

Six Grad Students Selected For J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships

ATLANTA, GA — Six outstanding graduate students have been named as 1988 winners of the "J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships" awarded by the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI). Grants of \$2,000 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 sciences.

The 1988 recipients were chosen from nearly 50 applicants who sought the Fellowships. The six are:

- Jessica G. Davis-Rainey, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas;
- Matthew J. Eick, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware;
- Seth H. Frisbie, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York;
- Stuart J. Georgitis, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana;
- Brian J. Lang, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota;
- Richard P. Wolkowski, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

"We are very pleased to offer this recognition and encouragement for an elite group of young scientists. All of the applicants for the fellowships have impressive records," said Dr. R.E. Wagner, President of PPI and the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR). "These individuals and their education institutions can be justly proud."

Scholarship record, excellence in original research, and leadership are among the important criteria evaluated for the Fellowships. Following is a brief summary of information for each of the winners:

Jessica G. David-Rainey is a candidate for the Ph.D. (Doctoral) degree in soil fertility at Texas A&M University. Her research program involves root distribution of sorghum and millet as influenced by fertilization and soil physical and chemical properties. She conducted research in West Africa and has gathered considerable data on intercropping and the soil-root-nutrient system. Previously, Davis-Rainey completed a B.S. degree at Cornell University and a M.S. degree at Texas Tech University, where Dr. H.M. Taylor was her major professor. She graduated from Abington (Pennsylvania) High School and has an outstanding record academically and in other activities. Dr. L.R. Hossner serves as chairman of her Ph.D. research advisory committee.

Matthew J. Eick is pursuing the M.S. degree at the University of Delaware. His research program is concerned with the effect of salinity on potassium (K) reactions in

soils and soil fractions. Data from Israeli and Delaware soils will be used with plant uptake and yield data to model the effects of saline (salt) water on K availability and mobility. This information should have implications for quality of water in crop irrigation in many areas of the world. Eick earned his B.S. in Agronomy-Soil Science at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, graduating with honors (cum laude). A native of New Jersey, he has also been a leader in various community and charitable groups. His program of research is under the direction of Dr. D.L. Sparks.

Seth H. Frisbie is seeking the Ph.D. degree in soil fertility at Cornell University. His research is addressing the loss of nitrogen (N) by ammonia volatilization. His hypothesis is that, with proper organic matter management, the loss of N due to ammonia volatilization can be significantly reduced.

As part of his M.S. program, also at Cornell, Frisbie developed an analytical technique for measuring inorganic carbon in small volumes of solution. A native of Massachusetts, he graduated with honors from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and currently is a member of three national honor societies. His Ph.D. work is under the direction of Dr. D.R. Bouldin.

Stuart J. Georgitis is working toward the Ph.D. degree in soil fertility at Montana State University. His program concerns improvement of soil testing methodology for K, phosphorus (P), and sulphur (S) by development of a multi-element extraction technique—the phytoavailability soil test (PST). Such a technique could be a more reliable and practical tool in soil analysis and should also serve as a scientific tool for understanding soil-plant interactions and ion movement in soils. A native of

Maine, Georgitis attended Colby College and received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Maine. He has also been involved in various college and community activities. Dr. Earl O. Skogley as advisor for his Ph.D. program.

Brian J. Lang is a candidate for the Ph.D. degree in agronomy-plant physiology at the University of Minnesota. His research is directed at understanding the roles of K, harvest management and cultural in dinitrogen fixation and winter survival of alfalfa. The hypothesis is that the degree of dinitrogen fixation may affect the coldhardiness and winter survival of the plant. In a related study, he will determine the effect of cultural and K fertilization on photosynthate partitioning of alfalfa during cold acclimation. A native of Wisconsin, Lang received the B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Craig C.

Sheaffer serves as major advisor for his Ph.D. program.

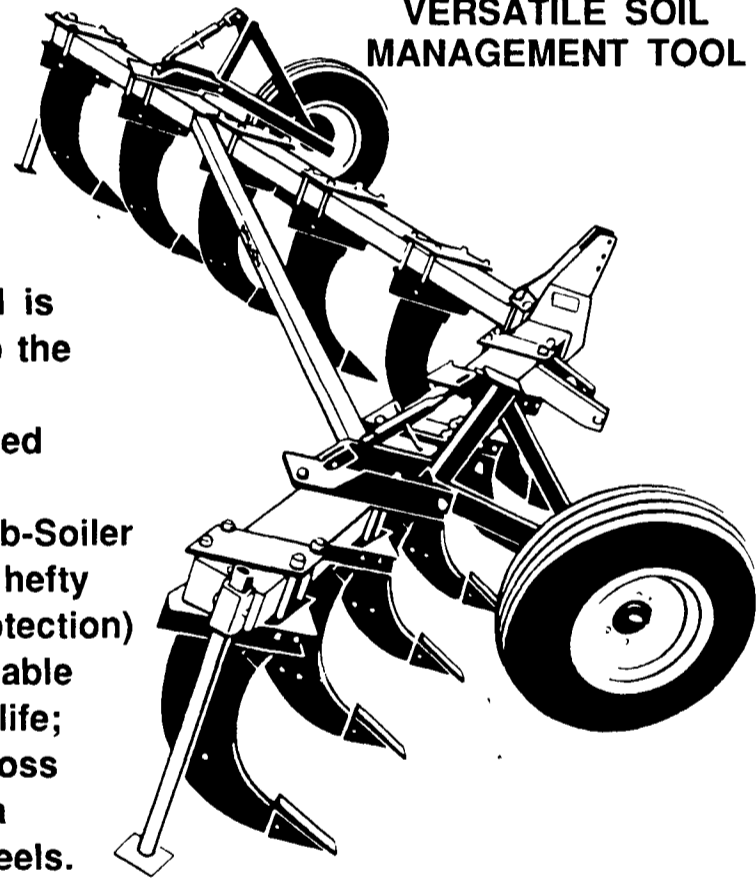
Richard P. Wolkowski is pursuing the Ph.D. degree in soil science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research project is investigating soil compaction and plant nutrient interactions. He is seeking to assess the effects of soil compaction on the plant availability of nutrients and the crop response to applied N, P and K. Results indicate that detrimental effects (reduced corn yields) from soil compaction may be partly offset by fertility management, particularly row-applied K. Wolkowski recently relinquished his staff appointment in Cooperative Extension in order to devote full-time to his Ph.D. program. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees at the University of Wisconsin. His Ph.D. work is under the supervision of Dr. Larry G. Bundy.

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