

NAPB Borlaug Scholars 2021 Annual Report

ACSESS468 ACSESS – NAPB Borlaug Scholars Committee

Don C. Jones, Chair – July 15, 2021

This is the NAPB Borlaug Scholars Committee Annual Report to the Executive Committee for the 2021 Annual Meeting. This program was created in January 2018. The National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB) was established in 2010 with the following mission: *The National Association of Plant Breeders strengthens plant breeding to promote food security, quality of life, and a sustainable future.*

The committee composition from January 2020 and continuing for 2 years is:

2020-21 NAPB Borlaug Scholars Committee:

Don Jones, Chair

Allen Van Deynze, Vice Chair

Sarah Potts, Secretary

Donn Cummings, Past Chair

Aaron Lorenz, Member at Large

Bo Zhang, Member at Large

Wayne Smith, Member at Large

Jodi Scheffler, Member at Large

Kiru Pillay, Member at Large

Peng Chee, Member at Large

Richard Pratt, Member at Large

Caio Canella Vieira, Student Member for 2020 (2019 Borlaug Scholar)

Chandler Blake Maddox, Student Member for 2021 (2020 Borlaug Scholar)

The Vision of the NAPB Borlaug Scholars Committee: *A sustainable annual flow of high-potential plant science students and emerging plant breeders into the professional community.*

Our Mission: *Selection of outstanding plant breeding students through national competition; funding these students to attend the NAPB Annual Meetings; mentoring of scholarship recipients during and after the annual meeting.*

The ASF - NAPB Borlaug Scholars Fund has grown from \$30,000 at inception in January 2018 to a current balance of \$93,795.94 as of May 31, 2021. During the last four NAPB Annual Meetings, we have funded 62 scholars. 15% of the current fund balance is restricted to provide a spending floor. The Class of 2021 is comprised of 24 individuals, with 18 being graduate and 6 undergraduate students. The financial health of the fund remains strong and will support the Class of 2022.

2021 Highlights for the 2020 and 2021 Classes:

- Four mentoring workshops were held for the professional development of the 2020 Class. The 3rd event, a student organized workshop, is described below. The 4th event on June 29th featured 1996 World Food Prize Laureate, Dr. Gurdev Khush. All previous Borlaug Scholars were invited.
- NAPB scholar profiles have been publicized through the NAPB Newsletter, Website, Meeting Registration Website, Seed World, and social media channels.
- Introduction of the 2021 Class of Borlaug Scholars using their self-made 1 minute videos was highlighted during the NAPB Annual Meeting at Cornell University. This enables an expanded audience to meet each scholar.
- A Support-A Scholar Fundraiser virtual mentoring workshop, titled A Day in the Life of a Plant Breeder, was held March 2 with 98 participants. It was planned and organized by 2019 scholars Caio Canella Vieira and 2020 scholars Saarah Kuzay, Natalie Kaiser, Ammani Kyanam, and Chandler Levinson.



Caio Canella Vieira
University of Missouri



Saarah Kuzay
UC-Davis



Natalie Kaiser
Michigan State



Ammani Kyanam
Texas A&M University



Chandler Levinson
University of Georgia

- The purpose of the event was to allow participants to ask questions of four plant breeders about their working careers, how Covid-19 affected their day-to-day work, and hear advice on starting a plant breeding career. The four plant breeders were Dr. JD Rossouw from Bayer CropScience, Dr. Sarah Potts from Corteva, Dr. Leandro Mozzoni from the University of Arkansas, and Dr. Stephanie Sjoberg from Syngenta,.



JD Rossouw
Head of Vegetable R&D
Bayer Crop Science



Sarah Potts
108 RM Corn Breeder
Corteva Agriscience



Leandro Mozzoni
Associate Professor
University of Arkansas



Stephanie Sjoberg
Tomato Breeding
Project Lead
Syngenta

- Nearly \$17,000 in sponsorship funds were raised from the institutions shown below, a testament to the passion and organization of the five Borlaug Scholars who organized the event and the continuing support from the larger plant breeding community.



