

# 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Maize Genetics Conference

## *Beijing, China; March 13-16, 2014*

### **Maize Genetics Conference Steering Committee**

Ann Stapleton (*Chair*), Mark Settles (*Co-Chair*), Alice Barkan, Peter Balint-Kurti, Wes Bruce, Sherry Flint-Garcia, Jinsheng Lai, Milena Ouzunova, Amanda Wright, Ruairidh Sawers and Phil Becraft

*Ex-officio*: Paula McSteen (*Treasurer*), Jinsheng Lai (*Local Host*), Marty Sachs, Carson Andorf and Mary Schaeffer, *Abstract Coordinators*

September 16, 2013

We cordially invite you to attend the 2014 Maize Genetics Conference at the Beijing International Convention Center, beginning with the evening meal on Thursday, March 13 and continuing until 12:00 noon on Sunday, March 16, 2014. This year's meeting will feature four plenary speakers: Tom Brutnell (Donald Danforth Plant Sciences Center), Graeme Hammer (University of Queensland), Toby Kellogg, (University of Missouri St. Louis), Jiayang Li (Chinese Academy of Sciences & Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences). Further details about the program, registration for meeting and housing, abstracts, and transportation are available at the **meeting website**: [http://www.maizegdb.org/maize\\_meeting/2014](http://www.maizegdb.org/maize_meeting/2014). This website will be updated regularly.

**REGISTRATION:** All **deadlines are November 1, 2013**. There are two separate registration procedures, one for lodging and one for the meeting.

### ***1. Lodging Reservation***

To reserve lodging at the conference venue, submit your reservation by November 1, 2013, through the hotel link at the meeting website. The prices listed at the hotel link include room and taxes from Thursday night through Sunday breakfast. If you need to locate a roommate, it will facilitate your reservation to do so **before** submitting your lodging registration. A link for the roommate finder bulletin board is at the bottom of the meeting's Hotel/Travel webpage. Note that only one person per room should make a room reservation, although two credit cards can be used at check-out to pay each person's room charges.

### ***2. Conference Pass Registration***

To register for the meeting, meals, and your share of the meeting rooms and audiovisual costs, register online using the Meeting Conference Pass Registration link on the meeting website by November 1, 2013. Alternatively, you may print the form and mail or FAX it with your registration payment. There is a flat fee of \$590 for all academic and industry participants and a \$390 fee for undergraduate and graduate students. The conference pass fee after the deadline is \$640. We strongly encourage attendees to register in advance of the meeting, even after the November deadline, as pre-registration allows us to compile a list of attendees with their affiliations and pre-print nametags. Receipts will be sent by email or mail. Meeting registration is handled through the University of Missouri Conference Office in English, and by China Agricultural University in Chinese with payment in yuan (<http://www.cau.edu.cn/caumaize/maizegenetics/>). The contacts at Missouri are Angela

Freemyer and Carla Rendo. They can be reached by phone (573-882-8320), via receptionist (866-682-6663), by FAX (573-882-1953) or by email ([muconf4@missouri.edu](mailto:muconf4@missouri.edu)).

### **TALKS, POSTERS, ABSTRACTS:**

In addition to the plenary speakers, the program will include approximately 30 short talks (15 minutes each) selected from submitted abstracts, and extended poster sessions. All abstracts must be submitted electronically by the November 30, 2013 deadline via the Abstract Form on the meeting website. Abstract submission is separate from the meeting conference pass registration and lodging reservation procedures.

Please indicate on the abstract form whether you wish to present a talk or a poster. Do not check both options. Due to time constraints, some authors who request oral presentations may be asked to present their data in poster format instead. Authors of abstracts will be notified of format decisions by email, around December 30, 2013. Authors should check the meeting website to ensure that their abstracts are posted and contain no errors. If by January 5, 2014, you have not received information about your abstract, or it is not accessible on the web site, please contact Ann Stapleton at [stapletona@uncw.edu](mailto:stapletona@uncw.edu).

Each poster space is 39 x 96 inches. Poster boards will be provided.

### **CONTEST TO DESIGN LOGO FOR ABSTRACT BOOK:**

A logo for the cover of the abstract book will be selected from designs submitted by cooperators. Please submit original artwork via the meeting website, by November 30, 2013.

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**

The steering committee is soliciting federal grants and industry donations to help defray meeting costs, with a special focus on support for early-career faculty, long-time members of the maize community, and emeritus faculty.

**Applications for support must be received by October 15, 2013.**

In the interest of broadening meeting participation, students and researchers from underrepresented groups are particularly encouraged to apply for financial aid.

**EVENING RECEPTIONS:** On Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, beer, wine and soft drinks will be available near the poster area until midnight.

**FUTURE MAIZE MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Meeting announcements are sent only by email. To ensure you receive future announcements, please make sure your contact information in MaizeGDB is current (<http://www.maizegdb.org/person.php>).

**We look forward to seeing you all at the meeting!**

**Ann Stapleton**

**On behalf of the 2014 Maize Genetics Steering Committee**