

# J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships Awarded to Outstanding Graduate Students

Seven graduate students have been announced as the 2002 winners of the J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowship awards by the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI). Grants of \$2,500 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. The winners for the year 2002 are:

- **Amy Suzanne Berg**, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
- **William Kess Berg**, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
- **Dennis Chessman**, Texas A&M University, College Station
- **Ann Kline**, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
- **Mariya Murashkina Meese**, University of California, Davis
- **Ryan Russell Paul Noble**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- **Mark Stephen Reiter**, Auburn University, Alabama

“Since the awards began in 1980, 135 students have now been named as recipients,” said Dr. David W. Dibb, President of PPI. “This time we have a first. Two of the winners, Kess Berg and Amy Suzanne Berg, are husband and wife. Congratulations to all in this exceptional group.”

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 2002 recipients.

**Amy Suzanne Berg** received her B.S. degree from Purdue University in 2001 and is currently working on her M.S. degree there. Ms. Berg has received numerous awards and scholarships, including the Beck Foundation Scholarship, Robert J. Woods



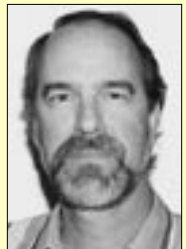
Scholarship, Carole Thiele Agronomy Scholarship, Gentry Family Scholarship, and the Lewis Runkle Scholarship. In addition, she was a recipient of the American Society of Agronomy's Outstanding Senior Award. Her thesis title is 'Changes in Phosphorus Status in Soils of Differing Chemical and Physical Properties after Applications of Manure and Phosphate Fertilizer.' This research is striving to identify the phosphorus compounds present in livestock manures and extracts from soils fertilized with manure and commercial fertilizer. One of the objectives is to determine the mobility of specific phosphorus compounds in soils.

**William Kess Berg** received his B.S. degree from Ohio State University in 1996 and is completing a M.S. degree from Purdue University in 2002. Mr. Berg is a recipient of the George D. Scarseth Graduate Award.



He has published his research in scientific journals and presented the findings at the American Society of Agronomy meetings and numerous extension meetings. Mr. Berg's research program integrated field-based fertility response trials with modern physiological and biochemical assays. His objective was to determine the impact of phosphorus and potassium fertilization on alfalfa yield, quality, persistence, and related physiological, biochemical, and molecular mechanisms.

**Dennis Chessman**, received his B.S. degree from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, and his M.S. degree from Kansas State University in Manhattan. He began work on his doctorate at Texas A&M in College Station in 1999. Mr. Chessman was recognized as Outstanding



Student in Agronomy and Outstanding Agriculture Graduate as an undergraduate, and has been the recipient of the American Society of Agronomy 'Certificate of Excellence' in the publication category. The title of his dissertation is 'Alfalfa Production on Acid Coastal Plain Soils.' The objective is to evaluate the effectiveness of gypsum and a flue gas desulfurization byproduct from a coal-fired electric power generating plant in ameliorating aluminum toxicity on highly weathered soils.

**Ann Kline**, a native of Hudson, Indiana, began working on her Masters degree at Purdue University in 2001. In 2000 she graduated with a B.S. in Soil and Crop Science from Purdue after transferring from Huntington College, Huntington, Indiana. Ms. Kline was the Outstanding Sophomore and Junior in Purdue's Agronomy Department and was recognized for her exemplary performance by Dow AgroSciences while working as a Science Intern during the summers of 1999 and 2000. Her M.S. research is investigating the effects of deep placement of phosphorus and potassium on corn response in high yield environments.



**Mariya Murashkina Meese** was born in Moscow, Russia, and received a B.S. from Moscow State University in 1996. She worked as a Research Assistant in Russia until entering a Ph.D. program at the University of California, Davis, in 2000. She has authored several scientific papers and presented research results at scientific meetings in Russia, France, Japan, and the U.S. Her research is testing a new method of evaluating plant-available potassium in the high potassium-fixing soils of the San Joaquin Valley. It is also utilizing geographic information systems (GIS) technology to map the location of potassium-fixing soils that are in cotton production in the San Joaquin Valley.



**Ryan Noble** was born in Rosebud, Australia. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Tennessee in 2000 and is presently working on his M.S. Mr. Noble has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the University's Provost Award for extraordinary professional promise and the J.J. Bird Memorial Scholarship in Agriculture as an undergraduate. He has also been recognized as an Outstanding Senior in Plant and Soil Science, Outstanding Horticulture Student, and received the Outstanding Undergraduate Award from the Tennessee Agriculture Production Association. His thesis is titled 'The Characterization, Genesis, and Classification of Six Selected Soil Profiles of the Kursk Oblast, Russia.'



**Mark S. Reiter** was raised on a family farm in Dinwiddie County, Virginia. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Virginia Tech in 2001 with a B.S. degree and is presently working toward a M.S. at Auburn University. He is



a current recipient of the Frank D. Keim Graduate Fellowship and was awarded the Charles R. Drake Scholarship, the Abrahams Scholarship, and the Robert Harrison Scholarship as an undergraduate. The title of his thesis is 'Nitrogen Management for High Residue Conservation Tillage Cotton in the Tennessee Valley.' The objectives are to improve the understanding of nitrogen dynamics on silt loam and silty clay loam soils and to improve nitrogen management guidelines for cotton producers.

The Fellowships are named in honor of Dr. J. Fielding Reed, who served as President of the Institute from 1964 to 1975. Dr. Reed, who passed away in 1999, was well-known for his encouragement of students and inspiring advanced study.

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