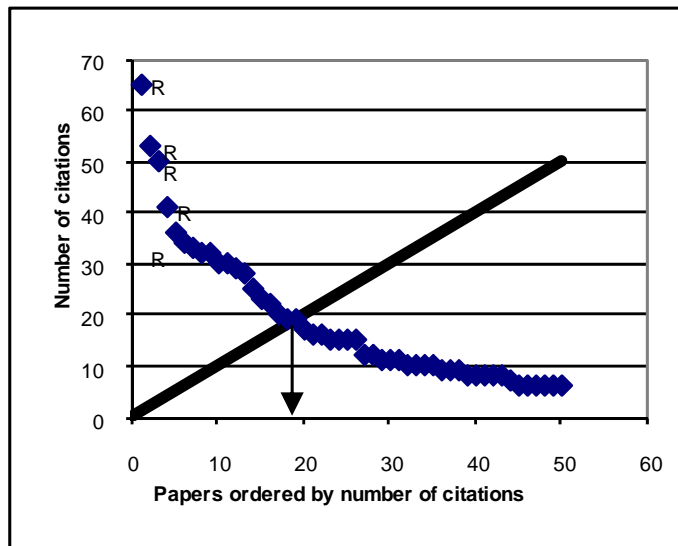




## Musings about a research career and the 'H number'

So what is it all about, this science and research thing? Are we really contributing anything of value? What criteria are relevant? No doubt one set of criteria is 'personal jollies': probably most scientists are in the business because it is exciting, interesting and challenging and often offers opportunities for travel and variety in type of work. Those who teach research have additional 'jollies' of seeing students do well. There might even be a bit of respect from the community at large ... maybe ... if they are generous.

Is it about ideas? It certainly is interesting to launch an idea and either test it yourself or convince others that it has merit. Just like an entrepreneur, but we usually just sell ideas. It is gratifying, although it is tough to maintain ownership of a good idea!



Maybe the best criterion is what your peers think of your work. Do they want you on their research teams? Do they cite your papers? The notorious 'H number' is an attempt to quantify the consistency with which you attract peer attention. The chart shows the H concept. The numbers of citations by each paper is plotted versus the order of the papers by decreasing

citations. The intersection of this downward curve and a 1:1 line gives the H number; in the example the H number is 19. It means the 19<sup>th</sup> most cited paper was cited 19 times. Note also in this example, the points indicated by 'R' were review papers: there's a sure way to become known!

Is the H number relevant? So what if the 19<sup>th</sup> paper got cited 19 times! Consider a 'flash in the pan' career: one or two highly cited papers and nothing else published – it would have a high H number. This seems fair, even if unfortunate that the author only had one idea. Alternatively, if an author had one highly cited paper and then lots of drivel, the H number would be low. Was the author just lucky that one time? Clearly the H number rewards consistency of attracting citations.

A research career reduced to a number. Ah ... reductionist science come full circle!

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 CSSS Newsletter

**Jobs, Jobs, Jobs**

**Assistant Professor – Sustainable Farming Systems**

The Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences at the University of Hawaii – Manoa is inviting applications for this tenure-track, 11-month Assistant Professorship. This position is 60% Research, 30% Extension, and 10% Instruction and is located at the Komohana Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Hilo, HI. Duties and responsibilities are to develop and provide leadership for a collaborative, interdepartmental research program on integrated sustainable cropping systems with emphasis on fruit and nut production. Research areas may include: novel cropping systems, effect of composts and other organic soil amendments on soil fertility and quality, crop nutrition, varietal selection, pathogen suppression, and insect dynamics.

Minimum qualifications for this position are: Ph.D. in crop science, horticulture, agronomy, soil science, or other related agricultural field from an accredited university or college; demonstrated ability as a teacher; ability to conduct research and extension programs in rural and/ or orchard agro-environments; experience in conducting research in fruits, nuts, and/or sustainable cropping systems; experience in communicating using diverse information delivery systems, such as publications in peer-reviewed journals, web pages, electronic newsletters, and/ or videos; and experience in working harmoniously and effectively with diverse groups of people, such as students, colleagues, and farmers.

