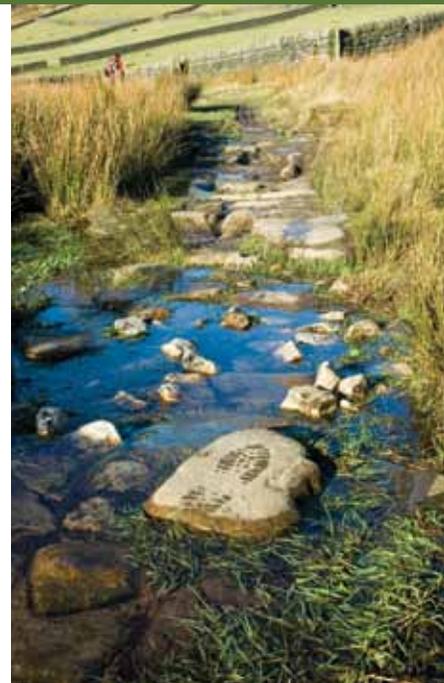


Footprints in the Landscape: Sustainability through Plant and Soil Sciences

ASA–CSSA–SSSA International Annual Meetings
1–5 November | Pittsburgh, PA
David L. Lawrence Convention Center



2009 Meetings Emphasize Sustainability

The 2009 ASA–CSSA–SSSA International Annual Meetings are just around the corner, 1–5 November in Pittsburgh, PA. The theme of the meetings, “Footprints in the Landscape: Sustainability through Plant and Soil Sciences,” together with the location, emphasize sustainability. The green-by-design David L. Lawrence Convention Center’s conservation practices include natural ventilation and illumination, and the eco-friendly environment encourages attendees to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Along with adding an overarching green theme to our Annual Meetings, this year also brings a few other changes, including:

- Program books will be picked up on-site, along with your name badge and abstract CD, at the Registration Center in Concourse BC of the convention center. Information about the meetings is continually updated at: www.acsmeetings.org.
- Follow @ASA_CSSA_SSSA on Twitter for Annual Meeting updates. You can also receive meeting-related text messages by providing your cell phone number on the registration form.
- Already registered? You can easily add an event to your registration: log in at any homepage (www.agronomy.org, www.crops.org, or www.soils.org), and follow these steps: My Account>My Transactions>My Receipts>Select 2009 AM invoice, and add the event.
- Not yet registered? The best registration rates are available **before 8 October**, but we will offer online registration through Wednesday, 4 November. Register online at your convenience, www.acsmeetings.org, and pick up your name badge and materials on-site at the Registration Center in Concourse BC.
- This year’s exhibit hall features the Green Zone, the Career Placement Center, the Graduate School Forum, and the popular Sunday evening reception.
- New this year: Golden Opportunity Scholars Symposium and Luncheon (tickets required).

Annual Meetings Offer Something for Everyone

You won’t want to miss this year’s Annual Meetings, 1–5 November in Pittsburgh, PA. This event will have something for everyone including the opportunity to attend hundreds of oral and poster sessions, access exhibitors, expand your job search, and network with more than 3,000 colleagues and students from around the world.

The ASA–CSSA–SSSA Program Planning Committee has put together an outstanding scientific program that is built around daily plenary sessions (see opposite page), nine distinguished lectures, more than 60 symposia, nine plenaries/lectureships, and nearly 2,700 oral and poster papers.

The Annual Meetings begin on Sunday evening, 1 November with the Plenary Session/E.T. and Vam York Distinguished ASF Lectureship from 6:00–7:00 pm, followed by a reception in the exhibit hall from 7:00–9:00 pm. The meetings continue through the rest of the week, with the technical program ending at 1:00 pm on Thursday, 5 November.

ASF Distinguished Lectureships

Make plans to attend these special lectureships, sponsored by the Agronomic Science Foundation, from world-renowned scientists and industry experts on a variety of topics.

