

2021 New York Youth Institute Hosted virtually by Cornell University Friday, March 26

Professional Presentation and Speaker Program

WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION SPEAKERS



BARBARA STINSON

Barbara Stinson assumed leadership of the World Food Prize Foundation on January 4, 2020, building on a career of championing policy, research and project innovations through collaborative solutions. She became the second president of the Foundation since it was established in 1986 by Dr. Norman E. Borlaug. Ms. Stinson previously served as a co-founder and Senior Partner of the Meridian Institute, a renowned non-profit organization based in Dillon, CO and Washington D.C. that guides collaboration and drives action to address our world's complex challenges.

Inspired by Dr. Borlaug's mission of increasing agricultural productivity and education globally, Ms. Stinson is committed to expanding the impact of the Foundation and its programs to address pressing global challenges.

Ms. Stinson brings more than 30 years of experience in environmental public policy and business management, focusing the last 10 years on global food security and food safety. She has successfully led collaborations addressing complex challenges, such as tackling food safety in sub-Saharan Africa and the impact of climate change on agricultural productivity. Her work emphasizes policies and programs that support smallholder farmers, especially women and youth, by bringing institutional support and access to new tools, technologies and data to improve the quantity, quality and availability of food.

During her 22 years at Meridian, Ms. Stinson led programs focused on innovative approaches to agricultural development, alternative energy development, ecosystem restoration, climate change, air-quality management, natural resource management, and low-level radioactive waste disposal. Notably, Ms. Stinson was responsible for executing more than 40 major collaborative problem-solving projects in these areas, involving thousands of stakeholders from diverse perspectives. Since 2011, Ms. Stinson directed the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA), a pan-African, multi-stakeholder program seeking to reduce aflatoxin prevalence across the continent.

Prior to Meridian, Ms. Stinson worked in the science and public policy program for The Keystone Policy Center, where she served as a neutral third-party mediator and facilitator.


Ms. Stinson serves on several boards, including the Foundation for Women Liberia, which offers micro-loans to local women developing businesses in Liberia.

She earned a master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Arts in environmental conservation from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She and her family relocated to Des Moines, Iowa from Denver, Colorado.

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MORGAN DAY



Morgan joined the World Food Prize staff in December 2016 as the Director of Planning. In December of 2018 she was appointed Director of Global Programs and Partnerships. Morgan is responsible, in partnership with Keegan Kautzky, for the expansion of the the World Food Prize Foundation's existing education programs on a national and international level. Morgan earned a Master of Arts in International Development and a concentration in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Policy from the Josef Korbel School for International Studies at the University of Denver. She graduated with Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tennessee in Political Science and French in 2010. Prior to joining the World Food Prize, Morgan worked as the Office Manager of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico and as a political consultant and policy coordinator at the local and state levels tackling issues in agriculture, food, nutrition and health. As the Coordinator for the Santa Fe City & County Advisory Council on Food Policy, she worked to create a more sustainable, affordable, secure and fair food system. At the state level, Morgan was a Policy Specialist with the New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council, where she advocated at the state legislature with food and agriculture stakeholders from across the state, as well as with Navajo and Pueblo tribal partners.


CORNELL UNIVERSITY SPEAKERS

DEAN BENJAMIN Z. HOULTON



Benjamin Z. Houlton is the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and a Cornell University professor in the Departments of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and of Global Development. An accomplished international scientist, his research interests include global ecosystem processes, climate change solutions, and agricultural sustainability. As founding co-chair of the California Collaborative for Climate Change solutions, Ben works with researchers from key research institutions to accelerate the translation of research findings into practical climate solutions. He also directs farmland carbon sequestration projects to improve crop yields and create new financial markets for farmers and ranchers. Ben has published more than 130 works including peer-reviewed scientific articles, book chapters and published abstracts as tracked by Google Scholar. As part of his mission to connect scientific discovery with the public, he is also a frequent guest on regional and national news programs.

