

AHGSA promotes engagement and career development opportunities

by Alex Tonon Rosa, AHGSA president

THE AGRONOMY AND HORTICULTURE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION PROMOTES SEVERAL EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO FOSTER INTERACTIONS AND BUILD CLOSER RELATIONSHIPS AMONG GRADUATE STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS. In the past year, some of the highlighted events included Spring Banquet, Elevator Speech Contest, sweet corn giveaway, R-Club meetings, fall barbecue, an industry tour and a three-session workshop series.

Graduate students also meet once a month to learn from speaker talks, plan upcoming activities, share cultural experiences, get to know other students and enjoy excellent meals sponsored by the student association. In addition, every other month a guest speaker is invited to present a topic related to graduate school, student interests or career development.

To promote professional development, AHGSA collaborated with the Entomology Bruner Club to organize the workshop series “Are you ready to get a job?” This series comprised three events: (1) Build a CV and resume, (2) Tips to have a successful interview, and (3) Mock interviews. More than 60 graduate students from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources participated. In addition, the club organized the first Elevator Speech Contest by partnering with graduate students from the departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology. Members competed within the association first and then the top three finalists competed interdepartmentally. The purpose of the contest was to develop students’ ability to communicate science with a non-scientist audience.

Over the last few years, AHGSA members have organized and promoted the R-Club to improve students’ statistical skills. At meetings twice a month students share their



expertise about R software by discussing topics such as data manipulation, plotting and analysis.

Furthermore, AHGSA members have collaborated with T.J. McAndrew and the agronomy farms at Havelock and Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center to get sweet corn planted early in the season to be harvested during the summer semester and then distributed to the community at East Campus on a first-come, first-served basis. Free-will donations make the sweet corn giveaway the club’s biggest fundraising event, and the donations support the activities of the club.

AHGSA would like to thank all those who provided their continued support, especially its advisers Paul Read and Sam Wortman, Department Head Martha Mamo and also Tanya Gulchuk, Casey Lundberg, Lana Johnson and McAndrew. AHGSA could not have had another successful year without the support of these individuals.

Current officers are Alex Tonon Rosa, president; Jose de Sanctis, vice president; Osler Ortez, treasurer; and Tara Harms, secretary.

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