Early Career Members

Early Career Members Committee: The Voice for Early Career Members

It has been a great pleasure to serve on the Early Career Members Committee (ECMC) the past three years and be the 2014 chair. Prior to joining, I had little experience with the committee’s activities but now I truly understand their impact and what the ECMC offers early career members within ASA, CSSA, and SSSA.

First, the ECMC is the voice for early career members in the Societies, promoting communication between early career members and leaders of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA through board representation. Secondly, the ECMC has consistently sponsored highly regarded workshops at our International Annual Meeting. At the 2014 meeting in Long Beach, the ECMC sponsored five workshops consisting of

1. Grant Writing Navigation and Resources for Expanding Early Career Opportunities;
2. Surviving and Thriving Your First Year;
3. Interactive Workshop: Writing Manuscripts for Publication;
4. How to Publish a Manuscript in ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Journals; and
5. Tips from the Experts on the Job Application and Interviewing Process.

More than 300 participants attended the five workshops at the 2014 International Annual Meeting in Long Beach. The feedback we receive from these workshops has been excellent but we are continually looking for improvements in how we can better strive to meet the needs of early career members.

Finally, ECMC assists in recognizing outstanding early career member within ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. Since 2012, the Societies have each recognized an early career professional who has made outstanding contributions within his or her respective field. Evaluation criteria vary by Society but consist of (1) evidence of quality teaching at the undergraduate and/or graduate levels, (2) effectiveness in extension and outreach activities, and (3) significance and originality of basic and/or applied research and contributions to the public/private sector.

The 2014 early career professional award winners were D. Brian Arnall (ASA Early Career Professional Award winner), Seth C. Murray (Young Crop Scientist Award winner), and Dorivar Ruiz Diaz (SSSA Early Career Professional Award winner). Nominations dates and guidelines for the 2015 early career professional awards will be announced at www.agronomy.org/awards, www.soils.org/awards, and www.crops.org/awards.

I invite all early career members to begin a dialog with the ECMC on how we can further provide support for early career members within ASA, CSSA, and SSSA.

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