

## **Minutes of 2010 C-1 / C-7 Business Meeting, November 3, 2010**

The joint C-1/ C-7 business meeting was called to order at 2:45 pm by Georgia Eizenga, Div. C-1 Chair and by Katrien Devos Div. C-7 Chair, on Wed. Nov. 3, 2010 in the Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach, CA in conjunction with the annual CSSA meeting. There were between 60 and 70 members in attendance.

As first order of business, Ken Quesenberry presented a certificate of appreciation to C-1 chair Georgia Eizenga, and Joe Lauer did same for C-7 chair Katrien Devos for their service as 2010 division chairs.

***Ken Quesenberry report on Board of Directors meeting.*** Ken reported that society membership is up (~4,900), mostly due to an increased number of graduate student members. Members may now renew membership on demand. The budget is in black with \$2.0 million in revenue and \$1.9 in expenditures for the year. Next year's meeting will be in San Antonio, TX. The societies have moved into new facilities in Madison, WI. Ken encouraged members to serve the society by serving on committees and standing for office.

### ***Report from Charlie Brummer Society publications and discussion items from CSSA Board of Directors.***

- **Books-** David Baltensperger, Chair of the Book committee indicated that the society is looking for new book ideas. Suggestions included symposia based books. Kid's books are also popular.
- **Crop Science journal** – Shawn Kaeppler is the new editor replacing Mark Westgate. Crop Science's impact factor is 1.7 which was improved in part due to removing registrations and adding reviews. C-7 handled 43 manuscripts with a 30-40% acceptance rate. Days to first decision was now 43 days. C-1 received 243 manuscripts and had an acceptance rate of 66%. The average number of days to first decision was 45. Ten review papers and 220 original research papers were published. People doing the reviews were encouraged to get their reviews back quickly. Anne Marie Thro suggested that programs acknowledge Hatch support. This could be added to the instructions to authors, or as an entry item on submission form.
- **The Plant Genome journal** – the journal still has not received a critical mass of submissions. Members see value in the journal and feel that it should succeed. The journal is still financially profitable. One problem is lack of an impact factor rating. A journal needs 40 papers annually to have an impact factor. Listing in Web of Science likely requires an impact factor. Scientists may be hesitant to submit work to the journal without an impact factor. Henry Nguyen made a passionate plea to reinvigorate the journal. Suggestions to improve number of submissions include:
  - Target full professors to submit work, as they may be less concerned about impact factors.
  - Send table of contents alert to CSSA members, PAG registrants, and perhaps others when a new issue is out.
  - Advertise to request submissions. Send email reminders to CSSA members to encourage submission.
  - Identify a dedicated team to assist Editor Dave Somers in increasing submissions.

**Report from Kim Garland-Campbell, editor of J. Plant Registrations.** There were 77 submissions in 2010, which was down from 89 in 2009. However, articles are longer and written more in the style of a research article. It is about 50 days to first decision and the impact factor is 0.56. The journal is financially profitable. Acceptance rate for J. Plant Registrations is probably 70%. The primary issue for non-acceptance is lack of firm documentation that a trait is present.

Wheat is the crop most represented in the journal with other small grains, sugarcane and cotton also are strongly represented. Kim is considering soliciting review articles on historically important germplasm. Kim is preparing an article for Norin 10/Brevor selection 14 developed by Orville Vogel. She suggested that someone do the same for the B73 maize inbred. The requirement that all germplasm in publications be deposited in NPGS may have to be waived for some historically important lines that are no longer available. The suggestion of mentioning Hatch funds as a funding source in the “Instructions to authors” was mentioned.

**Report from C1 Board Representative Corley Holbrook.** Jeff Pederson will begin his term as representative in a few months. CSSA has joined the Global Plant Council and will provide \$2000 per year to the group. CSSA is a founding member of the group. The Grand Challenges Statement is posted on the website. This is an evolving document to which members may provide input. The Science Policy Committee provides information to help policy makers prioritize funding. This committee is responsible for educating and lobbying on issues that affect the society. Members are encouraged to approach Karl Glasener with ideas for white papers.

**C7 Board Representative Henry Nguyen report.** Henry expressed appreciation of support of society members for The Plant Genome journal.

**Nominations.** Chair nominees: for C-7: Marilyn Warburton and Luther Talbert, and C-1: Mohamed Mergoum and Jodi Scheffler. Both C-1 and C-7 suggested Perry Gustafson as nomination for CSSA president

**Report by Ed Runge on the Beachell-Borlaug Scholarships for rice and wheat breeding.** Monsanto provided a \$10 million fund that is administered by Texas A&M which allocates \$2M/year for 5 years. Applications for the third cycle of funding are due in February 2011. The scholarships cover all education/tuition and research costs. Applicants must be accepted for a graduate program in plant breeding and the proposal is submitted by the advisor. Proposals are reviewed by an eight person panel. The scholarships require collaboration between developed and developing/transition country. The expectation is that scholars will pursue a position in the public sector. In the previous two cycles, 12 and 14 scholars were selected from 47 and 48 applications, respectively. Ed indicated that there have been fewer U.S. applicants than expected and they had not yet made good contacts with institutions in North Africa and parts of Southeast Asia. The major decision point for funding is the quality of the proposal, not costs. Funded scholarships have ranged from \$60,000 to \$200,000. More information may be found at [www.monsanto.com/mbbischolars](http://www.monsanto.com/mbbischolars)

**Report from C-1 Division chair Georgia Eizenga.** Georgia indicated that the minutes from the joint C-1/C-7 division meeting in 2009 in Pittsburg, PA are available on the website and were projected on the screen. Charlie Brummer moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Corey Holbrook and passed.

