The following is a summary of Society related activities from July 2020.

1) Committee assignments - All committee vacancies except for one position on the Mycologia Editorial Advisory Committee were populated and the official roster was published in Inoculum in October 2020.

2) Taylor & Francis Mycologia contract renewal - Our Mycologia portfolio manager Henrietta Thompson developed and submitted a proposal to MSA to renew our five year contract (which ends December 2021) with Taylor & Francis. The proposal was forwarded to the incoming and immediate past Mycologia Managing Editors, Mycologia Editorial Advisory Committee, and Executive Council for input. Comments received about the proposal were positive and Henrietta was contacted to initiate the contract renewal process. The new contract will be sent to MSA by the end of January and forwarded to the individuals and committees mentioned above, including representatives of The Rees Group and legal council. The contract will be revised and negotiated as needed based on comments received. A motion recommending renewal of our Mycologia contract with Taylor & Francis will be developed and sent to Council for a vote.

3) Food bank donation match challenge - A pool of funds was established from personal contributions made by Executive Council members and Endowment Committee Chair Mary Berbee. With assistance from Cori VanGalder of The Rees Group, these funds were used to provide a donation to a local food bank of the donor’s choice based on a matching contribution to MSA.

4) BSA/MSA joint meeting - MSA 2021 program chair, Heather Hallen-Adams, and I continued to meet and interact with BSA leadership and program chairs to discuss joint meeting cost, format, and logistics. Additional information on the joint meeting will be forthcoming in late January.

5) Manual of Operations (MOP) Revisions - To support the efforts of Marin Brewer and Anne Pringle, the Amateur Mycological Clubs and Society Liaison, Finance Committee, Mycologia Editorial Advisory Committee, and Society Incorporation Liaison sections of the MOP were revised. With the impending resignation of the current Society Incorporation Liaison, a plan is being developed to identify a registered agent to serve in this capacity to retain our Society’s not-for-profit 501(3)(c) status.

6) Fungal Fables Initiative - A series of video recordings on events of MSA historical significance is being developed with assistance from Meredith Blackwell. A synthesis of the life and mycological contributions of John Karling is being developed with Meredith and Alisha Quandt for use as a prelude to introducing the Karling lecturer.

I want to thank members of the Executive and General Councils and The Rees Group for their valuable input and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Marc Anthony Cubeta
MSA President
Anne Pringle  
Past President  
Mid-year Report  
January 2021

I’m enjoying my pasture! And I’m proud and happy to see MSA continue to function at a high level: thanks, you all!

Over the last six months, one of my aims has been to let as many people as possible know about issues that haven’t been solved and may need attention over the next years: a Code of Conduct for MSA as a society (right now our CoC focuses on meetings), mechanisms to enable committees to pay attention to diversity when giving awards, funds, etc.

I’ve focused on being a mentor to Marc especially but also to Michaela as she takes on her editorial role at Inoculum. I continue to be involved in putting together the newsletter and anticipate that will continue for at least the next year or so.

I continue to worry a bit about politics and the MSA. I very much appreciate Matt Kasson’s offer to organize a workshop at our meeting to discuss when we should or should not issue statements about world events. I think we cannot afford to be perceived as partisan: it’s not our role in the world. But we can and should speak up when issues relate to our core mission: education.

We should also continue to be mindful of our relationship with big donors... I don’t think I handled that very well last year though I will try and repair some of the damage over the next few issues of Inoculum.

I’ve been helping a bit with the revamp of the MOP but Marin and Cori have been doing the heavy lifting.

I continue to serve as our representative to AAAS, but there’s been no work to do on that front. In fact, so little work that I grew suspicious and reached out to AAAS to find out if I was supposed to be doing something. After asking, “what does a representative do?”, this is what I received:

On Dec 11, 2020, at 8:27 AM, Charles Belo <cbelo@aaas.org> wrote:

Hi Anne,

So it typically depends on whether or not we have any initiatives or collaboration projects taking place. Unfortunately, there isn’t any set frequency I can inform you with. But for the most part, the society representatives help by disseminating information to their respective organizations and member base whenever we reach out.

I hope this helps clarify some things for you! But please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.

Best,
Charles Belo  
Special Programs Associate  
Executive Office, AAAS
Midyear Report of the President-Elect
January 19, 2021

Dear colleagues,

It’s my honor to present my Midyear Report as President-Elect of the MSA.

Since our annual meeting I have served as our society’s liaison to the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). I attended their (virtual) annual meeting on Strengthening the Bioeconomy and have relayed important news and action items from AIBS to the MSA Executive Council (EC). The latter led to our submission of a public comment opposing the previous federal administration’s proposal to restrict student visas.

