

Mastering the art of farming

New works honor World Food Prize recipients

By MICHAEL MORAIN
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

When it comes down to it, the significance of World Food Prize honors can be brain boggling.

This year's laureates, for example, helped transform a vast, infertile region in central Brazil into productive farmland. They reduced the soil's aluminum toxicity levels. They tinkered with the country's financial infrastructure to better benefit farmers.

Even agriculturally savvy Iowans have trouble wrapping their heads around those complexities.

To help, the World Food Prize Foundation has planned lectures and panel discussions leading up to tonight's award ceremony at the State Capitol. The ceremony honors Brazilians Alysson Paolinelli and Edson Lobato, and American A. Colin McClung.

For those who don't have advanced degrees in agronomy or bio-engineering, the foundation also commissions new works of art each year to further honor the recipients.

"There are different paths to understanding hunger and scientific achievement," foundation President Kenneth Quinn said. "Like the Food Prize, the art is designed to recognize achievement that's been done and to inspire even greater achievement in the future."

Since the creation of the Food Prize 20 years ago by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Norman Borlaug, the foundation has commissioned paintings, a symphonic work and a trophy designed by Saul Bass, who made a name for himself creating movie posters for Alfred Hitchcock and Martin Scorsese.

See **FOOD PRIZE**, Page 2E

Details

WHAT: World Food Prize ceremony

WHEN: 7 p.m. today

WHERE: Iowa State Capitol

This year's prize honors the work of Alysson Paolinelli, Edson Lobato and A. Colin McClung. Access to the ceremony is by invitation only, but it will be broadcast on Iowa Public Television. The ceremony will be preceded and followed by a broadcast of "Out of Iowa: Borlaug and the Green Revolution" at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.worldfoodprize.org.



Trophy

Along with a \$250,000 cash prize, each World Food Prize laureate receives a trophy created by world-renowned designer Saul Bass. The trophy, which resembles a bowl used for grinding grain, symbolizes "the world, its food and the nourishment of its people."

Iowa Art

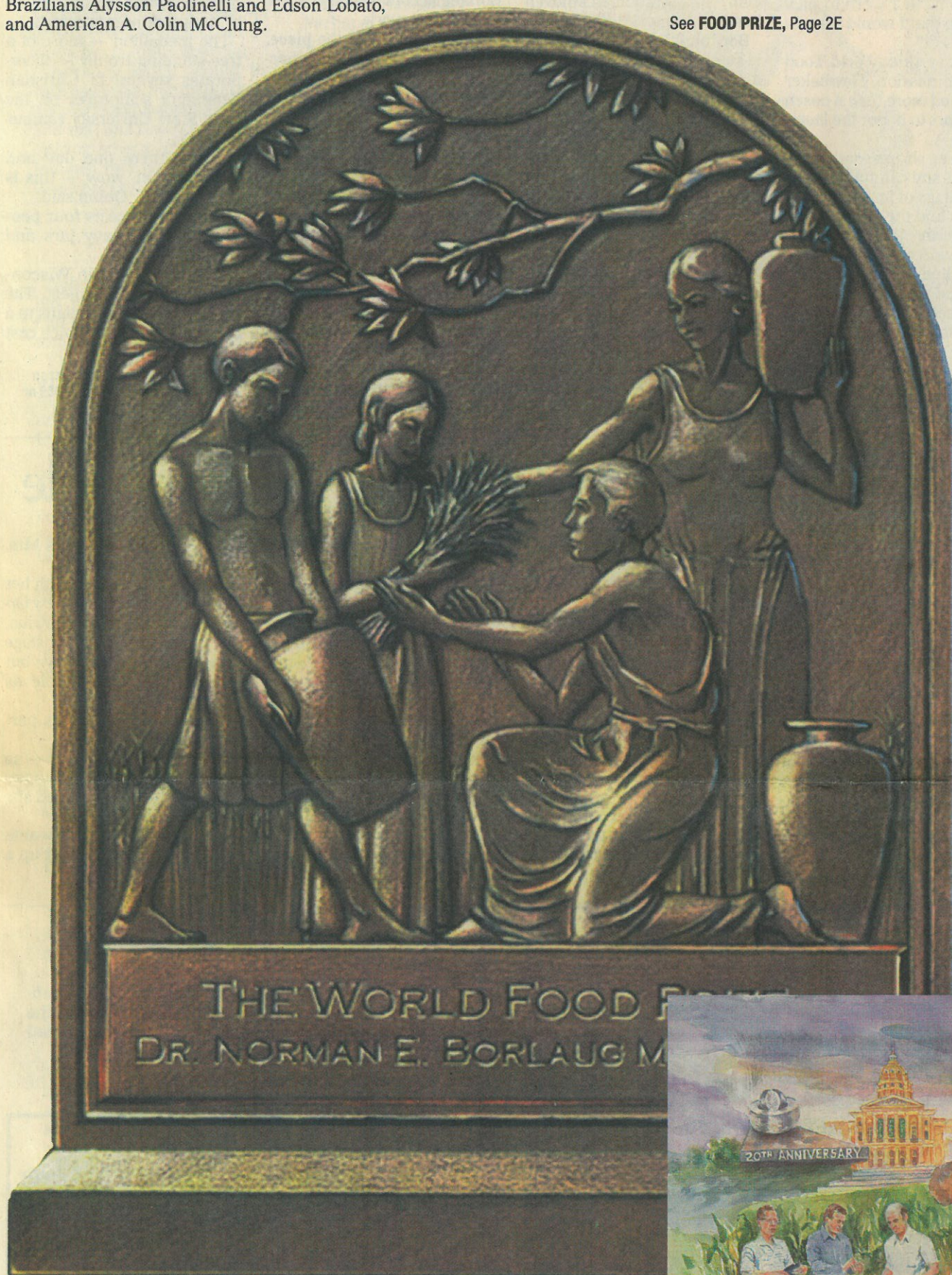
Art commissioned by the World Food Prize Foundation binds Iowa artists to the world festival.

