

2015 Student Competition Descriptions

For more details on a section or division award, please contact the [Community Leader](#) or [Section/Division Chair](#).

Any monetary awards will be issued by check and mailed after the Annual Meeting.

ASA Community – Applied Soybean Research

ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems

Oral Session: “Applied Soybean Research: I (includes graduate student oral competition)

The Applied Soybean Research community

(<https://www.agronomy.org/membership/communities/applied-soybean-research>) will sponsor a Graduate Student Oral Competition, which allows students to increase their visibility within the applied soybean research community and participate in professional interactions. All graduate students (MS and PhD) working in applied soybean research are encouraged to participate. Monetary awards will be given for first (\$300), second (\$200) and third place (\$100) winners in the each of the PhD and MS categories. Interested graduate students should submit abstracts online through the normal abstract submission process and mark that they wish to enter into the graduate student competition. Presenters will be judged by volunteers who are a part of the Applied Soybean Research community based on the quality of their presentation, interpretation and impact of research results, and ability to answer questions based on criteria developed by community leaders. The criteria can be requested from Dr. Nathan Mueller (nathan.mueller@unl.edu). The winners will be announced at the Applied Soybean Research Community business meeting, if possible, and via email to the community after the annual meeting.

ASA Community – Bioenergy Systems

ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems

Poster Session: The purpose of the Bioenergy Systems Graduate Student Poster Awards Program is to recognize outstanding scientific poster contributions presented by graduate students at the Annual Meetings. Posters submitted to the competition will be judged according to prescribed criteria developed by the Community Awards Committee. Judges are to be selected by the Community Awards Committee from the volunteers that were identified at the 2013 community business meeting. Judges will visit each eligible poster as they are presented, and score each poster. Scores will be summarized and discussed by the Committee to determine award recipients. Three awards will be presented, First Place award (\$250) and First Runner-Up (\$200) Second Runner-up (\$150), to the top three scores determined by the judges. The outstanding posters and authors will be recognized during the Community Business Meeting and/or via email to the Community after the annual meeting. A monetary award and a certificate will be presented to each one of the winners.

ASA Community – Organic Management Systems

ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems

The OMS poster contest recognizes graduate students who conduct creative and innovative research that furthers organic research applications. Posters are judged based on the quality of the research poster presentation, originality and importance, and interpretation of experimental results. First, second, and third placed students will be announced at the OMS business meeting.

ASA Community – Precision Agriculture Systems

ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems

The purpose of this competition is to promote the participation and activities of graduate students studying the development or use of digital soil sensing and mapping for precision agriculture or decision support models. Graduate students working on soil sensing and mapping technologies will submit abstracts online through the normal abstract submission process. As recognition of the outstanding work conducted by the students in this area, awards will be given for the poster competition for both Master's and Doctoral students. We will have first, second, and third place awards, for both masters and doctoral student groups for a total of six graduate student awards.

ASA Community – Sensor Based Nutrient Management

ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems

The Sensor Based Nutrient Management Community will sponsor a Graduate Student Oral Competition. Awards will be given for the oral competition, with cash prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100 given for first, second, and third place winners, respectively. Funds will be provided from the Program Enhancement Funds. The competition will be cosponsored by the Precision Agricultural Systems, and Adaptive Nutrient Management Communities, but will be open to all graduate students with appropriate topics. Interested graduate students will submit abstracts online through the normal abstract submission process. The competition will be announced on the ASA web site and through the community e-mail list. The Leaders of the communities will develop and head a judging team comprising a minimum total of five persons to judge the competitions. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and interpretation of the experimental results, based on criteria that are developed by the judging teams. If time permits, the winners will be announced at the community business meetings.