PER PINSTRUP-ANDERSEN



Per Pinstrup-Andersen is Professor Emeritus at Cornell University and Adjunct Professor at Copenhagen University. He is past Chairman of the Science Council of CGIAR, Past President of the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) and past Chair of the UN High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security (HLPE). He has a BS from Copenhagen University, a MS and PhD from Oklahoma State University, and honorary doctoral degrees from universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Switzerland, and India. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the American Agricultural Economics Association. He has been a professor at Cornell, Copenhagen and Wageningen Universities, Director General and Department Head at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Economist at International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). He is the 2001 World Food Prize Laureate and the recipient of several awards for his research and communication of research results.

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POLLY ENDRENY HOLMBERG

New York Youth Institute Coordinator, Polly Endreny Holmberg, runs international training programs designed to equip and empower professionals and emerging leaders from around the globe with the knowledge, skills, and networks they need to drive positive change. Programs include the Fulbright exchange Humphrey Fellowship Program; the USDA Borlaug Fellowship Program; and the World Food Prize New York Youth Institute. She is most energized by innovative collaborations that prioritize community empowerment, environmental conservation, and cross-cultural competency to address global challenges.

A conservation biologist by training, Polly brings several years of experience working with human-environment issues. She holds a B.Sc. in biology (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) and a M.Sc. in marine resource management (Oregon State University). She has worked on issues of conservation science and policy with the Cornell Alliance for Science, The Nature Conservancy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Cheetah Conservation Fund, and as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Madagascar (serving with her husband, 2010-12).

CALS ADMISSIONS SPEAKERS



CARLA CROOKER

Carla Crooker is an Associate Director in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) Admissions office at Cornell University. She joined the CALS team in 2015. Prior to joining the CALS team, she worked at the School of Hotel Administration, the ILR School and Alumni Affairs and Development. Carla specializes in content management; creating and implementing integrated, cross-channel, target-driven marketing strategy to recruit and yield undergraduate students. Carla manages visitor relations for CALS including Cornell Days, and works with early credential review of athletes. She also manages a team of Seasonal Readers during the application process. Outside of CALS she is a member of the Title IV Hearing and Appeal Panel for the University, and the COVID Compact Compliance team, and is the proud parent two Cornellians, Class of '16 and '20.



ERIN TREAT

Erin Treat is an Associate Director in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) Admissions office at Cornell University. Her focus is on diversity and inclusion work, as well as serving as Advisor for the CALS Ambassadors student organization. She is a proud Cornell CALS alumna, having graduated with a B.S. degree in Communication; she later earned an M.A. degree in Higher Education/Student Personnel Administration from New York University.

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CORNELL TRACK SESSION PRESENTERS



NEIL MATTSON

(advisor for Bret Timmons & Connor Schmitz) Associate Professor, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University. Neil S. Mattson earned a Ph.D. (2007) from the University of California Davis and M.S. (2002) and a B.A. (2000) from the University of Minnesota. He joined Cornell University in 2007 and is currently an associate professor and greenhouse extension specialist in the School of Integrative Plant Science. His research is focused on the physiology of both floriculture and vegetable crops in controlled environments. Research interests include: supplemental lighting, strategies to reduce greenhouse energy use, conventional and organic nutrient management, and plant abiotic stress physiology. Mattson is director of the Cornell Controlled Environment Agriculture group.



CONNOR SCHMITZ

My name is Connor Schmitz, a professional student in the Controlled Environment Agriculture lab at Cornell University. My roots are in traditional agriculture and nature education, and have now chosen to look towards more technologically-driven forms of agriculture- such as aquaponics. We live in truly exciting times and it's my pleasure to share that passion with others. When I'm not growing plants, I'm most likely out somewhere appreciating nature.



BRET TIMMONS

My name is Bret Timmons and I'm a Greenhouse Grower at Cornell University Agriculture Experiment Station and a master's student in Neil Mattson's Controlled Environment Agriculture group. I've worked in the CEA industry for the last 6 years. I find the CEA industry fascinating because it's constantly evolving to help solve issues in food production.

