

J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships Awarded to Six Graduate Students

Six outstanding graduate students have been announced as the 1997 winners of the J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowship awarded by the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI). Grants of \$2,000 each are presented to the individuals. All are candidates for either the Master of Science (M.S.) or the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in soil fertility and related sciences.

The 1997 recipients were chosen from nearly 40 applicants who sought the Fellowships. The six are: **Laurent Durand**, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg; **Rajiv Khosla**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI & SU), Blacksburg; **Karl B. Ritchie**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; **James B. Sallee**, Michigan State University, Lansing; **Nathan A. Slaton**, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; and **Qiupeng (David) Zeng**, University of California, Davis.

Funding for the Fellowships is provided through support of potash and phosphate producers who are member companies of PPI.

Scholastic record, leadership, and excellence in original research are among the important criteria evaluated for the Fellowships. Following is a brief summary of information for each of the 1997 Fellowship recipients.

Laurent D. J. Durand is a native of



N.D. de Lourdes, Manitoba. He received his B.S.A. degree in 1995 at the University of Manitoba and is currently studying for his M.S. degree, also at the University of Manitoba, where he is President of the Soil Science

Graduate Students Association. The primary objective of his thesis, 'Nitrogen Response Variability within Soil-Landscapes of Manitoba', is to develop a greater agronomic understanding of soil fertility variations within the landscape so that wise decisions can be made with respect to fertilizer inputs. Mr. Durand's career goal is to work in the extension area of agriculture or in retail sales as an agronomic consultant.

Rajiv Khosla was born in Allahabad,



Uttar Pradesh, India. He earned his B.S. degree from the University of Allahabad in 1992. He is currently working toward his Ph.D. degree from VPI & SU, where he received his M.S.

degree in 1995. He was the recipient of the P. Howard Massey Food and Nutrition Scholar Award at VPI & SU in 1996. His research project deals with the various aspects of developing nitrogen fertilizer recommendations for no-till dryland grain sorghum in Virginia. Mr. Khosla plans a career in research and extension, perhaps teaching at a university. He is also interested in working in the area of international research and development.

Karl B. Ritchie was born in Arco,



Idaho. He received both his B.S. (1992) and M.S. (1994) degrees from Utah State University. He is presently studying for a Ph. D. at the University of Illinois. Among his many awards are

the Anheuser-Busch and the Union Pacific Railroad Scholarships. Much of his doctoral research has focused on nitrogen management and starter fertilizers in reduced-tillage corn. He is also utilizing weather and water sampling equipment to estimate evapotranspiration and nitrate leaching. Among his career objectives are conducting applied field research and helping to transfer technology between farmers and scientists.

James B. Sallee is from Wilmington, Ohio. He received his B.S. degree from Ohio State University in 1995. He is presently working on his M.S. at Michigan State University. Mr. Sallee was listed in 'Who's Who Among American College Students' while at Ohio State.



His M.S. research deals with the degree to which soil series common to a three-state area (Michigan, Indiana, Ohio) differ in potassium (K) chemistry. Of particular interest is the determination of whether exchangeable or nonexchangeable soil K contributes most to plant growth. Mr. Sallee plans to seek employment with an agribusiness company or environmental consulting firm.

Nathan A. Slaton was born in Evansville, Indiana. He received his B.S. degree from Murray State University in 1986 and his M.S. degree in 1989 from the University of Arkansas. He has been active in student activities



throughout his college career and served as President of the Agronomy Club while at Murray State. His dissertation research is focused on the evaluation of elemental sulfur as a soil amendment to improve rice growth and nutrient availability on alkaline soils in Arkansas. Following completion of his degree, Mr. Slaton plans to return to the Rice Research and Extension Center near Stuttgart to work as State Extension Rice Agronomist.

Qiupeng (David) Zeng is a native of



China. He has a strong background in fertilizer promotion in China. In 1995 Mr. Zeng was the recipient of the Robert E. Wagner Award, sponsored by PPI. He is currently studying for

his Ph.D. degree at the University of California, Davis. His research addresses soil availability, uptake and translocation mechanisms of K in pistachio to develop K diagnostic procedures and fertilizer recommendations. Mr. Zeng's career goal is to work in the area of market development in the potash and phosphate fertilizer industry, through research, extension and marketing.

The Fellowships are named in honor of Dr. J. Fielding Reed, retired president of the Institute, who now lives in Athens, Georgia. The Fellowship winners are selected by a committee of PPI scientists. Dr. A.E. Ludwick, PPI's Western U.S. Director, served as chairman of the selection committee for the 1997 Fellowships. 