

Anne Pringle
Mycological Society of America President
Mid-year Report for Council Meeting on February 8, 2020

Dear Mycologists,

There has been so much going on I hardly know where to start. The transition to working with The Rees Group (TRG) continues to be a primary focus and I am very glad we are working with them. Our primary contacts, in addition to Susan Rees (founder), are: Bill Stoeffler (Bill is in charge of us), Kaylee Walters (who handles a great many of the day to day jobs), Cori VanGalder (Cori reads and sorts emails sent to the MSA address but supports us in other ways as well) and accountant Erica Koconis.

In addition to our new website, the long list of tasks we've tackled over the last six months or so include:

Membership: We've updated membership options based on recommendations made by our membership committee. Auto-renew is now a thing, hooray! Auto-renew means our membership numbers no longer drop to almost zero at the start of every year and the membership committee will have less chasing to do (of members who let memberships lapse). But there are other structural changes we've implemented as well, for example, our EVP no longer has to individually approve each student membership, an onerous chore now facilitated by TRG. We've made good progress on membership issues, nonetheless, at some point in the near future it would be good to reach back to the membership committee and get feedback on our new structure and ask whether there's even more that we could do to facilitate joining MSA.

Accounting: Transitioning accounting from AP to TRG and attempting to understand how the money's been sorted in the past has taken a great deal of time and energy. For example, we've been having long discussions about how much of our money should be in "permanently restricted" vs. "temporarily restricted" accounts. I'll let our Treasurer write in more detail about our finances, but in general, we seem to be in great shape and in fact we need to be mindful to spend money (you read that right). Our non-profit status is given to us because we do good work for mycology and if we save our money instead of spending it, we are not (in the eyes of the federal government) fulfilling our role as a non-profit. Fortunately we can all think of excellent things to do with our money: top on my hit list is our website. It's better than it was but it's not fantastic and I remain envious of the BMS website which is fantastic.

Budgets: Our dream is to have a budget that teaches us about what funds are coming in, what our expenses are, what kinds of expenses are yearly and recurring and what kinds of expenses happen once and never again. With a budget we'd be able to better plan for requests that come at us (for example, the current request to support the North American Mycoflora). Our dream has been deferred by the enormous amount of time we've spent straightening out our accounts, but we shall not let it dry up like a raisin in the sun: we'll get to it over the next year I hope.

Inoculum: is still happening, hooray! Having Kaylee support the publication of each issue is a game changer; getting Inoculum put together is vastly easier than it used to be and thus far we've always had enough material for each issue. However, when I look at past issues from a long time ago I remain in awe of how full and rich each issue used to be; I think we can make the current iteration of Inoculum even better than it is now. However, being President of MSA and Editor of Inoculum is wearing me down and I'm grateful that Chris Schardl has agreed to take over Inoculum. We'll work together on the January/February 2020 issue and probably the early summer issue and then I'll bow out and Chris will take over. He may want to find someone to help him. Don Natvig's helping us with the

January/February 2020 issue and then he'll step aside as well. I will be forever grateful to Don for helping me resurrect Inoculum in the first place.

Social Media: Kaylee's in charge of our Facebook now and Danny Haelwaters is tweeting; both our Facebook and Twitter presence seem good. We made an attempt to start Instagramming and had two enthusiastic volunteers, but unfortunately, I am not sure either has really got the Instagramming off the ground.

Equity and Diversity: EDC issues are far and away what I've spent the most time on this year. I'm really grateful to Geromy Moore and the Diversity Committee for their thoughtful and patient work on an enormous range of tasks. I'm proud to have been President when we published our diversity statement, now posted on our website: <https://msafungi.org/diversitystatement/>. When news of that statement went out to membership I received a great deal of thankful and thoughtful feedback; many members expressed how much the statement righted a sense of wrong. Apart from that statement we've been focused on how to prevent harassment and bad behavior at meetings and what to do about bad behavior if it happens: 1. We've got a Code of Conduct (CoC) and as individuals register for the meeting they'll be required to agree to it, 2. We've got steps worked out about what to do if someone violates the CoC. Great thanks to Bill Stoeffler (former police officer) for working with Geromy to get that reporting form written. We'll give it a test at Gainesville and I anticipate we'll learn some things about what can be improved; we may end up with a revised version of the CoC and reporting forms at Boise in 2021. Finally, 3. We're on the verge of hiring an outside consultant (Sherry Marts of S*marts consulting) to train "Myco Allies" to be at the meeting as resources for sexual harassment issues. Myco Allies will also be trained in the art of bystander intervention. Informally, I've been talking with Marc and Betsy about various other issues that have come up and while they aren't appropriate for a written report I'm confident MSA leadership is growing a capacity to sensitively deal with these difficult problems.

Committees: I've filled a lot of committees – an enormous thanks to our membership which is a dedicated and loyal and fantastically committed group of people! But I continue to worry about how many committees we have, many of which do not do a lot (and for example haven't file a report in years...).

Changes to Bylaws and thoughts on the structure of MSA: Last fall membership approved two changes to our Bylaws: our Councilors have new names and applicants to the Alexopoulos Award can take into account any family or medical leave when considering the ten year deadline of the award (if you've taken a year away, your deadline becomes 11 years, not ten). The process to make changes to our Bylaws is arduous. Sometimes the process makes sense, for example hypothetically, making changes to our leadership structure should not be done lightly and would require a great deal of thought and approval by our full membership. But sometimes the process does not make sense, for example, we have on the books a position titled "Representative to the American Mushroom Institute". No one seems to know quite what that is and no one seems to want to do the job, either. Thus, it has remained vacant for years but nonetheless the position lingers on our committee spreadsheets and each year the President wonders what to do about it. Making decisions about whether or not to have these kinds of positions should probably involve Council or even just the Executive Council, rather than the entire membership of MSA. To streamline our structure we might focus our Bylaws to describe the fundamental structure of MSA and use the MOP as a more flexible document that enables committees and positions to be established or done away with according to the thoughtful deliberations of leadership. At the moment we are encrusted with a great deal of committee debris.

The Gainesville Meeting: I've also been involved with quite a lot of discussion about the Gainesville meeting, e.g. the logo, how long our awards breakfast should be (and a decision that yes, we should in fact have a formal breakfast), but also discussions of our CoC and what to do if there is a violation of our

CoC, as I describe above. I'm also working with TRG to create sponsorship forms to make it easier for businesses and interested individuals to e.g. sponsor receptions at MSA meetings.

Odd jobs: I've written various letters and kept up with various communications involving other societies as needed, for example, I wrote a letter on behalf of MSA supporting Dr. Chris Hittinger's nomination as a Commissioner to the International Yeast Commission (ICY). (And to get that letter written Kaylee and I created a new letterhead for MSA which can be used by Executive Council in the future.)

OK although there is lots more to say this report is already long enough. As ever, if anyone reading this report has questions or comments, feel free to reach out to me directly at anne.pringle@wisc.edu.

