Thursday, Feb. 24 - Dr. Robert Paarlberg

“Alternative Paths to Feeding the World in 2050”

Dr. Robert Paarlberg is the B.F. Johnson Professor of political science at Wellesley College and Associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. He is also the author of “Food Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know,” 2010, Oxford University Press.

Monday, March 14 – Dr. Roger Beachy (Director of USDA/NIFA)

“The Role of Science in Meeting the Grand Challenges of the 21st Century”

Roger Beachy, Ph.D. Dr. Roger Beachy was appointed to be the first director of the National Institutes of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) in October, 2009, and named Chief Scientist at USDA in January 2010. As Director of NIFA, he oversees awarding extramural funds for Research, Extension and Education for the U.S. Department of Agriculture; as Chief Scientist, he is responsible for coordinating science activities across the department. Dr. Roger N. Beachy, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, is internationally known for his groundbreaking research on developing virus-resistant plants through biotechnology.

Thursday, March 17 - Dr. Wayne Parrot

Dr. Parrott is a professor of Crop Science at the University of Georgia where he conducts research on development and deployment of transgenic crops including soybean and alfalfa. Parrott, a native of Guatemala, also works on improvement of maize for Central America and teaches an on-site course in tropical agro-ecosystems in Costa Rica.

Wednesday, May 4 - Dr. Pam Ronald

Dr. Ronald is a professor of Plant Pathology at UC Davis, Chair of the Plant Genomics program and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She and her husband, who is an organic farmer, have written “Tomorrow’s Table: Organic Farming, Genetics, and the Future.”