Monday, 2 November

Leo M. Walsh Soil Fertility Distinguished Lectureship
4:15–5:30 pm in Room 403-404



Presentations include: "Soil Testing/Problem Solving Era—the First 25+ Years," by David Mengel and David Whitney, Kansas State University | "The Fertilizer Era—the Next 25+ Years," by Robert G. Hoef, University of Illinois; Keith Kelling, University of Wisconsin–Madison; and Noble Usherwood, Agr-Tech Services | "The Environmental Era—the Last 25+ Years," by Gyles Randall, University of Minnesota; Jerry L. Baker, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation; and Gary W. Hergert, University of Nebraska. This lecture is followed by a Division S-8 (Nutrient Management and Soil and Plant Analysis) and Division S-4 (Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition) social hour. See <http://a-c-s.confex.com/crops/2009am/webprogram/Session6623.html>.

Martin and Ruth Massengale Lectureship
6:15–7:10 pm in Room 301-302

James B. Beard, Texas A&M University, discusses sodding for turfgrass use. See <http://a-c-s.confex.com/crops/2009am/webprogram/Session6726.html>.

Tuesday, 3 November

William H. Patrick, Jr. Memorial Lectureship
9:55–11:00 am in Room 321

"Phosphorus Biogeochemistry and Wetland Function: The State of Our Understanding," by Curtis Richardson, Duke University. See <http://a-c-s.confex.com/crops/2009am/webprogram/Paper55967.html>.

Nyle C. Brady Frontiers of Soil Science Lectureship
1:25–3:30 pm in Room 405

"Achieving More Effective Soils Input Into Sustainability Studies: A New Frontier," by Johannes Bouma, Wageningen University. See <http://a-c-s.confex.com/crops/2009am/webprogram/Session6696.html>.

Francis E. Clark Distinguished Lectureship on Soil Biology
3:00–4:00 pm in Room 303-304

"Compositional Shifts Elicit Functional Responses in Soil Microbial Communities: Implications for Biogeochemical Cycles in a Changing Environment," by Donald

Daily Plenary Session Schedule

All sessions in Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom BC

- Sunday, 1 November, 6:00–7:00 pm, Plenary Session: I/E.T. and Vam York Distinguished Lectureship
- Monday, 2 November, 8:00–9:30 am, Plenary Session: II
- Tuesday, 3 November, 8:00–9:30 am, Plenary Session: III/Betty Klepper Endowed Lectureship
- Wednesday, 4 November, 8:00–9:30 am, Plenary Session: IV

Speakers include:

Gebisa Ejeta, *Purdue University, 2009 World Food Prize winner (Plenary Session I)*

His sorghum hybrids resistant to drought and the devastating parasitic *Striga* weed have dramatically increased the production and availability of one of the world's five principal grains and enhanced the food supply of hundreds of millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa. Past World Food Prize recipients will also be recognized during this session.

Calestous Juma, *"Science and Innovation for Sustainability—Harnessing Technological Abundance" (Plenary Session III)*

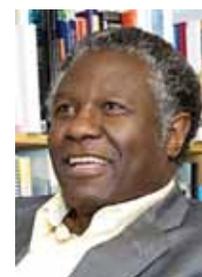
Science and technology has historically been implicated as a major source of ecological degradation. This lecture explores the role of rapid technological innovation in fostering the sustainability transition, with specific emphasis on agriculture. Illustrations from advances in information technology, biotechnology, and nanotechnology will be used.

Ian Pepper, *"Soils: A Public Health Threat or Savior" (Plenary Session IV)*

Soil is potentially a source of human pathogens but also a source of antibiotics and other natural products that enhance human health. Soils are crucial to human health through their impact on human nutrition and, from a global perspective, are vital to the future well-being of nations through their impact on climate change and global warming. A critical review of soil with respect to public health leads to the conclusion that overall, soil is a public health savior.



Gebisa Ejeta



Calestous Juma



Ian Pepper

R. Zak, University of Michigan. This lecture will be held in conjunction with Division S-3 (Soil Biology) business meeting/social hour. See <http://a-c-s.confex.com/crops/2009am/webprogram/Session6725.html>.

Wednesday, 4 November

Calvin Sperling Biodiversity Memorial Lectureship 4:30–5:15 pm in Room 403-404

Robert J. Hijmans, University of California–Davis, will give a presentation on climate change and crop diversity. See <http://a-c-s.confex.com/crops/2009am/webprogram/Session6731.html>.

