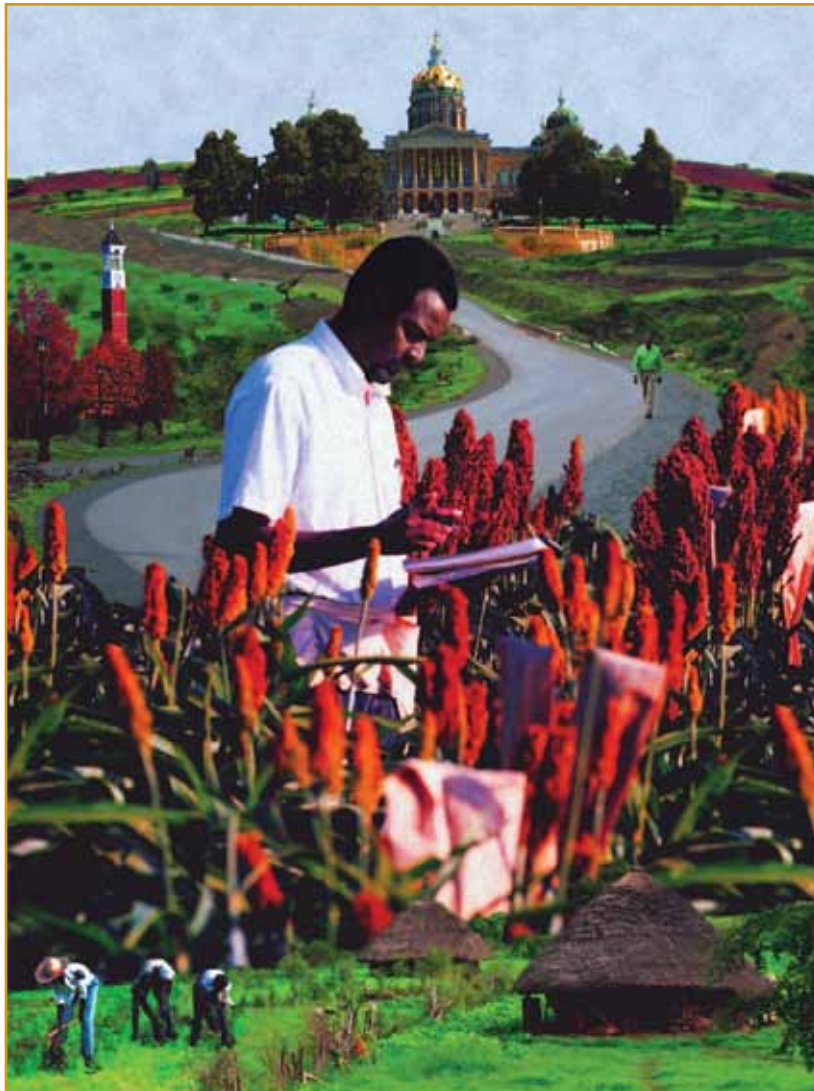


THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE
LAUREATE AWARD CEREMONY



IOWA STATE CAPITOL, DES MOINES
OCTOBER 15, 2009



*The World Food Prize
Laureate Award Ceremony*

IOWA STATE CAPITOL • DES MOINES
OCTOBER 15, 2009

In Memory of Our Founder

NORMAN ERNEST BORLAUG

March 25, 1914 - September 12, 2009

A Lifetime Fighting Hunger



50624345/Ar. Pickety/Courtesy of Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images



THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

Welcome

It is with a heavy heart at the passing of our founder and our inspiration, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, that I welcome you to the 2009 World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony.

While we will honor the memory of Dr. Borlaug at tonight's event, we will at the same time carry out what I know would be his most ardent wish: that we fully celebrate the achievements of our laureate, Dr. Gebisa Ejeta of Ethiopia. It is in that spirit that I extend our thanks to the Governor of Iowa and the leadership of the State Legislature for the great privilege of holding our ceremony in the magnificent Iowa State Capitol.

Dr. Borlaug created the World Food Prize to be seen as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture." Since its inception in 1986, "the Prize" has been awarded to laureates from Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Denmark, India, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United Nations and the United States. Tonight we add another country and another hero to this pantheon of great agricultural achievement.

