

The Potato Association of America  
**"2006 Graduate Student Competition Report"**  
90th Annual Meeting  
July 23-27, 2006  
Madison, Wisconsin USA

The members of the Graduate Student Competition Committee in 2006 were Kathy Haynes (USDA/ARS - Beltsville), Leslie Wanner (USDA/ARS-Beltsville), Mark Pavek (Washington State University), Walter De Jong (Cornell University), Jeff Miller (University of Idaho) and Silvia Rondon (Oregon State University).

1. The awards were funded by the PAA General Endowment Fund PAA.
2. Nineteen students participated in the competition: 10 Ph.D. and 9 M.S. students. They made presentations in the following sections: Breeding and Genetics (9), Plant Protection (4), Utilization and Physiology (1) and Production and Management (5). They were from ten institutions: University of Minnesota (1), Texas A&M University (1), North Dakota State University (1), University of Idaho (2), Nova Scotia Agricultural College (1), Michigan State University (1), Montana State University (1), University of Florida (1), North Carolina State University (1), and the University of Wisconsin (9).
3. The students came from nine countries: Argentina (1), Canada (1), Columbia (1), Guatemala (1), Northern Ireland (1), Peru (2), Rwanda (1), South Korea (1), and the USA (10).
4. The winners were:
  - a. **1st place** – Michael Copas, Production and Management, University of Wisconsin, M.S., USA, 'Influence of compaction and subsoil tillage on soil water movement and potato rooting patterns'.
  - b. **2nd place** – Magnifique Nzaramba, Breeding and Genetics, Texas A & M University, Ph.D., Rwanda, 'The influence of production environments on antioxidant activity, phenolics and specific gravity in potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.)'.
  - c. **3rd place** – Jeffrey Davis, Plant Protection, University of Minnesota, Ph.D., U.S.A., 'Identifying and mapping resistance to green peach aphid, *Myzus persicae* (Sulzer) in potato'.
  - d. **4th place** – Mary LeMere, Production and Management, University of Wisconsin, M.S., USA, 'The effects of fumigation, nitrogen fertility, and varietal resistance to early dying (*Verticillium dahliae*) and early blight (*Alternaria solani*) on crop health and productivity'.

There was a tie for 5th place:

- e. **5th place** – Diego Fajardo, Breeding and Genetics, University of Wisconsin, Ph.D., Columbia, 'Species and series boundaries of *Solanum* series *Conicibaccata* and phenetically similar species in ser. *Piurana* (sect. *Petota*): Morphological data from a field study in Peru'.
- f. **5th place** – Christine Worthington, Production and Management, University of Florida, Ph.D., USA. 'Effect of polymer coated urea and ammonium nitrate fertilizer on yield and quality of 'Atlantic' potato under simulated leaching rainfall events in northeast Florida'.

Submitted by Kathy Haynes  
Chair, Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Award Competition