The 48th Annual Illinois Corn Breeders’ School was held March 5-6, 2012 at the I-Hotel and Conference Center, 1900 South First Street, Champaign, Illinois.

One hundred sixty-one participants attended this year’s school which offered a glimpse of new technologies and provided ideas on how these new technologies may be effectively applied, as well as an insight into fundamental corn breeding methodology for harnessing novel variation. The keynote speaker was Dr. Ron Phillips from the University of Minnesota, who talked about “Good Science in Maize Breeding and Genetics: Is Serendipity Involved?”

Other speakers included: Dr. Ed Buckler, USDA (ARS) and Cornell University. Dr. Doreen Ware, USDA(ARS) and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; Dr. Carson Andorf, USDA(ARS) and Iowa State University; Dr. Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra, University of California at Davis; Mr. Xiaochun Sun, University of Illinois; Mr. Wesley Barber, University of Illinois; Dr. Shawn Kaeppler, University of Wisconsin; Dr. Pat Schnable, Iowa State University; Dr. Mark Settles, University of Florida; Dr. Seth Murray, Texas A&M University; Dr. Aaron Lorenz, University of Nebraska; Dr. Candice Gardner, USDA(ARS) and Iowa State University; Dr. Marcelo Carena, North Dakota State University.

Next year’s Illinois Corn Breeders’ School will be held on March 4-5, 2013 at the I-Hotel.
PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

ESA 2011 Insect Science Award: Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension
This annual award recognizes outstanding contributions to extension entomology. Dr. Michael E. Gray, a native of southwestern Iowa, graduated with a B.A. in biology from the University of Northern Iowa (1977), and with M.S. (1982) and Ph.D. (1986) degrees in entomology from Iowa State University. In 1988, he began his career at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Link to read complete article: http://entsoc.org/press-releases/esa-names-2011-insect-science-award-winners

Entomological Foundation 2011 Award: Integrated Pest Management Team Award
Sponsored by Dow AgroSciences, this award recognizes the successful pest-control efforts of a small, collaborative work team which includes at least one entomologist from the private sector and one from the public sector. The European Corn Borer (ECB) Team documented a $6.9 billion cumulative benefit to U.S. corn producers resulting from 14 years of areawide suppression of the pest Ostrinia nubilalis (Hübner) following the adoption of transgenic corn, specifically corn hybrids expressing one or more insecticidal proteins of the bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis. ECB Team members include Bill Hutchison, Eric Burkness, and Roger Moon (University of Minnesota); Paul Mitchell (University of Wisconsin), Mike Gray (University of Illinois), Rick Hellmich (USDA-ARS), Kevin Steffey (Dow AgroSciences), Von Kaster (Syngenta), Tom Hunt and Bob Wright (University of Nebraska). Link to read complete article: http://entsoc.org/press-releases/entomological-foundation-announces-2011-award-winners

SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD

Adam Davis was selected as the recipient of the 2012 Service Recognition Award from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

GRANT FROM ARS

Marty Williams received a grant from the ARS Postdoctoral Research Associate Program. The project will examine the effect of climate change on corn sensitivity to herbicides.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

William Ogren, retired USDA scientist and former UIUC Professor of Agronomy and of Plant Biology, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Champaign-based Rebeiz Foundation for Basic Research in September 2011. Dr. Ogren, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, was cited "for his scientific achievements and original research in the fields of Photosynthesis and Photorespiration."

ACES FACULTY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Carl Bradley has been selected as the recipient of the 2012 College Faculty Award for Excellence in Extension. This recognition is well deserved, particularly for his extension and research efforts regarding foliar fungicides and new plant diseases and pathogens. His award will be presented at the ACES Awards Banquet on April 16.

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

Graduate student Wes Barber received the 2011 Graduate Student Award from the National Council of Commercial Plant Breeders, presented at the Corn & Sorghum & Soybean Conference organized by the American Seed Trade Association.

OUTSTANDING FRIEND OF CONSERVATION AWARD

from the Champaign County Soil & Water Conservation District was awarded to Fabián Fernandez during their 69th annual meeting in 2012.
2012 TEAM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Philip Nixon, David Robson, and Martha Smith were selected as the recipients of the 2012 College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Team Award for Excellence. They will receive their award at the ACES Awards Banquet on April 16.

2012 PROFESSIONAL STAFF AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Gracia Zabala was selected as the recipient of the 2012 College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Professional Staff Award-Sustained Excellence-Research. Gracia will receive her award at the ACES Awards Banquet on April 16.

2012 PROFESSIONAL STAFF AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Monica David was selected as the recipient of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Professional Staff Award-Sustained Excellence-Teaching and Outreach. Monica will receive her award at the ACES Awards Banquet on April 16.

Located on Lincoln Avenue at the south end of the Urbana campus, the UI Arboretum is an oasis of natural beauty open daily to the public from sunrise until sunset. The 57-acre Arboretum is home to Japan House and its gardens, an Idea Garden, a newly installed Hosta Garden, and the Pollinatarium. The Miles C Hartley Selections Garden (shown below) is a trial and display garden featuring hundreds of varieties of annual flowers. The Arboretum grounds are a living laboratory for students in the plant sciences and fine and applied arts and a popular venue for weddings and other events.

For more information about the UI Arboretum, email Diane Anderson at cdianea@illinois.edu.
Charlie, Congratulations on your retirement!

