

SPEAKER BIOS



Philip Abbott

Dr. Philip Abbott is a professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University. He teaches courses on mathematical programming, international trade, trade policy and agricultural development, macroeconomics and mathematical economics. His current research focuses on international trade and international agricultural development, and four of his students have won national awards for the quality of their dissertations.

Phil has consulted for several domestic and foreign government agencies, including the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization. He has been on the editorial boards of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics and the Journal of Development Economics. In addition, Phil has published numerous articles and studies. Recent publications include studies on Tariff Rate Quotas, Globalization, Wheat-Importing State Agricultural Commodity Production and Trade, Implications of Game Theory for International Agricultural Trade, American Journal of Agricultural Economics.

He has been on the editorial boards of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics and the Journal of Development Economics. Notably he also serves on numerous committees including The International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium and The USDA–USTR Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feeds and Oilseeds.

Jay Akridge

Dr. Jay T Akridge was appointed Dean of the Purdue University College of Agriculture in 2009. As dean he is responsible for administering academic programs in the College of Agriculture, the Indiana Agricultural Experiment Station, the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service and a number of state regulatory services.

Prior to being named dean, Dr. Akridge was the James and Lois Ackerman Professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue and served as director of the Center for Food and Agricultural Business and the MS-MBA in food and agribusiness management program. He has worked with agribusiness managers in the areas of strategy and marketing across the United States and in more than 20 countries around the world.



Dr. Akridge received his master’s degree and doctorate in agricultural economics from Purdue University and his bachelor’s degree from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky. A native Kentuckian, his family owns and operates a third-generation retail farm supply business in Fredonia, Kentucky.



Rob Bertram

Rob Bertram is the Director of USAID's Office of Agriculture, Research and Technology. He has been with USAID for more than 20 years, and comes from a plant breeding and genetics background, with degrees from UC Davis, the University of Minnesota and the University of Maryland. His doctoral work focused on molecular techniques in assessing plant genetic resources and evolution in the genus which includes cassava. His work includes building stronger research ties between the US research community (especially universities and USDA) and the international centers, and research partners in Europe and Japan. He has been active for many years in plant genetic resources policy, having served on the CGIAR Genetic Resources Policy Committee and as a technical advisor during the negotiation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. He chaired the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture from 2002 to 2004.

Julie Borlaug

Julie Borlaug is the granddaughter of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug and the Assistant Director of Partnerships at the Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture at Texas A&M. Since the passing of her grandfather, Julie has worked to continue his legacy through developing agricultural partnerships between public, private and philanthropic groups to further the Borlaug legacy and expand upon his mission to feed the world's hungry.

Julie received her BA from Texas A&M in International Studies and Political Science in 1997 and her MBA in Nonprofit Management from the University of Dallas in 2004. She has spent her career in the nonprofit sector and has worked for organizations such as the Salvation Army and the American Cancer Society as Development of Director.

She has recently transitioned into her new role as Assistant Director of Partnerships in order to champion her grandfather's legacy and lend a voice to his desire to see more successful collaborative partnerships between the public and private partnerships in order to ensure the continuation of breakthroughs in international agriculture.



Sylvie Brouder

Sylvie Brouder's research addresses implications of converging U.S. biofuel and food security agendas by developing field-to-landscape analyses of the potential for dedicated energy crops to provide renewable fuel on marginal lands while protecting natural resources and food or feed productivity. She directs Purdue's Water Quality Field Station and is responsible for developing and promoting agro-ecology programming campus-wide. A core theme of Brouder's research and the field station's research portfolio is quantitative assessment of synergies and tradeoffs among productivity and environmental objectives to inform development of policy that promotes agricultural sustainability.

She specializes in crop mineral nutrition with an emphasis on crop ecology, water quality and agro-ecosystem nutrient balances and losses. In her research, she concentrates on nitrogen, carbon and potassium, evaluating the practicality of systems and management practices, and ecological viability and sustainability, including influences on water quality and greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural soils. Brouder earned a doctorate in ecology from the University of California, Davis, and a bachelor's degree in biology from Harvard University.

