

Minutes and Information from the Feb. 8 Grad Student Roundtable

Updating your departmental Grad Student Profile

<https://plantsciences.tennessee.edu/faculty-and-staff/#GradStudents>

Jake Nelson will be sharing information and a how-to guide to updating your webpage information and photo

See *Kurt Tobin*, *Sam Purdom*, and *Derrick Stowell* profiles for examples

Opportunities

- Teaching Practicum (PLSC 569 and 669): consider these for transcript additions
- Extension publication contributions: work with PS Extension faculty to get co-authorship experience in creating Fact Sheets and Outreach materials; these are peer-reviewed and can be added to a CV or resume
- Outreach (via PS GSA): get involved with the university and regional community
- Research (grants and other funding sources)
 - Pre-planning now for Fall call for Student/Faculty Research Awards
 - \$5,000 to support research, travel, wages (can include UG student workers that can be advised by you and mentor)
 - Example from Spring 2021 (*sent out 3 Nov*)
 - <https://gradschool.utk.edu/faculty-staff/studentfaculty-research-awards/>
- 3MT (Herbert College)
 - there were only 3 video applicants this year (1 FWF, 2 AnSci) & all advanced to UTK
 - Consider this opportunity ahead of the next call. There have been cash awards for placing in the top 2 spots.
- *Plant Health Diagnostics* [of pests and diseases] EPP 508 (Field Crops-Jackson) &
 - *Plant Health Diagnostics* EPP 509 (Hort & Specialty Crops-Nashville)
 - These are a 1-week, hands-on diagnostic experience and will earn 3 credit hours, which can be used toward a MINOR degree in EPP

GSS Travel Awards

- <https://gss.utk.edu/student-travel-award/>
- Next deadline **March 29** (*for travel between April 21 & May 8*)
 - Summer deadline: TBA
- One time per semester (maximum \$500 [taxed]; priority to first-time applicants; needs support from by college/dept. *to NOT come through Financial Aid Office*)
- In-person travel assistance
- Virtual Conference registration
- **Publication Fees** funding (if first author), must be pre-paid to receive reimbursement
- **Professional Fees**

PS Grad student Poster Competition (April) – stay tuned for more details

Professional Development

- Graduate student awards/nominations (end of Feb)
- GSAIP
- ASHS and Tri-Societies student memberships
- Grad Speakers (2 PS) for Virtual Grad Student Seminar Exchange
 - Will include grad student speakers from Clemson, NCSU, and Auburn
 - 8 min presentation/2 minute Q&A
 - **March 29 1PM**

Thesis & Dissertation Deadlines

<https://gradschool.utk.edu/graduation/graduation-deadlines/>

Feb 26 First draft deadline into TRACE

Mar 29 Schedule of Dissertation Defense

Apr 16 Defense & thesis defended

Apr 23 Thesis/Dissertation submitted (first deadline)

Apr 30 Thesis/Dissertation submitted (Second deadline)

May 19 no summer fees deadline for acceptance

PS GSA (Tracy Hawk)

- “How do I become a member?” – its automatic as a PS Graduate student
Welcome aboard! Follow PS GSA on:
 - Twitter: @UTPSGSA
 - Instagram: @plantsciencegsa
- Executive board nominations/voting will happen in April
 - Consider nominating yourself or a peer for an Executive Board member role.
- Social events, community service, and Social Media
- PS branded items & fundraising – stay tuned for the next event

Discussion: Strategies for Success as a PS Graduate Student

- **“Be a squeaky wheel”** (or, *don’t become invisible*)
 - **Don’t get lost in your silence and end up floundering.** *Please reach out to colleagues, lab mates, the Graduate Director if you need help.*
- **Proactive rather than passive in your program & project development**
 - *What are your advisor’s “good times of day”?*
 - *When are they receptive to questions and new ideas?*
- **Regular communication with your mentor is essential**
- **Participate! Get active with peers, the department, other lab personnel**
- **Ask & Plan for a regular (once a semester) committee meeting**

The most important “Tool” at your fingertips:

Milestone Checklists and Deadlines

Appendix II A (MS students) & B (PhD students)

Plant Sciences’ Graduate Student Handbook

[https://plantsciences.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2020/08/2020-21 PS GraduateHandbook v1.pdf](https://plantsciences.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2020/08/2020-21_PS_GraduateHandbook_v1.pdf)

Future activity?

Resume/CV review