

BSA Award Committee: Graduate Student Award in Phylogenetic Comparative Plant Biology

David Tank (Chair)

Members:

Barbara Whitlock (U. Miami)

Ken Sytsma (U. Wisconsin)

Dave Tank (U. Wyoming)

Petra de Block (Botanic Garden Meise, Belgium)

Joyce Onyenedum (NYU)

with support from Heather Cacanindin, BSA Executive Director

This is the second year for this committee and the award. Michael Donoghue, the previous chair, rolled off the committee this year and was not replaced.

In October 2023, the committee discussed the award description via email and decided to require applicants to submit a 2-page brief CV as part of the application process.

The BSA application portal was opened in November, with an application deadline of 1 February 2024. We received 12 applications. These were diverse in terms of institutions represented (including 3 from outside the US), gender, and subject matter.

The Committee agreed that we would each evaluate 8-9 proposals using the BSA portal, and that we would include commentary that could be shared with each applicant. Each proposal was evaluated by three committee members, avoiding all conflicts of interest.

The Committee met by Zoom and also through subsequent email discussions to evaluate the top scoring candidates.

A vote was taken, and it was decided to offer the award to David Kunkel at Oklahoma State University who is working on “Linking Functional Traits and Niches to Lineage Diversification in *Asclepias*.”