Gary Burniske

Mr. Burniske is a specialist in international relief and development, with a technical focus on sustainable agriculture, forestry and natural resource management. He is the Managing Director of the Center for Global Food Security within Discovery Park at Purdue University. Mr. Burniske is responsible for the day to day management of the Center and networks with Purdue's faculty and scientists to take a multi-disciplinary approach to tackling global challenges affecting food security.



Prior to joining Purdue, Mr. Burniske held senior leadership positions with prominent international organizations such as Mercy Corps, CARE, Institute for Sustainable Communities, International Tropical Timber Organization and Rainforest Foundation International. Most recently, he led Mercy Corps flagship country offices for nearly 10 years, serving as Country Director in Tajikistan and Colombia. One of Mr. Burniske's most noted accomplishments include the transformation of a small local Tajik NGO, the National Association of Business Women into the largest microcredit provider in Tajikistan, IMON International with a \$30 million portfolio serving 27,000 borrowers.

Mr. Burniske holds an MS in Forest Economics and a BS in Natural Resources Management, both from the University of Massachusetts. He is fluent in Spanish, Russian, Thai and Arabic, and conversational in Portuguese.



Melba Crawford

Melba Crawford is a Professor of Civil and Electrical Engineering and Agronomy at Purdue University, where she holds the Chair of Excellence in Earth Observation and serves as the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Engineering. Previously, she was a faculty member at the University of Texas at Austin, where she founded an interdisciplinary research and applications development program in remote sensing. Her current research program focuses on pattern recognition, active learning, and sensor fusion.

Dr. Crawford was a Jefferson Senior Science Fellow at the U.S. Department of State, a member of the NASA Earth System Science and Applications Advisory Committee, the NASA EO-1 Science Validation team, and an advisory committee for the IEEE Committee on Earth Observation to the South African Department of Science and Technology. Dr. Crawford is a Fellow of the IEEE.

Angelica Duran

Angelica Duran is an Associate Professor whose English and Comparative Literature courses reflect her primary areas of research: an interdisciplinary study of 17th-century arts and sciences and a comparative literature study of Miltonic influence in Hispanophone literature. An early version of her first book *The Age of Milton and The Scientific Revolution* (Duchesne UP, 2007) entitled "The Sexual Mathematics of Paradise Lost" was the most electronically-accessed article in *Milton Quarterly* in 2003. She has also edited *A Concise Companion to Milton* (Blackwell, 2007) and penned articles and chapters on various topics, all of which reflect her interest in showing points of unity between groups that are often seen as antagonistic and oppositional, and of extending the readership of 17th-century literary texts both in the classroom and in society at large. Having been born and schooled in California, she (nevertheless and thoroughly) enjoys living in the U.S. Midwest during the school-year with her husband Sean, daughter Jacqueline, and son Paul, and traveling nationally and internationally in the summers, most recently to Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico, Spain, and Thailand.



Gebisa Ejeta

Gebisa Ejeta is the Distinguished Professor of Plant Breeding & Genetics and International Agriculture at Purdue University and the Executive Director of the Purdue Center for Global Food Security. He completed his early education in his native country of Ethiopia, including a BS in Plant Sciences from Alemaya College in 1973. He attended graduate school at Purdue University earning his Masters (1976) and PhD (1978) in Plant Breeding & Genetics. In March 1979, Gebisa joined the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and conducted seminal sorghum research in Sudan for five years. In January 1984, Dr. Ejeta returned to Purdue University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agronomy. Since then, he has led a comprehensive educational and research program at Purdue with emphasis on African agricultural research and development.

Dr. Ejeta serves on the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development, the Consortium Board of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research, the Sasakawa Africa Association, and the Chicago Council for Global Affairs Agricultural Development Program. He is a Fellow of the American Association of the Advancement of Sciences, the Crop Science Society of Agronomy, and the American Society of Agronomy. He was a member of the team that launched the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa, a joint effort of the Rockefeller and Gates Foundation.

Among his many awards, Gebisa Ejeta was the recipient of the 2009 World Food Prize; and a national medal of honor from the President of Ethiopia.

