

2005 Genetics Section Report to the BSA Council

Carrie A. Wu received the 2004 Margaret A. Menzel Memorial Award at the BSA banquet in Snowbird, UT for her paper entitled "The spatial genetic structure of cytoplasmic and nuclear markers in a natural *Ipomopsis* (Polemoniaceae) hybrid zone." The paper was co-authored with Diane R. Campbell. The award recognizes the best presentation in the contributed paper session of the Genetic Section and includes a certificate, \$200.00, and a ticket to the BSA banquet.

Deborah Alongi Johnson received the 2004 Genetics Section Poster Award for her work entitled "Sugar transporter gene family discovery in the fern *Ceratopteris richardii*." Co-authors on the poster included Michael A. Thomas and Jeffrey P. Hill. The award included a certificate, \$100.00, and a ticket to the BSA banquet.

Because the Genetics Section has not awarded a Graduate Student Research Award in the last couple of years we announced two calls for proposals this past spring: one for a PhD student, and one for a MS student. The proposal submitted by Nicole Hardiman, PhD candidate at the University of Cincinnati, entitled "Intra-specific hybridization as a mechanism of invasiveness in *Pyrus calleryana*" was funded. Amy Stillman, Boise State University, will receive the MS student award (her proposal was entitled "Chromosome counts in *Lepidium papilliferum*, a rare endemic of southwestern Idaho"). Both students will receive \$500.00 for their work, and up to \$500 for reimbursement related to attending and presenting their research at a BSA meeting in the next two years.

At the Botany 2005 meeting in Austin, TX, there will be two Genetics Section contributed paper sessions with a total of 29 oral presentations. Additionally, 15 poster presentations will be given in the Genetics Section.

The Genetic section is one of the co-sponsors of a symposium at the Botany 2005 meeting entitled "Comparative Chloroplast Genomics." This is an all-day symposium that will include 11 speakers.

At the end of the Botany 2005 Genetics Section Business Meeting Stephen Novak will step down as Chair of the section. Randall Small will become Chair and Council Representative, and Vance Baird will become Vice Chair. This past spring we began the process of nominating/recruiting a person to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer for the Genetics Section. This process led to the nomination of Theresa Culley, Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. She has agreed to serve in this capacity, and will assume her duties at the end of section's business meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen J. Novak