2015 Plant Biology Student Symposium Schedule
All Events at the Georgia Center on UGA Campus on Monday, August 24th

8:30-9:00   **Beverages Served**
          – Pecan Tree Galleria

9:00-9:05   **Alumni Speakers Welcome**
          – Master's Hall
          Jess Stephens, PBGSA President

9:05-10:20   **Alumni Speakers – Master's Hall**

   Virginia Jin
   Research Soil Scientist, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS),
      Lincoln, NE
      Meeting the challenges of a changing climate through agricultural management

   Randy Mejeur
   Principle Ecologist, AECOM Technical Services, Inc., Orlando, FL
      Plants and profession: The path of a consulting botanist

   Michael Purugganan
   Dorothy Schiff Professor of Genomics and Dean of Science, New York University, NY and Abu Dhabi
      Bread, wine and genes: A journey in the study of plant domestication

10:20-10:30   **Coffee Break**

10:30-11:15   **Panel Discussion – Master's Hall**
          Featuring invited speakers

Lunch Break

12:55-1:00   **Afternoon student sessions – Master's Hall**
          Jess Stephens, PBGSA President

1:00-2:00   **Oral Session #1**
          Moderator: Jess Stephens

Alex Harkess   Two genes control sex determination on the young *Asparagus* Y

Edward McAssey Uncovering expression differences associated with the development of an adaptive trait:
          Fatty acid desaturation in sunflower seeds

Kristen Engle   Determining pectin biosynthetic activity of the *Arabidopsis* GAUT gene family using the
          HEK293 cell expression system

Karolina Heyduk Evolution of Crassulacean acid metabolism in the Agavoideae

2:00-3:00   **Poster Session and Coffee Break**

3:00-3:45   **Oral Session #2**
          Moderator: Jess Stephens

Alex Pilote   Relationship of stem hydraulics and leaf economic traits across *Helianthus*

Katie Putney   Expanding the sex-differential plasticity hypothesis to include the biotic environment:
                     Gynodioecious *Geranium maculatum* and its arbuscular mycorrhizal partners

Lauren Eserman   Evolution and development of storage roots in morning glories

**4:00-6:00   Plant Biology Welcome Reception
                     Magnolia Ballroom – Georgia Center**