Shenggen Fan

Shenggen Fan has been Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) since 2009. Growing up in rural China in the 1960s and 1970s, Dr. Fan became deeply committed to reducing poverty and hunger. He is convinced that innovative, country-owned, country-led approaches are required to achieve ambitious development goals. Along those lines, he recently proposed a new “business-as-unusual” approach to ending hunger: (1) invest in two core pillars—agriculture and social protection, (2) bring in new players, (3) adopt a country-led, bottom-up approach, (4) design policies using evidence and experience, and (5) measure whether commitments have been fulfilled. Dr. Fan joined IFPRI in 1995 as a research fellow, conducting extensive research on pro-poor development strategies in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Dr. Fan led IFPRI’s program on public investment before becoming the director of the Institute’s Development Strategy and Governance Division in 2005.



He received a PhD in applied economics from the University of Minnesota and bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Nanjing Agricultural University in China.



Jay P. Gore

Dr. Jay P. Gore is the Vincent P. Reilly Professor in Mechanical Engineering and a Jefferson Science Fellow at the US Department of State. He is the former Director of the Energy Center in Discovery Park. He served as a Research Fellow in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Michigan and as an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Maryland prior to joining Purdue as an Associate Professor. Jay is a past Chairman of the Central States Section of the International Combustion Institute and the ASME K11 Committee on Heat Transfer in Fire and Combustion. He has served as an Associate Editor of the ASME Journal of Heat Transfer. He was the U.S. Editor of the 28th International Combustion Symposium. Dr. Gore currently serves as an Associate Editor of the AIAA Journal.

Jay's research is in the area of combustion and radiation heat transfer with applications to pollutant reduction, efficiency enhancements, fire safety, and improved fundamental understanding. He has received over \$10M in research funding and is currently serving as the PI for grants over \$1M in gas turbine combustion and radiation heat transfer applications. He has authored or coauthored over 100 archival papers, 4 book chapters, and 175 conference papers. Jay has developed/revised 2 courses (Combustion and Advanced Combustion) at Purdue University and three courses in heat transfer and thermodynamics at the University of Maryland.

Vern Hawkins

Vern Hawkins is Syngenta's Regional Director of North America and President.

Growing up in a rural Indiana community, Vern's love for agriculture began early. He worked as a farmhand for his neighbors, was active in both 4H and FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America) and attended Purdue University, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in Agronomy. Later, Vern earned an executive master's degree in Business Administration from Temple University.



When Syngenta was formed, Vern headed the Product Portfolio Management team. He was responsible also for the Syngenta Brand Management, Biological Research and Development, Regulatory Affairs and Development Planning teams in the NAFTA region before moving on to lead the U.S. Horticulture Business Unit. Vern was appointed head of Commercial Operations for Syngenta Crop Protection in 2004 and promoted to president in 2010. In addition to his role as president, he also serves as North America Regional Director with responsibility for leading the integration of the Syngenta Crop Protection and Seeds businesses in North America.



Matthew Huber

Dr. Matthew Huber is a Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Science. He is a Co-founder and Member Purdue Climate Change Research Center. He is the head of the Climate Dynamics Prediction Laboratory. His research and that of the CDPL is focused on past, present and future climate, the mechanisms that govern climate, the different forms that climates can take on Earth, and the relationship between climate change and life. Major research areas include the radiative and dynamical processes generating tropical 'thermostats', and polar amplification of warming, as well as the ecological and evolutionary implications of these processes and patterns.

He has won numerous awards and accolades including the IBM Scholars Program for Linux Award. He is the Fmr. Co-Chair of the NCAR CCSM Paleoclimate Working Group, Fmr. Associate Editor of Paleoceanography, and is Currently Topical Editor of EGU Journal, "Earth System Dynamics.

He received a Bachelors from the University of Chicago in Geophysics, a Masters from the University of California Los Angeles in Atmospheric Sciences, and a Ph.D. from the University of California Santa Cruz in Earth Sciences.

Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer

Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer is professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Associate Dean and Director of International Programs in Agriculture (IPIA) at Purdue University. His research focuses on agricultural production economics, including soil fertility management, cropping systems, technology adoption, risk management and financing. Since 1997 he has been West Africa facilitator for the USAID Bean/Cowpea Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) working to build multidisciplinary teams and supervising CRSP social science research.

Lowenberg-DeBoer has a Masters degree in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Iowa State University, Ames. He joined the Purdue faculty in 1985, dividing his time between the West Lafayette campus and Purdue activities in West Africa. He returned in 1992 from a four year tour of duty in the Republic of Niger, West Africa, where he served as economist and team leader for a Purdue University project. He brings to his research and teaching a perspective gained through private sector experience as farmer and journalist western Iowa.



