The 2003 World Food Prize Laureate

Catherine Ann Bertini
The World Food Prize Welcomes You to:

"The Most Significant Observance of United Nations World Food Day Anywhere Around the Globe"

October 16 is UN World Food Day and, in Iowa, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Recognition Day. On behalf of John Ruan, John Ruan III, and the Ruan family, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony. With the support of Governor Tom Vilsack, the Iowa State Legislature, and our generous sponsors, we have endeavored to structure a Harvest Festival bringing attention to issues of food and agriculture and hunger and famine.

We are greatly honored to have the participation of two distinguished international leaders on these subjects: The Honorable Ann Veneman, US Secretary of Agriculture; and His Excellency Wilberforce Kisambu-Mugerwa, Minister of Agriculture of Uganda.

Included in our World Food Prize Celebration have been:

- Events in more than 200 communities around the state celebrating Iowa's humanitarian heritage and role in feeding the world;
- The World Food Prize International Symposium, "Building Alliances to Defeat Hunger and Famine," with a special emphasis on the role of the United Nations in implementing the Millennium Development Goals;
- The World Food Prize Global Youth Institute with over 100 students and 100 teachers including students from Nigeria, Mexico, Brazil, the UN International School in New York and the Washington International School;
- A week-long dialogue on Building Alliances to Defeat Hunger and Famine, including the UN Hunger Task Force and The Alliance to End Hunger.

And tonight we have the high point of our celebration, the presentation of the $250,000 World Food Prize to our 2003 Laureate, Catherine A. Bertini, Under Secretary General of the United Nations. Thank you for joining us. We hope you enjoy the evening.

Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn
President
The World Food Prize Foundation
The World Food Prize Story

The $250,000 World Food Prize, known as the “Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture,” is the world’s foremost award recognizing breakthrough contributions to the quality, quantity or availability of food.

The Prize recognizes contributions in any field involved in the world food supply - food and agricultural science and technology, manufacturing, marketing, nutrition, economics, political leadership and the social sciences.

The World Food Prize emphasizes the importance of a nutritious and sustainable food supply for all people. By honoring those who have worked successfully toward this goal, The Prize calls attention to what has been done to improve the world food supply and to what must be accomplished in the future. The Laureate receives $250,000 and an original sculpture created by world renowned designer Saul Bass.

The Prize Program

The World Food Prize is administered by The World Food Prize Foundation located in Des Moines, Iowa. The Foundation is guided by a distinguished Council of Advisors in the establishment of policy and in the annual review of The Prize.

Each year, more than 1,000 institutions and organizations around the world are invited to nominate Laureate candidates. The World Food Prize Secretariat reviews all nominations for appropriateness and completeness and forwards them to the Selection Committee, which selects the candidate deemed most worthy of the award according to the objectives of The Prize.

The Selection Committee is composed of nine distinguished individuals who are knowledgeable about various aspects of nutrition and food production, processing and distribution, including research, policy development and business management. Members of the Selection Committee remain anonymous except for Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, the Committee’s Chairman. The Council of Advisors extends its sincere appreciation to the Selection Committee for their diligent and dedicated service.

The Vision and Generosity Behind the Prize

The World Food Prize has reached greater and greater heights of international stature each year. But none of this would have happened if it were not for the efforts of Noble Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Norman E. Borlaug and businessman and philanthropist John Ruan - two long-time friends who have together made a lasting mark on the world.

Dr. Borlaug and Mr. Ruan were born just a month apart in small towns in the State of Iowa. John Ruan spent his early years in Beacon, Iowa, and later attended Iowa State University. But when his father died, he left Iowa State and started a trucking business. That was the beginning of a trucking, banking, insurance and real estate enterprise of national proportions.

As the Depression loomed in the United States, Norman Borlaug left his family’s farm near Cresco, Iowa, to enter the University of Minnesota. Degrees in forestry and plant pathology led the way to a distinguished career in which he revolutionized agriculture and eventually was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his role as “Father of the Green Revolution.”

In 1986, Dr. Borlaug envisioned an award like the Nobel Prize to honor individuals from many disciplines who quietly and heroically confront the issue of food security in the world. Thus, The World Food Prize was created.

But even after The World Food Prize was created, it was nearly lost in the early 1990s when the original sponsor withdrew. It was then that John Ruan stepped forward to rescue The Prize.

He pledged his energy and resources “to these real life heroes whose work not only touches the world but also touches the hearts of all mankind.”

