

2018 Mycological Society of America Midyear Reports

Midyear Report of the President

Hello y'all! I want to thank the editors, officers, committee members and countless individuals working behind the scenes for their tireless service to the Mycological Society of America. As an all-volunteer society, your efforts are essential to the day-to-day functioning of our society. I want to especially thank our Executive Vice President, Sarah E. Bergemann, for all of the time and effort that she put into scheduling this meeting. She has great organizational skills that are beyond anything I expected of anyone.

We had a very successful meeting in Athens, with a wide array of outstanding symposia, presentations, and posters, as well as wonderful venues to socialize and get to know our colleagues better. Great time to set up collaborations!

I think that the main issue that have confronted MSA since the 2017 meeting in Athens has been the problems with the hurricane aftermath in Puerto Rico, site of our 2018 meeting. I am pleased that things seem to be in order and that much of Puerto Rico at least has power. Our venue at the convention center and our hotels seem to be functioning very well. Thanks to Sharon Cantrell Rodriguez, Matias Cafaro and others on the ground in Puerto Rico for keeping us informed and working out some of the problems already. Thanks to the program committee for their commitment to our meeting. A special thanks to the MSA student section for committing to raising funds for hurricane relief for Puerto Rico.

Another problem facing the MSA is the current drop in membership for 2018 to under 500 as of late January 2018. We will discuss possible reasons for this drop and possible remediation efforts. I am hoping we can bring back most of the lapsed members through a vigorous personalized writing campaign. I hope we can make the MSA even more attractive to fungal cell biologists and other research groups that have become underrepresented.

Mostly the MSA is doing very well. We have large amount of money on hand from good investments. Thanks to those committees involved, especially to Jean Lodge who has led the charge for a professional investor. The MSA has been using some of these funds for additional support for symposium speakers in Puerto Rico, hoping to encourage mycologists who might not otherwise be able to attend. Our publishing agreement with Taylor & Francis seems to be going well, although there is a bit of concern over billing, which will be discussed at this meeting. A large number of new *Mycologia* editors has been named, and we have decided to reward editors with helping to defer their costs to the annual meeting. Overall, the MSA is in good shape, but there are some things we can do even better.

—Tom Volk
President

Midyear Report of the President-Elect

This past year I have devoted my time to the organization of IMC 11.

Registration:

IMC 11 registration as of today 118 (84 regular delegates and 34 student). We have been giving discount codes to delegate of developing countries, speakers, chairs and committees.

Abstracts:

Abstract submission closed last night. We have 660 submitted abstracts (Applications 65, Cell Biology 22, Ecology 203, Education 11, Environment 81, Evolution 113, Genomics 60, Pathology 105). The plan is to start reviewing this coming week, rearrange the posters by session to renumber posters and have the decision by March 1st.

Invited Speakers for Symposia:

We are still missing speakers for 4 in pathology, 2 in genomics, 1 in education and 1 in ecology. Two need to revise the speakers since there have been cancellations. We had requested to move symposia to different dates. I would like to publish the program soon if we could complete the list of speakers.

—**Sharon A. Cantrell**
President-Elect

Midyear Report of the Vice President

News to date:

1. I am learning my job!
2. Nominations from the MSA community are in, and there are clear winners in every category except “*Cell Biology/Physiology Councilor*”:

Vice President: David Geiser

Executive Vice President: Marin Talbot Brewer

Genetics/Molecular Biology Councilor: Joan Bennett

Systematics/Evolution Councilor: Camille Truong

Ecology/Pathology Councilor: Nhu Nguyen

The nominees for “*Cell Biology/Physiology Councilor*” are:

- Catherine Aime
- Rosanne Healy
- Anindya Chanda
- Heather Hallen-Adams
- Mertixell Riqueime

Note: in the MOP, the deadline for nominations from membership is written as January 31, but this year, the call for nominations indicated a January 15 deadline.

3. After extensive and slow negotiations with Allen Press, we are on track to have a first, newly overhauled and refitted issue of *Inoculum* together by the end of January, with an estimated release by end February. Basically, the new *Inoculum* will be a clickable web newsletter, but there will be an option to download any particular issue as a .pdf, if a reader prefers to have a printed version. The first issue will be created by Allen Press at no charge, as a kind of trial; if we choose to hire them as we move forward with future issues the cost will be \$600/quarter. The first issue will be fairly simple and include:

- a letter from the President (Volk)
- a column from the Executive Vice President (Bergemann)
- a preview of IMC 2018 (Cantrell)
- a summary of awards given at the Athens 2017 meeting
- Tanya Cheeke's paper on diversity in MSA

Items planned for second issue of *Inoculum*, 2018/ Public Databases

Letter from our President

Column from the Executive Vice President

News piece from MushroomObserver? (I could email Nathan Wilson)

News about MycoMap? (Contact?)

Are there other projects like this we could highlight (iNaturalist?)?

Items planned for third issue of *Inoculum*, 2018/ Fungi in Commerce

Letter from our President

Column from the Executive Vice President

News piece: patenting fungi (Jacob Golan)

News piece: fungi in laundry (?!?) based on NYT article?

News piece: some other industrial use... beer? (!?)

After these three issues, we may need to seek a new, permanent editor for *Inoculum*. Hopefully by then protocols to create *Inoculum* will be in place, and it will just be a matter of editing content.

—Anne Pringle
Vice President

Midyear Report of the Executive Vice President

The last council and business meeting minutes of the 2018 MSA Annual Council Meeting and Business meetings in Athens, GA, were published on the MSA website (<http://www.msafungi.org/MEMBERSERVICES/MSAMEETINGMINUTESANDREPORTS.aspx>).

A summary of activities since these meetings are reported here:

- Committee members, officers and representatives of the MSA rotating off their positions were contacted and thanked for their service to the MSA
- New committee members, officers and representatives of the MSA were contacted and provided with a list a committee members and relevant section(s) of the MSA Manual of Operations
- MSA website documents were updated and sent to Allen Press for publication on the MSA website and include: MSA Constitution and By-laws, MSA Manual of Operations, MSA Awards Committees and MSA roster
- Conducted 11 email polls as follows:
 - 2017-07— Council approved support of matching funds of up to \$20,000 for the North American Mycoflora Project (NAMP)
 - 2017-08 — Council approved an amendment to the MSA Student Section Bylaws to include a merchandising chair
 - 2017-09 — Council approved a request for discounted membership for Jumban Blaise
 - 2017-10 — Council approved a request for emeritus status for Dr. Robert Antibus
 - 2017-11— Council approved a request for emeritus status for Dr. David Yohalem
 - 2017-12 — Council approved support for the reimbursement of travel and registration expenses for *Mycologia* Editors to attend the annual MSA meeting
 - 2018–01 — Council approved the nomination of *Mycologia* Associate Editors Chris Spies, Matt Smith, Jeff Stone, Allison Walker and Don Walker
 - 2018–02 — Council approved a motion to increase the support by the MSA by an additional \$34,000 to support travel and registration costs
 - 2018–03 — Council approved the nomination of *Mycologia* Associate Editors Robby Roberson and Andy Wilson
 - 2018–04 — Council approved a request for discounted membership for Lourdes V. Alvarez
 - 2018–05 — Council approved the nomination of *Mycologia* Associate Editors Bridget Barker, Ricardo Garcia Sandoval, Jozsef Geml, Catherine Gehring, Jolanta Miadlikowska and Jason Stajich

