

Tanner King – Secretary

Tanner King is currently a PhD Student at Mississippi State University working under the direction of Dr. Jason Bond, and he completed his MS degree in Weed Science at the University of Arkansas under the advisement of Dr. Jason Norsworthy. Tanner's PhD research focuses on identifying effective herbicide options for control of Virginia pepperweed, an increasingly problematic weed in the Midsouth. Considering little information exists about Virginia pepperweed, Tanner's work also aims to characterize the weeds growth habits and evaluate how various environmental factors affect its germination



in field and controlled environments. Tanner has been highly involved in his academic departments, holding leadership positions within GSO's at the University of Arkansas and Mississippi State University. He has been an active member of WSSA and SWSS for the last 3 years, serving as Secretary, Vice-president, and soon, President of the SWSS GSO. These opportunities have sharpened his ability to communicate effectively, manage time wisely, and be a team player, which he believes can help benefit WSSA and its students experiences. Tanner is eager to be of service to WSSA as secretary of the GSO and wants to use his passion for agriculture and community to contribute towards the mission of WSSA GSO.

Akashdeep Singh Brar – Secretary

I am a Ph.D. student in Weed Science at Virginia Tech's Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Painter, Virginia, where I joined the program in 2023 under the guidance of Dr. Vijay Singh. I earned my Master's degree in Agronomy from Punjab Agricultural University, India. My research focuses on developing integrated weed management strategies for specialty crops such as edamame and major row crops including corn and soybean, with emphasis on cover crop-based weed suppression, herbicide evaluation, and the use of precision agriculture tools such as spray drones and ground-based sprayers.



I believe I am well suited for the role of Secretary because of my commitment to service and demonstrated leadership in student organizations and outreach. I served as the Representative for our research center to the Graduate Organization for the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences (GOSPES) at Virginia Tech, where I helped coordinate meetings, communicate between students and faculty, and assist with organizing graduate student events. I have also been actively involved in K-12 outreach and extension activities, including field tours and educational demonstrations on weeds and precision agriculture.

As WSSA GSO Secretary, I would be eager to support effective communication by maintaining accurate records, preparing and sharing meeting minutes, assisting with the monthly newsletter, and helping strengthen engagement among graduate student members. I would be honored to serve in this role and contribute to the WSSA graduate student community.

Gabriel Gava – Secretary

My name is Gabriel Gava, and I am a 26-year-old Brazilian in the second semester of my master's in weed science, focusing on herbicide resistance in Palmer amaranth at Clemson University, under the supervision of Dr. Fernando Oreja. Previously, I graduated in agronomy from the University of São Paulo and completed a one-year internship at Texas A&M under the supervision of Dr. Muthu Bagavathiannan, where I was able to gain practical experience in a wide range of sub-areas of weed science.



During my time at A&M, I was also able to interact with a large number of students involved in associations such as the WSSA and through them I was able to understand not only the activities carried out by these organizations but also their importance for the scientific community as a whole, which sparked my interest in becoming involved in it when I became a graduate student.

I believe that early involvement in the organization as a graduate student through the GSO is extremely important, as it allows for networking and the acquisition of skills that will be invaluable for future moments in academic and professional life.

The position of secretary is of particular importance for producing the monthly newsletter, identifying individuals related to weed science who deserve recognition and publicizing important events, funding opportunities and deadlines of the organization.

Through my communication, organizational, and teamwork skills, I believe I can perform these activities with excellence, contributing immensely to WSSA GSO maintaining its status and respectability.

Andrea Sagiorato – Secretary

My name is Andrea Sagiorato and I'm a master's student at Texas Tech University, where my research focuses on evaluating low-input herbicide programs for Palmer amaranth control in cotton. While this will be my first year attending the WSSA Annual Meeting, I am eager to contribute to the organization's mission of promoting research, education and extension, as well as foster awareness of weeds and their impacts on agriculture. I am committed to becoming an active member and would love serving my fellow graduate students. My strengths align well with the responsibilities of secretary. I have been regarded as highly organized and responsible. During my undergrad in Brazil, I gained valuable experience coordinating events with my colleagues, which taught me the importance of communication and teamwork. I would be honored to serve as secretary and contribute to the success of our organization during the 2026-2027 cycle.