Georgia reported that there were 43 oral C-1 presentations at the 2010 meeting, with 21 oral submissions being shared with C-7, C-8 and A-10. Approx. 5 poster submissions were moved between the aforementioned divisions. There were 98 poster presentations. Attendance was very good for both C-1 sponsored symposium with approx. 200+ attendees. There were seven presentations in “Accomplishing Green Revolution 2 through Plant Breeding with a Look Back at the First Green Revolution” co-sponsored by C-8 and the six presentations in “Green Revolution 2 through Application of Second Generation Sequencing to Plant Breeding and Improving Quantitative Traits” co-sponsored by C-7 and C-8. For the volunteered oral presentation sessions the attendance was about 40- 60 persons which is excellent considering the other symposia and sessions occurring at the same time. Working together with Div C-2 and C-7 to plan the symposium times was very helpful in avoiding overlap. Div. C-8 should have been included too.

Georgia recognized the winners of the Graduate Student poster contest. There were 27 registered entries. The excellent science presented by the students, their knowledge of their research and the high quality of the posters made judging a difficult task. The first place winner was Julian Lenis from the University of Missouri with the poster “Soybean Seed Lipoxygenase Genes: Molecular Characterization and Development of Molecular Marker Assays”. The second place winner was Jason Haegele from the University of Illinois with the poster “Transgenic Corn Rootworm Protection (HERCULEX<sup>®</sup>XTRA) Improves Maize Nitrogen Uptake and Grain Yield in the Inter-mated B73 x Mo17 Population”. Third place was awarded to Payne Burks from Texas A&M University who was present at the meeting for his poster “Sweet Sorghum Selection Using Variable Planting Dates”. The awards were \$500, \$300 and \$150 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, respectively.

The documentary “Freedom From Famine: the Norman Borlaug Story” was shown in the Norman Borlaug Memorial Lounge where free DVDs produced by the Hunger Fighters were made available by the Mathile Institute. The DVD can also be ordered through the web along with teaching materials (<http://www.hunger-fighters.org/>).

Marla McIntosh agreed to serve as the Div. C-1 historian on the CSSA History Committee. She will be assisted by Cal Qualset, Harjit Rekhi and Bill Schapaugh. The group met during the meetings to discuss how to draft a document detailing the history of Div. C-1 over the next year. It is hoped that this will be a publishable document.

Michael Strauss, CSSA program planning officer, asked for input related to the program for 2010 or suggestions for the 2011 program.

**Report from C-7 Division Chair Katrien Devos.** Katrien reported that C-7 had two symposia and cosponsored four symposia with other Divisions. There were ~50 attendants at the bioinformatics symposium and ~70 at the high throughput genotyping symposium. For the two proposed topical sessions – small RNAs and chromosome engineering,- there were no abstract submissions, despite the fact that these topics had been suggested by C-7 members. There were two poster sessions planned, but only one received five abstracts. The majority of the abstracts were submitted a ‘general’ category. Katrien suggested in the future to decide topical sessions based on the submitted abstracts rather than the other way around.

Katrien addressed the issue of why there were not more abstracts. She suggested that people conducting crop genomics research either are not CSSA members or they do not attend the CSSA annual meeting. Ann Marie Thro remarked that no exhibitors were present at the meeting in some C-7 relevant areas either. Katrien proposed trying to increase exposure for C-7 by sponsoring a workshop at the Plant and Animal Genome (PAG) meetings. Charlie Brummer pointed out that lack of presence of CSSA at PAG may also adversely affect submission to the Plant Genome journal. Various members indicated that it may be difficult to get a workshop or a good time slot at PAG. Katrien is willing to explore what is possible.

Other suggestions to enhance participation of crop genomic scientists in CSSA C-7 Division included:

- Bring NIFA/NSF program people to CSSA for a workshop.
- Perry Gustafson suggested that ARS could be asked to support a CSSA meeting symposium of ARS scientists doing crop genomics research.
- Katrien Devos suggested that CSSA could also consider co-sponsoring existing PAG workshops.

Tommy Carter suggested that we should develop a resolution to take to the Board of Directors meeting later in the day. A motion was made by Corley Holbrook, seconded by Charlie Brummer and unanimously passed that “In order to increase visibility and participation for C-7 membership the division should explore developing or co-sponsoring a CSSA workshop or plenary speaker at PAG”.

***New Division Chairs.*** Katrien introduced the incoming C-7 Division chair Stephen Moose and Chair-elect John Fellers. Georgia introduced incoming C-1 Division chair Mark Brick and C-1 Chair-elect Gina Brown-Guedira.

Katrien moved to adjourn the meeting about 4:15 pm, which was seconded by Corley Holbrook and passed by the membership.