To apply, go to Work at UH, position 0084067 at <http://www.pers.hawaii.edu/wuh/nadvert.aspx?rn=11841&si=837613&pn=1&sn=postdate&so=desc>. For more information, contact Search Committee Chair, Dr. Susan C. Miyasaka, [miyasaka@hawaii.edu](mailto:miyasaka@hawaii.edu) or 808-969-8258. Review of all applicants will begin April 18 and will continue until the position is filled or the search is closed. The University of Hawaii is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender identity and expression, age, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, status as a protected veteran, National Guard participation, breastfeeding, and arrest/court record (except as permissible under State law).

**AIC 2011 Annual General Meeting**

The 2011 AIC Annual General Meeting will take place **Sunday, July 17** during the Plant Canada Conference, *Plant Adaptation to Environmental Change*, in **Halifax, Nova Scotia**.

**CSSS 2012 Annual Meeting**

In 2012, the Canadian Society of Soil Science and Association Québécoise de Spécialistes en Sciences du Sol (AQSSS) are organizing the joint conference. The conference will be held on **June 3-7, 2012** in **Manoir St-Castin, Lac Beauport**, which is about 25 km from the airport and 20 km from Québec City (<http://www.hotelsvillegia.com/fr/manoir-st-castin>).

## In Memoriam

### Dr. Johan Dormaar

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Johan Frederik Dormaar Ph.D., D.Sc.h.c., FCSSS of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at the age of 80 years.

“Dr. Johan Dormaar's research at Agricultural and Agri-Foods Canada (AAFC) focused on the environmental impact of over-grazing such as soil loss, artificial drought, and the deleterious effect of livestock on the enzymatic activity of soil. He pioneered in-depth research on the interaction between livestock grazing and rangeland soils in North America, and for this he gained considerable national and international recognition.

Dormaar brought about a new understanding of nutrient recycling by showing for the first time that phosphatase accumulation over the winter led to the release of inorganic phosphorus from organically bound phosphorus in the soil in spring. His basic methodology is widely used to measure the characteristics of soil organic matter, the impacts of agricultural practices on soil, and the length of time for rangeland recovery. Present models of how carbon is captured and processed within grassland soils rely heavily on these baseline data.

Dormaar's work contributed to a holistic view of the way grasslands have evolved since pre-European times. His approach influenced a new generation of soil scientists working towards more sustainable land management strategies. A much-sought after speaker at national and international conferences, Dormaar published over 200 articles including 110 scientific papers and numerous book chapters. He has served terms as president of both the Canadian Society of Soil Science and the Archaeological Society of Alberta.

Dormaar continued his leadership and teaching of younger scientists through his emeritus status within Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Research Branch. In addition, Dormaar taught at the University of Lethbridge where his soil genesis and landscape research added dimension to the Geomorphology and Geoarchaeology field courses. A lifelong Scouter, Dormaar received Scouts Canada's Silver Acorn Award in 1990 in honour of fifty years' distinguished service.”

Excerpt from: <http://www.science.ca/scientists/scientistprofile.php?pid=286&pg=0>

### Professor Shiu Luk

It is with great sadness that I am writing to inform you that Professor Shiu Luk passed away February 16, 2011. As many of you know, Shiu was a Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto Mississauga (formerly Erindale College) from 1978-1994. Shiu received his BA (Hons) (1968) and M.Phil(1972) from the Department of Geography at the University of Hong Kong. After receiving his PhD from the University of Alberta in 1975, Shiu held positions at Brock University and the University of Guelph before joining the Department of Geography at Erindale College in 1978. Shiu was about to become Director of the Institute of Land Information Management when he became ill in 1994 and was forced to retire.