In addition to this ceremony, the World Food Prize strives to have its week-long series of events be considered one of the most significant observances of World Food Day anywhere around the globe by holding the following events:

- The Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium, now known as the Borlaug Dialogue;
- Our Global Youth Institute and Borlaug-Ruan Internship program, which will have more than 200 high-school students and teachers participating; and
- Our third annual Iowa Hunger Summit highlighting the efforts of those who feed hungry people both at home and abroad.

On behalf of our chairman John Ruan III, the Ruan family, and our Council of Advisors, I thank you again for joining us for this special evening as we honor Dr. Gebisa Ejeta and remember Dr. Norman E. Borlaug.



*Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn
President*



Hon. Chester Culver
Governor, the State of Iowa



John Ruan
Chairman Emeritus



John Ruan III
Chairman



Amb. Kenneth Quinn
President

Laureate Award Ceremony

MUSICAL PRELUDE

Polaris Wind Quintet

PROCESSION OF LAUREATES AND DIGNITARIES

A LIFETIME FIGHTING HUNGER: TRIBUTE TO NORMAN BORLAUG

Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn and Josette Sheeran

“IN ANY LANGUAGE” BY IOWA POET LUCILLE WILSON

Jeanie Borlaug Laube

“MÉDITATION”

Anne Michael Langguth

JOHN CHRYSTAL AND AHMANSON INTERN AWARDS

Michael Gartner and Rachel McLean

“I AM AN AFRICAN”

Chachi Tadesse

LAUREATE PROCLAMATION

The Honorable Patty Judge

PRESENTATION OF THE 2009 WORLD FOOD PRIZE

John Ruan III

ETHIOPIAN CULTURAL FINALE

Chachi Tadesse and the Howard Gospel Choir

Dinner will follow the Ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda



The World Food Prize Laureates



M.S. Swaminathan
1987, *India*



Robert Chandler, Jr.
1988, *United States*



Verghese Kurien
1989, *India*



John Niederhauser
1990, *United States*



Nevin Scrimshaw
1991, *United States*



Edward Knippling
1992, *United States*



Raymond Bushland
1992, *United States*



He Kang
1993, *China*



Muhammad Yunus
1994, *Bangladesh*



Hans Herren
1995, *Switzerland*



Henry Beachell
1996, *United States*



Gurdev Khush
1996, *India*



Ray Smith
1997, *United States*



Perry Adkisson
1997, *United States*



B.R. Barwale
1998, *India*



Walter Plowright
1999, *United Kingdom*



Evangelina Villegas
2000, *Mexico*



Surinder Vasal
2000, *India*



Per Pinstrup-Andersen
2001, *Denmark*



Pedro Sanchez
2002, *United States*



Catherine Bertini
2003, *United Nations*



Monty Jones
2004, *Sierra Leone*



Yuan Longping
2004, *China*



Modadugu Gupta
2005, *India*



Edson Lobato
2006, *Brazil*



Colin McClung
2006, *United States*



Alysson Paolinelli
2006, *Brazil*



Philip Nelson
2007, *United States*



Robert Dole
2008, *United States*



George McGovern
2008, *United States*

The 2009 World Food Prize Laureate



DR. GEBISA EJETA
ETHIOPIA

*In recognition of his monumental achievement in ensuring
adequate food and nutrition for the world*



The 2009 World Food Prize Laureate

The 2009 World Food Prize is being awarded to Dr. Gebisa Ejeta of Ethiopia, whose sorghum hybrids resistant to drought and the devastating Striga weed have dramatically increased the production and availability of one of the world's five principal grains and enhanced the food supply of hundreds of millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa.

Overcoming Early Obstacles Through Education

Born in 1950, Gebisa Ejeta grew up in a one-room thatched hut with a mud floor, in a rural village in west-central Ethiopia.

His mother's deep belief in education and her struggle to provide her son with access to local teachers and schools gave the young Ejeta the means to rise out of poverty and hardship. His mother made arrangements for him to attend school in a neighboring town. Walking 20 kilometers every Sunday night to attend school during the week and then back home on Friday, he rapidly ascended through eight grades and passed the national exam qualifying him to enter high school.

Ejeta's high academic standing earned him financial assistance and entrance to the secondary-level Jimma Agricultural and Technical School, which had been established by Oklahoma State University under the U.S. government's Point Four Program. After graduating with distinction, Ejeta entered Alemaya College (also established by OSU and supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development) in eastern Ethiopia. He received his bachelor's degree in plant science in 1973.



