From my viewpoint *Global Agronomic Opportunities* is truly an exciting theme for these meetings. And I wish to thank each and every one of you for an excellent program this week. The papers, posters, and panels sharing ideas on what constitutes *Global Agronomic Opportunities*, and what each of you individually are doing toward that theme, have been a major step forward. It was a first time event this year that we invited four overseas guests to the plenary session of ASA to hear what they believe are global opportunities. Collectively, they enriched our program and we are thankful for their generosity and commitment to come here.

Global opportunities are achieved by the world community of agronomists and agriculturists walking and running on a two-way street between and within our nations. Before we can exchange effectively between nations, or contribute from our national point of view, ASA must become a little better prepared. We have to do a better job within the USA, and incidentally, take advantage of 20% of our membership being from outside the USA.

One of my predecessors, Ed Runge, adopted the theme *Charting Our Future*, and encouraged us 2 yr ago to think ahead about the role of our Society and the practicing professionals in this country. He initiated the concept of a national registration of all agricultural professionals. A year later, Arden Baltensperger spearheaded the theme, *Agronomy and the Environment*, and initiated our National Issues Committee and led the development of an Advocacy Policy. Perception regarding agricultural production and the quality of our environment remain major areas of inquiry for all sectors of this country, and the world, regardless of age, education or occupation.

It is perhaps unfair to add still a larger challenge, *Global Agronomic Opportunities*, to ASA when we have not yet completed the two previous charges given to us by Ed and Arden. On the other hand, I don't believe we can really achieve their themes without thinking globally.

I wish to briefly emphasize four points toward which we can all participate.

First, I believe the entire infrastructure of agronomy and agriculture in the USA needs a shot in the arm—a revitalization, in organization, research, and outreach related to be enthusiastically perceived by all citizens. More explicitly, the concept of the Land Grant System—the Hatch Act, Smith–Lever Act, the Stennis Act, etc.—have to be revisited and overhauled for the beginning of the next millennium. Presently, we are all proud of the National Initiative for which so many of you, the Board on Agriculture and the USDA worked. I look at NRI as welcome dollars or a little more, much appreciated fuel to put into the agricultural research machine, or the automobile of the Land Grant College System. Some of the Land Grant autos are classics—equivalent to the Model A Ford, the Maxwell and the Pierce–Arrow. Some are in near pristine condition, smoothly and can certainly use the research dollars of the NRI. On the other hand, most of those autos, having served us well for a century, are worn out, and indeed, without any resale value to the public. We need to develop now, a Land Grant concept for the year 2000 and beyond. How we teach, how we conduct research, how we embrace the needs of the agronomic industry, and how we embrace the fundamental human needs of all persons to enjoy the habitat of the globe should be addressed.

Second, undergraduate and graduate education in...