Early Career Members

Getting to Know Your Early Career and Graduate Student Committees and Leaders

by Elizabeth Gillispie

You attend the Annual Meeting, you read CSA News magazine and the News Flash, and suddenly you feel inspired to participate more in the activities of the Societies. You come across lists and lists of committees, but which one is right for you?

My goal for this article is to provide you with brief descriptions of the opportunities available that serve our early career members and graduate students. We hope that advisors will tell their students, students will tell their friends, and more will become involved. The graduate students and early career members (people who have achieved their terminal degree within the last 10 years from an internationally recognized degree-granting institution) of this generation will be our next leaders, so it’s important that we start becoming involved as young professionals NOW!

Graduate students and early career members can contribute to the growth and success of our Societies by volunteering to serve on a committee. Below is a list of committees offered by ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. For more information on any of the committees, feel free to reach out to the chairs and representatives.

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Early Career Members Committee (ACS530)

Functions: Foster communication between early career members (ECMs) and the leadership of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA; foster communication between ECMs and graduate and undergraduate students; develop a program for ECMs at the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Annual Meeting; produce a monthly article for CSA News magazine on topics relevant to ECMs; and obtain input and develop recommendations on ways to better serve ECMs beyond the activities at the annual meetings.

Chair: Olga Walsh, owalsh@uidaho.edu

“I like to be involved in the early career and student activities because it gives me a great opportunity to ‘give back’ and to share some of my skills and experiences with the young scientists. I believe that the mentoring and support early on in their career can be very crucial for beginning researchers and educators and find their way and their ‘niche.’”

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Graduate Student Committee (ACS238)

Functions: Develop programs/activities that enhance graduate student development and that assist the graduate students in establishing their networks, development, and friendships; consider broad questions of activities and programs to promote graduate student membership, value, and involvement in the Societies; and actively look for opportunities that fit across all three Societies and that are Society specific.

Chair: Rachel Kerns, rachel.kazmiera@gmail.com

“I wanted to be the chair of this committee to help other graduate students know about the opportunities they have within the Societies as well as promote to our professional community the significant contributions that graduate students make to our discipline.”

SSSA Early Career Members Committee (S530)

Functions: Obtain input and develop on ways to better serve SSSA early career scientists at the activities at the Annual Meeting; develop SSSA early career scientists for the SSSA and serve as the selection committee for the Career Professional Award.

Chair: Aaron Daigh, aaron.daigh@ndsu.edu