True to his convictions about the importance of food to world, John Ruan established The World Food Prize Foundation and personally endowed its operations for years to come. And since then, Laureates from around the world have been honored for their tremendous accomplishments, all thanks to Norman Borlaug’s vision and John Ruan’s generosity.
In October of each year, the World Food Prize Youth Institute provides a three-day, all-expenses-paid educational opportunity and forum for high school students from Iowa and around the world. Our students interact with Nobel and World Food Prize Laureates and are exposed to an array of experts, facilities and organizations relating to food security.

Student and faculty teams prepare discussion papers, which are presented by the students during a day-long seminar before a panel of World Food Prize Council of Advisors and Laureates—individuals who are acknowledged leaders in a broad range of food and agricultural disciplines. The Youth Institute is a prerequisite for Borlaug-Ruan International Internship application eligibility.

The George Washington Carver Internship

This program has been created to honor college students who have exhibited Carver-like dedication while conducting internships at The World Food Prize Foundation. The 2003 interns are:

Victoria Brenton
Iowa State University

Emily Clark
Iowa State University

Omar Tesdell
Iowa State University

Tasha Welling
University of Iowa

Matthew West
Davidson College

Oksana Zagarodna
Grand View College

Governor Thomas J. Vilsack and 2003 George Washington Carver Interns Victoria Brenton, Omar Tesdell, Emily Clark and Oksana Zagarodna

Borlaug-Ruan International Internship Awards

The 2003 Ahmanson Intern Award

The Ahmanson Intern Award is named in honor of Robert Ahmanson for her generous support of the Youth Institute and her dedication to increasing students' awareness of the problem of global food insecurity.

Adrian Richardson
Creston High School
Southwestern Community College
Creston, Iowa

For excellence in fulfilling a World Food Prize Borlaug-Ruan International Internship at the Brazilian Corporation of Agricultural Research in Londrina, Brazil.

Cathy Staloch
Ottumwa High School
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

For exceptional performance in her role as a Borlaug-Ruan International Intern at the International Rice Research Institute in Manila, the Philippines.

Each Summer, The Borlaug-Ruan International Internship Program sends High School students on eight-week, expenses-paid internships at acclaimed agricultural research centers in Malaysia, China, Brazil, Costa Rica, Trinidad, Ethiopia, Peru, Thailand, Mexico, India, Kenya, Indonesia, the Philippines and Egypt.

After their return, the interns write papers about their "life-changing" experiences abroad. These papers are judged and two interns are selected to receive the Ahmanson Intern and John Chrystal Awards at the annual Laureate Ceremony.
1987
Dr. M.S. Swaminathan
India

1988
Dr. Robert F. Chandler
United States

1989
Dr. Verghese Kurien
India

1990
Dr. John Niederhauser
United States

1991
Dr. Nevin S. Scrimshaw
United States

1992
Dr. Edward E. Knipling
United States
Dr. Raymond Bushland
United States

1993
He Kang
China

1994
Dr. Muhammad Yunus
Bangladesh

1995
Dr. Hans R. Herren
Switzerland

1996
Dr. Henry Beachell
United States
Dr. Gurdev Khush
India

1997
Dr. Ray F. Smith
United States
Dr. Perry Adkisson
United States

1998
B.R. Barwale
India

1999
Dr. Walter Plowright
United Kingdom

2000
Dr. Evangelina Villegas
Mexico
Dr. Surinder K. Vasan
India

2001
Dr. Per Pinstrup-Andersen
Denmark

2002
Dr. Pedro A. Sanchez
United States / Cuba

2003
Catherine Ann Bertini
United Nations / USA

Catherine Ann Bertini
United Nations Under Secretary General

For Transforming the
United Nations World Food Programme into the
Largest and Most
Responsive Humanitarian
Relief Organization
in the World

In the 10 years she led the agency as its Executive Director, Ms. Bertini transformed the World Food Programme from primarily a development assistance organization into the largest and most responsive humanitarian relief organization in the world, delivering life-sustaining food aid to over 700 million people in more than 100 countries during her term.

As a result of Ms. Bertini’s leadership, for the first time in history, the international community attained the capacity to confront and defeat large-scale famine anywhere around the globe.

In a key innovation, Ms. Bertini pioneered the practice of channeling food aid through women, thus ensuring the most widespread and effective distribution of food in crisis situations.

During the decade she led the organization, Ms. Bertini and the World Food Programme saved more people from starvation and death than any other organization in the world.
Empowering Women for Food Security and Increasing Nutrition for Children

Ms. Bertini, in a key insight, changed WFP delivery mechanisms to channel food aid through women to ensure widespread food distribution in emergency situations. "It is women who gather and prepare food and ensure that all members of the family are fed," said Ms. Bertini. As a result of this innovative change, more than 60 percent of all WFP assistance is now delivered through women.