- Submitted announcements to Allen Press Association Manager, Terry Leatherman, for call for membership renewals, the calls for international awards and student mentor travel awards (deadline), the call for nominations of officers for MSA council (deadline 1/15/18), the calls for honorary, distinctions and research awards (deadline 2/15/17) and the announcements for IMC 11 prepared by Sharon Cantrell and Jean Lodge
- Worked with the International and Mentor Travel Awards Committees to identify ad-hoc reviewers for IMC 11 travel awards; assisted with award sorting by AP
- Drafted and mailed letters acknowledging the receipt of all endowments for the 2017 calendar year
- Sent President-Elect Sharon Cantrell a list of all vacant assignments for committees and representatives for 2018-2019
- Worked with President Tom Volk to organize the agenda for Midyear Executive Council Meeting; made arrangements for the meeting via conference; contacted officers and committee chairs to submit midyear reports; compiled the agenda and packet for meeting
- Responded to email and other inquiries addressed to the MSA
- The death of the following member was reported:
 - Cletus P. Kurtzman (November 27, 2017)

—Sarah Bergemann
Executive Vice President

Midyear (Annual) Report of the Treasurer

Table 1. MSA Financial Position as of 30 June 2017

Assets	As of June 30 2017	As of 30 June 2016
Checking- US Bank	\$ 379,569.62	\$ 274,068.89
Accounts Receivable	910.00	150,000
TDA-Combined	1,400,977.80	1,144,095.92
Prepaid Expenses	45,203.89	33,899.73
Total Assets	\$ 1,826,661.31	\$ 1,602,064.54
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities	\$ 161,478.39	\$ 180,149.16
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 711,400.99	\$ 588,004.69
Excess Revenue over Expenditures	69,181.57	43,822.52

Total Unrestricted	780,582.56	631,827.21
Restricted Net Assets	799,138.98	771,697.22
Restricted Revenue over Expense	85,461.38	18,390.95
Total Restricted	884,600.36	790,088.17
Total Net Assets	1,665,182.92	1,421,915.38
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 1,826,661.31	\$ 1,602,064.54

MSA experienced an increase of \$148,755.35 in Unrestricted Net Assets, and an increase of \$94,512.19 in Restricted Net Assets in the year from June 30, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Table 2. Publication income and expenses in 2017 through June 30

	2016	2017 through June 30
Income		
Royalty or Pay-per-view	\$13,956.02	\$ 58,260.39
MYCO: Stipend from Taylor & Francis	\$30,000.00	35,000.00
Misc.	\$71,118.49	9,873.25
Subscriptions	\$181,397.25	2,399.43
Total Income	\$296,471.76	\$105,533.07
Expenses		
Inoculum subtotal	\$6,493.34	
Management fees	\$36,132.09	\$19,373.24
Online Svcs.	\$18,536.96	
Management subtotal	\$54,669.05	\$19,373.24
Mycologia		
Mycologia:Printing	100,400.38	15,384.96
Mycologia:AllenTrack	3,455.39	1,061.21
Mycologia:Editorial office	60,220.17	18,200.78
Mycologia:Online publication	936.80	11,413.50
Mycologia: Subscriptions		12,079.83*
Mycologia subtotal	\$165,012.74	\$58,140.28†
Total Expenses	\$226,175.13	\$77,513.52
Net income	\$70,296.63	\$28,019.55

*Subscriptions invoiced to MSA by Taylor and Francis.

†Note: Future Mycologia expenses in 2017 will be nominal, and in most years costs of functions other than member subscriptions will be assumed by Taylor and Francis.

Table 3. Publication and management expenses incurred in FY2015 and FY2016, and in FY2017 as of June 30.

Publication Expenses	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017 through June 30
Inoculum	\$6,465.34	\$6,493.34	\$0.00
Management fees	38,893.28	36,132.09	19,373.24
Mycologia			
Mycologia printing	76,417.70	100,400.38	15,384.96
Allen Track	4,795.05	\$3,455.39	1,061.21
Editorial office	83,337.66	60,220.17	18,200.78
Online Publication	26,716.64	19,473.76	11,413.50
Subscriptions			12,079.83
Mycologia subtotal	191,267.05	183,549.7	46,060.45
Total publication costs (Inoculum, Allen Management and Mycologia)	\$236,163.86	\$226,175.13	\$77,513.52

Fiscal Year January-December

Membership:

As of Feb 1, 2018, the number of members for FY2018 is 978 which is lower when compared to FY2014 which was 1074. The number of subscriptions is 594 for FY2015 which is lower when compared to FY2014 which was 644. For FY2016 a total of 719 members and 455 subscribers have renew. These numbers are higher than same time last year. The number of memberships and subscriptions continue to exhibit a continual and gradual decline.

Table 2. Number and income generated from memberships and subscriptions from FY2006 to June 30, 2017. Income figures for FY2017 not yet available; awaiting data from Allen Press Membership Services.

FY	Number of		Income \$ from	
	Members	Subscriptions	Members	Subscriptions
2006	1185	729	\$101,992	\$142,756
2007	1199	724	89,971	170,910
2008	1134	713	83,339	197,282
2009	1139	680	80,834	211,317
2010	1102	648	77,670	212,087
2011	1107	613	79,058	203,291
2012	1144	568	80,682	196,694
2013	1096	691	70,330	180,851
2014	1074	644	42,927	168,122
2015	953	587	58,702	189,591
2016	1137	549	64,628.00	181,397.25
2017 to June 30	1061	834	28,858.19	(9,680.40)*

Net of \$2,399.43 received and (\$12,079.83) invoiced by Taylor and Francis. The invoice bills \$11,250 for all six 2017 issues online (750 subscriptions “based on minimum counts”), plus \$829.83 to date for three issues in print.

Statistics Reports
(as of December 1, 2018)

Members

Table 3. Number of members by category from FY2013 to December 1, 2018.

Description	Rate	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	As of Dec. 1, 2018
Affiliated Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR			1	1	3	
Associate Member Worldwide Complimentary Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR	17	18	17	36	40	5
Discounted Membership Online Only	1YR		1	1		1	
Emeritus Member Worldwide Print&Online	1YR						
Emeritus Member Worldwide No Journal	1YR	123	128	123	164	178	
Emeritus Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR	51	34	41	16	9	4
Additional Family Member (each)	1YR	2	2	6	3	8	1
Additional Family Member (each) Old Rate	1YR						
Honorary Member Worldwide Print&Online	LIFETIME	26	4	5	4	4	
Honorary Member Worldwide No Journal	LIFETIME					1	
Honorary Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR	4	26	27	27	28	
Lifetime Member Worldwide Print&Online	1YR				1		
Lifetime Member Worldwide Print&Online	LIFETIME	70	6	4	5	8	1
Life Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR	3	5		2	2	
Life Member Worldwide Online Only	LIFETIME	1	63	70	67	69	
Post-Doctoral Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR	16	54	50	49	49	17
Regular Member Worldwide Print&Online	1YR	1					
Regular Member Worldwide	1YR	594	546	529	521	469	130

Online Only							
Student Member Worldwide							
Print&Online	1YR	1					
Student Member Worldwide							
Online Only	1YR	180	187	164	235	186	60
Sustaining Member Worldwide							
Print&Online	1YR						
Sustaining Member Worldwide							
Online Only	1YR	8	4	4	1	1	
	Sum:	1098	1079	1044	1137	1061	218

Subscriptions

Table 4. Mycologia subscriptions by category from FY2012–2017.