Sergei A. Wilde Distinguished Lectureship on Forest Soils 3:00–4:00 pm in Room 414-415.

Peter Groffman, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, will talk about applying an ecosystem services approach to research. See <http://a-c-s.confex.com/crops/2009am/webprogram/Session6732.html>.

Program Highlights

- All are invited to attend the ASA–CSSA–SSSA award ceremonies and receptions, featuring light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar: ASA—Monday, 2 November, 5:30–7:00 pm | CSSA—Tuesday, 3 November, 5:30–7:00 pm | SSSA—Wednesday, 4 November, 5:30–7:00 pm.
- Join colleagues for the following food functions (tickets may be still available—online or on-site at the Registration Center): Meyer Medal Breakfast; Forage and Grazinglands Breakfast; Soil Testing and Plant Analysis Breakfast; Women in Agronomy, Crops, Soils, and Environmental Sciences Luncheon; Golden Opportunity Scholars Symposium and Luncheon; and Extension Agronomists Breakfast.
- Give back to Pittsburgh by donating to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.
- Consider participating in the ASA–CSSA–SSSA 5K run/walk, which begins at 6:30 am on Tuesday, 3 November (see below).

Don't Forget Your Running Shoes

Both runners and walkers are welcome to participate in the third annual 5K run in Pittsburgh on Tuesday, 3 November at 6:30 am. This is a great event to meet other colleagues with similar running and walking interest. While race details are tentative at this point, the race is currently scheduled to begin in the vicinity of Heinz Field at Roberto Clemente Park. From Heinz Field, the route is a flat down-and-back course along the north shore of the Allegheny River. We hope to see everyone bright and early Tuesday morning!

- View and discuss the documentary *Dirt! The Movie* with Producer Gene Rosow on Monday afternoon, 2 November, and Tuesday morning, 3 November.
- Plan to attend the Early Career Social from 3:30–5:30 pm and the Graduate Student Social from 8:15–10:15 pm on Sunday, 1 November.
- Daily poster sessions/social hour, 4:00–6:00 pm in the exhibit hall, Monday through Wednesday. Posters are set up daily from 7:00–9:00 am in the exhibit hall and removed from 6:00–7:00 pm.
- Wireless internet (WiFi) will be available near the Registration Center in Concourse BC. The Email Oasis is located in Room 311, which is open from Noon–10:00 pm on Sunday, 7:00 am–10:00 pm Monday through Wednesday, and 7:00 am–noon on Thursday.

Authors

Authors are encouraged to upload their oral and poster presentations through 23 October by going to www.acsm meetings.org/poster-oral-papers and clicking on the “Upload Presentation” link. After this date, presenters will need to upload their presentation in the Upload Room (Room 310) of the convention center the day before their presentation. Note: To have your presentation recorded and your poster PowerPoint available online following the meetings, select “I grant permission to record my presentation and make it available online after the meeting” during the upload process.

Can't Make it to the Meetings?

Many of the sessions will be recorded and presentations uploaded; these will be made available following the meetings at www.acsm meetings.org.





Visit Us at the Society Center

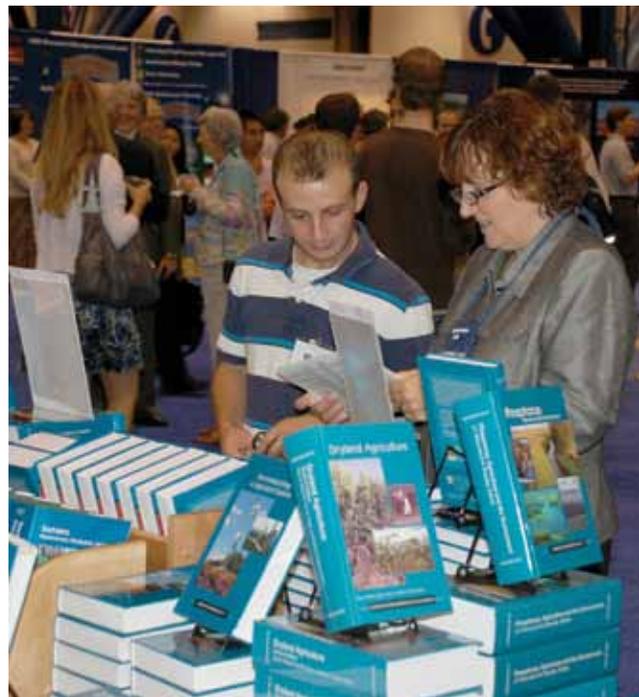
Visit us at the Society Center in the exhibit hall. Society staff will be there to answer questions and help you take advantage of all our programs and services. Staff members from publications, foundation, membership, certification, science policy, and more will offer information on each of these areas.

