

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

April 13, 2009

Announcement: Ph.D. Graduate Fellowships in Plant Breeding

The Plant Breeding Genetics and Biotechnology (PBGB) Program at Michigan State University (MSU) is seeking two highly qualified applicants to complete a Ph.D. program in plant breeding beginning fall semester, 2009. Funding for these graduate fellowships is provided by Monsanto in a collaboration between MSU and South Dakota State University. Student research projects will be focused on projects which support the development of improved winter wheat cultivars adapted to the Michigan and the Northeast soft wheat region. Students will gain experience in performing field selection and evaluations and also work in laboratory and greenhouse settings, utilizing the latest technologies in collaboration with crop geneticists, cereal quality scientists, and plant pathologists. This program is designed to prepare the next generation of plant breeders and leaders of breeding programs to have an appreciation and understanding of global markets, needs and breeding objectives, and to develop the critical thinking skills needed to direct plant breeding research. Fellowships will include professional development and guest scholar opportunities with Monsanto in addition to potential interaction with the wheat breeding programs at South Dakota State University. Fellowship stipends are competitive and will include tuition waivers and budgeted funds for travel. Preference will be given to students who have completed an M.S. in Plant Breeding and/or a related field.

MSU's PBGB program is nearing its twenty-fifth anniversary and is an internationally recognized training center for plant breeding (<http://www.hrt.msu.edu/pbgp/admissions.html>). Our strength lies in diversity, which includes participation by 24 scientists in five departments across two colleges. We focus on over 20 agronomic, vegetable, and fruit crops using both conventional and molecular technologies. Included are 11 active field-based breeding programs that advance germplasm and release varieties. In addition, the PBGB program draws upon the immense strengths of the larger MSU plant sciences community, which includes eminent faculty both in basic sciences and in disciplines dedicated to solving real-world problems. Included are 120 tenured and tenure stream faculty with expertise - everything from genes to landscapes and from molecules to ecosystems.

To be considered for a fellowship, send a letter of interest along with resume and/or CV, transcripts and contact information of three references by e-mail to Dr. Janet Lewis (lewisja6@msu.edu), MSU Wheat Breeding and Genetics Program Director. Letters of interest must be received by May 15, 2009.

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