

PBGG Newsletter

Winter 2010

Sunbelt Expo



The Institute had a booth at the 2009 Sunbelt Expo in Moultrie, Georgia. The Expo provided exposure for the Institute and we plan on attending in 2010. If you would like to be part of the Expo, representing the Institute please contact Sally McDonald at sallymcd@uga.edu.

New Students for Spring 2010

Trent Tate is a new MS student working with Paul Raymer at our Griffin Campus. Trent just received his undergraduate degree from UGA in Environmental Resources Sciences



Maria Ortega is a new PhD student in Wayne Parrott's lab. Maria completed her MS in December from Ohio State University in Plant Pathology.



Na Wang is a new MS student in Paul Raymer's lab at our Griffin Campus. Na completed her BA in Turfgrass management at Beijing Forestry University.



New Research Scientists in the Institute

The Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics would like to welcome Dr. Abdel-Haleem Hussein to the Institute as a Research Scientist.



Dr. Hussein has a B.Sc degree in crop science from Alexandria University-Egypt and M.S degree in applied biological sciences from Saga University-Japan. He graduated from Montana State University with a Ph.D in plant science and plant genetics. He is working at Soybean Genetics and Development Lab, where he is using both molecular breeding and functional genomics to identify genes controlling abiotic stress resistance and other yield traits in an effort to improve stress tolerance and yield under stress conditions.

Awards & Recognition

Doug Heckart received two awards this Fall. He received 2nd place in the graduate student oral competition for C05 division at the American Society of Agronomy annual meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. Doug also received 2nd place in the graduate student poster competition at the annual plant center retreat in Atlanta GA.

Doug Eudy has been selected to participate in the *Rice Research to Production* short course in the Philippines at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), May 16 – June 4, 2010. The course is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to Cornell University Professor Susan McCouch. Doug is part of a group from the United States who will be supported by the NSF. There will be additional participants coming from other countries.

Peggy Ozias-Akins has been named a Fellow of AAAS.

2010 Retreat



The Institute will hold its annual retreat May 19th-20th in Athens, Georgia at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. Registration Information will follow soon.

If you have any immediate questions please contact Sally McDonald at sallymcd@uga.edu.

Georgia Crop Improvement Association 2010 Summer Internship in Plant Breeding

The Georgia Crop Improvement Association (GCIA) is sponsoring plant breeding internships under the guidance of faculty members of the UGA Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics. Junior and senior undergraduate students are welcome to apply for these internships; students at UGA or at other colleges or universities may apply. The goal of the internship is to provide students opportunities to learn how plant breeding programs function and how cultivars are developed and commercialized. In addition to working directly with the UGA plant breeder, interns will also participate in activities with the Georgia Seed Development Commission and GCIA to observe the entire process of cultivar development, commercialization, and distribution. Internship projects may be focused on an academic research question, although this is not essential. Interns can receive academic credit for the internship by enrolling in either Maymester or a Summer Session, but the program is flexible and this is not a requirement. Students in the summer-long internship will be provided with a scholarship from GCIA of \$5000.

To apply for the internship, applicants should identify a UGA plant breeder mentor and develop a one-page proposal describing the specific goals and activities planned during the internship. Applicants should submit their proposal, a letter from the plant breeder agreeing to serve as mentor, and a brief cover letter addressed to the UGA PBGG Institute Director by **19 March 2010**. Successful applicants will be notified by 2 April 2010.

Submit all materials by email to pbgg@uga.edu.

If you have any news, grants, publications, or travel to share please email the Institute at pbgg@uga.edu.