Join us during the Sunday evening reception for a meet and greet and book signing with authors and editors of the newest ASA-CSSA-SSSA books.

There will be a show discount of 10% off publications. Members enjoy a 20% discount every day and can purchase any publication on display for a total savings of 30% during the show. Also, members of the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Book and Multimedia Publishing Committee will be presenting a poster in the exhibit hall all week. Bring your ideas, and learn about the benefits of publishing with the Societies.

Ask staff about our new Twitter feed to follow all that is happening during the Annual Meeting and receive a free prize!

Comfortable seating makes for a relaxing, fun environment. It's a great place to catch up with your colleagues and find out more about how the Societies can serve you.



Have you seen
the new publications from
ASA-CSSA-SSSA?

Visit The Society Center during the Annual Meetings
in Pittsburgh to purchase Society publications and save!

Exhibit Hall BC at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center
Sunday, Nov. 1, 7-9 pm; Monday, Nov. 2-Wednesday, Nov. 4, 9 am-6 pm

**Take advantage of a show discount of 10%
Members, that's a total savings of 30%
at the Pittsburgh Annual Meetings!**



American Society of Agronomy • Crop Science Society of America • Soil Science Society of America
www.societystore.org



Message from the Program Chairs

Our Annual Meetings program highlights many of the ongoing and emerging issues impacting our society and how we as agronomists, crop scientists, and soil scientists address them. Our meeting begins on Sunday afternoon by honoring and celebrating our distinguished colleague, Dr. Gebisa Ejeta, as the 2009 recipient of the World Food Prize. Plenary sessions are planned each morning with distinguished speakers discussing the state of agriculture and natural resources in the United States, how science and technology impact ecological degradation in Africa, and how soils impact human health.

The new "web conferencing" technology will be featured all day Monday, allowing colleagues and students unable to attend the meetings to participate via streaming video on the internet. The web conferencing sessions start with the ASA Plenary Session followed by an interactive symposium with our Chinese colleagues addressing soil challenges facing that country in the 21st century and a CSSA symposium on plant genetics.

Several workshops are available to registrants including two on leadership training, "An Introduction to Meta-analysis," "Error Propagation in Ecosystem Budgets," "Experimental Design for the 21st Century," and a preparatory workshop for the soils fundamentals exam. Several professional tours will be offered, including pre-meeting tours on the geomorphology of the Allegheny Plateau and a behind-the-scenes look at the *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil* Smithsonian exhibit. There will also be tours during the meetings on agronomy, turfgrass, forages, the USDA-ARS North Appalachian Experimental Watershed, and surface coal mine and reclamation practices in West Virginia. After the meetings, there will be a tour on Pennsylvania terroir.

Symposia offered throughout the week will highlight research in important topics including climate change, food crops to alleviate human disease and enhance nutrition, biofuel/biomass production, soil-root growth interactions, nanoparticles, organic production systems, plant health, invasive species, precision farming, fertilizer use efficiency, water management, global agronomy, environmental quality, carbon sequestration, extension and education programs of the future, managing long-term experiments, experimental design for complex cropping systems, and soils and pinyon-juniper woodlands. Symposia will honor the legacy of Bert Tanner in environmental instrumentation and the work of Martinus van Genuchten in soil physics.

