Greetings Karen and Betsy,

On behalf of the graduate students in The School of Plant Sciences Graduate Student Club,

We would like to propose a non-academic-credit summer journal club for graduate students to remain actively engaged in reading current literature in plant sciences.

The goal of this bi-weekly journal club is to introduce graduate students to new literature and techniques in the field of plant sciences by discussing recently published research papers in plant biology and plant pathology. This student led journal club will be open to all graduate students in The School of Plant Sciences (SPLS), and will follow a similar presentation of materials to the department journal club (PL S 695A). Papers discussed in this journal club will be selected based upon application of techniques/experiments utilized in the paper, seminal contributions to enhancing research and advancing our knowledge in plant sciences, and the extent to which it will be beneficial to students.

In each bi-weekly meeting, two students will lead the journal club through a paper selected by those two students and discussed with at least one faculty member (typically either of those student’s major advisor). If the students select a paper within their research field, the paper must have a broad scope to ensure that all graduate students will benefit from discussing the selected paper. Without the use of multi-media devices (no PowerPoints or projectors), students will present the necessary background and introduction to the research paper and lead the discussion of the data presented in the paper.

In addition to remaining actively engaged in current literature, we hope that this journal club will serve as a useful forum to help prepare our cohort of graduate students for comprehensive exams and qualifying exams by strengthening our basics in experimental design and enhancing our general plant sciences knowledge.

We will be happy to answer any questions and also welcome any suggestions to improve this plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Noble

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