

2017 Mycological Society of America Midyear Reports

Midyear Report of the President

1. Committee positions:

Accomplishments - all MSA committees are filled except for the Inoculum editor. The Special Expertise Committees have not been filled and I suggest we sunset these simply by benign negligence.

Goals - MSA would benefit from developing ways for efficiently connecting members to service opportunities as filling committees can be time-consuming. I suggest working with Allen Press and the Membership Committee to add a volunteer "check-off" page to the on-line Membership renewal web pages.

2. 2017 Annual Meeting in Athens, GA:

Accomplishments - I have worked with Clark Ovrebo (Program Chair) and Marin Brewer (Local Organizer) to organize the 2017 meeting in Athens, GA. "Translational Mycology". Two symposia and four workshops are planned. Marin has done a terrific job making local arrangements; Tony Glynn is the Foray Chair.

Goals - Clark and Marin will be working to finalize the program and advertising. We might try out new elements such as a "contributed symposium" session assembled from contributed talks. I will head up the effort to develop a contract with AP for the meeting management web site as described below.

3. Meeting management web site:

Accomplishments - I, along with Clark Ovrebo and Marin Brewer, am working with Chris Lapine (AP) to design and establish a permanent meeting management web site that will provide information about the program and meeting, handle registration and abstracts, and be an effective advertising tool.

Cost is estimated at \$20,000 in the first year. I am negotiating with AP to lower the price by making a multi-year contract for the 2017, 2019, and 2020 meetings. The cost covers these functions:

- Information about the program, meeting site, transportation
- Printing costs - badges, program books, lanyards, meeting bags, etc.
 - The meeting bags will be assembled by volunteers
- On-line meeting Registration and Abstract Submission
 - Registration desk to be peopled by local volunteers
- On-line payment of costs for registration and meeting activities
- Abstract submission and organization (from a 3rd party provider)
- Links to hotel or housing accommodations for on-line reservations
- AP personnel to handle web site and meeting issues, at the meeting. This will likely be Chris Lapine who will also handle Auction funds.

4. Inoculum publication:

Inoculum is an important tool for member communication, yet we lack a viable and efficient mechanism of publication. With the move of Mycologia to Taylor and Francis Publishers, Allen Press will continue publication of Inoculum.

Accomplishments - At the 2016 annual Council meeting, we agreed to produce Inoculum in an html or on-line format. I have vetted various potential formats to Council and others, and most support a presentation similar to that of the BSA's Plant Science Newsletter.

(<http://cms.botany.org/home/publications/plant-science-bulletin.html>)

Goals - I need suggestions for an Inoculum editor who can then work with AP to set up Inoculum.

Goals - Find an Inoculum editor; get Inoculum on-line within the MSA web site. Suggestions are welcome.

5. Diversity in MSA and Diversity Committee:

Accomplishments - With the committee, I wrote, got feedback on, and edited policy statements on diversity and on anti-harassment. The next step is ready for vote by MSA membership as a Bylaw changes. I also wrote the "charge" for the establishment of a permanent Diversity Committee for approval by Council, and made edits to that charge based on comments of the committee and others.

Goals - Once policy statements are approved and the Diversity committee has permanent status in MSA, it is appropriate that I give less effort to the committee itself.

—**Georgiana May**
President

Midyear Report of the President-Elect

I am in a discussion with the education committee about some web initiatives that we discussed at the MSA council meeting in Berkeley last year.

As president-elect of the MSA, I am starting on the focus I will have on mycology education when I am president of the MSA next year. I have some ideas about online education that education committee is discussing.

I have always been envious of the education section for the American Phytopathological Society <Apsnet.org>. I think we are missing an opportunity for mycology education on the MSA web page. I have a couple of ideas for peer-reviewed pages that would go up at <MSAfungi.org>

1. I am thinking about a fungus of the month page similar to what I have done on my own pages in the past. We would take submissions from MSA members who might want to highlight their own fungus that they work with. Or this might be a good opportunity for students to get a peer-reviewed publication. If there is enough interest we could even go twice a month or have a fungus of the week.

2. One of the opportunities that we as scientists are missing is to communicate our work directly to the public. I would propose another set of pages where researchers would be given an opportunity to highlight one of their papers and translate it for a more General audience. This would include a link to the original paper as well as a commentary from the authors about the importance of their work, along with explaining their methods for a general audience. We would obviously have to work with the communications committee on implementation, but now we are discussing the merits and problems with these ideas for web pages.

—Tom Volk
President-Elect

Midyear Report of the Vice President

Call for Nominations for MSA Officers

The MSA Call for nomination for Vice President and 4 Councilors was sent out November 1st, 2016. A second and third call was sent December 2, 2016 and January 12, 2017. The deadline for submission is January 31st.

Future Meetings

We are still in the discussion for the MSA meeting in 2019. Matthew Smith from University of Florida in Gainesville has agreed to organize the MSA annual meeting for 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon A. Cantrell
MSA Vice President

—Sharon A. Cantrell
Vice President

Midyear Report of the Executive Vice President

Summary of activities since the 2016 MSA Annual Council Meeting held August in Berkeley, CA:

- Committee appointees membership status confirmed; new officers contacted; committee chairs provided with a list a committee members and relevant section of MOP
- Updated MSA webpages: MSA Constitution and By-laws, MSA Manual of Operations, MSA Awards Committees, MSA Officers, and MSA Roster
- Conducted 7 email polls as follows:
 - 2016-13— Council approved the list of Karling lecture candidates and the nomination of Regine Kahmann to give the Karling lecturer

