

Final Report

50th Annual Maize Genetics Conference

The 50th Annual Maize Genetics Conference was held February 27 - March 2, 2008 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. As the golden anniversary of the Conference and coinciding with the release of a draft of the maize genome sequence, this was a special meeting. To publicize this unique occasion, meeting organizers hosted a press conference, which was attended by members of the press representing science and non-science publications, and an evening reception at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, where the draft sequence was announced and awards were presented to Dr. Mary Clutter and Senator Kit Bond to thank them for their outstanding contributions to maize genetics and genomics research. As usual, the Conference provided an invigorating forum for exchange of recent research results in many areas of maize genetics, e.g., cytogenetics, development, molecular genetics, transposable element biology, biochemical genetics, and genomics. Results were shared via both oral and poster presentations. Invited talks were given by four distinguished geneticists: Vicki Chandler, University of Arizona; John Doebley, University of Wisconsin; Susan Wessler, University of Georgia; and Richard Wilson, Washington University. There were 46 short talks and 241 poster presentations.

Proceedings of the meeting are available as follows:

- Abstracts from the meeting are available at MaizeGDB (<http://www.maizegdb.org>).
- A meeting report written by Virginia Walbot was published in *Genome Biology* (Walbot V, 2008. Maize genome in motion. *Genome Biology* 9:303).
- A report of the meeting was published in *Science* (Pennisi, E. 2008. Corn Genomics Pops Wide Open. *Science* 319: 1333.)
- A follow-up focus article on Ed Buckler's research, which was featured at the meeting, appeared in *Science* (Pennisi, E. 2008. Edward Buckler Profile: Romping Through Maize Diversity. *Science* 322: 40-41).

The Conference was attended by over 500 participants. This included a large number of first-time participants in the meeting and an increasingly visible presence by individuals from underrepresented groups. Although we do not have concrete counts, there seem to be more African American, African and Hispanic/Latino attendees coming to the meeting than in years past. In addition, this meeting attracted many participants from outside the U.S.

Student participation continues to be hallmark of the spirit of free exchange and cooperation characteristic of the maize genetics community. With the generous support provided by DOE, USDA NSF, and corporate/private donors, organizers were able to defray lodging and meal costs for 133 graduate and undergraduate students and 66 postdocs (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1. Students supported

Name	Institution	Advisor
Abe, Ayodeji	University of Illinois	Stephen Moose
Alvarez Mejia, Cesar	Cinvestav Campus Guanajuato	JeanPhilippe VielleCalzada
Armenia, Ann Roselle	Michigan State University	Ning Jiang
Barazesh, Solmaz	Pennsylvania State University	Paula McSteen
Beckham, Katherine	Florida State University	Hank Bass
Belcher, Araby	North Carolina State Univ	Peter BalintKurti
Blashaw, Justin	Duquesne University	Mary Alleman
Bozza, Christopher	Plant Breeding and Genetics	Wojtek Pawlowski
Brown, Amber	Florida State Univ	Hank Bass
Brown, Patrick	Cornell	Stephen Kresovich
Burt, Andrew	University of Guelph	Elizabeth Lee
Chandler, Michael	University of Wisconsin Madison	William F. Tracy
Choe, Eunsoo	University of Illinois	Torbert R. Rocheford
Chung, ChiaLin	Cornell University	Rebecca Nelson
Church, Jeffrey	University of Illinois	Stephen Moose
Coleman, Travis	University of Guelph	Liz Lee
Coneva, Viktoriya	University of Guelph	Joseph Colasanti
Cook, Jason	University of Wisconsin Madison	Heidi Koepple
Da Silva, Helena	Univ. of Illinois	Torbert R Rocheford
Dai, Yunting	Cornell University	Margaret Smith
Davis, James	Florida State University	Hank Bass
Dick, Regina	TU Muenchen LS Genetik	M. Frey
Diehl, Christopher	Virginia Tech	Asim Esen
Douglas, Ryan	Cornell University	Michael J Scanlon
Du, Yaqing	The University of Georgia	Dawe R. Kelly
Dubois, Patrice	Cornell University	Tom Brutnell
Erhard, Karl	University of California Berkeley	Jay Hollick
Estep, Matt	University of Georgia	Jeff Bennetzen
Estill, James	University of Georgia	Jeff Bennetzen
Eveland, Andrea	University of Florida	Karen E. Koch
Feller, Antje	The Ohio State University	Erich Grotewold
Figueroa, Debbie	Florida State University	Hank Bass
Forestan, Cristian	University of Padova	Serena Varotto
Fredette, Natalie	Florida State University	Hank W. Bass
Fu, Yang	Univ. of Illinois	Dr.Torbert R Rocheford
Funk, Andrew	USDAARSUniv. of Florida	Prem Chourey
Garcia, Nelson	University of Minnesota	Ronald L. Phillips
Gerau, Michael	University of Missouri	Georgia Davis
Gore, Michael	Cornell University	Edward Buckler

