

## Upcoming Seminar

August 8th, 2011  
2:30 - 5:30pm  
160 Plant Biotech Building

# Special Seminar Series- USDA Grant Panel

A special seminar series designed to provide members of UTIA with detailed information pertaining to several grant programs within USDA. Food and drinks will be served beginning at 2:00pm. Please stop by early to meet our three speakers.

Mary Peet, Ph.D.

Division Director, Institute for Food Production and Sustainability

**Title: The Organic Agriculture Programs in NIFA: Where does your research fit in and what are the panels looking for?**

Beginning in 1980, Dr. Mary Peet advanced through the ranks of the Department of Horticultural Science at NC State University to Professor. She focused her efforts on greenhouse and high tunnel production of tomatoes. She authored 62 referred journal articles, two books, ten book chapters, and 47 popular articles. In addition to the ASHS publications, she has published in Plant Physiology; Plant, Cell, and Environment; Journal of Experimental Botany; and Physiologia Plantarum. Dr. Peet served on numerous review panels for CSREES. From 2003 to 2008, she served on the ASHS Executive Committee, completing her term as President in 2008 and Chairman of the Board in 2009. In August 2009, she began a position with USDA CSREES, now NIFA, as National Program Leader for organic agriculture and horticulture. Following the NIFA reorganization, in January 2011 she also serves as Division Director for the Plant Production Division in the Institute for Food Production and Sustainability.



Daniel Schmoldt, Ph.D.  
Co-Director, Specialty Crops Research  
Initiative

**Title: “Specialty Crop Research Initiative:  
The Nitty and the Gritty”**

Daniel Schmoldt completed his academic training in 1987 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with degrees in mathematics, computer science, and forestry. The latter included completion of both Masters and Ph.D. programs. From 1987 until 2001, he held several research scientist positions with the U.S. Forest Service, located at Riverside CA, Blacksburg VA, and Madison WI. Research areas included: wildfire management, atmospheric deposition, artificial intelligence, decision support systems, ecosystem management, machine vision systems, and automation in forest products utilization. From 1997-2004, he served as Joint Editor-in-Chief of the Elsevier journal, *Computers and Electronics in Agriculture*, and remains on their editorial board. Since 2001, he has filled the position of National Program Leader for Instrumentation and Sensors with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and helps to prioritize, develop, focus, and coordinate USDA research, education, and extension programs covering the development of sensors, instrumentation, and automation technologies related to precision agriculture/forestry, processing of agricultural and forest products, detection of contaminants in agricultural products, and monitoring and control of air and water quality. Since 2003, he has worked closely with NIFA NPL, Tom Bewick, and specialty crop stakeholder groups as they planned for a national initiative, which later became the Specialty Crop Research Initiative in the 2008 Farm Bill. He is co-director of SCRI and a co-director of the Agricultural Systems and Technology program in AFRI. In addition, he provides USDA leadership for two, inter-agency, competitive grants programs on robotics. Finally, he currently serves as the USDA representative to the National Science and Technology Council’s Interagency Working Group on Advanced Manufacturing.



Robert Hedberg, Ph.D. Director, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE)

**Title: The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE): *Creating Alternatives for Agriculture.***

The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program is pleased to announce the appointment of Rob Hedberg as its new director. Hedberg has served as interim director of the program since January 2009, and brings a wealth of personal, professional and educational experience in agriculture to the job. Since 2005, Hedberg has worked at USDA-NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture) focusing on science policy, legislative and inter-governmental affairs. In these roles, he worked closely with Congress and other federal agencies on issues related to agricultural science and led USDA's participation in negotiations on the Research Title of the 2008 Farm Bill. Prior to working at USDA, Hedberg served in the policy arena for Congress and scientific organizations. He served on the staff of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellow and as Director of Science Policy for the National and Regional Weed Science Societies. Hedberg gained practical public and private sector field experience in a variety of leadership roles in agricultural business, research and education, including owning and operating a crop consulting and research firm and serving as a regional Agronomy Agent for the University of Vermont.