Yours in Service,

Anne Pringle

Past President Report Sharon Cantrell

During this past year, the MSA Diversity and Inclusion Committee has developed a Code of Conduct for Meetings. The society needs a Code of Conduct for the society not just meetings. Other societies like American Society of Microbiology have a Code of Ethics where they state clearly the responsibilities of all members and emphasized on what they can't do as a member. In the same code they have a clear procedure to handle a complained as well as sanctions which include removal of the membership. I suggest that in cases where the member has received an award the award should be removed. We should adopt some of this provisions as well as establish a procedure in the MOP. Here are some of the provisions stated in their code:

Guiding Principles

- (1) ASM members aim to uphold and advance the integrity and dignity of the profession and practice of microbiology.
- (2) ASM members aspire to use their knowledge and skills for the advancement of human welfare.
- (3) ASM members are honest and impartial in their interactions with their trainees, colleagues, employees, employers, clients, patients, and the public.
- (4) ASM members strive to increase the competence and prestige of the profession and practice of microbiology by responsible action and by sharing the results of their research through academic and commercial endeavors, or public service.
- (5) ASM members seek to maintain and expand their professional knowledge and skills.
- (6) ASM members are obligated to discourage any use of microbiology contrary to the welfare of humankind, including the use of microbes as biological weapons. Bioterrorism violates the fundamental principles upon which the Society was founded and is abhorrent to the ASM and its members. ASM members will call to the attention of the public or the appropriate authorities misuses of microbiology or of information derived from microbiology.

Rules of Conduct

1. ASM members shall not commit scientific misconduct, defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism. However, scientific error or incorrect interpretation of research

data that may occur as part of the scientific process does not constitute scientific misconduct.

2. ASM members shall avoid improper conflicts of interest and potential abuse of privileged positions. ASM members shall make full disclosure of financial and other interests that might present a conflict in ASM activities.

3. ASM members shall abide by the ASM standards of publication that are contained in a document entitled "ASM Editorial Policies/Ethics: Procedures and Guidelines." The Instructions to Authors for each ASM journal also articulate the ethical publication standards of the ASM. In regard to the presentations made at annual ASM meetings, conferences and workshops, the ethical standards that pertain to the publications of the Society will be observed.

4. ASM members shall take responsibility to report breaches of the Rules of Conduct and to recommend appropriate responses, as defined in the Ethics Review Process.

5. Members shall not represent any position as being that of the ASM unless it has the approval of the appropriate unit of the ASM.

6. ASM members, by accepting membership in the Society, agree to abide by this Code of Ethics.

**Midyear Report of the President-Elect
February 1, 2020**

Solicited input from the Executive Council, MSA Awards chair Andrea Porras-Alfaro and Kaylee Walters of The Rees Group to identify and select a revised design for the MSA award plaques. The newly designed plaques will make their debut at the annual meeting in Gainesville.

Continued to communicate with Johanne Stogran, Director of Conferences for the Botanical Society of America (BSA), about the joint BSA/MSA meeting in Boise Idaho from July 17-22. The organization for the joint meeting is progressing well with input from MSA members. Leonora Bittleston will join Merlin White and Emma Lookabaugh on the MSA local arrangement committee. Heather Hallen-Adams will serve as MSA program chair for the meeting.

Facilitated and completed the process for MSA to become a member of the Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medical disciplines. MSA is now one of 120 societies that have a collective voice for addressing sexual harassment issues to foster development of an inclusive climate and culture of professional and ethical conduct for our Society.

Reorganized the MSA Education Committee and charged them with submitting a nomination for the Weston Award and to promote increased educational opportunities for members of the Society. Emily Cantonwine will serve as chair of this committee. Additional members of the committee include Sara Gremillion, Michelle Pearson, and student representative Chance Noffsinger.

Continued to work closely with Jessie Glaeser, Erica Koconis (The Rees Group), Rebecca Shay and Kristi Gdanetz-MacCready (MSA student committee chairs) and Austin Frewert and Rob Powers (MSA student committee treasurers) to better understand and address financial needs of this committee and student members of the Society.

Communicated and interacted with Kellye Eversole and Dusti Gallagher (Eversole Associates), Lindsey DuToit (President, American Phytopathological Society (APS)), Gwyn Beattie (Chair, APS Policy Board), and Mary Palm (USDA-APHIS, emeritus) to join the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) initiative. Based on the recommendation from Council, MSA provided Silver Level financial support of \$2500. I also recommended Cathie Aime to IYPH organizers as a keynote speaker for the Congressional Brunch-n-Learn session on March 3, 2020. Romina Gazis-Seregina agreed to serve as a representative and ad hoc reviewer for MSA on the IYPH Research Award Selection Committee. Romina also served as the academic representative for MSA on Animal Plant Health Inspection Service committee chaired by Mary Palm to develop the IYPH Future of Safeguarding program on August 2020. Our support of the IYPH initiative will provide a unique opportunity for MSA members to interact with members of APS and other societies/organizations to better communicate the importance of fungi on plant health and productivity to members of Congress and the public.

Respectfully submitted,
Marc Anthony Cubeta
MSA President-Elect

Midyear report of the Vice President

A call for nominations to fill the position of Vice President of MSA, and to fill four Councilor positions, was submitted to membership with the assistance of the MSA Innovations Manager, Kaylee Walters of the Rees Group, on December 16, 2019. This call for nomination was delayed very slightly from the normal schedule in order to accommodate the updated titles for the Councilor positions (amended in fall 2019 by the society to the titles of Ecology/Conservation, Systematics/Evolution, Genetics/Cell Biology, and Symbiosis/Pathology). A reminder was sent on Jan. 8, 2020, with the nomination period to close on Jan. 14, 2020. MSA members were encouraged to submit nominations via the webform linked in the email, or to email Kaylee. Several members also submitted nominations directly to VP Arnold, and these were included in the tallies. As of January 23, 2020 the results are being tallied in full, and the names and email addresses of those receiving the most nominations will be forwarded to the Chair of the Nominations Committee before Feb. 1, 2020. VP Arnold will work with the Chair to ensure that we have sufficient -- and where possible, diverse pools of -- nominees for each position.

Looking ahead to the 2022 meeting, we are exploring venues in the Southwestern USA to complement recent/upcoming meeting locations. We are considering accessibility, attractiveness of the setting, affordability, and local perspectives on diversity in making the final proposals. We also are exploring potential connections across the border with mycologists in Mexico, hoping that a regionally convenient meeting might encourage international participation across our borderlands area. VP Arnold will discuss planning, with three nominated venues, in a phone conference with President Elect Cubeta and President Pringle prior to the Council's mid-year meeting in Feb. 2020.

On a personal note, thank you to our membership for the opportunity to serve MSA and our discipline, and thanks to the Council for considering this report.

