

Spring 2024: Student Representatives Board Report
Botanical Society of America

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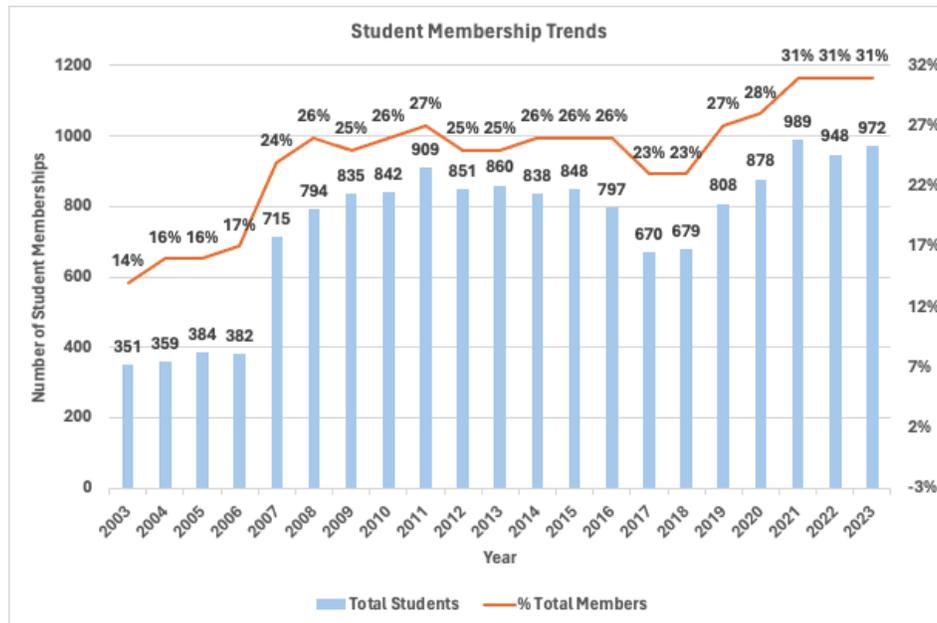
STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS

It's exciting to see the BSA continue to support student research! Even in a period of financial hardship for the society, we appreciate the continued support of students. Total investment in student grants has increased significantly over time, which we believe maintains high student engagement with the organization and fosters a commitment to BSA long-term. We understand that some of the funding we offer is dependent on fundraising, and we hope BSA will continue to support these high funding levels in the long-term.

| Award | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Exp 2024 |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>BSA Graduate Research</i> | \$500 | \$500 | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | \$1,500 |
| <i>Count</i> | 20 | 20 | 20 | 27 | 40 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| <i>BSA Undergrad Research</i> | \$200 | \$200 | \$200 | \$200 | \$200 | \$500 | \$500 | \$500 |
| <i>Count</i> | 4 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| <i>Kaplan</i> | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| <i>Phylogenetic Comp. Pl. Bio.</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| <i>Total</i> | \$10,800 | \$10,000 | \$31,000 | \$51,500 | \$72,400 | \$61,000 | \$71,000 | \$71,000 |

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

In 2023, BSA had the second highest number of Student Members (972), after a record 2021 (989). Student members continue to make up ~31% of total membership, staying at the record high from 2021. 64% of students had General membership, 33% had a 3 year membership, and 3% had a Chapter membership.



These trends continue to reflect the high student engagement in the society and highlight the importance of the student population for the society, both for student membership and for conversions from student to other membership types.

We hope to continue to increase student membership from BSA Student Chapters. One of the requirements for the chapters is that the two primary officers are current BSA members. We were expecting this to continue to increase student membership from the 15 student chapter memberships in 2021. At this point in the implementation of the new requirements, we have had an increase to 21 chapter members.

In the last year, we have taken many steps to create opportunities for students to continue to engage them in the society and maintain membership:

- We continued to compile student resources in a Google Doc and actively interacted with student members via social media.
- The Early Career Professional Development Committee proposed by past Student Reps has been active and working on professional development events for our members.
 - They have fully taken over the GRFP workshop, and held an “Applying to Graduate School” both offered in Fall 2023

- The ECDC committee actively works with the Botany360 committee to provide year round events for all members
- Planning an upcoming coding workshop series that will continue into the workshop we and the ECDC are planning for Botany 2024
- The new committee application process took effect in the 2022 application season. This year, we continued to heavily advertise these positions to students through social media and the student newsletter.

