

## Agronomic Science Foundation

# Greenfield Scholars: Nurturing Ag's Future

Although the popular conception of Johnny Appleseed made famous in a 1948 Walt Disney cartoon depicts apple trees springing up across America because the loveable, itinerant wanderer strewed apple seeds haphazardly across the frontier, the true story is much more focused. The real John Chapman, who became the legendary Johnny Appleseed while he was still alive, was actually an American pioneer nurseryman who introduced apple trees to large parts of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois as well as the northern counties of West Virginia. Planting apple tree nurseries with fences to protect the trees from livestock, he left those orchards in the care of local farmers in various regions around the country.

In much the same way, the inaugural class of Greenfield Scholars will be paired with mentors who are Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs) in their region as they enter the workforce in the field of agronomy and pursue the CCA or Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg) designation. They may be likened to those long ago Chapman nurseries that nurtured the apple trees that made the United States the second-leading producer of apples worldwide. The first five Greenfield Scholars will be recognized this month at the International Annual Meeting of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA taking place in Long Beach, CA.

The Greenfield Scholars are a new and unique part of the already successful Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute. This program has created a network of students and alums who stand out in the fields of agronomy, crop science, soil science, and environmental science.

### This Year's Scholars

The following Greenfield Scholars will now join that network:

**Steve Parker**, Ohio State Agronomy Club, looks forward to finding a job with a seed company. He wants to help growers by making recommendations that can help them improve their yields on their crops and eventually return to the family farm.

**Marshall Hay**, Iowa State University, has known ever since he was a small farm kid that he loved farming. From



**Alexander Barton**

Director of Business  
Development

abarton@sciencesocieties.org  
608-273-8095



**GREENFIELD**  
*Scholars*

riding the combine with his father to seeing the fields turn green with crops, he was enthralled by agriculture. While there are many aspects of agronomy that interest him, his passion is in the field—working with retailers and growers. He is considering a career as regional chemical sales representative or agronomist, or in wholesale distribution of crop protection products, before returning to his family's independent agricultural retail business.

**Hannah Wilkerson**, South Dakota State University Agronomy and Conservation Club, plans to work as an agronomist at an agricultural cooperative after she graduates from college. She would like to develop farm management plans for growers to precisely apply seed, fertilizer, and pesticides. Her goal is to work with growers on a personal level to establish specific management goals based on reliable data and proven products.

After establishing a customer base and gaining professional experience, she would like to start her own seed sales and crop consulting service.

After completing her internship with Helena Chemical last summer, **Melissa Golden**, Oklahoma State Agronomy Club, knew that she would like to enter sales when she graduates. Most comfortable in the area of chemical sales, she is looking forward to expanding her knowledge base to include seed and equipment sales because she feels that will give her the opportunity to interact with growers. Eventually, she would also like to teach and has an interest in exploring herbicide resistance in weeds.

**Katrina Sudbeck**, Kansas State University, believes that by helping producers figure out what's wrong in their fields and making recommendations to solve the problems, she will be able to make connections and put her agronomy degree to work every day. Her internship as a crop consultant opened her eyes to the diversity and challenges in the life of an agronomist. She might also consider a career as a marketing communications manager in an agricultural setting, salesperson, agronomy extension agent, or teacher.

These young people represent some of the best talent available to the future of agriculture. If you would like to be part of this legacy, you can support the Greenfield Scholars program or any one of the many other volunteer or giving opportunities offered by the Agronomic Science Foundation. To find out more about options that might interest you, call me at 608-273-8095 or email me at abarton@sciencesocieties.org. To make a monetary donation online, visit [www.a-s-f.org](http://www.a-s-f.org).