

2022 BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Development Committee Members (last year of service)

Jennifer Cruse-Sanders (2023), At-Large Director of Development, Chair

Ned Friedman (2023)

Rebecca Rooney (2023)

Peter Wilf (2023)

Joe Williams (2023)

Heather Cacanindin, Executive Director, ex officio

Katherine Charton, graduate student (2024)

Jennifer Ackerfield (2025)

Sincere thanks to Ed Schneider for his past service to the BSA Development Committee!

Strategic Plan

In 2021 the Botanical Society of America (BSA) revised its strategic plan, updating the mission, goals and areas of impact for the society. The Development Committee is committed to raising funds that will enable the society to achieve its goals as outlined in the updated strategic plan and to achieve long-term sustainability for BSA. Support for diverse student inclusion and participation emerged as a priority for the continued work of the society. Among other areas of focus outlined in the strategic plan, making student participation and success a key priority will ensure the long-term sustainability and global impact of the Botanical Society of America.

Revised Mission for the Strategic Plan of the Botanical Society of America

To inspire and promote an inclusive global community committed to advancing fundamental knowledge and innovation in the botanical sciences for the benefit of people and the environment.

Revised Areas of Priority - Note that success in all four areas is essential for the BSA to achieve its mission:

- Human Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Research and Scholarly Excellence
- Organizational Impact and Visibility
- Professional Development

Endowed Funds for Student Research

In 2021, the society received a large and generous gift from an anonymous donor to endow a new Graduate Student Research Award in Comparative Plant Biology. The first research award for \$10,000 from this fund will be offered in 2023. This award significantly increases the support that the society can provide to graduate students in plant biology. The society also offers the prestigious Kaplan Dissertation Award in Comparative Morphology, in its third year of funding, which provides a \$10,000 research award annually.

Graduate Student Research Support

Recently, members of the society were asked if they would support an increase in dues to support student research. The response of the membership as a whole in support of the request that they pay more for dues so that the society can give larger and more graduate research awards strongly indicates that this is a high priority for the society.

Revenue

Since 2020, the Society has seen a significant increase in donations to support student research through the Bill Dahl Grad Student Research Award. The focus on giving in support of students is evident in the summary of revenue since 2019.

FY2019 - \$ 8,415

FY2020 - \$30,075

FY2021 - \$29,442

FY2022 - \$31,219 (as of June 2022)

Impact

In parallel with increased revenue for the Bill Dahl Grad Student Research Award, the number and amounts of awards given to students has also increased. In 2019 the society awarded 20 research awards for the amount of \$500 each, totaling \$10,000. In 2020 the society provided 25 awards for an increased amount of \$1500 per awards, totaling \$37,500. Support for student research increased again in 2021 with 40 awards in the amount of \$1500 per award for a total of 60,000 in student research support. Graduate student research support in 2022 was \$46,000 31 awards provided at \$1500 per awards.

It is also notable that in general, sections of BSA are also working to give more and larger awards in support of student research and participation.

Historical Data on BSA Fundraising

FY2022 - \$49,128 (as of June, 2022)

FY2021 - \$68,817 (does not include the gift for the endowed Award in Comparative Plant Biology)

FY2020 - \$82,014 (includes a major give of \$14K for the D&S section)

FY2019 - \$420,000 (\$355,000 Kaplan Award gift)

FY2018 - \$74,457

FY2022 Endowment through June = \$14,787 (GSRA giving focus)

FY2021 Endowment Giving = \$16,809 (GSRA giving focus)

FY2020 Endowment Giving = \$17,544 (GSRA giving focus)

FY2019 Endowment Giving = \$27,300 (endowment was a major focus that year)

FY2018 Endowment Giving = \$22,734 (endowment was a major focus that year)

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Cruse-Sanders, At-Large Director of Development, Chair

July 8, 2022