Dr. Ejeta inspects the Striga weed that causes massive crop damage throughout Africa, often decimating farmers' entire fields.

That same year, his college mentor introduced Ejeta to a renowned sorghum researcher, Dr. John Axtell of Purdue University, who invited him to assist in collecting sorghum species from around the country. Dr. Axtell was so impressed with Ejeta that he recruited him to become his graduate student at Purdue University. This invitation

Dr. Gebisa Ejeta



Dr. Ejeta developed the drought-tolerant Hageen Dura-1 in Sudan in the early 1980s.

came at a time when Ethiopia was about to enter a long period of political instability that would keep Ejeta from returning to his home country for nearly 25 years.

Ejeta entered Purdue in 1974, earning his Ph.D. in plant breeding and genetics. He later became a faculty member at Purdue, where today he holds a distinguished professorship and oversees the world's most comprehensive sorghum research program.

Developing Drought-Tolerant Crops for Africa

Upon completing his graduate degree, Dr. Ejeta accepted a position as a sorghum researcher at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) office in Sudan. During his time at ICRISAT, Dr. Ejeta developed the first hybrid sorghum varieties for

Africa, which were drought-tolerant and high-yielding.

With the local importance of sorghum in the human diet (made into breads, porridges, and beverages), and the vast potential of dryland agriculture in Sudan, Dr. Ejeta's drought-tolerant hybrids brought dramatic gains in crop productivity and also catalyzed the initiation of a commercial sorghum seed industry in Sudan.

His Hageen Dura-1, as the hybrid was named, was released in 1983 following field trials in which the hybrids out-yielded traditional sorghum varieties by 50 to 100 percent. Its superior grain qualities contributed to its rapid spread and wide acceptance by farmers, who

found that yields increased to more than 150 percent greater than local sorghum, far surpassing the percentage gain in the trials.

Dr. Ejeta's dedication to helping poor farmers feed their families and rise out of poverty propelled his work in leveraging the gains of his hybrid breeding breakthrough. He urged the establishment of structures to monitor production, processing, certification, and marketing of hybrid seed—and farmer-education programs in the use of fertilizers, soil and water conservation, and other supportive crop-management practices.

By 1999, one million acres of Hageen Dura-1 had been harvested by hundreds of thousands of Sudanese farmers, and millions of Sudanese had been fed with grain produced by Hageen Dura-1.



The 2009 World Food Prize Laureate



In August of this year, Dr. Ejeta returned to Ethiopia, visiting his boyhood village and the schools that shaped him along the way.

Another drought-tolerant sorghum hybrid, NAD-1, was developed for conditions in Niger by Dr. Ejeta with one of his graduate students at Purdue University in 1992. This cultivar has had yields 4 or 5 times the national sorghum average.

Using some of the drought-tolerant germplasm from the hybrids in Niger and Sudan, Dr. Ejeta also developed elite sorghum inbred lines for the U.S. sorghum hybrid industry. He has released over 70 parental lines for the U.S. seed industry's use in commercial sorghum hybrids in both the domestic and international markets.

Defeating the Scourge of Striga

Dr. Ejeta's next breakthrough came in the 1990s, the culmination of his research to conquer the greatest biological impediment to food production in Africa – the deadly parasitic weed Striga, known commonly as witchweed, which devastates yields of crops including maize, rice, pearl millet, sugarcane, and sorghum, thus severely limiting food availability.

Previous attempts by African sorghum farmers to control the deadly weed, including crop-management techniques and application of herbicides, had failed until Dr. Ejeta and his Purdue colleague Dr. Larry Butler formulated a novel research paradigm for genetic control of this scourge. With financial support from the Rockefeller Foundation and USAID, they developed an approach integrating genetics, agronomy, and biochemistry that focused on unraveling the intricate relationships between the parasitic Striga and the host sorghum plant. Eventually, they identified genes for Striga resistance and transferred them into locally adapted sorghum varieties and improved sorghum cultivars. The new sorghum also possessed broad adaptation to different African ecological conditions and farming systems.

The dissemination of the new sorghum varieties in Striga-endemic African countries was initially facilitated in 1994 by Dr. Ejeta, working closely with World Vision International and Sasakawa-Global 2000. Those organizations coordinated a pilot program, with USAID funding, that distributed eight tons of seed to Eritrea,

Dr. Gebisa Ejeta

Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. The yield increases from the improved Striga-resistant cultivars have been as much as four times the yield of local varieties, even in the severe drought areas.