Rate	Description	2013	2014	2015	2016	As of June 1, 2017
Institution	Complimentary Worldwide Sub Online			1	1	1
Institution	Complimentary Worldwide Sub Print	3	2	1	1	1
MEMBER	Member Complimentary Sub Print	1				
MEMBER	Non-North America Sub Print	2		1		
Agency	Non-United States/Canada Print&Online		65	1	1	1
Institution	Non-United States/Canada Print&Online		11	7	9	
LIST	Non-United States/Canada Sub Print		39	22	19	19
MEMBER	Non-United States/Canada Sub Print	2	10	13	9	4
Agency	Non-United States Sub Print&Online	76	2	57	45	
Institution	Non-United States Sub Print&Online	12	1	1		
LIST	North America Sub Print			2		
MEMBER	North America Sub Print	6	1	2		
Agency	United States/Canada Print&Online		205	176	166	
Institution	United States/Canada Print&Online		7	6	5	
LIST	United States/Canada Sub Print		40	33	22	17
MEMBER	United States/Canada Sub Print		25	23	15	11
Agency	United States Sub Print&Online	233				
Institution	United States Sub Print&Online	8				

Agency	Worldwide Sub Online	211	225	236	242
Institution	Worldwide Sub Online	12	11	12	14
LIST	Worldwide Sub Print	117			
MEMBER	Worldwide Sub Print	9			
Sum:		692	644	594	549
		54			

Notes: MSA now pays Taylor and Francis for subscriptions at unit price of \$2.50 per issue online for a minimum of 750 subscriptions, and \$4.17 per issue print. Most online subscriptions are handled directly by Taylor and Francis, and are no longer tallied by Allen Press Membership Services.

Other matters of note:

- Proceeds from the 2015 meeting at the University of California, Berkeley, were received on August 1, 2017, and totalled \$38,423.58. This total included \$35,000 for meeting registrations and \$3,423.58 miscellaneous.
- In her will, Martha Christiansen generously bequeathed ca. \$16,000 to the MSA Myron Backus fund.
- The biennial report to the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs was submitted online on January 7, 2018. This is required to keep the organization in good standing.
- The 2016 tax return for MSA (EIN 16-6077141) was submitted to the IRS in November 2017, and listed Net Assets at \$1,510,540. For future reference, the address is listed as MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, P.O. BOX 1897, LAWRENCE, KS 66044-8897
- The MSA received a generous donation of \$50,000 from an anonymous donor, with a request to fund research projects in the following areas:
 - The effect and sustainability of commercial wild chaga harvesting on forest health. Could be a multiyear study.
 - MycoNanotechnologies.
 - Ergothioneines in mushrooms and mycelium.
 - Basidiomycete strains for the direct conversion of lignocellulose into ethanol
- The MSA received a generous donation of \$2000 from Melavante Corporation to support the NAMA Award. (Melavante Corporation, 6200 Capitol Boulevards SE F, Tumwater, WA 98501, Phone 360 352 1851, Mearle E. Gates Jr., President, Melodie Gates, Treasurer melody52@comcast.net, Barbara Ching, Secretary laetiporous@gmail.com).
- The MSA Council voted to contribute \$54,000 to support expenses and registration for select speakers at the 11th International Mycological Congress (IMC11) in Puerto Rico, July 2018.
- The MSA Council voted to reimburse Mycologia editors (Managing, Executive and Associate) up to \$600 in registration and up to \$1,000 in travel to MSA annual meetings including IMC11. For editors who cannot attend the MSA annual meeting any given year, the MSA will, with approval of the President, reimburse up to \$800 in expenses to attend another meeting in the same year. Funds for reimbursement will be

from the \$35,000 annual Administrative and Editorial Stipend provided by Taylor and Francis per our copublication contract.

—**Chris Schardl**
Treasurer

Midyear Report of the *Mycologia* Editors

Mycologia Issue 109.4 went to printing in December 2017. Issue 109.5 will go to printing in late January 2018, all articles for this issue are already published online. 109.6 is scheduled to go to printing in February. Of the threshold for printing of 12 articles, 9 of those slated for 109.6 are already published online. 110.1 will be a special issue. It is scheduled for completion in February. Of the 19 articles slated for this issue, 10 are already accepted while 9 are currently in the various stages of the review process.

The 2016 impact factor is 2.55 a minimal decrease from 2.638 in 2015. The 2017 Impact factor is not yet available.

The journal received 252 manuscripts in 2017. This was on par with 2016 (236 Allen Track; 51 Editorial Manager; many of these overlap making an exact number difficult to ascertain). The average time from submission to first decision was 55 days (an increase from 50 days in 2016). The average time from submission to final decision was 74 days (an improvement from 76 in 2016). The rejection rate in 2017 was 67.8% up from 64% in 2016.

The Editors welcome new Executive Editor Brandon Matheny and new Associate Editors: Bridget Barker, Ricardo Garcia Sandoval, Jozsef Geml, Catherine Gehring, Jolanta Miadlikowska, Robby Roberson, Chris Spies, Matt Smith, Jason Stajich, Jeff Stone, Allison Walker, Don Walker and Andy Wilson to the editorial board. The MSA and editorial board would like to thank Executive Editor Frances Trail and Associate Editors Ignazio Carbone, Jeff Cary, Jessie Glaeser, Niklaus Grunwald, Tim James, Peter Kennedy, Andy Methven, Andy Miller, and Brian Perry whose terms ended this past year. Their dedication and hard work on behalf of the journal was notable.

Ongoing problems include:

- 1) Print publication of the journal is behind schedule. This is in part because of growing pains through the transition to our new publisher and from reviewer and editor burnout causing a lag in the review process. A large new crop of Associate Editors is being recruited for 2018 to help alleviate this. Also as detailed in paragraph 1 above, articles for issues through 110.1 *Mycologia* are already online and awaiting printing. We anticipate clearing the printing backlog to catchup to on time publication in 2018.
- 2) There is still a pressing need to resolve the copyright status of previous issues published by the New York Botanical Garden. Executive Editor Keith Seifert and Managing Editor Brian Shaw have spoken with representatives of Taylor and Francis and NYBG working to resolve the issue. This copyright uncertainty means that back issues before 1998 are online only at JSTOR and not through the Taylor and Francis website. Most MSA members have login access to JSTOR through their institutions, but

for those that do not, login access through msafungi.org to the jstor site has been setup. Seifert and Shaw will continue to work to resolve this issue in 2018.

