired.

A: That's right. I was 70 in November of last year and I retired at the beginning of last year.

Q: Okay, okay, yeah. I hadn't calculated. I retired three years early and so I get a little mixed up on these things.

A: Well, you probably would have had to retire by 70, but I would not have had to.

Q: Yeah, I would have but I was 67 when I retired.

A: The law changed, you know. This exemption, why it was ever put in I don't know, but I could have stayed on but I figured that I could really do the things I wanted to do if I did retire and I've been given assurance that I will continue to have my laboratory and my office space.

Q: How's your health?

A: Good. Very good.

Q: No problems?

A: No. None. I'm very fortunate.

Q: Yeah.

A: I'm blessed in that way I guess—I mean, any problems I have are very minor ones—and my mother died this last spring two months before her 102nd birthday.

Q: Whew! Well, you'll probably get up there yourself, then!

A: And my father died two months before his 92nd birthday some years previously, so maybe I have some genes that will help to give me longevity.

Q: Well, maybe you'll have a good, healthy life. You don't indulge in a lot of bad things
and so on.

A: Well, I don't particularly pay a lot of attention to it, as much as I should.

Q: [laughter]

A: You know, some people take their health very, very seriously.

Q: Oh yeah.

A: And I don't get as much exercise as I should, but I feel fine and I would hope that I can continue to do things for many years.

Q: Is your department thriving these days?

A: I think it's doing quite well. It's a small department, we lost some faculty members, who were not replaced right away. For instance, Bob Baxter was not replaced right away. We now have a—what is essentially a replacement—a developmental biologist. He's not a paleobotanist, but he can teach the anatomy course and developmental biology. And we just acquired this year a person who came with a distinguished professorship, Tom Taylor and his wife, Edith, who's also a paleobotanist. So, we've gained and are very happy to have them as new members of the department.

Q: What do you think of the university these days?

A: Well, I think that they have . . . although it's not growing in terms of students now, there still are some growing pains. If you—you could ask this about the student body, you could ask it about the administration, you could ask it about the departmental structure. Any particular thing that you are wondering about how I feel?

Q: I guess just how you feel about the university generally. This is where you spent so many years . . .
A: Right.

Q: . . . and you must have liked it or you wouldn't have stayed all those years.

A: That's correct. Well, I feel administrators are always fair game for criticism, but I think that by and large, we've had some good administrators who have had some foresight. I don't always agree with, you know, decisions by deans and so on, but we've had a pretty good administration. I think that the student body is much, much larger, but I think that we're still attracting some top-grade students, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels—as long as we can do that, I think the university is going to be viable. I know that people like to say, "Well, it's the professors that make the university," but it's really the professors and the students.

Q: Have you ever wondered whether some of these other places whether you might have been happier there? Or whether you could have made a better life?

A: I've wondered but I have not really wondered seriously. It hasn't been—it's far from been an obsession to me, because if I had not have enjoyed being here, felt that it was worthwhile, that I could do the things that I want to do, that I could do the teaching that I want to do, and have at least a good proportion of very good students, I would have sought elsewhere and I would have left. As I said earlier, I've had a number of offers from people to apply for particular positions and some of these have been department heads and I didn't think I wanted to become sort of an administrator. Although I've done some administration, I feel that I never did want to get really tied into administrative—along that track. Not that there's anything wrong with it, but I don't think it would have suited me.

Q: I'm always puzzled by the people who spend all those years here and then retire and go a long ways away. I couldn't do that.
A: I don't think we are going to do that either. We have too many friends and acquaintances here. If I had nothing to do in particular, in the sense of no particular program, or particular interest that I needed to follow here, I might consider something like that. But you know, I was brought up in mountains. I was brought up at the seashore. We're far from both of those here, but it means that when you do go to these places, you enjoy them that much more. The latest word from Kansas is that it's fairly low on the list of places that tourists might want to go, but on the other hand, we feel kind of fortunate that it isn't attracting hordes of people, like California or Colorado.

Q: Well, it's a pretty state . . .

A: Oh yes.

