

2017 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. John Orłowski

(john.orłowski@msstate.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 2016 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 – Crop Irrigation Strategies and Management Community

ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems

The Crop Irrigation Strategies and Management and Soil-Plant-Water Relations communities will jointly sponsor a Graduate Student Poster Competition to recognize the professional achievement of young scientists and to foster competitive skills. Interested graduate students must submit abstracts before the deadline and indicate their interest in the Graduate Student Competition. Presentations will be judged by individuals appointed by the Community Leaders and Vice-Leaders. Evaluation criteria will include rationale and objective, research methodology, interpretation of results, contribution to knowledge and clarity of presentation. Top three poster presentations will receive a cash award of \$300, \$200 and \$100 for first, second and third place. Contest participants are expected to attend business meeting of Climatology and Modeling section, where winners of all graduate student competitions conducted by communities within the section will receive monetary award and a certificate.

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 precision agriculture technologies or decision support models. Graduate students working on precision agriculture 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 – Semi-arid Dryland Cropping Systems

ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems

Poster Session and 5-Minute Rapid plus Poster: The Semi-arid Dryland Cropping Systems Community will organize a Graduate Student Poster competition to recognize outstanding poster presentations made by graduate students. All poster presentations given by graduate students in the Community “Poster” or “5-Minute Rapid plus Poster” sessions will be eligible for Poster Presentation Awards. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of their 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. Three 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 and certificates will be given for 1st and 2nd place. The graduate student awardees will be formally recognized and presented a certificate and monetary award during

either the business meeting (if possible) or via the business meeting minutes which are sent to all Community members.

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. 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 – Statistical Education/Training for Researchers

ASA Section: Biometry and Statistical Computing

Advances in computer information technology has given us the ability to generate large volumes of data. But these advances have also lead to social media that place a premium on short text bites and flashy graphics. The Statistical Education/Training for Researchers community is sponsoring a graduate student contest to encourage use the use of data visualization tools to communicate scientific ideas or results in a concise yet rigorous format, one that will capture both attention and imagination. Examples of appropriate data visualizations can be found at <http://flowingdata.com/2016/12/29/best-data-visualization-projects-of-2016/>

ASA Community – Airborne and Satellite Remote Sensing

ASA Section: Climatology and Modeling

Graduate Student Oral Competition: The Airborne and Satellite Remote Sensing Community will sponsor a Graduate Student Oral Competition to recognize outstanding scientific presentation made by graduate students in the topical sessions of the Community. All oral presentations made by graduate students in the Community session "**Airborne and Satellite Remote Sensing General Oral Session**" will be eligible for Oral Presentation Awards. Abstracts must be submitted through the ASA Section: Climatology and Modeling website, selecting oral in the Community session "Agricultural Remote Sensing Oral" and noting the paper is to be entered into the Graduate Student Competition. Presenters will be evaluated by individuals appointed by the Community Leader and Vice-Leader based on the quality of the presentation, originality, and importance of the research, interpretation of experimental results, and ability to answer questions based on criteria developed by community leaders. A monetary award and a certificate will be presented to the "Best Graduate Student Paper." The graduate student awardees will be announced via email to the entire Community.

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” will be eligible for Oral Presentation Awards. All poster presentations given by graduate students in the Community session “Evapotranspiration Measurement and Modeling: Poster Session” 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. The graduate student awardees will be announced via email to the entire Community.

ASA Community – Global Climate Change

ASA Section: Climatology and Modeling

The Global Climate Change (GCC) 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 made by graduate students in the Community session "**Global Climate Change: More Recent Observations and Adaptations (Oral)**" will be eligible for Oral Presentation Awards. All poster presentations made by graduate students in the Community session "**Global Climate Change and AgMIP Poster Session**" 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 GCC 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 – Soil-Plant-Water Relations

ASA Section: Climatology and Modeling

The Soil-Plant-Water Relations and Crop Irrigation Strategies and Management communities will jointly sponsor a Graduate Student Poster Competition to recognize the professional achievement of young scientists and to foster competitive skills. Interested graduate students must submit abstracts before the deadline and indicate their interest in the Graduate Student Competition. Presentations will be judged by individuals appointed by the Community Leaders

and Vice-Leaders. Evaluation criteria will include rationale and objective, research methodology, interpretation of results, contribution to knowledge and clarity of presentation. Top three poster presentations will receive a cash award of \$300, \$200 and \$100 for first, second and third place. Contest participants are expected to attend business meeting of Climatology and Modeling section, where winners of all graduate student competitions conducted by communities within the section will receive monetary award and a certificate.

