Awards Presented in Agronomy, 2018

AWARDS

AUDREY C. GÉISE
ACS-NIFA Internship
Audrey Geise is a graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in Agroecology. As a Boren Scholar, she completed a research affiliation with the Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry Department at Banaras Hindu University. She has previously worked at the WVU Organic Farm, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and the West Virginia Water Research Institute. Currently, she is an intern at USDA-NIFA in the Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment. In the fall, she will complete a Fulbright-Nehru Research Fellowship studying agricultural soil pollution in India and she is interested in attending graduate school for soils and biogeochemistry.

CANDICE HIRSCH
Mentoring Award
Dr. Candice Hirsch is an Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota. She received her B.S. in Genetics and Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics from the University of Wisconsin and conducted post-doctoral research at Michigan State University. She is internationally recognized for her work in maize genomics including characterizing the maize pan genome. She has authored 43 peer-reviewed publications and given numerous invited talks at national and international meetings. She has served in many leadership capacities including the executive committee of the National Association of Plant Breeders, the Crop Science editorial board, and the Leadership Team of the Artemisia Leadership Initiative which aims to inspire and empower female scientists and strengthen our overall capacity to respond to future agricultural challenges. Candice has also been awarded the DuPont Young Professorship, the Early Career Maize Genetics Research Award, and the McKnight Land-Grant Professorship.

HAROLD D. WATTERS
International Certified Crop Advisor of the Year Award
Associate Professor and Field Specialist Harold Watters works directly with agronomic crop producers, crop advisors and extension educators, to provide relevant information in a timely manner with emphasis on web and media outlets. Recruited as a team coordinator in 2004 for the OSU Agronomic Crops Team, Watters has influence on Ohio agronomic crop production education as co-coordinator of this 80-member team. Watters’ work is in the areas of agronomic crop production practices, systematic data evaluation and field research done locally to confirm best practices.

Highlights of the job:
- Team leadership responsibility brings the welcome opportunity to serve as an informal mentor to new team members.
- International interests have allowed the participation in ten training visits to Ukraine to aid producers there on adoption of modern crop production methods.

IGNACIO A. CIAMPITTI
ASA Early Career Professional Award
Ignacio Ciampitti is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agronomy at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. His research program is focused on maximizing yield and closing yield gaps via implementing best management practices, employing review and synthesis analyses procedures, investigating interactions between crop production factors and using modeling and remote sensing approaches. Ignacio is a prolific speaker and author at international, national, state, and local levels, with numerous conference presentations, more than 50 refereed papers, 6 book chapters, and main Editor of the ASA Sorghum Book. From Extension, he provided more than 220 extension presentations reaching more than 20,000 program participants. Ignacio provides leadership for several organizations, serving ASA as a member and past-chair of the Extension-Education and Early Career Communities and CSSA as a member and chair of the C-3 division as well as an associate editor for the Crop Science Journal.

ZACK VALDEZ
Congressional Science Fellow
Zack has endorsed the non-traditional path in science, after earning his bachelor degrees in engineering and physics and then transitioning into geoscience research of biofuel sustainability and soil carbon cycling in which he utilized analytical chemistry and systems modeling. He acquired broad exposure to global STEM issues presenting atmospheric science research and discussing soil carbon sequestration at the international level. He continues to support STEM education and outreach for underrepresented groups to promote the development of future problem solvers. Inspired by trips to Capitol Hill, elevator speech contests, and graduate student leadership opportunities sponsored by the tri-societies, Zack Valdez chose to utilize his scientific expertise in the Congressional Science and Technology Policy Fellowship. His desire to understand the
Federal policy-making process and engage with policy makers on issues from academic and industry experiences led him to contribute his technical background as a staffer on the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee. His experience in Washington D.C. not only provided him with the strategy and messaging skills to be an effective leader for science, but also developed a network for elucidating future issues across the spectrum of science.

**PHILIP A. MOORE, JR.**

**Environmental Quality Research Award**

Philip Moore is a soil scientist at the USDA-Agriculture Research Service's Poultry Production and Product Safety Research Unit in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Dr. Moore received B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. He is an internationally recognized authority on developing best management practices to reduce phosphorus runoff and ammonia emissions from animal manure, such as treating poultry litter with aluminum sulfate; a technology used to grow over one billion chickens in the USA each year. Dr. Moore's team developed the original Arkansas Phosphorus Index and he later led the effort to revise the index. Philip has authored 13 patents, 10 book chapters, and 135 refereed journal articles. He developed technology listed in the top 20 Technologies licensed by USDA/ARS. Philip is a fellow in the Soil Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Arkansas.

**JORGE A. DELGADO**

**Carl Sprengel Agronomic Research Award**

Jorge A. Delgado is an Acting Research Leader at USDA-ARS and Fellow of ASA, CSSA, SSA and SWCS. Jorge earned his B.S. degree from the University of Puerto Rico, and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. He has been Chair of the Editorial Board of the SWCS and Research Editor of Journal of Soil and Water Conservation since 2001. He is a national and international leader in how to use best management practices such as nitrogen management and cover crops to increase crop nutrient uptake, yields, and crop quality. He has transferred information to thousands of people by hosting workshops and seminars at society meetings, universities, and other national and international settings, and by making his management tools available at a USDA webpage to improve crop management systems that have higher nitrogen use efficiencies and lower environmental impact. He is the leader and Chair of the USDA-ARS national database effort called the Nutrient Uptake and Outcome Network (NUOnet).