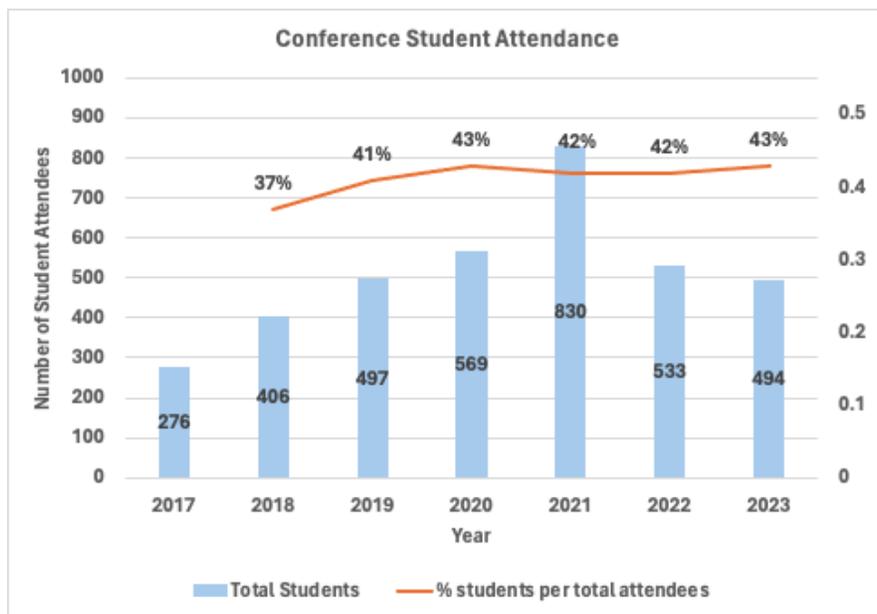
BOTANY 2023 RECAP

Summary

The Botany 2023 conference student attendance was similar to pre pandemic numbers and Botany 2022, with 494 registered students. Students made up 43% of the total conference attendees, a percentage which has stayed consistent since 2019. There were fewer students who attended virtually (72 compared to 165 in 2022). These virtual attendees accounted for 15% of the total student attendance. While hybrid options are cheaper for student members, they seem to be less popular than in previous years.

General:

- 494 student attendees
- The percentage of graduate/undergraduate students attending the conference has grown and we hope to see that percentage get even larger!
- 24% (224) of abstracts were student submissions



Key takeaways:

- Students continue to make up a large percentage of conference attendees averaging at 41% of total attendees over the last five years. This means we must

understand their conference needs to continue to serve this population and maintain their engagement in the conference.

- Almost half of all attending students presented at Botany 2023 (45% of student attendees). These percentages are smaller but similar to the virtual conference years and before (~ 55% general rate).
- It is still difficult to point to long term patterns using data regarding student attitudes toward hybrid meetings. Students in surveys mostly support hybrid meetings, but hybrid student attendance at Botany2023 was low.

Evaluating proposal to increase student participation in symposia and colloquia

In Spring 2021, the student reps recommended to the board that “starting with Botany 2022 we require all symposia and colloquia to include at least 1 student in their proposal to be approved and continue to encourage organizers to take into account the diversity, including the career stage diversity, of their speakers”. We found an increase in student involvement in symposia and colloquia in 2022 and wanted to see if that trend continued in 2023.

The applications had varied information about the career stage or position of the proposed speakers, but we were able to identify student speakers and post-docs in 50% proposed sessions in 2022 and 92% of sessions for 2023. Out of the 75 speakers proposed for 2023, 19 were students and 14 were post-docs. The symposia/colloquia student participation decreased during the virtual conferences but is increasing now. Overall, it seems that more proposals are including at least one student speaker, with a third of them including multiple student speakers in 2023. We believe that it is important to continue to monitor student participation in colloquia/symposia and find ways to increase participation, as students make up such a high percentage of conference attendance and presentations.

