

Anthony G. San Pietro

Anthony San Pietro came to Indiana University in 1968 from a research institute. He made the transition with complete success. San Pietro was brought here to chair the Department of Plant Sciences; he directed its activities and development until it became part of the newly formed Department of Biology in 1977. As a chemist and biochemist who nevertheless appreciated the contributions of taxonomists and evolutionists, he played an important role in moving what was a relatively classical department in the direction of modern plant biology.

In addition to serving as department chairman, he established and maintained an active laboratory for investigating the mechanisms of the light-dependent reactions of photosynthesis. In the course of his career he has published over 160 papers, which deal with the mechanism of hydrogen-transfer reactions, photosynthetic electron transport and photophosphorylation, the chemistry of pyridine nucleotide coenzymes, biological solar energy conversion, and the use of biosaline environment and resources for chemical and fuel production. Clearly, his expertise and interests are multifaceted. His

outstanding research achievements have attracted postdoctoral fellows and visiting scientists from all over the world. Graduate students and postdocs from his lab have developed productive, visible careers as faculty members at such places as Duke, the University of Michigan, and the University of Tokyo.

Besides his excellent nurturing of graduate students, San Pietro will be remembered for his successful teaching of the undergraduate cell biology course in the Department of Biology. Different faculty members have brought distinctively different approaches to the teaching of that course. San Pietro's emphasis was decidedly biochemical, and there was probably no better biochemistry course anywhere for very bright students. San Pietro's approach was methodical and precise; he expected that his students would both learn the material well and be able to use it analytically. Students who completed his course successfully were often convinced that it was one of the best they had ever had.

In 1980 San Pietro was appointed science adviser to the Office of the President of IU. From that vantage point he was able to put his connections with Washington and with East Asia to good use, coordinating national efforts to bring Indiana and East Asian scientists together for fruitful meetings

and research collaboration. As science adviser, he provided important insights and expertise to the president regarding the strengths and needs of the scientific enterprise within the IU system.

Throughout his career, San Pietro has tirelessly promoted many avenues of scholarly communication. His editorship of the photosynthetic volumes of *Methods in Enzymology*, his part in organizing several meetings here and abroad, and his advisory role with international programs of the National Science Foundation will long be remembered by his fellow scientists. They have placed the name of Indiana University prominently on the international map.

In 1975 Indiana University honored San Pietro by appointing him distinguished professor of plant biochemistry. San Pietro was recognized at the national level for his outstanding scientific achievements by being named a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1983.

Albert Ruesink
Robert Togasaki