

BOTANY 2018: Student Representative's Board Report
The Botanical Society of America

Officers

Outgoing: James McDaniel (2016–2018)

Standing: Chelsea Pretz (2017-2019)

Incoming: Min Ya (2018-2020)

For BOTANY 2018, the student representatives will be leading a few new events and also continue to support several other annual activities.

2018 Conference Events

As always, we would like to thank the conference staff for graciously helping us put these events together and make sure that they run smoothly!

- 1) Skill-Building Workshop: “The Elevator Speech: Crafting an Effective Pitch that Highlights your Research and Illustrates the Broader Impacts” with Amanda Grusz. Amanda will provide helpful tips on crafting an effective elevator speech followed by a breakout session to allow attendees the opportunity to revise and modify their own elevator speeches. **SUNDAY**
- 2) Skill-Building Workshop: “Job Search Transparency: Learning the Unwritten Rules to Land your Dream Job” with a diverse group of panelists who will make brief introductions and then open up the floor with an informal question and answer session between the panelists and attendees. The goal of this workshop is to help young professionals navigate and move forward from graduate school or postdoctoral positions on a positive career trajectory. **SUNDAY**
- 3) Student Career Luncheon: This year, we will kick off this event with a short talk titled “Following Your Plant (or other!) Passion” by Susan Pell who is the Science and Public Programs Manager at the United States Botanic Garden. Then, students will have the opportunity to chat with panelists from various career paths (academia, NGOs, and industry) in a “speed-dating” format. So far, we have >60 registered participants. **MONDAY**
- 4) Student Social and Networking Event: this year, we have over 100 registered participants; however, we are still awaiting a venue at this time. **MONDAY**
- 5) Undergraduate Student Networking Event: Amy Litt, Gordon Uno, and others organized a special event for undergraduates at the beginning of the conference in 2017. Since this event was such a success it was brought back for BOTANY 2018. This event is geared towards making sure that students who are new to BOTANY get to know some friendly faces at the beginning of the conference. We student representatives and a few other graduate students will be circulating to make sure everyone feels welcome. We will also have various icebreakers and prizes to ensure a successful event! **SUNDAY**

Plant Science Bulletin – Student Articles

In the past year, we have published three new student articles in the Plant Science Bulletin. The first article titled “A Reflection on the Current State and Future Direction of Student Membership of the BSA” featured a great review of how the BSA has worked towards promoting diversity

and inclusivity over the past few decades. It also included a short interview with Chelsea Pretz who was the new elected student representative in 2017. Our second article featured an updated list of awards/grants, summer/online courses, outreach opportunities, and job-search resources that are particularly relevant to BSA students. Our summer article, which was recently published, highlighted conference events and resources available for students as they gear up for BOTANY 2018.

Facebook Group

Our Facebook group “Students of the Botanical Society of America” currently has 690 members. Ever since we started vetting new member requests in 2017, we have had virtually no ‘spam’ accounts trying to join our Facebook group. The group continues to be a great place for students to communicate with each other about conferences, grants, fellowships, and exciting advances in botany.

Thanks,

James McDaniel
Chelsea Pretz
Min Ya