

Botanical Society of America
Past President's Report, 2004

1. **Chaired the Election Committee** (see related report elsewhere).
2. **Chaired Corresponding Members Committee** (see related report elsewhere).
3. **Young Botanist Awards Committee.** The call for nominations of graduating seniors for BSA Young Botanist Awards went out in the Fall Mailing and in e-mail reminders that followed. Criteria for selection include outstanding academic performance, involvement in research, leadership, and interest in and potential for a career in plant biology, as evidenced in two letters of recommendation from faculty mentors, meeting minimum GPA requirements and from vitae or résumés. Twenty-one students were nominated, from 16 different institutions in the U.S. Dossiers were read and ranked by committee members (Wayne Elisens, Gordon Uno and myself). The top 16 students were awarded the Certificate of Special Achievement, and 4 additional students received Certificates of Recognition. Notification was sent to nominators electronically through the BSA Office, followed by letters and certificates to the students or primary nominators from the BSA headquarters in St. Louis. When requested, local news services were also notified, for release to local newspapers or inclusion in commencement programs. The *Plant Science Bulletin* has printed the names and affiliations of the awardees. Next year we are making it a goal that nominations will be submitted largely electronically and the award will become a principal responsibility of the Council Representative.

Following are awards, awardees and their respective home academic institutions.

A. Certificate of Special Achievement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>
Tiffany Bone	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Matthew R. Brown	California State University, Chico
Christina Coleman	Auburn University
Jason Cunningham	Eastern Illinois University
Monica (Nickki) Guillot	Drake University
Patrick Hudson	Truman State University
Emily Kluger	Muhlenberg College
Diana Lofflin	Willamette University
Jolene M. Miesner	Truman State University
Abigail J. Moore	University of Utah
Anderson Shepard	Colorado College
Claire Steiner	Miami University
Matthew Valente	Auburn University
Laura B. Vary	Vassar College
Karen C. Walsh	University of Wisconsin
Sarah Elizabeth Youngstrom	University of Missouri-Columbia

B. Certificate of Recognition

Name	Institution
Sarah Alsup	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Michele M. Gregorich	Chatham College
Rikki L. Hrenko	Miami University
Eric Lees	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

4. Plenary Symposium for Botany 2004:

The theme that I chose for the Plenary Symposium is “Seed Plant Gametophytes: Still the Forgotten Generation?!?” The symposium will be held Monday morning, August 2, 2004, from 8:20 to 11:00 am, in Ballroom 1 (Cliff Lodge), Snowbird UT.

The speakers are:

Dr. Mohan B. Singh, Institute of Land and Food Resources, University of Melbourne, Australia
“Generative cell transcriptome and regulatory mechanisms controlling male gametic cell specific gene expression”

Dr. Hugh G. Dickinson, University of Oxford, Department of Plant Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom; “Why do gametophytes need so many cytokinetic mechanisms?”

Dr. Ueli Grossniklaus, University of Zürich, Institute of Plant Biology & Zürich-Basel Plant Science Center, Zürich,, Switzerland; “Genetic dissection of female gametophyte development and double fertilization”

Dr. William E. Friedman, University of Colorado, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Boulder, CO; “Modularity and the evolution of the female gametophyte in ancient angiosperms”

5. AJB duties. In the last year, I have continued my involvement with the *American Journal of Botany* Online, including participation in the selection of an electronic manuscript management system. I have also advised Bill on a variety of related issues and provided support in attending the spring HighWire Press meeting (May 5-7, 2004) and worked to improve the *Journal*.

6. Representing BSA. On October 20-23, 2003, I represented the Botanical Society of America at the joint meetings of the Botanical Societies of Argentina and Chile (XXIX Jornadas Argentinas de Botánicas y XV Reunión Anual de la Sociedad Botánica de Chile) at San Luis, Argentina.

7. 2004 ISEF. Dr. Jennifer Richards and I represented the BSA as two of four botany judges for Intel Special Awards at the 2004 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), May 10-14, 2004, in Portland, OR. We judged approximately 80 botany posters and helped to select the 4 Life Sciences Special Awardees. Each of the botany finalists receives complementary memberships in the BSA.

Respectfully submitted

Scott Russell
Past President