J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships Awarded To Seven Graduate Students

Seven outstanding graduate students have been announced as the 2005 winners of the J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships. 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 2005 are:

- **Nancy L. Bohl**, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- **Ines C. Daverede**, University of Illinois
- **Fabian G. Fernandez**, Purdue University
- **Amy L. Shober**, University of Delaware
- **Douglas J. Soldat**, Cornell University
- **John T. Spargo**, Virginia Tech
- **Kristin E. Staats**, University of Delaware

"Each year, we have the privilege of recognizing these excellent young individuals who represent such strong qualifications and dedication in agronomic sciences. Since these awards began in 1980, more than 150 graduate students have received Fellowships from the Institute," 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 2005 recipients.

Nancy L. Bohl

Nancy L. Bohl is working toward her M.S. degree in Soil Fertility at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her thesis title is "Assessing Phosphorus Losses in Run-off at Plot and Sub-Watershed Scales in Wisconsin Cropping Systems." A native of Wisconsin, she completed her B.S. degree at Iowa State University in 2004. For the future, she hopes to use her background in soil fertility and agricultural education in working with landowners and farmers in nutrient management planning.

Ines C. Daverede

Ines C. Daverede is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Soil Fertility at the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign. With the thesis title of "Swine Manure and Fertilizer Nitrogen Transformations in Soil and Corn Uptake," a portion of her work involves tracing the fate of labeled N from the corn kernel, through the animal, into manure storage facilities, and finally back to the soil and into corn grain. A native of Argentina, she completed her B.S. degree at the University of Buenos Aires in 1999 and her M.S. at Illinois in 2001.

Fabian G. Fernandez

Fabian G. Fernandez is completing the requirements for his Ph.D. degree in Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. His dissertation title is "Potassium Acquisition by No-Till Soybeans Affected by Stratified Soil Potassium, Growth Stage, and Soil Water Content," which seeks to advance understanding of interactions between soil water status, soil K availability, soybean root development, and soybean K requirements in rain-fed production with stratified soil test K. Born in Argentina, Mr. Fernandez

completed his M.S. and B.S. degrees at Brigham Young University.


Amy L. Shober

Amy L. Shober is finishing the program for her Ph.D. degree in Soil Science at the University of Delaware. Her dissertation title is "Phosphorus (P) Speciation and Solubility in Soils Amended with Animal Manures and Municipal Biosolids: Implications for Water Quality." Her research incorporates laboratory and molecular scale research to determine how the chemical forms of P differ between organic P sources, and how these differences will affect P solubility and bioavailability when they are incorporated into the soil. A native of New Jersey, Ms. Shober earned her B.S. degree at Virginia Tech in 1998 and M.S. at Pennsylvania State University in 2002. Her future plans include a career as a research soil scientist.


Douglas J. Soldat

Douglas J. Soldat is working toward a Ph.D. degree in Horticulture/Plant Science at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. With a dissertation title of "The Source of Phosphorus in Runoff from Turfgrass," his research has examined the relationship between soil test P levels and P losses from turfgrass areas. In identifying the major sources of this loss, his hypothesis is that microbial decomposition of clippings is a major factor. Born in Wisconsin, Mr. Soldat earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In the future, he hopes to work in teaching and research with a university and contribute further to the understanding of how P and K cycle in turfgrass systems.


John T. Spargo

John T. Spargo recently began working toward his Ph.D. degree in Soil Fertility at Virginia Tech. His dissertation title will be "Nitrogen Cycling in Long-Term No-Till Coastal Plain Soils of the Mid-Atlantic," with the objective of determining fertilizer N recoveries/losses and sequestration in areas of the region that have been in no-till for several years. Improved understanding of N dynamics in no-till soils of the area will allow increased agronomic efficacy of N applications and limit any negative environmental impact. Born in Washington, DC, Mr. Spargo earned his B.S. at Texas A&M and his M.S. at Virginia Tech.


Kristin E. Staats

Kristin E. Staats is completing her M.S. degree at the University of Delaware with a major in Plant and Soil Sciences. With a thesis title of "Phosphorus in Alum-Amended Poultry Litter Systems: Distribution, Speciation, and Interactions with Aluminum Oxides", she is using innovative laboratory techniques to investigate the efficacy of alum as a best management practice for poultry litter. Improved understanding of animal manure chemistry is important for environmental preservation and improvement. Ms. Staats will begin a Ph.D. program at Virginia Tech in fall 2005.

The PPI 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 inspiring advanced study and for encouragement of students and teachers. BC