Q: I'm always puzzled by the people who make all these aspersions about Kansas landscape. I think it's quite beautiful among many places.

A: Yes. It is. I agree. And we like the fact that we're not in a big metropolitan area. I would never want to live in a big metropolitan area, although I was brought up in Rio de Janeiro.

Q: Which is one of the biggest cities in the world.

A: Well, yeah, it's one of them. I went back there ten years later and it had changed substantially. Substantially. And now even more. The population had almost doubled in ten years, and I'm not sure that I would want to live there now, although I enjoyed it thoroughly while I was down there.

Q: It would be nice if you could be in a fancy place looking out on the—Sugarloaf, is that what it's called?
A: Well, Sugarloaf, right. That's one of the places.

Q: Beautiful place.

A: Oh, I think it's ... my own opinion is that it's the most beautiful city I've seen. Sydney comes fairly close.

Q: Sydney's beautiful.

A: But I think Rio has it over Sydney. Especially the way it was.

Q: Yeah. Back then. Bob, I will include the vita and if you, after you read the transcript, if there's anything you would like to attach by way of addendum, you feel free to do so. I think we've probably covered a good part of your story.

A: Yes. I will probably not do that. At least I'm not anticipating it. I have a list here of my graduate students, but that probably isn't pertinent.

Q: Well no, that ... no. Anything that you'd like to give me of that sort to include, I'd like to have it, and I will just attach them along with any ... I think that I've picked up some things about you from over in archives, they have a folder on you.

A: Oh-oh. These are probably things that I sent them in part, right?

Q: Well, no. Articles were sent out by the university and stuff like that mainly. Things of that sort.

A: Yes. I didn't know they had that, but.

Q: Yeah, they have some of that. Well Bob, I really enjoyed talking to you today. I looked forward to this and I'm sorry I wasn't able to get with you last week. It was not one of my good weeks.

A: Yes. You're looking fine now.
Q: Well, I'm doing pretty good. I thank you very much!

A: You're welcome.
Curriculum Vitae
Robert W. Lichtwardt
Professor of Botany, University of Kansas

Degrees:  A.B. in Botany, Oberlin College, 1949
M.S. in Botany (Mycology), University of Illinois, 1951
Ph.D. in Botany (Mycology), University of Illinois, 1954

Birth:  Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 27, 1924
(U.S. Citizen: born of American parents)

Positions:  National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow,
1954-55 (Research in Panama and Brazil)
Iowa State University - Research Associate, 1955-57
University of Kansas - Assistant Professor, 1957-60
Associate Professor, 1960-65
Professor, 1965 to date
Chairman, Dept. of Botany, 1971-74, 1981-84
National Science Foundation Senior Postdoctoral Fellow, 1963-64
(Mycological research in Japan and Hawaii)

Professional Societies:
Mycoological Society of America (Honorary Life Member)
(President of the Society, 1971-72; Editor-in-Chief of MYCOLOGIA, 1965-70; Councilor, 1963-65)
Botanical Society of America (Chairman, Microbiological Section, 1975-76)
British Mycological Society
Medical Mycological Society of the Americas
Japan Mycological Society
North American Bentholigical Society
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Association for the Advancement of Science
Federation of American Scientists
Union of Concerned Scientists
Society of Sigma Xi
American Association of University Professors
Kansas Academy of Science (Managing Editor, TRANS. KANSAS ACAD. SCI.,
1958-65; Council Member, 1973-74)
North American Mycological Association
Kaw Valley Mycological Society

Research interests:
Mycology. Fungi that parasitize or are symbiotically associated with insects, with
emphasis on the physiology, nutrition, ecology, morphogenesis, ultrastructure and
evolution of the Trichomycetes, a class of fungi that live obligately within the guts
of arthropods.
PUBLICATIONS


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bindeds of aquatic isoforms and stockfish. Mycologia 70: 269-274.

Lichtwardt, R. and S. T. Moss. 1984. Trihornomyces (Trichomycetes) from the


Differing larvae. Mycologia 19: 529-569.