Charlie came to Urbana as a grad student in the fall of 1979, graduating in May 1982 with a Masters in Statistics. He worked for the State Geological Survey and Ag Econ, transferring to Agronomy in March 1983 to work for Intsoy (Jacobs) and the statistics group (Carmer, Walker, and Seif). He left in 1987 to work at the UI Medical School with Peter Imrey and work on a Ph.D. in stats, but instead of finishing, he was elected to the Urbana City Council for the first time in 1989. He also worked at a local startup company for a couple of years, and then returned to Agronomy in June 1990. He has worked for 5 different heads: Don Holt, Larry Schrader, Gary Heichel, Bob Hoeft, and Germán Bollero.

Charlie Smyth retired from the Department of Crop Sciences as Manager of System Services on January 31, 2012. So many people gathered to wish him the best that they were lining the halls to get in to see him.

Charlie, we will all miss you. Enjoy your retirement!

A FEW BEST WISHES TO CHARLIE

Thanks for all your expertise and help over the years! Best wishes for the future. ~ Loyd Wax

Thank you for all your help! We’ll keep you on speed dial (if we can figure out how!) Best wishes & congratulations! ~ Fred Kolb

Remember that retirement doesn’t mean that you can’t come back! ~ Penny Cole

So, are you starting that “count down” clock in the other direction? Hope so. Enjoy. ~ Snook
Congratulations to December 2011 Graduates!

Talon Becker, M.S.  
Young Cho, M.S.  
Luke Cole, Online M.S.  
Bhupinder Farmaha, Ph.D.  
Jared Garlish, Online M.S.  
Rex Gray, Online M.S.  

Justin Ma, M.S.  
Cheryl Martin, Online M.S.  
Brian McIntosh, Online M.S.  
Joana Novais, Ph.D.  
Rawikarn Pulam, M.S.  
Joseph Rickard, Online M.S.  

Timothy Topliff, Online M.S.  
Catherine White, M.S.  
Hlaing Win, M.S.  
Liang Xie, M.S. Bioinformatics  
Ren Zhang, M.S. Bioinformatics

Birth Announcements

Kelvin Justus Moose, son of Stephen Moose and Shawn Carlson, was born on Sept. 9, 2011. He was 7 pounds and 21¼ inches long.

Nicholas James Schultz, son of Sarah and Andrew Schultz, was born Friday, Feb. 3, at 9:49 PM. He was 7 pounds, 12 ounces and 20¼ inches long.

Alexander John Brown, son of Patrick and Allison Brown, was born Nov. 28, 2011. He and older brother Cyrus are doing great!

Welcome to New Spring 2012 Grad Students!

- Bradley Bandy, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Ella Beasley, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Willie Beasley, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Jon Berry, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Young Cho, Ph.D. (L. Vodkin, advisor)
- Eric Coronel, Ph.D. (F. Fernandez, advisor)
- Katherine Dole, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Erin Epley, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)

- Christina Fliege, M.S. (M. Hudson, advisor)
- Zachary Herzberger, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Rodney Isfalt, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Daniel Lundeen, Online M.S. (D. Briskin, advisor)
- Aaron Petri, Ph.D. (S.T. Lovell, advisor)
- Jacob Vossenkmper, Ph.D. (E. Nafziger, advisor)
- Zhanyou Xu, M.S. (G. Caetano-Anolles, advisor)

Visitor to Crop Sciences

Yongjun Wang, Visiting Scholar, is working in the Bullock lab. He started on Feb. 9, 2012.
Spring 2012 Academic Calendar

March 16: Last day to add your name to the degree list if you would like it to appear in the campuswide Commencement program.

March 17-25: Spring Break for Students

April 6: Last day to take final exam for May doctoral degree

April 16: Last day to order academic attire

April 20: Last day to complete a May doctoral dissertation deposit

April 27: Last day to complete a May master’s thesis deposit; last day for graduate students to add themselves to the graduation list via Student Self Service

May 2: Instruction ends for Spring Semester

May 3: Reading Day

May 4: Final Exams Begin

May 13: Commencement

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Fax: 217-333-9817
Url: www.cropsci.illinois.edu

Other campus buildings with Crop Sciences offices:
- Edward R. Madigan Lab (ERML)
  1201 W. Gregory Drive, MC-051
- Institute for Genomic Biology (IGB)
  1206 W. Gregory Drive, MC-195
- National Soybean Research Center (NSRC)
  1101 W. Peabody Drive, MC-637
- Plant Science Lab (PSL)
  1201 S. Dorner Drive, MC-634

Field and Furrow Success at SASES Meeting

Field and Furrow members did well at the SASES meetings in San Antonio in October. See the following appointments and awards:

⇒ Mark Sullivan (BS, Hort.): National Membership Chair
⇒ Hayley Bunselmeyer (BS, Crop Sciences): 3rd Place, Visual Presentation Contest
⇒ Mollie Hoss (BS, Crop Sciences): 2nd Place, Speech Contest
⇒ Mark McKown (BS, AgEd.): National Parliamentarian Committee, Co-Chair
⇒ Daniel Gaither (BS, ACE): National Speech Contest Committee, Co-Chair
⇒ Katherine McLachlan (BS, Crop Sciences): National Visual Presentation Contest Committee, Co-Chair

The Morrow Plots, which are located in the heart of the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois, are the oldest continuous agricultural research fields in the United States. Established in 1876, they are predated only by the Rothamsted Field in England, which was started in 1843. The site was designated a National Historical Landmark by the Federal Government on September 12, 1968.