—*Mycologia* Editors

Betsy Arnold (Executive Editor), Brandon Matheny (Executive Editor), Chris Schardl (Executive Editor), Keith Seifert (Executive Editor), Brian Shaw (Managing Editor)

Midyear Report of the MSA Association Manager

On behalf of the team at Allen Press, thank you for the opportunity to provide association management services to the Mycological Society of America. In this report to the MSA Council, we will review the following:

1. MSA Membership Retention Services
2. MSA Member Communication

2018 begins with the Manager of Association Management Services for Allen Press, Terry Leatherman, assigned to provide Association Manager services to MSA. In that capacity, Terry is the main communication source for society leadership and directs desired executive services. In addition, Allen Press Association Management Administrator, LeRenzo Kelley provides administrative support by managing the MSA member database and responding to member and subscriber needs.

Allen Press also provides a team of talented personnel who bring specialized skills to benefit the MSA, including internet technology, marketing, and accounting.

- MSA Membership Retention Services

The 2018 MSA Renewal campaign is well underway. Five membership renewal efforts are planned during the 2018 renewal season. The first was conducted in late October, when 1,117 emails were sent requesting current and recently lapsed members renew the membership in MSA. There were also 47 letters and renewal notices mailed to renewal candidates who do not supply the MSA valid email addresses. Renewal Effort #2 was conducted in mid-December. Additional renewal efforts are scheduled around February 1, March 15 and late in April.

When 2017 closed, the MSA membership totaled 1,061 members. During the initial renewal efforts, 389 membership renewals were received by MSA. When Worldwide Emeritus Members (no journal) and Lifetime members are included, the MSA member roster, as of January 1, was 645 members.

Table 1: MSA Membership, as of January 1, 2018

Product	Description	Rate	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
AFFWO	Affiliated Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR						1	1	3	
ASCW	Associate Member Worldwide	1YR	22	53	26	17	18	17	36	40	12
COMPWO	Complimentary Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR					1	1		1	
DEVWO	Discounted Membership Online Only	1YR				1	1	2	5	5	
EMRWB	Emeritus Member Worldwide Print&Online	1YR	50	48	48						
EMRWN	Emeritus Member Worldwide No Journal	1YR	115	115	115	123	128	123	164	178	
EMRWO	Emeritus Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR	1	4	2	51	34	41	16	9	7
FAMWN	Additional Family Member (each)	1YR				2	2	6	3	8	4
FAMWO	Additional Family Member (each) Old Rate	1YR	3	3	3						
HONWB	Honorary Member Worldwide Print&Online	LIFETIME	25	22	22	26	4	5	4	4	
HONWN	Honorary Member Worldwide No Journal	LIFETIME	1							1	
HONWO	Honorary Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR				4	26	27	27	28	1
LIFEWB	Lifetime Member Worldwide Print&Online	1YR	1	2					1		
LIFEWB	Lifetime Member Worldwide Print&Online	LIFETIME	72	74	76	70	6	4	5	8	1
LIFEWO	Life Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR				3	5		2	2	
LIFEWO	Life Member Worldwide Online Only	LIFETIME				1	63	70	67	69	
POSDOCWO	Post-Doctoral Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR				16	54	50	49	49	24
REGWB	Regular Member Worldwide Print&Online	1YR	576	544	538	1					
REGWO	Regular Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR	70	80	101	594	546	529	521	469	249
STUWB	Student Member Worldwide Print&Online	1YR	135	130	166	1					
STUWO	Student Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR	24	26	46	181	187	164	235	186	91
SUSWB	Sustaining Member Worldwide Print&Online	1YR	10	9	8						
SUSWO	Sustaining Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR				8	4	4	1	1	
		Sum:	1105	1110	1151	1099	1079	1044	1137	1061	389

For comparison purposes, the January 1, 2017 statistical report showed MSA had 631 members (including Emeritus and Lifetime members). In the first three weeks of 2018, 44 additional MSA members rejoined our society. Below is a table showing monthly MSA member renewals during this year's campaign.

Table 2: MSA member renewals by month

MSA Member Renewals	October, 2017	November, 2017	December, 2017	January, 2018 (thru Jan. 19)
# of members	92	118	170	44

renewing				
----------	--	--	--	--

In summary, the 2018 MSA renewal effort is going well. MSA's largest membership demographic is its regular membership. In 2017, 44% of the membership were regular members while 18% were student members and 17% were emeritus members. In the first three months of the renewal effort, 53% of regular members have renewed and 49% of student members have renewed. Returning the remaining regular and student members, along with attracting new members, will allow MSA to again achieve having more than 1,000 members in 2018 and hopefully more.

- MSA Member Communications

Since July, 2017, there have been 13 emails sent to MSA members and supporters to keep them informed of vital matters to the society. Most MSA email communications are sent to around 1,500 recipient including MSA members, past members and prior attendees of MSA conferences. Allen Press utilizes a mass email platform that provides useful recipient information, such as number of recipients who open the email and the number who follow links embedded in the email. If MSA desires this information regarding a member email, please contact your Association Manager. On the next page is a sample of an email sent in January, 2018.

Besides email communications, Allen Press also maintains the MSA website (<https://msafungi.org/>), which involves editing content and performing maintenance. The website is linked to the electronic process Allen Press uses to maintain a database of MSA members and activities and that permits financial transactions to efficiently and safely occur. Finally, Allen Press used Survey Monkey to conduct three MSA members surveys in 2017, where MSA members were provided the opportunity to inform and to be involved in their society.

MSA Call for
Nominations

CALL for NOMINATIONS for COUNCIL

Deadline for Nominations: January 15, 2018

Dear MSA Colleagues:

We are now accepting Nominations to fill six (6) Council positions – Vice President, Executive Vice President, and four (4) Councilors (in Cell Biology/Physiology, Ecology/Pathology, Genetics/Molecular Biology, and Systematics/Evolution). Please nominate a colleague for any or all positions! Nominations can be submitted online via the "Submit Your Nominations" link below or you can return the nomination form by January 15, 2018 to MSA Vice President Anne Pringle by e-mail (anne.pringle@wisc.edu) or regular mail. A PDF link to the paper nomination form can be found in the online survey. We welcome all nominations and are actively seeking to diversify the MSA Council. Self-nomination is encouraged.

Vice President Anne Pringle will count nominations and assemble a ranked list of nominees for each position. Nominees that receive the most nominations will be placed on the ballot. Successful nominations will require more than one vote and MSA members are encouraged to reach out and form coalitions to support chosen colleagues. The nominees with the greatest number of nominations will be contacted and, if willing to stand, placed on the spring ballot along with a candidate selected by the MSA Nominations Committee.

The spring ballot will be available to all members at least three months prior to the annual meeting in Puerto Rico, scheduled from July 16-21, 2018. Nominations and elections are important to the Society and you are strongly encouraged to participate! Please refer to the MSA home page at www.msafungi.org (in particular <https://msafungi.org/memberservices/msaofficersandroster.aspx>) for a list of past and present MSA Councilors and Officers.

Thank you for your enthusiasm!

Dr. Anne Pringle, MSA Vice President
Departments of Botany and Bacteriology
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Birge Hall, 430 Lincoln Dr.