In 2002-2003, Dr. Ejeta introduced an integrated Striga management (ISM) package, again through a pilot program funded by USAID, to deploy in Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Tanzania along with the Striga-resistant sorghum varieties he and his colleagues had developed at Purdue. This ISM package achieved further increased crop productivity through a synergistic combination of weed resistance in the host plant, soil-fertility enhancement, and water conservation.



A graduate of the university, Dr. Ejeta has been on the Purdue faculty since 1984.

Dr. Ejeta's accomplishments in improving sorghum illustrate what can be achieved when cutting-edge technology and international cooperation in agriculture are used to uplift and empower the world's most vulnerable people. His life is an inspiration for young scientists around the world.

DR. NORMAN E. BORLAUG

Empowering Farmers, Inspiring Young Scientists

By partnering with leaders and farmers across sub-Saharan Africa and educational institutions in the United States and abroad, Dr. Ejeta has personally trained and inspired a new generation of African agricultural scientists that is carrying forth his work.

Dr. Ejeta's scientific breakthroughs in breeding drought-tolerant and Striga-resistant sorghum have been combined with his persistent efforts to foster economic development and the empowerment of subsistence farmers through

the creation of agricultural enterprises in rural Africa. He has led his colleagues in working with national and local authorities and nongovernmental agencies so that smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs can catalyze efforts to improve crop productivity, strengthen nutritional security, increase the value of agricultural products, and boost the profitability of agricultural enterprise – thus fostering profound impacts on lives and livelihoods on broad scale across the African continent.



The Hall of Laureates



A Spectacular New Home for the World Food Prize in Honor of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug

Yesterday, on October 14, 2009, a new legacy began in Des Moines as the city's former public library building was formally dedicated as the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates. To provide an enduring foundation for the programs created by Dr. Borlaug, the World Food Prize Foundation has signed a 100-year lease on the building, thus ensuring that the legacy of Norman Borlaug will serve as an inspiration in the struggle against hunger well into the 22nd century.

Located on the banks of the Des Moines River, this century-old building has long been a Des Moines institution and a valued architectural treasure. With its reinvention as the Hall of Laureates, it will serve as a museum to recognize great achievements in agriculture; a convocation center at which to hold the Borlaug Dialogue; a home for the expanded Global Youth Institute; an educational facility featuring interactive displays on hunger and food security; and a conference center available to civic groups and community organizations.

The magnificently restored space will celebrate the spirit of giving and emphasize the importance of global food security. Dr. Borlaug will be honored for his role as the Father of the Green Revolution and the man who saved more than a

A New Legacy

billion lives. The building will also pay tribute to the World Food Prize Laureates and Iowa's agricultural and humanitarian pioneers, whose significant contributions to the global fight against hunger have helped feed the world.

The World Food Prize Foundation has raised over \$25 million of the total \$29.8 million needed for the project. As we endeavor to reach our goal, the first stage of construction work is already underway, and numerous pieces of world-class art have been commissioned and completed for the building.

Another aim of the project is attaining LEED Gold certification for energy efficiency. As the only building in the State of Iowa designed in the 19th century to achieve this distinction, the project will simultaneously look to the future while paying tribute to the past.

It is the Foundation's hope to have the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates completed in time for the 2011 World Food Prize.



Artist renderings of the Laureate Lounge and exterior gardens.

Hall of Laureates Donors

JOHN RUAN TRUST · POLK COUNTY · MONSANTO

**CITY OF DES MOINES · INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES
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PHIL & SUE NELSON · ONTHANK CO. · RUAN FOUNDATION · JOHN & JANIS RUAN**



Laureate Announcement Ceremony

Secretaries Clinton, Vilsack Honor Borlaug, Ejeta at State Department

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was the featured speaker as Gebisa Ejeta was announced as the 2009 World Food Prize Laureate at a ceremony at the U.S. State Department on June 11.

Calling sustainable agriculture “a central part of our foreign policy,” Secretary Clinton revealed the Obama administration’s approach for supporting sustainable systems of agriculture in rural areas worldwide.

Secretary Clinton pointed to Dr. Ejeta as a living example of the collaborative approach needed to combat hunger.

“Dr. Ejeta was born in Ethiopia, educated in the United States, inspired by India, a partner now to nations in sub-Saharan Africa,” said Clinton. “His whole life reminds us of the international approach we need to this problem.”

