Fourteen student oral presenters vied for awards in the 2011 WSCS A.K. Dobrenz Student Oral Presentation Competition. First ($150), second ($125), and third ($100) place recipients were Emmanuel Omondi (U. Wyo.), Alanna Schlosser (Montana State U.), and Jared Unverzagt (U. Wyo.), respectively. There also was a student poster competition with 11 contestants in which Emi Kimura (U. Wyo.), Amber Mason (U. Wyo.), and Nevin Lawrence (U. Wyo.) winning first, second, and third places, respectively, with the same award dollar values. Alanna and Emi also received $500 travel stipends to attend the ASA-CSSA-SSSA (ACS) 2011 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, as the highest placers in their competition who had registered for that meeting. Award certificates will be prepared by Mark Brick (Colo. State U.).

The ACS affiliates are working together (under the coordination of Carl Crozier of the ASA Southeastern Branch) to prepare a poster to highlight student competition winners for display at the ACS Annual Meeting in San Antonio. WSCS members are encouraged to view the poster. Volunteers are needed to prepare the poster for future years.

There also were 14 professional presentations including plenary talks by Raj Khosla (Colo. State U.), entitled, “Food security and precision agriculture,” and K.J. Reddy (U. Wyo.), entitled, “Coalbed methane natural gas: Energy and Environment,” along with four professional posters.

There were over 60 registrants. Anticipated revenues from dues and registrations were $6475 and conference expenses were estimated to be $4300. The remainder will be divided equally between the WSCS and WSSS.

Stephen Machado (Ore. St. U.) received the President’s gavel from outgoing President Leonard Lauriault (NM St. U.). Chengci Chen (Montana State U.) began serving as President-Elect.

Long-time WSCS member and outgoing Past-President, Mark Brick is the incoming President-Elect for the Crop Science Society of America, of which the WSCS is an affiliate.

Future WSCS meetings could be held jointly with the Western Wheat Workers in 2012 and with the Canadian Society of Agronomy in 2013. The Executive Committee, composed of Stephen Machado, Chengci Chen, Leonard Lauriault, and a society secretary/treasurer to be named, will make arrangements.

Future meetings should offer vegetarian meal options.

Affiliate members can renew membership and pay dues at the same time they renew their ACS memberships.