

## 2023 BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

### **Development Committee Members** (last year of service)

Jennifer Cruse-Sanders (2023), At-Large Director of Development, Chair

Ned Friedman (2023)

Rebecca Rooney (2023)

Peter Wilf (2023)

Joe Williams (2023)

Katherine Charton, graduate student (2024)

Jennifer Ackerfield (2025)

Heather Cacanindin, Executive Director, ex officio

### **Critical Fundraising needs**

Due to trends in the publishing industry and our latest publications contract with Wiley, publications revenue is significantly reduced. This, in turn, impacts the BSA budget. In response, BSA will need to pull down 4% from the unallocated amounts within our investment account annually for the foreseeable future to support BSA operations and mission. **Donations to BSA Endowment, Graduate Student Research Awards and unrestricted gifts are more important than ever.**

### **Graduate Student Research Support**

Surveys of professional members of the society indicate strong support for larger and more graduate research awards. This remains a high priority for the society.

### **GSRA Revenue**

Since 2020, the Society has seen a significant increase in donations to support student research through the Bill Dahl Grad Student Research Award. The focus on giving in support of students is evident in the summary of revenue since 2019.

FY2019 - \$ 8,415

FY2020 - \$30,075

FY2021 - \$29,442

FY2022 - \$32,024

FY2023 - \$31,517 (through June 30, 2023)

*Fiscal year is Oct 1-Sept 30*

### **Impact:**

In parallel with increased revenue for the Bill Dahl Grad Student Research Award, the number and amounts of awards given to students has also increased. In 2019 the society awarded 20 research awards for the amount of \$500 each, totaling \$10,000. In 2020 the society provided 25 awards for an increased amount of \$1500 per awards, totaling \$37,500. Support for student research increased again in 2021 with 40 awards in the amount of \$1500 per award for a total of 60,000 in student research support. Graduate student research support in 2022 was \$46,000, 31 awards provided at \$1500 per awards. In 2023, 32 awards were given at \$1500 each totaling \$48,000.

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It is also notable that in general, sections of BSA are also working to give more and larger awards in support of student research and participation, although a few sections were adversely affected in the last two years by the market fluctuations and have had to suspend providing student travel awards in FY2023.

### **Endowment Giving**

FY2023 Endowment Giving as of June 30, 2023 = \$15,455 (GSRA and AJ Harris giving focus)

FY2022 Endowment Giving = \$20,870 (GSRA giving focus)

FY2021 Endowment Giving = \$16,809 (GSRA giving focus)

FY2020 Endowment Giving = \$17,544 (GSRA giving focus)

FY2019 Endowment Giving = \$27,300 (endowment was a major focus that year)

FY2018 Endowment Giving = \$22,734 (endowment was a major focus that year)

### **Historical Data on BSA Fundraising: Total Giving**

FY2023 – \$73,203 (as of June 30, 2023, includes AJ Harris giving)

FY2022 - \$391,727 (\$311,526 award gift to start an award in Comparative Plant Biology)

FY2021 - \$68,817

FY2020 - \$82,014 (includes a major gift of \$14K for the D&S section)

FY2019 - \$420,000 (\$355,000 Kaplan Award gift)

FY2018 - \$74,457

### **NEW – Special Endowed Fund for Student Research**

New this year, a fundraising effort was launched in April 2023 in memory of BSA member AJ Harris with the hopes of raising at least \$20,000 to pay for an endowed student research award. At the end of June, a total of \$10,265 has been raised with \$9,735 left to raise to reach the goal. If \$20K is not raised, then the funds will be expended to support extra graduate student research awards in her honor.

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Cruse-Sanders, At-Large Director of Development, Chair

July 17, 2023