This award is given annually by the Education Committee, in conjunction with the Teaching Section at the BSA Banquet. It recognizes outstanding contributions made to Botanical instruction. This award recognizes individuals whose work has improved the quality of botanical education at a regional, national, or international level. The ideal candidate’s application will demonstrate the following:

- Enthusiasm for teaching botany
- Innovation in teaching that increases student and/or public interest in botany
- Innovation in teaching botany that increases the quality of botanical education

BSA Membership

This year there were two nominations very well documented nominations for the award, James Edward Watkins, Jr. of Colgate University and Shona Ellis of the University of British Columbia. The selection committee consisted of, Phil Gibson, Chair of the Education Committee and Marsh Sundberg, Director-at-Large for Education. The committee selected Professor Ellis based on her career of teaching innovations at the local, regional, national and international levels.

The committee was very impressed with the nomination materials for Dr. Watkins, whose record, particularly in botanical research, is exemplary for an Assistant Professor, however, his educational impact is primarily within his home institution. He would be an excellent candidate for an early career award in science education and we recommend that the Teaching Section strongly consider establishing such an award.

Respectfully submitted:

Marsh Sundberg
Director-at-Large for Education.