Concurrently I have served as an active member of the MSA Education Committee, contributing to discussions and plans for new initiatives that highlight our outstanding educators and showcasing the ways in which so many Society members contribute to educating future generations of mycologists (and friends of mycology).

I have provided advice and support to MSA Vice President Kerrigan with regard to the procedures relevant to MSA elections, and I have met with MSA President Cubeta and our EC to discuss MSA initiatives and matters relating to our society’s activities and the 2021 Annual Meeting.

I have worked on advancing the new MSA Ambassador Interchange program, assisting with establishing guidelines, a call for awards, and an article in Inoculum. In that capacity I have appreciated the chance to work closely with a terrific team representing MSA Councilors, the MSA Student Section, the MSA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, the Rees Group, and our MSA Executive Council on this exciting initiative to grow the diversity and inclusiveness of our society.

I am transitioning to become the Review Editor for Mycologia and am working on establishing a new Executive Editor to take my place in a role I have enjoyed greatly for the past four years.

Finally, I am working with the local organizers to help plan ahead for our 2022 MSA Annual Meeting in Gainesville, looking forward to a time in which we can come together in person again.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our society and I look forward to the coming months. Please take care and thank you all for your contributions to our discipline and community.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Elizabeth (Betsy) Arnold
President-Elect, Mycological Society of America
MID-YEAR REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Summary of activities since assuming office at the MSA Annual Meeting held virtually July 22, 2020. This report is organized following the responsibilities of the Vice President according to the MSA Manual of Operations (MOP).

Member of Council and Executive Council
Engaged in meetings, discussions, and votes. Details of some of those items are presented elsewhere following MSA guidelines.

Identify potential meeting sites for the next unassigned annual meeting
Potential meeting sites for the 2023 meeting are being investigated. Once the 2021 meeting details are finalized, efforts to establish potential location and local organizer options will continue. Accessibility, attractiveness of the setting, affordability, and local perspectives on diversity are being considered in making the final proposals. VP Kerrigan will discuss planning with President-Elect Arnold and President Cubeta prior to being presented for approval by Council.

Organize and conduct the balloting for all elected officers
Elections are done in collaboration with the Nominations Committee and the MSA membership. Following the MOP, all society members were emailed blast messages with a request for nominations for each elected office, with a reminder about improving diversity and gender balance of nominations.

A call for nominations to fill six (6) Council positions - Vice President, Executive Vice President, and four (4) Councilors (in Ecology/Conservation, Systematics/Evolution, Genetics/Cell Biology, and Symbiosis/Pathology), was submitted to membership with the assistance of the MSA Membership Coordinator, Cori VanGalder, of the Rees Group, on November 2, 2020. A reminder was sent on December 9, with the nomination period to close on January 14, 2020. MSA members were encouraged to submit nominations via the webform linked in the email, or to email Cori. Currently, nominations 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. VP Kerrigan will work with the Chair to ensure that we have sufficient -- and where possible, diverse pools of -- nominees for each position.

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,
Julia L. Kerrigan
MSA Vice President
Executive Vice President’s 2021 Mid-year Report

Summaries of activities since the 2020 annual meeting via Zoom are reported here:

- Wrote the minutes of the 2020 MSA Annual Council Meeting and 2020 MSA Annual Business Meetings 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 and provided them with a list a committee members and relevant section(s) of the MSA Manual of Operations.
- Updated MSA website documents and sent them to The Rees Group for publication on the MSA website and include: MSA Constitution and By-laws, MSA Awards Committees, and MSA Roster.
- Conducted 10 email polls as follows:
  - 2020-06— Approval of the Karling Annual Lecture Committee candidates
  - 2020-07—Approval of MSA Interchange Fund
  - 2020-08— Mycologia Associate Editor Nomination of Anna Ronikier
  - 2020-09— Mycologia Associate Editor Nomination of Joey Tanney
  - 2020-10— Mycologia Associate Editor Nomination of Posy Busby
  - 2020-11— Mycologia Associate Editor Nomination of Michael Freitag
  - 2020-12— Mycologia Associate Editor Nomination of Soo Chan Lee
  - 2020-13—Request for Emeritus Member Status for Estelle Levetin
  - 2021-01—Request for Emeritus Member Status for Michael Vincent
  - 2021-02—Request for Emeritus Member Status for Jim Trappe
- Worked with The Rees Group and MSA Officers, Representatives, or Committee Chairs to send blast emails and reminders for membership renewals, the call for nominations of officers for MSA council (deadline 1/15/21), and the calls for student, mentor travel, honorary, distinctions and research awards (deadline 2/15/21).
- Worked with Cori Van Galder of The Rees Group and Past President Anne Pringle to revise the MOP.
- Corresponded with and met via video conference (12/9/2020) with Executive Council to discuss matters related to committee motions, updates and other action items.
- Prepared an Executive VP columns for Inoculum (October 2020 issue)
- Worked with President Marc Cubeta to identify MSA members fill committee vacancies.
- Worked with President Marc Cubeta 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.
• Approved all job postings for the website.
• The deaths of the following members were reported:
  o Nancy Smith Weber (December 19, 2020)