Sincerely,
A. Elizabeth (Betsy) Arnold
MSA Vice President

Executive Vice President's 2020 Midyear Report

Summaries of activities since the 2019 annual meeting in Minneapolis, MN are reported here:

- Wrote the minutes of the 2019 MSA Annual Council Meeting and 2019 MSA Annual Business Meeting in Minneapolis, MN and published on the MSA website here: <https://msafungi.org/msa-meeting-minutes-and-reports/>.
- Contacted and thanked committee members, officers and representatives of the MSA rotating off their positions for their service to the MSA.
- Contacted new committee members, officers and representatives of the MSA were and provided them with a list a committee members and relevant section(s) of the MSA Manual of Operations.
- Assembled the fall ballot (11/11/2019) with President Anne Pringle. The ballot included approval of amendments to the MSA Constitution and Bylaws for extending the period of eligibility for the Alexopoulos Prize for family and medical leave, and changes to the councilor names to align better with areas of expertise.
- Updated MSA website documents were and sent to The Rees Group for publication on the MSA website and include: MSA Constitution and By-laws, MSA Awards Committees, and MSA roster
- Conducted 9 email polls as follows:
 - 2019-12—Request from Roy Halling for Emeritus Member Status
 - 2019-13—Mycologia Associate Editor nomination of Matthew Kasson
 - 2019-14—Approval of the Karling Annual Lecture Committee candidates
 - 2019-15—Approval of the MSA Diversity Statement
 - 2019-16—Request for Emeritus Member Status for Albert P. Torzilli
 - 2019-17—Request for Emeritus Member Status for Lori M. Carris
 - 2019-18—MSA Sponsorship of Year of Plant Health at \$2,500 level
 - 2019-19—Mycologia Executive Editor Nomination of Rosa Mouriño
 - 2020-01—Mycologia Associate Editor Nomination of Alfredo Justo
- Worked with The Rees Group and MSA Officers, Representatives, or Committee Chairs to send blast emails and reminders for calls for Annual Meeting symposia and workshops, membership renewals, the fall ballot, the call for nominations of officers for MSA council (deadline 1/15/20), and the calls for student, mentor travel, honorary, distinctions and research awards (deadline 2/15/20).
- Corresponded with and met via video conference (1/6/2020) with Geromy Moore, chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, President Anne Pringle, President-Elect Marc Cubeta, and members of The Rees Group, including Bill Stoeffler, to agree upon the MSA Diversity statement, the MSA Meeting Code of Conduct, the training and implementation of MycoAllies, and other efforts to implement a 2020 MSA Meeting harassment policy and incident management plan.

- Prepared two Executive VP columns for *Inoculum* (September 2019, January/February 2020 issues)
- Worked with President Anne Pringle to identify MSA members fill committee vacancies.
- Worked with President Anne Pringle to organize the agenda for the Midyear Executive Council Meeting; made arrangements for the meeting via video 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 deaths of the following members were reported:
 - Carlene “Cardy” Raper (Sept 5, 2019)
 - Jos Wessels (Nov 1, 2019)
 - Stanley J. Hughes (Nov 7, 2019)
 - Ian K. Ross (Nov 29, 2019)
 - Douglas E. Eveleigh (December 30, 2019)

Respectfully submitted,
Marin Brewer

Treasurer's Report

January 31, 2020

Table 1. MSA Financial Position as of 31 Dec 2019

Assets	31 Dec 2018	31 Dec 2019
Current assets		
Checking/Savings – US Bank	\$ 297,324.19	\$ 201,442.16*
Checking/Savings – Park Bank		82,112.13
Total Checking/Savings	297,324.19	283,554.29
Other Current Assets		
TD Ameritrade – Combined	1,461,085.10	1,726,210.78
Prepaid Expenses	1,841.67	
Total Other Current Assets	1,760,250.90	1,726,210.78
Total Assets	1,760,250.96	2,009,765.07
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable	\$24,753.14	\$ 6,888.50
Long Term Liabilities (inc. deferred memberships)	27,270.00	27,627.00
Total Current Liabilities	52,023.14	34,515.50
Total Liabilities	52,023.14	34,515.50
Net Assets	\$1,708,227.82	1,752,814.40
Excess Revenue over Expenditures (net income)	(\$40,801.94)	222,435.14
Total Equity	\$1,708,227.82	1,975,249.57
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$1,760,250.96	2,009,765.07

Current assets include TD Ameritrade pooled operating funds \$431,553.69 and TD Ameritrade pooled endowment funds \$1,294,658.09.

*In January, \$150,000 is being transferred from U.S. Bank to Park Bank with the goal of eliminating the U.S. Bank account to simplify finances.

Table 2. Revenue and Expenses

	As of 31 Dec 2018	As of 31 Dec 2019
Ordinary Revenue		
Donations	\$186,064.86	\$43,606
Auction	500.00	11,266
Meeting	515,543.54	158,365

Membership Dues	51,138.99	47,067
Publication (Mycologia)	82,839.51	83,624
Additional revenue		17,986
Total Ordinary Revenues	733,970.07	361,914
Other income (investment)	(103,888.21)	279,405
Total Gross Revenue		641,319
Expenses		
General	\$8,465.62	19,002
Grants and Awards	139,349.00	86,157
Meeting	569,580.85	164,074
Officer Expenses	4,545.14	4,592
Management	34,804.98 (Allen Press)	46,090.00(Rees Group) 15,566.38 (Allen Press) 3400.54 (travel)
Publication	13,243.21	12,513
Editorial Travel to Meeting	3,005.22	10,473
Membership expenses		2,362
Travel speakers		14,564
Web/internet		25,541
Investment expense		14549
Total Expenses	774,772.01	418,883
Excess Revenue over Expenses	(39,909.55)	222,436
Restricted Revenue over Expenses	(892.39)	
Change in Net Assets	(40,801.76)	301,537.25
Beginning Net Assets	1,749,029.76	1,708,227.82
Ending Net Assets	1,708,227.82	2,009,765.07

Grants and Awards : Grants and awards included \$42,692 (awards given at annual meeting), \$40,989 for Special Topics Awards to research topics of interest to an anonymous donor, and \$2,475 to the North American Mycoflora Project.

Donations: Donations included \$25,285 to board-designated and named funds, including \$1,667 for a one-time International Travel Award. Additional donations included \$2,000 to the Fungal Olympics and \$16,321 unrestricted donations.

Publications: *Mycologia* netted \$60,638 in 2019 compared to \$66,591 in 2018. In 2019 expenses included \$10,473 for editors to travel to the annual meeting. Only \$3000 was spent for this purpose in 2018.

Meeting – The 2019 meeting in Minneapolis, MN brought in \$159,365 through registration, sponsorships, workshops, the foray and other special programs. Total expenses for the meeting were \$165,074 (-\$5708). The University of Minnesota was reimbursed \$5212.52

in January, 2020, as per their invoice. During the meeting, the auction raised \$11,265.71; donations for T-shirts (\$700) were designated for the new MSA Diversity Award fund.

Student Section – The student section received donations of \$1,022 at the annual meeting. Their current balance is estimated at \$2,799.37. We are working with the Rees Group to develop better ways to track and manage their expenditures and donations.