ASA Community – Animal Agriculture and the Environment

ASA Section: Environmental Quality

The purpose of the Graduate Student Poster Awards Program of the Animal Agriculture and the Environment Community is to recognize outstanding poster contributions presented by graduate students at the Annual Meetings. Each Session Organizer will prepare a list of all Animal Agriculture and the Environment-affiliated graduate student posters to be judged. Judging will be according to prescribed criteria developed by the Community Awards Committee. Judges are to be selected by the Community Awards Committee. 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, one First-Place award and two Runner-Up awards, 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 – Biochar: Agronomic and Environmental Uses

ASA Section: Environmental Quality

Poster Session - *Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Production, Novel and Real World Uses of Biochars (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 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 – Managing Denitrification in Agronomic Systems

ASA Section: Environmental Quality

The Managing Denitrification in Agronomic Systems community (MDiAS; (<https://www.agronomy.org/membership/communities/managing-denitrification-in-agronomic-systems>)) invites current graduate students working on enhanced-denitrification technologies and water quality to participate in our Graduate Student Oral Competition. The purpose of our competition is to provide a forum for graduate students to present creative and scientifically sound research focused on MDiAS topics and to recognize scientific excellence and future potential. Awards will be given for first, second, and third place presentations. Interested

graduate students should submit abstracts online to the MDiAS oral session through the normal abstract submission process and mark that they wish to enter the graduate student competition. Presenters will be judged by volunteers who are a part of the MDiAS community based on the quality of their presentation, novelty, interpretation and impact of research results, and ability to answer questions.

ASA Community: Nutrients and Environmental Quality

ASA Section: Environmental Quality

The Nutrients and Environmental Quality (NEQ) Community will conduct one oral and one poster competition at the 2017 meetings. A student may participate in either the oral or the poster competition, but not both. Students who participate in sessions that have the NEQ Community designated as the first sponsor are eligible for the competition, but must register during abstract submission in order to be considered for the competition. Presentations in each category will be evaluated by volunteer members of the community. Cash prizes of \$300, \$200, and \$100 will be awarded to the first, second, and third place in each category. Additional honorable awards (\$50) may be awarded. Presentations will be judged based on originality and significance of the research, interpretation and presentation of results, the ability to address questions, and overall quality of presentation. Each presentation will be evaluated by a minimum of three judges. Final results will be summarized and discussed by the community leader, vice-leader, and volunteers. The awards will be announced at the end or immediately after the annual meeting.

ASA Community – Soil Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

ASA Section: Environmental Quality

Graduate Student Poster Competition 2017

Graduate students are welcome to submit a poster and compete for the awards in the Graduate Student Poster Competition organized by Soil Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Community. The poster will be judged by a group of three judges based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, interpretation of the results, and visual appeal. Awards will be given at the community business meeting 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. Students need to submit an abstract online through the normal abstract submission process to one of the eligible poster sessions designated by the community. The Past Community Leader will lead the judging team, composed of members of the community.

ASA Community – Soil Health

ASA Section: Land Management and 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 and 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 2016-2017 academic years, and the poster must represent their student research. Winners will be announced at the business meeting if possible, or immediately following the annual meeting.

Div. C-2 – Crop Physiology and Metabolism 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, 2017**. 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. Bingru Huang (huang@aesop.rutgers.edu, Chair of Div. C-2). 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 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, 2017**. 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. Bingru Huang (huang@aesop.rutgers.edu, Chair of Div. C-2). 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 Business Meeting.

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

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

The Graduate Student Poster Contest for Division C-3 (Crop Ecology, Management & Quality) at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting in Tampa, FL offers students opportunities to increase their visibility within the Society, to be honored by Division C-3 representatives for particularly exemplary posters, and to receive expanded professional interaction plus formal feedback from judges on their posters. The top 3 MS students and the top 3 PhD students in the contest will receive cash awards and be recognized during the Division C-3 Business Meeting.

Graduate students are required to formally enter the competition when submitting their abstract (initial submission due May 9 (early fee); final abstract submission deadline May 23). The student must be the lead author of the contest entry. Graduate student contestants do not need to be members of the Crop Science Society of America to participate, but at least one of the co-authors must be a CSSA member. Information presented in the Division C-3 Graduate Student Poster Contest is to be original and unique. If a topic has been used by the author in another presentation at previous scientific meetings, or in a prior publication, additional data must be included to constitute a unique presentation. All posters will be half size (44.5” x 44.5”).

