

**Botanical Society of America Teaching Section Annual Report
for 2018-2019
Section Chair: Kyra N. Krakos
Section Vice Chair and Program Director: Benjamin Montgomery
Section Secretary/Treasurer: Phil Gibson**

1. **Leadership:** In 2018, Madhav Nepal completed his term as Chair and Kyra Krakos was elected for the next 3-year term. Ben Montgomery was elected for a 1-year term as Vice-Chair (the rest of Kyra's 3 year term).
2. **Awards:** In 2018, the Postelthwait Award was given to Madhav Nepal. The Bessey Award was given to Lena Struwe. For the 2019 Charles Edwin Bessey Teaching Award, the current chairs of the Education Committee (Chris Martine) and the Teaching Section (Kyra Krakos) reviewed the nominations and chose this year's winner. This will be awarded at the Botany meetings in Tucson, AZ.
3. **Conference Participation:** The teaching section continues to grow and have a strong presence among the contributed papers at the annual Botany conference. The broad range of categories that fit into this section attract a cross-section of attendees. Botany 2018 had 15 contributed papers and 11 posters. Scheduled for Botany 2019 are 19 contributed papers and 16 posters. We are encouraged by this growth trend.
4. **Initiatives and Goals:** At Botany 2018 a collaboration was discussed between the Teaching section and the Diversity committee about combining resources to promote structured programming focused on diversity and inclusion for Botany 2019. Broadly, the goal of this group was to promote networking and shared knowledge among the faculty of the regional tribal colleges and community colleges and other attendees of BOTANY 2019 with the goal of diversifying the community of plant scientists. This collaboration resulted in a funded NSF grant that is providing funding for 12 scientists from under-represented schools and communities (with a focus on invitations to the tribal colleges) to attend Botany 2019. In addition, the NSF grant and this collaboration has created programming that strategically links three new opportunities for faculty to encourage training of a more diverse workforce in the plant sciences: 1) a Spotlight Session symposium entitled 'Educating for a Diverse and Inclusive Community in Botany for the 21st Century', bringing together in discussion administrators, biology faculty and staff engaged in teaching diverse students and social science researchers studying the efficacy of these interventions, particularly with respect to the impacts on faculty and institutional practices (Monday afternoon), 2) a workshop on inquiry-based learning in plant science with an emphasis on exchanging best practices and ideas among the workshop attendees on methods for engaging students with diverse backgrounds in learning science, and particularly plant sciences (Sunday all day), and 3) a special contributed paper section in the Teaching Section with a specific emphasis on inclusive pedagogical practices in various institutional settings (Monday morning).
5. **Looking Ahead:** We sent out a targeted email encouraging more teaching section participation in the Flash talks, and plan to make this an area of discussion at our annual section meeting and lunch. We also are looking at the possibility of expanding the Diversity and Inclusion initiative to at least a funded three-year option.