**KEVIN F. BRONSON**

**Werner L. Nelson Award for Diagnosis of Yield-Limiting Factors**

Kevin F. Bronson is a Supervisory Research Soil Scientist with USDA-ARS in Maricopa, AZ. Prior to that he was a professor of soil fertility at Texas A&M AgriLife Research for 12 years. He served for five years at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines. He earned his B.S. from the University of Maryland and his Ph.D. from Auburn University. Dr. Bronson’s research centers on N cycling and management, and proximal sensing-based N management in irrigated cropping systems. At IRRI, Dr. Bronson researched methane and nitrous oxide emissions from rice and nutrient management in rice-wheat systems of South Asia. He currently focuses on N management, recovery efficiency, and N2O emissions in cotton and biofuel crops. He has authored 87 peer-reviewed journal articles. Dr. Bronson served as a Senior Associate editor for the Agronomy Journal and as an associate editor for the Soil Science Society of America Journal.

**HAILIN ZHANG**

**Agronomic Education & Extension Award**

Hailin Zhang is a regents professor and Arthur L. Reed Endowed Chair in the Dept. of Plant and Soil Sciences at Oklahoma State University. He earned his B.S. degree from Nanjing Agricultural University, China; M.S. degree from Iowa State University, and Ph.D. degree from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Zhang has developed an outstanding extension and applied research program focusing on agricultural testing, nutrient management and environmental quality protection. He has been actively promoting soil testing as a best management practice for efficient fertilizer and animal waste uses, and developing decision support tools for the agricultural industry. Dr. Zhang has authored or co-authored over 150 refereed journal articles and books/book chapters, 100 conference abstracts, and over 120 extension publications. He has served as an AE for several journals, is serving as a Technical Editor for AEL, and has been active in ASA, SSSA, and other national and international committees.

**ANDREW W. KNEPP**

**Agronomic Industry Award**

Andy Knepp is the Director of Monsanto Company’s Global Sustainable Development team, focusing on Monsanto’s sustainability goals related to soil health, water quality, biodiversity, pollinator health, and Monsanto’s Carbon Neutral Commitment. Prior to his current role, Andy held positions in product development research and agronomic support. He has served as chair of the Illinois Certified Crop Adviser program and the International CCA board of directors, playing key roles in the development of the CCA 4R Nutrient Management Specialist and Sustainability Specialist certifications. Andy has represented CCA chapters and ASA at numerous Congressional Visits Days, serves on the editorial board of Crops and Soils magazine, and is a member of the ASA Science Policy Committee. Andy received a B.S. in Agronomy and an M.S. in Weed Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**MINGGANG XU**

**Kingenta Agricultural Science Award**

Minggang Xu is the director of South Subtropical Crops Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, and a soil science professor and leader of research team “Soil Evolution and Fertility Improvement”, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences where he has been teaching and mentoring students for 22 years. He is known internationally for
his long-term field studies across China to improve soil organic matter, nutrient management, soil acidification, and best practice development. Dr. Xu organized many international workshops and national meetings. He taught courses at two institutions and has mentored 70+ graduate students and postdocs. Dr. Xu has authored 245 peer-reviewed papers, 19 books, and 4 patents. He provides leadership for many committees and organizations such as vice president of Soil Science Society of China, Chair of National Farmland Quality Improvement and Management Committee, and director of the National Field Experimental Station Network.

YIWEI JIANG
Tengtou Agricultural Science Award

Yiwei Jiang is a professor in the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. He earned a B.S. degree from Inner Mongolia Agricultural University and an M.S. degree from Shenyang Agricultural University in China, and a Ph.D. degree from Kansas State University. He is internationally recognized as an authority on turfgrass physiology and genomics. He has authored or co-authored 52 peer-reviewed publications, 5 book chapters, 80 abstracts and has presented 50 invited lectures. He has developed research collaborations with 12 universities and institutions in China. He was named “Hundred Talents Scholars” by Ministry of Organization of Shanxi Province in 2013 and “Thousand Talents Scholars” by Tianjin City Government of China in 2014. He is serving as an associate editor for Crop Science and a guest editor for Frontiers in Plant Science. He is active in the Crop Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, and International Turfgrass Society.

CHARLES S. WORTMANN
International Agronomy Award

Charlie Wortmann is a professor of agronomy and soil fertility research and extension specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His career in international agronomy began as a BS degree holder with a 3-year Extension appointment in Tanzania in 1973. He lived and worked in Africa for >20 years before joining UNL in 2001. His research and Extension work in Nebraska has addressed various aspects of high yield sustainable and profitable agricultural intensification in the US coupled with environmental protection. Human capacity enhancement for research and Extension has been an important area of achievement in Africa, mostly through collaborative works to enhance farm-level innovation. He has international renown for his achievements in fertilizer use optimization. He has authored 127 peer-reviewed journal articles and another 249 peer-reviewed books, book chapters, computerized decision tools, AV lessons, and Extension publications. He is an ASA Fellow and member of ASA and SSSA.

DAVID B. MENGEL
ASA Distinguished Service Award

Dave Mengel was raised in NW Indiana. An active member of 4-H and FFA, he received a BS in Ag Ed. and MS in Agronomy from Purdue, and a PhD in Soil Science from N.C. State. He is recently retired after a 40+ year career in extension, applied research, teaching and administration, at LSU (1975-1979), Purdue (1979-1998) and Kansas State (1998-2016), where he directed the thesis/dissertation research of over 40 grad students and taught hundreds of students. His research covered a broad range of topics in soil fertility and crop production, with a focus on efficient fertilizer use, for grain and forage crops. Dave is an active member of the ASA and SSSA and a CPSS, CPAg and a CCA. He also has served his societies in many ways, serving on committees, as div. Chair, on the board of ASA and SSSA, and as ASA President. Dave currently lives in NE Kansas where he is farming, doing a little consulting, spoiling his grand kids, and hopefully find a little time to go hunting and fishing.

