



## **Generating Interest in Soil Science through Collegiate Soils Contests**

Christopher Baxter (1) and Joe Valentine (2)

(1) University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI USA, (2) ValSoil 1830 Walnut Lane Quakertown, PA 18951 USA

The inaugural National Collegiate Soils Contest (NCSC) was hosted by the University of Kentucky in Lexington, KY in 1961 and has been held every year since. Initially the NCSC was an open contest in which any team could participate, but due to increased interest, it became an event which only qualifying teams are invited to participate. To facilitate qualification, the U.S. was divided up into seven regions. Teams qualify for the NCSC by placing among the top teams within their regional contests, which are held in the fall prior to the NCSC. Typically 18-22 institutions and 80-100 students attend the NCSC each year.

The NCSC is sponsored by the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) and is organized by a committee of SSSA members that include previous and future hosts of the NCSC. The committee maintains the official rules for the NCSC and makes any necessary changes during an annual meeting. The NCSC host rotates among the seven regions and among teams within the respective regions. In 2014, the NCSC hosted by Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, PA served as qualifying contest for the team representing the U.S. at the inaugural International Soil Judging Contest in JeJu, South Korea.