Madison, WI, 53706 USA

Email: anne.pringle@wisc.edu

In 2017, it was our privilege to provide registration, abstract and meeting program services for the successful MSA Conference in Athens, Georgia. We wish you all the best with your participation in IMC11 this summer in Puerto Rico. When the MSA Conference convenes in Minneapolis in 2019, Allen Press would welcome again supporting your meeting management efforts. In January, 2018, Allen Press promoted Chris Lapine to be Manager, Meeting Services & Association Manager. In 2018, please consider entering into an agreement to again use Allen Press meeting management services to fulfill your conference needs in 2019 and beyond.

Allen Press appreciates and values the working relationship we have developed with the Mycological Society of America. We desire to continue and improve upon the association management services we have provided in the past. We would also welcome exploring new initiatives we might provide that will allow MSA to further its mission to advance the science of mycology. Please contact us if we can assist in helping the MSA operate more efficient and effectively, as well as gaining from our association management experience for ways to grow your society and better serve your membership.

—Terry Leatherman
MSA Association Manager, Allen Press

Midyear Report of the International Committee

This report summarizes the endeavors of the MSA International Committee since the last annual meeting in July in Athens, GA.

The MSA International Committee has reviewed applications for MSA and non-MSA members to support travel to the IMC 11 (July 16-21, 2018) in Puerto Rico.

The Executive Council held a discussion at the Council meeting in Athens, GA, (July 15, 2017) about the review and dissemination of travel awards for IMC 11. They agreed to give four travel awards to MSA post-docs and early career faculty (\$1500 each), and eight travel awards to post-docs and early career faculty that were non-MSA members (\$2,500 each). The International Committee reviewed and ranked all applicants. Andrea Porrás-Alfaro generated a call for the awards in consultation with the chair of the International Committee. The call was distributed by blast email to all members; as well as, it was advertise in <http://msafungi.org/AWARDS/InternationalTravelAwards.aspx>

The committee conducted business via email to reviewed and ranked the applicants for to be awarded to MSA early career professionals or post-doctoral fellows to attend the

ICM11 in Puerto Rico from July 16-21st. A total of 78 applications were received (32 applicants were MSA members and 46 applications from non-MSA members). The Committee's final selection of awardees for IMC 11 was forwarded to Sarah Bergemann on December 19th. Based on the review of applicants, four MSA members and eight non-MSA members selected were:

- **MSA members:** Teresa Iturriaga, Camille Truong, Rodolfo Salas Lizana, and Don Walker

- **non-MSA members:** Fausto Almeida, Davi Augusto Carneiro de Almeida, John Darcy, Alessandro Desiro, Isaac Garrido-Benaven, Nan Lan, Maria Martha Martorell and Tan Yong Hui.

An e-mail notifying each applicant of the award or non-award was sent to each applicant. This information was also sent to the Treasurer, Chris Schardl, and the Awards Coordinator, Andrea Porras-Alfaro.

—International Committee

Maria P. Martin (Chair), Maria Alice Neves, Marc Stadler, Terry Torres-Cruz,
Else Vellinga

Midyear Report of the Membership Committee

As of 20 January 2018, the total number of MSA members is 687, consisting of 431 regular memberships (including student, postdoctoral, and new emeritus or lifetime memberships), 78 lifetime memberships, and 178 emeritus non-journal memberships (data obtained from the MSA Member Statistics Report). The final count for 2017 was 1,061 members. Our current member count is comparable to the mid-January counts in 2015 (672 members) and 2016 (685 members). As in previous years, I expect that much of the difference between the current number and the 2017 year-end total will be made up over the course of the next few months as members renewing by mail are processed and lapsed members get around to renewing.

The 2017 member total indicates a decrease of 76 members (6.7%) compared to the 2016 total, and is the lowest number of members in the past 8 years with the exception of 2015, when there were 1,044 members (**Figure 1**). Despite this bad news, it is good to keep in mind that member numbers during this 8-year period fluctuated within a range of 107 members, so it is not unreasonable to think that membership can be boosted to levels comparable to those of recent peak years. The 2016 peak in membership (second only to 2012 over the 8-year period) indicates that a consistent decline in membership is not a foregone conclusion.

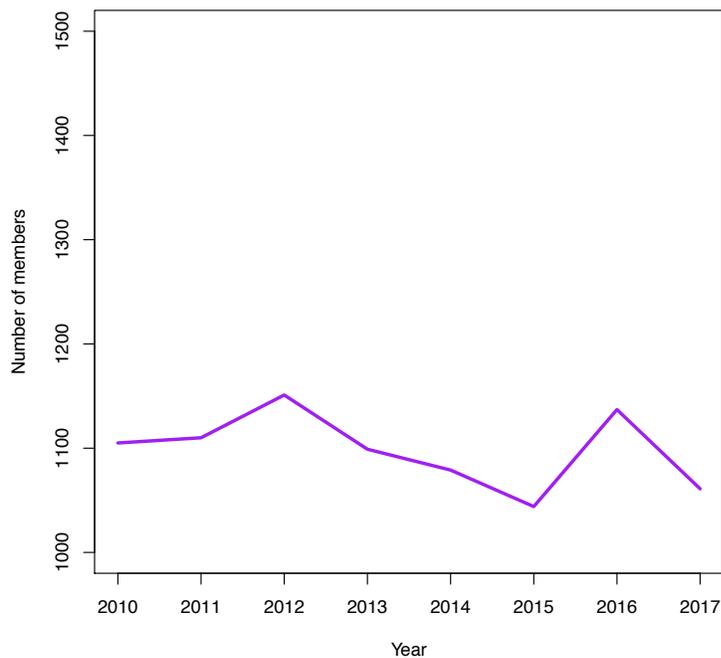


Figure 1. MSA member totals, 2010-2017.

As part of the committee’s efforts to boost membership numbers, I have requested 2010-2017 membership rosters from Allen Press so that we can analyze membership trends in closer detail. I am particularly interested in factors leading to the 2016 membership spike. The popularity of the 2016 Berkeley annual meeting is likely an important factor, but membership efforts could be enhanced by knowing, for example, whether membership numbers rose significantly among students, nearby residents, first-time members, and/or members of citizen science groups.

The highest priority of this year’s membership committee will be to participate in a joint effort with Allen Press and MSA Council members to contact lapsed members. The lapsed member list currently consists of 788 people and represents our most important pool of potential members; renewal by slightly less than 60% of these persons would bring our membership to the 8-year high of 1151 members. Although regular members are the single largest category of lapsed members, student and post-doctoral members comprise nearly as many lapsed members (**Table 1**); therefore, involving the MSA Student Section may be very helpful to this effort.

Table 1. MSA lapsed members by category, as of 20 January 2018.

Category	Number
Regular Member Worldwide Online Only	390
Student Member Worldwide Online Only	288
Post-Doctoral Member Worldwide Online Only	51
Associate Member Worldwide	45
Additional Family Member	8
Discounted Membership Online Only	6

The second priority of this year's committee will be to consider, and hopefully implement, ways to attract new members. The activity of the MSA student section and the enhanced level of cooperation between MSA members and members of mycology clubs through the North American Mycoflora Project present two opportunities for outreach. As mentioned by previous committee chair Andrew Wilson, allied professional societies such as the American Phytopathological Society are another source of potential members.