Shiu was a soil scientist who was a pioneer in international research at our campus. His research was well funded by both IDRC and CIDA. Before he became ill, Shiu was leading numerous projects in China including work on the Three Gorges project and soil management in Inner Mongolia. A very active and engaged academic, Shiu had over 30 peer-reviewed publications in top soil science and hydrology journals and was the editor of Chinese Geography and the Environment. He was a very active member of the department and a strong advocate for environmental education. His presence and contributions have long been missed.





# Fundamental for Life: Soil, Crop, & Environmental Sciences

ASA • CSSA • SSSA International Annual Meetings  
*in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Soil Science*

Oct. 14-19, 2011 • San Antonio, TX

The American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America will host more than 4,000 scientists, professionals, educators, and students at the 2011 International Annual Meetings, held in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Soil Science.

### Dates & Deadlines

June 14	Early Registration Opens
June 14	Housing Opens
July 21	Final Abstract Editing Deadline
July 21	Virtual Poster Submission Deadline

- Opening Keynote Oct. 16: Sam Dryden, Gates Foundation
- CSSA Plenary Oct. 17: Marianne Bänziger, CIMMYT
- ASA Plenary Oct. 19: John Soper, Pioneer Hi-Bred
- William Davies, Lancaster Univ., will present the Massengale Lecture
- Closing Reception Oct. 19: radio commentator & author Jim Hightower with comedian Don McMillan

Website: <https://www.acsmeetings.org/home>

### **Student Presentation Awards at Annual Conference October 16-20, 2011 in San Antonio, Texas**

The **C.F. Bentley Award** was initiated in 1983 to encourage and recognize excellence in oral presentations by students at the CSSS Annual Meetings. It honours Dr. Fred Bentley who was CSSS President in 1956-57 and inducted as a CSSS Fellow in 1973. The Award winner receives \$500, the first runner-up \$300, and the second runner-up \$200.

The President's Award was established in 1992 to foster excellence in student poster presentations as a means of disseminating research results at the CSSS Annual Meetings. The President's Award is: \$500 for the winner, \$300 for the first runner-up and \$200 for the second runner-up.

## Joint Canadian Soil Science Society/ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting

Please consider attending this important meeting for the Society. We will be represented as a high profile participant in the meetings. Below you can find the CSSS co-sponsored sessions:

### Sessions Organized by CSSS:

#### Division: Canadian Society of Soil Science

**Title:** Symposium--Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Managed Systems **Organizer/Presider:** Scott X. Chang Mon. Oct 17: 8:00-14:45

**Title:** CSSS Annual General Meeting and Reception **Organizer:** Barbara Cade-Menun Mon. Oct 17, 18:00-21:30

**Title:** Crop Responses, New Management Strategies, and Improved Methods for Assessing Sulfur Needs I (Poster Session) **Organizers/Presider:** Cynthia Grant and John Kovar Wed. Oct 19, 14:30-16:30

### Sessions Cosponsored by CSSS:

#### Division: S01 Soil Physics

- Symposium--Advances in Soil and Vadose Zone Hydrology: The Contributions of Glendon Gee I Mon. Oct 17, 8:00-12:00
- Advances in Soil and Vadose Zone Hydrology: The Contributions of Glendon Gee II (poster session) Mon. Oct. 17, 16:00-18:00
- Measurement and Modeling of near-Surface Soil Water and Energy Fluxes (Oral Session) Mon. Oct 17, 8:00-11:55
- Measurement and Modeling of near-Surface Soil Water and Energy Fluxes II (Poster Session) Tues. Oct 18, 14:00-16:00
- Patterns In Soil Physical Properties: From Micrometers to Kilometers (Oral Session) Wed. Oct. 19 8:00-11:30
- Linked Non-Linear Processes at the Soil/Plant/Atmosphere Continuum (Oral Session) Wed. Oct 19, 8:00-11:30