ASA Community – Evapotranspiration Measurement and Modeling

ASA Section: Climatology and Modeling

The Evapotranspiration Measurement and Modeling (EMM) Community will organize “Graduate Student Oral and Poster” competitions to recognize outstanding oral and poster presentations made by graduate students in the topical sessions of the Community. All oral presentations given by graduate students in the Community session “Evapotranspiration Measurement and Modeling: I” will be eligible for Oral Presentation Awards. All poster presentations given by graduate students in the Community session “Evapotranspiration Measurement and Modeling: II” will be eligible for Poster Presentation Awards. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and organization and interpretation of the experimental results. Abstracts must be submitted through the website <https://www.acsmeetings.org>, selecting either of the aforementioned Community sessions and noting that you wish to enter the paper in the graduate student competition. Judges are to be selected by the Community Leader and Vice Leader. Rankings will be according to the prescribed point system developed by the judges. Two monetary awards will be given: one each for “Best Graduate Student Paper” in the Oral and Poster categories. Award value will be decided based on the funding available to the EMM Community. Runners-up for each category will be given certificates of recognition. The graduate student awardees will be announced via email to the entire Community.

ASA Community – Globate Climate Change

ASA Section: Climatology and Modeling

The Global Climate Change (GCC) Community will organize a Graduate Student Competition to recognize professional achievement of young scientists and to foster competitive skills. Since only a portion of the slots in the topical session of the Community will be reserved for graduate student presentations, the best graduate student abstracts will be selected by the Community Leader and Vice Leader for the oral competition. The remaining graduate student abstracts will be accepted for the general topical poster session. Abstracts for posters can be submitted to the poster session directly. All oral and poster presentations given by graduate students in the Community session “General Global Climate Change” will be eligible for Presentation Awards. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and organization and interpretation of the experimental results. Abstracts must be submitted through the website <https://www.acsmeetings.org/>, and noting if they are to be considered for the graduate student competition. Judges and evaluation criteria will be selected by the Community Leader and Vice Leader. Awards will be presented during the GCC Community business meeting and notified to Community members. Three awards will be given: Oral competition: cash prizes of \$200 and \$100 for first and second place winners, respectively; Poster competition: cash prize of \$100 for the first place winner. Program enhancement funds will be used to support this joint community endeavor.

ASA Community – Soil-Plant-Water Relations

ASA Section: Climatology and Modeling

The Soil-Plant-Water Relations (SPWR) community will sponsor a Poster Graduate Student Competition (General SPWR) session. The purpose of this competition is to recognize professional achievement of young scientists. Abstracts must be submitted through the ASA Section: Climatology & Modeling website then 1) select Poster (General SPWR) session and 2) specify that the paper is to be entered into the Graduate Student Competition. Presentations will be judged by individuals appointed by the Community Leader and Vice-Leader. Evaluation criteria (equal weighting) will include rationale and objective, research methodology, interpretation of results, contribution to knowledge and clarity of presentation. Awards for best poster presentation will include \$100, a certificate and recognition on the Community webpage and announcement to the Community members.

ASA Community – Animal Agriculture & the Environment

ASA Section: Environmental Quality

The purpose of the Graduate Student Poster Awards Program of the Animal Agriculture & the Environment Community is to recognize outstanding scientific poster contributions presented by graduate students at the Annual Meetings. Posters submitted to the competition will be judged based on their overall appearance, organization, and scientific/educational merit. A minimum of two judges will be selected by the Community Leader and Vice-Leader. Judges will visit each eligible poster as they are presented, and score each poster. Scores will be summarized and discussed by the Community Awards Committee to determine award recipients. The top three scores will receive a monetary award of \$300, \$200, and \$100 for first, second, and third place, respectively. The outstanding posters and authors will be recognized during the Community Business Meeting and via e-mail to the Community after the annual meeting.

ASA Community – Biochar: Agronomic and Environmental Uses

ASA Section: Environmental Quality

Poster Session – *Agronomic, Environmental, and Industrial Uses of Biochar (Includes graduate student competition)*.

The Biochar: Agronomic and Environmental Uses community

(<https://www.agronomy.org/membership/communities/biochar-agronomic-and-environmental-uses>) will sponsor a Graduate Student Poster Competition. All graduate students working with biochar are encouraged to participate. Interested graduate students should submit abstracts online through the normal abstract submission process and mark that they wish to enter into the graduate student competition. Posters will be judged based on the quality of the poster presentation, originality and importance of the research, interpretation of experimental results, and how well the presenter communicates his or her findings to the judges. The top three posters will be announced at the community business meeting. Winners are expected to be present at the meeting to receive their monetary award and certificate.