On the fun side, the third annual ASA-CSSA-SSSA 5K run/walk will tour the riverfront in downtown Pittsburgh on Tuesday morning. There will be a showing of the film *Dirt! The Movie* along with comments by one of the film's creators. Activities are planned for students and the Golden Opportunity scholars. Each evening, receptions honoring Society award winners will take place. There is no charge for these events, and everyone is welcome.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh. We hope you have a great meeting and enjoy yourselves in the city and its beautiful countryside. You will be glad that you came.

Sincerely yours,



Francis Pierce
2009 program chair
for the ASA
Annual Meeting



Joseph Lauer
2009 program chair
for the CSSA
Annual Meeting



Nick Comerford
2009 program chair
for the SSSA
Annual Meeting



Professional Development Programs

from the Early Career Members Committee

The Early Career Members Committee invites you to take a break from the paper sessions, symposia, exhibits, and business meetings and attend our unique slate of professional development programs in Pittsburgh. These programs will enhance your meetings experience and focus on topics that will help you navigate through your career. For more information, visit: <http://a-c-s.confex.com/crops/2009am/webprogram/Z03.html>. Here's the lineup:

Early Career Members Social

Sunday, 1 November, 3:30–5:30 pm, Room 411-412

Attendees beginning their careers and those interested in supporting the activities of the Early Career Members Committee are invited to attend. Guests are welcome.

Grant Writing Navigation

Monday, 2 November, 10:30 am–12:00 pm, Room 307

Presenters: Ronald Turco, Purdue University, and Leslie Oliver, University of Kentucky

A number of ideas and approaches will be presented on how to formulate and execute a plan culminating in a grant application. The goal of the session is to provide a framework based on the many experiences of the presenters and others, which should allow a rapid start for individuals as they enter their professional academic careers.

Career Preparation—Resumes and Interviews

Monday, 2 November, 1:00–3:00 pm, Room 307

Presenters: Brianna Blaser, Science Careers/AAAS, Washington, DC, and Indi Braden, Southeast Missouri State University

Regardless of whether you hope to work in academia, industry, or beyond, it's never too early to start thinking about your job search. This workshop will help you prepare for every part of the job search from exploring career options appropriate for your skills, values, and preferences to negotiating an offer. This workshop will help you get one step closer to your dream.

Writing Manuscripts for Publication

Tuesday, 3 November, 9:00–11:00 am, Room 307

Presenters: J. Michael Kelly, Virginia Tech, and Ruth Yanai, SUNY, Syracuse, NY

Publishing is an important part of the research process, but writing papers is not what

attracted most of us to the fields of soil, crop, and agronomic science. Participants will get started on the preparation of a manuscript through a writing exercise as well as how to break the manuscript creation process down into an orderly sequence of manageable tasks. To participate, you need to complete a "Getting Started Exercise" at www.esf.edu/for/yanai/publishing/GSE.htm. The exercise will form the basis of discussion and feedback during the workshop.

How to Publish a Manuscript in ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Journals

Tuesday, 3 November, 1:00–2:00 pm, Room 307

Presenters: Panel with various Society editors

This program is a continuation of the Writing Manuscripts for Publication workshop and takes the process one step further by covering topics specifically related to publishing in the Societies' journals such as style, manuscript, and abstract submission. Several editors of associated journals of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA will serve as panel members.

How to Become an Entrepreneur in Agronomy, Crops, and Soils

Wednesday, 4 November, 1:25–2:50 pm, Room 307

Presenter: David Pike, self-employed, Champaign, IL

The program is an overview of "lessons learned" in starting an entrepreneurial business. Assessing the potential market, as well as your ability in an entrepreneurial environment will be two critical steps that will be discussed in launching your own business venture. David Pike is the president and ag consultant of his own business and is a CPAg.



Undergraduate Student Activities

Graduate School Forum in the Exhibit Hall

Students considering graduate school can meet face to face with university representatives from top graduate schools around the country in a relaxed, informal setting. The Graduate School Forum is designed for university representatives to interview students for M.S. and Ph.D. programs, provide information on their schools and departments, and discuss assistantships and fellowships with students. The Forum will be located next to the Career Placement Center in the exhibit hall.

