

Gayle L. Worf

In 1984, James S. Vaughan and his wife Kay established an Endowment Fund with the University of Wisconsin Foundation for a Vaughan-Bascom Professorship in Plant Pathology in memory of R. E. Vaughan. James Vaughan's father, R. E. Vaughan, received his graduate training in the newly formed Department of Plant Pathology, at the University of Wisconsin. His graduate student stipend was from the Wisconsin Canners' Association. In 1914, he joined the faculty as Wisconsin's and possibly the nation's first extension plant pathologist. After Vaughan's retirement in 1949, Earl K. Wade became the next extension plant pathologist. The addition of a second extension plant pathologist occurred in 1963 when Gayle L. Worf joined the faculty.

The Board of Regents approved the appointment of Dr. Worf to Vaughan-Bascom Professorship in June 1984. In addition to the title, this professorship provides about \$5,000/year for Dr. Worf to use to enhance his research and extension program.

Gayle L. Worf was raised on a farm near Garden City, Kansas and received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Kansas State University in Agronomy and Plant Pathology, respectively. From 1955-1958, he served as County Agent in Ness County, Arkansas before returning to graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin. He completed his Ph.D. degree requirements in 1961 in Plant Pathology and accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at Iowa State University. In 1963, he returned to the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin as Assistant Professor where he had extension responsibilities for all

GAYLE L. WORF: VAUGHAN-BASCOM PROFESSOR OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

field and forage crops and certain ornamental crops. In time, assistance was provided to relieve him of direct responsibility for forage and field crops, and eventually his area of emphasis shifted entirely to turf, ornamentals and urban forestry. With current downsizing operations at the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Worf is again being asked to assume extension responsibilities for field and forage crops.

Professor Worf has provided ex-



R. E. Vaughan, namesake of the Vaughan-Bascom Professorship.

ceptional leadership to the turf and urban forestry industry of the State. His research on turf diseases has lead to controls for snow mold and identification of the causal agent of necrotic ring spot as **Leptosphaeria korrae** rather than **Fusarium** as originally thought. In all of his activities, he has been sensitive to the needs of growers and will continue his commitment to the turf industry of the State.