Transition to Rees Group from Allen Press – This has been a difficult transitional time. Much information from Allen Press was not turned over to the Rees Group. In addition, different ways of reporting income and expenditures are now being used to simplify MSA finances. This makes direct comparison of finances between 2019 and previous years difficult. Some accounting adjustments will need to be made after the 2019 mid-year meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie A. Glaeser
MSA Treasurer

Mycologia Editor's Mid-Year Report, January 24 2020.

Betsy Arnold, Priscila Chaverri, Brandon Matheny, Rosa Mouriño Pérez, Chris Schardl, Brian Shaw

Mycologia Issue 112 (1) is going to print the week of January 20, 2020. The journal has continued on-time printing of all issues throughout 2019-2020.

The 2018 impact factor for the journal was 2.861. This continues the pattern of an increasing impact for the journal since entering our publishing agreement with Taylor and Francis. [2.762 (2017), 2.55 (2016), and 2.638 (2015)] and is the highest the journal has achieved in the previous 10 years (<https://www.scijournal.org/impact-factor-of-MYCOLOGIA.shtml>).

The journal received 283 manuscripts in 2019. This was an increase over the previous two years: 222 (2018), 252 (2017). In 2019, 270 manuscripts received a final decision. The 2019 rejection rate was 68.1% in comparison to 57.9% (2018), 67.8% (2017) and 64% (2016).

The journal continues to maintain its international appeal. Submissions in 2019 originated from corresponding authors residing in 51 unique countries. Four hundred and forty eight unique reviewers originating from 51 countries contributed their expertise through *ad hoc* reviews for the journal in 2019.

The average time from submission to first decision was 40 days in 2019 [compared to 56 (2018), 55 (2017) and 50 (2016)]. The average time from submission to final decision was 77 days [(compared to 61 (2018), 74 (2017) and 76 (2016)].

The MSA and the editorial board would like to thank outgoing Executive Editor Chris Schardl for his exemplary dedication to the journal.

The MSA and the editorial board also thank outgoing Review Editor Keith Seifert and Associate Editor Daniel Lindner for their service during their terms on the board of editors.

The Editors welcome new Executive Editor Rosa Mouriño Pérez and new Associate Editor Alfredo Justo. Chris Schardl will remain on the editorial board for 2020 serving as Review Editor.

2020 Annual Report of the Karling Lecture Committee

The MSA Karling Committee for 2020 consisted of Jason Stajich (Chair), Alisha Quandt, Kevin Garcia, Rob Powers. In discussions that took place during September and October 2019, the committee considered more than 25 candidates that included nominees from previous years in addition to several new nominees. In the end, each committee member generated a ranked list of 5 individuals from the candidate list. 5 candidates received at least one ranked vote. Francis Martin was the top voted speaker closely followed by Greg Jedd. These two names were forwarded to the MSA Council. The Council subsequently approved the invitation of Professor Martin, who was unable to accept the invitation to attend MSA 2020 due to scheduling conflicts. Greg Jedd, who is a senior Principal Investigator at Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (Singapore) and a professor at National University of Singapore was subsequently invited. Dr Jedd is an expert in cell biology of fungi having and his work centers on cell growth and differentiation using model systems including the fungus *Neurospora*. Greg received his doctoral training from University of Chicago and completed postdoctoral work at the Rockefeller University where he began to develop *Neurospora crassa* as a model system for cellular biology. Among Professor Johannesson's many accomplishments is pioneering work on the proteins that form Woronin bodies in ascomycetes and the role of self-organization of intrinsically disordered proteins in cellular processes. Some of his most recent work has uncovered a protein responsible for gravity sensing in the zygomycete *Phycomyces blakesleeana* (Mucoromycota) and discovered it was horizontally transferred from bacteria. He is investigating cell biology and evolution with creative techniques and advanced imaging to help shed new expose cellular mechanisms in fungal biology. The title of Dr Jedd's lecture will be "The fungal mycelium: Mechanobiology and evolution of microfluidic control"

—MSA Karling Annual Lecture Committee

MSA Planning update for 2020 annual meeting in Gainesville, Florida

Matthew E. Smith (Local Organizer)
<trufflesmith@ufl.edu>

Planning is well underway!

The event will be held **July 18-23** at the **Hilton University of Florida Conference Center**. The conference center is located at 1714 SW 34th street in Gainesville, Florida – directly across the street from the University of Florida’s main campus. Workshops and the business meeting are planned for Saturday the 18th and the annual MSA foray will take place on Sunday the 19th.

Logistics –

- We are working closely with the UF event planners to complete the registration website, which is scheduled to go live by February 1st. We are coordinating with Program Chair Lisa Grubisha and staff at the REES Group to ensure that the registration page is linked with the abstract submission website and also the main MSA website and to ensure a coordinated rollout of the content for the meeting. The registration site will ask registrants to agree to MSA’s new code of conduct for meetings.
- Low cost dorm housing will be available on the UF campus along with shuttles that will be offered in the morning and again in the afternoon for easy transport between dorms and meeting site. Unfortunately, UF’s new dorm regulations no longer offer linen and bedding service so those who choose to stay in the dorms will need to bring bedding.
- Hotel blocks at reduced prices have also been secured at the Hilton (part of the conference center building) as well as at the nearby Aloft Gainesville University Area hotel (located one block to the west of the conference center).

Program details and highlights –

- The opening reception will be held at the Florida Museum of Natural History, located directly across the street from the Hilton conference center.
- Gregory Jedd (National University of Singapore) will present the 2020 Karling Lecture.
- We currently have plans for six diverse and exciting symposia although a potential seventh symposium may also be accepted, depending on other details of the program.
- The MSA Foray will be sure to please. Bring your sun hats and mosquito repellent and be ready to re-collect the fungi of W. A. Murrill, who described more than 700 species from the environments we will be visiting just outside of Gainesville. Specific site planning and other details are still in the works.
- Two workshops will be available on Saturday July 18th – one on the taxonomy and systematics of *Fusarium* (coordinator is David Geiser) and the other on the *Russula* species from "the swamp", which will cover the taxonomy of florida *Russula* (coordinators are Brian Looney and Slavomir Adamcik).

- A third workshop hosted by the MSA Student Section, entitled "How to get that job you want – applying for the position," will include insights on job applications and interviews from postdocs, faculty, and employees at government institutions. Timing for this third workshop has not yet been finalized.

