

Early Career Members

Meet Chad Godsey, Winner of the Early Career Professional Award

by Justin Quetone Moss

Dr. Chad Godsey, associate professor of agronomy at Oklahoma State University, has been selected to receive the 2011 ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Early Career Professional Award. This award recognizes professionals who have made an outstanding contribution in agronomy, crop science, and/or soil science within seven years of completing their terminal degree. Nominees are evaluated by their peers based on the following criteria: (i) evidence of quality teaching at the undergraduate and/or graduate levels; (ii) effectiveness in extension and outreach activities; (iii) significance and originality of basic and/or applied research; (iv) achievements in private-sector application of agronomy, crop, and/or soil science; (v) contributions to the public or professional organizations and institutions.

Godsey received a B.S. in agricultural business and plant and soil science from Colorado State University and a M.S. and Ph.D. in agronomy from Kansas State University. He currently has a 75% extension and 25% research appointment, and his efforts are focused on oilseed cropping systems. His multifaceted program consists of crop performance trials, crop management research trials, and dissemination of research data to improve productivity of producers. Godsey has authored or co-authored 16 refereed journal articles, 44 abstracts, and 69 extension and research publications. He has served as principal investigator (PI) or Co-PI on a total of \$1,488,497 in total grant awards with the majority from integrated (research and extension) projects and nationally competitive programs including the NRCS Conservation Initiative Grants and the Southern Region SARE competitive grants program. He serves as an associate editor for *Agronomy Journal* and *Peanut Science* and is active in ASA, CSSA, SSSA, and the American Peanut Research and Education Society.

Godsey's extension efforts include developing new technologies to disseminate information to clientele through developing websites, publishing the *Plant and Soil Sciences Extension Newsletter*, and coordinating peanut, soybean, sunflower, and winter canola variety trial locations across the state. He has also put special emphasis on development of an on-farm research group to meet the needs of producers and provide them with assistance to answer their own questions. Godsey's research efforts are focused on identifying profitable crop rotations for all regions of Oklahoma with a specific emphasis on oilseed production, the effective utilization of soil water, peanut cropping systems, evaluation of tillage practices in continuous peanut production, and improving production practices for winter canola and

soybeans. He has also spent time evaluating the use of cover crops in no-till cropping systems and identifying alternative crops for rotational purposes.

After notifying Dr. Godsey of this award, I had the opportunity to obtain his thoughts and advice for other early career members and graduate students:



Chad Godsey

What advice would you give to other early career members or graduate students in the Societies?

A: I would encourage graduate students to network with professors and other graduate students in their field of study. I would suggest they learn how to be a team player, develop team-building skills, and surround themselves with helpful and productive colleagues who can work together as a team. I would recommend that early career members learn to regularly prioritize their work tasks and to work with and learn from other faculty in their department.

What important moments in your life took you through the career you have now?

A: I grew up on a farm and ranch in Colorado. I became interested in agronomy and agricultural research after going through my B.S. and M.S. programs. I really enjoyed the extension side of things and working with farmers. I was able to gain skills in managing a program while working at the Kansas State University Soils Laboratory, which helped prepare me for a faculty career. Dr. Gary Peterson at Colorado State University helped get me interested in graduate school. I was able to learn by example from several mentors including Dr. John Schmidt, Dr. Ray Lamond, Dr. Dave Mengel, and Dr. Gary Pierzynski at Kansas State University.

If you would like to learn more about the Early Career Members Committee or the Early Career Professional Award, please visit our website at: www.crops.org/membership/early-career.

J.Q. Moss, chair-elect of the Early Career Members Committee; mossjq@okstate.edu