2008 Conference Student Awards

Research Paper

1st place ($500) Jon O’Brien
2nd place ($300) L. Scott Scheufele
3rd place ($200) Marisa Alcorta

Pictured left to right Jon O’Brien, L. Scott Scheufele and Marisa Alcorta with Rob Wilson, CWSS Director - Student and Commercial Liaison

Poster

1st place ($500) Christina George
Undergraduate Scholarship Awards
1st - Bryce Borges- Fresno State University Plant Science Major- $2000 award
Bryce Borges
5301 N. Valentine Ave. Apt. 134
Fresno, CA 93711
bborges@csufresno.edu

2nd (tie) Jessica May- Mendocino College Horticulture Major- $1000 award
Jessica May
25234 Robinson Rd. #1
Willits, CA 95490
jessi_e_may@yahoo.com

2nd (tie) Matthew Linder- UC Davis Crop Science Major- $1000 award
Matthew Linder
696 San Bruno Way
Salinas, CA 93901
Phone: 831-676-5392
mlinder@ucdavis.edu

Graduate Scholarship Awards
1st (tie) John Jeremiah Mann- UC Davis PhD student in Weed Science- $2000 award
John Jeremiah Mann
Department of Plant Sciences
Department of Plant Sciences, Mail Stop 4
One Shields Ave, Davis, CA 95616
E-mail: jjmann@ucdavis.edu

1st (tie) Kristen Weathers- UC Riverside PhD student in Plant Biology- $2000 award
Kristin Weathers
192 E. Manfield St.
Riverside, CA 92507
kristinweathers@mac.com

2nd (tie) Oli Bachie- UC Riverside PhD student in Plant Biology- $1000 award
Oli Bachie
802 Grape Street
Riverside, CA 92507
obach001@ucr.edu

2nd (tie) Celeste Gilbert- UC Davis PhD student in Horticulture Science- $1000 award
Celeste Gilbert
1419 Wake Forest Dr. #3
Davis, CA 95616
cagilbert@ucd.edu

2nd (tie) Christina George- UC Davis Master student in Horticulture/Agronomy - $1000 award
Christina George
675 Alvarado Ave. #35
Davis, CA 95616
cageorge@ucdavis.edu
Jeremiah Mann Bio – graduate student

Jeremiah is a Ph.D. student at the University of California at Davis working with Dr. Joe DiTomaso. His dissertation work investigates the invasion potential of the biofuel crop Miscanthus x giganteus and to a lesser extent Panicum virgatum (switchgrass). This work focuses on understanding the plant’s ability to escape cultivation and establish in natural areas. In addition to his dissertation research, he is currently working on a project constructing an invasive plant information database to be used by the California Department of Transportation for improved management of weeds and invasive plants located on roadsides and adjacent lands. He is also assisting Dr. DiTomaso with the compilation of an invasive plant management manual for western states. He intends to use his formal education and life experience to provide service to the community of natural resource partners that focus on terrestrial and aquatic weeds that occur in both wildland and agricultural areas.

Kristen Weathers Bio - graduate student

Kristen is a graduate student at UC Riverside, seeking her PhD in Plant Biology. She is jointly advised by Dr. Milt McGiffen and Dr. Edith Allen. Kristen’s thesis work focuses on the restoration of Coastal Sage Scrub communities, including managing invasive weeds through solarization and chemical techniques. After graduating, she plans to continue to conduct research on vegetation management and invasive weeds, as well as work closely with public and private land managers on community-based natural resource management and ecosystem management projects.

Celeste Gilbert Bio – graduate student

Celeste is a graduate student at UC Davis, seeking her PhD in Horticulture Science in the Plant Science Department. Her advisor is Dr. Steven Fennimore, an extension vegetable weed specialist for UC Davis in Salinas. Celeste’s thesis is studying the impact of solarization and steam heat to control weeds and soil-born pathogens in strawberry and cut flower cultivation. After graduating, she would like to pursue a career in weed science research.
Oli Bachie Bio–graduate student

Oli’s academic backgrounds include B.Sc (Plant Sciences), Masters in Agronomy (weed sciences), Forestry (seedling nutrition and vegetation management) and minor in soil sciences. He is currently enrolled in a PhD program with the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences (BPSC) at UC Riverside, majoring in Ecology with a minor in Nematology and Weed ecology. He’s a member of the Western Society of Weed Science and the American Society of Horticultural Science. Beyond academics, he serves as a representative for BPSC Graduate Student Association and also volunteers at the Botanic Garden of the UCR. He’s current dissertation research, “Using Cover Crops to Build an Ecologically Based Pest Management Program for Vegetable Production” emphasizes the use of cover crops as a tool to manage weeds, nematodes and insects under the guidance of his advisor, Dr. Milt McGiffen. The research is being conducted at the University of California, South Coast Research Station and will last for three consecutive years. He’s also involved with a non-dissertation research project that attempts to investigate the best planting seasons for onion growers of the high desert areas of California. His intended area of specialization is in cropping and noxious weed and nematode management systems. His specific interest is in the study of survival, growth, characterization and management strategies on selected species of weedy, invasive species and nematodes under a sustainable farming system. Oli’s long-term career goal is to seek employment in an educational, research or both education and research based institution or governmental organization. Oli gives his sincere thanks and is appreciative to the society’s decision of awarding him a California Weed Science Society (CWSS) scholarship.

Christina George Bio –graduate student

Christina is a graduate student at UC Davis, seeking her M.S. in Horticulture and Agronomy with a specialization in weed science. Her advisor is Dr. Steven Fennimore, an extension vegetable weed specialist for UC Davis in Salinas. Christina’s thesis work focuses on the use of precision cultivation for mechanical weed control in lettuce and celery. After graduating, she plans to seek an industry job at an organic company in vegetable production.
**Bryce Borges- undergraduate student**

Bryce is an undergraduate student at Fresno State with an emphasis in plant health. Agriculture was a big part of Bryce’s life growing up, and he was an active, award-winning FFA member at Hanford High School. He completed a summer internship with Western Farm Service, and he was as a research assistant at Fresno State for Dr. Lawson in 2007. Bryce plans to pursue a career as a Pest Control Advisor after graduation.

**Jessica May Bio- undergraduate student**

Jessica is currently a full-time student at Mendocino College in Ukiah, CA. She is majoring in Natural Resources and Horticulture. In 2009, she will graduate from Mendocino College with an Associate Degree in Horticulture, an Associate Degree in Natural resources, and two Certificates in Landscaping and Nursery Production. She plans to transfer to Humboldt State University to major in natural Resources. After graduation, Jessica plans to open a California native plants nursery and specialize in habitat restoration. Jessica greatly thanks the society for the scholarship.

**Matt Linder Bio- undergraduate student**

Matt is currently attending the University of California: Davis and obtaining a degree in Crop Science and Management. His academic advisor is Theresa Costa and current employer is Thomas Lanini. His future goals are to gain a Pesticide Control Applicators license and graduate from Davis with a Bachelor's in the degree listed above. From there he will pursue a job in agriculture, overseeing crop production and working on more effective and safe ways of controlling harmful pests in our environment.