Midyear Report MSA Program Committee for 2020 annual meeting in Gainesville, Florida

Lisa Grubisha, Program Committee Chair
grubishl@uwgb.edu

Program Committee

Lisa Grubisha, *Chair* (2016-2020)
grubishl@uwgb.edu

Heather Hallen-Adams (2017-2021)
hhallen-adams2@unl.edu

Frances Trail (2018-2022)
trail@msu.edu

Jason Slot (2019-2023) Added January 2020
Slot.1@osu.edu

Rebecca Shay, *Student Rep* (2018-2019)
shayrebe@msu.edu

Tony Glenn, *ex officio, Past Chair*
Marc Cubeta, *ex officio, President Elect*

Symposia and Workshops

A call for symposia and workshop proposals went out in September 2019. Seven proposals were received by the due date, October 15, 2019. The committee thought all proposal were acceptable. One proposal did not request any funding. I asked all organizers if they would accept reduced funding so that all could participate. We had two proposals that addressed fungal-insect interactions, so I asked if they could combine speakers (3 from each original symposium) and they agreed.

Here is a list of the symposia (not in any particular order):

Functional Perspectives on Fungal-Insect Interaction **Organizers:** Charissa de Bekker, Nemat Keyhani, Ian Will and Romina Gazis and the Bark Beetle Mycobiome International Research Coordination Network

Gene regulatory networks in fungal development and morphogenesis – towards fungal evo-devo. **Organizers:** Jaqueline Hess, Laszlo G. Nagy

Fungal community structure, dynamics and function in decaying wood **Organizers:** Lynne Boddy, Michelle Jusino

Fungal Chemistry: Variations On A Theme **Organizers:** Dr. Joan W. Bennett & Dr. Geromy G. Moore

Fungi in marine sediment **Organizers:** Brandon T. Hassett

Living in the dark with microbes and beasts: unearthing the ecology and evolution of Truffles
Organizers: Gregory Bonito, Rosanne Healy

Fungi transgressing their niches **Organizers:** Christoffer Bugge Harder, Marc-Andrè Selosse, Gareth Griffith, Bryn Dentinger

I am working on getting updated symposia speaker lists with tentative talk titles that will be put on the website as close to the opening of registration as possible.

The three workshop proposals were all accepted. Matt Smith described them in his report so I will not repeat that information here except to say that the student organization “workshop” will take place over lunch during the conference.

Abstract submission

Abstract submission will begin the same date as registration opens (tentatively Feb. 1) and will tentatively close March 13. Depending on how many abstracts are submitted at this date I am open to extending the close date as that has been done many times in the past.

Program Schedule

I have started working on detailing the program schedule and that will be ready soon.

Geromy Moore and the Diversity Committee wishes to host a diversity panel discussion one afternoon. I am trying to work with him to get that into the schedule.

Memorials Editor Midyear Report
Meredith Blackwell
15 January 2020

1) General information

- Getting writers for full memorials for *Mycologia* is often difficult. Although people may agree initially, several years may pass before the memorial appears. Shorter memorials or very short notices are usually fast. John Taylor has a solution: write your own memorial or at least send a recent CV to a former student or younger colleague you can trust to submit it after your death!
- Although I have usually assigned the writers, I have not seen all memorials before or after they are submitted to *Mycologia*. I have no problem with this other than it is difficult to keep track of progress.
- All memorials appear to be available as open access articles.

2) Memorials published in *Mycologia*

- Michael F. Allen, Dorothy E. Tuthill, Jack States, Stephen E. Williams & Terry W. Henkel (2019) In memoriam: Martha Christensen, 1932–2017. *Mycologia*, 111:190-193, DOI: 10.1080/00275514.2018.1544815
- Matthew E. Smith, Rosanne A. Healy James William Kimbrough, 1934–2017. 2019. *Mycologia* 111:517-524 DOI: 10.1080/00275514.2019.1598768
- Mary L. Berbee & John W. Taylor (2019): Kenneth Wells, 24 July 1927–19 July 2016, *Mycologia* 111: 525-528, DOI: 10.1080/00275514.2019.1591873
- Keith A. Seifert, Rasoul Zare & Richard C. Summerbell (2019) In memoriam: Walter Gams (1934–2017). *Mycologia* 111:690-697, DOI: 10.1080/00275514.2019.1619058

3) Work in Progress

- Edward E. 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>
- Royall Tyler Moore (October 11, 1930--August 17, 2014)
- John Webster (25 May 1925 – 27 December 2014) – David Hawksworth was invited. He had already written about Webster, but agreed to write because he now has new information that can be used.
- Chirayathumadom Venkatachaliar -- (CV) Subramanian (August 11, 1924– February 5, 2016) – Keith Seifert (short perspective piece)
- Cletus Paul Kurtzman – Meredith Blackwell
- Donald J.S. Barr (September 18, 1937 - November 20, 2018) *Inoculum* (February 2019 - - Jim Ginns) invited for *Mycologia* Martha Powell and Joyce Longcore
- Ian Ross (May 22, 1930 -- November 29, 2019) -- Iris Charvat
- Joseph Wessels (-- 2019) -- H.A.B.Wosten and Jan Dijksterhuis invited

4) Published in *Inoculum*

- Eddie Hillman (1992 -- November 2018) *Inoculum* (February 2019) (Josh Herr, Kristi Gdanetz MacCready)
- Jonathan D. Walton (1953 -- October 18, 2018) *Inoculum* (February 2019) (Heather Hallen-Adams)
- Samuel J. Mazzer (April 8, 1934 – September 21, 2019) -- *Inoculum* (September 2019)

- Hope H. Miller (1933-2018) – *Inoculum* (September 2018) Cathy Cripps
- Charles “Bud” Kramer (April 4, 1928 -- June 26, 2019) *Inoculum* (September 2019) (Jose Herrera)
- Carlene "Cardy" Allen Raper (January 9, 1925 -- 5 Sept 2019) *Inoculum* (September 2019) (Anonymous)
- Douglas E. Eveleigh (December 6, 1933 -- December 30, 2019) – *Inoculum* (Joan Bennett)

5) Published on MSA Facebook site

- John W. Rippon (May 19, 1932 - March 20, 2019) – Tom Volk invited for *Mycologia* (also see <https://www.facebook.com/msafungi/photos/from-tom-volkmy-dear-friend-and-medical-mycology-mentor-dr-john-rippon-passed-aw/1014632468747953/> and <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/national-cremation/obituary.aspx?n=John-RIPPON&lc=2881&pid=192249341&mid=8226489>)

5) Acknowledgements

I thank Marin Brewer and Anne Pringle for their extremely helpful involvement.

Archivist Annual Report Meredith Blackwell 25 June 2019

This is the same information from the 2018 and 2019 report

“The main activity of the archivist was to negotiate an agreement with the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Pittsburgh, through J. Dustin Williams, Archivist and Research Scholar, to move the MSA Archives from its historical home at the NYBG. The advantage of the move is that the HIBD is an archive and would archive the MSA materials over time at no charge to MSA. Materials that are of interest would be scanned and made available to MSA. Because the HIBD encourages research on its collections, the materials would be available to researchers (e.g., history of mycology in the USA, numbers of students hired in the field, trends in costs of the journal). Sarah Bergemann visited NY in the winter [2018] and will provide an update on the materials that are to be moved. Hopefully the funds approved by MSA Council in 2016 are still available.”