Having attended society meetings hosted nearby that I would not have attended if airfare were required, it is my belief and personal experience that geographical proximity to a meeting is a powerful attractant. I therefore think it would be worthwhile to make an effort to contact non-MSA members that are researchers in allied fields or members of mycology clubs within a certain radius of each year's annual meeting. Such efforts could be beneficial not only from a membership perspective but, even more importantly, would contribute to the breadth and vibrancy of our society.

As MSA membership chair, I would be pleased to discuss these ideas or others that you may have for maintaining current members and engaging in outreach to potential new members. Please feel free to contact me with any comments or suggestions.

—MSA Membership Committee

Todd Osmundson (Chair), Francois Lutzoni, Tami McDonald, Terri Tobias

Midyear Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee

An *ad-hoc* Diversity Committee was formed at the 2015 MSA meeting in Edmonton, Alberta following the publication of "Gender balance in mycology" by Branco and Vellinga in *Inoculum*. MSA membership approved a motion on the spring ballot in 2017 to grant the permanent status of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The Committee consists of six MSA members, male and female, international, and Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Trans/Questioning (LGBTQ), across academic rank, including graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and professors.

The Committee published two articles dealing with diversity issues and its aim in addressing these:

- Branco S, Vellinga E. 2015. Gender Balance in Mycology. *Inoculum* 66 (5): [http://msafungi.org/wp-content/uploads/Inoculum/66\(5\)%20preprint%20gender.pdf](http://msafungi.org/wp-content/uploads/Inoculum/66(5)%20preprint%20gender.pdf)
- Cheeke TE, Branco S, Haelewaters D, Natvig DO, Maltz M, Cantrell Rodriguez S, Cafaro MJ, May G. 2017. Diversity in the Mycological Society of America. [Online only]: https://msafungi.org/Portals/0/MSA%20Diversity%20Article_final_formatted.pdf

The Committee's activities for 2017 include: (1) help organize the Career Luncheon at MSA 2017, (2) solicit participation and find solutions for a higher participation from MSA membership in the Diversity Survey, (3) review the MSA Manual of Operations and the MSA Constitution and Bylaws to reduce bias and increase inclusion of diversity, and (4) start the organization of a symposium to be held at IMC11. The Committee's proposal for a symposium titled "Boosting diversity in mycology" was accepted by the IMC11 Scientific Program Committee. Confirmed speakers are Catharine Adams (female, graduate student), Sara Branco (female, international, professor), Romina Gazis (female, international, postdoc), and Danny Haelewaters (male, international, graduate student).

—MSA Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Danny Haelewaters (Chair), Sara Branco, Matias Cafaro, Tanya Cheeke, Cedric Muniania, Don Natvig, Adriana Romero, Kyrill Savchenko

Midyear Report of the Finance Committee

The investments in the combined MSA endowment accounts that are managed by our Chief Investment Officer (CIO), David Middleton at Middleton Advisory have gained (10.9%) in value from 31 December 2016 to 31 December 2017. Our investment account in 2017 had a beginning value of \$1,337,880.64, net deposits of \$80,000, and a net market value gain of \$147,270.83 for a total ending market value of \$1,565,151.47 (see table 1). This is on top of a 4% gain in 2016, from 5 May (when we moved our investments out of Wells Fargo and into active management with Middleton Advisory) to 31 December 2016 (\$49,869.90). Since our move to active investment, our endowments have increased in value by \$197,140.73 over the past 20 months. David Middleton indicated that the markets were stimulated by the prospect of tax rate cuts to businesses, which has now been passed by Congress, so it is likely that we will also see market value gains in 2018.

Examination of the proportion of MSA's income from various sources prompted us to request an assessment from our tax accountant to see if we are getting close to exceeding the federal IRS guidelines for a 301c(3) public charity. Mize Houser & Company were hired by Allen Press Membership Services to file our taxes for 2016 and calculate the breakdown of endowment funds into the many accounts, since they are invested in a pooled account. Tax filing for 2016 was being finalized in November 2017, so calculation of the endowment fund allocations is still pending. The in-house

accountant who had previously handled our endowment fund calculations left Allen Press, which is why this function was outsourced to Mize Houser & Company.

Our tax filing address has changed every three years with changes in treasurer. This is a problem for several reasons. David Middleton recommends that we designate a (more) permanent tax filing address. The business address for Allen Press would be one option for establishing a more permanent tax filing address. David Middleton counseled us that disruption of calculating endowment fund allocations and filing of taxes would occur if we change our support services provider.

Terry Leatherman of Allen Press does not think we are in danger of outgrowing the IRS public charity classification, but we have not yet seen an analysis from Mize Houser & Co. If we need to change our IRS classification, the most likely option would be to change to a trade organization 501(c)(6) with a charitable branch for the endowments. The majority of the MSA Finance Committee support consulting a tax lawyer, as does our CIO, David Middleton. David Middleton estimates the cost at around \$2,000.

Table 1. Combined MSA Investment Accounts managed by David Middleton Advisory, covering the 365-day period for all of 2017.

Beginning value 31 December 2016	\$ 1,337,880.64
Net deposits – withdrawals	\$80,000.00
Gain (on investments, not including deposits)	\$ 147,270.83
Gain as a percentage	10.9 %
Ending value 31 December 2017	\$ 1,565,151.47

—MSA Finance Committee

Jean Lodge (Chair), Charles Bacon, Don Pfister, Brian Shaw, Fred Spiegel

Midyear Report of the Program Committee

MSA is sponsoring the International Mycological Congress in 2018. The program for the Congress is being administered jointly by the Congress Program Committee, represented by MSA member Chris Schardl and by the MSA program committee. The division of labor has come to be that the MSA committee is handling Workshops and Special Interest groups and the Congress committee and delegates have managed symposia. The MSA committee will be responsible for managing the abstracts and scheduling posters and coral presentations. To date, the chair has worked in coordination with both the Congress Committee and the Local Organization Committee,

particularly Sharon Cantrell and Jean Lodge. We are assuming that the committee members will be active in screening abstracts and scheduling.

Workshops and Special Interest Groups are as follows:

Workshops with sponsors listed

Ascomycete workshop, Andrew Miller

Bacterial Fungal interactions: Emerging concepts and research approaches, Gregory Bonito

***Xylaria* working group**, Bitty A. Roy

Assessing the global conservation status of fungi: A practical workshop within the global fungal red listing initiative, Anders Dahlberg and Giuliana Furci

Coordinated fungal development and secondary metabolism, Gerhard Braus

Digital illustration of fungi for scientific publication, Davi Augusto and Carmeiro de Almeida

Forest Pathology Field trip, D. Jean Lodge

Current concepts and challenges of tropical plant parasitic microfungi, Meike Piepenbring

Beyond the lab bench: how to engage in effective online science communication, Christopher Smyth

Special Interest Groups

ICTF DNA Taxonomy debate session, Keith Seifert and Andrew Miller

Anaerobic fungi: Genomics and Biotechnological potential, Gareth W. Griffith

***Colletotrichum* working group I and II**, Ulrike Damm

Working group on *Escovopsis*, Keith Siefert

Phylachorales: systematics and advances, Jose Dianese

Advances in Boletology, Roy E. Halling

Golden Mycological Triangle – Ascomycota, Marc Sadler

Flammulina interest group meeting, A.F. van Peer

Golden Mycological Triangle – Discovery of novel bioactive secondary metabolites, Marc Sadler

—MSA Program Committee

Don Pfister (Chair), Tony Glenn, Lisa Grubisha, Heather Hallen-Adams,
Terry Torres-Cruz

Midyear Report of the Karling Annual Lecture Committee

As the 2018 meeting of the Mycological Society of America will be held in conjunction with the 11th International Mycological Congress, the Karling Annual Lecture Committee was asked (1) to make an early recommendation with regard to nominees for the 2018 Karling Annual Lecture, and (2) to consider nominees only from the list of plenary or keynote speakers already selected for IMC11, in accordance with rules put forward by the International Mycological Association.