JOHN RYAN
ASA Presidential Award

John Ryan, now a consultant in his native Ireland, is recognized internationally as a soil fertility scientist and a dryland agronomist. He has published extensively in the areas of fertilizers and crop nutrients, especially nitrogen, phosphorus, and micro-nutrients, as well as cropping systems and rotations, and agricultural education. He was also a leader in soil analysis, laboratory management and quality control. In addition to research, he has had roles as educator, editor, and academic leader. He has been active in ASA, serving as Chair of International Agronomy, and with the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS), serving two 4-year terms as Commission Chair (Soil Fertility & Plant Nutrition). He has numerous accolades for his professional achievements, including Fellow of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, and International Society Awards in all three Societies, and Soil Science Distinguished Service Award. He is also a Fellow of SSA, Honorary Member of IUSS, and is recipient of the IFA Crop Nutrition Prize, The IPNI Science Award, the JB Jones Award for services to soil and plant analysis, and the University of Arizona’s Distinguished Citizen Award. He has been awarded the Justus Von Liebig Award at the 2018 World Soils Congress in Rio de Janeiro.

B.A. STEWART
ASA Presidential Award

B.A. Stewart was a USDA Agricultural Research Service soil and water scientist and laboratory director at Stillwater, OK; Ft. Collins, CO; and Bushland, TX from 1953 to 1993. Following retirement, he was Director of Dryland Agriculture Institute at West Texas A&M University at Canyon until 2018. He is a former editor-in-chief and president of SSA. Stewart received numerous honors including Honorary Member of IUSS, SWCS Hugh Bennett Award, ASA and SSA Fellow, and USDA-ARS Science Hall of Fame. Stewart is internationally recognized. He co-authored the book Water and Cereals in Drylands, and established Advances in Soil Science and edited or co-edited 55 books. He co-edited ASA Agronomy No. 30, Irrigation of Agricultural Crops, and Soil Erosion and Crop Productivity. Stewart was a member of the National Research Council Committee on Long-Range Soil and Water Conservation that wrote the book Soil and Water Quality—An Agenda for Agriculture published by the National Academy of Sciences.
Christopher A. Seifert
Agronomy Journal Paper of the Year Award
Christopher Seifert is the VP of Data Science at Granular, the software business of Corteva. Prior to Granular, Chris worked at Google and has conducted satellite imagery analysis for projects in conjunction with collaborators ranging from the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center to the Qatari government. He was also the first ag-tech hire at The Climate Corporation where he helped pioneer the use of weather and soil information for index-based insurance as well as agricultural decision support at scale. Chris holds a BS and MS in Earth Systems as well as a doctorate in Earth System Science from Stanford University.

Michael J. Roberts
Agronomy Journal Paper of the Year Award
Michael Roberts is a Professor of Economics at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa who is currently on sabbatical at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. His research focuses on effects of agricultural policies, impacts of climate change on agriculture, commodity pricing, energy efficiency, and integration of renewable energy into power systems. He has served on editorial boards for several agricultural, environmental and resource economics journals, and is currently Co-Editor at the Journal of Association of Environmental and Resource Economics. He was formerly on the faculty at North Carolina State University and worked at USDA’s Economic Research Service. He has a BA, from UC San Diego in quantitative economics, an MS from Montana State in applied economics, and MA and PhD degrees in Statistics and Agricultural and Resource Economics from UC Berkeley.

David B. Lobell
Agronomy Journal Paper of the Year Award
David Lobell is a Professor at Stanford University in the Department of Earth System Science, and the Gloria and Richard Kushel Director of the Center on Food Security and the Environment. He is also the William Wrigley Senior Fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, and a senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI) and the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy and Research (SIEPR). His research focuses on agriculture and food security, specifically on generating economic analysis and plant pathology. Her research focuses on plant evolution, image analysis and plant pathology. She will be pursuing a PhD after her graduation in 2019.

Juniper (Boroka) Kiss
Agronomic Travel Study Undergraduate Scholarship
Juniper Kiss is in the final year of her Plant Biology studies at Aberystwyth University (Wales, UK). With this scholarship, she is attending the Rice: Research to Production course at IRRI (Los Banos, Philippines). She was a Golden Opportunities Scholar (2016) and an ASPB Conviron Scholar (2017). Juniper is also an Adair Scholar at the University of Arkansas (2018) where she worked with rice blast fungus. She currently works for ASPE as a Social Media and Digital Communications Assistant. She has raised over $23,000 from grants since she started her undergraduate studies to study and work in Namibia, Nepal, Finland, UK, and America. She has worked at CABI (Egham, UK) and NIAB (Cambridge, UK). She became Team Leader of Field Trials Technicians at NIAB at the age of 21. She is the founder of GOES magazine, publishing student articles. Her research focuses on plant evolution, image analysis and plant pathology. She is also a member of the Wisconsin - Army National Guard and a Waste Management Specialist LTE for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. She aspires to use the knowledge she gains to address soil degradation and unsustainable waste resource issues throughout her career.

Lindsey Carlson
Agronomic Travel Study Undergraduate Scholarship
Lindsey Carlson is a senior undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin Stevens - Point studying Soil and Waste Resources. In June of 2018 she finished her undergraduate degree by studying abroad in Kenya where she earned a certificate in Permaculture Design. She received over 150 hours of classroom and field instruction where she learned to integrate environmental, social and cultural aspects of sustainability with hands-on, practical approaches to achieving individual and community sustainable resource management. She is also a member of the Wisconsin - Army National Guard and a Waste Management Specialist LTE for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. She aspires to use the knowledge she gains to address soil degradation and unsustainable waste resource issues throughout her career.

