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People news

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Member News

Stuber, Bliss Receive Lifetime Achievement Awards

Charles William Stuber and Fredrick A. Bliss, University of Nebraska–Lincoln alumni, received the university's Department of Agronomy and Horticulture 2022 Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is the highest honor bestowed upon graduates of the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture who have made significant contributions to their community, state, and nation through professional service, public service and/or civic engagement.



Charles Stuber

Stuber, an ASA and CSSA Fellow and former president of both Societies, is considered a pioneer of quantitative genetic mapping and marker-assisted selection in maize. His achievements include the development of genetic marker systems used in maize and adapted in numerous other crops, the first methods to identify quantitative trait loci, and the creation of new breeding methods that integrated molecular markers into applied breeding. His work was instrumental in creating the foundation for modern plant breeding that relies heavily on combining genetic marker information with field evaluations of quantitative traits.

Bliss, a CSSA Fellow, held a range of positions including teacher and researcher at two land grant universities, chair of a university department, and research administrator at a major vegetable seed company throughout his nearly 40-year career. At the University of Wisconsin–Madison and later the University of California–Davis, he was involved in teaching, mentoring graduate students, public service breeding self-pollinated vegetables, researching the genetic improvement of fruit crops, and working on research and development projects globally. At Seminis

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Vegetable Seeds, later Monsanto, he led 115 vegetable breeders. He was a member of the Scientific Advisory Panel for BeanCAP, RosBREED2, and the Integrated Breeding Platform Generation Challenge Program. He was a consultant with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the Global Initiative for Plant Breeding as well as the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission.



Fredrick Bliss

Palta Awarded Gold Cross Medal

ASA and CSSA member Dr. Jairo Palta, Adjunct Professor in the Institute of Agriculture at the University of Western Australia, Perth, and Honorary Research Fellow at CSIRO Agriculture and Food, Perth, Australia, was one of two international scientists awarded the Gold Cross Medal by the District Council of the city of Cali in Colombia on 19 Sept. 2022. A graduate of the School of Biology at the University of Valle in Cali in 1976, Palta received the award for his contribution to the adaptation of cereals and grain legume crops to climate change and for carrying the name of the city and country around the world for 46 years since graduation. Internationally recognized for his research on the adaptation of crops to drought, heat, flooding, and salinity in Colombia, USA, United Kingdom, China, and Australia, he reminded local participants at the ceremony “of the need to do original and excellent science that does not involve just adapting research results from other countries, as scientific research also has an association with the local environment.” In addition, he emphasized the need for “greater integration between science, industry, and the state.”



Jairo Palta

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