Lichtwardt, R. W. 1984. Species of Harpellales lying within the groups of aquatic

variable theochroscope size. Mycologia 75: 757-761.

Lichtwardt, R. W. and C. Willingham. 1985. A new subfamilies (Harpellales) with

Lichtwardt, R. W. and C. Willingham. 1985. Two unusual Trichomycetes in an


HONORS AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1954-1955
Elizabeth M. Watkins Faculty Scholarship, summer of 1958
National Science Foundation Senior Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1963-1964
Honorary Life Membership, Mycological Society of America, beginning 1973
Sabbatical leaves: 1963-1964; Fall 1970; Fall 1977; Fall 1984
Faculty Development Fund award, 1976
William H. Weston Award for Teaching Excellence in Mycology, Mycological Society of America, 1982.

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICES IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Mycological Society of America

Council Member, 1963-1965
Editor-in-Chief of MYCOLOGIA, 1965-1970
President-Elect, 1971-1972
President, 1972-1973
Past President (served on Council), 1973-1975
Representative of the Society to the First International Mycological Congress in Exeter, England, 1971
Member of Ad Hoc Committee to Evaluate the Organization, Functions, and Publications of the Society, 1975-1977
Member of Ad Hoc Committee on Preliminary Arrangements for the Third International Mycological Congress in Tokyo, 1983
Member of Committee on Teaching, 1982-86; Chairman, 1985-86.

Botanical Society of America

Regional Correspondent (Kansas and Nebraska) for the Plant Science Bulletin, 1957-1960
Election Committee, 1966-1970, including chairmanship one year
Dimon Memorial Committee to award travel grants to the XII International Botanical Congress in Leningrad, 1974-1975

Vice-Chairman, Microbiological Section, 1974-1975

Chairman, Microbiological Section, 1975-1976; responsible for organizing a symposium for the 1976 meeting at Tulane Univ. on "Viruses in microbial life-forms" with four speakers covering mycoviruses, actinophages, and algal and protozoan viruses

Past Chairman, Microbiological Section (serving on Council), 1976-1977

Kansas Academy of Science

Chairman of the Botany and Microbiology Section for the 1959 Annual Meeting

Managing Editor, TRANSACTIONS OF THE KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, and member of the Council, 1959-1965

Committee on State Aid, 1964-1965

Council Member, 1973-1974

Local Arrangements Chairman for the Annual Meeting at KU, 1973

Subcommittee to revise the Constitution and By-Laws, 1974-1975

Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Endowments, 1976-1977

Editorial Consultant, TRANS. KANSAS ACAD. SCI., 1977-date

OFFICES HELD IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

First International Mycological Congress, Exeter, England, 1971: Representative of the Mycological Society of America

Second International Symposium on the Fungus Spore, Provo, Utah, 1974: Chairman of one session

Second International Mycological Congress, Tampa, Florida, 1977: Member of the Program Committee, responsible for obtaining organizers of three symposia:
"Activities of Marine Fungi" (6 speakers)
"Recent Advances with Entomopathogenic Fungi" (6 speakers)
"Fungus-Arthropod Mutualism and Commensalism" (7 speakers)

INVITED LECTURES, SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIAS (OFF CAMPUS)

1958 Duke Marine Laboratory, Beaufort, NC

1959 American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Chicago: symposium speaker
1959  Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia
1960  Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina: speaker at the general University assembly, and two talks to groups of students
1961  University of Missouri, Columbia
1961  Jackson Hole Biological Station, Wyoming
1962  Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Colorado
1963  Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla
1964  Mycological Society of Japan, Tokyo
1969  University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
1969  U.S.D.A., Beltsville
1969  Tulane University, New Orleans
1970  Jackson Hole Biological Station, Wyoming
1970  Brigham Young University, Provo
1970  University of Washington, Seattle
1971  Abisko Research Laboratory, Abisko, Sweden
1972  University of Minnesota Biological Station, Lake Itasca
1973  International Symposium on Taxonomy of Fungi, Madras, India (did not attend, but presented symposium paper)
1974  Ohio State University, Columbus
1974  Ohio University, Athens
1974-1977  Ten lectures to colleges and junior colleges on "Edible, poisonous and hallucinogenic mushrooms" as part of the Division of Biological Sciences Speakers Program
1977  University of Montana Biological Station
1978  Mycological Society of America, Athens, Georgia (symposium speaker and workshop presentation)
1981  Mycological Society of America, Bloomington, Indiana (symposium speaker)
1981  University of Florida, Gainesville
1982  University of Montana Biological Station
1983    Mt. Albert Research Centre, D.S.I.R., Auckland, New Zealand
1984    Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Wilford
1986, 1987    Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas
1986    La Selva (OTS), Costa Rica
1987    La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria, Australia
1987    Kansas State University, Manhattan
1987    University of Wyoming, Laramie

