

## 2020 GSWG Annual Report

We illustrate in the following report the activities the Graduate Student Working Group performed since the January 2019 report:

Current officers include: Chandler Levinson from University of Georgia serving as Chair, Zara York from Washington State University serving as the Vice Chair, and Brittney Brewer-Jones from Montana State University serving as the Secretary.

As we prepare this report, we are transitioning leadership to Zara York (2020-2021 Chair) and Brittney Brewer-Jones (2020-2021 Vice Chair). The secretary position is currently vacant; however, we intend to recruit a candidate for the Secretary position before, during or after the 2020 Annual Meeting. The Chair and Vice Chair will manage the Secretary responsibilities should the position remain vacant.

The GSWG officers recruited subcommittee liaisons for committees deemed most crucial for the GSWG to have constant contact with, and these roles and individuals are:

- Executive: Chandler Levinson
- Planning: Anju Biswas (University of Florida) and Martin Costa (Texas A&M University)

The GSWG created a new subcommittee during 2019-2020 to provide a liaison for the Diversity Enhancement Award. This individual, Jodi Callwood (Delaware State University), was responsible for soliciting feedback from the 2019 mentors and mentees, discussing improvements with the executive committee, and working to enhance the experience for the 2020 annual meeting.

### Accomplishments

- Recruited subcommittee liaisons
- Engaged with students via social media platforms to share meeting and webinar announcements and information on relevant events and opportunities for plant breeding graduate students
- Conducted a [survey](#) reviewing the experience of graduate students at the 2019 NAPB conference
- Hosted a professional development webinar series, in which participant numbers ranged from 25 to 60. We received a lot of positive feedback and plan to continue these webinars next year.
  - Completed Webinars:
    - January 23rd - Don't Fear the Figure: Illustrating your Research to Catch Their Attention - Speaker: Carmen Kraus
    - February 27th - Interviewing 101 - Speakers: Kevin McPhee (Montana State University) and Rebekah Kellinger (Bayer)
    - March 26th - Negotiation in the Workplace- Speakers: Jeff Levinson (Texthelp Inc.) and Uriah Hansen (Corteva)
    - April 2nd - Using Video For Science Communication- Speaker: Kevin Falk (Corteva)
    - April 23rd - Beyond the Bench: 10 Science Communication Tips for Early Career Scientists - Speaker: Sarah Evanega (Cornell University)
    - May 14th - Diversity Statements - Speaker: Chelsea D. Specht (Cornell University)
- 3MT - Hosted the first NAPB-GSWG Three Minute Thesis<sup>®</sup> Competition as a way to improve member engagement. We received very good feedback and recruited new members that joined NAPB due to the membership requirement for the competition. We plan to host another research competition next year.

- 12 Participants (14 originally registered; 1 incomplete, 1 withdrew)

Name	University	Ph.D. // M.Sc.
Anju Biswas	University of Florida	Ph.D.
Austin Dobbels	University of Minnesota	Ph.D.
Karansher Sandhu	Washington State University	Ph.D.
Binita Subedi	Tuskegee University	M.S.
Swati Shrestha	University of Florida	Ph.D.
Jennifer Lin	McGill University	M.S.
Travis Parker	University of California, Davis	Ph.D.
Vishnutej Ellur	Washington State University	Ph.D.
Raegan Wiggins	The University of Georgia	M.S.
Emma Jobson	Montana State University	Ph.D.
Hallie Wright	University of Georgia	Ph.D.
Priyanka Gade	Texas A&M University	Ph.D.

- Judges:

Name	Institution	Position
Fernando Lopez-Anido	Universidad Nacional Rosario	Faculty member in genetics
Soon Li Teh	Washington State University	Post-doctoral researcher; Pear rootstock breeder
David Mackill	University of California, Davis	Plant Sciences Department Senior Director
Mike Giroux	Montana State University	Professor of Genetics, Department Head

- We had 2 other judges in industry positions that unfortunately withdrew due to time conflicts

- Winners:

- 1st Place: **Swati Shrestha**
- 2nd Place: **Hallie Wright**
- 3rd Place: **Austin Dobbels**
- People's Choice: **Raegan Wiggins**
  - Form for the audience to vote: 24 responses

- Worked with Diversity Enhancement Award Program with a focus on improving the experience for both mentors and mentees. We are:
  - Organizing an informal event at the virtual conferences for the mentors and awardees to network
  - Recruiting mentors for both undergraduate and graduate students by soliciting mentors from the Early Career Working Group, Commercial Plant Breeding committee, Education Committee, and our own listserv of graduate students
  - Developing a questionnaire for awardees to better pair them with mentors
  - Crafting clear mentorship guidelines that outlines the expectations of their role
  - Developing the opportunity for awardees to have a video recording of their testimonial that can be shared

### 2020-2021 Goals:

- Host a series of invited guest speakers at intermittent webinars to provide a platform for graduate students to ask the invited guests both formal and informal questions related to their career path and current position
- Host second annual research competition
- Graduate student highlight
  - Photo series with a paragraph or two highlighting how the student got into plant breeding/why their research matters/what their career goals are/what their normal day at work is like/etc.
  - Published on social media platforms
- Graduate student survey for the 2020 Annual Meeting
- Incorporate NAPB graduate student feedback on:
  - Graduate student activities at the 2021 NAPB annual conference
  - Activities throughout the year such as webinars and virtual socials
- Structured monthly bulletin for graduate students with updates, opportunities, and student engagement