A forceful advocate for women's rights, Ms. Bertini and her courageous staff successfully resisted an edict of the then ruling Taliban in Afghanistan to close the World Food Programme bakeries she had established which were being run by Afghan women.

Combating the scourge of childhood malnutrition has been another key emphasis for this year's Laureate. Under Ms. Bertini's leadership, 3.3 million North Korean children were rescued from severe malnutrition by a WFP feeding program. Subsequently, Ms. Bertini and the WFP joined in implementing the US sponsored global school feeding program, which in 2002 helped improve the health, livelihood and education of 16 million children in 64 countries.

Addressing Homeland Hunger

Before leading the World Food Programme, Under Secretary Bertini spent five years addressing critical issues in nutrition among the poorest Americans, particularly women and children. Ms. Bertini served in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and later as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, where she pioneered changes in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) which assisted one in every three babies born in the United States.

As Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Ms. Bertini successfully proposed modifying the law to allow states to use Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems for Food Stamp distribution. Using debit cards rather than coupons to distribute food stamps greatly improved the effectiveness of the program by decreasing fraud, simplifying the distribution process and ensuring that benefits reached the persons for whom they were intended. Like her later work at WFP, this approach provided poor families, many of which were headed by women, much more control over the food for their families.

Catherine Bertini grew up in Syracuse and Cortland, New York, and graduated from the State University of New York in Albany. A serious student of music, Ms. Bertini credits attendance at a summer camp for teen age Republicans as changing the direction of her life to public service. After graduation from college she worked with then Governor of New York, Nelson Rockefeller.

Ms. Bertini is married to Tom Haskell, a professional photographer. They reside in their childhood hometown of Cortland, New York.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

KEYNOTE BREAKFAST  Defeating Hunger and Famine: The View from Africa
H.E. Wilberforce Kisamba-Mugerwa, Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Uganda

Published by Iowa State Press, Edited by Dr. Colin Scares and Dr. John Miranowski

9:00 – 11:00 The Fight Against Hunger: Report from the Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger
Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, 1987 World Food Prize Laureate, Session Chair
Dr. Pedro Sanchez, 2002 World Food Prize Laureate, Overview
Dr. Sara Scherr on Overarching Policy Reforms
Dr. Christopher Dowswell on The Early Action Plan
Dr. Kevin Cleaver on Communicating the Message to the Donor Community
Mr. Richard Beahn on Communicating the Message to the Public

11:00 – 12:00 Feeding the World in a Sustainable Environment
Dr. Roberto Lenton on Water, Sanitation, and Food Security: Synergies and Trade-offs
Dr. Jeffrey McNeely on Environmental Sustainability and Food Security
Dr. Jeroen Bordewijk on The Food Industry Response to Sustainable Agriculture

12:00 - 12:10 Remarks by The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson, U.S. House of Representatives

12:15 – 2:00 WORLD FOOD PRIZE LAUREATE LUNCHEON
The Honorable Catherine Bertini
Under Secretary General for Management
The United Nations

2:00 – 2:30 Results of the Alliance to End Hunger Poll

2:30 – 4:30 Presidential Candidates’ Forum
Dr. Catherine Wotecki, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Iowa State University, Moderator

“Perspectives in World Food and Agriculture”
Featuring Presentations at the 2002 World Food Prize International Symposium, including:

“Feeding a World of 10 Billion People: Our 21st Century Challenge.”
by Dr. Norman E. Borlaug

editted by Dr. Colin Scares and John Miranowski of Iowa State University
Hosting an Annual International Dialogue on Food, Hunger and Poverty

During the week of October 12-18, The World Food Prize has been pleased to welcome over 800 representatives of governments, businesses, academic and research institutions and non-governmental organizations for what we hope has been a valuable opportunity to "Build Alliances to Defeat Hunger and Famine."

Just as the world’s economic leaders meet in Davos, Switzerland each year, The World Food Prize Foundation is dedicated to making Des Moines the World Food and Agriculture Capital each October, drawing participants from around the globe for the “Most Significant Observance of UN World Food Day Anywhere Around the Globe.”

With a $5 Million pledge from the Ruan Family and a matching contribution from Polk County through the Vision Iowa Program and generous assistance from the Federal Government, the Des Moines Public Library Building will be transformed into a World Food Prize Hall of Laureates honoring the heroes of the struggle against hunger and serving as the convocation center for an International Dialogue each October.
The World Food Prize Wishes to Thank the Following Sponsors for Their Generous Support:

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The Iowa Department of Economic Development
Ruan Transportation Management Systems

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