Accordingly, the Committee was formed early in 2017 and convened remotely in March/April 2017 to review eight candidates who had been chosen previously as plenary or keynote presenters at IMC11. At the request of MSA leadership, one candidate was removed from consideration because she was already to be sponsored by a mycological association as a named speaker.

The Committee proposed three candidates to the MSA Council. Dr. Matthew Fisher was approved and has accepted the invitation to give the 2018 Karling lecture.

Dr. Fisher is a professor of Fungal Disease Epidemiology at Imperial College, London, and is recognized as a global leader in the study of emerging infectious diseases. His research program centers on understanding the biological and environmental factors that drive the emergence of fungal diseases in humans, wildlife, and plants. His quantitative and analytical approaches an interdisciplinary and cutting-edge portfolio of research that links genetics, genomics, ecology, and evolution through the lens of mycology to solve pressing problems in fungal biology, medicine, conservation, and human sustainability.

Dr. Fisher's website is: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/matthew.fisher>

—MSA Karling Annual Lecture Committee

Betsy Arnold (Chair), Kristi Gdanetz MacCready, Don Natvig, Jason Stajich

Midyear Report of the Liaison with Amateur Mycological Clubs and Societies Committee

Alija Mujic is the standing committee chair of the Liaison with Amateur Mycological Clubs and Societies Committee (LAMCSC) and this year saw the addition of committee members Nhu Nguyen, Christian Schwarz, and Stephen Russell (Student Representative). An additional acting member, Bill Sheehan, has been added to the committee to help coordinate ongoing efforts of the committee in the North American Mycoflora Project (NAMP). The goal of the NAMP is to harness the regional expertise and collecting ability of citizen scientists and professional mycologists to create a comprehensive mycoflora for all macrofungi occurring in North America. Creation of the North American mycoflora will be supported by sequencing the ITS barcode region of vouchered fungal specimens collected by NAMP project participants.

The primary focus of the LAMCSC during the later half of 2017 has been to help coordinate the efforts of NAMP advancement and serve as liaison between the MSA and NAMP organizers. LAMCSC members Alija Mujic, Christian Schwarz, Stephen Russell, and Bill Sheehan attended the NAMP workshop at the 2017 MSA meeting at Athens, Georgia. This workshop was organized by Bill Sheehan (a citizen scientist based in Athens, GA) and it was through LAMCSC participation in the workshop that we met Bill and added him as an acting member of the committee. Since the NAMP workshop in July 2017 great strides have been made by the LAMCSC to assist in the realization of the NAMP. Firstly, at the request of the LAMCSC and Sarah Bergemann the MSA has allocated a total of \$20,000 toward citizen scientist NAMP sequencing projects. These funds will be offered as matching funds to funding raised by citizen scientists for NAMP sequencing projects. The North American Mycological Association (NAMA) has risen to this funding challenge and pledged \$11,000 of funding for NAMA affiliated club projects working toward the goals of the NAMP. The LAMCSC is now pursuing outreach to amateur mycological societies to encourage interest and fundraising efforts for the NAMP. The LAMCSC currently meets on a monthly basis with NAMP coordinators through telephone conferencing.

To support the outreach and funding distribution activities of the NAMP Stephen Russell has established a new website for the NAMP with input from the LAMCSC and NAMP coordinators. This website is available in its beta format at <http://mycoflora.org/> and is the primary portal through which citizen scientists will learn about the NAMP and apply for funding for NAMP sequencing projects. The LAMCSC is registering a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization for the NAMP and has established a bank account through this non-profit organization. This non-profit will serve as the primary conduit used to distribute NAMP project funds to sequencing service providers. It has been agreed that the MSA will make their pledged funds available for NAMP sequencing projects upon request of the LAMCSC. Applications for NAMP sequencing projects will be open to citizen scientists in March of 2018 and proposals for funding will be reviewed by LAMCSC members as well as NAMP 501 (c)(3) board members. The board member roster of the NAMP 501 (c)(3) is being determined but will include current LAMCSC members Alija Mujic, Stephen Russell, Bill Sheehan, and Christian Schwarz along with additional citizen scientists and professional mycologists.

In addition to NAMP activities Alija Mujic has been coordinating outreach to the community of amateur mycologists in Northern Florida through participation in the Florida Academic Lichen and Fungi Enthusiasts League (FALAFEL). Alija co-founded FALAFEL in early 2017 and has served as the first president of the club. His tenure as club president will end in March of 2018. The steering committee of FALAFEL has organized monthly forays and several workshops in the Gainesville area which have drawn up to 85 participants at a single event. FALAFEL also holds a monthly meeting on the University of Florida campus and so far succeeded in its goal to engage citizen scientists in the mycological exploration of Florida.

Liaison with Amateur Mycological Clubs & Societies Rotating Committee Roster

—MSA Liaison with Amateur Mycological Clubs and Societies Committee

Alija Mujic (Chair), Nhu Nguyen, Christian Schwarz, Steve Russell, Bill Sheehan,
Nathan Wilson

Midyear Report MSA Student Section

Part 1: MSA Student Section Executive Board 2017-2018

Part 2: July – December 2017

- Bylaws
- MSA_SS at MSA 2017 in Athens, Georgia
- Fundraising
- Social media outlets

Part 3: January – July 2018

- Education
- **MSA meetings how-to guide for new attendees**
- Help for Puerto Rico
- Donation to Puerto Rican student organization
- School supplies donation to Puerto Rican high school
- MSA_SS at IMC11
- Student Social
- Board Meeting
- Student Section Poster
- Merchandise
- MSA Council
- Workshop
- School Supplies Collection

Part 1: MSA Student Section Executive Board 2017-2018

Chair: Terry Torres-Cruz (Penn State)

Vice-Chair: Kristi Gdanetz MacCready (Michigan State University)

Secretary: Andrea Bruce (University of Wisconsin – La Crosse)
Treasurer: Brendan O'Brien (University of Vermont)
Communication Chair: Rebecca Shay (Michigan State University)
Merchandise Chair: Nora Dunkirk (University of Wisconsin – Madison)
Webmaster: Aaron Kumlien (University of Wisconsin – La Crosse)
Postdoctoral Representative: Nicola Day (Wilfrid Laurier University)
Past-Chair: Chris Smyth (*automatic transition from Chair, non-voting*)

Part 2: July 2016 – June 2017 Year in Review

2.1 Bylaws

On November 14th, during the monthly Student Section Board meeting, it was voted that a new board position was added, a merchandise chair. A manual of operations (MOP) was made for the position. The position has been ad-hoc through 2017–2018, and Nora Dunkirk has been volunteering in this position.