- 2016-14— Council approved a \$5000 bonus for Mycologia assistant copy editor, Gerard Hebert, in recognition of his service
- 2016-15— Council approved an inclusive conflict of interest policy for the Student Awards, Mentor Student Travel Awards and Research Awards committees.
- 2016-16—Council approved discounted membership for Dr. Kiran R. Ranadive
- 2016-17—Council approved discounted membership for Dr. Ek Sangvichien
- 2016-18—Council approved a request for emeritus status from Dr. Dennis Margosan
- 2017-01—Council approved the nomination of Mycologia Associate Editors Jessie Glaeser and Daniel Lindner
- Prepared 1 Executive VP column for Inoculum (September/October 2016)
- Submitted blast email requests to Allen Press Association Manager Chris Lapine for call for membership renewals, the call for nominations of officers for MSA council (deadline 1/31/17), and calls for research awards deadline (2/15/17).
- Worked with Andrea Porras-Alfaro to update the MSA awards procedures in the Manual of Operations and MSA website
- Drafted and mailed letters acknowledging the receipt of all endowments for the 2016 calendar year
- Worked with President Georgiana May 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; and compiled the agenda and packet for meeting
- Revised proposed changes for MSA By-laws for Spring 2017 ballot
- Responded to email and other inquiries addressed to MSA
- The death of the following members were reported:
 - Richard Korf (August 20, 2016)
 - Jim Kimbrough (January 21, 2017)

—Sarah Bergemann
Executive Vice President

Midyear (Annual) Report of the Treasurer

Meeting, Awards and Symposia finances:

Awaiting data from Allen Press Membership Services

Publication finances:

Table 1. Publication and management expenses incurred in FY2014, FY2015 and FY2016 to date. FY2016 figures not yet available; awaiting data from Allen Press Membership Services.

Publication Expenses	FY 2016	FY 2015	FY 2014
Total publication costs (Inoculum, Allen Management and Mycologia)		\$236,163.86	\$226,838.72
Inoculum		\$6,465.34	\$6,288.97
Management fees		\$38,893.28	\$38,531.17
Mycologia		\$191,267.05	\$193,221.42
Mycologia printing		\$76,417.70	\$97,133.70
Allen Track		\$4,795.05	\$4,756
Editorial office		83,337.66	\$64,405.22
Online Publication		\$26,716.64	\$26,926.50
# of issues per year		6 issues	6 issues
Cost per issue		\$31,877.84	\$32,203.57

Fiscal Year January-December

Membership:

As of Feb 1, 2016, the number of members for FY2015 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 renewed. 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 FY2016. Income figures for 2016 not yet available; awaiting data from Allen Press Membership Services.

FY	Number of		Income \$ from	
	Members	Subscriptions	Members	Subscriptions
2006	1185	729	101992	142756
2007	1199	724	89971	170910
2008	1134	713	83339	197282
2009	1139	680	80834	211317
2010	1102	648	77670	212087
2011	1107	613	79058	203291
2012	1144	568	80682	196694
2013	1096	691	70330	180851
2014	1074	644	42927	168122
2015	953	587	58702	189591
2016	1137	549		

**Statistics Reports
(as of February 1, 2016)**

Members

Table 3. Number of members by category from FY2012 up today.

Description	Rate	201 2	201 3	2014	201 5	2016	201 7
Affiliated Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR				1	1	1
Associate Member Worldwide Complimentary Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR	26	17	18	17	36	18
Discounted Membership Online Only	1YR		1	1	2	5	2
Emeritus Member Worldwide Print&Online	1YR	48					
Emeritus Member Worldwide No Journal	1YR	115	123	128	123	164	181
Emeritus Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR	2	51	34	41	16	4
Additional Family Member (each)	1YR		2	2	6	3	5
Additional Family Member (each) Old Rate	1YR	3					
Honorary Member Worldwide Print&Online	LIFETIM E	22	26	4	5	4	4
Honorary Member Worldwide No Journal	LIFETIM E						1
Honorary Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR		4	26	27	27	28
Lifetime Member Worldwide Print&Online	1YR					1	
Lifetime Member Worldwide Print&Online	LIFETIM E	76	70	6	4	5	7
Life Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR		3	5		2	2
Life Member Worldwide Online Only	LIFETIM E		1	63	70	67	69
Post-Doctoral Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR		16	54	50	49	29
Regular Member Worldwide Print&Online	1YR	538	1				

Regular Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR	101	594	546	529	521	307
Student Member Worldwide Print&Online	1YR	166	1				
Student Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR	46	180	187	164	235	54
Sustaining Member Worldwide Print&Online	1YR	8					
Sustaining Member Worldwide Online Only	1YR		8	4	4	1	
Sum:		115 1	109 8	1079	104 4	1137	712

Subscriptions

Table 4. Mycologia subscriptions by category from FY2012–2016.

Rate	Description	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Institution	Complimentary Worldwide Sub Online				1	1
Institution	Complimentary Worldwide Sub Print	1	3	2	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
Institution	Non-United States/Canada Print&Online			11	7	9
LIST	Non-United States/Canada Sub Print			39	22	19
MEMBER	Non-United States/Canada Sub Print		2	10	13	9
Agency	Non-United States Sub Print&Online	79	76	2	57	45
Institution	Non-United States Sub Print&Online	16	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
MEMBER	United States/Canada Sub Print			25	23	15
Agency	United States Sub Print&Online	262	233			
Institution	United States Sub Print&Online	8	8			
Agency	Worldwide Sub Online	192	211	225	236	242
Institution	Worldwide Sub Online	11	12	11	12	14

LIST	Worldwide Sub Print	117				
MEMBER	Worldwide Sub Print	9				
Sum:		569	692	644	594	549

—Chris Schardl
Treasurer

Midyear Report of the Mycologia Editors

2016 ended with a total of 670 individual subscriptions, and 549 institutional subscriptions of which 292 include print copies.

Mycologia has transitioned to a publishing agreement with Taylor and Francis. As of November 2016 all new submissions and revisions of manuscripts still under review should be submitted to: <http://www.editorialmanager.com/mycologia>.

As of January 20, 2017, 7 manuscripts remain under review in the old Allen Track system.

Publication of Mycologia 108.6, the last with Allen Press, has been delayed until late January.

109.1 is on track for first publication with Taylor and Francis online in February and print in early March.

Statistics for manuscript decisions January 1 – December 31, 2016 from Allen Track are as follows: The total number of first decisions = 159, with median days to first decision = 39 (range = 0 – 436). The total number of final decisions = 218, with median days to final decision = 76 (range = 1 – 266). Reviewer fatigue remains a major issue for Mycologia, as does Associate Editor workload in some subject areas.

Forty manuscripts have already been submitted to Taylor and Francis Editorial Manger since November 2016.

The 2015 Impact Factor is 2.638.