PAPERS PRESENTED AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS AND CONGRESSES

Mycological Society of America -    Corvallis, 1962
                                    Amherst, 1963
                                    Urbana, 1965 (two papers)
                                    Minneapolis, 1972 (Presidential Address)
                                    Amherst, 1973
                                    Stillwater, 1979
                                    Bloomington, 1981
                                    College Park, 1982
                                    Amherst, 1986
                                    Davis, 1988 (two papers)

Kansas Academy of Science -    Lindsborg, 1969
                                Lawrence, 1978 (two papers)

XI International Botanical Congress, Seattle, 1969
First International Mycological Congress, Exeter, England, 1971
First International Congress on Histoplasmosis, Atlanta, 1978
North American Benthological Society, Lawrence, 1986

CONSULTING

Served from 1973-1976 as a Consultant on the Advisory Panel for the
Systematic Biology Program, Division of Environmental Biology, National
Science Foundation.

MidAmerica Poison Control Center at the KU Medical Center, and various State
and local hospitals and physicians on mushroom poisonings and
identification of mycotic fungi.

Consultant to KU staff and State citizens on fungus identifications, mold problems
and plant pathology.

OFF-CAMPUS RESEARCH AND FIELD WORK

Barro Colorado Island, Panama (1954)
Brazil (Amazon region and other areas of the country) (1955)
Duke Marine Laboratory (1958, 1959)
Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (1962, 1985)
Scripps Institution of Oceanography (1963)
Hopkins Marine Laboratory (1963)
University of Hawaii, Honolulu (1964, 1966)
National Science Museum, Tokyo (1964, 1966)
University of Montpellier, France (1968, 1971, 1980)
Abisko Research Laboratory, Sweden (1971)
University of Geneva, Switzerland (1971, 1980)
University of Montana Biological Laboratory (1977, 1979, 1982)
Freshwater Biological Association Laboratory, England (1980)
University of Wales, Aberystwyth (1980)
Mt. Albert Research Centre, D.S.I.R., Auckland, New Zealand (1983)
Army Malaria Research Unit, Ingleburn, N.S.W., Australia (1983)
Joint Tropical Trials and Research Establishment, Innisfail, Queensland, Australia (1983)
University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand (1987)
La Trobe University, Bundoora (Melbourne), Australia (1987)

REVIEW OF RESEARCH PAPERS, GRANT PROPOSALS, AND AWARD APPLICATIONS (OFF CAMPUS)

America Journal of Botany
Mycologia (research articles and book reviews)
Canadian Journal of Botany
Journal of Protozoology
Botanical Gazette
Experimental Mycology
Sabouraudia (England)
Syesis (Canada)
Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society
AIBS Education Review
Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science
Tulane Studies in Zoology and Botany
Vie et Milieu (France)
National Science Foundation (ad hoc review of research proposals submitted to Systematic Biology, General Ecology, Cell Biology, Division of International Programs, Biological Research and Resources, Population Biology and Physiological Ecology
Duke Marine Laboratory (on panel to select NSF Predoctoral Awards, 1959)
Research Corporation (research proposals)
BSCS textbooks (reviewed all three versions)
Agricultural Research Service, U.S.D.A.
Science
Environmental Entomology
National Geographic Society

