

San Diego Student Competition Descriptions

For more details regarding a division award, please contact the [Division Chair](#).

Any monetary awards are issued by check and mailed after the International Soils Meeting.

SSSA Division - Forest, Range and Wildland Soils

Forest, Range, and Wildland Soils strives to make graduate students feel welcomed and included in our division. We value and recognize their work as peers and encourage them to present their work during regularly scheduled sessions where they can compete for best presentation awards along with the rest of the community. In addition, several students each year will be recognized with the Robert J. Luxmoore Graduate Student Travel Award to help defray the expenses of attending the meeting to present their research. Applications are due each year on August 1 and will be made available through the division email distribution list.

SSSA Division – Nutrient Management and Soil and Plant Analysis

SSSA Division – Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition

These divisions will cosponsor Graduate Student 5-minute Oral and Poster Competitions. Topics may include any aspect of Soil Fertility, Plant Nutrition, Nutrient Management, or Soil and Plant Analysis. Division Chairs will group entries by degree level (MS vs PhD). Cash prizes will be given, with an award of \$400 for first place in each session, and progressively smaller cash awards for lower places. The number of places awarded a cash prize and the dollar amount of those prizes will be determined by the Division Chairs based on the number of sessions and the total amount of prize money available. Companies conducting business in areas related to these divisions will donate the money used for cash prizes. The competition will be announced through the division email lists. Graduate students should enter with a 5-minute Oral and Poster Competition. Interested graduate students will submit abstracts online to the Graduate Student 5-minute Oral and Poster competition session through the normal abstract submission process. In order to be eligible for the competitions the student must have listed either Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition or Nutrient Management and Soil and Plant Analysis as their division of primary interest in their membership. The Past Chairs of the divisions will develop and head a judging team or teams. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and interpretation of the experimental results. Winners will be announced either at the Division business meeting or at the Walsh Lectureship at the annual meeting.

SSSA Division – Pedology

The Pedology Division presents awards each year for outstanding graduate student oral and poster presentations, with cash prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 and certificates from the Soil Science Society of America given for first, second, and third place winners, respectively, in each category. All graduate students presenting papers in Pedology sessions are eligible for these awards. Presentations are judged on scientific content, style and clarity, data synthesis, and knowledge of topic. Winners are chosen by a committee made up of Pedology members and are announced initially through the Pedology group e-mail and formally through the CSA News.

SSSA Division – Soil and Water Management and Conservation

Graduate Student competition: BEST Oral presentation.

Awards will be given for an oral competition event at the annual meeting, with cash prizes of \$200, \$150, and \$100 given for first, second, and third place winners, respectively. Funds will be provided from the 'Program Enhancement Fund' of the division. To enroll in the competition, a graduate student will submit an abstract online through the normal abstract submission process to a topic sessions designated by the division. Presentations will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and interpretation of the experimental results.

Graduate Student competition: BEST Poster presentation

Awards will be given for a poster competition event at the annual meeting, with cash prizes of \$200, \$150, and \$100 given for first, second, and third place winners, respectively. To enroll in the competition, a graduate student will submit an abstract online through the normal abstract submission process to one of the eligible topic sessions designated by the division. Posters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and interpretation of the experimental results.

Winners will be announced during Soil and Water management and Conservation Division business meeting.

SAWMAC Graduate Student Award

The SWMC Graduate Student Award is presented each year to a graduate student whose thesis research and graduate responsibilities utilize creative approaches to gain understanding and develop solutions for soil and water conservation and management problems. The recipient's research must be in soil and water management and conservation. The \$350 award is designed to assist the student with travel expenses associated with attending the annual SSSA meeting. The recipient will be recognized at the Division Business Meeting.

To apply, please send: 1) one-page summary of current thesis research, 2) one-page CV, 3) transcript from current graduate institution, and 4) reference letter from current major professor/advisor.

