Awards Presented in *Crop Science*, 2015

**Mentoring Award**
**Prasanna H. Gowda**

Prasanna Gowda is a research leader at the USDA-ARS’ Grazinglands Research Laboratory in El Reno, OK. Dr. Gowda received a B.S. degree from Bangalore University, M.S. degree from University of Mysore, and a Ph.D. from the Ohio State University. His contributions in the field of irrigation, groundwater management, hydrologic modeling and water quality have set new paradigms in research. His current research on improving understanding of land-surface hydrologic fluxes and their interactions with changing climate are crucial in managing surface and groundwater resources. Dr. Gowda’s illustrious reputation has won him invitations to teach and lecture in the leading institutions around the world. His research approaches have been well-documented in more than 90 refereed journal articles. In addition to his work for the USDA-ARS, Dr. Gowda is active in the ASA, CSSA, SSSA, ASCE-EWRI, AGU and ASABE. He holds adjunct faculty positions at Texas A&M University and Kansas State University.

**Congressional Science Fellowship**
**Cynthia Hsu**

Cynthia Hsu was the 2014–2015 ASA, CSSA, SSSA Congressional Science Fellow. As a Fellow she worked for the U.S. House of Representatives’ Committee on Science, Space, and Technology drafting legislation, organizing Committee hearings, and researching and writing background material for Congressional Members to prepare for hearings. Dr. Hsu received her B.S. from the University of California at Davis in Soil and Water Science with Highest Honors, and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Agricultural Entomology from Cornell University and the University of Minnesota – St. Paul, respectively. Dr. Hsu’s academic research focused on using spatial analysis methods to study insect dispersal, and she is currently Vice Leader of the Spatial Statistics Applications Community, within the American Society of Agronomy’s Biometry and Statistical Computing Section.

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

Stine Petersen is a Ph.D. student and graduate research assistant in the Small Grains Breeding Program at North Carolina State University, directed by Dr. Paul Murphy, in Raleigh, NC. She received her B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Stine took classes and worked at Purdue University, IN for two semesters during her M.Sc. She also completed a six-months internship in Maize Research and Product Development with Dupont-Pioneer in Janesville, WI. Currently, Stine’s Ph.D. dissertation research is focused on identifying resistance to fungal diseases of wheat. Her projects include identification, mapping, and validation of QTL conferring resistance to Fusarium head blight, identification and mapping of powdery mildew genes introgressed from a wild relative of wheat, and development of SNP marker assays for use in marker-assisted selection. Stine has authored and co-authored four peer-reviewed publications.

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

Charles J Schmid is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology at Rutgers University. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Charles research focuses on understanding the effect of cultural management practices on anthracnose disease of annual bluegrass turf. Specifically, he studies the effect of soil nutrition and soil pH on anthracnose severity. In addition to his work on