The members of the Graduate Student Competition Committee in 2013 were, Samuel Essah (Colorado State University – Chair), Leslie Wanner (USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD), Paul Bethke (USDA-ARS, Madison, WI), Shelley Jansky (USDA-ARS, Madison, WI), Hector Lozoya Saldana (PICTIPAPPA, Mexico), Alfonso del Rio (University of Wisconsin), and Silvia Rondon (Oregon State University).

1. The awards were funded by The Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Competition Endowment Fund.

2. Sixteen students participated in the competition: 6 Ph.D. and 10 M.S. students. They made presentations in the following sections: Breeding and Genetics (7), Extension, Production & Management Management (4), Plant Protection (3), Physiology (1), and Industry Oriented (1).

3. They were from eleven institutions: Michigan State University (3), University of Idaho (2), University of Maine (2), University of Wisconsin-Madison (2), Universite Laval (1), Universite de Sherbrooke (1), University of Saskatchewan (1), Research and Development Institute for Ag. Environment, Canada (1), Washington State University (1), Virginia Tech (1), and Cornell University (1).

4. The students came from five countries: USA (8), Canada (5), South Korea (1), Bangladesh (1), and Kyrgyzstan (1).

5. The winners were:

(a) 1st Place – Boucher, Annie Christine, M.S., Universite de Sherbrooke, QC, Canada, and Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, QC, Canada, ‘New Information on the Historical Introduction of the Golden Nematode in North America’.

(b) 2nd Place – Fortin, Gabrielle, M.S., Universite Laval, QC, Canada, ‘Use of a Genotyping-by-Sequencing (GBS) Approach for Marker-Assisted Backcrossing of Resistance to Golden Nematode’.

(c) 3rd Place – Park, Jaebum, Ph.D., Cornell University, ‘QTL Analysis of Tetraploid Potato for three Potato Agronomic Traits with SNP Markers’.

(d) 4th Place – Kyle Rak, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, ‘Genotype x Storage Environment Interactions and Stability of Potato Chip Color: Implications in Breeding for Cold Storage Chip Quality’.

(e) 5th Place – Arnold, Brenda Elaine, M.S., Virginia Tech, ‘Identification of Candidate Genes for Self-Compatibility in a Diploid Population of Potato Derived from Parents Used in Genome Sequencing’.

Respectfully Submitted,
Samuel Y.C. Essah, Chair