in greenhouse crops, Mr. Mattson is also working with his major professor in software development of a greenhouse production timing tool for cut-flower rose production. His career goal is a university position that combines research with outreach efforts, with a focus on water and nutrient management in agronomic or horticultural crops.


Emily G. Sneller

Emily G. Sneller is pursuing her M.S. degree in Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin. Her thesis title is "Manure Source and Rate Effects on Soil Test Levels and Corn Growth in Relation to Fertilizer." Originally from Michigan, Ms. Sneller grew up on a dairy farm and received her B.S. in 2005 from Michigan State University. Her current research project involves three main focus aspects. First is a field study to determine manure phosphorus availability to corn compared to fertilizer. Then, the same locations will be used to determine second year availability of each source. Third, an in-laboratory incubation study will be done to mirror the field study. Results of the various components will help fine tune phosphorus recommendations related to manure application. For the future, Ms. Sneller hopes to work with farmers in developing efficient and sustainable management plans while maintaining the effectiveness and economical aspects required in modern agriculture.


Mark W. Szczerba

Mark W. Szczerba is working toward a Ph.D. in Plant Physiology in the Botany Department at the University of Toronto. His thesis title is "Physiology of Potassium Nutrition in Cereals: Fluxes, Compartmentation, and Ionic Interactions." Mr. Szczerba completed his B.S. degree at the University of Western Ontario in 2002. His current research focus is on potassium (K^+) nutrition in barley and rice seedlings, seeking to better understand fundamental aspects concerning K^+ transport. His findings related to low-affinity transport of K^+ in cereals have already provided new insight and reworking of methodology for flux measurement in plants. He is also examining sodium (Na^+) stress in cereals, in particular, how Na^+ toxicity affects K^+ uptake and compartmentation. As for future career goals, Mr. Szczerba would like to use his skills and knowledge in ion transport to better understand how to engineer plants that one day could be used to decontaminate soils laden with heavy metals or organic toxicants.

The Fellowships are named in honor of Dr. J. Fielding Reed, who served as President of the Institute from 1964 to 1975. Dr. Reed was well-known for inspiring advanced study and for encouragement of students and teachers. The 2006 Fellowship winners were selected by a committee of PPI scientific staff. BC

How to Apply for PPI Fellowship

Graduate students attending a U.S. or Canadian degree-granting institution are eligible to apply for the J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships. The award is made directly to the student and no specific duties are required. Deadline for the next round of applications to be received is January 16, 2007. Announcement of those awards would be in the spring of 2007. Applicants are asked to include transcripts of all college courses and letters of support from three individuals (one of whom should be the major professor). Application forms are available by contacting: Phyllis Pates, PPI, 772-22nd Avenue South, Brookings, SD 57006; phone (605) 692-6280; e-mail: ppates@ppi-far.org. BC