Professional Development:

1. Hosted the annual Fall Orientation for incoming and returning graduate students.
2. Second Annual SNR GSA Poster Contest
   a. 13 posters presented
   b. Awarded “best poster” in each category: undergraduate, Masters, PhD, and Popular Vote
3. Four SNR GSA travel grants of $250 each awarded
   a. Fall 2014: Katie McCollum (MS) and Yao Li (PhD)
   b. Spring 2015: Kaycee Reynolds (MS) and Johnica Morrow (PhD)
4. Coordinated with SNR Fall Seminar Series committee to increase graduate student involvement in the seminars.
   a. Two graduate students were selected to nominate speakers and coordinate with the seminar committee (Ashley Alred and Johnica Morrow), and will each receive $350 for their services
   b. A 1-credit special topics course was set up to encourage participation. Enrolled students will be required to attend weekly lunches with seminar speakers and attend weekly seminars. Students will also help to coordinate lunch purchasing and refreshments for the seminar (paid for through the seminar committee).

Outreach activities (Katie McCollum, chair):

1. Lakeview Elementary Outreach, Spring 2015
   a. After-school Science Club
   b. Covered a variety of topics, including water, soils, birds, and herps
2. Participated in Naturepalooza in Fall 2014 with a soils booth

Fundraising activities (Kaycee Reynolds, chair):

1. Held a successful bake sale during the poster contest and elevator speech contest. Raised $125 with the help of donated baked goods from students and staff.
2. Secured a $1000 grant from the CHS Foundation to support the graduate student career fair in Omaha, NE.

Social events (Jocelyn Olney, chair):

1. Fall barbecue following the annual orientation
2. Wine and Cheese event in February
3. Field trip to see the cranes in Kearney, April 5 2015, took 12 graduate students and staff.
4. Organized Custodial Appreciation Breakfast, the first in a series of staff appreciation events.
5. First Friday during the Fall semester (until the University changed their alcohol policy)

Advisors:

1. Jim Brandle, who hosted many of our social events and provided institutional knowledge for the GSA will be retiring this year. Thank you to Jim!
2. Jenny and Joe Dauer have agreed to serve as GSA advisors. We look forward to working with them.