# 2020 Gamma Sigma Delta

# Student Poster and Oral Competition

# Arkansas Chapter

Gamma Sigma Delta will sponsor its 20th annual student presentation competition on **Friday, March 20, 2020** at the **Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center**. Undergraduates and Master's and doctoral candidates will have the opportunity to compete in their respective categories. Complete guidelines are articulated below.

First, second, and third place winners will be awarded, with students receiving respective awards of $75, $50 and $25 in each category for poster or oral presentations (see judging criteria below). If there are not enough applicants in a category, categories may need to be combined for efficient evaluation. Award amounts may vary depending on the number of student participants.

Posters will be available for public viewing from 7:30 am to approximately 12:00 noon on March 20 in the foyer of the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center. Oral presentations will begin at 8:00 am in the classrooms at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center. Room assignments and exact times for all presentations will be announced at a later date prior to March 20, 2020.

Students may enter by sending their abstracts no later than **February 15, 2020** to **Dr.** **Kent Kovacs (kkovacs@uark.edu)**. Abstracts should be saved as Word documents with a maximum of 250 words (not including title and authors/affiliations) in 12-point, Times New Roman font. Students may compete in one category only – either the oral or poster presentation competition. Therefore, students must indicate their preference at the time of email submission of their abstract.

**All** faculty co-authors on a student presentation or poster must be a paid member, or nominated to become a member of Gamma Sigma Delta, for the student to be eligible to enter the competition. Students are encouraged to become members of Gamma Sigma Delta as well and should ask their departmental representative for a nomination form.

# Guidelines for Poster and Oral Presentations in GSD Student Competition

# General Guidelines

* Presentations must be based on students' own research.
* For students who have pursued multiple degrees at the University of Arkansas, the student must compete in the category in which he/she was enrolled in during the Fall 2019 semester. The research presented should have been conducted during that degree program.
* Faculty that co-author a student presentation must be an active, dues-paid member of GSD or nominated to be a GSD member.
* Presentation title, authors, and abstract formats should adhere to the following guidelines:
	+ - Center and bold titles with authors’ names presented below the title.
		- Capitalize the first letter of major words in the title.
		- Abstracts should be typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font, left-justified with single line spacing, and the file saved as a Word document.
		- The abstract must have one-inch margins and contain no more than 250 words.
		- The abstract should consist of five linked parts – background, problem statement, methods, results, and summary/conclusions/implications.
			* The background provides context to the study, rationale and significance. Follow with the problem being studied, the purpose of the study, and any specific research objectives or hypotheses.
			* Provide a brief overview of the approach and methods undertaken in the research.
			* Present important (and specific) data, with results quantified.
			* State the major interpretations and findings as related to the original research problem, and any limitations of the results.
			* Finish by stating the relevance, contribution of the work, and its implications to science.

# Oral Presentations

* Oral presentations will be scheduled for 15-minute intervals.
* Actual presentations should be between 10 and 12 minutes long. This will leave time for a few questions.
* Participants are asked to provide PowerPoint presentations via e-mail by **March 13** to **Dr. Kent Kovacs (kkovacs@uark.edu)**. If the file is too large for e-mail transmission, arrangements must be made to hand deliver a copy of the file in a form that can be downloaded onto a laptop by **March 19**. Dr. Kovacs’s office is Room 216 of the Agriculture (AGRI) Building. Presentations for each session will be pre-loaded onto a single computer for use during the presentation session. Participants are also encouraged to bring a USB thumb drive with the presentation to their session as a backup.

Attendance expectations:

* + Student presenters are expected to be present for the duration of the competition in the session in which they are presenting.
		- Students can learn as much from observing and evaluating other students’ presentations as they can in presenting their own research.
	+ Students should also encourage their coauthors and advisors to be present during the competition, particularly during their students’ presentation.

# Poster Presentations

* Posters must be no larger than 4 feet by 4 feet in size.
* Boards for mounting posters will be available in the foyer of the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center starting at 3 pm on Thursday March 19 and then again at 7:30 am on Friday March 20, 2020.
* All posters must be mounted by 8:00 am on Friday March 20, 2020. Judging will start at 8:00 am.
* Students must provide their own push pins for mounting posters. Tape is not recommended and Velcro will not work.
* Prior to March 20, participants will be informed of their respective schedule of presentation, during which they must be at their poster area for interview by the judges. These times will begin during the morning of March 20.
* Posters must remain hanging until judging has ceased; posters in the foyer must then be taken down before the banquet begins, at which time the boards will be removed. Any remaining posters would then need to be picked up from Dr. Kovacs.

# Judging Criteria

* Participants in both contests will be judged on the following criteria (100 points total):

Oral Presentations:

* Title and submitted abstract (i.e., descriptive title, clear, concise, and correctly formatted abstract) -- 10 points
* Content and organization (i.e., introduction, logical sequence of material, clearly explained materials and methods, and data, and discussion and conclusions emphasize significance of research and results) -- 25 points
* Importance and quality of research (i.e., importance to agriculture, relation of results and conclusion to purpose, innovation, and quality of science) -- 20 points
* Presentation and explanation including delivery and visuals (i.e., voice, eye contact, grammar, terminology, enthusiasm, motivation of audience, neatness, pleasantness, mannerisms; clarity, effectiveness, use, and variety of visuals) -- 30 points
* Knowledge of subject, including ability to answer questions -- 15 points

Poster Presentations:

* Title and submitted abstract (i.e., descriptive title, clear, concise, and correctly formatted abstract) -- 10 points
* Content and organization (i.e., introduction, logical sequence of material, clearly explained materials and methods, and data, and discussion and conclusions emphasize significance of research and results) -- 25 points
* Importance and quality of research (i.e., importance to agriculture, relation of results and conclusion to purpose, innovation, and quality of science) -- 25 points
* Quality of visuals (i.e., ease of interpretation of visuals used, absence of grammatical and spelling errors, and visual appeal) -- 25 points
* Knowledge of subject, including ability to answer questions -- 15 points