Cathie Aime has completed her tenure as Mycologia Managing Editor. She has continued to act as a liaison as we transition to the new Managing Editor. The Editorial board commends Dr. Aime for her outstanding service to the society.

Brian Shaw (email: mycologia@tamu.edu) began as Managing Editor of Mycologia in November 2016.

The MSA and Executive Editors would like to thank the following Associate Editors whose terms ended this past year, for their dedicated work on behalf of the journal: Alan Fryday and Lisa Castlebury. The journal is still in need of new Associate Editors in the areas of ascomycete and basidiomycete systematics.

Special Thanks are extended to Gerard Herbert and Mitch Donahue who have ended their terms as Assistant Editors.

—Mycologia Editors

Keith Seifert (Executive Editor), Chris Schardl (Executive Editor), Betsy Arnold (Executive Editor), Frances Trail, (Executive Editor), Brian Shaw (Managing Editor)

Midyear Report of the MSA Association Manager

Society Memberships:

- For the 2016 calendar year, the Mycological Society of America had a total of 1,137 members. This is up 8.9% from the prior year (1,044 members in 2015). A nice increase to the size of the member body and if this growth continues it bodes well for the future health of the MSA.
- To date, 709 members have renewed for 2017 (62.3% of 2016's membership base).
- This leaves 428 calendar year 2016 members that have not renewed for 2017. I would encourage the Council to look through the lapsed member list and reach out to members they know personally and ask them to renew for 2017, or solicit feedback on why they have chosen not to renew their membership. I believe this type of one-on-one outreach is imperative for growing the society's membership base as year-over-year there has been a historical decrease in the total number of society members.

A retooling of the membership renewal letter would also be in order to speak about the options to donate to the MSA Endowment funds.

- The remaining electronic membership renewal efforts for the 2017 calendar year are scheduled as follows:
 - Effort #3 – Early to Mid-February 2017
 - Effort #4 – Late March 2017
 - Effort #5 – Early May 2017

MYCOLOGIA Institutional Subscriptions:

- For the 2016 calendar year, the Mycological Society of America had a total of 549 institutional and agency subscriptions to *MYCOLOGIA*. This is a 7.5% decrease over the prior year.
- Beginning with the 2017 subscription year, Taylor and Francis is handling the institutional subscription renewal efforts. Allen Press provided a list of 2016 institutional subscribers and lapsed subscribers from 2012-2015 to Taylor in Francis in the fall of 2016. It is suggested the council follow up with the contacts at T&F to ensure the 2017 institutional subscriber renewal effort is underway and proceeding without any problems.

- Tied to that, with the move to T&F, there is a concern over the online version of the journal and how members and subscribers will access this. Taylor and Francis should be in touch with HighWire and JSTOR to ensure the proper transfer of online content and then let Allen Press know what links should be available on the re-tooled society website. Making online access seamless for members and subscribers is key.

Additional Items to Report:

- Mycologia.org was successfully transferred to Allen Press servers in the fall of 2016, allowing members a dedicated society and eBusiness/renewal website.
- Allen Press has been maintaining all website updates in a timely manner in conjunction with the MSA Webmaster, Todd Osmundson.
- Allen Press has made a proposal to handle meeting management for the 2017 MSA meeting in Athens Georgia. Chris Lapine has been working with the Program Committee to work out the pricing and logistics of this partnership.

—Chris Lapine

MSA Association Manager, Allen Press

Midyear Report of the Education Committee

The MSA Education Committee plans to assist Marc Cubeta with an NSF-supported workshop for high school teachers at the MSA meetings in 2017 at the University of Georgia. The MSA Education Committee is continuing discussions about posting educational resources on the MSA website including: *Culture Share*: How/where to obtain cultures for the classroom; *Fungi Labs*: Laboratory-based exercises with fungi; *Image Library*: Images for teaching mycology; *Mycology Skill Share Database*; and, *Explaining Biological Principles with Fungal Examples*.

MSA President-Elect Tom Volk suggested that the MSA Education Committee consider designing a *Fungus-of-the-Month* for the MSA website in which MSA members submit images and information about their favorite fungi. He also proposed a *Communicating Mycology* link which would allow mycologists to write a short article for a general audience with a link to the full manuscript to those who are so inclined.

—Education Committee

Andrew Methven (Chair), José Pérez-Jimenez, Karen Hughes, Marc Cubeta, Kayla Pennerman

Midyear Report of the International Committee

The International Committee has collaborated, together with other MSA Committees in the revision of the Manual of Operations and webpages. Travel awards from the MSA will be available to assist to the International Mycological Congress ICM11.

The International Committee has selected a number of congresses and meetings that could be of great interest to international members:

2017

- 29th Fungal Genetics Conference
14-19 March 2017

Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA

http://www.genetics.gsa.org/conference/fungal_genetics.shtml

- 19th International Botanical Congress

23-29 July 2017 (Nomenclature Section 18-22 July 2017)

Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Center, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China

office@ibc2017.cn

http://www.ibc2017.cn/?gclid=CN_97pTuvNECFQuNGwodlBlHyg

The Organizing Committee of IBC 2017 has decided to establish the IBC2017 Awards program to encourage and assist outstanding scientists and students to actively participate in IBC 2017

- CBS Symposium Week: Leading Women in Fungal Biology.

30-31 August 2017, CBS-KNAW, Utrecht, Netherlands

congress@cbs.knaw.nl

<https://www.uu.nl/agenda/leading-women-in-fungal-biology>

- Asian Mycological Congress

11-14 October 2017, Rex Hotel Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

www.amcfungi2017.com

<http://www.amcfungi.org/contents/2/26.html>

www.amcfungi2017.com

2018

- 3rd International Conference on Basic and Applied Mycology

March 2018

Assiut Mycological Centre, University of Assiut, Egypt

Abdelaal H. Moubasher; ahamaumc@yahoo.com

- 20th Congress, International Society for Human and Animal Mycology (ISHAM)

2-6 July 2010

RAI Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

infor@congresscare.com
http: www.isham2018.org

- 11th International Mycological Congress (IMC11)

15-20 July 2018

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Sharon A. Cantrell Rodríguez; scantrel@suagm.edu

<http://imc11.com/committees/>

As mentioned above, travel awards from the AMS will be available to assist to the International Mycological Congress ICM11.