Secretary Clinton was joined at the ceremony by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, who reflected on Dr. Ejeta’s tremendous personal journey and the similar accomplishments of previous World Food Prize Laureates.

“By ridding Africa of the greatest biological impediment to food production, Dr. Ejeta has put himself in the company of some of the greatest researchers and scientists recognized by this award over the past 23 years,” said Vilsack.

Secretary Clinton also thanked Norman Borlaug for keeping hunger at the forefront of the international consciousness.

“Dr. Borlaug established the World Food Prize to keep our attention focused on the ongoing hunger crisis and on those whose work is significantly contributing to its end,” said Clinton.



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton paid tribute to 2009 World Food Prize Laureate Gebisa Ejeta and laid out the Obama administration’s approach to global agriculture.



Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack delivered remarks at the Laureate Announcement Ceremony as Secretary Clinton and World Food Prize Chairman John Ruan III looked on.

In Memoriam

Sadly, 2009 saw the passing of three individuals instrumental in establishing the legitimacy of the World Food Prize during its formative years: Council of Advisors members Corazon Aquino and Robert McNamara, and former Iowa State Senator Elaine Szymoniak.

Corazon Aquino

Her Excellency Corazon Aquino, former president of the Philippines and a member of the World Food Prize Council of Advisors, died in August at the age of 76.

While in office, President Aquino offered a statement of congratulations to the first World Food Prize recipient, M.S. Swaminathan of India, that helped bring prestige and attention to the prize as it was beginning its growth toward international recognition.

President Aquino was an ardent advocate for those most unfortunate in society. Her inclusion as part of the World Food Prize Foundation's governing structure increased the international stature to the Prize and its Laureates.

Robert McNamara

In July, former U.S. Secretary of Defense and World Bank President Robert McNamara, who served as a member of the World Food Prize Council of Advisors from 1992 until 2007, passed away at the age of 93. Mr. McNamara played an important role in helping the World Food Prize develop into the foremost international award for combating hunger and uplifting the lives of people around the world.

Elaine Szymoniak

In 1990, the World Food Prize's original sponsor had withdrawn financial support and the future of the award was in serious jeopardy. State Senator Elaine Szymoniak helped to arrange a meeting between Norman Borlaug and John Ruan, Sr., that ultimately led to Mr. Ruan's decision to sponsor the Prize and secure its future. Senator Szymoniak then worked tirelessly to convince members of both political parties in the Iowa Legislature to provide critical financial support from the State.

Until her death in May, Ms. Szymoniak remained active in supporting the World Food Prize and building its awareness among the local community.



Corazon Aquino



Robert McNamara



Elaine Szymoniak



The World Food Prize Youth Institute



Building a National Youth Institute to Honor the Legacy of Dr. Norman Borlaug

Dr. Borlaug's dream – that one day the Youth Institute would bring high-school students from across America and abroad to Iowa every October to interact with World Food Prize Laureates and international experts – is becoming a reality. In 2008, Clay Mathile, the chairman of the Mathile Institute and longtime supporter of Dr. Borlaug's efforts to spread the Green Revolution around the globe, committed up to \$2 million over the next 10 years to expand the Youth Institute into a national program.

With this generous support, the World Food Prize Foundation is successfully expanding the youth programs. The Foundation has worked to build collaborative relationships with Cornell University, the University of Minnesota, Ohio State University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Texas A&M University, and Purdue University in order to continue establishing a national platform for selection and involvement of high school students from across the country.

Efforts are underway to strengthen existing partnerships, as well as to begin developing relationships with new institutional partners throughout the United States to establish a truly national Youth Institute. Although there is much to be done, great progress has already been made in realizing Dr. Borlaug's dream. This year, over one hundred high-school students from 16 states as well as Afghanistan, Kosovo, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Tanzania, and Turkmenistan are participating in the Global Youth Institute.

Borlaug-Ruan International Interns



Timothy Sprick, John F. Kennedy High School
John Chrystal Award
WorldFish Center
Abbassa, Egypt



Lisa Cathelyn, Geneseo High School
Ahmanson Intern Award
M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation
Chennai, India

Presenting the John Chrystal Award and the Ahmanson Intern Award

The World Food Prize Global Youth Institute provides a three-day educational opportunity and forum each fall for high-school students and teachers from Iowa and beyond. Students are given the opportunity to interact with Nobel and World Food Prize Laureates and are exposed to an array of experts in the fields of agriculture and food security.