NEW – Students in the PhD competition will also be required to present a 5-minute Rapid Talk to introduce the topic and present key points, and must register accordingly.

Abstracts are not required to be printed on the poster in order to save space for greater detail in other sections (they will be submitted separately and available to judges prior). Reference citations should be included where appropriate, especially to defend or refute results previously seen in literature (not necessary to create a full literature review in the Introduction section).

The following criteria and point allocation will be used by judges to evaluate the posters:

Poster Content	Points	Criteria
Abstract	20	An informative abstract that is concise, and calls attention to all relevant subject matter in the paper/presentation
Intro./Conclusions	15	Content, clarity, format, and grammar, significance/importance of research
Project Development	15	Rationale, objectives, organization, methods, and application to crop management and ecology
Project Results	15	Balance in quantity and quality of information presented in support of the study’s objectives, capability for rapid viewer absorption of essential results, and accompanying grammar and style
Appearance	15	Engaging title, attractive layout, legible font size for all text, well-designed tables and figures, clear and relevant photographs, and logical progression
Physical Presence and Oration	20	Interaction and mannerisms with poster viewers and judges including volume, confidence, enthusiasm, enunciation, and response to questions
5-Minute Rapid Oral (Ph.D. only)	20	Oral presentation to introduce topic and highlight key points

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 four poster and four oral competitions in General Turf Ecology, Golf Course Management (sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America), Turf Breeding (sponsored by the Turfgrass Breeders Association), and Applied Turf/Pest Management (sponsored by the Industry Committee). Awards are announced at the C-5 Business Meeting.

Div. C-6 – Forage and 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. C-7 – Genomics, Molecular Genetics, and Biotechnology 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 1, 2017**. A maximum of 15 presentations will be selected for the oral competition, based on the quality of the submitted abstracts. The presentations 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 Rajeev Varshney (R.K.Varshney@CGIAR.ORG), Chair of Div. C-7. 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-7 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 1, 2017**. 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 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 Rajeev Varshney (R.K.Varshney@CGIAR.ORG), Chair of Div. C-7. 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. C09 – Biomedical, Health-Beneficial and Nutritionally Enhanced Plants

To encourage student participation and provide students with opportunities to develop presentation skills, C-09 is sponsoring a student poster/rapid oral presentation contest. Participants must be enrolled as a student at the time of a meeting, present a poster in the C-09 poster session, and present a rapid oral presentation about their poster in the C-09 session. The past division chair will coordinate the judging committee, and this committee will rank the competitors based on the poster presentation (25%), the oral presentation (25%), scientific merit of their work (25%), and their oral presentation of the poster to judges in the poster session (25%). 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

Forest, Range, and Wildland Soils strives to make graduate students feel welcomed and included in our division. We value and recognize their work as peers and encourage them to present their work during regularly scheduled sessions where they can compete for best presentation awards along with the rest of the community. In addition, several students each year will be recognized with the Robert J. Luxmoore Graduate Student Travel Award to help defray the expenses of attending the meeting to present their research. Applications are due each year on August 1 and will be made available through the division email distribution list.

SSSA Division – Nutrient Management and Soil and Plant Analysis

SSSA Division – Soil Fertility and 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 and 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 and Plant Nutrition or Nutrient Management and Soil and 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 and Water Management and Conservation

Graduate Student competition: BEST Oral presentation.

Awards will be given for an oral competition event at the annual meeting, with cash prizes of \$200, \$150, and \$100 given for first, second, and third place winners, respectively. Funds will be provided from the 'Program Enhancement Fund' of the division. To enroll in the competition, a graduate student will submit an abstract online through the normal abstract submission process to a topic sessions designated by the division. Presentations will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and interpretation of the experimental results.

Graduate Student competition: BEST Poster presentation

Awards will be given for a poster competition event at the annual meeting, with cash prizes of \$200, \$150, and \$100 given for first, second, and third place winners, respectively. To enroll in the competition, a graduate student will submit an abstract online through the normal abstract submission process to one of the eligible topic sessions designated by the division. Posters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and interpretation of the experimental results.

Winners will be announced during Soil and Water management and Conservation Division business meeting.

