

BSA Past-President's Report 2009

Activities

As Past-President, I chaired the Elections Committee and the Corresponding Members Committee (see below for reports of those committees). In addition, I chaired the BSA's Strategic Planning Committee. This Committee was commissioned by former Past-President Chris Haufler and myself and began working on the strategic plan in March, 2008. Additional meetings were held at Botany 2008 in Vancouver and in St. Louis in January, 2009. The plan was completed by email and will be presented to the membership during Botany 2009 in Snowbird. The BSA continues to belong to the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP), which meets twice per year in Washington, DC. The Past-President, President, President-Elect, and Executive Director of the BSA generally attend the December meeting of CSSP and, in addition to participating in the conference, use the meeting as an opportunity to discuss BSA business. In December, 2008, President Karl Niklas, Executive Director Bill Dahl, and I represented the BSA at CSSP. In addition, I serve on the CSSP Board of Directors, representing the BSA. I have also continued to work with the ad hoc committees that were formed as I assumed my position as President-Elect in 2006. I helped to organize and obtain funding for a panel discussion on career development and other issues facing women at the Women in Science luncheon to be held Tuesday, July 28, 2009, in Snowbird. I am working with the International Committee to develop a proposal to NSF to fund a joint workshop between the BSA and its counterpart in Peru. I have also helped the BSA Student Representatives (Jim Cohen and Andrew Schwendeman) plan a panel discussion on career planning for graduate students and post-docs, to be held Tuesday, July 28, 2009, in Snowbird.

Annual Report of the Elections Committee

Pamela S. Soltis, Past-President, Chair, ex officio, Robert K. Jansen, Jeff J. Doyle, Judith E. Skog, Stephen G. Weller, Secretary, ex officio
(note: Judy Skog recused herself from the Committee upon her nomination for President.)

The Committee solicited nominations for President-Elect and Secretary from the BSA membership and supplied additional nominations. In addition, candidates for the At-large Directors for Development, Education, and Publications were nominated and secured by the Board of Directors, and the slate of candidates for the BSA Student Representative to the Board of Directors was provided by the current Student Representatives.

The Chair of the Committee led discussions to rank the nominees for President-Elect and Secretary and invited the top nominees to stand for election.

The results of the 2009 elections are:

President:

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| Judy Skog | 294 |
| Ann Hirsch | 193 |

Secretary:

Pam Diggle 295
Theresa Culley 187

At-large Director for Development (three-year term):

Dennis Stevenson 244
Edward Schneider 232

At-large Director for Education (two-year term):

Christopher Haufler 247
Gordon Uno 238

At-large Director for Publications (one-year term):

Scott Russell 265
Gar Rothwell 212

BSA Student Representative to the Board of Directors (two-year term):

Rachel Meyer 121
Michele Brower 114
Stephen Stern 105
Natalia Pabon-Mora 103

The Committee thanks all candidates for their willingness to serve the Society.

Corresponding Members Committee

Pamela S. Soltis, Chair, Christopher H. Haufler, Edward Schneider

The Committee received five nominations for Corresponding Members and unanimously endorsed all of them.

Prof. Enid A. C. MacRobbie

Professor Emerita, Botany School (now Department of Plant Sciences), University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England

Dr. MacRobbie has studied ion transport in plant cells for over five decades. Her early work revolutionized our understanding of ion transport processes across the plasmalemma and tonoplast in photosynthetic organisms, through study of relatively small-celled marine algae and of the giant cells of characean algae. Her later work documented the role of ion fluxes in the movement of stomatal guard cells in controlling leaf gas exchange. She continues to investigate signal transduction mechanisms involved in stomatal closure. Her lifetime of achievement and discovery in plant science merits special recognition in the form of Corresponding Membership in the BSA.

Prof. John Raven

Boyd Baxter Professor of Biology, Department of Biological Sciences (now Division of Plant Sciences, College of Life Sciences), University of Dundee, Scotland

Dr. Raven's career has concentrated on the physiology of how photosynthetic organisms acquire resources, especially inorganic carbon and nitrogen, from their environment, and how these resources are used within the organisms. Throughout his work, he has emphasised an evolutionary approach, and his study systems have spanned major clades and diverse habitats throughout the world, with current work extending to astrobiology and the search for conditions on other planets and moons that would support photosynthesis. His research has implications for climate change, as he addresses the role of marine and aquatic photosynthetic organisms in carbon dioxide cycles. For this outstanding body of physiological research, Dr. Raven is recommended for Corresponding Membership in the BSA.

Prof. Anca Sarbu

Department of Botany, University of Bucharest, Romania, and Director of the Dimitrie Brandza Gardens, University of Bucharest, Romania

With over 100 publications already in her relatively short career, Dr. Sarbu has distinguished herself as an enthusiastic advocate for botany, both within her native Romania and through international collaborations. Her research interests are broad, but her focus is on plant biodiversity and conservation of the Romanian flora. Through her work as Director of the Dimitrie Brandza Gardens, she has brought into cultivation many endangered species. She is an active teacher as well and has published five laboratory and teaching manuals. For her diligent protection of rare plant species and her role in international research projects on biodiversity, Dr. Sarbu is enthusiastically recommended for Corresponding Membership in the BSA.

Dr. David E. Symon

State Herbarium of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia

Dr. Symon is regarded as the premier Solanologist in the history of Australian botany, having completed the monograph of the genus. He is an outstanding field botanist, with floristic expertise that spans Australia. His body of work is also broad conceptually in that it includes floristics based on extensive fieldwork, basic systematics, and the biological implications of his observations and systematic research. He continues to conduct research on members of Solanaceae (and other groups), even at the age of 88, and remains supportive of junior botanists by providing field support, identifications, and specimens to several systematists. As Australia's foremost authority on Solanaceae, Dr. Symon is very deserving of Corresponding Membership in the BSA.

Prof. Muddasir Israr Zaidi

Department of Botany, University of Balochistan, Quetta, Pakistan

Dr. Zaidi's primary expertise is on the medicinal properties of plants, but her research is diverse and addresses physiology, economic botany, and useful plant compounds, and extends to systematics and ecology. In addition to her research, she has worked on exchange of journals

and equipment to provide improved resources for botanical research in Pakistan. Dr. Zaidi has overcome many obstacles in her career, such as a nation at war, government upheaval, and strong cultural prejudice against women in the workforce. She has been active in the BSA for several years, and we now recommend that we welcome her as a Corresponding Member.

Respectively submitted,

Pamela S. Soltis
BSA Past-President