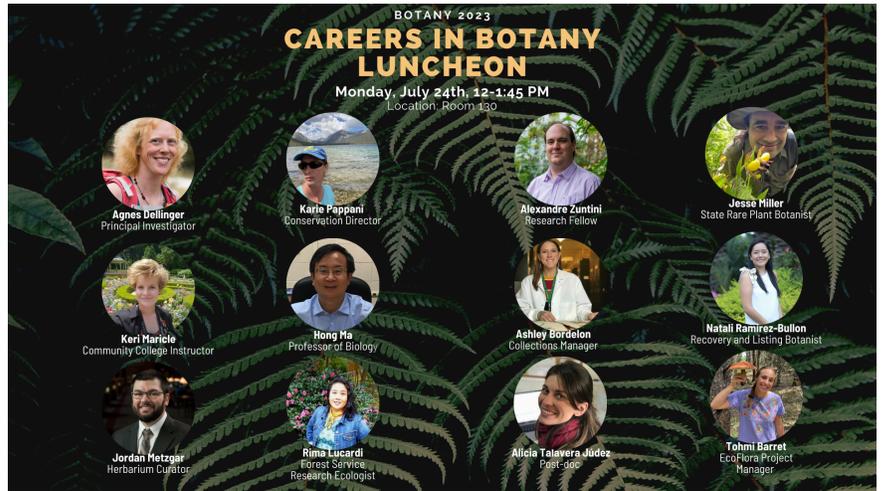
| Year | | # Students | # Post-Docs | Total Speakers |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2022 | Colloquia | 11 | 6 | 45 |
| | Symposia | 3 | 5 | 30 |
| | Total | 14 | 11 | 75 |
| | Percent | 19% | 15% | |
| | | | | |
| 2023 | Colloquia | 15 | 4 | 50 |
| | Symposia | 4 | 10 | 35 |
| | Total | 19 | 14 | 85 |
| | % of speakers | 22% | 16% | |

Event Recap

Career in Botany Luncheon:

At the Careers in Botany Luncheon, we had 12 panelists with careers in academia, government, non-governmental organizations, consulting companies, herbaria, botanical gardens and museums. They represented the spectrum of career stages, and collectively,

they work in five countries and ten US states. A total of 106 students attended; one of our best attended luncheons yet! [Profiles were added to Botany.org.](#)



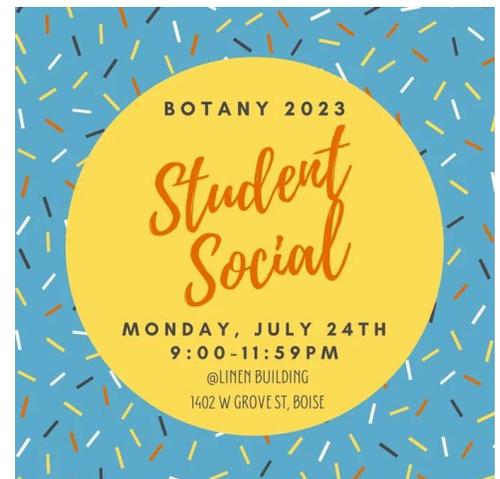
Writing your CV & translating it into a public-facing website workshop:

Our first CV writing/website building workshop was a great success with 7 panelists and 12 attendees. The workshop panelists were a diverse group of plant scientists with experience in both CV building and Website management.



Student Social and Networking Event:

We had 143 students who attended the social (similar attendance to 2022). We had lots of positive feedback and we think these events were overall successful.



Botany 2022 Networking Board: For our conference Networking Board, we heard from 7 labs recruiting for more than 13 positions including masters and PhD student, research assistant, post-doc, and technician openings in 7 states across the country. We also heard from 18 early career researchers looking for graduate school positions, post-docs, jobs in industry, government, lab or field positions.

Student Chapter Meet-up:

We held our first ever Virtual Student Chapter Meet-up at the conference this year. The event was initiated and organized by our very active student chapters. We hope to continue events like these to help connect all of the Student Chapters.

