Growing SDSU Wheat Abroad

Yearly trips to Arizona and New Zealand might make people think spring wheat breeder Karl Glover is the ultimate snowbird. But the associate professor of plant science is working. Honest. Glover travels half way around the world to develop his spring wheat varieties more quickly. He uses winter nurseries in New Zealand and Arizona to advance his breeding program.

**Enormous yields in Yuma**
Glover’s location near Yuma, Ariz., doesn’t work quite as well, but it’s less expensive. The seeds are sown in late October and harvested in April, Glover explains. The growing season is at least a month and a half longer than in South Dakota, but even after roughly five months, not all plants are completely mature because the day and night periods are not optimal. However, it’s still worth it, Glover says, “because the amount of seed we typically get in return is incredible.” He estimated that 30 seeds can often produce a harvest of around two pounds of grain because the wheat produces more and larger heads.

The resulting crop is then shipped to Brookings, where the seeds are packaged for spring planting in South Dakota test plots. Eight doctoral students, one master’s student and four undergraduates currently work on Glover’s research projects.

Lincoln, New Zealand, is nearly as far south of the equator as Brookings is north, which makes it perfectly suited to growing South Dakota wheat, Glover explains. “The plants don’t know they’re not in South Dakota because during the New Zealand summer, the day and night periods are the same as in South Dakota.” In New Zealand, wheat is generally harvested in February.

For the rest of the article, go to: [http://state.sdstateconnect.org/growing-sdsu-wheat-abroad/](http://state.sdstateconnect.org/growing-sdsu-wheat-abroad/)
Members pick up their shares at the Brookings Farmer's market on Wednesdays from 4-6. Buyung Hadi has joined our booth as well and is sharing insect information with the public. While we don’t have produce for direct sale at the market, we do have some snazzy new t-shirts for sale as a fundraiser. Stop by our booth to pick one up or contact Kim to get one.

This year we are focusing on infrastructure but we will be expanding our educational programming next season. Let us know if you would like to participate in a field day or other activity. Please note that our corresponding course: HO434 Local Food Production, is offered both spring and fall and would qualify for 2 elective credits under the crops section for Agronomy majors.

If you are interested in seeing what we are doing, we will have a open house for the public on Friday August 2nd from 9-1. We are located at the N.E. Hansen Research Center on the Highway 14 bypass just east of I-29.

The student Farm is off to a great start! Twenty CSA share members have received 4 weeks of fresh vegetables so far along with recipes and information on what they are receiving and how to use them.

"I think the student farm represents a good example of a win-win situation. As a CSA subscriber I get delicious, healthy fresh vegetables that make for great summer meals. For the students, having the chance to work on the farm gives them the practical experience they need to start their own local foods business." Tom Cheesbrough

“I really appreciate the great job that the students and Kim are doing! The vegetables they grow and provide are so varied, so fresh, and so nicely cleaned and packaged. The weekly newsletter is a treat, too!” Kelley Tilmon
**General**

**Name:** Julie Thomas  
**Title:** Research Assistant  
**Office:** Plant Science Building 103

**Work history**

Number of years at SDSU: 4  
Previous jobs held:  
Bio Tech/Firefighter with NPS, Seed Technologist, Land Manager/Restorationist, Research Assistant at NDSU  
Future goals:  
To be able to make more time for my hobbies

**Education**

High School: Marshall Senior High School  
University/College & major: South Dakota State University—Biology and Environmental Management

**Personal**

Spouse: Jared Thomas  
Children: Aiden  
Hometown: Marshall, MN

**Places you have lived or visited:**  
I haven’t ventured too far out of the Great Plains other than a trip to Florida and a quick venture past the Canadian border. I’ve lived in Marshall MN, Interior SD, the Fargo/Moorhead area, and the Brookings/Volga/Bruce area

**Just for Fun**

Favorite book: I haven’t done as much reading recently as I used to, but no real “favorite” even comes to mind  
Favorite TV show: CSI, Criminal Minds, How I Met Your Mother

Favorite movie: I don’t think that I’ve ever gone wrong with Disney/Pixar

**Future goals:** To be able to make more time for my hobbies

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**General**

**Name:** Jixiang Wu  
**Title:** Assistant Professor in Quantitative Genetics  
**Office:** SNP 244D

**Education**

High School: Fourth Middle School in Changshan  
University/College & major:  
1991 Bachelor in Genetics and Plant Breeding, Zhejiang Agricultural University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang  
1994 Master in Genetics and Plant Breeding, Zhejiang Agricultural University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang  
2001 PhD in Statistical Genetics, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang  
2003 Master in Statistics and PhD in Plant Breeding, Mississippi State University, MS  
Other: Attended many workshops/short courses in statistics and quantitative genetics

**Personal**

Spouse: Jianli Qi (for over 18 yrs)  
Children: Joyce (11) and Joseph (9)  
Hometown: Changshan, Zhejiang, China

**Places you have lived or visited:**  
Lived: Changshan and Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China; Starkville, MS  
Visited: more than 20 states in the US and 7 provinces in China

**Future goals:**  
Develop/release computer tools for analyzing genetics and breeding data

**Just for Fun**

Favorite book: Bible and various statistics books  
Hobbies or interests: Traveling, gardening, and biking

**Favorite movie:** I don’t think that I’ve ever gone wrong with Disney/Pixar

If you could have three wishes, what would they be?  
1. The world becomes more peaceful  
2. Our parents live healthily  
3. Our 2 children will have their own happy and successful lives in the future
Plant Science Golf Outing

The golf outing will be held on Friday, August 9th at 4:00 at Six Mile Creek Golf Course in White. Sign up at the golf course at 3:45 and we will draw for teams for a scramble. Feel free to bring along family members or friends. We had 19 people participate last year and we’re hoping for more this year. Even if you’re not a golfer, it’s a great time to get together with your fellow employees outside of the workplace. Pin prizes will be awarded so if you would like to donate a prize, let us know. If you have questions, please contact Tracia at 688-5123 or Lisa at 688-4599.

Interesting Links

The Next Generation of Pesticides
A Challenging Year for Wheat
What Is Bugging Your Garden This Week? Cucumber Beetles
Damping-off Occurring In South Dakota Soybean Fields
Minimizing Toxic Effects of Pesticides on Pollinators
SDSU official co-chair of national biomass panel

Student Achievements

Griffith Undergraduate Research Award:
Austin Hanson, Dr. Lan Xu, Dr. Arvid Boe and Dr. Roger Gates. Root morphological traits of falcata alfalfa for drought tolerance and persistence.
Chelsea Kleinschrodt and Anne Fennell. Development of valiant grape ripening profile.
Orville and Enolia Bentley Undergraduate Research Award:
Tyler Landry and Matthew James. The Landscape Lab—Turning site problems into green infrastructure solutions: the campus as a living laboratory.

Carrie Schoezsler received the 2013-2014 National Garden Clubs Scholarship of $3500.

Veronica Calles Torrez was awarded the first Harry C. Severin Award for Excellence by a Graduate Student in Entomology. The award was in recognition of her research dedication, quality of scientific writing, and contributions to the Severin-McDaniel Insect Research Collection. Her Masters of Science thesis “Biological and Agronomic Aspects of Two Insect Predators of Switchgrass” is the first ever completed on the biology of the Switchgrass moth and the Switchgrass gall midge. Two published articles and a pending third in major international journals from her thesis work rounded out her recognized accomplishment. The award consisted of a decorative plaque recognizing her work and $300, and was given to her on 25 June 2013 as part of a large farewell gathering prior to her moving to Fargo, ND, for a PhD-track assistantship in entomology at North Dakota State University.