#### Division: S03 Soil Biology & Biochemistry

- Symposium--Advanced Techniques for Assessing and Interpreting Microbial Community Function I Mon. Oct. 17, 8:00-12:00
- Symposium--Biological Processes in Cold and Frozen Soils – the Hidden Perspective Tues. Oct. 18, 8:13-12:00
- Physics, Chemistry, and Ecology of Seasonally Frozen Soils: I - Have We Ignored the Role of winter and spring on Soil (Oral Session) Wed. Oct 19, 8:30-11:05
- Advanced Techniques for Assessing and Interpreting Microbial Community Function: II (Poster Session) Wed. Oct 19, 14:00-16:00

#### Division: S04 Soil Fertility & Plant Nutrition

- Symposium--Synthetic Fertilizer Use in Sustainable Cropping Systems: Benefits and Consequences Mon. Oct 17, 8:00-12:00
- Chemical Fertilizers Advancements: Slow Release and Other New Chemical Amendment Strategies (Oral Session) Mon. Oct 17, 13:00-15:30
- Symposium--Global Importance and Progress of Reducing Anthropogenic Emissions of Nitrous Oxide from Cropping Systems I Tues, Oct. 18, 8:00-11:55
- Global Importance and Progress of Reducing Anthropogenic Emissions of Nitrous Oxide from Cropping Systems II (Poster Session) Tues. Oct. 18, 13:20-15:20

#### Division: S05 Pedology

- Innovations in Soil Science Education I (Oral Session) Mon. Oct. 17, 8:00-11:15
- Innovations in Soil Science Education II (Poster Session) Mon Oct. 17, 16:00-18:00
- Symposium--Spatial Predictions in Soils, Crops and Agro/Forest/Urban/Wetland Ecosystems I Tues. Oct. 18, 7:45-12:00
- Spatial Predictions in Soils, Crops and Agro/Forest/Urban/Wetland Ecosystems II (Oral Session) Tues. Oct. 18, 13:00-16:30
- Spatial Predictions in Soils, Crops and Agro/Forest/Urban/Wetland Ecosystems III (Poster Session) Tues. Oct. 18, 14:30-16:30

#### Division: S06 Soil & Water Management & Conservation

- Soil Conservation on the Great Plains – From Sidelines to Center Field I (Oral Session) Tues. Oct. 18, 13:10-15:00
- Soil Conservation on the Great Plains – From Sidelines to Center Field II (Poster Session) Tues. Oct. 18, 14:30-16:30
- The Development, Application and Validation of Agri-Environmental Indicators (Oral Session) Wed. Oct. 19, 12:55-15:00

#### Division: S07 Forest, Range and Wildland Soils

- Symposium—Bioenergy and Soil Sustainability: Forest, Range and Wildlands. Tues. Oct 18, 7:50-12:15
- Bioenergy and Soil Sustainability: Forest, Range and Wildlands II (Poster Session) Tues. Oct 18, 13:00-15:00

#### Division: S08 Nutrient Management and Soil & Plant Analysis

- Symposium--Can Sulfur Still Be Ignored? Crop Responses, New Management Strategies, and Improved Methods for Assessing Sulfur Needs. Wed. Oct 19, 8:15-12:00

*Continued on page 6*

**Division: S11 Soils & Environmental Quality**

- Symposium--Changes in Soil Carbon Due to Climate and Human Activities Mon. Oct. 17, 8:00-12:00
- Dissolved Organic Matter (DOM): Fate and Role in Soil and Environmental Processes (Oral Session) Mon. Oct 17, 13:00-16:00
- Spatial and Temporal Variability in Contaminant Transport (Oral Session) Tues. Oct. 18, 8:00-12:00
- Phosphorus Fate in Long-Term Fertilized/Manured Soils (Oral Session) Tues. Oct. 18, 13:00-16:00

**Division: Z01 Z Series Special Sessions**

- Soil Science Society Presidents TBA

**Division: Consulting Soil Scientists**

- Business Topics In Consulting (Oral Session) Mon. Oct. 17, 8:15-9:45
- Ethics and Professional Practice (Oral Session) Mon. Oct 17, 10:00-12:00
- CSI Critical Investigation: How Consulting Plays into Forensic Analysis (Oral Session) Mon. Oct. 17, 13:00-16:00