University departments must reserve booths for the Graduate School Forum by **8 Oct. 2009**. A fee will be required to make a reservation and includes a 4- by 8-ft poster board, one 6-ft table, and a 7- by 44-inch sign with the name of your university that will be mounted on the poster board. The Forum is open from Monday through Wednesday, 2–4 November, and you can reserve a booth for one, two, or three days. Go to www.careerplacement.org/meetings/graduate-forum and review the layout of

the Forum, select a booth number, and then reserve the booth on the Booth Reservation Form. Payment can be made by credit card or by check.

SASES Program

The SASES (Students of Agronomy, Crops, Soils, and Environmental Sciences) Annual Meeting is scheduled for 31 October–2 November. Highlights include professional development programs; daylong tours; national competitions for speech, research symposia, and club poster presentations; the ever-popular Quiz Bowl; President's Trophy Competition; and election of new officers. Professional development sessions cover topics such as graduate school, leadership, certification, and interviewing for jobs. Here is a list of these programs:

Sunday, 1 November

- Graduate School Workshop
1:30–3:00 pm, Room 401

Monday, 2 November

- Leadership: Foundation for Your Future Career
8:30–9:45 am, Room 306
- Future of Agriculture
10:00–11:00 am, Room 306
- CCA Workshop
11:00 am–12:00 pm, Room 306
- Career Preparation—Resumes and Interviews
1:00–3:00 pm, Room 307
- Leadership Program (sponsored by Monsanto)
1:00–5:00 pm, Room 402

An online form to sign up for these activities can be found at www.agronomy.org/students/meetings, www.crops.org/students/meetings, or www.soils.org/students/meetings. The undergraduate registration fee is \$60, and the tour is \$45. If you have any questions regarding student Annual Meeting activities and registration, contact Leann Malison at lmalison@agronomy.org or 608-268-4949.

Women's Luncheon

The Women in Agronomy, Crops, Soils, and Environmental Sciences Committee is pleased to welcome Deborah L. Allan and Karen A. K. Moldenhauer as the speakers for the Women's Luncheon on Tuesday, 3 November from 11:30 am–1:00 pm at the Westin, Allegheny I, third level. Dr. Allan is a professor in the Department of Soil, Water, and Climate at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul. Her research program focuses on the plant root–soil interface, and she is a Fellow of ASA and SSSA. Dr. Moldenhauer is a professor in the Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences at the University of Arkansas Rice Research and Extension Center in Stuttgart. Her research focuses on developing new long-grain rice varieties for Arkansas rice producers. She is a Fellow of CSSA and ASA. Both speakers will share their life experiences and insights into developing as a professional in the sciences.

In addition, the committee will present the 2009 Mentoring Award to recognize the efforts of established scientists or agricultural professionals who have encouraged the advancement of women and girls in agricultural and environmental sciences based on their teaching, mentoring, and acting as a role model for advancement.

Visit the **HALL OF FAME**

Stop by and check out the 2009 ASA–CSSA–SSSA award, scholarship, and fellow recipients in our Hall of Fame, located near the Registration Center, in Concourse BC of the convention center. All recipients are invited to take their award posters with them (tubes are provided) at the conclusion of the Annual Meetings.



Career Placement Center

in the Exhibit Hall

Employers—Post Jobs, Conduct Interviews

If you are looking to hire and want to gain exposure to agronomy, crop, and soil science job candidates, then the Career Placement Center is the place to be. As an employer, you can post your job announcements and sign up to conduct job interviews on-site. The Career Placement Center will be open for business from Sunday evening (7:00–9:00 pm) through Wednesday (9:00 am–6:00 pm, Monday through Wednesday).

At the Career Placement Center, you'll be able to:

- search resumes
- post job and internship announcements
- schedule interviews and reserve interview tables
- meet qualified candidates from around the world

Staff will be available to help you with any questions. To schedule interviews, go to www.careerplacement.org and click on "Instructions to Interview at the Annual Meetings."

