

Stanley Hughes - Alumni Profile



Stanley Hughes was born in Llanelli in 1918 and received his early education at the County (Grammar) School. He graduated with a 1st class Honours BSc. at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth in 1941. For four years, first at Aberystwyth, then at Cardiff, he was engaged with plant diseases (National Agricultural Advisory Service). Stan was awarded his MSc. for his study on a tomato disease in 1943. In 1945 he was at the Commonwealth Mycological Institute at Kew where he encountered microfungi from all over the commonwealth. Stan received his DSc. from the University of Wales in 1954.

In 1952 Stan accepted a post at the mycology laboratory at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, with Canada Agriculture where he remained until official retirement in 1985. He continues his investigations at this Institute as an Honorary Research Associate.

During his career, Stan visited several exotic places to collect and study microfungi. In 1949 he spent three months in Ghana as a visiting scientist and, in 1955, he visited many European national and university fungus collections to trace important specimens gathered by early mycologists. A Senior Research Fellowship from New Zealand in 1963 enabled him to spend a year in that country. In 1974 he spent three months at the Mycological Institute of the University of Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil. The result of most of Stan's investigations and revisions are presented in over 130 publications.

Stan received the Jakob Eriksson Gold Medal of the Swedish Academy of Science in 1969 and the George Lawson medal of the Canadian Botanical Association in 1981. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1974, received the Distinguished Mycologist Award in 1985, and was President of the Mycological Society of America in 1975. He was elected a Foreign Member of the Linnean Society of London in 1986, Foreign Vice President and honorary member of the British Mycological Society in 1987, and a Vice President of the International Mycological Association in 1976.

Stan currently lives in Ottawa with his wife of over 50 years, Lyndell. They have three children and four grandchildren who keep him active and entertained on a daily basis.

Commenting on why he chose to study at Aber, Stan said, "In the late 1930s it seemed to be a tradition for students of the Llanelli County School to proceed to Aber. Several of the teaching staff were Aber graduates (for example, Mr Brinley Jones who taught Biology), and that influenced me greatly. Incidentally, Professor T Campbell James (Chemistry, and later Vice Principal) was also a product of Llanelli County School and one of the earliest of its pupils.

In retrospect, Aberystwyth offered a truly healthy environment for the resident and student body. All this in addition to the academic aspects which benefitted me greatly."