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JESSICA RENEE WALTEMYER

BS, MPS Animal Science. For 10 years I have been involved with animal research, teaching, and extension in the Department of Animal Science at Cornell University. I have husbandry and technical experience working with a variety of species such as; Bovine, Equine, Ovine, Swine, and Poultry. I am passionate about educating future agriculturists, helping current farmers improve their operations, and community outreach.



MARICELIS ACEVEDO

Dr. Maricelis Acevedo is a Research Professor and the Associate Director for Science of the Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat project in the Department of Global Development at Cornell University. She works side by side with wheat scientists (breeders, geneticists and plant pathologists) around the world to develop and deliver wheat varieties that are high-yielding and disease-resistant. She also contributes to the wheat breeding and pathology capacities of the National Agriculture Research Programs in Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Asia by providing guidance and support for research infrastructure and providing training opportunities for junior scientists. As a member of the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative (BGRI), she is part of a global interdisciplinary network of wheat scientists committed to food security through advances in agriculture and capacity building. In 2020 Dr. Acevedo became the Director for USAID Feed the Future Bangladesh Bt-Eggplant project. Bt-eggplant adoption in Bangladesh has significantly reduced the need to utilize insecticide in farmers' fields while increasing crop yields. Dr. Acevedo also serves as the Co-director of the Masters of Professional Studies (MPS) program in Global Development.



NATHAN LAURENZ

Nathan is a Junior studying Entomology at Cornell. He is specializing in edible insects and has worked at a mealworm breeding company in Vienna. When he graduates he plans on breeding insects for food and feed full time. Nathan first got involved in the World Food Prize five years ago as a student in the Michigan Youth Institute. Every year after that he has volunteered at the Global Youth Institute in Iowa and plans state institutes. In his spare time, he cares for his many plants and pets as well as competes on the Cornell Speech team.

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MATHEW ABRAHAM

Dr. Mathew Abraham is the Assistant Director of TCI. He is responsible for coordinating research and offering strategic guidance and support for project implementation. Previously, Mathew joined TCI as a postdoctoral associate in August 2015, after completing his PhD from the Department of International Economics and Management at Copenhagen Business School in Denmark in April 2015. Prior to that, he worked at the Centre Public Policy at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. He has a Master's degree from Lund University in Sweden and a Bachelor's degree from St. Stephens College in Delhi. His research focuses on evaluation methodologies, agricultural value chains and markets, food security in developing countries, and technology and institutional innovation for agricultural development.



LUISA TRUJILLO

Luisa Trujillo had been worked in promoting agroforestry systems witnessed their potential and the considerable challenges faced to attain their adoption at a significant scale. She successfully implemented projects that promote agroforestry systems and conducted/supported research on the link between integrated management landscapes and biodiversity conservation.

She worked as program and project manager in three very well-known international organizations: the Tropical Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), The Humane Society International (HIS), and Nestle Research Center. In these capacities she had worked in several countries including Costa Rica, Bolivia, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Ecuador. She developed a wide range of skills these include interpersonal, decision-making and analytical skills. Currently she is working as a consultant from Latin American Studies program from Cornell University in Ecuador. Luisa holds a Master Degree in Forest Management and Biodiversity conservation from CATIE - Costa Rica.



TANYA MONTENEGRO

Tanya Montenegro is Biologist from Ecuador with a M. Sc. in Biology (Saint Louis University of Missouri) and a Graduate certificate in Tropical Biology and Conservation (Saint Louis University of Missouri). She also hold a Graduate Certificate in Systematics from the Organization of Tropical Studies (Costa Rica). Currently, she is a 2020-2021 Fulbright Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow pursuing graduate level study in Natural Resources and Climate Change at Cornell University.

Tanya has worked for a couple of NGO in Ecuador, as well as the private sector and the Andean Community (CAN) as consultant. Additionally, she was Faculty member of the Universidad Central del Ecuador and before coming to the HHH Fellowship she was Specialist/Coordinator for Protected Areas in the Ministry of the Environment and Water of Ecuador.