- The web link was updated for 2021 nominations both for graduates and undergraduates to collect relevant information from nominees.
- All 2020 and 2021 scholars were provided a \$500 check for recognition of their selection in lieu of having expenses covered at an in-person meeting. Each scholar received complimentary student NAPB membership and free annual meeting registration also.
- Seed World interview podcasts were developed for NAPB Borlaug Scholars.

2021 Borlaug Scholars and Mentors

- For the Class of 2021, 24 Borlaug Scholars were chosen from 46 nominations submitted. Of the 24, 18 were graduate and 6 undergraduate students. The 24 total is a 33% increase from 2020 and the 6 undergraduates selected tripled the number from last year. Listed are the names of the 2021 Borlaug Scholars and the mentors for each.

NAPB Borlaug Graduate Scholars:

Arlyn John Ackerman, Clemson University	Sarah Potts, Corteva
Pawan Basnet, University of Missouri	Richard Pratt, New Mexico State University
Catherine Danmaigona Clement, Texas A&M University	Ksenija Gasic, Clemson University
Nida Ghorri, Kansas State University	Peggy Ozias-Akins, University of Georgia
Kimberly Gibson, University of California – Davis	Mark Sorrells, Cornell University
Amy Groh, University of California – Davis	Jennifer Peterson, Bayer
Thilani Jayakody, Michigan State University	Debora Menicos, Driscolls
Fabian Leon, Texas A&M University	Jodi Scheffler, USDA-ARS
Eric Wayne Luteyn, University of Kentucky	Donn Cummings, Monsanto (retired)
Lance Merrick, Washington State University	Dave Bubeck, Corteva
Chi Dinh Nguyen, University of Florida	Bo Zhang, Virginia Tech
Alex Chukwuka Ogonna, Cornell University	Hannah Senior, PBS International
Jeewan Pandey, Texas A&M University	Amanda Hulse Kemp, USDA-ARS
Erin Pfarr, Rutgers University	Stephanie Sjoberg, Syngenta
Karansher Singh Sandhu, Washington State University	Kiru Pillay, Bayer
Swati Shrestha, University of Florida	Virginia Sykes, University of Tennessee
Renan Silva e Souza, University of Georgia	Klaus Koehler, Corteva
Cleiton Wartha, University of Minnesota	Allen Van Deynze, University of California-Davis

NAPB Borlaug Undergraduate Scholars

Brianna Lee Cheek, Texas A&M University	Sarah Turner-Hissong, Bayer
Matthew William Davis, University of Florida	Peng Chee, University of Georgia
Isabella Grace Fiore, University of Wisconsin	Brittney Jones, Bayer
Isabelle Taylor Gent, North Carolina State University	Chandler Levinson, UC-Davis
Tanner Joseph Oyen, University of Wisconsin	Don Blackburn, Corteva (retired)
Samantha Jo Wegener, University of Georgia	Chris Saski, Clemson University

NAPB Borlaug Scholars (ASF) Fund Financial Summary for 2021

Contributions to NAPB Borlaug Scholars ASF fund:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2021:	\$72,322.45
Donor Contributions through 05/31/2021:	\$16,790.00
Investment Earnings through 05/31/2021:	\$5,387.59
Distributions:	(\$704.10)
Ending Balance:	\$93,795.94

The Fund had funds to increase the number of awards to 24 in 2021, ahead of the five-year strategic plan goals.

There are no currently identified actionable items to bring before the ASF, Tri-Society, or ACSESS boards at this time. 2021 continues to be an unusual year for the Borlaug Scholars due to the Covid-19 crisis, but the committee, scholars, and mentors all adapted as evidenced by several successful mentoring sessions. All events have been widely praised by all participants, especially the Borlaug Scholars.

Respectfully Submitted:

Don Jones, NAPB Borlaug Scholars Chair