MEDALLION

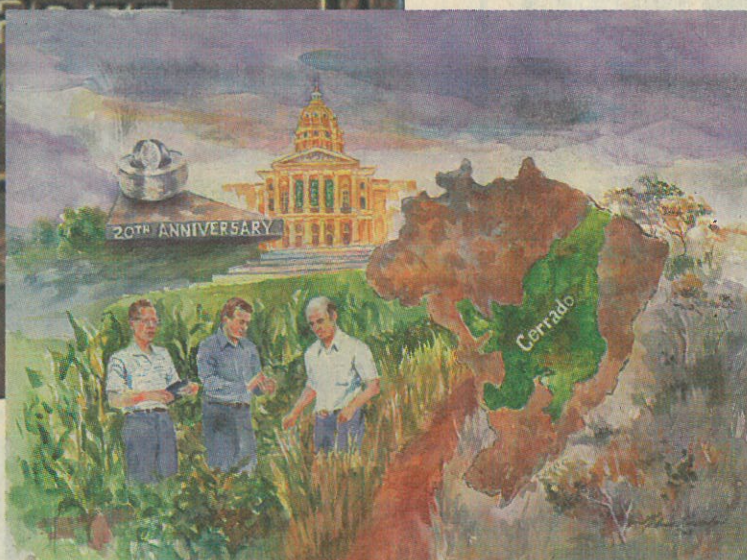
FOR THE FIRST TIME, the World Food Prize Foundation will honor humanitarian efforts by leaders of government and nonprofit groups with a bronze medallion — really a free-standing trophy. The winner will be announced tonight.

KENNETH QUINN, president of the World Food Prize Foundation, pulled together several of Christian Petersen's sculptures on the Iowa State University campus to come up with this year's medallion.

THE BRONZE PIECE, depicting four people hoisting jars and wheat, was sketched by a studio in Wisconsin and cast by a company in Rome.

