



WSSA Committee Report

COMMITTEE: Graduate Student

Date: 02/04/2026

Organization

BOARD LIAISON: Navdeep Godara

Include in Consent Agenda: Yes (no discussion needed, just informational update)

No (items in report require discussion or action)

Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation		Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
Chair: Navdeep Godara	2026	NEWSS				
Gustavo Camargo Silva	2027	SWSS				
Ryan Hamberg	2026	SWSS				
Ankit Yadav	2026	NCWSS				

Reviewed MOP for updates: YES NO

Comments re: MOP: NA

Committee Actions/Impacts/Activities:

Student Events at 2026 Annual Meeting

1). Drive Shack Student Networking Event on February 8 from 6 to 10 PM

The program will provide students with an opportunity to learn from industry professionals, expand their professional networks, and enjoy a round of golf in the bays. Dinner and transportation will be provided. 98 students are registered for the event.

2). Graduate Student Luncheon Event and Business Meeting on February 10 from 12 to 1:30 PM

Panel discussion on "Careers for Weed Science Graduate Students in Emerging Ag-Tech and Startups". Panelists are Dr. Nathan Boyd (University of Florida), Dr. Michael Carlson (Ecorobotix), Dr. Joe Wuerffel (Syngenta), and Dr. Hudson Takano (Corteva). This panel features speakers from academia, industry, and startup companies who are leading innovations in ag-tech, including herbicide discovery, machine vision sprayers, and other emerging technologies. Panelists will discuss career pathways, key skill sets for these roles, and opportunities for weed science graduate students interested in careers beyond traditional roles. Students will also have opportunity to interact with panelists and participate in the discussion. The GSO will announce new officers during the business meeting after panel discussion.

3). Scientific Writing Workshop on Feb 11 from 3:30 to 5 PM

A writing workshop for graduate students. The workshop will cover tips on writing a thesis or dissertation, common writing and formatting mistakes, and importance of publishing in WSSA journals.

WSSA GSO Participation in Other Committees

WSSA GSO assisted the Professional Development and Membership Committee to prepare a list of potential hosts for the WSSA Travel Enrichment Experience Award. We contacted potential academia and industry hosts across the US and Canada and confirmed whether they would be willing to be in the TEE host list for 2025. WSSA GSO officers actively participate in Public

Awareness Committee to provide feedback on press releases.

Webinars Organized by GSO

1). *“Effective Extension Communication & Writing in Weed Science”* (October 7, 1–2 p.m. EST) was presented by Dr. Stanley Culpepper. The session covered key aspects of extension work, including the connection between extension and impactful research, translating research into actionable extension materials, and effectively engaging diverse audiences such as farmers, regulators, policymakers, and industry. The webinar drew 27 attendees and generated an excellent discussion on extension.

2). *“More Than an Author: How to Handle Peer Review”* (October 30, 12 to 1 PM EST), was presented by Dr. Sarah Ward. The session covered the WSSA journal pipeline from manuscript submission to final publication, including guidance on how to become an effective reviewer and how to respond to reviewer comments during the publication process. 15 members attended the webinar, and group had a good discussion on peer review process.

GSO Monthly Newsletters

11 monthly newsletters highlighting one graduate student member of WSSA and one WSSA GSO alumnus each month along with other student event related updates. The students featured in these newsletters are carefully selected or nominated to represent all weed science regions across the US.

Region	No. Students Featured
North Central	3
Northeastern	2
Western	2
Southern	3

The alumni featured are employed by a diverse mix of organizations, including industry, government, and academia from different regions.

Month	Organization
March	University of Georgia
April	Bayer
May	RWC INC / Ferrosafe
June	FMC
July	Oregon State University
August	UPL
September	Valent
October	Nebraska On-Farm Network
November	Rutgers University
December	Corteva Agriscience

These spotlights through newsletters and social media play an important role in showcasing the breadth and diversity of professionals within our society. This visibility helps keep our society present in the minds of the broader agricultural research community. Spotlighting alumni also provides our student members with valuable insight into potential career paths available to weed science graduates. Our monthly newsletter serves as a central communication channel for our society, ensuring graduate students remain informed about key deadlines, scholarships (WSSA Science Policy Fellowship, Travel Enrichment Experience Award, Travel Award), social events, and professional opportunities.

GSO Social Media Impact Report

1. Cumulative Impact (All Platforms)

- Total Followers: 3,864 (Increased by 16.0% from 3,330)
- Total Views/Impressions: 101,153*

*Note: Aggregate figure includes varying timeframes available per platform (90 days, 180 days, or full tenure).

2. Platform Specific Metrics

2.1 Instagram

- Followers: 773 (19.1% increase from 649)
- Content: 235 total posts (19.9% cumulative increase; 39 new posts)
- Engagement: 15,078 views (Last 90 days)

2.2 LinkedIn

- Followers: 852 (68.7% increase from 505)

Growth Metric: Follower count up by 79.8% compared with the prior 283 days

- Connections: 651 (78.4% increase from 365)
- Reach & Impressions: 59,032 impressions; 11,086 accounts reached
- Demographics: 65% of audience derived from research service, higher education, farming, agriculture, and biotechnology backgrounds
- Content: 36 posts

2.3 Facebook

- Followers: 551 (6.0% increase from 520)
- Engagement: 5,800 views (Past 180 days); 286 engagements

2.4 X (formerly Twitter)

- Followers: 1,688 (1.9% increase from 1,656)
- Engagement: 21,243 views; 466 likes; 104 reposts
- Content: 53 posts

Committee Meeting Schedule*: (Include all planned meeting dates and times):

Committee meets virtually every other month to discuss and plan student-related events

Budget needs:

NA

Areas for improvement/concerns:

The WSSA GSO Board has only three officer positions each year, but we typically receive nominations from more than 10 individuals. Increasing student participation in other WSSA committees would be helpful. Hosting few professional development webinars for students through WSSA Professional Development and Membership Committee would be beneficial to graduate students.

Opportunities for future (symposia, speakers, communication, general):

*This will be visible to all members for engagement.