



## **WSWS Officer and Committee Report 2016 Albuquerque, NM**

**Office or Committee Name:** Student Liaison Chair

**Officer or Chairperson Name:** Carl Coburn

**Date of Preparation (include year):** March 1, 2016

### **Committee Activities during the Year:**

- Communicated with students via the WSWS Student Section on Facebook and Twitter. The Facebook page now has 66 followers, up from 44 last year and 32 the year before. The Twitter account has 43 tweets since its establishment last year, but only 16 followers. The pages were used to communicate meeting information (deadlines, e-program) and general weed science topics of interest (videos, posts from the WSSA, weed olympics). Increasing the amount of content may increase followers/interaction.
  
- Assisted in advertising for the Elena-Sanchez Memorial Student Scholarship by emailing students application and deadline information. It may be beneficial to email individual professors from different universities as a way to increase scholarship applications (although in the past this tactic has had limited success). Alan Helm was easy to work with throughout the scholarship process.
  
- Organized the student night out. 45 students signed up to participate while 10 companies, 7 professors, and 1 government agency employee signed up to host students. We tried to keep group sizes small to facilitate better interaction, but given the number of students, most hosts got paired with multiple students.
  
- We sent letters or emails of solicitation for donations to the Silent Auction beginning in November 2015. Solicitation letters were sent to companies, universities, and students. Some companies and organizations solicited include:
  - o Syngenta
  - o Dow AgroSciences
  - o Bayer
  - o BASF
  - o Dupont
  - o FMC
  - o Helena
  - o Valent
  - o Wilbur-Ellis
  - o Monsanto
  - o Alberta Wheat Commission
  - o Canadian Weed Science Society
  - o University contacts

Following initial contact, donations were slow, and this could be because of how early solicitation emails or letters were sent. It may make sense in the future to wait until after the New Year to send solicitation letters, although Breanne had success in obtaining items and cash immediately. Donations started to increase when Phil sent out the listserv message recently, and I think we will have auction tables full of interesting items.

**Recommendations for Board Action:** None

**Budget Needs:** Nonce

**Suggestions for the Future:**

- Students showed strong interest in going to dinner with government agency employees for the student night out. We only had one government agency employee sign up to participate this year (similar to previous years). I know budgets are tight and this is a bigger issue than student night out, but is there anything we can do to change this?
  
- Attempt to increase participation in the student night out, particularly from the hosts, so we can keep group sizes small.

**Current Committee Members:** Carl Coburn and Breanne Tidemann

**Name of Person Preparing This Report:** Carl Coburn