ASA Community – Soil Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

ASA Section: Environmental Quality

Graduate Student Poster Competition 2014

Awards will be given for a poster competition event at the annual meeting, with cash prizes of \$250, \$200, and \$150 given for first, second, and third place winners, respectively. Funds will be provided from the “Program Enhancement Fund” of the community. To enroll in the competition, a graduate student will submit an abstract online through the normal abstract submission process to one of the eligible poster sessions designated by the community. Posters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and interpretation of the experimental results and visual appeal. The Past Community Leader will lead the judging team, composed of members of the community. Each poster will be judged independently by at least three judges.

ASA Community – Soil Health

ASA Section: Land Management & Conservation

This is a poster session to encourage students who are doing research in soil health and agroecosystems. Posters will be judged on clarity of work, effective communication of science, and research presented. We encourage you to submit your scientific posters to this session for competitive financial awards. Awards for student poster include First Place \$300 Second Place \$200 Third Place \$100.

Div. C-1 – Crop Breeding & Genetics

Div. C-1 sponsors a Graduate Student Poster Competition where judging is based on title, clarity, graphics, organization and content, and subject knowledge. Posters should be formatted according to instructions from meeting organizers and include Title, Authors, Introduction, Methods, Results, and Conclusions sections. A photocopy of the poster should also be available. Poster contest winners will be awarded \$500 for the first place winner, \$350 for second place, and \$150 for third place. The student author must be present to be eligible for competition. Eligible participants must have student status during the 2014-2015 academic years, and the poster must represent their student research. Winners will be announced immediately following the annual meeting, if not at the business meeting.

Div. C-2 – Crop Physiology and Metabolism

Div. C-4 – Seed Physiology, Production, and Technology

Graduate Student Oral Competition

Interested students should submit their abstract to either Oral or Poster. Only one submission per student is allowed, and submissions must be received by **June 16, 2015**. A maximum of 15 presentations will be selected for the oral competition, based on the quality of the submitted abstracts. The presentation not selected will be moved to poster session.

All abstracts must adhere to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA requirements available at <https://www.acsmeetings.org/poster-oral-papers>. Presentations will be judged on: 1) justification of the problem or rationale, 2) hypotheses and or objectives, 3) technical merit and experimental design, 4) attractiveness, design of layout, tables, and figures, 5) evaluation and interpretation of results, and 6) overall student knowledge, insight, and ability to answer questions on topic.

Detailed guidelines for the competition can be requested from Dr. Vara Prasad (vara@ksu.edu), Chair of Div. C-2 or Dr. Marc Cohn (mcohn@lsu.edu), Chair of Div. C-4. The top three students in the oral competitions will be recognized with a cash award of \$300, \$200, and \$100 for first, second, and third place.

All students participating in the oral competition session are expected to attend the C-2/C-4 Business Meeting.

These awards to the winning students will be presented during the Business Meeting.

Graduate Student Poster Competition

Interested students should submit their abstract to Poster or Oral. Only one submission per student is allowed, and submissions must be received by **June 16, 2015**. A maximum of 15 presentations will be selected for the poster competition, based on the quality of the submitted abstracts. The presentation not selected for competition will stay in general poster session.

All abstracts must adhere to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA requirements available at <https://www.acsmeetings.org/poster-oral-papers>. Presentations will be judged on: 1) justification of the problem or rationale, 2) hypotheses and or objectives, 3) technical merit and experimental design, 4) attractiveness, design of layout, tables, and figures, 5) evaluation and interpretation of results, and 6) overall student knowledge, insight, and ability to answer questions on topic.

Detailed guidelines for the competition can be requested from Dr. Vara Prasad (vara@ksu.edu), Chair of Div. C-2 or Dr. Marc Cohn (mcohn@lsu.edu), Chair of Div. C-4. The top three students in the poster competitions will be recognized with a cash award of \$300, \$200, and \$100 for first, second, and third place.

All students participating in the oral competition session are expected to attend the C-2/C-4 Business Meeting.

