

WSSA Graduate Student Organization Annual Report

Jan/21st/2024

2023/2024 Officers:

Pamela Carvalho-Moore – President

Isabel S. Werle – Vice-President

Navdeep Godara – Secretary

Annu Kumari – Social Chair

2024/2025 Officers:

Isabel S. Werle – President

Navdeep Godara - Vice-President

Vipin Kumar - Secretary

Ryan Hamberg - Social Chair

1) Social Media:

- Throughout the past year, we have posted 48 spotlights on Facebook, X, and Instagram. This includes monthly spotlights featuring one student and one alumni, updates on CASTAg Science webinars, information on awards deadlines, announcements of award winners, spotlights on science policy fellows, weed contest information, coverage of the CWSS/WSSA mentorship event and thank you posts, updates on the TopGolf event, information on the 2024 GSO meeting panelists, highlights of graduate student events at WSSA/SWSS meetings, and updates on GSO officers' nominations and voting.
- Currently, Facebook – 462 followers and 393 likes, X – 1570 followers, and Instagram – 563 followers

2) WSSA GSO Newsletter

- WSSA GSO Newsletter: 11 monthly issues (March 2023 to January 2024)

WSSA GSO Student Spotlight for Newsletter: (2-NCWSS, 4-SWSS, 5-WSWS)

- March: Kyle Russell (Texas Tech University) - SWSS
- April: Domilola Alex Raiyemo (University of Illinois) - NCWSS

- May: Srishti Gupta (Colorado State University) - WSWs
- June: Sarah Chu (Texas A&M) - SWSS
- July: Alex Lopez (University of Illinois) -NCWSS
- August: Nicholas Shay (University of Georgia) - SWSS
- September: Jack Montgomery (Colorado State University) -WSWS
- October: Matthew Fatino (University of California, Davis) -WSWS
- November: Jake Patterson (Mississippi State University) - SWSS
- December: Het Desai (Montana State University) - WSWs
- January: All regional and national officers
- February: Deniz Inci (University of California, Davis) - WSWs

WSSA Alumni Spotlight for Newsletter: (3-NCWSS, 1-NEWSS, 3-SWSS, 2-WSWS, WSSA-2)

- March: Mayank Malik (Bayer Crop Science, St. Louis, MO) - NCWSS
- April: Sarah Lancaster (Kansas State University) - NCWSS
- May: Nick Basinger (University of Georgia) - SWSS
- June: Lee Van Wychen (WSSA Executive Director Science Policy) - WSSA
- July: Matthew Wiggins (Midsouth Regional Business Manager, FMC) - SWSS
- August: Matthew Elmore (Rutgers University) - NEWSS
- September: Dawn Refsell (Central US Field Science Leader, Corteva Agriscience) - NCWSS
- October: John Buol (North America Technical Manager for Selective Herbicides, Bayer Crop Science)
- November: John Brewer (Syngenta, Vero Beach, FL) - SWSS
- December: Todd Gaines (Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO) - WSWs
- January: No alumni spotlight
- February: Ian Burke (Washington State University) - WSWs

3) Mentorship event – Partnership with CWSS GSO

- The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) Graduate Student Organizations hosted the virtual mentorship event “A Talk with Professionals from Academia and Industry” on November 7h, 2023. The panel consisted of professionals from academic and industrial sectors, including Hannah Wright-Smith from the University of Arkansas, Lauren Lazaro from Blue River Technology, Lucas Bobadilla from Corteva Agriscience, Mirella Ortiz from the Utah State University, and Rodrigo Werle from the University of Wisconsin. The objective of this event was to offer guidance to students regarding graduate school challenges and career plans. A total of 40 students attended the event, and the session recording was shared with all WSSA and CWSS students. This was the second edition of the mentorship event, and students have provided positive feedback encouraging the WSSA and CWSS GSO teams to continue hosting this event in the upcoming years.

4) Graduate Student Luncheon

- The WSSA/SWSS Graduate Student Organizations will host their annual student business meeting and student luncheon on Monday, January 22nd from 11-1 PM. The SWSS officer elections will take place during this time. The announcement of the elected WSSA officers will also occur.
- During our business meeting, the luncheon will focus on the “Perspectives of a Hiring Manager”.
- Initially, our panelists include Aman Chandi (FMC-Philadelphia, PA), Krishna N. Reddy (USDA-ARS-Stoneville, MS), Lindsay Roe (EPA-Washington, DC), and Scott Senseman (Oklahoma State University-Stillwater, OK). Due to uncontrollable circumstances, Aman Chandi will not be able to attend the WSSA meeting, and Eric Castner will be one of the panelists instead.
- On behalf of both organizations, we want to thank each of our panelists for accepting this invitation, as well as Dr. Lee Van Wychen and Eric Gustafson for their support in organizing it!

5) SST

- The rubric is really good, but a few students ask for the format to be looked at. It is hard to fit everything asked in 3 minutes (material & methods, statistics, and results). Since this is already a hybrid format from the 3-MT Queensland, we suggest to modify to a 5 minute presentation talk.

6) Changes MOP

- Internet voting to include all student members

210 students registered, but 159 students are attending the student luncheon.