

## **NAPB Graduate Student Working Group: Annual Report 2021**

Current Graduate Student Working Group (GSWG) officers: Zara York from Washington State University as Chair, Brittney Jones from Montana State University as Vice-Chair, Lance Merrick from Washington State University as Secretary, and Chandler Levinson as Past-Chair.

Leadership is transitioning after the 2021 Annual Meeting to Lance Merrick as incoming Chair (2021-2022) and Zara York will serve as Past-Chair. Elections for Vice-Chair and Secretary will be held after the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The GSWG officers recruited a subcommittee leadership team that maintained previous positions for a Diversity Award Liaison and two Planning Committee Liaisons. The 2020-2021 GSWG Leadership Team was expanded to include positions: Social Media Representative, Graduate Student Outreach, Graduate Student Highlight Coordinators (x2), and African Plant Breeders Association Liaison and Outreach.

### NAPB GSWG Leadership Team

- Diversity Award Liaison: Juan M. Gonzalez (University of Florida)
- Planning Committee Liaisons:
  - Raegan Hoefler (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
  - Karl H. Kunze (Cornell University)
- Social Media Representative: Renan Souza (University of Georgia)
- Graduate Student Outreach: Hallie Wright (University of Georgia)
- Graduate Student Highlight Coordinators:
  - Natalie Kaiser (Michigan State University)
  - William Singer (Virginia Technical Institute)
- African Plant Breeders Association Liaison and Outreach: Mary Emeraghi (University of Abomey-Calavi)

### Accomplishments:

- Recruited and elected subcommittee liaisons
- Conducted a survey to provide graduate student feedback for the 2020 Annual Meeting and experience as a member during 2019-2020
- Social media engagement to share information regarding:
  - NAPB Annual Meeting 2021
  - Professional Development Webinar Series
  - Events through other NAPB committees

- Graduate student highlights for NAPB members that attended GSWG events
- Job and internship opportunities
- Professional Development Webinar Series
  - January 26<sup>th</sup> – Networking Event featuring Dr. Donn Cummings
  - February 16<sup>th</sup> – Developing a Professional Brand with Dr. Elzandi Oosthuizen (Bayer) and Dr. Julie Dawson (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
  - March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Setting and Achieving Your Goals with Julie Borlaug
- Diversity Enhancement Award
  - Gathered feedback from previous awardees for improving awardee experiences
  - Organized Mentor/Mentee Networking Event and Awardee Luncheon at the 2021 Annual Meeting
  - Solicited mentors
  - Held organizational meetings for advancing the Diversity Enhancement Award
  - Created outline for improving awardee experience and future directions and improvements
- Graduate Student Highlights
  - Selected two students per month during the spring semester
  - Students were randomly selected from GSWG event attendance
- Graduate Student Socials
  - Hosted two socials during the academic year
  - Provided fun networking opportunities for graduate students outside the annual meeting
- Graduate Student update bulletin
- Outline layout for GSWG section of new NAPB website
- Created NAPB Graduate Student LinkedIn group

#### 2020-2021 Goals:

- Host a series of invited guest speakers for professional development 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 graduate student research competition
- Monthly graduate student highlights
  - 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.

- Publish on social media platforms
- Graduate student survey for the 2021 Annual Meeting
- Incorporate NAPB graduate student feedback on:
  - Graduate student activities at the 2022 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