These awards to the winning students will be presented during the Business Meeting.

Div. C-3 – Crop Ecology, Management & Quality

The Graduate Student Poster Contest for Div. C-3 offers students opportunities to increase their visibility within the Society for particularly exemplary posters, and to receive expanded professional interaction plus formal feedback from judges on their posters. The guidelines for the competition can be requested from Dr. Scott Tubbs (tubbs@uga.edu) the 2015 coordinator of the C-3 Graduate Student Competition. A point system is used to judge the posters on content and clarity of the abstract/conclusions; balance in quantity and quality of information in the presentation of project results; engaging title and attractive layout with well-designed tables,

figures and photographs; and the interaction and mannerisms with poster viewers and judges. The top 3 students of the contest will be recognized with a cash award of \$300, \$200, and \$100 for first, second, and third place, respectively. These awards will be presented during the Div. C-3 Business Meeting by Div. C-3 representatives to honor their achievement.

Div. C-5 – Turfgrass Science

Div. C-5 sponsors awards in multiple categories. There are the Graduate Student Poster and Oral Competitions. These provide cash awards to the first place winner in each of several categories. While second and third place finishers may be acknowledged, awards are contingent on available funds. The judging is based on the quality of the science, clarity of presentation, and skill with which the presenters answer questions posed by the judges. The presentations are judged by volunteer judges who are members of Div. C-5. Categories include poster and oral in General Turf Management, Golf Course Management (sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America), Turf Breeding (sponsored by the Turfgrass Breeders Association), and Industry (sponsored by the Industry Committee). Awards are announced at the C-5 Business Meeting.

Div. C-6 – Forage & Grazinglands

The Robert F Barnes Graduate Education Awards recognize graduate students who make outstanding oral (Ph.D. students only) or poster presentations (MS students only) in Division C-6. Selection as an award recipient will be based on quality of the oral/poster presentation and the contribution of research to the Division's fields of study. Awards for oral presentations will be 1st \$500, 2nd \$250, and 3rd \$100 and for poster presentations: 1st \$500, 2nd \$250, and 3rd \$100. Awards are presented at the Forage Roundtable meeting. Complimentary tickets to the Forage Roundtable will be provided to all first author graduate student participants.

Div. C09 – Biomedical, Health-Beneficial & Nutritionally Enhanced Plants

In order to encourage student participation in our division, C-09 is sponsoring a student poster contest. Participants must be enrolled as a student at the time of the meeting, present a poster in the C-09 poster session and be present at the poster session to discuss their poster with the judges. The past division chair will chair the judging committee and this committee will rank the competitors based on scientific merit of their work, poster presentation and oral presentation to the judges. The top presenter will be awarded \$250, second place will be awarded \$100 and third place will be awarded \$50. Winners will be announced at the business meeting.

SSSA Division - Forest, Range and Wildland Soils

Division of Forest, Range, and Wildland Soils strives to make graduate students feel welcomed and included in our division. We value and recognize their work as scientists; therefore students will present their work during regularly scheduled oral and poster sessions, and will be eligible for best presentation awards in each session. In addition, all student posters and oral presentations will be eligible for informal prizes.

SSSA Division – Nutrient Management & Soil & Plant Analysis

SSSA Division – Soil Fertility & Plant Nutrition

These divisions will cosponsor Graduate Student Oral and Poster Competitions. Topics may include any aspect of Soil Fertility, Plant Nutrition, Nutrient Management, or Soil & Plant

Analysis. Division Chairs will group entries by degree level (MS vs PhD) or broad topic area to create sessions of reasonable size. The number of sessions will depend on number of entries. Cash prizes will be given, with an award of \$400 for first place in each session, and progressively smaller cash awards for lower places. The number of places awarded a cash prize and the dollar amount of those prizes will be determined by the Division Chairs based on the number of sessions and the total amount of prize money available. Companies conducting business in areas related to these divisions will donate the money used for cash prizes. The competition will be announced through the division email lists. Graduate students may enter either the poster competition or the oral competition, but not both. Interested graduate students will submit abstracts online to the Graduate Student Oral or Poster competition session through the normal abstract submission process. In order to be eligible for the competitions the student must have listed either Soil Fertility & Plant Nutrition or Nutrient Management & Soil & Plant Analysis as their division of primary interest in their membership. The Past Chairs of the divisions will develop and head a judging team or teams. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and interpretation of the experimental results. Winners will be announced either at the Division business meeting or at the Walsh Lectureship at the annual meetings.