New business –the future depends on submitting digital materials to me for forwarding or to J. Dustin Williams <jdustin@andrew.cmu.edu>, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Please send with the notice “to be added to the MSA Archives.” Flash drive or electronic transmittal is OK. Please let me know if you submit directly.

Finance Committee Report January 2020

D. Jean Lodge, Chair, Jessie Glaeser, ex officio, Treasurer, Anne Pringle, ex officio, President, members Charles Bacon, David Middleton, Chief Investment Officer

The MSA investment account had a value of \$1,726,210.78 on 31 December 2019, a 18.1% increase of \$265,125.67 year-to-date (beginning value \$1,461,085.10 on 1 January 2019). Other than paying the annual commission and management fees to Middleton Advisory, there were no deposits or withdrawals. The investments are managed by our Chief Investment Officer (CIO), David Middleton at Middleton Advisory. Management fees for 2019 were \$15,149.38 (0.92% of investment portfolio, charged as 0.32% quarterly). The increase in value of our investments during 2019 (\$265,125.67 gain) more than makes up for the losses in 2018 (\$104,066.37 loss; See Fig. below). Thus our investments have performed well despite market fluctuations and the committee is pleased with the state of our portfolio. The investment market will likely remain volatile for at least the next several years, though we intend to remain on course for our investment time horizon of at least 15 years.

According to the spending plan in our Investment Policy Statement, re-approved by the committee in January 2019, the level of spending in the pooled endowment fund will generally range from 2% to 6% (~\$33,000 - \$98,000). Expenditures for travel and research awards typically fall within this range so MSA Council should not encounter any restrictions in awarding grants and awards in 2019. As in previous years, no deposits or withdrawals were recorded in the pooled MSA endowment fund in 2019, as travel and research awards were taken directly from the excess balance in the MSA operating expenses bank account. We will ensure that this is properly reported as a contribution to the endowment from the operating funds as a distribution from the endowment. David Middleton is coordinating with the Rees Group accountants to best ensure that endowment spending is reported correctly. We recommended in January 2019 that item 5 of the Finance Committee MOP be emended to clarify that funds from the operating expense account and the uncommitted endowment funds be used to supplement travel and research awards in years when the committed endowments show losses or insufficient gains, and that overall spending from the endowment investments should range from 2% to 6% of the entire portfolio, as mentioned above.

The MSA Finance Committee met on 25 January 2019 and all members affirmed our Investment Policy Statement. We currently have three vacancies on the committee so we will not convene another meeting until most or all of these positions are filled. At our last committee meeting a year ago, Chief Investment Officer, David Middleton, indicated we could increase the percentages of ESG (environmental, social and governance) stocks and bonds in our portfolio. The MSA Finance Committee agreed to increase our ESG stock holdings up to 60%, and our ESG bond holdings to 25%, which has been in effect during 2019.

On November 25, 2019, CIO David Middleton informed us that TD Ameritrade will be purchased by Charles Schwab. He was told by TD Ameritrade that yes, this is happening,

but the agreement is still subject to customary closing conditions and the transaction is expected to happen in the second half of 2020. Before then, there are no changes expected in how we work with TD Ameritrade. When and if the transaction is completed, he is quite sure that Charles Schwab will continue to be an excellent custodian and I look forward to working with them. Schwab has driven major industry-wide improvements recently, leading to lower fees and better technology for everyone. Our CIO has used their services in the past and they have an excellent reputation.

The Finance Committee Chair during the last half of 2019, Dr. Jeff Stone, stepped down and Dr. D. Jean Lodge has replaced him on a 1-1.5 year term as the MSA Finance Committee Chair. The MSA President and President Elect are seeking a member who would train to become the new Finance Committee Chair.

Fig. MSA Investment portfolio value from January 2017 through December 2018.



Midyear Report MSA Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Part 1: MSA Diversity and Inclusion Committee Board 2019-2020

Geromy Moore (Chair), 2018-2021 - Research Microbiologist, USDA-ARS, New Orleans
Adriana L. Romero-Olivares (Past-Chair) 2017-2020 – Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of New Hampshire
Abeer Alqurashi, 2018-2022 – PhD student, Clemson University
Anna Bazzicalupo, 2019-2023 – Postdoctoral Research Associate
Bala Chaudhary, 2018-2022 – Assistant Professor, DePaul University
Elizabeth Feliciano, 2019-2023 – M.Sc. student, University of Michigan
Brian Lovett, 2019-2023 – PhD candidate, University of Maryland
Don Natvig, 2016-2020 – Professor, University of New Mexico
Yan Wang, 2018-2022 – Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of California Riverside

Part 2: July – December 2019

2.1 MSA 2019 in Minneapolis, MN (August 10-14) – Diversity and Inclusion Committee (DivCom) representation included new Chair, Geromy Moore, past Past-Chair, Danny Haelwaters, and active DivCom member, Anna Bazzicalupo. Members fundraised for Diversity Award monies by exchanging stickers for financial donations. We also handed out pronoun buttons to interested attendees. Diversity Award also benefitted from MSA t-shirt sales.

2.2 Societies Consortium Meetings via phone-in/online participation (September 16 and November 14) – At the request of the MSA President, Anne Pringle, the DivCom Chair, Geromy Moore, remotely participated in the inaugural meeting of the Societies Consortium to prevent harassment in STEMM in September. The event took place in Washington, D.C. and involved many of the consortium's participating societites. From this event, ideas to improve MSA's anti-harassment policies were enacted. Chair reached out to the president of the Society for the Study of Evolution, Andrea Case, about how they implemented changes to report, handle and prevent harassment at their meetings. The November event involved several specific societies who shared their ideas for improving meeting experiences for all attendees. This info is then relayed to DivCom members and MSA Council. Discussion and planning for future meetings is ongoing.

2.3 DivCom bi-monthly meetings (September 24 and November 22) – The MSA DivCom has had two video conference meetings. We have discussed and addressed many important items. We still need volunteers for Secretary and Vice Chair, which we are working on as a group. Several members looked at a survey on inclusion of LGBTQ+people in Bioscience (at the request of survey creator, Tony Colella). We recommended it for sharing with MSA members. We also discussed fundraising for, and publicizing of, the MSA Diversity Award, which included creating a blurb for Inoculum along with a link to donate. DivCom revised a document with general recommendations to make future MSA meetings more inclusive, such as an improved Code of Conduct, and finding, vetting and training Myco Allies to assist with bystander intervention for,

and reporting of, all forms of harassment. Another important topic of discussion and involvement was an official MSA Diversity Statement, drafted by DivCom, which will be used for award nomination packets to ensure greater diversity of award recipients (Mentor Student Travel Awards as well as the Diversity Award). Drafts of all documents have been shared with MSA Council for revision and approval. DivCom also discusses short- and long-term goals it hopes to achieve. DivCom Chair, along with two other members, are designing posters for display at future meetings that include information on promoting 'Safe Mycology' at MSA meetings with acknowledgement of CoC and training Myco Allies. DivCom is to handle preparations for all aspects of 'Safe Mycology' that will include on- and off-site activities that occur during MSA meetings.

