

ACSPSNA Newsletter No. 9

June 2006

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1. ACSPSNA 2005 Annual Meeting Minutes

The ACSPSNA 2005 Annual Meeting was successfully held at the Hilton Hotel in Salt Lake City, on November 8, 2005. The following are minutes from the meeting.

Student award

Ms. Bo Zhang, a graduate student at University of Arkansas, received the annual ACSPSNA outstanding student award. The award was accompanied with \$400 cash and a certificate acknowledging Ms. Zhang's academic accomplishments.

Proposal and initiation of China Agricultural Science Award

Dr. Liwang Ma's proposal to initiate the China Agricultural Science Award was discussed at the meeting. The Award is to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to advancing China agricultural science and technology. It was proposed that the Award should be sponsored by ACSPSNA and administrated through America Society of Agronomy. Dr. Ma was then appointed as the Chair of the Fundraising Committee. Drs. Ma, H.H. Cheng, Chi-Hua Huang, along with many other past and current ACSPSNA board members, worked closely with the ASA Headquarters on this project. A minimum of \$25,000 is needed to initiate the award. A fund raising brochure and pledge letter have been in circulation since the beginning of May, 2006. They are also included in this newsletter.

Financial Report

A brief financial report was given by Jay Gan. At the time of the 2005 meeting, the balance was \$1935.90. The report was accepted by the members. It was suggested that no fund raising effort was necessary, given the healthy state of the budget.

After deducting the amount used for the Student Award (\$400) and some minor expenses for meeting organization (\$12), and including \$620 that was collected at the door via membership fees and donations, the current balance of the ACSPSNA budget is standing at \$2143.90.

Welcome New Board Member

Dr. Jin Yan, Professor at the University of Delaware was nominated and then unanimously elected as the Secretary/Treasure for ACSPSNA. Welcome aboard, Yan!

Panel Discussion on “Road to Become a Society Fellow”

The focus of the annual meeting was a panel discussion that included several well-received presentations from ASA-SSSA-CSSA Fellows. All speakers are Tri-Society Fellows, with outstanding accomplishments in research, education, and service. The Fellows shared their experience and advice with the audience on how to successfully become a Tri-Society Fellow. The following are some of the main points from these presentations.

Dr. H.H. Cheng

H.H. stressed that becoming a fellow is important, but should not be a target for an individual. In the process of being considered for the award, it is important to make your contributions known by the others. Contributions from different individuals may not be comparable, and recognition is usually related to the nature of the contribution, rather than the length of service or age. It is important for one to actively attend meetings and get to know people. It is also helpful to participate in manuscript review or to become an associate/technical editor.

Dr. B.R. Huang

Dr. Huang elaborated on four criteria that are usually used by the fellowship committee when evaluating qualifications.

Teaching: This includes new teaching methods, achievement, and anything that is different from others. You need to point out the percentage of your teaching assignment or contribution, as job appointments vary.

Research: This includes creativity and productivity, i.e., number of publications and quality of research, research funding and achievements.

Service: It is important to serve on local (e.g., department) and society (e.g., committee member, division chair) committees. Public and industrial clientele is also important.

Leadership: This includes leadership positions such as department chair. Identification of the time partition is necessary.

Dr. R. Wang

Additional criteria can include service as an associate editor for a journal, and establishment of collaboration. It is important to publicize and share your research results, and make contributions to the society.

Website update

Any changes to your contact information or new member addition should be sent to Dr. Tiequan Zhang or other board members for update. The board members email addresses are listed at the end of this newsletter.

2. Joint Meeting Planned for WCSS in Philadelphia



Mark your calendar!

When: Tuesday 2-4 PM

Where: Room 112 AB, Convention Center

A joint meeting “**Collaborative Research in China: Opportunities and Challenges**”, will take place during the World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) in Philadelphia. The main objective of the meeting is to foster discussion and collaboration between overseas Chinese scientists in agricultural sciences and their counterparts in China. Speakers will include senior researchers from China and other regions in the world. Please plan to attend!

3. Minority Student Poster Contest at Annual Meeting in Indianapolis

The ACS528 Minorities in Agronomy Committee will hold a poster competition for both graduate and undergraduate minority students who are presenting a poster at 2006 Annual Meetings in Indianapolis, IN. There will be two to three winners selected in each category to receive a cash prize of \$300, \$250 and \$200, respectively, in addition to a certificate of achievement. Students pursuing a B.S. (B.A.), M.S. or Ph.D. degree and belong to any minority groups, defined by the Civil Rights Act, are encouraged to enter the minority student poster contest. Contestants should directly submit abstracts to the Special Session Z04 at the on-line abstract submission site. Please go to the web-site for abstract submissions: <http://a-c-s.confex.com/a-c-s/2006am/index.htm> and then scroll down and click on the Z04 link towards the bottom of the page. Follow the step-by-step instructions for abstract submissions. Each contestant is limited to one poster entry. **All submissions are due no later than May 9 at 11:59 pm EDT.** Posters for this special session will be scheduled for presentation during Monday morning.

After August 9, all entrants of the competition are required to send their posters in a MS Presentation or PowerPoint file to the ACS528 Chair by e-mail. **The deadline for receipt of this poster file submission is October 6.** Winners will be selected and notified prior to November 3. Award presentation will be at 6:30 pm on November 13 following the Minority in Agronomy Reception and Committee Meeting.