ADMINISTRATION

Chairman, Department of Botany, and member of the Biological Sciences Administrative Committee, 1971-1974, 1981-1984
Assistant Chairman, Department of Botany, 1974-1975 and 1980-1981
Acting Chairman, Department of Botany, Spring of 1961

CURRENT RESEARCH SUPPORT

National Science Foundation grant "Systematics and evolution of the Trichomycetes," $82,000, 2/1/86 to 1/31/89.
Curriculum Vitae
Robert W. Lichtwardt
Professor Emeritus of Botany, University of Kansas

Degrees:  A.B. in Botany, Oberlin College, 1949
          M.S. in Botany (Mycology), University of Illinois, 1951
          Ph.D. in Botany (Mycology), University of Illinois, 1954

Birth:    Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 27, 1924
          (U.S. Citizen: born of American parents)

Positions: National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, 1954-55
           Iowa State University - Research Associate, 1955-57
           University of Kansas - Assistant Professor, 1957-60
           Associate Professor, 1960-65
           Professor, 1965 to date
           Chairman, Dept. of Botany, 1971-74, 1981-84
           Professor Emeritus, beginning January 1995
           National Science Foundation Senior Postdoctoral Fellow, 1963-64

Professional Societies:
           Mycological Society of America (Honorary Life Member)
           (President of the Society, 1971-72; Editor-in-Chief of MYCOLOGIA, 1965-70;
           Councilor, 1963-65)
           Botanical Society of America (Chairman, Microbiological Section, 1975-76)
           British Mycological Society
           Medical Mycological Society of the Americas
           Japan Mycological Society (Honorary Member)
           North American Benthological Society
           American Institute of Biological Sciences
           American Association for the Advancement of Science
           Federation of American Scientists
           Union of Concerned Scientists
           Society of Sigma Xi
           American Association of University Professors
           Kansas Academy of Science (Managing Editor, TRANS. KANSAS ACAD. SCI.,
           1958-65; Council Member, 1973-74)
           North American Mycological Association

Research interests:
           Mycology. Fungi that parasitize or are symbiotically associated with insects, with
           emphasis on the physiology, nutrition, ecology, morphogenesis, ultrastructure,
           biogeography and evolution of the Trichomycetes, a class of fungi that live obligately
           within the guts of arthropods.
RECENT PUBLICATIONS


HONORS AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1954-1955 (Research in Panama and Brazil)

Elizabeth M. Watkins Faculty Scholarship, summer of 1958

National Science Foundation Senior Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1963-1964 (Research in Japan and Hawaii)

Honorary Life Membership, Mycological Society of America, beginning 1973

Sabbatical leaves: 1963-1964; Fall 1970; Fall 1977; Fall 1984; Fall 1991

Faculty Development Fund award, University of Kansas, 1976

William H. Weston Award for Teaching Excellence in Mycology, Mycological Society of America, 1982

Distinguished Mycologist Award for 1991, Mycological Society of America

Honorary Member, Mycological Society of Japan, beginning 1995

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICES IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Mycological Society of America

Council Member, 1963-1965
Editor-in-Chief of MYCOLOGIA, 1965-1970
President-Elect, 1971-1972
President, 1972-1973
Past President (served on Council), 1973-1975

Representative of the Society to the First International Mycological Congress in Exeter, England, 1971

Member of Ad Hoc Committee to Evaluate the Organization, Functions, and Publications of the Society, 1975-1977

Member of Ad Hoc Committee on Preliminary Arrangements for the Third International Mycological Congress in Tokyo, 1983

Member of Committee on Teaching, 1982-86; Chairman, 1985-86.

Member of Honorary Member Committee, 1992-date.

Member of Endowment Committee, 1992-date.