Sincerely, MSA Diversity and Inclusion Committee – Geromy Moore (Chair), Adriana L. Romero-Olivares (Past-Chair), Abeer Alqurashi, Bala Chaudhary, Brian Lovett, Don Natvig, Matias Cafaro, Tanya Cheeke, Yan Wang

Mid-year Report MSA Student Section January 2020

Part 1: MSA Student Section Executive Board 2019 - 2020

Part 2: July – December 2019

- MSA_SS at MSA 2019 in Minneapolis, MN
- Fundraising
- Outreach

Part 3: January – July 2020

- Education
- Plans for the future
- MSA_SS at MSA 2020

Part 1: MSA Student Section Executive Board 2019-2020

Chair: Rebecca Shay, Michigan State University

Vice-Chair: Rob Powers, University of Michigan

Secretary: Sara Getson, Michigan State University

Treasurer: Austin Frewert, Washington State University

Communication Chair: Tania Kurbessoian, University of California - Riverside

Merchandise Chair: Savannah Gentry, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Webmaster: Maria-Jose Romero-Jimenez, Western Illinois University

Postdoctoral Representative: Lotus Lofgren, University of California - Riverside

Past-Chair: *(automatic transition from Chair, non-voting)* Kristi Gdanetz-MacCready,
University of Michigan

Part 2: July 2018 – June 2019 Year in Review

2.1 MSA 2019 in Minneapolis, MN– Events and Merchandise

At the 2019 MSA Annual meeting, the Student Section held a meeting attended by past and current Board members and current MSA student and postdoc members. The meeting comprised of updating members with what the Student Section is currently doing and asking for suggestions from attendees of what they would like the Student Section to do in the future. We also hosted a social event open to all students and postdocs where members could mingle and network amongst themselves.

Additionally, Student Section board members presented a poster the Student Section, with general information about who we are and what we do.

We also had a Student Section Swag table, where we raised funds for the Student Section with t-shirts, stickers, and hats. We also were generously donated the leftover IMC11 shirts and bags that we were able to give away for pure donations to the Student Section. We are

currently working with the DIC and the Rees Group to develop one platform for streamlining Student Section Swag online orders.

The Student Section organized a symposium for the meeting, called Oh The Places You'll Go about mycological careers. We had 5 speakers from a variety of scientific careers about what they do in their position and how they got to that position. The 6th speaker spot was left for questions for our panel, which allowed anyone to ask a question about any of the represented careers.

2.2

(a) Fundraising

Our current account totals as of January 2020 is \$2838.35, which includes previous balance and the money from donations at MSA 2019. 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.

(b) MSA Student Section Accounts

The Treasurer and Chair are working with the MSA Treasurer to better keep track of our accounts, with the ultimate goal of creating a Student Section subaccount within the MSA account so we are better able to know where our finances stand.

Additionally, we are determining a better way to purchase supplies, likely through our Paypal account, that will not require students to pay upfront and wait for reimbursement. We hope these account changes will be finalized by the annual meeting and allow for easier management of Student Section accounts.

2.3 Outreach

(a) Social Media Presence

As of January 6th 2020, the Student Section MSA Facebook page has 6,943 likes [+1,368 since July 2019], the Twitter account (@MSAStudents) has 1,763 followers [+188], the new Instagram account (msastudentsection) was started in August 2019 and has 58 followers, and the LinkedIn group has 181 members.

(b) Newsletters

The Communication Chair and Webmaster have created 4 newsletters since July, with Student Spotlights, gift guides, recipes, and fungal facts. We have switched from using MailChimp to creating PDF newsletters that the Rees Group sends out to student and postdoc members of MSA for us, to avoid needing to constantly update our email list as new members join.

(c) MSA Student Section Website

The Webmaster updated the Student Section website, including creation of new sections, removal of irrelevant or outdated content, and archived previous Student Spotlights. Archived Student Spotlights are available at:

<https://msastudents.org/student-spotlights/archived-student-spotlights/>

Part 3: January 2020 - July 2020

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. We are also reaching out to plant pathologists who are engaging in outreach activities for the International Year of Plant Health, and plan to share resources with them.

3.2 Plans for the Future

The Student Section is currently working on determining what to do with our finances. Since the Student Section has been established for many years now, we have account balances that will allow us to do more things for more members. We are working on determining how to best serve the largest number of Student Section members as we can, and will update the Council when we have plans. We hope for your support in our future endeavors, which will likely include helping members develop job and resume skills, promote their current work, and help prepare members for life after being a student.

3.3 MSA Student Section Presence at MSA 2020 in Gainesville, FL

a) Student Social

We plan to host a social for all student and postdoc members to network and mingle during the conference.

b) Board Meeting

The Student Section e-board will hold their last meeting with this elected board at the annual MSA meeting. This meeting is open to all student and postdoc members, but will be conducted as a board meeting.

c) Student Section Poster

Our poster will be updated and presented at MSA 2020, to increase awareness of the Student Section.

d) Swag

Our swag will be updated and available at MSA 2020. We look forward to the meeting every year to raise funds for the Student Section, to use in our future endeavors. We have been working with the Rees group to streamline credit card payments at the meeting, and working on transporting swag.

e) Workshop lunch

The Student Section is hosting a lunch session for all students looking at best practices for different jobs and how to tailor resumes towards specific careers. At the annual meeting last year students expressed interest in job-related workshops and sessions, and we plan

this event to be an opportunity to ask resume questions, network with people in their career paths, and figure out strategies for getting the position they want.

Table 1						
Current Overview						
Current Estimated Balance	\$2,838.35					
Balance After Expenes (see below)	\$2,774.37					
Current/Planned Expenses	QTY	Cost \$	Source	Balance	Notes	
Sign Stands 6pk	1	28.99	Amazon	\$2,809.36		
Luggage Lock	1	9.99	Amazon	\$2,799.37		
T-shirt Suitcase	1	25	Savannah	\$2,774.37		
MSA 2019	Sales		Summary	Expense	Balance	
PayPal	\$ 734.00		Balance after IMC		\$2,460.07	
Cash	\$ 799.00		SS donation to PR school	\$789.36	\$1,670.71	
Undeclared	\$ 19.00		New T-shirt Order	\$388.01	\$1,282.70	
Total Sales	\$ 1,552.00		MSA 19 SS Poster Printing	\$24.40	\$1,258.30	
			Previous Fiscal Year Balance (est.)		\$1,258.30	Unaccounted
			Balance-prior to MSA 19		\$1,286.35	\$28.05
			Balance Post MSA 2019 Sales (est.)		\$2,838.35	

January 28, 2020

To: Mycologia Society of America Council

Re: Association Management Membership Report, as of January 28, 2019

Prepared and submitted by Cori VanGalder, Membership Coordinator, regarding membership management provided by The Rees Group, Inc (TRG).