Nomination or application packages are due to the Award Committee Chair **by May 31**. The requested materials should be sent to:

Dr. Clark J. Gantzer (gantzerc@mlssourl.edu), 330 ABNR, School of Natural Resources, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211; Tel: 573-882- 0611; Fax: 573-884-5070

SSSA Division – Soil Biology and Biochemistry

Each year, the Soil Biology and Biochemistry Division sponsors a Graduate Student Poster Competition to recognize outstanding research presentations. The awards are cash prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$200 given for first, second and third place winners, and are kindly contributed by our sponsor. Posters are judged based on 1) the visual quality of the presentation as well as the presenter's oral summary and ability to answer questions, 2) originality and importance of the study, and 3) interpretation of experimental results and conclusions reached. This year, the competition will consist of poster presentations, coupled with 5-minute rapid presentations. Oral presentations should be supported by a single (1) slide that introduces the main points of the poster. The top presentations from the division will advance to a society-wide 5-min oral presentation competition. Divisional winners are announced at the Francis Clark Lecture and division business meeting. All students are encouraged to attend the business meeting to congratulate their peers, and to learn more about the Soil Biology and Biochemistry Division and Society functions.

SSSA Division – Soil Chemistry

The “Soil Chemistry Student Oral and Poster Presentation” Awards will be made to recognize outstanding oral and poster presentations by students in Soil Chemistry sessions at the SSSA annual meeting. Six monetary awards will be given that recognize first, second and third place presentations in both the oral and poster categories. To be included in this competition, abstracts must be submitted through the meeting website, selecting the Soil Chemistry Division as the preferred division and noting that you wish to enter the paper in the student competition. The presenting author for both oral and poster categories must be a student at the time of the annual meeting.

For presentation awards, The Soil Chemistry Division Executive Committee will form a judging team of three to five judges from the Division membership. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, interpretation of the experimental results and the contribution of research to the Division’ fields of study, based on criteria developed by the judging team.

The Soil Chemistry Graduate Student Convener’s Award will be given to a few students, based on the CV and short statement submitted before the conference. It will be judged based on the track record and potential in career development. The awardees will be conveners of general soil chemistry and 5-minute talk sessions.

Winners of the presentation awards will receive Certificates and monetary awards for first, second and third places, respectively in both categories. Winners of the convener’s awards will receive certificates, monetary awards, and/or a donated book. Outstanding presentations and conveners will be recognized during the Soil Chemistry Business meeting, if possible, and via email to the Division after the annual meeting. A short article about the awards recipients will be sent to CSA News and posted on soils.org.

The executive committee can elect to change the number of the awards, or may defer the giving of awards if insufficient funds are available. The committee may also elect to utilize available funds from the “Program Enhancement Funds” of the Soil Chemistry Division.

SSSA Division – Soil Mineralogy

There are two separate Joe B. and Martha J. Dixon Soil Mineralogy Awards available each year for students. The first award is presented for the best oral or poster presentation by a student submitted to and presented in the Soil Mineralogy Division at the Annual Meeting.

These presentations are required to address some aspect of soil mineralogy. Papers submitted to any other Division than the Soil Mineralogy Division are not eligible for the Dixon Award. This award and check for \$500 are issued following the annual meetings. The second Dixon Award is a travel grant for \$500 to assist a student studying soil mineralogy in attending the annual meeting. To apply for this award, the student must be enrolled in a graduate program and studying some aspect of soil mineralogy. Preference for this award is also given to students from Latin America and South America to encourage the development of research collaborations between scientists from the United States and these areas. Dr. Dixon has worked extensively in these areas during his career and developed many collaborative research partnerships that continue to this day. This award and check for \$500 are issued following the annual meeting.

SSSA Division – Soil Physics and Hydrology

Soil Physics and Hydrology will hold its “Poster and 5 Minute Rapid--Soil Physics and Hydrology Oral (includes student competition)” session comprised of 3-minute talks plus 2 minutes of questions to be linked with the Student Poster Competition. Combined lightning oral and poster presentations will be evaluated by judges selected by the Soil Physics Division Executive Committee. Guidelines for high-quality posters can be found on the abstract submission website. Oral presentations are limited to *two slides only* with no animations. To be included in this competition, abstracts must be submitted through the meeting website, selecting the Soil Physics and Hydrology Division as the preferred division and submitting to the session titled “Poster and 5 Minute Rapid--Soil Physics and Hydrology Oral (includes student competition)”. The lead author on the abstract and presenting author must be a graduate or undergraduate student at the time of the annual meeting. The top 3 students will receive cash awards and will be recognized during the Soil Physics and Hydrology Division business meeting, via email to the Division, and in a short article to CSA News.

