Awards Presented in *Crop Science*, 2014

**Adam L. Mahan**

*Gerald O. Mott Scholarship for Meritorious Graduate Students in Crop Science*

Adam Mahan is a PhD candidate in plant breeding at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX where he received a M.S. in plant breeding. Adam received a B.S. in agronomy from Iowa State University, and plans to graduate with his PhD this December. Adam’s undergraduate experiences included 4 years as a student worker for the corn group at the USDA NCRPIS in Ames, IA, as well as 4 summer internships for three separate seed companies (Syngenta, Croplan Genetics, Monsanto). Adam’s M.S. thesis resulted in two Crop Science publications encompassing quality protein maize and high antioxidant maize. For his PhD dissertation Adam has developed a 1200 individual, four parent maize population with varying levels of inter-mating. His primary interest is analyzing recombination rate differences between sub-populations using genotyping by sequencing in hopes of finding QTL altering recombination rate and developing improved breeding methods.

**Joseph Roberts**

*Gerald O. Mott Scholarship for Meritorious Graduate Students in Crop Science*

Joseph Roberts is a Ph.D. candidate in the Dept. of Plant Pathology at NC State University in Raleigh, NC. Joseph received his B.S. and B.A. degrees from NC State University and a M.S. from Rutgers University in New Jersey. Currently, his Ph.D. dissertation research is focused on bacterial diseases in turfgrass systems. His projects include characterization of bacteria associated with etiolation and/or decline, determining the mechanism for etiolation, and evaluating the impact of plant growth regulators, biostimulants, and antimicrobials on etiolation development in the field. Additional research projects have included developing management tools for anthracnose and dollar spot. In addition to his dissertation research, Joseph has mentored multiple undergraduate students participating in research experiences, instructed undergraduate and graduate level courses, and participates regularly in community outreach events to illustrate the excitement of science to younger generations.

**Jennifer Burks**

*Congressional Science Fellowship*

Jen Burks was last year’s ACSESS-sponsored AAAS Congressional Science Fellow. Dr. Burks’s doctoral research at Purdue University of evaluating the ecological impacts of growing perennial grasses for biofuels married science with policy. She went on to utilize her scientific understanding to contribute to policy decisions by serving in Senator Hirono’s DC office (D-HI) for her fellowship and working on energy issues facing the State of Hawaii. Six months into her fellowship Burks was offered the opportunity to serve as a full-time member of Senator Hirono’s staff, of which she accepted. Burks currently serves as the Agricultural Legislative Assistance for Senator Hirono handling a broad portfolio of issues for the Senator including agriculture, water, natural resources, climate change, oceans, public lands, renewable energy, and endangered/invasive species.

**Helga Van Miegroet**

*Mentoring Award*

Helga Van Miegroet is Professor in Wildland Soils and Biogeochemistry in the Department of Wildland Resources and the Ecology Center at Utah State University in Logan, UT. Dr. Van Miegroet obtained her engineers degree in Forest and Water Resources from Ghent University in Belgium and received her MS and PhD in Forest Soils from the University of Washington in Seattle. She is internationally known for her research on nitrogen