

3/18/09

To: NCB-ESA Executive Committee

From: Tom Coudron and Holly Popham

Re.: Report and Comments from outgoing NCB-ESA Program Committee

Overall synopsis:

- the number of presentations was slightly higher in 2009 [cause unknown]
- the number of symposia was lower but student and general submission was higher [cause unknown]
- the trend of host institution/state having a significant participation in symposia did not hold
- the trend of lower general submission was sharply different [cause may be the centralized location within driving distance for more participants in a difficult fiscal environment]
- summary of presentation:

<u>Entry</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Total presentations	177	183 [+ 5 as part of the tour]
Symposia	10	7
Student competition		
Overall oral	29	41
B.S.	1	7
M.S.	13	19
Ph.D.	15	15
Overall Poster	23	28
B.S.	3	6
M.S.	8	7
Ph.D.	12	15
General Submission		
Oral	16	64
Poster	20	32
PEF	\$1,600	~\$2,900

Observations and Comments:

- currently this meeting serves three distinct audiences; researchers & educators, students, and industry
 - this happens in an unstructured manner, i.e., it happens because of tradition and not because of active planning
 - if change is desired [not advocating] it will require a concerted effort by program chairs over several years
 - currently there isn't a structure in place for a concerted effort; program chairs pass on technical information but not strategic information
- in 2009 an effort was made to minimize concurrent events of interest to students
- in 2009 an effort was made to create events of interest to students [e.g., employment opportunities]
- there could have been greater involvement with students in the planning of the meeting and to capitalize on efficient communication methods [e.g., text messaging]
- the program chairs would benefit from observing the process of the year prior to serving
- cost saving considerations
 - reduce to 3 days by expanding Sunday program and eliminating Wednesday
 - rethink luncheon and receptions; may be able to do with 1 less
 - consider fewer general oral presentations & greater emphasis on posters combined with reception(s)

Recommendations:

- Find a long-term location for a server where meeting registration and submissions can reside so that institutional knowledge can begin to strengthen the program (consider the same system used for the national meeting)
 - streamline and standardize submitter's entry and minimize program chair touch-ups
 - maximize submitter's interaction with the entry; e.g., create, save, edit, entry, notify options
 - refer to report from 2008 program chairs for additional details and time-lines
 - provide the program on the web several weeks prior to the meeting dates
 - liberate the program chairs to deal with program issues rather than entry issues
- consider assignment of vice-program chairs to reduce the intenseness of the learning curve and to improve institutional awareness and performance
- consider long-term planning of the NCB program to address generational issues and agricultural landscape changes
- consider long-term planning of the NCB program to capture underrepresented components of ESA, e.g., physiology/molecular biology, researchers and educators outside of entomology departments, etc.