FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Agronomy Students Receive ISU Schuler Fellowship

The Josef F. Schuler Graduate Fellowship in Agronomy for 2006 has been awarded to two Iowa State University Agronomy plant breeding students, Bryce Lemke and Jordan Spear. The award is given to graduate students in the Department of Agronomy who are pursuing a degree with an emphasis in crop breeding. A preference is given to students who have graduated from an Iowa high school or an Iowa undergraduate institution. The fellowship was set up by the family of Josef F. Schuler, an alumnus of Iowa State University.

Bryce Lemke grew up in Alden, Iowa and now lives in Nevada. He is working toward a Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and plans to graduate in 2008-2009. He is interested in developing a project that will enhance the lysine content of corn, an important consideration for human populations who rely on corn as a major portion of their diet. Bryce is working with Dr. Jode Edwards and Dr. Kendall Lamkey. Bryce is currently employed by Monsanto on a corn breeding program. When asked why he chose ISU, Bryce stated, “Any degree earned from the highly regarded plant breeding program at Iowa State holds much value.”

Jordan Spear, who is working toward a master’s degree in Plant Breeding, calls Burt, Iowa his home. He expects to graduate in 2007. Jordan is working with Dr. Walter Fehr on a project involving the genetic improvement of seedling emergence of soybean lines with low-phytate. Animal feed made from low-phytate soybeans have the potential to reduce the amount of phosphorous in animal waste, an environmental concern in large-scale animal production systems.

The Josef F. Schuler Graduate Fellowship in Agronomy is named for a successful corn breeder who graduated with a Ph.D. from Iowa State University in 1954. He was born in Austria, returned to Europe after his graduation, and worked as CIBA-Geigy’s Vice President of Seed Research in Basal, Switzerland. Schuler continued to work closely with leadership at ISU, including serving on a science advisory panel for Gordon Eaton, President of Iowa State University during the late 1980’s. Schuler holds the plant breeding program at ISU in high regard. “As to the contribution to agriculture and society, I would like to point out that the corn breeding group of the agronomy department formed world-wide a whole generation of crop breeders and provided major scientific contributions to the advancement of relevant sciences,” says Schuler.

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