## Report on the Joint CSSS – A/C/S Meetings in San Antonio in October

As all CSSS members should know by now, the CSSS is holding its annual meeting jointly with the Agronomy Society of America (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) – together the A/C/S – International Annual Meetings in San Antonio, Texas October 16-19, 2011. As CSSS representatives to this meeting, we've been working hard to get things organized. The A/C/S gave us the equivalent status to a division in the SSSA, allowing us to organize and sponsor our own symposia and oral and poster sessions, and to co-sponsor sessions with other divisions. As the list included elsewhere in this newsletter shows, we have organized one poster session and one symposium ourselves, and have co-sponsored nine symposia, 15 oral sessions and eight poster sessions. (Note: the speakers for symposia are all invited, while those for oral sessions are all volunteered). Many CSSS members are presenting posters and talks in these sessions, plus others we aren't officially co-sponsoring. So CSSS will be well-represented at these meetings.

The deadline to submit abstracts was April 26. Since then, division chairs (including us) have been busy organizing the submitted abstracts into sessions. All of this involved a lot of emailing among the chairs of all divisions, moving abstracts to different sessions to balance numbers or because volunteer papers were submitted to symposia instead of oral sessions, determining the best day and time for each session, and trying to minimize overlap of similar sessions. All abstracts have been slotted in somewhere, although if you were not an invited speaker your abstract may not be in the session to which you originally submitted. Preliminary session dates and times are included on the list of sessions in this newsletter. When these have been confirmed and rooms have been assigned to each session, abstract authors will be contacted with details.

We have also begun to organize our annual general business meeting and awards reception, which will be held during the conference. The AGM is scheduled for Monday October 17 at 6:15, following the poster session. This meeting will last for one hour, and then will be followed by an awards ceremony and buffet dinner reception from 7:30-9:30. The dinner will include soup, several salads, a chicken dish, a fish dish and a beef dish, plus dessert, for \$20 per person. There will also be a cash bar. The A/C/S organizers will include a line on the registration form to purchase tickets in advance. Everyone must have a ticket to attend. Please mark the date on your calendar!

Other dates and deadlines to note: early registration and housing opens June 14. Note that the less-expensive housing options usually fill up quickly, and likely will be gone by the end of the day on June 14. If budget is an issue, submit your housing forms early! The final abstract editing deadline is July 21, which is also the deadline for submitting virtual posters.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio,

*Barbara Cade-Menun and Gordon Price*



**June 7—9, 2011**

**University of Guelph, Guelph Ontario**

Climate Change and the Implications for Plant Science is a two-day Symposium to explore the latest science around climate change, its impact on agriculture and strategies to mitigate and adapt to the inevitable changes facing the industry. International researchers will share cutting-edge research on the potential impacts of climate change on agricultural pests. **Optional workshops** take place following the Symposium.

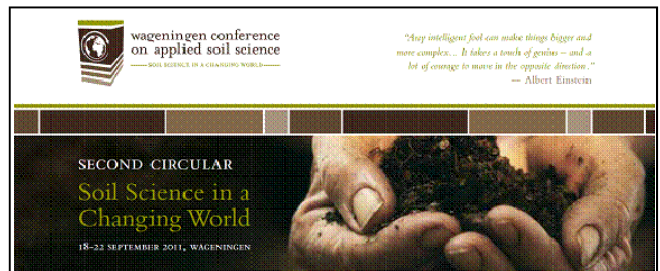
**Keynote speaker, Stephen Lewis**, international envoy for humanitarian efforts, will discuss the interconnection of health and food systems in the context of global climate change.

**Ze'ev Gedalof**, Director of the Climate & Ecosystem Dynamics Research (CEDaR) laboratory, will examine past climates and their relevance for future projections. **Darren Kriticos**, Principal Research Scientist of CSIRO Entomology will highlight the impact of climate change on pest threat status and potential impacts on crops. **Cynthia Rosenzweig**, Senior Research Scientist, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies will discuss plant protection in a changing climate and promising directions for agricultural research.