Members of the committee look forward to judging all submitted posters and meeting all entrants of this contest. We wish all entrants the best for presenting their research results at the Indianapolis meetings.

For further information, please contact:

Richard Wang
Chair, ACS528 Committee
rcwang@cc.usu.edu

4. China Agricultural Science Award Unveiled

The success of this award program depends on your involvement! Please circulate the fund raising brochure and pledge to individuals you know. Please get involved by making a generous donation.

China Agricultural Science Award

China has one-quarter of the world population. Therefore, sustainable development of Chinese agriculture to ensure food supply and to preserve the environment is crucial to China and to the stability of the world. Many scientists around the world have made significant contributions to Chinese agriculture, but their contributions have not been fully recognized by international scientific community.

Therefore, members of the Association of Chinese Soil and Plant Scientists of North America (ACSPSNA) have established the China Agricultural Science Award (CASA), which will be administered by the American Society of Agronomy (ASA). This award will recognize those individuals who are ASA-CSSA-SSSA members and have made significant contributions to Chinese agriculture by:

1. Impacting Chinese agricultural education
2. Promoting applications of new research and technologies in China
3. Influencing Chinese agricultural policies that benefit farmers and the environment
4. Improving the quality of Chinese agricultural research and technology transfer

The award amount is anticipated to be \$1,000 per year and will be funded through an endowment held in the Agronomic Science Foundation.

How You Can Help

Your help is needed to permanently endow a fund through the Agronomic Science Foundation, that will support the China Agricultural Science Award in perpetuity. An endowment of \$25,000 or more will be necessary to provide enough funds for an annual award (beginning in 2007, if funding permits).

The Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF) is an educational foundation, incorporated in 1967, to support professions in agronomy, crop and soil sciences. It supports the work of:

American Society of Agronomy (ASA)
Crop Science Society of America (CSSA)
Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)

Your gifts will be used to support the program you choose. Gifts to ASF are fully U.S. tax deductible.

How to make your donation

Contributions can be mailed to ASF at 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53711, using the donation form in this brochure. You may also contact Bonnie Lueck, ASF Development Officer, at 608-268-4947 or email blueck@a-s-f.org. Donations can also be made online at: <http://www.a-s-f.org/>. Please designate your donation to the China Agricultural Science Award.

Gifts of Stock

Donors to the Agronomic Science Foundation have the opportunity to avoid potential capital gains taxes and receive a charitable deduction for the fair market value of donated stocks. If you prefer to make your gift using appreciated securities, please contact Bonnie Lueck, ASF Development Officer, at 608-268-4947 or email blueck@a-s-f.org for more information.

Pledges

Pledges are accepted over a period of time up to three years. Donors are recognized at the pledged level, rather than actual gifts received to date.

ASF's Legacy Circle

While annual gifts are very important, you can make an even greater impact when you specify your support for the China Agricultural Science Award in your will or estate plan.

Donors making estate gifts are recognized as part of the ASF Legacy Circle. For more information, check the Legacy Circle box on the contribution card or contact the ASF Development Office.



The Association of Chinese Soil & Plant
Scientists in North America
北美華人士壤及植物學者協會

**The Association of Chinese Soil & Plant
Scientists in North America**

北美華人土壤及植物學者協會

May 2006

Dear Fellow Chinese Professionals, Scholars, and Students:

We are very delighted to inform you that American Society of Agronomy (ASA) has approved the establishment of the China Agricultural Science Award (CASA) to honor those who have made outstanding contributions to Chinese agriculture. The Association of Chinese Soil & Plant Scientists in North America (ACSPSNA) will be recognized as the sponsor of the award.

This award means a lot to every Chinese agricultural scientist in North America and will have profound impacts on our careers and on our images as a minority group in the Tri-society. The award will not only recognize our fellow Chinese scientists, but also non-Chinese individuals who make significant contributions to Chinese agriculture.

To make the award a success, we need your support and help! You are a part of this award, and you will be proud of yourself for your contributions. Every donation will make a difference. We will need to raise at least \$25,000 in total in order to make this happen. Please consider making a pledge by contributing to the China Agricultural Science Award program.

On behalf of the ACSPSNA, we thank you in advance for your support and donation!

CASA Fundraising Committee:

H. H. Cheng, University of Minnesota, USA
Zhengxia Dou, University of Pennsylvania, USA
Jay Gan, University of California, USA
Chi-Hua Huang, USDA-ARS, USA
P. M. Huang, University of Saskatchewan, Canada
Yan Jin, University of Delaware, USA
Eugene Kuo, Kuo Testing Lab, USA
Liwang Ma, USDA-ARS, USA (Chair)
C. L. Ping, University of Alaska, USA
Richard Wang, USDA-ARS, USA
Laosheng Wu, University of California, USA
Yang Yen, South Dakota State University, USA
Hailin Zhang, Oklahoma State University, USA
Lingxiao Zhang, Mississippi State University, USA
Renduo Zhang, Sun Yat-Sen (Zhongshan) University, China
Tiequan Zhang, Agricultural and Agri-Food Canada, Canada

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Current committee member e-mail address:

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GAN Jianying (Jay): jgan@ucr.edu

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