ICIA...Predictable. Reliable. Dependable. (2)
Ryan Campbell, President, ICIA

ICIA on the Move (3)
ICIA Plans Building Expansion

Meet ICIA’s Newest Full-Time Staff (4)
Featuring James Bonick

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Featuring Frank Lynch, AgReliant Genetics
The weather here in central Indiana has been unpredictable this year and has certainly been different than last year. We went straight from a record cold April to a record hot May. We were about 2 weeks late to start planting but, with the summer like temperatures during the month of May, we are actually tracking 4 days ahead of last year. Most of the crop was planted into warm soil with ideal moisture, shot out of the ground and is off to a great start. Mother Nature sure does make our jobs interesting.

Unlike Mother Nature, Indiana Crop Improvement Association is predictable, reliable and dependable. You can count on the staff at ICIA to be there for your current needs as well as being ready to meet your future seed testing needs. Thanks to the loyalty and growth of our existing customers and the addition of new customers, ICIA just completed the best fiscal year in history. With the continued growth of the business and the future pipeline of herbicide traits, we are outgrowing the space of the current facility. Design is well underway for the expansion of the Lab. The goal is to have the expansion finished prior to the 2019 testing season. We’re looking forward to what’s ahead!

Speaking about what’s ahead, the 4th Annual Customer Appreciation Open House and Golf Outing Event is just around the corner! The ICIA staff have 2 days packed full of customer appreciation activities, educational sessions, and the opportunity to tour the ICIA laboratories during their 4th Annual Open House Event on Thursday & Friday, August 9-10. There will be plenty of food and fun activities with local Lafayette food vendors on-site during the open house on Thursday, August 9. This will provide an excellent time to visit the labs and see how tests are performed as well as an opportunity to earn CCH credits attending educational sessions provided by the Office of Indiana State Chemist. Following the open house, plan to join us for some friendly competition during the golf outing at Coyote Crossing followed by a reception and dinner afterwards on Thursday evening. Friday morning will feature a trait seminar at ICIA with presentations from Bayer, Monsanto, Syngenta and Corteva. In addition, Purdue’s Bryan Young and Purdue’s new extension pathologist, Darcy Telenko will offer insights on dicamba and other industry topics.

I would like to conclude with recognizing the ICIA staff for all your hard work this testing season. Continuing to deliver timely and accurate results to customers is such a valuable resource in our industry. I also want to thank all of the individuals who serve on the various committees through Indiana Crop and the seed industry, your involvement is greatly appreciated. I hope everyone has a safe and successful summer and I’ll be seeing you at the ICIA Open House in August!
ICIA just completed a fiscal year that had the highest inspected soybean acreage in the last nineteen years and greatest number of samples and tests performed in the laboratories in its history. The continued growth in the laboratory programs has created the need for additional laboratory and office space. The ICIA Board of Directors has approved the expansion of the facilities with construction to begin late summer or early fall of 2018.

“Growth has occurred across virtually all segments of our laboratory services,” said ICIA CEO, Alan Galbreth. “Our long time offerings of germinations, cold tests, accelerated aging and purities have continued to increase, and the bioassay herbicide tolerance testing department continues to grow with the release of new and stacked traits.” One section of the new construction will be devoted to bioassay testing which will result in the warm germination and cold test departments having access to more germination chambers and additional work area.

The genetics lab services have also increased with steady growth in PCR testing since ICIA became an approved testing laboratory by the Non-GMO Project. This service has allowed us to expand our membership base beyond seed companies to include grain processors and some food companies. We continue to be strong in tests such as ELISA, which verify biotech traits.

Five years ago we created a native seed testing department for members that needed testing for those species. We have had steady growth in that area with a threefold increase in native testing the last fiscal year. The native seed department will also be moving into the new buildings where there will be more germination chambers and a larger work area.

“Growth has occurred across virtually all segments of our laboratory services.”

The new construction will also include more warehouse and new office space, as we are currently using all available offices. In the last five years ICIA has gone from fifteen full time staff to seventeen and now employ twenty-five part time technicians in the laboratory. Nearly all those technicians have been with ICIA from five to fifteen years. We also employ about one hundred field inspectors on a seasonal basis to help with corn and soybean field inspections.

