

Summer 2022: Student Representatives Board Report

The Botanical Society of America

Officers

Outgoing: Imeña Valdes (2020-2022)

Current: Ioana Anghel (2021-2023)

Incoming: Eli Hartung (2022-2024)

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Botany 2022

Student Registrations

The number of students registered was 473 as of June 11th, with 353 in person and 170 virtual registrations. This is a drop from the record 830 student registrations from last year. The registrations are on track to reach the numbers at the last in-person conference in 2019, when 497 students attended. Students make up 43% of total attendees, close to the student attendance percentages for 2019-2021.

Student Events

1. Planting the Seeds of Science Communication Workshop (July 24th, 10:00am - 12:00pm) feat. Taran Lichtenberger, Molly Edwards, and Teressa Alexander as co-organizers

Where do we start when we want to share our science with our broader communities? Which social platform is the best medium for the topics we want to amplify to engage the audience we want to reach with our preferred style of communication? Join us for a two-hour workshop to:

- Meet a panel of plant science communicators who reach people through varied media and platforms: community outreach, museums & botanical gardens, social media, video, and writing
- Hear their advice on how to effectively talk about plant science to diverse audiences
- Ask questions about how to get started
- Connect with other scicomm enthusiasts

In this workshop, a panel of science communicators will introduce themselves and their work, and share some actionable advice. Then we will chat in small groups where you can learn

directly from the panelists who best align with your scicomm interests. You will leave the workshop with ideas for developing an action plan for your science communication strategy.

Panelists: Taran Lichtenberger, Budburst; Molly Edwards, Harvard University; Teresa Alexander, University of the West Indies; Chris Martine, Bucknell University; Tanisha Williams, Bucknell University; Brandon Corder, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Sarah Jacobs, California Academy of Sciences; Loy Xingwen, Southeastern Center for Conservation; Kathryn Parsley, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center; and Jacob Suissa, Harvard University.

- 19 people registered as of June 23rd.
2. Careers in Botany Luncheon (July 25th, 12:00pm - 1:30pm)
 - We are following the same “speed-dating” format as previous years where students will be sitting at tables and the panelists will rotate between tables during the luncheon.
 - This year we have 20 professionals confirmed so far. The current panelists come from various careers and career stages such as faculty from PUI, R1, and R2 institutions as well as international faculty, herbarium directors/curators, a post-doc at an R1, government ecologists, industry scientist, NGO botanists and managers, and a horticulturalist.
 - 82 people were registered as of July 13th.
 3. CV Review Sessions
 - We have 3 CV reviewing sessions for 18 students.
 - 14 students were registered as of July 13th.
 4. Student Social (July 25th, 9pm - 11:59pm)
 - We will have a Wiley sponsored student social.
 5. BSA Officer Mixer (July 27th, 6:30pm - 7:00pm)
 - This officer mixer is an open space for students and others interested in being involved with BSA to learn more about the society and ways to connect.
 6. Facilitated Networking
 - [Botany 2022 Networking/Job Board](#)

General Update

- [BSA Student Member Resources](#) (Last Updated March 2022)
- Plant Science Bulletin
 - Spring Issue
 - Round up of student opportunities: 5 BSA specific funding opportunities, 13 fellowships, and 23 grants. We also included information on broader

impact organizations, short courses and workshops, and looking for a job in plant science.

- Included advice on travel funding for Botany 2022.
- Papers to Read for Future Leaders - included all shared papers sent in so far for a total of 26.
- Summer Issue
 - Details of all the student centered events that will be at Botany 2022.
 - Papers to Read for Future Leaders - included 2 papers and a Twitter thread by Dr. Beronda Montgomery for a reading list.
 - Getting to know your new student representative, Eli Hartung.
- [Student Member Hub](#)
 - We coordinated with Amelia to create a student centered page on the BSA website so all the relevant student information can be found in one place for easy access.
- [BSA Student Chapters](#)
 - We modified the application process and rules for maintaining a chapter in order to keep students connected with BSA.
 - Student chapters must have a **Faculty Advisor**. This person will help maintain the continuity of the chapter as students graduate and will help provide relevant resources for students. It is recommended for the advisor to be a current BSA member but it is not required.
 - **Choose at least two student Officers: a President and Secretary/Treasurer**. You can have more officers if you wish. **These two primary officers, however, must have current BSA memberships**. Officers will be able to take advantage of the Student Chapter membership rate of \$10 and can also work with the BSA office if financial aid is requested (email aneely@botany.org for either scenario.)
 - The **President** will be the **primary contact for the BSA Office**. The **Secretary** is responsible for **forwarding BSA email communications** (such as the monthly Newsletter) **to the chapter members who are not current BSA members**. Any Student chapter member that is a current BSA member will automatically receive BSA email communications.
 - Student Chapter Officers will be required to **update BSA on any officer changes annually**.
 - **Student Chapters will be required to have at least two botany themed events per year**. We would love to see you organize as many botanical activities as you want, but you are required to report two chapter events. These events are a great way to connect with your chapter around your interest in botany. Some activity ideas are field trips to a museum or botanical garden, hikes or field work in local plant habitats, attending plant science conferences or talks, organizing plant sales or swaps, organizing outreach events to engage the local community in botany, and volunteering to remove invasive species or replant native plants.

- **Submit details about your two chapter events.** Please use the event reporting form, you will need to include a description of the event, a photo at the event, a caption for the photo, and the number of people who attended. In the form you will decide if you want us to share your events with the BSA community via the monthly newsletter, on the Student Chapter webpage, and possibly on BSA social media.
- If your chapter uses social media, **please share your activities with the tag #BSAStudentChapter**
- **Join us on BSA Slack** on the #bsa-student-chapters channel to connect with other chapters around the country and the world!

Proposal #1

This year we had four candidates up for Student Representative, two graduate students and two undergraduates. While we think the interest in this position is great, we are concerned about the time commitment for undergraduates. Part of the responsibility of being on the Board is attending multihour meetings throughout the two years as Student Rep. These meetings are either virtual during the week, or prior to COVID-19, scheduled in St. Louis. Undergraduates would likely have to skip class to attend these meetings and we should not encourage this. In addition, the Student Rep serves a population of both undergraduates and graduate students. An undergraduate rep may not be able to represent or anticipate the needs of graduate students, while a graduate student has had both of those experiences and can better speak for this broader audience. We propose to amend Article VII Section 3 of the Bylaws to include that students must be graduate students when applying for the Student Representative position.