Peter Matlon

Peter Matlon has worked in international development for more than 35 years as a teacher, researcher, research manager and donor. He lived and worked in West and East Africa, and in Asia, for 25 years with several organizations including two CGIAR centers (ICRISAT and WARDA), UNDP and The Rockefeller Foundation. In 2007 he retired as Managing Director with Rockefeller, based in Nairobi, Kenya, where he oversaw all Foundation programs throughout Africa. He is an Adjunct Professor in Cornell University's Applied Economics and Management Department, Board Chair of Africa Rice, and serves on the boards and advisory committees of several other US and African institutions. He obtained a PhD in agricultural economics from Cornell University in 1977.

Elsa Murano

Dr. Elsa A. Murano, Professor and President Emerita of Texas A&M University, currently serves as Interim Director of the Norman E. Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture. A graduate of Florida International University (B.S. in Biological Sciences) and Virginia Tech (M.S. in Anaerobic Microbiology and PhD in Food Science & Technology), Dr. Murano began her career as an Assistant Professor in food microbiology at Iowa State University in 1990, where she conducted research in food safety. In 1995, she joined the faculty at Texas A&M University as Associate Professor, leading the university's Center for Food Safety as Director. In 2001, Professor Murano was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as Undersecretary for Food Safety at the Department of Agriculture. In that position, she was the highest-ranking food safety official in the U.S. government. One of her main accomplishments was achieving the Healthy People 2010 goals for reduction of illnesses due to *E. coli*



O157:H7 four years ahead of schedule.

In 2005, Dr. Murano returned to Texas A&M, where she was appointed Dean and Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the largest such program in the nation. In 2008, Dr. Murano became the first woman, and first Hispanic president of Texas A&M University, and one of the youngest in the institution's 133-year history. In her brief tenure, she pursued the development of an Academic Master Plan, outlining strategies to enhance teaching, research, and engagement activities in fulfillment of Vision 2020.

Dr. Murano conducts research and teaching in food safety, with lifetime research funding since 1990 of over \$9 million, and more than 50 published scientific articles and 7 book chapters. In addition to her teaching and research duties, she currently serves as Interim Director of the Norman E. Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture, with a portfolio of \$60M in projects on almost every continent. She is also a member of the Board for International Food and Agriculture Development, a presidentially-appointed position that advises the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development within the State Department, and serves on the Board of Directors of Hormel Foods Corporation and the Food Processors Institute Foundation.



Alan H. Rebar

Alan H. Rebar is the Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Executive Director of Discovery Park at Purdue University. Dr. Alan H. Rebar received his DVM degree in 1973, and his PhD in 1975, both from Purdue University. Dr. Rebar's current positions are Purdue University Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Professor of Veterinary Clinical Pathology in the School of Veterinary Medicine, Purdue University. He is a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Dr. Rebar is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association*.

Dr. Rebar is the author or co-author of 11 books/monographs, 23 textbook chapters, and over 100 scientific articles in the areas of diagnostic cytology, hematology, and inhalation toxicology.

Michael Roth

Michael Roth is a senior associate and Sector Manager of ARD's Land Tenure and Property Rights sector. Formerly a Senior Social Scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Land Tenure Center, he conducted policy-oriented research on land tenure and resource policy. He has conducted land subsector assessments in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, and land tenure and property rights assessments in Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, and the Ukraine. Dr. Roth was formally Program Director of the Broadening Access and Strengthening Input Market Systems (BASIS) Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) and principal investigator of BASIS CRSP projects in Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, and South Africa. He also served as the University's Project Director of the Zimbabwe Land Reform and Resettlement Project. He conducted research on land tenure and property rights in the Gambia, Ghana, and Mozambique under the USAID-funded Peri-Urban Areas of Africa project, and on linkages among customary tenure, formalization, and agricultural performance in Somalia and Uganda



under the USAID-funded land markets project. Dr. Roth is currently the leader of USAID's Lessons Learned: Property Rights and Natural Resources Management Task Order within ARD and serves as the Senior Technical Advisor/Manager for USAID/Ethiopia's Strengthening Land Tenure and Administration Program. Beyond Technical Advisor, his responsibilities have included training, monitoring and evaluation, project design, and strategic planning.



John Sanders

John Sanders is a professor of Ag Economics at Purdue University.