SSSA Division – Pedology

The Pedology Division presents awards each year for outstanding graduate student oral and poster presentations, with cash prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 and certificates from the Soil Science Society of America given for first, second, and third place winners, respectively, in each category. All graduate students presenting papers in Pedology sessions are eligible for these awards. Presentations are judged on scientific content, style and clarity, data synthesis, and knowledge of topic. Winners are chosen by a committee made up of Pedology members and are announced initially through the Pedology group e-mail and formally through the CSA News.

SSSA Division– Soil Biology & Biochemistry

Each year, the Soil Biology and Biochemistry Division sponsors a Graduate Student Poster Competition. The awards are cash prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$200 given for first, second and third place winners. Posters are judged based on the quality of presentation, originality and importance, and interpretation of experimental results. Competition winners are announced at the Francis Clark Lecture.

SSSA Division – Soil Chemistry

The “Soil Chemistry Student Oral and Poster Presentation” Awards will be made to recognize outstanding oral and poster presentations by students in Soil Chemistry sessions at the SSSA annual meetings. Six monetary awards will be given that recognize first, second and third place presentations in both the oral and poster categories. To be included in this competition, abstracts must be submitted through the ACS website, selecting the Soil Chemistry Division as the preferred division and noting that you wish to enter the paper in the student competition. The presenting author for both oral and poster categories must be a student at the time of the annual meeting.

The Soil Chemistry Division Executive Committee will form a judging team of three to five judges from the Division membership. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, interpretation of the experimental results and the

contribution of research to the Division' fields of study, based on criteria developed by the judging team.

Winners will receive Certificates and monetary awards of \$200, \$150, and \$100 for first, second and third places, respectively in both categories. Outstanding presentations will be recognized during the Soil Chemistry Business meeting, if possible, and via email to the Division after the annual meeting. A short article about the awards recipients will be sent to CSA News and posted on soils.org.

The executive committee can elect to change the number and amount of the awards, or may defer the giving of awards if insufficient funds are available. The committee may also elect to utilize available funds from the "Program Enhancement Funds" of the Soil Chemistry Division.

SSSA Division – Soil Mineralogy

There are two separate Joe B. and Martha J. Dixon Soil Mineralogy Awards available each year for students. The first award is presented for the best oral or poster presentation by a student submitted to and presented in the Soil Mineralogy Division at the Annual Meetings.

These presentations are required to address some aspect of soil mineralogy. Papers submitted to any other Division than the Soil Mineralogy Division are not eligible for the Dixon Award. This award and check for \$500 are issued following the annual meetings. The second Dixon Award is a travel grant for \$500 to assist a student studying soil mineralogy in attending the Annual Meetings. To apply for this award, the student must be enrolled in a graduate program and studying some aspect of soil mineralogy. Preference for this award is also given to students from Latin America and South America to encourage the development of research collaborations between scientists from the United States and these areas. Dr. Dixon has worked extensively in these areas during his career and developed many collaborative research partnerships that continue to this day. This award and check for \$500 are issued following the annual meetings.

SSSA Division – Soil Physics and Hydrology

Soil Physics and Hydrology will hold its "Soil Physics and Hydrology Student Competition: Lightning Orals with Poster Presentations" comprised of 3-minute talks plus 2 minutes questions to be linked with the Student Poster Competition. Combined lightning oral and poster presentations will be evaluated by judges selected by the Soil Physics Division Executive Committee. Guidelines for high-quality posters can be found on the abstract submission website. Oral presentations are limited to *two slides only*. To be included in this competition, abstracts must be submitted through the ACS website, selecting Soil Physics Division as the preferred division and noting that you wish to enter the paper in the student competition. The lead author on the abstract and presenting author must be a graduate or undergraduate student at the time of the annual meeting. The top 3 students will be recognized with cash awards of \$300, \$200, and \$100 each. The awardees will be recognized during the Soil Physics Business meeting and via email to the Division, and in a short article to CSA News and posted on soils.org.

