

*Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics*

# PBGG Newsletter

Spring 2011

## May 2011 Graduates



Zach King is graduating with a MS degree under the supervision of Wayne Parrott. His Thesis title is "Riddles in the dark: The development of genetic engineering procedures for elite genotypes of switchgrass". Zach will be starting his PhD with PBGG under Roger Boerma's supervision the summer.



Aaron Hoskins is graduating with a PhD Degree under the supervision of Roger Boerma. His dissertation title is "Genetic Mapping of Soybean Resistance Genes to Frogeye Leaf Spot in Five Chinese Plant Introductions and Efficiency of Early Generation Selection for Low Phytate Soybean Lines". Aaron is currently working with Pioneer Hi-Bred International in Illinois.



Zach Shearin is graduating with a PhD degree under the supervision of Roger Boerma. His dissertation title is "Facilitating Breeding for Resistance to Southern Stem Canker and Elevated Seed Oleic Acid Content in Soybean". Zach is currently working with Pioneer Hi-Bred International in North Carolina.



Caleb Warrington is graduation with a PhD degree under the supervision of Roger Boerma. His dissertation title is "QTL Mapping and Optimum Resource Allocation for Enhancing Amino Acid Content in Soybean". After graduation Caleb will be working with Schillinger Genetics, Inc. in Queenstown, MD.

## Awards

- ❖ **Doug Eudy** , PhD student with Katrien Devos, has been awarded a highly competitive 3-year National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Fellowship
  
- ❖ **Zach King**, MS Student with Wayne Parrott, won the Broadus Browne Award
  
- ❖ **Roger Boerma** , Distinguished Research Professor in CRSS and director of CAGT and the Center for Soybean Improvement has won the Inventor's Award. The widespread use of Dr. Boerma's improved cultivars has lessened the need for pesticides while also boosting seed yield, with the overall effect being reduced production costs. Dr. Boerma's soybean cultivars not only provide greater profit per acre but also more sustainable.
  
- ❖ PBGG Director and Noble Foundation professor **Joe Bouton**, Ph.D., recently received the 2010 Martin and Ruth Massengale Lectureship from the Crop Science Society of America (CSSA). The award recognizes the significant impact of an individual's career in the fields of plant science. Dr. Bouton was selected for the Massengale Lectureship because of his many contributions to the research, breeding and advancement of forage grasses throughout his 30-year career. Bouton conducts breeding and genetics research on temperate forage species for use in pasture and livestock systems throughout the southern United States. He has commercialized 17 cultivars, but is best known for releasing Alfagraze alfalfa, MaxQ tall fescue, and Durana and Patriot white clovers.

## PBGG News

Nathan Hancock and Maria Ortega, members of Dr. Wayne Parrott's laboratory at the Center for Applied Genetic Technologies in Athens, hosted the Steps to College Family Science Workshop on 19 Feb 2011. This project provides opportunities for middle and high school students to get hands on exposure to academic research. It is directed by faculty from the UGA College of Education and funded by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and NSF. Thirty four students along with 26 adult family members learned about plant transformation and a project focused on cloning an insect resistance gene. In addition to these activities, students participated in a guided discussion on preparing to attend college, performed a science inquiry, and took a science experiment kit to do at home. Overall, it was a great opportunity to get students excited about pursuing science in college and it introduced families and future students to the work of modern plant biotechnology.



If you have any news, grants, publications, or travel to share please email the Institute at [pbgg@uga.edu](mailto:pbgg@uga.edu).