“Even though there are legitimate concerns regarding seed industry consolidation, we are optimistic about the long-term relevance of ICIA,” stated Galbreth. There are many opportunities to provide services to those who can’t perform seed testing or field inspection or who prefer to outsource those activities to an independent third party like Indiana Crop Improvement. ICIA was established in 1900 and has been able to remain relevant and provide value to our members for the last 118 years and we believe we are positioned to continue to provide value for many more years.

ISTA CERTIFICATION

Wes Delks, ICIA Soybean Field Programs Director recently attended an ISTA Seed Sampling Workshop in Brookings, South Dakota in May. The workshop covered the proper procedures for sampling seed according to the International Seed Testing Association rules. Indiana Crop Improvement can now provide an accredited ISTA sampler to its members in need of these services. This is typically protocol to transport seed into most countries.

For questions on testing, contact Wes at 765-414-9046.
ICIA Difference? Consistency and Accuracy.

Ask lab technician, James Bonick what is different in the approach of ICIA lab testing and without hesitation he will tell you it’s the unwavering commitment to consistency and accuracy of data reporting. “It simply comes down to providing quality service and assisting our customers to facilitate their growth,” said James. “Our ISO 9001:2015 system is an effective part of ICIA operations, from the provided work instructions to recognizing room for improvement.”

James was originally hired to fill in on an as needed basis for a few weeks in the warm germination lab. ICIA CEO, Alan Galbreth reached out to his neighbor James and asked if he would be interested in working occasionally, for a brief time. Bonick, formerly working as a chef and director of operations in food service, accepted the opportunity with no intention of it becoming a long term commitment. He stated he felt ‘a bit out of his league’ when first coming on board. With no background in agriculture and the fact that “ICIA has several staff with advanced degrees and certifications, it presented a learning curve,” stated James. He has since learned a great deal about ICIA’s services and has gained knowledge of the ag industry, seed treatment and testing, and the processes of seed conditioning. After just finishing his 14th season as a part-time lab technician, ICIA has hired James full-time effective June 1. While his primary responsibilities will remain the same, he will begin taking on a few additional tasks throughout the warm germ lab.

As a small organization, ICIA takes initiative to provide employees an outstanding work environment and promote a team atmosphere, and that is exactly part of James’ goals as he begins his full-time tenure. “I want to uphold the reputation that ICIA has as a company and continue promoting the positive working relationships. I believe it’s important to address issues as they arise and to treat others with kindness and respect,” stated James. It’s easier to work alongside someone and offer assistance than to watch them struggle working on their own.

James uses the analogy of a puzzle as he shared his thoughts on being a part of the ICIA team. “If you look at a puzzle that has a few pieces missing, you don’t focus on the finished picture. Your focus is on the missing pieces of the puzzle. All the pieces have a part. They fit in different places, however they are all integral parts of the final work.”

ICIA management does an outstanding job of promoting a sense of ownership. “ICIA CEO, Alan Galbreth was not only instrumental in me coming to work here, he also encouraged me to increase my knowledge in attending seed analysts courses. Seed Lab Director, Kevin Seward and Fred Halsema in warm germination have also been a great help in the learning processes from the inner workings of germination operations to moving samples through each process. A great leader will allow others around them the opportunity to handle situations and emerge successful and we have this environment of leadership at ICIA,” says James.

He attributes lending his hard work ethic to ICIA with the challenge of working in different departments that require physical and mental attentiveness that vary day to day. James states, “it offers the opportunity to increase knowledge in many aspects of ICIA’s operations, which I appreciate.”

With the continued changes in agriculture, James believes there will be a greater need to test developing products with bioassay to monitor and combat weed strains. The continued development of seed sizing, as well as the development of different types of bioassay products will make its way in to the industry.

Those who work with James each day will tell you a simple, conservative lifestyle is important to him. While it’s evident he gives 110% in the ICIA lab, James quality, quiet time is equally important. Coming from a small family of hard working individuals, Bonick’s mom worked in mechanical drafting and earned her degree as an RN at the age of 50. “She’s been a role model for my brother and I, always working towards achieving her goals and teaching us the value of earning your own way” said James.

As often as his schedule allows, James heads home to visit his family in Westville, Indiana and recently purchased a plot of land in a nature preservation to enjoy quiet time during his visits. The land has a well-stocked spring fed lake and offers a tranquil retreat in the winter months, as well. During the busy testing season, when James is not working in the warm germination lab or running shake test samples, you will most likely find him at home in the kitchen. He loves to cook and even says he could spend hours at the cooking accessory store, Kitchen Art. James stated “you might be surprised to know you can spend $800 on a small saucepan!” In addition to enjoying cooking, he loves outdoor activities and enjoys fishing and camping.