Keren Duerksen
J. Fielding Reed Scholarship
Keren Duerksen is a senior at Kansas State University, majoring in agronomy with an emphasis in crop production and consultation minor in international agriculture. In 2016, she served as the national corresponding secretary for Students of Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences (SASES) and in 2017, was recognized as a Golden Opportunity Scholar. At K-State, Keren has held several offices in the Wheat State Agronomy Club and enjoys competing on the crops, soils, and weeds judging teams. She has been involved in multiple research projects during her time at K-State dealing with root health, herbicide efficacy, and hybrid selection. Upon graduation in December 2018, Keren plans to attend graduate school with an emphasis in international agricultural development. After graduate school, Keren hopes to use her education internationally to help growers around the world produce higher yields, using innovative, and sustainable practices.
OSLER ORTEZ  
Nelson Yield-Limiting Factors Graduate Student Scholarship

Osler was born and raised in Nicaragua. He went to Zamorano University, Honduras and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 2014. While at Zamorano he was selected for a Soil Fertility Internship at Kansas State University. He joined the Crops Production Team as a Research Assistant at Kansas State University in 2015, and in 2016 he started a Master’s degree studying nitrogen limitation in soybean production with experiments in the United States and Argentina. After completing his Masters, Osler started his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for investigating factors responsible of ear formation issues and yield losses in corn. Osler has been an active member of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America for over three years. During his time at K-State, he authored two paper submissions to scientific journals and several other extension materials reaching national and international audiences.

CHATHURIKA WIJEWARDANA  
Nelson Yield-Limiting Factors Graduate Student Scholarship

Chathurika Wijewardana is a research assistant and a Ph.D. Candidate at Mississippi State University, where she also earned her M.S. in 2015. A native from Sri Lanka, Chathu graduated with first class honors from University of Kelaniya. Chathu’s research interests include studying the effects of drought on soybean growth, post-harvest seed physiology, and quality. She has authored or co-authored 14 refereed publications including a study on cold tolerant corn hybrids that was published in Crop Science and featured in CSA News Magazine. She has over 45 abstracts presented at many national and regional conferences and placed several awards. She received 2017 Gerald O. Mott Award for Meritorious Graduate Students in Crop Science from the Crop Science Society of America. Chathu provides leadership to Mississippi State at the department and college level, and to several organizations, including as a member of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA.

JINGBO ZHEN  
Nelson Yield-Limiting Factors Graduate Student Scholarship

Jingbo Zhen is a Chinese Ph.D. student under the supervision of Prof. Naftali Lazarovitch at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel. Jingbo received a B.E. from Northwest A&F University in China and a M.Sc. from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel. After the completion of his second degree, he conducted a five-month research as a visiting student at the University of Naples Federico II in Italy, in the framework of the Erasmus Plus programme. Jingbo is studying feedbacks between water and carbon balances in date palms under different irrigation and fruit load regimes based on field measurement and numerical modelling. By the end of May 2018, he had published one peer-reviewed paper and submitted the second manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal.

AUDREY C. GEISE  
Frank D. Keim Graduate Fellowship

Audrey Geise is a graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in Agroecology. As a Boren Scholar, she completed a research affiliation with the Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry Department at Banaras Hindu University. She has previously worked at the WVU Organic Farm, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and the West Virginia Water Research Institute. Currently, she is an intern at USDA-NIFA in the Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment. In the fall, she will complete a Fulbright-Nehru Research Fellowship studying agricultural soil pollution in India and she is interested in attending graduate school for soils and biogeochemistry.

GRACE K. OGDEN  
Frank D. Keim Graduate Fellowship

Grace Ogden is a Muskogee, Oklahoma native. She completed her bachelor's degree at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Grace was an undergraduate research scholar with a project in weed science. In her two years in undergrad research, she presented and placed with research posters at university, state, regional, and national contests. She is continuing her career in weed science as a master's student at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Grace served as the 2017 SASES Corresponding Secretary and the OSU Agronomy Club President. She aspires to earn her Ph. D. and continue her career in research and teaching. Her thirty-year plan is to own and operate a private research facility for agronomic crops and soils.

KELLY AVES  
GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS

Kelly Aves is a senior at the University of Illinois majoring in Crop Sciences with a focus in agroecology and a minor in Integrative Biology. She is an active team member in Dr. Wander’s lab, investigating aspects of soil quality relating to organic production practices. She is also an engaged member in the Crop Sciences’ club, Field and Furrow, and serves as a student ambassador on behalf of the college during outreach events to alumni and prospective students. Her potential graduate study interests include sustainable cropping systems, plant-insect interactions, plant physiological responses to changing climate, and how plants play a role in global climate change.

ERIC BUTOTO  
GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS

Eric Butoto is a senior at Iowa State University majoring in Agronomy with a focus on Plant Breeding/ Biotechnology. During his time at Iowa State, he has interned at Dow AgroSciences and Beck’s Hybrid as a corn research intern. Where he was responsible for a crossing block, being a leader of a crew, and analyzing data to create a quantitative trait loci (QTL) map. He is currently an undergraduate research assistant for the sorghum breeding program at ISU. He has been involved in the Agronomy club as a member and an officer in the International Agriculture Club. Upon graduation, he hopes to pursue a graduate degree in Plant Breeding/Genetics.
CONNOR J. CATTAFE

Connor Cattafe is an undergraduate researcher and student at the Federated Department of Biological Sciences at Rutgers University and the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, NJ. Mr. Cattafe will be receiving a B.S. in Biology with a concentration in plant science in May and plans to pursue a Ph.D in molecular plant biology next fall. He has been named a 2017 and 2018 NJIT Provost Research Fellow which has enabled him to present his research at numerous international conferences. Connor currently studies the regulation and expression of genes that enable herbaceous and woody species to hyperaccumulate and sequester heavy metals from soils. Using modern breeding methods he has developed a transgenic species of Poplar that successfully remediates cadmium and lead from contaminated soils. In addition to his research, Connor has mentored numerous high school students looking to go into the plant sciences and has worked as a research technician at PepsiCo's Global R&D Center.