Name	Institution	Advisor
Green, Jason	University of Missouri	ChiRen Shyu
Grow, Edward	University of Missouri Columbia	Karen Cone
Hames, Kasey	University of Missouri	Georgia Davis
Han, Yang	Penn State University	Dr Dawn Luthe
Han, Yujun	University of Georgia	Sue Wessler
Hansey, Candice	University of Wisconsin - Madison	Natalia de Leon
Hauck, Andrew	University of Illinois at UrbanaChampaign	Martin Bohn
Hayano Kanashiro, Angela	CINVESTAV Guanajuato	Luis Herrera Estrella
Heffner, Elliot	Cornell University	Mark Sorrells
Hennen Bierwagen, Tracie	Iowa State University	Martha G. James
Hill, Daniel	University of Wyoming	Anne Sylvester
Huang, Jun	Waksman Institute Rutgers University	Hugo Dooner
Huang, Mingshu	Pennsylvania State University	David Braun
Hultquist, Judd	Marquette University	Jane E. Dorweiler
Hultquist, Judd	Marquette University	Jane Dorweiler
Hunter, Charles	University of Florida	Karen E Koch
Ibekwe, Emeka	University of Florida	Karen Koch
Jeong, Grace	UC Berkeley	W. Zacheus Cande
Jones, Amanda	University of Delaware Dupont	Jim Hawk?
Jung, Janelle	Cornell University	Thomas Brutnell
Kahler, Alexander	University of Minnesota	Ronald Phillips
Kahler, Jonathan	South Dakota State University	Don Auger
Kanizay, Lisa	Univeristy of Georgia	Kelly Dawe
Kempel, Irina	University of Regensburg	Thomas Dresselhaus
Khanal, Raja	University of Guelph	Lewis Lukens
Kim, Jun Pyo	University of Missouri	Georgia Davis
Kleintop, Adrienne	University of Delaware	Jim Hawk
Krill, Allison	Cornell University	Ed Buckler
Kump, Kristen	NCSU Crop Science	Jim Holland
Langewisch, Tiffany	University of Missouri- Columbia	Kathy Newton
Larsson, Sara	Swedish University of Agricultural Science	Lihua Zhu
Leach, Kristen	University of Missouri	Georgia Davis
Li, Li	University of Florida	Mark Settles
Li, Wei	ISU	Erik Vollbrecht
Li, Xuexian	University of Georgia	R. Kelly Dawe
Longfellow, Joy	Cornell University	Rebecca Nelson
Lough, Ashley	University of Missouri	Kathleen Newton
Lu, Fang	University of Georgia	Jeff Bennetzen
Lyons, Eric	UC Berkeley	Michael Freeling

Name	Institution	Advisor
Ma, Yi	Pennsylvania State University	David Braun
Mahone, Gregory	Univ. of Illinois	Torbert R Rocheford
Majer, Christine	ZMBP University of Tuebingen	Frank Hochholdinger
Martin, Federico	University of Florida	A. Mark Settles
Masonbrink, Rick	University of MissouriColumbia	James A. Birchler
Jumbo, McDonald	University of Delaware	Jim Hawk
Meade, Kendra	Iowa State University	Michael Lee
Meyer, Louis	University of Missouri - Columbia	Kathleen Newton
Miclaus, Mihai	Rutgers University	Joachim Messing
Miller, Theresa	Marquette University	Jane E. Dorweiler
Mogel, Karl	Department of Agronomy UWMadison	Shawn Kaeppler
Mohammed, Javid	Ball State University	C. Ann Blakey
Moss, Murray	University of Missouri	Georgia Davis
Moss, Murray	University of Missouri	Georgia Davis
Murphy, Shaun	Florida State University	Hank W. Bass
Nichols, Devin	University of Illinois	Stephen Moose
Novais, Joana	UIUC	Martin Bohn
O'Brien, Brent	University of Florida	Karen Koch
Page, Eric	University of Guelph	Liz Lee
Paschold, Anja	University of Tuebingen	Frank Hochholdinger
Peiffer, Jason	Cornell University	Edward S. Buckler
Phillips, Kimberly	The Pennsylvania State University	Paula McSteen
Poland, Jesse	Cornell University	Rebecca Nelson
Rangani, Gulabben	University of Arkansas	Vibha Srivastava
Restrepo, Christian	University Of Florida	Karen Koch
Riedeman, Eric	UW Madison	William Tracy
Rijavec, Tomaz	Biotechnical faculty University of Ljubljana	Marina Dermastia
Romay, Maria Cinta	Mision Biologica de Galicia CSIC	Amando Ords
Rymen, Bart	Ghent University	Gerrit Beemster
Schaefer, Chris	Univ of Missouri	Georgia Davis
Schaefer, Chris	University of Missouri	Georgia Davis
Shi, Jinghua	University of Georgia	R. Kelly Dawe
Shin, Kyungju	University of Missouri	Karen Cone
Sigmon, Brandi	Iowa State University	Erik Vollbrecht
Slewinski, Thomas	Penn State Univeristy	David Braun
Spangler, Lindsay	Penn State University	Dawn Luthe
Studer, Anthony	University of WisconsinMadison	John Doebley
SwansonWagner, Ruth	Iowa State University	Pat Schnable
Takacs, Elizabeth	Cornell University	Michael Scanlon