James believes everyone needs to be in the business of nurturing their relationships, whether that be in the workplace or in our families. “Don’t hold on to pride and always be willing to compromise. Be thankful for faith, family and friends and don’t blink because life passes too quickly,” says James.

ICIA welcomes James to the full-time staff. We are eager to have him as part of the team that will uphold the commitment to deliver our customers the excellent customer service they have known throughout the years.
The Indianapolis Marriott North is the selected site to welcome attendees of the 2019 CBSC! Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the Corn Belt Seed Conference scheduled for February 6-7, 2019. Whether you’re looking for an opportunity to earn CEU and CCH credits, have your group learn what’s trending in agriculture or take the opportunity to network with others in the industry, you won’t want to miss this event! The Illinois-Indiana Seed Conditioning Workshop will kick things off on Tuesday, February 5. These meetings will deliver a line-up of workshop sessions with up-to-date information to educate your employees and impact your business. The conference will continue Wednesday and Thursday with a keynote speaker and two tracks of breakout sessions to maximize your educational experience. In addition, you can take advantage of hosting your group for an evening of fun at Top Golf in Fishers. More details and registration will be included on the conference website. Make certain you take advantage of this conference to meet with your customers before the 2019 planting season begins, all while networking and enjoying the Indy area and the upscale Indianapolis Marriott North during the 2019 Corn Belt Seed Conference!

EXHIBITORS and SPONSORS
Exhibitor space is now open for the Corn Belt Seed Conference! Exhibit space is available on a first-come, first served selection basis. The 2019 CBSC will offer multiple opportunities for exhibitors to meet with attendees and promote their businesses. Want the opportunity to promote your business at the next level? Many sponsorships for the Corn Belt Conference are available. These are great tools to promote your business, interact with your customers and impact your bottom line. Your customers and colleagues will be there.... don’t miss out! Contact Susan Overdorf at overdorf@indianacrop.org or you can reach her at 866-899-2518 for more details.

Expertise in ICIA’s Native Seed Lab.

ICIA’s Gil Waibel has been involved in seed testing since 1975 and became an R.S.T. in 1979. He has worked in every sector of the seed testing industry and his vast understanding of the industry brings great knowledge to the ICIA laboratory and its customers.

Gil was recently presented the Meritorious Service Award for his outstanding service and contribution to the seed industry. The award was presented by the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists at their annual meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Gil left Wyoming in July 2013 to begin building a Native Seed Testing program for the Indiana Crop Improvement Association. Since joining ICIA, Gil has made several presentations on uniformity in seed testing to the seed control officials, the American Seed Trade Association and the Bureau of Land Management. He has been responsible for starting an international working group to develop a global reference on native seed species testing. This a joint effort with AOSA, SCST, ISTA and Kew Botanical Gardens. He has traveled to Kuwait to assist in developing a quality control program for the propagation and testing of species native to the desert. He also provided seed testing training for an analyst from Kuwait in the ICIA laboratories. Gil was responsible for the native seed testing workshop held at the joint AOSA/SCST/ISTA meetings in Denver in 2017. He also has reactivated the online seed vigor testing course offered by Colorado State University.

Gil continues to volunteer his time to the testing organizations and to address seed testing uniformity as a high priority for seed analysts and the seed industry.

Congratulations Gil on receiving this well deserved award!
ICIA 4th Annual Member Appreciation & Training Events.

Mark your calendars now to attend the 4th Annual Member Appreciation and Training Events on Thursday and Friday, August 9th and 10th in Lafayette, IN. The schedule has changed a little bit this year but still offers all the education and fun. ICIA will be breaking ground soon on an expansion of our current facilities. Be sure to take the opportunity to see our plans for increasing efficiency and providing you with even better service.

On Thursday, August 9th, we will start the morning offering training by the Office of the Indiana State Chemist on pesticide and seed treatment application and seed labeling, which will earn the participants CCH credits in Categories 1, 4, and RT. ICIA facilities will also be open for members who want to tour the facility and see the new plans for our building expansion. Multiple food trucks will be supplying lunch followed by the fun activities including the Annual Golf Scramble. The escape room was fun last year and this year we will adding another activity following that event. Watch our website at www.indianacrop.org for details on the afternoon activities. Thursday will conclude with Cocktails and Dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. at Coyote Crossing for all members.