SSSA Division – Soil Physics and Hydrology: Robert Luxmoore Student Travel Award

The Robert Luxmoore Student Travel Award is designed to support travel of students to the Annual Meeting of the Soil Science Society of America. This award is supported by a generous bequest made by Robert Luxmoore to the Soil Physics Mentoring Fund, which has been established through the Agronomic Science Foundation and is administered by the Soil Science Society of America. Two \$750 awards will be given to undergraduate or graduate students as travel support. Details on application procedures and deadlines can be found at: <https://www.soils.org/membership/divisions/soil-physics-and-hydrology/robert-luxmoore-travel-award>.

SSSA Division – Soils and Environmental Quality Graduate Student Award

The “Graduate Student Oral and Poster Presentation” Awards will be made to recognize outstanding oral and poster presentations by students in Soils and Environmental Quality (SEQ) symposia and sessions at the SSSA annual meeting. Four monetary awards will be given to recognize the first-, and second-place presentations in both oral and poster categories, third-place candidates will get the Certificates. To be included in this competition, the authors must submit abstract through the meeting website. The author should select Soils and Environmental Quality Division as the preferred division and enter the paper in the student competition. The presenting author must be a student at the time of the annual meeting.

The Division will form a judging team of three to five judges. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, interpretation of the experimental results, and the research impacts to soil and environmental quality problems. Presentation winners will receive certificates and monetary awards of \$200, and \$150 for first, and second places and certificate only for third place in either category. Outstanding presentations will be recognized during the business meeting (if possible), and via email to the division after the annual meeting. The division can change the number and amount of the awards. Funds will be provided from the “Program Enhancement Funds” of the Soils and Environmental Quality Division. Only one first-place Winner from SEQ will be nominated to compete in the Society wide Graduate Student Award Competition.

SSSA Division – Urban and Anthropogenic Soils

The Urban and Anthropogenic Soils Division will hold a graduate student competition for both oral and poster presentations. Awards will be made to recognize outstanding oral and poster presentations by students in Urban and Anthropogenic Soil sessions at the SSSA annual meetings. Two monetary awards will be given that recognize first and second place presentations by graduate students. Students may submit abstracts into any of the general sessions or regular topic sessions hosted by the division. To be included in this competition, abstracts must be submitted through the society website, selecting the Urban and Anthropogenic Soils Division as the preferred division and noting that you wish to enter the paper in the student competition. The presenting author for both oral and poster categories must be a student at the time of the annual meeting.

The Urban and Anthropogenic Soils Division Executive Committee will appoint a Graduate Competition Committee Chair each year who will form a judging team from the Division membership. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, interpretation of the experimental results and the contribution of research to the Division's fields of study, based on criteria developed by the judging team.

Winners will receive certificates or other official recognition and monetary awards totaling \$300 and divided among first and second place winners as determined by the Graduate Competition Committee Chair. Outstanding presentations will be recognized during the Urban and Anthropogenic Soils Business meeting, if possible, and via email to the Division after the annual meeting.

The executive committee can elect to change the number and amount of the awards, or may defer the giving of awards if insufficient funds are available. The committee may also elect to utilize available funds from the "Program Enhancement Funds" of the Division.

SSSA Division – Wetland Soils

Awards will be made to recognize outstanding research presentations by undergraduate and graduate students in Wetland Soils Division. Starting at the 2019 SSSA meeting in San Diego, all student competitions will utilize a 5-minute rapid oral presentation coupled with a traditional poster presentation. Multiple monetary awards will recognize student contributions; awards amounts and the number of awards will be determined based upon the availability of funds. The winners will be recognized during the Wetland Soils Business Meeting and will advance to the society wide competition also utilizing the 5-minute oral plus poster format. Presentations will be evaluated by volunteer judges from the Division based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, interpretation of the experimental results, and the speaker's responses to questions. To be included in this competition, abstracts need to be submitted through the SSSA website, selecting Wetland Soils as the preferred division and selecting the option entitled "Poster and 5 Minute Rapid--Wetland Soils Oral (includes student competition)". All students working in Wetland Soils are encouraged to participate.