**Botanical Society of America**

Regional Correspondent (Kansas and Nebraska) for the Plant Science Bulletin, 1957-1960

Election Committee, 1966-1970, including chairmanship one year Dimon Memorial Committee to award travel grants to the XII International Botanical Congress in Leningrad, 1974-1975

Vice-Chairman, Microbiological Section, 1974-1975

Chairman, Microbiological Section, 1975-1976; responsible for organizing a symposium for the 1976 meeting at Tulane Univ. on "Viruses in microbial life-forms" with four speakers covering mycoviruses, actinophages, and algal and protozoan viruses

Past Chairman, Microbiological Section (serving on Council), 1976-1977

**Kansas Academy of Science**

Chairman of the Botany and Microbiology Section for the 1959 Annual Meeting

Managing Editor, TRANSACTIONS OF THE KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, and member of the Council, 1959-1965

Committee on State Aid, 1964-1965

Council Member, 1973-1974

Local Arrangements Chairman for the Annual Meeting at KU, 1973

Subcommittee to revise the Constitution and By-Laws, 1974-1975

Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Endowments, 1976-1977

Editorial Consultant, TRANS. KANSAS ACAD. SCI., 1977-date
Additional personal vitae

Married: Elizabeth Thomas, January 27, 1951.

Children: Ruth Elizabeth Lichtwardt, born April 10, 1959

Robert Thomas Lichtwardt, born February 4, 1962

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FAX 913-864-5321
January 25, 1995

Graduate students of Robert W. Lichtwardt and degrees earned at KU

Dr. James A. Hutchison - Ph.D. 1963; M.A. 1960
Department of Biological Sciences
Arkansas State University
P.O. Box 509
State University, AR 72467-0599

Dr. Alice Whei-chu Hu (Dr. Alice W. Chen) - M.A. 1961
8 Tartarian Circle
Rochester, NY 14612

Dr. C. Rajagopalan - Ph.D. 1963
24 Sheldon St.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Mr. Charles K. Sylber - M.A. 1963
(Current address not known)

Dr. Ollie C. Williamson - Ph.D. 1965
Department of Biology
Tuskegee Institute
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088

Dr. David F. Farr - M.A. 1965
SBML, Rm. 304, Bldg. 011A
BARC-West
Beltsville, MD 20705-2350

Mary E. Chapman (Mrs. Mary Chapman Segal) - M.A. 1966
Rt. 1, Box 121
Clinton, OK 73601

Vijay K. Sangar, M.D., Ph.D. - Ph.D. 1969
Deaconess Hospital
6105 Oakland Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63139
Dr. Marvin C. Williams - Ph.D. 1971
Department of Biology
University of Nebraska at Kearney
Kearney, NE 68849

Dr. Sheila Ranade Fadra - Ph.D. 1971
380 Parry Rd.
Warminster, PA 18974

Dr. Thaddeus R. Preisner - Ph.D. 1973
Department of Biology
Pennsylvania State University
The Shenango Valley Campus
147 Shenango Ave.
Sharon, PA 16146

Dr. M. A. El-Mesillati - M.A. 1974
(Current address not known)

Dr. A.M. El-Buni - Ph.D. 1975; M.A. 1972
Department of Botany
Al-Faateh University
P.O. Box 13228
Tripoli, Libya

Anne M. Starr (Mrs. Anne Hall) - M.A. 1976
8445 N. Illinois
Indianapolis, IN 46260

Dr. Douglas S. King - Ph.D. 1974
P.O. Box 512
Flippin, AR 72634

Dr. Pramod K. Gaur - Ph.D. 1979
Diagnostics Division
Miles, Inc.
P.O. Box 70
Elkhart, IN 46515

Si-nan Dang (Mrs. Sinan Mayfield) - M.A. 1979
(Current address not known)
Dr. Stephen W. Peterson - Ph.D. 1984; M.A. 1982
1815 N. University
USDA-ARS-NRRL
Peoria, IL 61604

Dr. Bruce W. Horn - Ph.D. 1989; M.A. 1980
USDA, ARS
National Peanut Research Laboratory
1011 Forrester Drive, S. E.
Dawson, GA 31742

Dr. Martin J. Huss - Ph.D. 1992; M.A. 1988
Department of Biological Sciences
P.O. Box 599
Arkansas State University
State University, AR 72467-0599

Dr. Roger D. Grigg - Ph.D. 1994
Department of Botany
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045-2106