MICHAELA CUNNINGHAM

Michaela Cunningham is a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy. As an active student on campus, Michaela is an officer of the UNL Agronomy Club as well as the UNL Range Management Club. She was named to the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Dean’s list both semesters of the 2017/2018 school year. Growing up on her family’s farm in east-central Nebraska has given Michaela a strong passion for agriculture. Michaela is carrying on the farming tradition being the fifth generation in her family to choose production agriculture as a career. She is currently in the process of implementing native perennial grass seed production to her family’s preexisting corn, soybean, and cattle farming operation. Starting small, Michaela planted eighteen acres of Bonanza Big Bluestem in the spring of 2018. She hopes to continue to grow her native perennial seed operation as she gains more experience.

SARAH E. DODD

Sarah Dodd is a senior at the University of Tennessee-Martin studying plant and soil science with a focus in crop and soil management. She interned last year at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center and assisted in cotton research under Dr. Tyson Raper. This year, she is conducting soybean research under Dr. Barbara Darroch at UT Martin. Sarah provides leadership in several organizations; she is President of her sorority, Sigma Alpha, Vice-President of the UTM Agronomy Club, and a campus leader for the UTM agriculture department. She is also an active member of the UTM weeds and crop judging teams. Upon graduation from UT Martin, Sarah plans to work towards a Master’s degree in agronomy with a focus in cotton production. She hopes to work with cotton producers in the future and become a young leader in the cotton industry.

RODGER B. FARR

Rodger Farr is an Agronomy student specializing in Integrated Crop Management at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Rodger came to Lincoln from a small farm in Southwest Nebraska growing corn, soybeans and wheat. While at UNL, Rodger has been heavily involved in the Department of Agronomy, participating on the University’s Crops, Weeds, and Soil Judging teams as well as serving as the UNL Agronomy Club’s Vice President. Rodger also serves as a TA within the department and has had internships working with the University’s Pesticide Application Technology Lab, Monsanto’s Water Utilization Learning Center, and for Syngenta Crop Protection. He also has research dealing with antagonisms and synergisms between commonly used herbicides. Rodger has aspirations to go onto graduate school after graduating from UNL, pursuing a degree in weed science.

KATELYN FRITZ

Katelyn Fritz is a student at Iowa State University double majoring in Agronomy and Global Resource Systems with focus areas in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology as well as Central America. Katelyn provides leadership to several organizations serving as the SASES president, as well as previous positions in both ISU’s Agronomy and International Agriculture (IAAS) clubs and as a peer mentor in her majors. Katelyn is currently a lab assistant in the Plant Pathology and Microbiology Department at ISU, helping with a project on genetic diversity of fungus. May to December of 2017 she interned at an NGO, Semilla Nueva, in Guatemala City, Guatemala working with high zinc Quality Protein Maize. In 2015 she was an intern at the International Rice Research Institute in Los Baños, Philippines through the World Food Prize looking at biofortification of zinc in rice. After graduation she hopes to continue her work with biofortification in search of a cure to micronutrient deficiencies.

MICHAEL G. GEISSINGER

Michael Geissinger is a junior at Iowa State University majoring in agronomy and minoring in animal science. He is primarily interested in exploring ways that forages can become more efficient feeds, especially for dairy systems. He has worked closely with forages for the past two years. Michael interned at the UW-Madison Marshfield Agricultural Research Station and focused on forage conservation. He attributes this time to sparking his initial interest in forages. At WinField United, he worked as a HarvXtra forage management intern in collaboration with a USDA forage laboratory, Dairyland Laboratories, and now-retired Dr. Dan Undersander from UW-Madison on several projects. This past summer, he returned to WinField United to work as a seed district sales manager intern in Ohio. In addition to working with forages since high school, Michael also balances his time to serve as both the 2018 National SASES Officer for Member Relations and Vice President of the Iowa State Agronomy Club.

BROOKE GEORGE

Brooke George is currently completing an undergraduate degree in Agronomy, Crop, and Soil Science through Brigham Young University Idaho and has plans to pursue a graduate degree in Agronomy after her graduation in December of 2019. She has completed research in regard to neutralizing alkaline soils and has laid groundwork for the domestication of native Idaho wildflowers. This past summer she completed a research experience for undergraduates with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln analyzing fertilizer application timing with...
regard to its effect on pasture forage and grazing. She was raised on her family’s 600-head, 1,800-acre dairy farm between small communities in north-western Wyoming. Because of her background she is passionate about the sustainability of agriculture and is excited about a future career in research and extension.

KOLBY GRINT
Kolby Grint is an undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Kolby provides leadership and tries to make a positive impact on fellow students through the time he spends as the Secretary of the Agronomy Club, the Treasurer of the UNL Soil Judging Team, and as an undergraduate teaching assistant. Following graduation as an undergraduate Kolby plans on continuing his education by joining the Doctor of Plant Health program at UNL and/or getting his Master’s degree involving the study of crop production practices.

