The Grady L. Webster AJB Award is presented in alternate years by the Botanical Society of America for the best paper in development and/or structure published in the American Journal of Botany in the preceding two years. Papers from 2011 and 2012 were considered by the ad hoc committee appointed by the Editor-in-Chief of the AJB. The committee consisted of Profs. Martha Cook, Pamela Diggle, Julie Kang, Joe Williams, and Judy Jernstedt (chair). The committee thanks Amy McPherson, AJB Managing Editor, for compiling a list with links of eligible papers.

The criteria applied in ranking the eligible papers were: an interesting question or problem, addressed with appropriate techniques, careful analysis of results/data, insightful discussion including consideration of the implications of the work to the larger picture. In other words, creativity, quality, and significance. Stage of career, number of co-authors, and nationality or gender of the researchers were not considered in selecting the awardee(s).

The committee selected the 2012 paper by Jessica M. Budke, Bernard Goffinet, and Cynthia S. Jones, “The cuticle on the gametophyte calyptra matures before the sporophyte cuticle in the moss *Funaria hygrometrica* (Funariaceae)” as the recipient of the 2013 Webster AJB Award. This paper is recognized for the interesting and classical question it addressed, the meticulous work, and the thoughtful discussion of the evolutionary and developmental significance and implications of the results—namely, that persistence of the moss calyptra, with its multi-layered cuticle, on the developing sporophyte confers dessication resistance prior to maturation of the sporophyte cuticle. This work provides evidence that the persistent calyptra is functionally significant, as opposed to a vestigial structure from an earlier stage of gametophyte and gametangium development.