Before coming to Purdue Sanders spent almost twelve years overseas doing his PhD fieldwork and working for the Ford Foundation in Brazil in a graduate education program (Fortaleza, Ceara), as the economist in the Bean Program in CIAT (Cali, Colombia) and representing Purdue in a university development program in Portugal (Evora).

Since 1983 he has been at Purdue teaching economic development (see the link to his 2012 course lectures) and doing field research in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central America Since this time he has made over 100 trips to Sub-Saharan Africa concentrating his activities in West Africa and Ethiopia. Since 2003 along with Botorou Ouendeba they have focused on a combined technology and marketing extension project in West Africa. Besides the new technologies for sorghum and millet production they have been introducing a five point marketing plan and developing farmers' associations into functioning marketing coops. During 2011 in Mali and Senegal this pilot project activity had moved into scaling up activities. In 2012 they were involved in Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal and Mali with this project (Production-Marketing project).

Timothy D. Sands

Timothy D. Sands is the Interim President, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of Purdue University. On June 21, 2012, the Purdue Board of Trustees announced that Timothy D. Sands will serve as acting president of the university until January 2013 when Gov. Mitch Daniels becomes the 12th President of Purdue. At the conclusion of Dr. Sands' service as interim president, he will return to the position he has served in since April 2010, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of Purdue University. As executive vice president and provost, Dr. Sands is responsible for all of Purdue's colleges and schools, the regional campuses and related academic activities in coordination with the Office of the President. The provost also oversees libraries, cultural centers, and enrollment management including admissions, registrar and financial aid and various student success programs in addition to the appointment and retention of faculty and academic staff.



Dr. Sands earned a bachelor's degree with highest honors in engineering physics and a master's degree and doctorate in materials science from the University of California, Berkeley. He joined the Purdue faculty in 2002 as the Basil S. Turner Professor of Engineering in the schools of materials engineering and electrical and computer engineering. Prior to becoming Provost, he served as the Mary Jo and Robert L. Kirk Director of the Birck Nanotechnology Center in Purdue's Discovery Park. He is a fellow of IEEE and the Materials Research Society.



Ronald F. Turco

Dr. Ronald F. Turco is a Professor in the Department of Agronomy, Director of the Indiana Water Resources Research Center and the Purdue Water Community. He has B.S. degrees from the University of Idaho in Bacteriology and Soil Science and a Ph. D. from Washington State University in Soil Microbiology. His research program is divided over four areas: understanding the fate of introduced *E. coli* in soil and water and the role these processes play in such things as water and food contamination, developing a better predictive capacity to understand the environmental fate of manufactured nano materials (fullerenes, single wall carbon nanotubes and nanometals) in soil and water, defining the unintended consequences of using our soils resources for biofuel production and a long-term interest in the fate and degradation of organic materials and metals introduced to soil, the subsurface and water. He has authored many articles and reports and has delivered numerous invited and volunteered presentations. He has also managed numerous large projects from USDA, NSF and EPA. Dr. Turco teaches two graduate level courses: Soil Microbiology and a course titled Biotransformation of Anthropogenic Molecules. He also teaches an undergraduate course on Soil Ecology.

Connie Weaver

Dr. Connie Weaver was named professor and head of the Department of Nutrition Science in August 1991. In 2000, she became a Distinguished Professor in the department. Also in 2000, she was appointed director of a National Institutes of Health-funded [Botanical Research Center](#) to study dietary supplements containing polyphenolics for age-related diseases. In 2008 she became Deputy Director of The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute. In 2010, she was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science.



Her research interests include mineral bioavailability, calcium metabolism, and bone health. Dr. Weaver was appointed to the 2005 U.S. Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, and she served on the National Academy of Sciences Food and Nutrition Board Panel to develop new recommendations for requirements for calcium and related minerals. She has published over 300 original research articles and 100 book chapters and reviews. For her contributions in teaching, Dr. Weaver was awarded Purdue University's Outstanding Teaching Award. In 1993, she was honored with the Purdue University Health Promotion Award for Women, and in 1997, she received the Institute of Food Technologists Babcock Hart Award. Dr. Weaver received a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in food science and human nutrition from Oregon State University. She received a PhD in food science and human nutrition from Florida State University and holds minors in chemistry and plant physiology.