Name	Institution	Advisor
Tang, Zhonghui	State Key Lab of Crop Genetic Improvement Huazhon	Yonglian Zheng
Topp, Christopher	University of Georgia	R Kelly Dawe
Von Behrens, Inga	ZMBP	Frank Hochholdinger
Walsh, Ellie	Cornell University	Rebecca Nelson
Weeks, Becky	Iowa State University	Erik Vollbrecht
Wiltz, Benisha	University of Missouri	Karen Cone
Wolfgruber, Thomas	University of Hawaii at Manoa	Gernot Presting
Woodward, John	Cornell University	Michael J. Scanlon
Wu, Xianting	Pennsylvania State university	Paula C. McSteen
Wu, Yusheng	South Dakota State University	Zeno Wicks III
Yang, Junyun	Department of Plant Science NDSU	Marcelo Carena
Yang, Lixing	University of Georgia	Jeff Bennetzen
Yang, Xiang	Iowa State University	Erik Vollbrecht
Zhang, Han	Plant biology department of UGA	Kelly Dawe
Zhang, Wei	Zhang	Stephen Moose

Table 2. Postdoctoral fellows supported

Name	Institution
Arteaga-Vazquez, Mario	University of Arizona
Baker, Robert	Pennsylvania State University
Baucom, Regina	University of Georgia
Bolduc, Nathalie	UC Berkeley PGEC
Bommert, Peter	Cold Spring Harbor
Burnette, James	University of Georgia
Candela Anton, Hector	PGEC UC Berkeley
Chung, Taijoon	University of Wisconsin
Conrad, Liza	University of California Davis
Costa, Liliana	University of Oxford UK
Danilova, Tatiana	University of Missouri
De Sousa, Sylvia	University of Florida
Deblasio, Stacy	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Deewatthanawong, Prasit	Boyce Thompson institute
Dorantes-Acosta, Ana	University of Arizona
Ersoz, Elhan	Cornell University
Gallavotti, Andrea	University of California San Diego
Gao, Dongying	Michigan State University
Gardiner, Jack	University of Arizona
Glaubit, Jeff	University of Wisconsin
Golubovskaya, Inna	UC Berkeley
Gustin, Jeffery	University of Florida
Han, Fangpu	University of Missouri Columbia
Hancock, Charles Nathan	University of Georgia
Hawkins, Jennifer	University of Georgia
Holloway, Beth	Dupont Pioneer
Humphries, John	University of California San Diego
Johnston, Robyn	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Kebrom, Tesfamichael	Boyce Thompson Institute
Khan, Sadaf	UC Berkeley
Kikuchi, Kazuhiro	Boyce Thompson institute
Li, Jiansheng	China Agricultural University
Liang, Chengzhi	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Luo, Anding	University of Wyoming
Majeran, Wojciech	Cornell University
Meyer, Stephanie	University of Hamburg
Naito, Ken	University of Georgia
Nogueira, Fabio	Cold Spring Harbor Lab
Penning, Bryan	Purdue University
Phillips, Allison	Carnegie Institution of Washington
Reinheimer, Renata	University of Missouri Saint Louis
Richardson, Aaron	University of Georgia
Ronceret, Arnaud	Cornell University
SatohNagasawa, Namiko	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Shah, Trushar	CIMMYT
Sheehan, Moira	Cornell University

Name	Institution
Sidorenko, Lyudmila	University of Arizona
Singh, Manjit	IRD France
Skibbe, David	Stanford University
Skirpan, Andrea	Penn State University
Slotkin, R. Keith	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Spielbauer, Gertradu	University of Florida
Suzuki, Masaharu	University of Florida
Thompson, Beth	University of California Berkeley
Tian, Feng	Cornell University
Timofejeva, Ljudmilla	University of California Berkeley
Vasudevan, Srividya	University of California Berkeley
Wang, Rachel	UC Berkeley
Wei, Fusheng	University of Arizona
Whipple, Clinton	Cold Spring Harbor Lab
Wright, Amanda	UCSD
Yandeau-Nelson, Marna	Penn State University
Yao, Hong	University of Missouri
Yao, Qin	University of Georgia
Zhang, Lifang	Cold Spring Harbor Lab
Zhang, Nengyi	Cornell University