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?”** – it’s 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


Future activity?

Resume/CV review