2019

- 18th Congress of European Mycologists

16-21 September 2019

Warsaw and Bialowieza Primeval Forest, Poland

Julia Pawlowska; jzpawlowskagmail.com

—International Committee

Maria P. Martin (Chair), Gábor M. Kovács, Marc Stadler, Else Vellinga

Midyear Report of the Electronic Communication and Webpage Committee

For the MSA Electronics Committee the 2016 year could mostly be summarized by two major events which we will expand on below: 1) the transfer of website maintenance to a professional service provided by Allen Press, and 2) using MSA'16 as a demonstration of how MSA's involvement in social media could be to its advantage.

Transfer of website maintenance

Physical maintenance of the MSA website has traditionally been performed entirely by MSA volunteers. Tasks for this include server maintenance, file and system updating, website design and maintenance, coordination of protected access to MSA servers by members developing conference tools or student sub-websites, etc. As MSA became interested in doing more and more with these tools, the job of keeping up with all this became more onerous and the technical skills required really surpassed what most MSA volunteer members could be expected to have. This challenge was highlighted this past year as we struggled with website crashes and maintenance consistently and pieced together solutions that we suspected were only good for the short-term. With support from the MSA Council we worked this past year with Allen Press to directly transfer the majority of these technical tasks to their staff who are trained with this skillset and obviously much better equipped to handle them. MSA will still have a webmaster – this role transferred from Antonio Izzo to Todd Odmundson in September – but the role of this individual will be more acting on MSA's behalf to coordinate information updates and transfers to the website maintained by Allen Press.

Recommendations for 2017 – following some of the many great ideas and requests

put forward from past MSA officers we should explore how Allen Press can develop our website to be even more smoother and professional looking than we were able to attain with MSA volunteers doing the design.

Engaging mycological community online throughout MSA16 in Berkeley, CA

Having an active social media presence tends to be the norm for most professional societies. Social media feeds like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are great ways to keep the society members engaged and informed. Last year we established the MSA Twitter feed but had not really used it to its fullest potential. The MSA16 conference in Berkeley was our first attempt. Through early discussion we agreed that #myco16 would be the promoted hashtag that would help facilitate connecting us and the other conference attendees. In general the experiment seemed very successful and received positive feedback from the MSA-associated community. We provide a detailed breakdown of this project in this report to document the strategy and the results. A summary of the conference tweets was put together through Storify and can be found at <https://storify.com/adizzo/msa-2016-at-berkeley>. Our Facebook page has been formally established and also received more activity this past year. Recommendations for 2017 – 1) MSA should encourage members to share pictures and reports from the many committee meetings and regional meetings, 2) MSA should make an effort to make quick post with title and an image from every article that gets published in our main publication (Mycologia) and newsletter (Inoculum) to encourage promotion of our societal work through sharing and reposting by the MSA community, 3) an intentional effort should be made to have a social media coordinator (or team) for all MSA conferences that is charged with promoting the conference in the way we did this for the Berkeley conference, and lastly 4) an attempt should be made to have MSA post or share something on our social media feeds every few days to let the public see how dynamic our society is.

Twitter analysis of MSA2016

Terms / concepts

- **Tweet** – a post that we initiate with our own wording
- **Retweet** – someone else’s post that we share with our followers OR when someone shares our post with their followers.
- **Impressions** - a measure of potential reach based on how many people’s Twitter feeds are receiving your tweets. For example, if we have 100 followers, each tweet we put out has a base reach of 100 people. If 10 of those people retweet our tweet to their followers, our tweet now has reached them too thereby increasing our impressions.
- **Mentions** – when people want us to see a post of theirs they include our Twitter ID “@msafungi” in their post
- **Hashtag** – essentially a keyword that people add to a post of a particular topic. We decided on and advertised the hashtag #myco16 for the conference, although #myco2016 also worked itself in there due to being on the official program. By searching for this hashtag someone could read through all the correspondence that occurred, thereby getting a feel for the conference.

General strategies we used for MSA tweeting during the conference

- Provide useful info when needed
- Retweet from a breadth of people tweeting from MSA
- Closely follow the #myco16 and #myco2016 twitter threads for good tweets to retweet
- When multiple tweets from a talk to choose from, I more heavily weighted those with pictures of the speakers, that had good safe general summary statements and that mentioned the speaker name
- Tweet consistently throughout the conference
- Avoid retweeting others' posts that might be potentially interpreted negatively
- Throw in some tweets that helped build the picture of the conference – shots from the setting, shots from the banquet, etc.
- Mostly keep a professional tone mostly but occasionally slide in some less formal things that would be relatable to typical MSA members or to the Twitter-using community too.

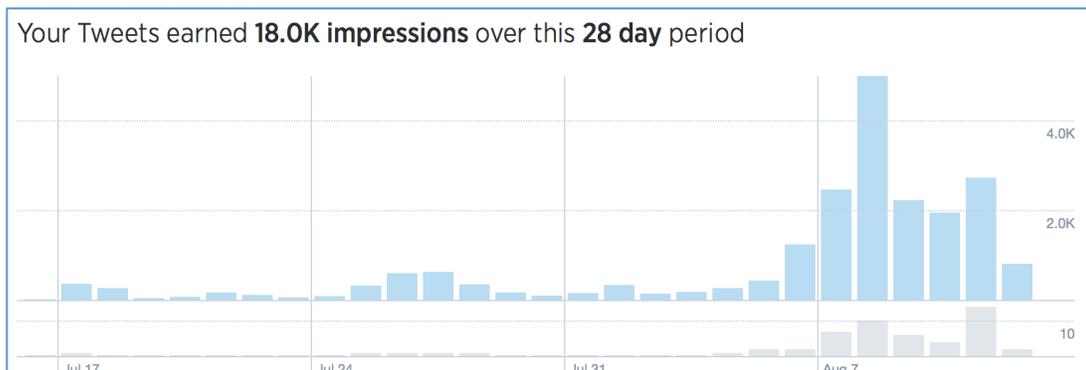
Topic 1 – MSA was engaged on Twitter and benefitted from it

I - We (MSA) were much more engaged directly during the period immediately before and during MSA2016.

