

Graduate Student of the Month

Pamela Carvalho-Moore – PhD Student at University of Arkansas

What University do you attend and what is your research focus?

I am a Ph.D. student at the University of Arkansas under Dr. Jason Norsworthy. My research focuses on investigating the addition of metabolic inhibitors as an approach to improve glufosinate efficacy under varied environmental scenarios, as well as understanding the mechanism of resistance to glufosinate in resistant Palmer amaranth.

What drew you to weed science?

I have been involved with academic research since my second semester in college. The first opportunity I had was to work with sunflower production under different periods of weed competition in Brazil's Amazon region. After that, I ventured into other research areas, but it was not as exciting as before. Before I finished my undergrad, I had the opportunity to intern with Dr. Carlos Schaedler and Dr. Nilda Burgos in different experiments applied to Weed Science. These internships led to the opportunity to obtain a M.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology applied to Weed Science at the University of Arkansas.

What is your favorite thing about the WSSA or your regional society?

I like how the societies (WSSA and Southern Weed Science Society) allow us to have honest feedback about our research projects. After conversations during the meetings, I have come up with different methodologies or new ideas to improve my experiments. This is priceless. On top of that, I love to catch up with my friends from different universities at conferences and visit new places around the country.

What is your favorite weed and why?

My favorite weed is dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*). Since a young age I have been fascinated by its seed dispersion and how beautiful the seed head of this plant is. Plus, dandelion leaves make a yummy salad.

What is your long-term goal?

Upon completing my Ph.D., I aim to be in a governmental or industry position, specifically in research and development. I truly believe that meaningful and well-conducted research is a valuable tool for the future of agriculture. I am also keeping my options open for jobs in extension. My dream job would be working with herbicide resistance identification and management in row crops.



If you know a hardworking graduate student you would like to be featured, nominate them by emailing osburnaw@tamu.edu. The graduate student of the month will be randomly selected after nomination.

WSSA Alumni Spotlight

Lawson Priess – New Technology Specialist, Corteva AgriScience

What Universities did you attend/ degrees did you earn?

I attended Stephen F. Austin University, where I earned a B.Sc. in Agronomy. I received an M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Weed Science from the University of Arkansas. Woo Pig Sooiie!

What is your current job title and how long have you been with your current employer?

I started with Corteva AgriScience in October of 2021. I am a New Technology Specialist with a heavy focus on the Enlist Weed Control System. I work closely with the PhytoGen, Pioneer, and Corteva Crop Protection brands.



What is the favorite thing about your job so far?

I love the people I work with and being a part of a team that is constantly collaborating with others to find innovative solutions. There are so many people in Corteva that have taken time out of their day to teach me how to be impactful in my new role. The continued education, collaboration, and new relationships with colleagues, consultants, and growers has been my favorite part of the job.

What is something you wished you knew as a student that you know now?

I know when I was a Graduate Student, I heard many people say “diversify” but it never resonated with me until now. Sometimes advisors can become one trick ponies and encourage you to focus solely on the discipline you are studying. I strongly encourage you to diversify your understanding of different disciplines of Pest Control and Agronomy. When working with growers, consultants, and ag retail it is sometimes better to have row-crop understanding that is mile wide and inch deep rather than mile deep in one subject.

What is the biggest piece of advice you’d give students searching for a job?

I would recommend starting the job search earlier rather than later. Start by reaching out to acquaintances and let them know you will be applying for jobs in the near future. They can help keep you in the loop of possible jobs that will be opening up or are already open. Cast a wide net but only apply for jobs that you would take if offered.

Any final thoughts?

I know graduate school can be a grind but try to stay motivated and finish your degree. Set clear expectations with your advisor on when you would like to complete your degree and work to meet all obligations in that time frame. Hold your advisor accountable to the agreed-upon expectations.

The extremely long hours worked in Grad school were a grind, but the memories made are cherished. Make sure to have fun and set aside time for friends, family, and faith.

If you would like to suggest a WSSA alumni to be spotlighted in the WSSA Graduate Student Organization newsletter, send your suggestion to sarah.kezar@tamu.edu



@WSSA_GSO

Follow us on Social Media!



@WSSAGSO



ANNUAL MEETINGS

Deadlines

WSSA/NEWSS

Title Submissions

Oct. 31, 2022

Abstract Submissions

Jan. 9, 2023

Presentation Submissions

Jan. 23, 2023

NCWSS

Title Submissions

Sep. 9, 2022

Abstract Submissions

Nov. 1, 2022

Presentation Submissions

Nov. 28, 2022

SWSS

Title Submissions

Oct. 7, 2022

Abstract Submissions

Jan. 13, 2023

Presentation Submissions

Jan. 20, 2023

WSWS

Title Submission

Dec. 1, 2022

Abstract Submission

Feb. 6, 2023

Presentation Submission

Feb. 13, 2023