On Friday, August 10th, ICIA will host the Trait Testing Seminar with representatives from Monsanto, Corteva, Syngenta and Bayer. We are updating the Trait Testing Matrix and will be discussing that and the best practices for submitting samples to ICIA using BarLink© and LabLink©. In addition, Bryan Young and the new extension pathologist, Darcy Telenko, both from Purdue University will offer their insights on dicamba and other industry related topics. ICIA facilities will again be available for tours during the morning hours.

Watch our website, www.indianacrop.org for more details. To RSVP, contact Jeanne Storey at 866-899-2518 or at storey@indianacrop.org.

Dr. Karen Plaut has been selected as the Glenn W. Sample Dean of the Purdue College of Agriculture. She succeeds Dr. Jay Akridge, after he was selected to become Purdue’s provost and chief diversity officer. Plaut has been with the ag department since 2010 and has served as interim dean since July, 2017.

Karen received her B.S. in animal science from the University of Vermont, an M.S. in animal nutrition from Pennsylvania State University and a Ph.D. in animal science from Cornell University. Her postdoctoral studies were completed at the National Cancer Institute at NIH. Before coming to Purdue she was on faculty at the University of Vermont and Michigan State University serving as Chair of the Department of Animal Sciences at both institutions. She also spent a few years working with NASA as Lead Scientist for the International Space Station.

ICIA congratulates Dr. Karen Plaut!
ICIA Board of Director Feature.

If you have ever wondered what it would take to get from Buenos Aries, Argentina to Westfield, IN with stops in Nebraska, Hawaii and Johnston, IA, you might ask Frank Lynch, Vice President of Operations at AgReliant Genetics. Frank started his career with Pioneer Argentina in 1988, with a part-time, six-month position, which eventually became a full-time position when the six months were over. During the southern hemisphere winters, he spent time in overseas assignments helping develop production operations in new subsidiaries in the Soviet Union (1990) and evaluating production facilities and growing areas in Hungary (1991). In 1992, Pioneer offered Frank a position as production agronomist in Doniphan, NE.

This turned out to be a rather short stay for Frank and his family. In 1995, they moved from Nebraska to Hawaii where Frank became station manager for the Pioneer parent seed plant. Frank says he learned a lot about genetics while in Hawaii. Bt events were just coming into the marketplace and other genetic traits soon followed. During this time, the sugar cane industry in Hawaii was trending down which made more land available for corn production.

After working with a single brand in the seed industry for 24 years and receiving a phone call - - actually several calls - - from Craig Newman with AgReliant Genetics, Frank decided to make a change. He found the idea of working with multiple brands intriguing. One of the first things he realized was working with multiple brands meant budgetary dollars were divided multiple ways and an attention to detail was going to be extremely important.

When asked about the most significant change in the industry Frank quickly points to insect and herbicide resistance traits. “As a result, farm management changed dramatically. This technology would lead to more innovations such as, stacked events, drones, optical sensors, variable planting and numerous equipment changes, as well as field management changes (remember cultivators?)” he stated.

As a member of the board, Frank was surprised with the number of services ICIA offers the industry. “I was familiar with certification and field inspections, but all of the other field services, and particularly the lab services, offered to the industry are tremendous. As new technologies emerge, independent third-party involvement will be even more critical to the industry and ICIA is well positioned to fill this role.”

Frank and his wife, Gina, have four children and live in Zionsville IN.

Visit ICIA at Upcoming Summer Meetings!

...AOSCA Annual Conference Atlanta, Georgia June 24–27, 2018
...Purdue Turf & Landscape Field Day West Lafayette, Indiana July 10, 2018
...AASCO Annual Meeting Des Moines Iowa, July 15-19, 2018
...Purdue Corn Showcase West Lafayette, Indiana July 26, 2018
...ICIA 4th Annual Open House & Member Appreciation Event Lafayette, Indiana August 9-10, 2018
Seed Quality Update

Test results through May 1, 2018

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2017 Corn quality was excellent and vigor scores were very strong for corn. Soybean quality was good for most lots this past season. The table above shows the germination and vigor scores for the 2017 testing season along with the previous two years. Contact Kevin Seward at 765-523-2535 or email seward@indianacrop.org with your testing needs or questions.