The following report includes:

- MSA membership retention services
- MSA membership communication
- 2019 Annual Meeting attendance information
- Additional management team roles within the MSA

For the last nine months, The Rees Group, Inc. has been very pleased to provide management services to the Mycological Society of America. Active management team members are as follows:

- Susan Rees, TRG President/CEO
- Bill Stoeffler, MSA Account Director
- Kaylee Walters, MSA Innovations Manager
- Cori VanGalder, MSA Membership Coordinator

Membership Retention Services

Renewals for the 2020 calendar year for MSA is off to a great start. The initial membership renewal reminder was sent to 1021 current or recently lapsed MSA members on October 17, 2019, with follow-up emails sent on December 10, 2019, and January 23, 2020 with another scheduled for early February. In addition to the emails, 67 paper letters were sent via USPS as membership renewal reminders to members with no valid email address in the MSA database.

When 2019 closed, the MSA membership totaled 973 active members. During initial review efforts, October 2019 – January 28, 2020, 395 members renewed. Adding Honorary, Lifetime, and Emeritus Members, and members that previously enrolled for multiple years, brings the total number of active MSA members in late January to 691.

Below please see a table of current and past MSA membership information, noting that 2012 – 2018 statistics were provided by previous management companies.

MSA Membership Data as of January 28, 2020

Membership Type	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Individual Member Worldwide Online Only 1 YR	259	316	451	469	521	529	546	594	101
Individual Member Worldwide Online Only 2 YR	6	25							
Individual Member Worldwide Online Only 3 YR	11	6							
Individual Member Worldwide Online Only Auto- Renew	5								
Individual Member Worldwide Online & Print Journal 1 YR	31	42						1	538
Individual Member Worldwide Online & Print Journal 2 YR	3								
Post-Doctoral Member Worldwide Online Only	11	40	49	49	49	50	54	16	
Student Member Worldwide Online Only	39	206	186	186	235	164	187	180	46
Student Member Worldwide Online & Print Journal		2						1	166
Associate Member Worldwide 1 YR Associate Member Worldwide 2 YR	16	29	40	40	36	17	18	17	26
Associate Member Worldwide 3 YR	4	2							
Associate Member Worldwide Auto - Renew									

Additional Family Member 1 YR	4	4	7	8	3	6	2	2	
Additional Family Member 2 YR									
Additional Family Member 3 YR	1	1							
Emeritus Member Worldwide - No Journal	182	180	180	178	164	123	128	123	115
Emeritus Member Worldwide - Online Journal	8	8	12	9	16	41	34	51	2
Emeritus Member Worldwide - Print & Online Journal	1								48
Sustaining Member Worldwide - Online Only	1	1	2	1	1	4	4	8	
Sustaining Member Worldwide - Print & Online									8
Life Member Worldwide Online Only	68	70	71	71	69	70	68	4	
Life Member Worldwide Online & Print	7	7	8	8	6	4	6	70	76
Affiliated Member Worldwide Online Only 1 YR	1	1		3	1	1			
Affiliated Member Worldwide Online Only Auto-Renew									
Discounted Membership - Developing Country	3	2	4	5	5	2	1	1	
Honorary Member Worldwide Online Only	30	30	27	28	27	27	26	4	

Honorary Member Worldwide Online & Print		1	1	4	4	5	4	26	22
Total	691	973	982	1059	1137	1043	1078	1098	1148

In January of 2019, MSA membership renewals were at 678. As of January 28, 2020, MSA membership renewals total 691, which is on track with the previous years. We fully anticipate renewals will increase as we get closer to the annual meeting.

Below is a table comparing how many members renewed during the first few months of last year's and this year's renewal campaigns.

MSA Member Renewals	October, 2018	November, 2018	December, 2018	January, 2018
# of members renewing	12	124	166	77
MSA Member Renewals	October, 2019	November, 2019	December, 2019	January, 2019
# of members renewing	85	84	186	40

At MSA's request, many membership types offer one, two, or three-year renewal periods, and we have introduced auto-renewal as well. Members will receive an email in December reminding them that their card will be charged. To date, 5 MSA members have taken advantage of auto-enroll.

From April 2019 through the end of the year, 31 emails were sent to membership and supporters to keep them informed and engaged in MSA business. These emails do not include membership renewal, but instead focused on award nominations, election ballots, student newsletters, and Inoculum-related content. In the first few weeks of 2020, an additional 3 emails were sent.

The registration for the 2019 meeting in Minneapolis, MN, was managed by the University of Minnesota. TRG members assisted with t-shirt sales, auction set-up, and accepting payment for all auction items sold. The table below reflects attendance information sent to TRG by the University of Minnesota at the conclusion of the meeting.

Number of Attendees	Description	Rate
147	Early Bird MSA Member Registration	\$400.00
13	Standard MSA Member Registration	\$450.00
132	Early Bird MSA Student Registration	\$300.00
27	Standard MSA Student Registration	\$350.00
9	Non-MSA Member	\$525.00
33	Non-MSA Member	\$475.00
1	Non-MSA Member	\$400.00
2	Complimentary Registrations	No fee
Meeting Events		
101	Foray Attendees	\$75.00
45	Guest Banquet Tickets	\$59.00
78	Bell Museum Event Tickets	\$50.00
20	Workshop: DeCIFR for integration of taxonomic, ecological, and evolutionary biological data in Mycology	-
30	Workshop: Mycoflora Workshop: North American Mycoflora Project	

	Workshop	
Exhibitors/Sponsorships		
1	Silver Level Sponsorship	\$2325.00
2	Bronze Level Sponsorship	\$2000.00
1	Copper Level Sponsorship	\$1000.00
1	Unspecified Level Sponsorship	\$1500.00
On-Site MSA T-Shirt Donations		
109	T-Shirt Donations	\$20.00

In addition to membership coordination, TRG also maintains the MSA website, msafungi.org. This maintenance includes editing content when requested by MSA leadership and updating as new information becomes available. We have created a very well-used donation portal, for members to contribute to the various MSA endowment funds.

We have been working closely with the student members to streamline the online swag donation process and taken over maintaining inventory of the student swag.

TRG documents and logs all donations submitted online and via the mail and sends reports bi-annually to the Endowment Chair and the MSA Treasurer. TRG also sends the tax receipt letters, thanking MSA donors for their generous contributions, monthly.

TRG has worked with MSA members, specifically the Awards Coordinator, to create google forms for the award applications to ensure all information is housed in the same area and is easily accessible to those who require access to it.

Inoculum is up and running again, and in respect to MSA publications, TRG has worked closely with Taylor and Francis, the MSA publisher, to create single-sign on access to digital copies of Mycologia, the MSA journal. This access will be announced in the next week via blast email, and will eliminate the need for each member to receive 'token' sign-on information and create separate accounts with Taylor and Francis.

Along with membership management and member communications, TRG also provides accounting services to the MSA. We look forward to assisting with the 2020 annual meeting in Gainesville, and thank you for the opportunity to work with all MSA members in the future!