- **What had we been tweeting before?** Primary job/studentship ads, announcement of Inoculum issues. Tone was primarily non-interactive
- **What did we tweet for 2 weeks surrounding and including the conference?**
 - Promotion of MSA2016
 - Information about the conference including before and during
 - Some direct tweets from events
 - More engaging tweets with other #myco16 tweeters, representing an interactive face of MSA. We did some minimal interactions with people on behalf of MSA – presenting mostly the professional face but occasionally using less formal wording to convey a little of the relaxed nature of MSA

II - Being more engaged on Twitter gave MSA more exposure and more followers

1. **The number of “impressions” MSA received dramatically increased during the MSA2016 period.** See the following data from Twitter Analytics about the direct MSA tweets.



2. **Our top individual MSA tweets** represented the potential reach and included
 - a. An announcement to use the #myco16 hashtag for the conference (1006 impressions, 47 engagements)
 - b. “the Karling Lecture has begun!” (with picture) – 916 impressions, 26 engagements
 - c. Announcement regarding how to mark your poster if you don’t want people sharing it beyond the meeting (912 impressions, 35 engagements)
3. **Our activity was dramatically increased during the conference compared to the regular year and had a strong impact on our audience reach (data from Twitter analytics and tweetstats.com).**

	June 2016	July 2016	Aug 2016 (through Aug 12)
Tweets (does not include retweets)	4	8	39
Posts from others that we retweeted	0	2	170
Impressions	4877	4834	14,800
Visitors to our profile	413	505	2553
Times we were mentioned in other tweets	17	19	60
New followers added	42	38	40

Topic 2: The mycological community was engaged with MSA throughout the conference through the #myco16 and #myco2016 hashtag

I - There was a great deal of MSA community engagement for this conference using the #myco16 conference hashtag – this highlights the broader impact of Twitter on spreading the word about what MSA does.

- The #myco16 hashtag included over 500 posts with a reach over 75,000 unique people and over 430,000 impressions (which includes same people seeing different posts)(data culled through keyhole.co)
- People were tweeting lots of different kinds of things to #myco16
 - o Images of presenters, social gatherings
 - o Thoughts and observations about talks, concepts, of things about the meeting
 - o Informational posts about sessions they were running
 - o Key points in talks they were at
 - o Links to follow-up information for stuff presented in talks
 - o Mycology-related humor
 - o Job notifications

—MSA Electronic Communication and Webpage

Antonio Izzo (Chair), Todd Osmundson, Patrik Inderbitzin, Tom Volk, Danny Haelewaters

Midyear Report of the Finance Committee

Synopsis of Investment Changes in 2016

The MSA had been accumulating cash reserves (some in excess of FDIC insurance coverage) because Certificates of Deposit were yielding less than the rate of inflation, and the options in the stock market were poor. The MSA had over time lost members who were skilled in making investments and we were at a loss in devising a new investment strategy. Previously, we had transferred funds to the two separate MSA Endowment investment accounts. However, those funds had high front-end loads (costs) and high management fees, and one of them was performing poorly (Table 1). After several years of deliberations involving the MSA Executive Council, the MSA Finance Committee led by Lisa Castlebury (chair), President D. Jean Lodge and the MSA Treasurer (Sharon A. Cantrell) and Past-Treasurer (Marc Cubeta), and a vote in Council at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Edmonton, Canada, we agreed to move forward with hiring an investment advisor. Given our loss of investment expertise, and restrictions on US Government Employees, we opted for hiring an Outsourced Investment Officer (OIO). We interviewed two potential OIO's, and selected David Middleton of Middleton Advisory. The Finance Committee settled on a 15-year time horizon for investments, and a more conservative portfolio than a typical individual investor. Based on these criteria, David Middleton began investing the excess cash reserves and moving the investments into a single balanced portfolio (Figure 1). The portfolio is comprised of broadly based funds from various sectors with an overall management cost of 0.3% or less. The investments occurred fortuitously in May when the market was down. The reporting period on our investments is therefore shorter than one year this year, and begins on 18 May (Table 2).

Paperwork for transferring our cash account out of Wells Fargo and moving our investments out of the two Endowment accounts and into *TD Ameritrade Institutional* where the funds could be managed by David Middleton was in process by early April 2016. A new Investment Policy Statement was drafted by David Middleton and edited by Lisa Castlebury and D. Jean Lodge in June 2016. A copy of the IPS is included in the appendix. Edits to the Finance Committee MOP were made by D. Jean Lodge (Finance Committee new chair), David Middleton (OIO), Chris Schardl (new Treasurer) and Sarah Bergemann (Executive VP) in early December 2016. From May 18th to January 1st the investment portfolio returned 4%, after management and advisory fees. The Middleton Advisory management fee is charged a flat fee of 0.92 % on brokerage accounts (i.e., excludes cash reserves). The return was due in part to fortuitous timing of cash investments, and the yearly return is expected to fluctuate higher and lower in subsequent years.

Mid-Year Finance Committee Meeting, 13 January 2017

The Finance Committee (D. Jean Lodge, Chair, Chris Schardl, ex officio, Treasurer, Georgiana May, President, and members Fred Spiegel, Brian Shaw and Don Pfister) met with OIO David Middleton on Friday 13 January 2017. The Investment Policy

Statement was unanimously approved, and no amendments were made. The Investment Portfolio was reviewed, and no issues were raised. President Georgiana May raised a question as to how to gauge requests for funds, and David Middleton suggested total spending from the portfolio be targeted at 4-6% of funds.

Table 1. Performance of the two separate MSA Endowment accounts at Wells Fargo in 2015 and January 2016. Although the fund in which the MSA Operating Account was invested performed well in 2015, gains in that account were lost in December 2015 and January 2016. The MSA Endowment Account had been declining over the last 7 years.