2017 SAWMAC Graduate Student Award

The SWMC Graduate Student Award is presented each year to a graduate student whose thesis research and graduate responsibilities utilize creative approaches to gain understanding and develop solutions for soil and water conservation and management problems. The recipient's research must be in soil and water management and conservation. The \$350 award is designed to assist the student with travel expenses associated with attending the annual SSSA meeting. The recipient will be recognized at the Division Business Meeting.

To apply, please send: 1) one-page summary of current thesis research, 2) one-page CV, 3) transcript from current graduate institution, and 4) reference letter from current major professor/advisor.

Nomination or application packages are due to the Award Committee Chair **by May 31**. The requested materials should be sent to: Dr. Clark J. Gantzer (gantzer@mlssoerl.edu), 330 ABNR, School of Natural Resources,

University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211; Tel: 573-882- 0611; Fax: 573-884-5070

SSSA Division – Soil Biology and 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 1) the visual quality of the presentation as well as the presenter's oral summary and ability to answer questions, 2) originality and importance of the study, and 3) interpretation of experimental results and conclusions reached. 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.

For presentation awards, 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.

The Soil Chemistry Graduate Student Convener's Award will be given to a few students, based on the CV and short statement submitted before the conference. It will be judged based on the track record and potential in career development. The awardees will be conveners of general soil chemistry and 5-minute talk sessions.

Winners of the presentation awards will receive Certificates and monetary awards for first, second and third places, respectively in both categories. Winners of the convener's awards will receive certificates, monetary awards, and/or a donated book. Outstanding presentations and conveners 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 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 of 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* with no animations. To be included in this competition, abstracts must be submitted through the ACS website, selecting the Soil Physics and Hydrology Division as the preferred division and submitting to the session titled “Soil Physics and Hydrology Division Student Competition, Part 1 - Lightning Orals”. 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 receive cash awards and will be recognized during the Soil Physics and Hydrology Division business meeting, via email to the Division, and in a short article to CSA News.

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 – Soils and Environmental Quality Graduate Student Award

The “Graduate Student Oral and Poster Presentation” Awards will be made to recognize outstanding oral and poster presentations by students in Soils and Environmental Quality symposia and sessions at the SSSA annual meeting. Six monetary awards will be given to recognize the first-, second and third-place presentations in both oral and poster categories. To be included in this competition, the authors must submit abstract through the ACS website. The author should select Soils and Environmental Quality Division as the preferred division and enter the paper in the student competition. The presenting author must be a student at the time of the annual meeting.

The Division will form a judging team of three to five judges. Presenters will be judged based on

the quality of presentation, originality of the work, interpretation of the experimental results, and the research impacts to soil and environmental quality problems. Presentation winners will receive certificates and monetary awards of \$200, \$150, and \$100 for first, second and third places in either category. Outstanding presentations will be recognized during the business meeting (if possible), and via email to the division after the annual meeting.

The division can change the number and amount of the awards. Funds will be provided from the “Program Enhancement Funds” of the Soils and Environmental Quality Division.

SSSA Division – Urban and Anthropogenic Soils

The Urban and Anthropogenic Soils Division will hold a graduate student competition for both oral and poster presentations. Awards will be made to recognize outstanding oral and poster presentations by students in Urban and Anthropogenic Soil sessions at the SSSA annual meetings. Two monetary awards will be given that recognize first and second place presentations by graduate students. Students may submit abstracts into any of the general sessions or regular topic sessions hosted by the division. To be included in this competition, abstracts must be submitted through the society website, selecting the Urban and Anthropogenic Soils 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 Urban and Anthropogenic Soils Division Executive Committee will appoint a Graduate Competition Committee Chair each year who will form a judging team 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’s fields of study, based on criteria developed by the judging team.

Winners will receive certificates or other official recognition and monetary awards totaling \$300 and divided among first and second place winners as determined by the Graduate Competition Committee Chair. Outstanding presentations will be recognized during the Urban and Anthropogenic Soils Business meeting, if possible, and via email to the Division after the annual meeting.

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 Division.

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

This competition is open to all graduate students from under-represented groups. Poster abstracts must be submitted to the appropriate session within ASA, CSSA, or SSSA by their deadline **AND** to the ACS528 Committee contact person (Dedrick Davis (dedrick.davis@aamu.edu)), by **October 1, 2017**. Acknowledgment of receipt from the Diversity Committee indicates successful abstract submission and inclusion in the Diversity Poster Competition. Winners will be recognized during the Gateway Scholars Program on Tuesday, October 24, 2017. Winners 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 Tuesday, October 10, 2017 for full consideration. For additional information visit acsmeetings.org/graduates/diversity.