Agronomic Science Foundation
Living Your Legacy

As Director of Business Development for the Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF), I am blessed with the privilege of meeting some of the finest individuals the world has ever seen. These scientists include recipients of prestigious awards such as the Nobel Peace Prize or the George Washington Carver Distinguished Service Award. Others have committed themselves so diligently to their profession over the years that buildings have their names on them or a bronze statue of them out front. Some have even been credited with saving millions of lives through their research.

Since I began this endeavor, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with some of these individuals as members of the ASF Board of Trustees. They are humble, energetic, caring, and “wicked smart,” as they say in Boston. It has been a tremendous learning experience for me, and I am privileged to tell their story.

Their careers and accomplishments echo the words of Pope John Paul II when he declared St. Francis of Assisi to be the Patron of Ecology in 1979. He later stated that the Saint’s love and care for creation was a reminder “not to behave like dissident predators where nature is concerned, but to assume responsibility for it, taking all care so that everything stays healthy and integrated, so as to offer a welcoming and friendly environment even to those who succeed us.” That is type of legacy many of our ASF board members have left through their actions.

New Corporate Member

We welcome the following new Corporate Member of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA:

**Duraroot Environmental Services, LLC, Keenesburg, CO, Gold level, as of 1 July 2013**

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Corporate Membership is an effective component in your company’s outreach to agronomic, crop, soil, and environmental science professionals and students. Three corporate membership levels enable your company to interact with the Societies in ways that best fit your needs. All levels provide access to journal, meetings, membership, and recognition benefits, as well as special reduced rates for company-wide Digital Library subscriptions. And a Corporate Membership supports the missions of the Societies and the development of students in our professions.

For more information, visit www.agronomy.org/membership/corporate, email tbarthelmes@sciencesocieties.org or call 608-268-3972.

Putting Values into Action

In last month’s column, I wrote about this very simply as being able to earn, give, exercise, and relax, and I can honestly say that each and every one of the trustees perform these four tasks regularly. These are people of action, not just words. As St. Francis once said, “It’s no use walking anywhere to preach unless your preaching is your walking.” Each one of them is creating a tangible legacy that will be admired and honored for generations to come.

As they strive for this excellence, they in turn inspire excellence in others. They serve as role models for the generations of scientists who will come after them and have raised the standards and behaviors of everyone whose lives they touch. Using their strengths and talents for a purpose beyond themselves, the story of their accomplishments reverberates with their commitment as they make a positive impact on the world.

The board is made up of past presidents and Fellows of the Societies; executive officers from Fortune 500 agri-businesses; senior-level management at government agencies; and current and former college deans. Each has unique abilities and backgrounds that they bring to the boardroom.

When I first began writing this column a couple years ago, I stated that my goal was to share my experiences traveling to distant places to meet with the people who make up ASF. Since that time, it has truly been an honor to have the opportunity to meet with these individuals, and thus far, I have been humbled in my understanding of just how much knowledge there is to be gained. I can only hope to be able to share some of these stories with the readers of this column so you can learn as much as I have.

Over the coming months, I will share personal stories about how some of the trustees are living their legacy. They are making a difference in the agronomic, crop, and soil sciences by establishing scholarships and grants, creating service travel for talent development purposes, and so much more. Some of these stories might make you laugh and others might even make you cry, but it is my hope that you will enjoy reading about these fine individuals and the contributions they make every day.

So what will your legacy be? If you need some guidance on getting started, please contact me today at 608-273-8095 or abarton@sciencesocieties.org.