BSA Human Diversity Committee, Ann K. Sakai, Chair

Activities: The NSF awarded a five year grant beginning July 1, 2011, to the BSA entitled **PLANTS (Preparing Leaders and Nurturing Tomorrow’s Scientists): Increasing the diversity of plant scientists** (Ann K. Sakai and Ann Hirsch, co-PIs) with a total budget of $99,850. This grant funds up to 12 undergraduates to attend the national BOTANY meetings for five years, with 15% to partially cover BSA staff time. The goal of this program is to increase the number of undergraduates from underrepresented groups who attend these meetings, and to increase their level of academic excellence and motivation to pursue advanced degrees in the plant sciences. Despite a short lead time, 59 undergraduates applied for the program. Nine students were fully funded through BSA funds. Additional undergraduates and graduate students, many of whom were identified through the PLANTS applications, were given travel awards funded by an NSF grant to Doug and Pam Soltis.

*Ann Sakai*