LOOKING FORWARD - BOTANY 2024

Conference events

- Workshop - Data Analysis and Visualization In R
- Careers in Botany Luncheon
- Student Social
- CV Review Sessions
- BSA Student Chapter Meet-up

Networking

- Botany 2024 Networking Board - *in progress*

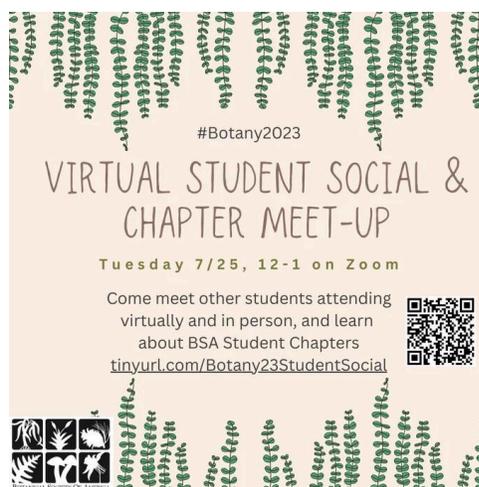
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Plant Science Bulletin

Summer 2023

Anghel I. and Hartung E. 2023. Student Section. Plant Science Bulletin 69(2): 137 – 143.

- Advertised conference events in “Getting Ready for Botany 2023”
- New BSA student representative was highlighted



Fall 2023

Hartung E. and Felton J. 2022. Student Section. Plant Science Bulletin 69(3): 268 – 270.

- Recapped events from Botany 2022 and shared feedback

Spring 2024

Hartung E. Felton J. 2024. Student Section. Plant Science Bulletin 70(1):

- Recapped the “How to be a Successful Student Rep” Botany360
- Highlighted the grants/internships/workshops available to students in the “Roundup of Funding Opportunities”
- Shared new articles in the Papers to Read for Future Leaders section

Summer 2024

- *In progress*

Committee applications

We had 6 open positions for student representatives on BSA Committees. We do not yet have the data for how many applications we received from students. We advertised in the student newsletter and on social media.

We also advertised for the BSA Student Rep position.



DUE THUR, FEB 1ST

BSA STUDENT REP NOMINATIONS

Are you interested in becoming a BSA Student Rep? Nominate yourself or someone else for an opportunity to help shape the direction of the society:

- Represent student interests at the BSA Board Meetings
- Plan student events at the Botany Conference and throughout the year
- Connect with and create resources for students

Position details: <https://tinyurl.com/bsastudentresources>

Scan for the nomination form!



Botany360

We recently hosted the “How to be Successful BSA Student Rep” for 2024-2026 candidates to explain what the position entails and to help applicants understand the commitment.

We are also planning another “Preparing for Botany” Botany 360 event to help students, especially those who have not yet attended a conference, plan for Botany 2024. Tentative on event dates, but planning for mid May.



Student Representatives on Committees

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

2024-2026

Help shape the direction of BSA activities by joining one of these committees:

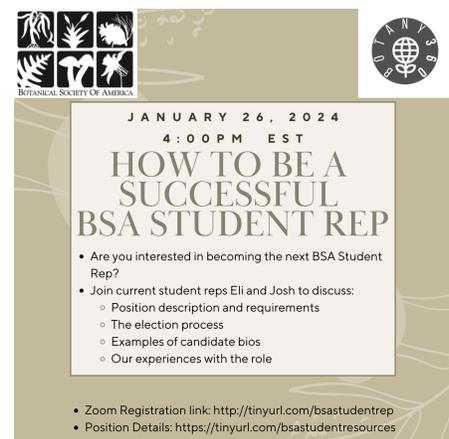
- Development Committee
- Education Committee
- Election Committee
- Financial Advisory Committee
- Information Technology Committee
- International Affairs Committee

APPLICATIONS DUE FEB 1, 2024

Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/2024BSAcommittee>

Connecting with Student Members

We continue to update the [BSA Student Resources Google Doc](#).



JANUARY 26, 2024
4:00PM EST

HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL BSA STUDENT REP

- Are you interested in becoming the next BSA Student Rep?
- Join current student reps Eli and Josh to discuss:
 - Position description and requirements
 - The election process
 - Examples of candidate bios
 - Our experiences with the role

• Zoom Registration link: <http://tinyurl.com/bsastudentrep>
• Position Details: <https://tinyurl.com/bsastudentresources>