Amendments to the Bylaws were proposed and unanimously approved by the 2016–2017 Executive Board, ratified by a student member-wide vote in June–July 2017, and approved by Council in October 2017. This amendment is based on the needs of the section regarding the newly generated Executive Board officer position of Merchandise Chair. The updated Bylaws are available on the Student Section's webpage:

<http://msastudents.org>

2.2 MSA 2017 in Athens, Georgia – Events and Merchandise

Previous and current Executive Board Members Jessie Uehling, Chris Smyth, Andrea Bruce, Rebecca Shay, Nora Dunkirk and Terry Torres-Cruz represented the Student Section during the MSA 2017 meeting in Athens, GA, USA. They presented the Section's poster, "The Mycological Society of America Student Section," including general information about the Student Section. Our Student Board meeting was held on July 16th, where students were updated on our work during 2016–2017 and our plans for 2017–2018. We also sold tee shirts (featuring a new design for this year), hats and travel mugs (see Fundraising, below). The Career luncheon, which we held with the MSA Diversity and Inclusion Committee, was very well attended. Students and postdocs had the opportunity to meet during lunch with mycologists from different industries who talked with students and postdocs about their career choice, how they got there, and discussed important considerations for choosing a career path in mycology.

2.3 Fundraising

Our net earnings by January 2018 are \$1,145, all of which was raised from merchandise at MSA 2017. Fundraising this year brings our account to a total of \$1,262.13. The grand total for fundraising includes expenses and costs of new materials purchase and transport, which are summarized in Table 1 at the end of this document.

2.4 Social Media Outlets

As of January 14th 2018, the Student Section MSA Facebook page has 4,003 likes [+492 since June 25th 2017], the Twitter account (@MSAStudents) has 1043 followers [+208], and the LinkedIn group has 158 members [+7].

Our #IAmAMycologist campaign, got several posts on social media from our student members and faculty. This campaign's purpose was to post on Thursdays photos of lab work, fungi, etc. using the hashtag to encourage student members to share about their work on social media. Before MSA 2017, a vote was held and prizes were given to the two best posts: Jillian Meyers and Adriana Romero-Olivares.

3.1 Education

We are in the process of collecting educational resources including lesson plans, Powerpoints, and lab ideas for outreach events for a variety of skill levels. We will invite MSA members to submit materials they are willing to share; including media recipes, techniques for isolating specific fungal taxa, protocols, lesson plans, etc. that can enable outreach opportunities for students. All these materials will be available on our website.

3.2 MSA meetings how-to guide for new attendees

The Student Section Executive Board members are currently working on creating a how-to guide for new student members attending MSA meetings for the first time. The resources will be available on our website <http://msastudents.org> and a newsletter will be sent out to members before the annual meeting with summarized information and links to our full how-to guide. This initiative was proposed by Student Section board members and it is also a response to a suggestion made by Dr. Nicole Hynson during the MSA Council meeting at IMC2016 in Berkeley, CA.

The Student Section board is still working on the specific topics for the guide, but it will likely include: preparing an elevator speech, creating business cards, what to wear to an MSA meeting, what to expect during forays, social gatherings, and poster sessions, effectively getting information out of talks, creating a LinkedIn, creating a research gate profile or personal website, choosing talks strategically, and networking. We will also have a section on how to prepare a poster, where we will attach examples from previous poster award winners, who have given written permission to share their posters with the student community.

3.3 Help for Puerto Rico

After hurricane Maria and with IMC11 being held in San Juan this year, the Student Section board saw the need to solidarize with Puerto Ricans and we have explored different possibilities to help the community.

a) Donation to a Puerto Rican student organization

We conducted a survey among MSA student members and the results showed a high interest in members wanting to purchase merchandise with 50% of the profits going to relief efforts in Puerto Rico. The Student Section is currently in contact with a student association at University of Puerto Rico (UPR) – Humacao, UPR's campus that was most affected by hurricane Maria, where we can potentially donate the money raised

with our merchandise sells. In this way we can more directly support our Puerto Rican student counterparts in their ongoing recovery.

b) School supplies donation to Puerto Rican high school

We are planning to conduct a collection of school supplies during the IMC 11 meeting in San Juan, PR. We will contact MSA members in advance and provide a list of suggested supplies to bring with them. During the meeting, we will be collecting the donations at our merchandise table and the supplies will be donated to a high school in the northeast region of Puerto Rico.

3.4 MSA Student Section Presence at IMC11 in San Juan, Puerto Rico

a) Student Social

The Student Section will organize a Student Mixer, which will be open to all student and postdoctoral attendees. Information will be provided to MSA students in an MSA Student Section Newsletter closer to the event.

b) Board Meeting

The MSA Student Section will be holding its sixth annual Board Meeting during the IMC11 meeting in San Juan. We will update student members about our accomplishments during this year and our plans for the upcoming year, as well as publicize opportunities for Student Section leadership.

c) Student Section Poster

The MSA Student Section will be presenting a poster at the annual meeting with the same name as the Section; that includes information about who we are, our goals, and ways for students to get connected and involved.

d) Merchandise

We will sell leftover tumblers and hats from this year's MSA conference fundraising efforts. In addition to our leftover materials, we are planning to order more t-shirts (which sold out at MSA2017) and bringing back spore print and MSA student section logo stickers, that have been popular in previous years. The new Merchandise Chair position has made possible the diversification in our merchandise and improved our selling logistics, which has been led by our current Merchandise Chair, Nora Dunkirk.

e) MSA Council

2017-2018 Chair, Terry Torres-Cruz, will represent the Student Section at the Annual MSA Council Meeting.

f) Workshop

The Student Section is planning a workshop entitled: "Beyond the Lab Bench: How to Engage in Effective Online Science Communication", which will be held on July 19th 1:00-5:00PM. The workshop aims to provide participants with information on how to use online platforms for effective networking and public outreach. The workshop will include

topics regarding: online etiquette, crowd-funding campaigns, effective use of social media to communicate science findings, press releases as a way to promote research and translating it to the general public, among others.

g) School supplies collection

As stated on Section 3.3b, we will collect school supplies during the meeting that will be donated to a Puerto Rican high school in the northeast region. We will be contacting members before the meeting with more information regarding this effort.

Table 1. Fundraising details:

Event	Expense	Earnings	Account Total
Totals Prior to MSA 2017			\$923.00
Fundraising efforts MSA 2017	\$805.87	\$1,145.00	\$1,262.13

—MSA Student Section

Terry Torres-Cruz (Chair), Kristi Gdanetz MacCready (Vice Chair), Chris Smyth (Past Chair), Andi Bruce (Secretary), Treasurer (Brendan O’Brien), Rebecca Shay (Communication Chair), Nora Dunkirk (Merchandise Chair), Aaron Kumlien (Webmaster), Nicola Day (Postdoc Representative)