Job Seekers—Post Resumes, Register for Meetings

Looking for a job or graduate school opportunities? Submit a resume through the Career Placement Center at www.careerplacement.org. The resumes are kept in our database for six months, and the service is free for members and only \$30 for nonmembers. The edit feature allows you to change information at any time, so your resume is always up to date and accurate. You can post a resume even if you are not attending the meetings. All resumes can be viewed online before and during the meetings.

Job seekers attending the Annual Meetings can register and submit their interview schedule beforehand. Go to www.careerplacement.org and access the "Instructions to Interview at the Annual Meetings" link to post your schedule and indicate what times you will be available to interview.



Graduate Student Activities

Graduate students—make plans to join your colleagues at activities designed by grad students for grad students. The first is the **Graduate Student Mixer** on Sunday evening at the Westin, Allegheny I, Level 3, from 8:15–10:15 pm, sponsored by Monsanto. This informal event provides you with the opportunity to meet other grad students in a relaxed setting, and you'll enjoy complimentary food and beverages!

Continuing with the theme of bringing grad students together, we're setting up a **Graduate Student Lounge**, sponsored by Pioneer and their Talent Acquisition Group. Visit the lounge in the exhibit hall in the back by the Career Placement Center. Inside, you'll find a cozy atmosphere, with comfy chairs, sofa, and table. There will also be a computer for internet/email access. Refreshments will be provided in the morning and afternoon at 10:30 am and 2:30 pm (for the first 50 students). To top it off, you could even win an iPod—stop by with your business card and enter the raffle (gift certificate to the Apple store).

On Monday, 2 November from 11:30 am to 12:45 pm, the ASA–CSSA–SSSA Graduate Student Workgroup will be hosting the **Graduate Student Luncheon** panel session in Room 408-410 of the convention center. The panel session will take place after a short networking lunch.

The theme of the panel discussion will be "Opportunities and Models for Success after Graduate School." The Graduate Student Workgroup decided that it would like to hear established scientists who are authors, researchers, or consultants, or who are active in science policy or industry, talk about their experiences, provide advice, and/or personal anecdotes. The presentations will outline models of success that each professional used to approach his/her career and adapt to its twists and turns. Please email cgala@agronomy.org if you would like to be on the list of attendees.



Symposia of Interest

Climate Change and Agroecosystems

To further clarify the fundamental and practical issues related to the role of agriculture in the context of global and regional climate change, a symposium led by Division A-3 (Agroclimatology and Agronomic Modeling) will be held on Monday, 2 November at 9:55 am–5:15 pm in Room 325. The title of the symposium is “Climate Change and Agroecosystems: Impacts, Adaptation, and Mitigation.” The specific aims are to generate a vigorous and rigorous interdisciplinary examination of the key factors, processes, and challenges ahead; to stimulate cooperative research; and to formulate strategies to deal effectively with the potential consequences of climate change on the environment in general and on future food security in particular.

Nanoparticles in the Environment

Please join us for an exploration of the role of nanoparticles in soil systems during a two-day symposium entitled “Nanoparticles in the Environment” on Monday and Tuesday, 2 and 3 November, respectively. This Division S-2, S-3, and S-11 joint symposium will explore the environmental implications and interactions of nanoparticles (both natural and manufactured) in a multidisciplinary forum of invited and volunteered talks.

In Part I (2 November at 9:55 am–12:30 pm in Room 329), discussion will help define differences (or lack thereof) in the behavior of dissolved ions and nanoparticles that are observable at the field sampling scale as well as the challenges and innovations in analytical techniques. Part II (2 November at 1:55–5:30 pm in Room 329) will explore microbial interactions with nanoparticles and nanomaterials. Part IV (3 November at 12:55–5:00 pm in Room 329) will focus on the potential environmental applications and implications of engineered nanomaterials. A poster session (Part III) with presentations covering all the above themes will also be held on 3 November at 10:00 am–12:00 pm in the exhibit hall.

A social gathering, with snacks and cash bar, will be held from 4:30–5:30 pm at the end of both days outside of Room 329 on the third floor of the convention center. For questions and/or comments, do not hesitate to contact Nadine Kabengi (nadine.kabengi@uky.edu) and/or Aaron Thompson (AaronT@uga.edu).