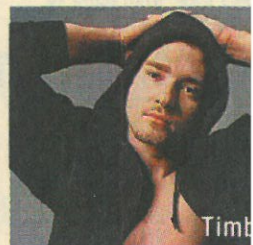


PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER



PAINTING

Since 1999, Nadine Hawbaker has produced paintings honoring the winners of the World Food Prize. This year is no different. Her watercolor depicts the winners, Alysson Paolinelli, Edson Lobato and A. Colin McClung in a field of crops. A map of Brazil's Cerrado plain signifies the area the scientists helped transform to farmland. An image of the Iowa State Capitol and the food trophy also appear in the painting.



Justin, Axl Rose energize Hilton

By KYLE MUNSON
REGISTER MUSIC CRITIC

In little more than a pair of music icons helped reawaken a slumbering Hilton Coliseum in Ames.

First came news that rocker Axl Rose would headline his latest version of the "Axl Rose to Hilton on Dec. 19." Then word dropped that pop idol Justin Timberlake had chosen Hilton for 34 dates on his "Future LoveShow" tour, which launches in January.

The opening of Wells Fargo Arena last year in Des Moines had a demonstrable impact on the 35-year-old arena. Between a Slipknot concert in April 2005 and a Crowns concert in April 2006, the only show staged at the Ames arena was damaged.

See **TIMBERLAKE**, Page 2E

Lighting up not nudity bugs actress in 'Graduate'

By MICHAEL MORAIN
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Almost 40 years after "The Graduate" opened in theaters, the actress plays Mrs. Robinson. Des Moines stage adaptation more concerned about lighting cigarettes on stage than dropping her clothes.

"That's the worst," says Susan Grozier, who plays the devious seductress in the play. The Moines Playhouse production opens Friday.

Times may have changed, but the story remains relevant, according to co-producer John Viars.

"People are still scared about how to be the individuals," he said. "We are still going down the same path."

The plot, really, is about Benjamin Braddock (played by Hoffman in the 1967 film and Scott Siewker at the play) returns from a year in Asia unsure about what to do next.

See **GRADUATE**, Page 2E

MUSIC

Ben and Julianne Allaway, right, have created "The Laureate Call," a 5½-minute musical number for this year's award ceremony. The married duo's composition incorporates marimbas and maracas to characterize Mexican themes. A 12-person choir sings "verde," the Spanish word for green, plus Hindi words and African motifs expand the international theme.



STEVE POPE/SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Details

WHAT: "The Graduate"

WHEN: Friday through Nov. 10

WHERE: Des Moines Playhouse

831 42nd St., Des Moines

TICKETS: \$19-\$32

INFO: (877) 862-5621 or www.dmplyhouse.com

Quiet Hilton sings again

MERLAKE, from Page 1E

latley's "Celtic Tiger." Then, Def Leppard and 777 rocked a Hilton audience on September 14. Blue Group is due Nov. 14. "It was a break in there we're kind of expecting," Miller, Hilton's producing director, said of his quiet interlude. "We're really working on quite a few for next year." Timberlake's tour will be a part in the round (staged in the middle of the arena with a 14-piece band, dancers and (in the pop singer's own words) "a crazy show.")

For info for the Timberlake concert will be released on Guns N' Roses tickets \$9.50-\$77 through Ticketmaster outlets (243-1888 in Des Moines).

Reporter Kyle Munson can be reached at (515) 284-8124 or kmunson@dmreg.com



Timberlake's Midwest stops

Jan. 27: Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul, Minn.

March 8: Qwest Center, Omaha, Neb.

March 9: Hilton Coliseum, Ames

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Allaways hope 'Laureate Call' inspires

FOOD PRIZE, from Page 1E

This year, the WFP has commissioned three works of art with Iowa connections: a watercolor, a musical piece and a medallion.

"We're interested in this blend of Iowa and the world," Quinn said.

VISUAL ART

In 1999, someone from the World Food Prize Foundation asked Nadine Hawbaker to paint a portrait to honor that year's laureate — in five days.

With such short notice, the Grimes artist almost turned the offer down. Looking back, she is glad she didn't.

"It's a huge honor," Hawbaker said. "If I were to pick an art job that I would want to do, this is it."

Since her first World Food Prize commission, Hawbaker has painted more than a dozen watercolors to honor the laureates.

Each year, she researches the recipients and carefully assembles a collage of images depicting them and their work.