Beginning Value	Date	Net Deposits Withdrawals	Closing Value	Date	Gain	% Gain
MSA Operating Account at Wells Fargo						
\$218,065.38	1 Jan 2015	\$2,200.00	\$227,672.44	30 Nov 2015	\$7,407.06	3.4%
"	"	\$2,200.00	\$214,512.04	31 Dec 2015	-\$5,753.34	-(2.6%)
\$225,039.01	1 Jan 2016	0	\$217,503.59	31 Jan 2016	-(7,535.59)	-(3.5%)
MSA Endowment Account at Wells Fargo						
\$916,571.98	1 Jan 2015	-\$8,598.98	\$905,473.29	30 Nov 2015	-\$2,499.71	-(0.3%)
"	"	-\$8,598.98	\$891,796.81	31 Dec 2015	-\$16,572	-(1.8%)
\$902,046.01	1 Jan 2016	0	\$897,274.01	31 Jan 2016	-\$4,772.16	-(0.5%)

Table 2. Combined MSA Investment Accounts managed by David Middleton Advisory, covering the period from 18 May 2016 through 31 December 2016.

Beginning Value	Date	Net Deposits Withdrawals	Closing Value	Date	Gain	% Gain
\$911,770.77	5 May 2016	\$376,239.96	\$1,337,880.64	1 Jan 2017	\$49,869.90	4.0%

—MSA Finance Committee

Jean Lodge (Chair), Georgiana May, Brian Shaw, Fred Spiegel,
Don Pfister

Midyear Report of the Program Committee

The committee received only one symposium proposal and this was even after the deadline was extended. Considering that it would be good to have a second symposium, President May made some contacts and was able to secure a second symposium topic. They are as follows:

1. Fungal-Plant Interactions: Exploring Translational Mycology in Agroecosystems. Organizers: Andrea Porras-Alfaro, Donald O. Natvig, Georgiana May. Six speakers have agreed to participate.

2. Fungus-insect interactions (the exact title is still to be determined). Organizer: Kathryn Bushley. This is the second symposium and the number of participants has not been finalized.

Two workshop proposals were received and have been approved by the committee:

1. Zygomycete workshop. Organizer: Joey Spatafora. Six individuals will participate. The date for the workshop is to be finalized.

3. Digital illustration. Organizer: Digital illustration of fungi for scientific publication. Organizer: Davi Augusto Carneiro de Almeida. Davi will be the only participant. The date for the workshop is to be finalized.

Finally, a NSF funded STEM workshop entitled Stem Educational Module Development Workshop on Fungal Biology, organized by Marc Cubeta, will be held prior and during the meeting, July 14-18. Georgia high school biology and environmental science teachers will be invited to participate. About 20 MSA members will offer instruction. This workshop had been given prior approval to be offered so was not evaluated by the Program Committee.

About \$8000 is remaining in the Sloan Foundation grant that was awarded to support symposia for the 2016 meeting and these funds can be used for the 2017 meeting.

—MSA Program Committee

Clark Ovrebo (Chair), Thorsten Lumbsch, Clark Ovrebo, Don Pfister, Lisa Grubisha,
Tony Glenn, Chris Smyth

Midyear Report of the Karling Annual Lecture Committee

The Karling Annual Lecture Committee considered 21 candidates, including 18 nominations carried over from previous years and three new nominees. The Committee proposed three candidates to the MSA Council. Prof. Dr. Regine Kahmann was

approved and has accepted the invitation to give the 2017 Karling lecture.

Prof. Dr. Kahmann is Director of the Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology in Marburg. She is a leading investigator working on *Ustilago maydis*, both from the perspective of the microbe and its host. Her interests include genomics, genetics, biology of effectors, and the host-plant interface.

Prof. Dr. Kahmann's website is: <http://www.mpi-marburg.mpg.de/kahmann>

—MSA Karling Annual Lecture Committee

David Hibbett (Chair), Betsy Arnold, Don Natvig, Terry Torres-Cruz

Midyear Report MSA Student Section

Part 1: MSA Student Section Executive Board 2016-2017

Part 2: July 2016 – December 2016 Year in Review

- Bylaws
- MSA_SS at MSA 2016 in Berkeley, California
- Fundraising

Part 3: January 2017 to June 2017

- Outreach
 - Social media outlets
 - *Inoculum*
 - Newsletters
 - MSA_SS website
 - Education
- MSA_SS at MSA 2017 Athens
 - Student Social
 - Board Meeting
 - Student Section Poster
 - Merchandise
 - MSA Council
 - Action items Executive Board 2016-2017

Part 1: MSA Student Section Executive Board 2016-2017

Chair: Chris Smyth

Vice-Chair: Terry Torres-Cruz

Secretary: Andrea Bruce

Treasurer: Brendan O'Brien

Communication Chair: Kristi Gdanetz MacCready

Webmaster: Virginia Poole
Postdoctoral Representative: Mia Maltz
Past-Chair: Jessie Uehling (*automatic transition from Chair, non-voting*)

Part 2: June 2016 – December 2016 Year in Review

2.1 Bylaws

We have not amended our Bylaws in the last six months. Our most recent set of amendments were approved by the Executive Board in February 2015 and sent out to the members for ratification in May 2015. The current bylaws are available on the Section's webpage: <http://msafungi.org/MSAstudent/> (under MSA Student Section > Student Section 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 MOP has been drafted for the position. Nora Dunkirk has expressed strong interest in it and will start getting involved. The position will be ad-hoc through 2017. In Spring 2017, we will conduct a general section vote to add the position and the corresponding changes will be made to the Bylaws.

2.2 MSA 2016 in Berkeley – Events and Merchandise

Previous and current Executive Board Members Tanya Cheeke, Danny Haelewaters, Mia Maltz, Chris Smyth, Adriana Romero, Jessie Uehling, Andrea Bruce, Brendan O'Brien, Kristi MacCready, Virginia Poole, and Terry Torres-Cruz represented the Student Section during the MSA 2016 meeting in Berkeley, CA, USA. They presented the Section's poster, "The Mycological Society of America Student Section," including general information about the Student Section. Additionally, they sold tee shirts and travel mugs (see Fundraising, below). The Student Section Board meeting was well attended, likely due to its appearance on the online registration which we intend to maintain for next meetings. There was a good turnout to the Student Section Professional Development Workshop entitled: "How to prepare the academic job application for a tenure track position in the sciences." The workshop provided insights into interviews, starting a lab, and submitting applications for jobs in the sciences and potential tenure positions. The information provided in the workshop was helpful to those looking for jobs, as well as for students applying to postdocs, and Powerpoints from the workshop will be available on the MSA Student Section website.