As an extension, each summer, the Borlaug-Ruan International Internship Program sends 15 Youth Institute “graduates” on eight-week internships at acclaimed agricultural research centers in Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, and Turkey. After they return, the Borlaug-Ruan interns write accounts of their “life-changing” experiences abroad. These reports are judged for excellence, and two interns are selected annually to receive the John Chrystal and Ahmanson Intern Awards. This year’s recipients are Timothy Sprick of Cedar Rapids, IA, a sophomore studying chemical engineering at Iowa State University, and Lisa Cathelyn of Geneseo, IL, who is majoring in international relations at Marquette University.

The John Chrystal Award is given in recognition of Mr. Chrystal’s lifelong commitment to improving international understanding and peaceful cooperation through agriculture and food security. The Ahmanson Award is named in honor of Mrs. Roberta Ahmanson for her generous support of the Youth Institute and her dedication to increasing students’ awareness of the challenges of global food security.



Tonight's Performers

Miss Iowa 2009: Anne Michael Langguth

Former Borlaug-Ruan International Intern Anne Michael Langguth became Miss Iowa on June 13, 2009. A native of Iowa City, she will compete for the title of Miss America in January.

As Miss Iowa, Anne Michael travels throughout the state encouraging healthy lifestyles with her community service platform of “Good for You!—Promoting and Supporting Wellness Initiatives.” Through presentations and performances on the violin, Anne Michael advances her message of healthy eating, physical activity, and engagement in meaningful activities while working with students, community centers, and political leaders throughout the state.

In addition to Anne Michael’s personal platform, she serves as a state Goodwill Ambassador for the Children’s Miracle Network. Traveling to children’s hospitals throughout the state, Anne Michael has the opportunity to meet and share violin performances with children and families during their time in the hospital.

Anne Michael is a 2009 graduate of Harvard University with a degree in government and certificate in health policy. She is deferring her entry to the University of Iowa College of Medicine while completing this year of service to the state.

Polaris Wind Quintet

The Polaris Wind Quintet was originally formed in 2000 with faculty members from four different universities and colleges and two major symphony orchestras in Iowa. Polaris strives to reach a wide variety of audiences, promote exceptional performance, and provide educational experiences. The ensemble has performed extensively across the state of Iowa at college campuses and for chamber music series events. Polaris was honored as the 2002 National Flute Association’s Chamber Music Competition Winner and was invited to perform at its national convention in Washington, DC.

The ensemble consists of Kimberly Helton on flute, Jennifer Wohlenhaus-Bloomberg on oboe, Clarence Padilla on clarinet, Timothy Gale on bassoon, and Bret Seebeck on horn.



Miss Iowa Anne Michael Langguth was a 2004 Borlaug-Ruan International Intern.



The Polaris Wind Quintet are playing tonight’s walk-in music.

Tonight's Performers

Chachi Tadesse



Born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Chachi Tadesse has used her roots to build an international career. Best known as one of the first Ethiopian artists to blend the sounds of reggae with Amharic, Chachi has successfully produced a musical style of her own.

Over the years, Chachi has become a pop icon not only in Ethiopia but across Africa and its diaspora. She has appeared at international music festivals including Reggae on the River and the Bob Marley Birthday Festival in Jamaica. In Ethiopia, her “I Am an African” concert at Meskel Square brought upwards of 40,000 attendees.



Chachi Tadesse is known throughout Ethiopia as a musician and a humanitarian.

But there is much more to Chachi than just music. She used her superstar status to raise awareness about street kids in Ethiopia and personally changed the lives of many destitute children for the better. After years of collaboration with individuals and organizations for the cause, she founded her own non-profit organization, which she named Hohete Tesfa, meaning “Gate of Hope.” Hohete Tesfa is dedicated to helping Ethiopian children orphaned with HIV/AIDS. Chachi Tadesse’s humanitarian works have changed the lives of many children in Ethiopia for the better and have inspired many others to do the same.

Howard Gospel Choir



Members of the Howard Gospel Choir will join in tonight’s musical finale in honor of Dr. Ejeta.

The renowned Howard Gospel Choir has pioneered an international legacy in gospel music ministry. Consisting of students and alumni from Howard University, as well as others from the surrounding community, has set a very high standard as a premier performing arts ensemble. The choir has performed in a wide variety of venues in the United States and abroad and has shared the stage with performers such as Stevie Wonder, Patti LaBelle, and Tony Bennett.