**Symposium Topics Include:**

- Past climates
- Projected future climates
- Climate models
- Climate change impacts
- Climate change strategies for agriculture
- Agricultural productivity – negative impacts and positive opportunities
- The phenology, distribution and abundance of native pests
- The invasion and colonization potential of alien pests
- Weed/crop interactions and crop losses
- Model projections for agricultural pests
- Farmland biodiversity
- Biodiversity, opportunities and threats

[www.plantscience.open.uoguelph.ca](http://www.plantscience.open.uoguelph.ca) •



**REMINDER: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

*Climate change • Food security •  
Water resources • Biodiversity*

These evocative titles are not issues that, in the eye of the Public and Politicians, are easily linked to soil scientists. Rather, they are challenges seen to be dealt with by other scientists in multidisciplinary think-tanks linking into Parliamentary commissions and the front page of newspapers. Soil scientists have kept a remarkably low profile in such discussions and think tanks, despite the central importance of soils to all of these issues.

In this conference we will discuss the importance of soils and soil science for combating the problems we are facing around the globe. On behalf of the Soil Science Centre of Wageningen University we would like to invite you to the First Wageningen Conference on Applied Soil Science. These topics will be addressed in a dynamic way, by top key-note speeches, challenging debates, inspiring workshops and master classes as well as oral and poster presentations by participants.

**University of Manitoba  
Soil Scientist  
on Nature of Things**

Professor Don Flaten, member of CSSS, was interviewed for the Nature of Things on CBC regarding phosphorus pollution of Lake Winnipeg. Great to see soil science discussed as a possible solution!

<http://www.cbc.ca/documentaries/natureofthings/video.html?ID=1867857094>



## Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

### **Climate Change and the Implications for Plant Science**

June 7 to 9, 2011

University of Guelph, Guelph Ontario

[www.plantscience.open.uoguelph.ca](http://www.plantscience.open.uoguelph.ca) •

[info@open.uoguelph.ca](mailto:info@open.uoguelph.ca)

### **Canadian Society of Soil Science Annual Conference jointly organized with ASA, CSSA, SSSA**

Oct 16-20 San Antonio, TX

See <https://www.acsmeetings.org/home>

### **66th SWCS International Annual Conference, July 17-20, 2011**

Conservation Science and Policy: Global Perspectives and Applications

July 17-20, 2011 Washington, DC

[www.swcs.org/11ac](http://www.swcs.org/11ac)

### **CLRN meeting - "Soils the Critical Zone for Land and Water Management".**

June 7-8, 2011

University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK

For more info please contact Ben Stewart at

[Ben.Stewart@AGR.GC.CA](mailto:Ben.Stewart@AGR.GC.CA)

### **Rhizosphere 3 International Conference**

Sep 25 - 30, 2011

Burswood Convention Centre, Perth, WA

<http://rhizosphere3.com/>

### **EGU2011: Soil water repellency: origin, assessment and geomorphological consequences**

European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2011, Vienna, Austria, April 3-8, 2011.

<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2011/session/7784>

### **Land Quality and Land Use Information in the European Union**

May 26-27, 2011

Keszthely, Hungary

<http://landq2011.uni-pannon.hu/>

### **12th North American Agroforestry Conference**

June 4-9, 2011

Athens, Georgia

<http://hosting.caes.uga.edu/2011NAAC/>

### **12th International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis**

June 6-10, 2011

Crete, Greece

<http://www.isspaonline.org/Program/>

### **First Wageningen Conference on applied soil science**

September 18-22, 2011

Wageningen, The Netherlands

[http://eussoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/Future\\_events/Wageningen.pdf](http://eussoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/Future_events/Wageningen.pdf)

## **Canadian Journal of Soil Science New Look!!**

AIC has improved the website for their science journals.

Please visit it at <http://pubs.aic.ca/cjss>

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