2.3 Fundraising

Our net earning so far is \$611.00, all of which was raised from the sales of t-shirts and mugs (left over from MSA 2015) at MSA 2016. Fundraising this year brings our account to a total of \$1,079.76. The grand total for fundraising includes expenses and costs of new materials purchase and transport, summarized in Table 1 at the end of this document.

Part 3: January 2017 – June 2017

3.1 Outreach

a) Social media outlets

As of January 13th, the Student Section MSA Facebook page has 3,270 likes [+483 since July 2016], the Twitter account (@MSAStudents) has 718 followers [+129], and the LinkedIn group has 153 members [+14]. We have started posting every Thursday photos of lab work, fungi, etc. with the hashtag #IAmAMycologist to encourage student members to share about their work on social media. A vote will be held before the next MSA meeting and the best post will be given a prize.

b) Inoculum

We plan to continue submitted student spotlights to Inoculum in 2017.

c) Newsletters

Newsletters were sent to MSA students to inform or remind them about relevant information, e.g., to vote on potential topics for symposia at the 2017 MSA meeting in Athens and IMC11 2018 in Puerto Rico.

d) MSA_SS website

With the transition of the MSA Website (<http://msafungi.org>) to Allen Press, the Student Section lost access to the site. On November 14th, the Student Section voted to transition the website to our own Wordpress site that will be linked to the MSA main website; in hopes of maintaining more autonomy and accessibility to the Student Section site. Logos and banners from MSA will be maintained on the site to preserve legitimacy of the site. MSA Webmaster, Antonio Izzo, has graciously helped with the resolution of this issue.

e) Education

We plan to create and provide free educational resources including lesson plans, Powerpoints, and lab ideas that people can use at outreach events for various skill levels. We will reach out to MSA members for potential material, including media recipes, techniques for isolating specific fungal taxa, protocols, etc. Additionally, these will enable outreach opportunities for students. The material will be made available online.

3.3 Action items Executive Board 2016-2017

The Executive Board will continue with its fundraising efforts at conferences (tumblers, tee shirts, stickers, and potentially other future items) and to maintain and strengthen its social media presence.

3.4 MSA Student Section Presence at the MSA Annual meeting, Athens GA, July 2017

a) Student Social

The Student Section will organize a Student Mixer during this meeting, 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 fifth annual Board Meeting during the MSA 2017 meeting in Athens. We plan to update current and potential future students interested in Student Section leadership about our accomplishments in the past year and our plans for the future.

c) Student Section Poster

The MSA Student Section will be presenting a poster at the annual meeting with the same name as the Section. We have opted for making and reusing a poster that addresses who we are, our goals, and ways for students to get connected and involved.

d) Merchandise

We have leftover mugs and t-shirts from this year’s MSA conference fundraising efforts, which are currently being stored with Student Section Chair, Christopher Smyth. In addition to our leftover materials, we are planning to increase the amount of merchandise we sell at MSA 2017, including bringing back spore print and MSA student section logo stickers that have been popular in previous years. This push for new merchandise will be led by our merchandise chair, Nora Dunkirk.

e) MSA Council

2016-2017 Chair Chris Smyth and Vice Chair Terry Torres-Cruz will represent the Student Section at the Annual MSA Council Meeting. The Student Section has previously requested that MSA Council (1) organizes the MSA_SS Board Meeting on the day of registration and (2) includes this event in the official MSA Meeting program including a check off box in the online registration page to facilitate greater student awareness of involvement in the meeting.

Table 1. Fundraising details:

Event	Expense	Earnings	Account Total
Totals Prior to MSA 2016			\$923.00
Fundraising efforts MSA 2016	\$468.76	\$611.00	\$1,079.76

—MSA Student Section

Chris Smyth (Chair), Terry Torres-Cruz (Vice Chair), Andi Bruce (Secretary), Treasurer (Brendan O’Brien), Kristi Gdanetz MacCready (Communication Chair), Virginia Poole (Webmaster), Mia Maltz (Postdoctoral Representative)

Midyear Report of the MSA 2017 Local Arrangements Athens, GA

2017 Meeting:

The 2017 MSA meeting will be held July 16 to 19 at the Classic Center in downtown Athens, GA. A tentative schedule of events is attached. We have a contract with The Classic Center and estimates for catering, poster boards, and AV equipment. We also have estimates for off-site venues (walking distance) and catering for the reception and volunteer social. We are organizing (with assistance from D. Geiser) a UGA alumni social. All of the numbers from the estimates and contracts are being reworked to come up with a rough estimate for registration fees for the meeting. We expect to have this by early February and once the fees for meeting management by Allen Press are provided. We have identified very reasonably priced dorm rooms on UGA campus within walking distance to the Classic Center. In previous years the dorms could be reserved 6 months in advance of the meeting, but UGA is currently changing their policy on dorm reservations, so they will be letting us know shortly how to proceed. Blocks of hotel rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn and The Graduate, which are across the street and one-block away from the Classic Center, respectively, have been reserved. If the dorms fall through we will reserve more hotel rooms. To provide meeting information on the MSA website we will be working with Allen Press and the Classic Center to add links about travel, housing, the venue, and the program. We expect to have these links available by early- to mid-February.

2017 Foray:

Tony Glenn is planning the foray at Unicoi State Park in Helen, which is in the Appalachians and about a 75-80 minute drive from Athens. The trail is a 3-mile (one way and downhill) trail from Unicoi State Park to downtown Helen <https://goo.gl/maps/swBPDKWE9XR2>. This trail is unique since it provides an opportunity to see more of the area. The buses will drop off at the top of the trail in Unicoi and pick up at the bottom of the trail in Helen. We are working with Unicoi State Park to get necessary permits. With UGA bus transportation, bottled water, box lunch, and foray supplies, the cost to attend the foray is estimated at \$35 per person. We are planning for 100 participants.

