

## Annual Report for the Developmental and Structural Section, 2024

1. The Developmental and Structural Section meeting will be held in association with the Botany 2024 meeting.
2. We awarded D&S Sectional Student Travel Awards of \$500 each to two students.
  - a. Pei-Jun Xie: Comparative anatomical study in *Tectaria* species with different leaf dimorphism levels in a world of diverse reproductive strategies
  - b. Sanam Parajuli: Predicted Genetics of Floral Patterning in *Amborella trichopoda* Baill Revealed by Genome-wide Survey and Expression Analysis of MADS-Box Transcription Factors
3. We awarded Cheadle Travel Awards of \$500 each to two students.
  - a. Austin Nguyễn: Intercalary Growth and Seed Cone Development in *Taxodium distichum* and *Juniperus virginiana* (Cupressaceae)
  - b. Haylee Nedblake: Parallel evolution of corolla tube width shifts in *Penstemon*
4. The 2024 Kaplan Dissertation Award was given to **Andrea Appleton**, Harvard University, for the Proposal: *Diversity and development of the intricate staminodes across Loasaceae (Cornales)*
  - a. Please encourage your mentees who have passed their qualifying exam to apply for this award.
5. The program director (Rob Baker) reported that Botany 2024 will have a total of 15 posters and 23 contributed papers from the Developmental and Structural Section. The number of contributed talks is about the same as last year (up 1 from 22) but the number of posters is double (up from 7)
6. We sponsored in name only two symposia and no colloquia for the 2024 conference: “Bessey’s Legacy: enthusiasm and innovation in botanical instructions, and “The evolution of land plant life cycles - empirical advances of the past ten years and key challenges.” As in previous years, we encourage DS members to consider symposia and colloquia proposals.
7. Membership in the Development & Structure section is generally flat (see table below.) The membership numbers are reported from mid-year and membership grows at the end of each year as annual memberships expire.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Mid-year (June) membership	243	228	251	296	359	282	282

8. The section finances were diminishing due to reduced value from investments, but seem to be doing better this year. At the end of the 2022-2023 fiscal year (balance as of 9/30/2023, and before supporting symposia, colloquia, student travel and other events for the 2024 Botany conference), we had a total cash balance of \$106,596.34, up approximately \$10K from our previous year’s balance of \$94,392.34. These funds are distributed across the Development & Structure general fund, Development & Structure Student Travel fund, Katherine Esau Fund, Maynard Moseley Fund, and the Vernon Cheadle Student Travel fund as detailed in the table below.

The section leadership has remained conservative with section spending on colloquia, symposia, and student travel awards. As recommended by BSA financial, our goal has been to keep spending below 5% per fund while returns on investment remain low.

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>
D&S Section	Section funds (dues/donations) - used for business meeting food, sectional needs, etc.	\$11,535.29	\$10,769.49	\$13,861.08	\$9,462.24	\$10,150.89
D&S Student Travel Awards	Student travel award fund; used to distribute varying amounts of travel awards.	\$26,355.15	\$29,357.98	\$34,820.18	\$24,509.64	\$26,423.60
Katherin e Esau Fund	This award was established in 1985 with a gift from Dr. Esau and is augmented by ongoing contributions. It is given to the graduate student who presents the outstanding paper in developmental and structural botany. Distributes \$500 each year.	\$25,338.12	\$25,168.37	\$30,146.36	\$22,941.59	\$25,606.87
Maynard Moseley Fund	The award is given to the best student paper, presented in either the Paleobotanical or Developmental and Structural sessions; established in 1995 to honor Moseley.	\$5,840.91	\$5,651.80	\$8,724.89	\$13,559.79	\$14,793.15
Vernon I Cheadle Fund	The Botanical Society of America, in conjunction with the Developmental & Structural Section offers up to four (4), \$500 Vernon I. Cheadle Student Travel Awards. Awards are available to	\$22,914.96	\$25,651.01	\$33,403.41	\$23,919.08	29,621.83

	<p>undergraduate and graduate students who will be attending and presenting a paper or poster at the annual meeting of the Botanical Society of America.</p>					
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Funds as of 9/30/2023

9. Rob Baker is ending his third year as program and awards director. Thank you Rob for your excellent service! Lena Hileman is beginning her third year as the secretary-treasurer of the section. Yaowu Yuan is beginning his second year as chair. We are holding elections this year for a program and awards director.

Sincerely,

Yaowu Yuan, Ph.D.

Developmental & Structural Section Chair, Botanical Society of America

Associate Professor, University of Connecticut

Robert Baker, Ph.D.

Developmental & Structural Section Program & Student Awards Director, Botanical Society of America

U.S. National Park Service

Lena Hileman, Ph.D.

Developmental & Structural Section Secretary and Treasurer, Botanical Society of America

Professor, University of Kansas