AUSTIN P. HOPKINS
Austin Hopkins is a senior studying Environmental Science at Brigham Young University Provo. He leads a research team studying ways to improve and create new water and nutrient management practices in urban and agricultural environments using soil and water sensors as well as remote sensors such as NDVI and IRT’s to determine stress indices and how to diagnose plant stress sooner; thereby preventing plant loss and mismanagement of resources. He is seeking also to earn a Master’s degree and a PhD in Soil Science Topics. Austin has presented his research at several national conferences. He has authored articles published in trade journals on turfgrass best management practices and water-nitrogen interactions in turfgrass. He is a member of the Soil Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, and Crop Science Society of America.

SIRE KASSAMA
Sire Kassama is an undergraduate student and researcher at the University of Central Florida located in Orlando, Florida. She currently participates in a research project at her home institution evaluating the basal root whorl trait in the common bean and developing a genetic marker for the trait. Additionally, Sire is a two-time NSF-GRFP scholar. One internship was completed at Cornell University determining the function of novel plastoglobuli proteins. Her second NSF-GRFP was spent at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln working on a wheat breeding project. Sire is also the Outreach Chair for her school’s chapter of the Botanical Society of America and participates in various organizations focused on outreach and professional development.

CAITLIN S. LAKEY
Caitlin Lakey is a student and undergraduate researcher at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Caitlin is finishing her B.S. in Soil and Crop Sciences with a minor in Plant Breeding and Genetic. She is a recognized university leader in the Agriculture and Life Sciences department. She has completed an undergraduate research project on Using NIRS to Evaluate Oleic Acid Content in Maize at Texas A&M. In addition, she was an Integrated Field Sciences Intern at Pioneer- DuPont where she researched using Canopeo to evaluate canopy cover differences in hybrids. These opportunities combined with her leadership

NICHOLE L. MILLER
Nichole Miller is a student at Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL. She is a senior Agriculture Science student with minors in Ag Economics, Agronomy, and Plant Breeding as well as a member of the Centennial Honors College. Nichole is actively involved in the department by serving in numerous leadership positions including president of WIU Agronomy Club, president of WIU Ag Council, and 1st Vice President of Sigma Alpha. Through her involvement in the Centennial Honors College, Nichole has conducted research on corn seed germination rates as affected by availability of water and seed orientation as well. Nichole’s summer internship as a research assistant to Dr. Mark Bernards at WIU has also allowed her to conduct research on planting into green rye with varying rates of nitrogen.

KATHLEEN D. NUNEZ
Kathleen Nunez, known as Kat, is a Master’s student at North Carolina in Plant Pathology. Kat completed her Bachelor’s degree at Cal Poly Pomona in Plant Science with a minor in Agronomy. She plans to work in crop improvement, specifically in rice. Kat is from San Francisco, California and became interested in Agriculture after taking a biotechnology class in high school. She was inspired to apply science to a process that many people around her were disconnected from. Kat has interned as a Soil Conservation Trainee for the USDA NRCS in Manitouw, Wisconsin. From there, she was a Kelman Scholar at NC State’s Department of Plant Pathology. She conducted a nine-week long experiment on Sting nematode management. Kat also conducted an experiment at Cal Poly Pomona relating to the rearing of Tamarixia radiata for the suppression of the Asian Citrus Psyllid and citrus greening disease.

JENNA RASMUSSON
Jenna Rasmussen is a student at Iowa State University pursuing a B.S. in Agronomy with a minor in Geology. Originally from Minnesota, her passion for the outdoors and environment have been the source of her interest in agronomy and geology. In her time at Iowa State so far, she has maintained strong interest in sustainable agriculture, plant and soil processes, and the relationships between people and the environment. Since her admittance to Iowa State, Jenna has been recognized as a Dean’s Leadership Scholar, gained leadership roles within Iowa State Agronomy Club and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and participated in various volunteer organizations.

SHANNON RAUTER
Shannon Rauter, originally from Morristown, New Jersey, is an undergraduate student at Iowa State University studying Agronomy and Global Resource Systems. Within her agronomy major, she has a concentration in plant breeding and within her global resource systems major, she has a focus on Latin America. She hopes to attend graduate school for
plant breeding and pursue a career internationally. So far, she has traveled to Uruguay, for a meeting of the International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences (IAAS), of which she was formally Vice President of Development for the USA committee, and to Uganda, where she participated in a soil science field course and completed an independent study to devise quick tests that would allow farmers to determine the quality of agricultural lime.

**BAILEY A. REYNOLDS**

Bailey Reynolds is in his first semester of the graduate program at Illinois State University in Normal, IL. Bailey received a B.S. from Illinois State University, majoring in agribusiness and agronomy management. Bailey plans to continue his education at Illinois State University, where he will pursue a M.S., researching agriculture economics and agronomy. He is also a member of the Illinois Delta Chapter of Alpha Zeta, an honorary society in agriculture at Illinois State University. In the summer of 2018, he worked as a crop scout intern for Evergreen FS Cooperative in central Illinois. Upon receiving his Master's degree in agronomy, Bailey hopes to enter the agriculture industry as a consultant, farm manager, or agriculture cooperative manager.

**CARSON ROBERTS**

Carson Roberts is studying agronomy at Brigham Young University-Idaho in Rexburg, ID. He plans to graduate with his bachelor's degree this December, and he plans to continue his education by attending graduate school in pursuit of a master's degree in agronomy. Carson currently teaches the archery class at BYU-I, and he considers archery, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and farm work to be a few of his hobbies. Along with school and work, he also owns and manages a flock of registered Ramboillette sheep. Carson enjoys the study of forage sciences. He found his passion in forages by working on his father's small beef operation in Weston, Idaho. He has also performed research on alfalfa and forage sorghum products in private industry. Carson hopes to use his past experience to help farmers with sustainability and profitability. Do this, is interested in pursuing a career in research or product development.