Tentative Foray Schedule Sunday, July 16, 2017:

- Load buses at Classic Center at 8:00 AM
- Buses depart Classic Center at 8:30 AM
- Arrive at Unicoi approximately 10:00 AM
- Hike from Unicoi to Helen, taking up to three hours (those finishing early can check out the touristy town of Helen).
- Load buses in Helen at approximately 1:00 PM
- Buses arrive back in Athens approximately 3:00 PM
- Those not interested in examining their collections will be dropped at the Classic Center. Those wishing to examine their collections will remain onboard and dropped at the Mycology Teaching Lab in Miller Plant Sciences. One bus will remain to transport “examiners” back to Classic Center.

—MSA Local Arrangements Athens, GA
Marin Brewer, Chair

Midyear Report of the Local Organizing Committee IMC11

Theme	Name	email
Keynote	Paola Bonfante	paola.bonfante@unito.it
Applications	Russell Cox	russell.cox@oci.uni-hannover.de
Cell Biology	Jesus Aguirre	jaguirre@correo.ifc.unam.mx
Ecology	Tom Bruns	pogon@berkeley.edu
Environment	Matthew Fisher	matthew.fisher@imperial.ac.uk
Evolution	Priscilla Chaverri	pchaverr@umd.edu
Genomics	Chengshu Wang	cswang@sibs.ac.cn
Pathology	Anuradha Chowdhary	chowdhary.anuradha@gmail.com

—**MSA Local Organizing Committee IMC 11**
Sharon A. Cantrell, D. Jean Lodge (co-chairs)

Midyear Report of the Memorials Editor

This report covers 2015-2016 because of overlap of notices and memorials in two years.

Memorials pending:

- Edward Butler (September 11, 2015) (Memorial to be published in *Inoculum* by Dave Rizzo)
- Gaston Guzman --Laura Guzman and Joaquin Cifuentes
- Subramanian --Keith Seifert
- Thomas Taylor -- Christine Strullu and Paul Kenrick

Notices and memorials published:

1) Martin F. Stoner (1942-2014), a notice was published in *Inoculum* 66 (6), p.14.

2) A notice was published in *Inoculum* 66 (1), p. 6 for Rubén Durán. A memorial, *loc cit.*, p. 10-12: "Professor Rubén Durán (1924-2014)." Berlin D. Nelson Jr., Jack D. Rogers, Dean A. Glawe

3) Walter Sundberg (October 22, 2015) (Memorial published in *Inoculum* 67(1), January 2016, p. 5,6. by Gregory M. Mueller, Betty A. Strack, Andrew(Drew) M. Minnis, Joe McFarland.

Votes were taken in accordance with the statement from *Inoculum* 66 (5), p. 9; see below for complete statement: "*The Memorials Editor will decide, in consultation with the Memorials Committee, whether a brief biography should also be published in Mycologia. This decision will be based on research contributions, service to MSA, and/or teaching. Publication of a memorial in Mycologia is not restricted to ex-presidents.*"

The Memorials Editor will decide, in consultation with the Memorials Committee, whether a brief biography should also be published in Mycologia. This decision will be based on research contributions, service to MSA, and/or teaching. Publication of a memorial in Mycologia is not restricted to ex-presidents. **1) Memorials:**

for *Inoculum*

Walt Sundberg (September 16, 1939--October 22, 2015) -- Gregory M. Mueller, Betty A. Strack, Andrew (Drew) M. Minnis, Joe McFarland, published
[http://msafungi.org/wp-content/uploads/Inoculum/67\(1\).pdf](http://msafungi.org/wp-content/uploads/Inoculum/67(1).pdf)

need writer (have not found anyone but more information is on the internet, so I'll try again)

Royall Tyler Moore (October 11, 1930--August 17, 2014)
http://www.passedaway.com/notice/dr_royall_moore/14368/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royall_T._Moore
<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/2015/06/royall-moores-passion-fungi-funds-students>

Assigned for *Mycologia*

John Webster (25 May 1925 – 27 December 2014) – David Hawksworth was asked only this week. He had already written about Webster, so he was not asked earlier. He now has new information that can be used.

<http://www.ima-mycology.org/news/announcements/obituary-john-webster>

Kenneth Wells (1927-2016) – John Taylor and Mary Berbee
<http://www.worldcat.org/title/ucd-emeriti-association-oral-history-interview-with-kenneth-wells-october-19-2006/oclc/657413434>

Edward Butler (--2016) – David Rizzo and Rick Bostock
<http://www.worldcat.org/title/ucd-emeriti-association-oral-history-interview-with-edward-e-butler-january-23-2003/oclc/648874012>

Thomas Taylor (June 14, 1937 --April 28, 2016) -- Paul Kenrick and Christine Strullu-Derrien
<http://m.legacy.com/obituaries/ljworld/obituary.aspx?n=thomas-taylor&pid=179901697&referrer=0&preview=false>
<https://today.ku.edu/2016/05/05/university-community-remembers-paleobotany-leader-tom-taylor>

Chirayathumadom Venkatachaliar (CV) Subramanian (August 11, 1924– February 5, 2016) – Keith Seifert (short perspective piece)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._V._Subramanian
<http://www.currentscience.ac.in/Volumes/106/10/1438.pdf>
<http://www.fungiindia.co.in/images/kavaka/45/45.pdf>
["Tropical Mycology: Future Needs and Development"](http://www.fungiindia.co.in/images/kavaka/45/45.pdf)

<http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/society/obituaries/professor-cv-subramanian-1924-2016/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._V._Subramanian

<http://ssbprize.gov.in/Content/Detail.aspx?AID=80>

<http://www.neglectedscience.com/alphabetical-list/s/chirayathumadom-venkatachali-subramanian>

Almost completed for Mycologia

Gáston Guzmán –Laura Guzmán-Dávalos and Joaquín Cifuentes (awaiting president's approval)

Richard Korf –Don Pfister et al. (awaiting photograph)

[note that two Honorary Mycologists and one Distinguished Mycologist have passed](#)

2) Wikipedia

Cathie Aime sent a list of all the memorials ever published in *Mycologia*. They are considered open access so I would like to put the names and a link on a Wikipedia page. In the past MSA student members have added a number of mycologists to Wikipedia, but it is slow going. This way nothing needs to be rewritten. Please let me know if there are objections to this plan.

—Meredith Blackwell
Memorials Editor