**Winners of the 2013 Future Leaders in Science Award**

2013 marked the inaugural year for the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Future Leaders in Science Award. The award went to graduate student members who displayed scientific excellence, strong interpersonal skills, and an enthusiasm for science advocacy. Even in its first year, the Science Policy Office received almost 100 applications for the award, demonstrating the strong interest and willingness to participate in science policy and advocacy efforts from our graduate student members. Recipients of 2013 Future Leaders in Science Award are listed below.

- **Ryan Van Roekel**, University of Arkansas
- **Jason Sarver**, University of Georgia
- **Aaron Daigh**, Iowa State University
- **Joshua Jennings**, Kansas State University
- **Kristin Fisher**, University of Maryland
- **Dara Boardman**, University of Missouri
- **Kyle Briscoe**, Mississippi State University
- **Brandon Montgomery**, North Dakota State University
- **Tara Wood**, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
- **Alexander Lindsey**, Ohio State University
- **Patrick Bell**, Oklahoma State University
- **Laura McLoud**, Texas A&M University

**Connecting the Lab to the Land**

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA have a long history of working to connect fundamental research discoveries to the practical applications of this knowledge. One shining example of this connection is seen in the involvement of the International Certified Crop Adviser (ICCA) program with ASA. The ICCA program provides a benchmark for practicing agronomy professionals who provide scientifically sound agronomic advice to farmers.

For the 2013 Congressional Visits Day (CVD), the CCAs played a unique role in relaying the importance of support for agriculture research. Most CVD teams had a faculty researcher, a graduate student, and a CCA. These teams were able to describe how scientific knowledge passes from the theoretical to the practical, from the lab to the land. The CCAs described how they depended on unbiased research, done at land grant universities, to help shape agricultural practices.

The importance of this “research pipeline” is often lost on congressional members and staff. “The CVD teams can illustrate how the appropriations are used to fund basic research, which evolves into applied research, which spins off into technologies and applications,” said ASA Science Policy Committee Chair and CCA Fred Vocasek. “As the CVD teams present their [funding] ask, the staffer or legislator has a chance to see how the investment in research actually pays out at the farm gate, at the grain elevator, and at the biofuel plant. I think the Society–student–certificant teams can be a rather unique combination that other entities may not be able to easily match.”

The Science Policy Office hopes to expand CCA participation at the 2014 CVD due to this year’s success.