**GRETA B.G. ROCKSTAD**

Greta Rockstad is a senior majoring in plant science at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She is interested in plant breeding and is working as an undergraduate research assistant in a lab that is working to domesticate and improve pennycress as a commercial oil seed cover crop. She has been a member of her school's agronomy club as well as a member of the Students of Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences for 3 years and competes on her school's crops judging team. She's had the opportunity to intern for the USDA's sunflower breeding program as well as the opportunity to study phosphorus use efficiency in a legume species at the Noble Research Institute. Upon completing her degree this spring, she hopes to pursue her Masters in a program related to plant breeding and genetics.

**MATTHEW J. RUNYON**

Matthew Runyon is a senior at the University of Illinois in Urbana - Champaign majoring in Crop Sciences with a concentration in Plant Biotechnology and Molecular Biology. Coming from a 1,200-acre family farm in southeastern Illinois focused on corn, soybean, and swine production, Matthew's passion for agriculture was fostered from a young age. After developing research experience through projects in the National FFA Organization during high school, he knew that he wanted to pursue a career in crop research. Now as a student at the University of Illinois, he works as an undergraduate research assistant under the supervision of Dr. Anthony Studer, focusing on the improvement of corn genetics. He has also developed industry experience working as a plant breeding intern at AgReliant Genetics' Champaign Research Station, where he played an active role in the company's corn breeding program. Matthew plans to enter graduate school before pursuing a career as a plant breeder.

**SAVANNA SHELNUTT**

Savanna Shelnutt is a senior at Texas A&M University studying Plant and Environmental Soil Sciences. She has participated in several undergraduate research projects including a study on the use of soil microbes in Cuba, an evaluation of root characteristics in Great Plains wheat, and the use of CRISPR/cas9 in Palmer Amaranth. Savanna is the president of the Texas A&M Agronomy Society, where she coordinates the annual corn maze and other activities. She has had the unique opportunity this year to participate on a team establishing a SASES-like organization in Azerbaijan. Savanna was a USDA-NIFA Research and Extension Experience for Undergraduates Fellow at Colorado State University in the summer of 2018. She is passionate about soil microbiology and currently searching for graduate programs beginning summer of 2019.

**NICOLE SHIGLEY**

Nicole Shigley is a senior, and a double major in Soil Science and Horticulture at Texas A&M University. She is team captain of the Collegiate Soils Team and treasurer of Soil and Water Conservation Society. Nicole works as an undergraduate research assistant for the Hydropedology research program. Her work includes managing the laboratory component of field campaigns, which includes soil characterization, visNIR spectroscopy, and morphological descriptions. Nicole's undergraduate research project addresses soil health of different tillage practices based on microbial respiration. She has been a teaching assistant for the undergraduate class, Soil Morphology and Interpretations at Texas A&M University. Nicole is an active member SSA, ASA, and CSSA, and the Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas. Nicole's career goals include graduate school and a job that educates the public on soil and environmental issues.

**CAROLINA VAQUERANO**

Carolina Vaquerano is an undergraduate student at the University of California, Davis majoring in Plant Sciences. She is an Air Force veteran from Southern California. Carolina is passionate about agriculture and farming systems. Her goal is to create sustainable farming practices for farmers. Currently,
she is working at the Russell Ranch Sustainable Agriculture Facility near the UC Davis campus. She will be assisting the facility manager in the daily operations of managing various experiments.

**JACOB W. WRIGHT**

Jacob Wright is an agronomy major at Iowa State University specializing in soil and environmental sciences. He plans on graduating with a bachelor’s degree in the spring of 2020. His desire to learn about agriculture came from growing up on a dairy farm in Weyers Cave, Virginia. He is active at Iowa State in collegiate soil judging, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Council, and the Soil and Water Conservation Club. In addition, Jacob has consistently been a Teaching Assistant for the Intro to Soil Science course. Furthermore, he has gained experience by working for the USDA Agricultural Research Service and is currently in the Pathways Program with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, serving the summer of 2018 in Napa, California. Jacob is interested in pursuing advanced education and a career in soil science that challenges him. He desires to be a lifelong learner and wants to develop a passion for agriculture and the environment in others.

**GREENFIELD SCHOLARS**

**ADRIENNE BLAKEY**

Adrienne Blakey is a junior studying Plant and Soil Sciences and Agricultural Communications at Oklahoma State University. Upon graduating from Stillwater High School, Adrienne served as the Oklahoma FFA Association State Reporter during her freshman year at OSU. Adrienne has since served on her college’s student council and ambassador team. As a Freshman Research Scholar, Wentz Research Grant recipient, and Niblack Research Scholar, Adrienne has been involved in the wheat breeding research community under her mentor, Dr. Brett Carver. Her research focus is on determining if modern wheat constitutes a significant departure from heirloom varieties relative to the protein fraction present in wheat endosperm. Adrienne is serving the Student Government Association as the Sustainability Committee Chair and as the Executive Director of Avodah Gardens, a rising community garden in Stillwater. Adrienne hopes to combine her passions for science, education and food security in her future career.

**ANDREW E. CHUPP**

Andrew Chupp is a senior at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. He is studying Crop and Soil Management with a minor in food and agribusiness management. Andrew cites his experiences working on farms and FFA with the development of his passion for agriculture and specifically crop production. He has spent his collegiate summers interning in seed research with Beck’s Hybrids and a sales/agronomy role with Corteva Agriscience representing Pioneer. During these internship experiences, he has had the opportunity to complete two research projects on wheat characteristics and sulfur fertility in soybeans. Andrew has exhibited leadership for several organizations at Purdue including his time as vice president of the Purdue agronomy club. He has had the opportunity to attend and participate in several national and regional SASES meetings over the last three years giving him a great network of professional contacts.

