

The Potato Association of America
98th Annual Meeting – Spokane, Washington
July 27-31, 2014

2014 Report from the Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research
Award Competition Committee

President Olsen,

- A. Sixteen students were entered into the Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Competition this year. These young scientists, both Masters and Ph.D. students, hailed from eleven universities including Oregon State University, North Dakota State University, Michigan State University, the University of Idaho, the University of Florida, the University of Maine, Colorado State University, Washington State University, North Carolina State University and Penn State.
- B. Students gave presentations in the Plant Protection (6), Breeding and Genetics (2), Production and Management (5) and Marketing and Utilization (3) sections. The wide geographic distribution of our contestants and breadth of subject matter reflect the importance of the potato industry throughout North America and the diversity of the membership of the Potato Association of America.
- C. All seven members of the Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Competition Committee attended fourteen of the student presentations, and at least five members attended the remaining two presentations. The chair of the committee is highly appreciative of the commitment shown to the evaluation process by members of the committee. Students were evaluated on their abstract and on the following five aspects of their presentation: organization, effective use of time, effective use of visuals, presentation style and impact of the research. The score sheet used by judges was redesigned by the committee during the past year and distributed to students entered in the competition in advance of the annual meeting. The committee met on Monday, July 28 and Tuesday, July 29 to compile a set of notes that describes positive aspects of each presentation and suggestions for improvement. The chair will use these notes as the basis for summary evaluation letters that will be sent to each student.
- D. Although there were many good presentations, it was the unanimous opinion of the committee that the abstracts and presentations of three students were of sufficient quality to deserve an award. Those students were:
 - 1) **Laura Markham, First Place**, for the presentation "Potatoes Can't Take the Heat: Effects of Cultivar and Processing on Global Metabolite/Nutritional Profiles" (Penn State University, University Park, PA);
 - 2) **Christian T. Christensen, Second Place**, for the presentation "Breaking Physiological Dormancy in Tubers of *Solanum chacoense*" (University of Florida, Gainesville, FL), and
 - 3) **Abigail Sido, Third Place**, for the presentation "Purple and White Potatoes, even after Processing, Suppress Colonic Interleukin-6 Expression, a Pro-inflammatory Cytokine, in a High-fat Consuming Pig Model" (Penn State University, University Park, PA).

The committee would like to recognize Dr. Hector Lozoya-Saldaña for twelve years of service on the Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Competition Committee. Dr. Lozoya-Saldaña requested that this be his last year of service. Members of the committee will miss his thoughtful comments and infectious good nature.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Dennis Halterman
Dr. Shelley Jansky
Dr. Hector Lozoya-Saldaña
Dr. Andy Robinson
Dr. Leslie Wanner
Dr. Jonathan Whitworth
Dr. Paul Bethke, Chair