Raymond F. Baker Center for Plant Breeding

Mentoring Program for Students in the Undergraduate Option, Plant Breeding and Biotechnology

Program Purpose
The Mentoring Program for Undergraduates interested in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology is designed to encourage students to develop a flexible, on-going, individualized, professional relationship with faculty engaged in plant breeding research. The program is intended to introduce students to people, programs, and practices in plant breeding. The program is an optional component of the Plant Breeding and Biotechnology option.

Role of Mentor
The Mentor will meet regularly with students, as determined by the schedule and needs of the student. Mentors will advise students on challenges and opportunities in plant breeding professions. Mentors may offer suggestions on elective classes that might benefit students in the study of plant breeding. Mentors may recruit students to work in research programs conducted on campus. Mentors may connect students with individuals in private industry, international centers, and other institutions who offer job opportunities and internships.

Procedure for Connecting Students and Mentors
1. Agronomy academic advisor will inform student selecting the Plant Breeding and Biotechnology option about aspects of the Mentoring Program.
2. Student will select a Mentor from among the list of plant breeders (see Page 2) provided to advisors.
3. Advisor will contact selected Mentor.
4. Mentor will contact student to set up first meeting.
5. In order to learn different facets of plant breeding, students are welcomed to consider more than one plant breeding mentoring experience during their tenure as undergraduates at Iowa State University.

Program Events
Organized events will be held at least once each fall and spring semester of the academic calendar. All Mentors and undergraduates in the Plant Breeding and Biotechnology option will be invited. The events will be social in nature and may include parties, picnics, trips, or other activities.
Mentors

**Dr. Thomas Lübberstedt**, maize, perennial grasses, genomics, molecular markers, biofuels, biomass yield, virus resistance, hybrid mechanisms, doubled haploids, genetic diversity

**Dr. Kendall Lamkey**, maize

**Dr. Walter Fehr**, soybean

**Dr. Bill Beavis**

**Dr. Michael Lee**, maize

**Dr. Maria Salas-Fernandez**, sorghum, quantitative genetics, biofuels, forage, biomass production, association studies, marker assisted selection, genomics, carotenoids

**Dr. Reid Palmer**, soybean, reproductive biology, hybrid mechanisms, mutable genes, genome stability, classical genetics, cytogenetics

**Dr. Paul Scott**, Maize, nutritional quality, biochemistry, amino acids, molecular genetics, starch, seed storage proteins, selection, biotechnology.

**Dr. Jode Edwards**, maize, statistics, quantitative genetics, recurrent selection, heterosis

**Dr. Linda Pollak**, maize, grain composition, exotic germplasm, nutritional quality, feed value, organic, sustainable, resistant starch, protein quality, fatty acids