**HANNAH COREY**

Hannah Corey is a senior at Iowa State University. She will graduate in December 2018 with a B.S. in Agronomy and a minor in Entrepreneurial Studies. Hannah grew up living and working on her family’s farm in Lake City, Iowa. During her time at Iowa State, she has been involved in the Soil and Water Conservation Club, Soil Judging Team and CALS Ambassadors. Her favorite thing she has done at Iowa State is serve as Editor-In-Chief for a publication called “Getting into Soil and Water”.

**KAYLIN FINK**

Kaylin Fink is a senior at Kansas State University where she is currently pursuing an Agronomy degree with a minor in Agriculture Business. She is actively involved several clubs, including the Wheat State Agronomy Club, where she has been an officer and the chair of numerous committees in her college career. She competes on several successful collegiate teams, including NACTA, the weeds team and the soils team and is now an assistant coach for the fall crops team. She received 3rd place at the Chicago competition last fall and competed in Australia in September. In addition to her competition and club work, Kaylin is also a teacher’s assistant for crop science and plant and seed identification classes at KSU and a research assistant in a USDA Wheat Genetics lab. She plans on continuing her education by attending graduate school at Kansas State to pursue her Master’s degree in weed science in the fall of 2019.

**TRENT A. FRYE**

Trent Frye is a senior at Kansas State University studying Agronomy with an option in Consulting & Production and a minor in Plant Pathology. Trent received an A.A.S. from Southeast Community College in Agronomy & Agribusiness and shortly thereafter transferred to KSU. He works with Dr. Anita Dille as an undergraduate research assistant studying weed science. He has competed on the fall crops team, the K-State Australian crops team, the Farm Bureau quiz bowl team, the NACTA crops team, and the Weed Science team. The experiences he has had on the competitive teams has greatly enhanced his knowledge of agronomic practices and applying them in a practical manner. Trent has interned for Norder Supply, Inc. and Wilbur-Ellis as an Agronomy Intern and crop scout. His goal after graduation includes working as a crop consultant somewhere in the Midwest region.
Jordanne Howe, daughter of Lance and Shirley Howe, grew up in Redfield, SD and is a senior at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD where she is majoring in Agronomy with minors in Precision Agriculture and Leadership. She has served in many leadership roles in within different organizations throughout college, but her most profound achievements come serving as an officer for the SDSU Agronomy and Conservation Club, where she is currently the President and being a member of the Alpha Zeta Honors Fraternity as well as the SDSU Soils Judging Team. Jordanne has interned with Monsanto for two years and Syngenta for a year as a Sales Intern. Following college, she would like to work in sales, but knows that having a background in crop consulting serves an integral part in helping her better serve the customers.

Sarah Zerger is a senior at Kansas State University studying agronomy with an option in consulting and production. Josh Krischel is a junior at Iowa State University studying Agronomy and Agricultural Business. He is a proud member of the ASA as well as a member of several on-campus organizations such as the agronomy club and crops judging team. In the agronomy club, Josh is honored to be recognized as the club’s president. He hopes this award is one step closer to his goal of becoming a Certified Crop Advisor and a successful member of the agriculture industry. Within the industry, he eventually hopes to get involved in some aspect of sales agronomy. Eventually, he hopes to work his way into a Regional Agronomist position. Josh would like to thank and recognize the people who have aided him in his academic endeavors: his mother Paula, father Joe, and one of his close agronomy mentors Dr. Erik Christian.

Ignacio has interned for the California Strawberry Commission, worked for Naturipe Berry Growers and Mendoza Berry Farms. At present, Ignacio is involved doing undergraduate research with Jorge Gonzalez Ph.D. The title of the project: Detection of nanoparticles on honeybees (Apis mellifera) (Hymenoptera: Apidae) and effects on their behavioral responses. They intend to discover the effect of nanoparticles on honeybees and finds ways to mitigate colony collapse disorder. Ignacio’s motivation for education is to discover, understand, and improve the world we live in. He genuinely cares about the future of agriculture and strives to transcendent into an integral leader in the agriculture industry. He’s an optimist and loves agriculture. “If we build a model and show the world what’s possible and if we change our thinking to help Mother Nature. To work with Mother Nature not completely destroy it. Mother Nature and future generations to come will be grateful that we did. It’s my life’s work.

Samantha Teten is a senior agronomy major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Samantha is the president of the UNL Agronomy Club. She has interned with DuPont Pioneer, Syngenta, and Helena Chemical Company over the summers. Samantha will be presenting her undergraduate research related to soil health at the National ASA Conference. She also competes on the Crops Judging Team, Soil Judging Team, and Weeds Contest Team. She has also gained experience through being a teacher’s assistant for Introduction to Plant Science Lab and Soil Resources, an Undergraduate Research Assistant, and an Ambassador for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Rose Vagedes is a junior attending Ohio State University studying Agronomy with a minor in Farm Production and Management. Current employment is working for Dr. Alex Lindsey in the OSU Horticulture and Crop Science Department as a student research assistant. Located in Northwest Ohio, Rose completed the OSU Agricultural Crop Research Experience internship in the summer of 2017. This past summer, she worked as an intern for Helena Agri-Enterprise in Shelbyville and Dillsboro, Indiana. She is actively involved with several organizations on campus such as CFAES Student Council, an Experience OSU for a Day Host, and Women’s Club Ultimate Frisbee. In Crops & Soils Club and Agricultural Education Society, she holds officer positions of treasurer and vice president, respectively. Over the years, Rose enjoys competing competitively on the OSU Weeds team and in crops judging at SASES.