SSSA Division – Soil Physics and Hydrology: Robert Luxmoore Student Travel Award

The Robert Luxmoore Student Travel Award is designed to support travel of students to the Annual Meeting of the Soil Science Society of America. This award is supported by a generous bequest made by Robert Luxmoore to the Soil Physics Mentoring Fund, which has been established through the Agronomic Science Foundation and is administered by the Soil Science

Society of America. Two \$750 awards will be given to undergraduate or graduate students as travel support. Details on application procedures and deadlines can be found at:

<https://www.soils.org/membership/divisions/soil-physics-and-hydrology/robert-luxmoore-travel-award>.

SSSA Division – Soil & Environmental Quality Graduate Student Award

The Soils and Environmental Quality Division Graduate Student Award will be presented each year to a graduate student whose thesis research utilizes creative approaches to gain understanding and develop solutions for soil and environmental quality problems. The recipient's research must be in the area of soil and environmental quality. The \$500 award is designed to encourage attendance at the annual SSSA meetings and to assist with travel expenses. Funds will be provided from the “Program Enhancement Funds” of the Soils and Environmental Quality Division. The recipient will be recognized at the Division’s Business Meeting and is asked to attend if possible.

To apply, please provide: 1) a one-page summary of current thesis research including a description of the paper to be presented at the SSSA meetings, 2) a one-page CV, 3) a list of graduate courses completed and GPA from the current graduate institution, and 4) a reference letter from current major professor/advisor. Please combine all documents into a single pdf file and submit electronically.

Nominations are due Tuesday, June 30. Please send application packages by email to the current Division and award committee chair, Dr. Clinton Williams, clinton.williams@ars.usda.gov.

SSSA Division – Wetland Soils

Awards will be made to recognize outstanding oral and poster presentations by graduate students in Wetland Soils sessions. Six monetary awards will be given that recognize first, second and third place presentations in both the oral and poster categories. The winners will be recognized during the Wetland Soils Business Meeting. Poster and oral presentations will be evaluated based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and interpretation of the experimental results. Judges will be volunteers from the Wetland Soils membership. To be included in this competition, abstracts need to be submitted through the SSSA website, selecting Wetland Soils as the preferred division and noting that you wish to enter the paper in the graduate student competition. All graduate students working in Wetland Soils are encouraged to participate.

ACS528 - Diversity Student Poster Competition

One of the major objectives of the Graduate Student Poster Awards Program sponsored by the Diversity in Agronomy, Crops, Soils and Environmental Sciences Committee (ACS528) is to recognize outstanding ASA, CSSA, and SSSA posters presented at the 2014 Annual Meetings in Long Beach, CA by graduate students from under-represented groups. Poster abstracts must be submitted to the appropriate division within the Tri-Societies **AND** to the ACS528 Committee (Dedrick Davis (dedrick.davis@aamu.edu); Elica Moss (Elica.moss@aamu.edu); Mark Ibekwe (Mark.Ibekwe@ars.usda.gov) following the regular electronic submission procedures and deadlines. Acknowledgment of receipt from the Diversity Committee indicates successful abstract submission and inclusion in the Diversity Poster Competition. Submitted posters will be evaluated using the following criteria by a panel of judges selected by the ACS528 Committee: (1) originality and impact of study, (2) content and clarity of information, and (3) quality of

presentation. Winners will be recognized during the Gateway Scholars Orientation on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 8:30 AM (please refer to the program schedule for room/hall location). They will receive Certificates and monetary awards of \$300, \$250, and \$200 for first, second and third places, respectively. Completed posters must be received electronically by the ACS528 Committee **no later** than Thursday, October 30, 2015 for full consideration. For additional information, please contact Mark Ibekwe, (Chair, Diversity Committee)
Mark.Ibekwe@ars.usda.gov