Considering the complexity and technical nature of many of the laureates' accomplishments, this can be a difficult task.

After reading a biography of World Food Prize founder Borlaug, for example, Hawbaker was initially overwhelmed by her assignment to paint something that represented the

scope of his 60-year career.

"Get me a big piece of paper," she said.

For this year's commissioned piece, Hawbaker painted the three laureates knee-deep in a field of crops. A map of Brazil's central Cerrado plain, the area the scientists helped transform, dominates the right side of the painting, while an image of the World Food Prize trophy and the Iowa State Capitol hover in the background.

"These are phenomenal people doing phenomenal things," Hawbaker said of the laureates. "It's very inspiring."

This year's painting was unveiled Tuesday during a ceremony at Salisbury House in Des Moines and will be displayed during today's ceremony at the Capitol.

MUSIC

John Lennon looked to Yoko Ono for inspiration. Beethoven had his "Immortal Beloved."

Ben and Julianne Allaway, it seems, relied on muses of a different sort: bug experts, farmers and policy wonks.

To create "The Laureate Call," a 5½-minute musical composition commissioned for this year's 20th anniversary of the Food Prize, the husband-wife team from Des Moines interviewed many of the laureates from previous years.

"I was talking with entomologists and policy makers and agricultural scientists," said Ben Allaway, whose work has been featured during events with the Dalai Lama, Maya Angelou, Simon Estes, Hillary Clinton and Garrison Keillor.



Hawbaker

Actress loves challenge of Mrs. Robinson role

GRADUATE, from Page 1E

his life.

His parents' friend, Mrs. Robinson (a smoldering Anne Bancroft in the film), takes advantage of his confusion and seduces him — a dicey dilemma in itself but tangled further when he falls in love with her daughter, Elaine (Nikki Scheel at the Playhouse, Katharine Ross in the movie).

For the most part, the movie, based on a novel by Charles Webb, makes a smooth transition to a live play.

After a successful run in Lon-

don, the stage version opened on Broadway in 2002, starring Kathleen Turner, Jason Biggs and Alicia Silverstone.

As with any adaptation, however, there are a few challenges. Benjamin doesn't zip around in a sporty red 1966 Alfa Romeo, he doesn't swim in his parents' pool — and there's that tricky bit about nudity, which may raise a few more eyebrows in Des Moines than New York.

Whether Grozier really bares all remains a secret of the Robinsons' affair, a little tidbit Viars is hiding in the Playhouse pantry with the cupcakes.

Early on, when Mrs. Robinson makes herself "available" to the bumbling Benjamin, careful staging makes it difficult to tell just how much she exposes. The production goes to great lengths to make her at least appear to doff everything.

The lights dim. Her towel drops. She puts the towel back on. The lights come up.

"It's not like I'm doing jumping jacks on the stage in the bright light," Grozier said. "I'm not a nudist or anything."

Still, she explained to her 12-year-old daughter that "it's not mother on stage nude — well,

I'm wearing shoes — it's Mrs. Robinson, the character."

Grozier, who moved with her family to Ankeny from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, has racked up plenty of onstage experience in other plays but has never tackled a role as challenging as this one.

She studied Bancroft's performance in the movie.

"She's so good, so sad — so evil," Grozier said. "She knows what she wants to do, and she just goes for it."

Even when what she wants to do is — ahem — light up a smoke.



October 21-22

Information: (515) 245-8838

www.greatiowapetexpo.com

CLARIFICATION

"Haunting Villisca" showings will not be open to the public during the Wild Rose Film Festival this weekend at the Fleur Cinema & Cafe. The information was not included in a Thursday IowaLife story.

Special package pricing available to those who attend!

Fall Open House

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Lincoln Highway Artists Studio Tour - Meet artists in their studios as you enjoy a scenic autumn drive. Follow historic Lincoln Highway between Ames and Marshalltown on a family-friendly quest to learn more about creative processes. Find treasures for yourself or anyone on your holiday gift list. More info below.

Autumn Festival in Des Moines - The show runs Thursday thru Sunday at the Iowa Events Center. This year's theme is "Iowa's Best of the West".

