



Jack B. Wendt Graduate Student Assistantship in Rice Research

The Texas Rice Research Foundation in conjunction with the Texas A&M University System established the Jack B. Wendt Endowed Chair to enhance rice research in Texas. An effective way to enhance agricultural research is through graduate training. Involving students in research brings fresh insights when addressing research problems, while providing opportunities for future leaders to receive training and experience.

Applications are solicited for the *Jack B. Wendt Graduate Student Assistantship in Rice Research*. Exceptional students who are pursuing or wish to pursue an M.S. or Ph.D. degree focusing on rice integrated cropping systems management at Texas A&M University are encouraged to apply. A major goal of the Jack B. Wendt Graduate Assistantship is to promote a comprehensive understanding of rice cropping systems and their management.

It is anticipated that up to three Jack B. Wendt graduate assistantships will be supported, depending on the availability of funds and the quality of the applications. The successful candidates are expected to become proficient in their area of research specialization and gain a broad understanding of the different facets of rice cropping system management. A secondary goal is to provide greater linkage between research programs at the Beaumont Center and programs at the main campus in College Station and with researchers possessing complementary expertise at other Research and Extension Centers in Texas.

Assistantship Specifics:

1. Maximum Duration: 2-1/2 years from initiation of the degree program for students pursuing an M.S. degree, 4 years for students pursuing a Ph.D. degree. A recipient of a Jack B. Wendt graduate assistantship must maintain a 3.5 GPA while receiving support from the assistantship, remain in good standing with the Office of Graduate Studies, must be enrolled in at least 9 course credit units and/or research credit units during both the Spring and Fall semesters, and must demonstrate acceptable progress with their research and degree program (see **Measurements of Performance**).

2. Amount: ca. \$20,000/year stipend (dependent on host department stipend rates), fringe benefits, partial coverage of out-of-state tuitions, and up to \$5,000/year in supplies and/or equipment support. All equipment purchased using these funds are the property of the Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Beaumont.
3. Student must be located at the Beaumont Center or Eagle Lake Station during summer months and during semesters when the student is taking 9 research credit units.

Application Requirements:

1. University Admission: The successful candidate must satisfy all requirements for admission to graduate student standing at Texas A&M University.
2. Minimal GRE score: 1250 (verbal + quantitative)
3. Minimal GPA: 3.5 or equivalent
4. Minimal TOEFL score: 600 (only required for international applicants)
5. Submission of a 6 to 10 page (double spaced 12 point font) proposal clearly presenting the following: a) resume, b) the student's career goals, c) a research proposal addressing the scope and importance of the proposed research, proposed experimental methodology and analytical methods, expected results, and anticipated conclusions or expected product for proposed research that includes development of a database or computer software, d) a list of proposed or current graduate committee members, with a brief description of the intended contribution of each member to the thesis or dissertation research, e) letters from four references, f) list of the names of the references, including addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses, and g) documentation supporting #s 1-4 described above.

Research Focus:

Preference will be given to applicants whose proposed or on-going research has a strong multidisciplinary integrated systems focus that combines two or more aspects of rice systems ecology, production, or management, and has clearly identified how the

proposed research will integrate expertise at the Beaumont Center with expertise in College Station or at other Research and Extension Centers in Texas.

The successful candidate's research focus should include two or more of the following disciplinary areas (listed alphabetically): agricultural communications, agronomy, applied ecology, applied statistics, applied mathematics, biochemistry, bioinformatics, computer science, developmental biology, economics, engineering, entomology, environmental management, food processing, food science, molecular biology, plant breeding, plant genetics, plant pathology, systems ecology, weed ecology and management, whole plant physiology, wildlife conservation and management.

Measurements of Performance:

1. The successful candidate's Graduate Advisory Committee must be in place and the degree plan submitted prior to the end of the student's first 12 months in residence. At least two members of the graduate student's committee must be located at the Beaumont/Eagle Lake Center. At least one member from the Beaumont Center must have a professorial track appointment with the Texas A&M University System.
2. Graduate Student Committee Chair: A Texas A&M University System professorial track faculty member who is located at the Beaumont/Eagle Lake Center must either Chair or Co-chair the Graduate Student Committee.
3. The successful candidate is expected to write an annual progress report and provide two annual presentations of their research, one to the Texas Rice Research Foundation and one to the Beaumont Center faculty and staff.

Application Dates:

Applications may be submitted via email to Dr. L. T. Wilson (see below) for either a May 15 or an October 15 review. Applicants should specify which of the two dates they wish their submission to be reviewed. If an application is approved and the student has been admitted to graduate standing at Texas A&M, funding will be provided the beginning of the semester following the date of approval.

Each application for an assistantship should be submitted as a single MS Word file to the following email address.

References letters should be emailed by the applicant to the following:

Dr. L. T. (Ted) Wilson
Professor and Center Director
Jack B. Wendt Endowed Chair
Texas A&M University System
Agricultural Research & Extension Center
1509 Aggie Drive
Beaumont, Texas 77713
Phone: (409) 752-3045
Email: lt-wilson@aesrg.tamu.edu

Scientists who conducted research at the Beaumont Center:

- Bob Fjellstrom – Research Scientist, Plant Molecular Biology, USDA-ARS –
bob.fjellstrom@ars.usda.gov
- Garry McCauley – Professor, Agronomy, Crop, and Weed Management, Texas A&M University System - gnmccaule@sbcglobal.net
- Anna McClung – Research Scientist and USDA-ARS Program Leader, Rice Plant Breeder and Cereal Quality, USDA-ARS -
anna.mcclung@ars.usda.gov
- Bill Park – Professor, Molecular Biology, Texas A&M University - wdpark@neo.tamu.edu
- Shannon Pinson – Research Scientist, Rice Plant Genetics and Cereal Quality, USDA-ARS -
shannon.pinson@ars.usda.gov
- Gene Reagan, Professor, Integrated Pest Management, Louisiana State University -
treagan@agctr.lsu.edu
- Omar Samonte, Assistant Research Scientist (Research Assistant Professor, **pending**), Rice Plant Breeding/Integrated Cropping Systems Management, Texas A&M University System -
sosamonte@aesrg.tamu.edu
- Rodante Tabien – Assistant Professor, Rice Plant Breeding, Texas A&M University System -
retabien@ag.tamu.edu
- Lee Tarpley – Assistant Professor, Whole Plant Physiology, Texas A&M University System -
ltarpley@taexgw.tamu.edu
- Mo Way – Associate Professor, Entomology, Texas A&M University System - m-way@tamu.edu
- Ted Wilson – Professor and Center Director, Integrated Cropping Systems Management/Plant Physiology/Entomology, Texas A&M University System – lt-wilson@aesrg.tamu.edu
- Yubin Yang – Senior Biological Systems Management/Integrated Cropping Systems Management, Entomology, Texas A&M University System - yyang@aesrg.tamu.edu