Tonight, Howard Gospel Choir members James Morant, Kendall Isadore, Kristen Taylor, Milea Pickett, Rashe Coleman, and Tre’Von Elam will join in the evening’s musical finale.

Also participating will be Ethiopian-Americans Kuribachew W. Gebretsadick, Elizabeth Tesfaye, Wasiyahun Kebede, Henok Abdela, Fantahun Malassa, and Setegn T. Atenaw.

Travel for Ethiopian entertainment courtesy of Ethiopian Airlines.



Council of Advisors



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Brazil*

The Borlaug Dialogue



“You Cannot Build Peace on Empty Stomachs”

The theme of this year’s Borlaug Dialogue, “Food, Agriculture, and National Security in a Globalized World,” is in many ways a fitting tribute to Dr. Borlaug. The intimate link between food security and national security is well captured in Dr. Borlaug’s often quoted words, “You cannot build peace on empty stomachs.”

Dr. Borlaug would be pleased to see so many high-level experts from around the globe converging in Des Moines to take part in his namesake symposium. That agricultural development has now taken such a prominent role in international diplomacy would also no doubt be very gratifying to him, given the decades he dedicated to bringing together heads of state and world leaders so that they could more fully understand the importance of agriculture and the great contribution of farmers as the ultimate providers of food for a hungry planet.

As Dr. Borlaug reminded us at his 2007 Borlaug Dialogue address, “Poverty and hunger and the instabilities that it brings to society are very fertile seed grounds for planting all kinds of ‘isms,’ including terrorism.”



The 2009 Borlaug Dialogue



Amin Abaza
*Minister of Agriculture,
Egypt*



Tom Arnold
*CEO,
Concern Worldwide*



Chelston Brathwaite
*Director General, Inter-American Institute
for Cooperation on Agriculture*



Joel Brinkley
*Visiting Professor of Journalism,
Stanford University*



Mathew J. Burrows
*Counselor,
National Intelligence Council*



Mark Cackler
*Manager, Agriculture & Rural Development
The World Bank*



Jason Clay
*Senior VP of Market Transformations,
World Wildlife Fund*



William Dar
*Director General, International Crops
Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics*



Marco Ferroni
*Executive Director,
Syngenta Foundation*



Louise Fresco
*Professor,
University of Amsterdam*



Bill Gates
*Co-Chair,
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*



Geeta Rao Gupta
*President,
Intl. Center for Research on Women*



Brian Halweil
*Senior Researcher,
Worldwatch Institute*



Michael Hansen
*Senior Staff Scientist,
Consumers Union*



Mahabub Hossain
*Executive Director,
Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee*



Anita Idel
*Veterinarian, Mediator and Lecturer,
University of Kassel*



Seyfu Ketema
*Executive Director, Assoc. for Strengthening
Agricultural Research in Eastern & Central Africa*



Scott Kilman
*Reporter,
Wall Street Journal*



Ellen Kullman
*CEO,
DuPont*



Dennis McGinn
*Vice Admiral,
U.S. Navy (Ret.)*

Food, Agriculture and National Security



James Michel
*Counselor, U.S. Agency for
International Development*



Faida Mitifu
*Ambassador to the United States,
Democratic Republic of Congo*



Namanga Ngongi
*President,
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa*



Indra Nooyi
*Chairman and CEO,
PepsiCo*



Kanayo Nwanze
*President,
Intl. Fund for Agricultural Development*



J.B. Penn
*Chief Economist,
Deere & Co.*



John Reganold
*Regents Professor,
Washington State University*



Gerry Ritz
*Minister of Agriculture,
Canada*



Jeffrey Sachs
*Director,
The Earth Institute*



Josette Sheeran
*Executive Director,
UN World Food Programme*



Jeffrey Simmons
*President,
Elanco*



Frances Stewart
*Director, CRISE,
Oxford University*



Roger Thurow
*Reporter,
Wall Street Journal*



Ajay Vashee
*President, International Federation
of Agricultural Producers*



H.E. Gerda Verburg
*Minister of Agriculture,
The Netherlands*



Tom Vilsack
*Secretary,
Department of Agriculture*



Joachim von Braun
*Director General,
International Food Policy Research Institute*



Richard Williamson
*Former U.S. Special Envoy
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