

Memoriams at 2024 AOWC

Howard Rines passed away on May 23, 2024. Howard grew up on his family farm, He received his Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees from Purdue University and a PhD in Genetics from Yale University. After 5 years as a Botany Professor at the University of Georgia, he and his family moved and settled in Shoreview in 1976, where he enjoyed a long and productive career as a Research Agronomist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service at the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus, where he also served as an Adjunct Professor. Focusing on oat genetics with an emphasis on cellular and molecular approaches to oat improvement, his research was foundational for the future of oat and crop genetics.

Ronald L. Phillips passed away on August 25, 2023. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degree from Purdue University and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, completing his postdoctoral training at Cornell University. In 1967, he joined the faculty of the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Minnesota and was there 42 years, retiring at age 70 as a Regents Professor, first McKnight Presidential Chair in Genomics, and Director of the Center for Microbial and Plant Genomics. He has published over 150 research papers, 70 chapters, 350 abstracts and 6 edited books. Research areas have included the molecular genetics of crop species, cell and tissue culture, gene mapping and genomics. He made significant improvements in protein quality, seed shattering resistance and other important traits. He is on the "Wall of Discovery" at the University of Minnesota for the "first regeneration of complete corn plants from cells", a groundbreaking discovery that led to the development of genetically engineered crops.

Vern Burrows passed away November 8, 2020. Vern graduated from the University of Manitoba (BSA and MSc) and the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California (PhD, 1958). Vern had a 40-year career as a research scientist at Ottawa's Experimental Farm, breeding 27 oat varieties (notably AC Gehl) and publishing 100 research papers including four book chapters. He was known for running around his oat plots in Ottawa and California's Imperial Valley with his field notes, Tilley hat and sunscreen. He celebrated innovation of any kind, would promote the merits of oats to anyone who would listen, and was a lunchtime mainstay of the old Carling Building's "eclectic table".

Marty Carson died May 9th, 2019. Marty attended Eastern Illinois University as an undergraduate. He did his graduate studies (M.S. and Ph.D) in Plant Pathology at the University of Illinois. Marty was a faculty member at South Dakota State University for eight years and then joined the USDA-ARS Plant Science Unit in Raleigh, NC, in 1989. With the USDA-ARS in Raleigh, Marty became well known for his work on maize diseases and in maize germplasm improvement. In 2002, Marty accepted the Research Leader position at the USDA-ARS Cereal Disease Laboratory in Minnesota. In St. Paul, he identified sources of durable resistance in cultivated oat to the crown rust fungus, *Puccinia coronata*. He used these oat selections to develop a number of recombinant inbred line populations that are still being studied today. He also characterized populations of *Puccinia coronata* in the USA for virulence to crown rust resistance genes and for molecular genetic polymorphism.

Herb Ohm passed away on April 29, 2021. He was awarded a B.S. degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Minnesota in 1967, an M.S. degree in Plant Breeding from North Dakota State University in 1969 and a Ph.D. in Plant Genetics and Breeding from Purdue University in 1972. After 41 years as a professor and advisor in the Purdue Agronomy Department, Dr. Herb Ohm retired in December 2014. As a world-renowned plant breeder and geneticist, Herb was part of many recognized research opportunities with a focus on small grains. During his time at Purdue, he advised and mentored 62 graduate students. Herb was instrumental in building relationships with many international small grains research programs,

which helped grow the diversity of the Purdue agronomy department. In 2004 he was named a distinguished professor of agronomy and from 2009-2010 served as interim department head of the department of agronomy.

Darrell Wesenberg died on July 30, 2018. Darrell was the former Research Leader and Location Coordinator of the Small Grains and Potato Germplasm Research Unit in Aberdeen, Idaho. He retired from ARS in 2001 after 33 years of service. A native of Wisconsin, he received his higher education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, including his Ph.D. in Agronomy in 1968. That year he began work as a plant breeder with ARS in Aberdeen. Darrell developed many barley and oat cultivars that greatly benefited growers and industry nationwide. Notable was the release of the barley cultivar 'Klages', which spurred the growth of the malting industry in the western states. In 1986 he became Research Leader at the Aberdeen Unit and oversaw the design and construction of the National Small Grains Germplasm Research Facility. His pioneering work with the collection expanded the evaluation of barley and oat germplasm to include screening for emerging disease problems and assessment of important grain quality characteristics.