

J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships Awarded to Five Graduate Students

Five outstanding graduate students have been announced as the 2000 winners of the “J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowship” awards 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 fields.

Since the program began in 1980, 125 students have now received the Fellowships. The five winners for the year 2000 are:

- **Mr. Xinhua Yin**,
Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
- **Ms. Carrie A.M. Laboski**,
University of Minnesota, St. Paul
- **Mr. R. Andrew Schofield**,
University of Guelph, Ontario
- **Ms. Eugenia M. Pena-Yewtukhiw**,
University of Kentucky
- **Mr. Mark L. Bernards**,
Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

“Each year, we are impressed with the quality of the applicants for this award, which recognizes and encourages an excellent group of graduate students in agronomic sciences,” said Dr. David W. Dibb, President of PPI.

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 year 2000 recipients.

Xinhua Yin was born in Hunan province, China. He received his B.S. degree at Hunan Agricultural University in 1985 and his M.S. degree from Nanjing Agricultural University in 1988. He was employed by Hunan Academy of Agricultural Sciences in



China from 1988 to 1997. He began study toward his Ph.D. degree at the University of Guelph in the fall of 1997 and is currently in a doctoral program at Purdue University. Mr. Yin has been the recipient of many awards and honors during his academic career. His major professor says, “Xinhua Yin simply rates among the best Ph.D. graduate students in agriculture in North America.” Mr. Yin is conducting research on ‘Potassium Fertility Management for Soybeans in Conservation Tillage Systems,’ with particular emphasis on no-till soybean yield and seed quality responses to potassium fertilizer placement directly preceding soybean planting, or for corn preceding soybeans. Following graduate school, he plans a career in research or Extension.

Carrie A.M. Laboski is a native of Lake Winola, Pennsylvania. She received her B.S. degree from Penn State University in 1993 and her M.S. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1995. She is currently studying for her Ph.D. degree, also at the University of Minnesota. Among other awards and honors, Ms. Laboski was the recipient of the American Society of Agronomy Outstanding Student Award in 1993 and the Harry J. Larsen/Hydro Memorial Scholarship in 1999. She is a member



of Sigma Xi and Gamma Sigma Delta. Her dissertation title is 'Manure Effects on Soil Phosphorus Sorption and Availability in Selected Minnesota Soils.' The results of her research are expected to provide a better understanding of the chemistry of the manure-soil-phosphorus complex. Her career goal is to research ways to minimize plant nutrient impacts on soil and water resources while maintaining or enhancing agricultural productivity and long-term sustainability.

R. Andrew Schofield was born in New Minas, Nova Scotia, Canada. He earned his B.S. degree from Acadia University in 1997. He received his M.S. degree from the University of Guelph where he is currently pursuing his Ph.D. degree. He was the recipient of the Colver Scholarship in Postharvest Physiology and the Soden Memorial Scholarship at the University of Guelph. His research focus is the 'Effect of Phosphorus Fertilization on Organoleptic and Nutritional Quality of Apples.' His study involves several aspects of apple quality and physiology with regard to phosphorus nutrition, including soil and foliar applications, absorption and transport parameters in tree and fruit, and the relationship between phosphorus fertilization and levels of compounds enhancing nutritional quality and storage. He plans a career in the area of plant physiology and biochemistry, perhaps as a university professor.



Eugenia M. Pena-Yewtukhiw is a native of Caracas, Venezuela. She received her B.Sc. degree from the Central University of Venezuela in 1984 and her M.Sc. from that same institution in 1992. She is presently studying for her Ph.D. degree at the University of Kentucky. Since beginning her doctoral program, she has been a recipient of both the



Commonwealth and the Research Challenge Trust Fund Fellowships. Her proposed dissertation title is 'A study of Spatial and Temporal Variation in Soil Moisture Distribution in a Landscape Controlling the Response of a Corn-Soybean Rotation to Applied Fertilizers.' The objectives of her ongoing research activities are to determine those soil properties, as related to crop nutrient delivery, that are dependent on landscape; predict the distribution of those properties using advanced spatial analysis; and to use probability theory to suggest how crop response to soil management inputs will change with space and time. Ms. Pena-Yewtukhiw plans a career as a university researcher and instructor.

Mark L. Bernards was born in Murray, Utah. He received his B.S. degree from Brigham Young University in 1998 and plans to complete requirements for his M.S. degree at that university this year. Some of his many awards include the Brigham Young University Trustees Scholarship and the Julia Greenwell Scholarship. His thesis title is 'Screening Corn Hybrids to Determine Suitability for Use on High pH Soils by Measuring Phytosiderophore Release.' Many hybrids are unable to take up adequate iron at high soil pHs (above 8.0) because of iron insolubility. Using improved screening techniques and newly developed hybrids, Mr. Bernards believes that phytosiderophore release may be an effective and inexpensive screening technique for identifying iron-efficient hybrids. After his M.S. studies, Mr. Bernards plans to pursue a Ph.D. in agronomy, followed by a career as a university professor.



The Fellowships are named in honor of Dr. J. Fielding Reed, who served as President of the Institute from 1964 to 1975. Dr. Reed passed away in 1999.

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 2000 Fellowships. **BC**