Forage Quality Methods, Conservation Practices

CSSA Division C-6 (Forage and Grazing Lands) has two exciting symposia on tap for all members. An assessment of the techniques, challenges, and applications of

measuring the nutritive value of forages will be the subject of the first symposium titled “Measuring Forage Quality—Its Relevance and Limitations.” Leading investigators will provide an in-depth review of the latest techniques (Joe Burns, USDA-ARS) and challenges (Dave Mertens, USDA-ARS) in measuring forage nutritive value and the incorporation of these parameters in plant breeding efforts (Michael Casler, USDA-ARS), management considerations for forages (Gerald Evers, Texas A&M Research and Extension) and animals (Lynn Sollenberger, University of Florida), and formulating diets for dairy (Debbie Cherney, Cornell University) and beef livestock (Bill Phillips, USDA-ARS). This symposium promises to provide the most up-to-date knowledge from some of the discipline’s most respected scientists. The symposium will be held Monday, 2 November from 12:55–4:45 pm in Room 317 of the convention center.

The science behind USDA-NRCS conservation practices applied to forage and grazing lands will be highlighted in the second symposium titled “Quantifying the Environmental Outcomes of Pastureland Conservation Practices: The Pastureland Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP).” The pastureland and hayland CEAP is a multi-agency (www.nrcs.usda.gov/Technical/nri/ceap/grazing.html) effort to assess the environmental outcomes of conservation practices used by landowners participating in selected USDA programs. The first step is to document and summarize the science behind the conservation practices applied to pasture and forage lands in a comprehensive literature synthesis. In 2008, writing teams of university, USDA-ARS, and NRCS scientists were assembled to address the following NRCS conservation practice standards:

1. prescribed grazing,
2. pasture and hayland planting,
3. nutrient management,
4. harvest management, and
5. integrated assessments of the socio-economic concerns of implementing these practices.

The synthesis, to be published in 2010, will be a landmark publication on the effects of conservation practices on environmental goods and services derived from pasture and haylands in the USA and will detail national research needs. The goal of this symposium is to preview the document for the scientific and outreach communities and for policy advisors. Additional sponsors include the American Forage and Grassland Council and the NRCS, ARS, and USDA-CSREES. The symposium will be held



Tuesday, 3 November, from 12:55–4:15 pm in Room 317 of the convention center.

Footprints of Plant Diversity in the Agricultural Landscape

Landscape-scale research on plant genetic diversity generally begins with a description of diversity in the landscape and then moves on to examining how in-situ plant genetic diversity interacts and how diversity may be sustained. Most research tends to stop short of prescriptive insights for using genetic diversity in agriculturally managed landscapes.

On Wednesday, 4 November from 12:55–3:55 pm in Room 403-404, CSSA Division C-8 (Plant Genetic Resources) will host a symposium titled “Footprints of Plant Diversity in the Agricultural Landscape.” The symposium will begin to explore different ways in which plant genetic diversity may be deliberately employed to enrich and strengthen agricultural landscapes and will consider strategies and tools for proactive use of plant genetic diversity within and between fields in agricultural landscapes.

Speakers include:

- Paul Gepts, University of California–Davis (Department of Plant Sciences);
- Chris Mundt, Oregon State University (Department of Botany and Plant Pathology);
- Hugo Perales Rivera, EcoSur, Mexico;
- Stephen Smith, Pioneer Hi-Bred International;
- Bruce Walsh, University of Arizona (Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology); and
- Clair Hershey, United Nations FAO.

Co-sponsoring Divisions are C-1 (Plant Breeding), C-7 (Genomics, Molecular Genetics, and Biotechnology), and A-6 (International Agronomy).

The 2009 Division C-8 business meeting will be expanded this year to include time for a **town meeting**, that is, a wide-ranging, open-mike discussion on any items of interest to C-8 members. Come to Room 403-404 at 5:15 pm and bring your ideas or concerns.

Division contact: 2009 Division Chair Ann Marie Thro (athro@csrees.usda.gov or 202-401-6702).

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