

# WSSA Graduate Student Organization Annual Report

2/23/2025

## **2024/2025 Officers:**

Isabel Schlegel Werle – President

Navdeep Godara – Vice President

Vipin Kumar – Secretary

Ryan Hamberg – Social Media Chair

## **2025/2026 Officers:**

Navdeep Godara – President

Gustavo Camargo Silva – Vice President

Ryan Hamberg – Secretary

Ankit Yadav – Social Media Chair

## **General Updates:**

### **1) Social Media:**

- Throughout the past year, we have posted 45 spotlights on Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and Instagram. This includes monthly spotlights featuring students and alumni, updates on workshops, information on awards deadlines, announcements of award winners, weed contest information, etc.
- Currently, Facebook – 517 followers and 431 likes, X – 1660 followers, Instagram – 648 followers, LinkedIn (launched in 2024) – 361 connections

### **2) WSSA GSO Newsletters**

WSSA GSO Newsletter: 11 monthly issues (February 2024 to January 2025)

## **Graduate Student of the Month**

- February: Deniz Inci - University of California
- March: Daewon Koo - Virginia Tech
- April: Ankit Yadav - Auburn University
- May: Emmanuel Cooper - Purdue University

- June: Cristiana Rankrape - Southern Illinois University
- July: Luisa Baccin - Oregon State University
- August: Devanshi Desai - Montana State University
- October: Gagandeep Kaur - Clemson University
- November: Megan Leigh Schill - Texas A&M University
- December: Vikas C Tyagi - Texas A&M University
- January: Sai Suvidh Maddela - University of Nebraska-Lincoln

### WSSA Alumni Spotlight

- February: Rui Liu - Washington State University
- March: Milos Zaric - University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- April: Garret Montgomery - Bayer Crop Science
- May: Eugene Law - Ohio State University
- June: Katelyn Venner - BASF
- July: Liberty Galvin - Oklahoma State University
- August: Samuel Noe - Valent USA
- October: Marty Schraer - Syngenta
- November: Katilyn Price - Bayer Crop Science
- December: Eric Jones - South Dakota University
- January: Jose Nunes – Syngenta

### **3) WSSA GSO Student Workshop:**

- The WSSA GSO hosted a two-session workshop led by Dr. Andrew Kniss for graduate students in weed science focused on reproducible data analysis and visualization using R. The sessions took place on October 22 and October 29, 2024.
- More than 100 students registered for the workshop, and approximately 60 students attended. Recordings of the sessions were made available to all registrants.

### **WSSA/CWSS GSO Events at the WSSA/CWSS Joint Annual Meeting:**

#### **Sunday, February 23 - Student Bowling Night**

- We will have 50 students attending this event. Food and beverages will be provided.
- Special thanks to Eric for helping organize it!

#### **Monday, February 24 - Graduate Student Luncheon**

- The WSSA/SWSS Graduate Student Organizations will host their annual student business meeting and luncheon on Monday from noon to 1 PM.

- During the business meeting, the luncheon will feature a discussion on “*Stand Out in the Crowd: Job Search and Interview Strategies*”. Panelists for this discussion will include:

- Tasha Valente - BASF
- Crystal Sparks - Enko Chem
- Victor Ribeiro - Oregon State University
- Jacob Montgomery - University of Chicago

### **Tuesday, February 25 - Student Workshop**

- A special student workshop from 4:45 to 6:15 PM on “*Protein Modeling of Herbicide Resistance: From Mutation to Resistance*” led by Crystal Sparks (Enko Chem) and Jacob Montgomery (University of Chicago).

*Monday (10am-noon), Tuesday (6pm-7:30pm), and Wednesday (7am-9am) – Professional headshots by Dr. Joe Omielan*

### **Suggestions from Students and GSO Officers to the Board:**

#### **1. SST**

- The rubric is good, but some students have requested a review of the format. Presenting all the required material—methods, statistics, and results—within just 3 minutes is quite challenging. Since this is already a hybrid format based on the 3-Minute Thesis (3-MT) from Queensland, we suggest extending the presentation time to 5 minutes.
- Additionally, more information is needed regarding the competition format. Several new students have reached out with questions about the rules, including:
  - Does the presentation require a title slide?
  - Are slide animations allowed?
  - Will a microphone and laser pointer be provided?

#### **2. The Social Media Chair has requested Canva membership to make flyers.**