Respectfully submitted,
Marin Brewer
### Table 1. MSA Financial Position as of 31 Dec 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>31 Dec 2018</th>
<th>31 Dec 2019</th>
<th>31 Dec 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checking/Savings – US Bank</td>
<td>$297,324.19</td>
<td>$201,442.16</td>
<td>4.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checking/Savings – Park Bank</td>
<td></td>
<td>82,112.13</td>
<td>318,138.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Checking/Savings</td>
<td>297,324.19</td>
<td>283,554.29</td>
<td>318,142.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TD Ameritrade– Combined</td>
<td>1,461,085.10</td>
<td>1,726,210.78</td>
<td>1,986,325.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>1,841.67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Other Current Assets</td>
<td>1,760,250.90</td>
<td>1,726,210.78</td>
<td>1,986,325.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>1,760,250.96</td>
<td>2,009,765.07</td>
<td>2,304,468.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$24,753.14</td>
<td>$6,888.50</td>
<td>1,355.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Liabilities (inc. deferred memberships)</td>
<td>27,270.00</td>
<td>27,627.00</td>
<td>26,333.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
<td>52,023.14</td>
<td>34,515.50</td>
<td>27,688.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>52,023.14</td>
<td>34,515.50</td>
<td>27,688.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Revenue over Expenditures (net income)</td>
<td>($40,801.94)</td>
<td>222,435.14</td>
<td>301,530.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td>$1,708,227.82</td>
<td>1,975,249.57</td>
<td>2,276,779.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Equity</strong></td>
<td>$1,760,250.96</td>
<td>2,009,765.07</td>
<td>2,304,468.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 2. Revenue and Expenses</td>
<td>31 Dec 2019</td>
<td>31 Dec 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ordinary Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$43,606</td>
<td>24,902</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auction</td>
<td>11,266</td>
<td>2,256</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-shirt sales</td>
<td></td>
<td>545</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>158,365</td>
<td>39,25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>47,067</td>
<td>53,167</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication (Mycologia)</td>
<td>83,624</td>
<td>114,624</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>111,089 (royalty)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,535 (subscriptions)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional revenue</td>
<td>17,986</td>
<td>------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Ordinary Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>361,914</strong></td>
<td><strong>199,420</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income (investment)</td>
<td>279,405</td>
<td>224,136</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Gross Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>641,319</strong></td>
<td><strong>423,556</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>19,002</td>
<td>8,445</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Awards</td>
<td>86,157</td>
<td>26,114</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>164,074</td>
<td>14,035</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer Expenses</td>
<td>4,592</td>
<td>------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>46,090 (Rees Group)</td>
<td>50,783 (Rees Group)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15,566 (Allen Press)</td>
<td>640 (travel)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3400 (travel)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication</td>
<td>12,513</td>
<td>Deferred to 2021*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial Travel to Meeting</td>
<td>10,473</td>
<td>------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership expenses</td>
<td>2,362</td>
<td>2,460</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel speakers</td>
<td>14,564</td>
<td>------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web/internet</td>
<td>25,541</td>
<td>4,044</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment expense</td>
<td>14549</td>
<td>15,502</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>418,883</strong></td>
<td><strong>122,023</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Revenue over Expenses</td>
<td>222,436</td>
<td>301,533</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Net Assets</td>
<td>1,708,228</td>
<td>2,009,765</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ending Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,009,765</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,304,469</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Investments:** Current assets include TDAmeritrade pooled operating funds $496,581.48 and pooled endowment funds $1,489,744.43. In 2019, pooled operating funds were $431,553.69 and pooled endowment funds $1,294,658.09. The average investment return on the portfolio for 2020 was 12%. David Middleton, our financial advisor, has provided us with a balanced
approach in our investments which allowed us to avoid much of the pandemic-induced market volatility. He remains optimistic about long-term growth, based on proposed economic stimulus proposed by the new administration and a successful vaccine program.

**Awards:** The 2020 awards included $23,503 given at the annual meeting and an additional $14,250 (19 awards at $750 each) in travel awards that winners can apply to the 2021 or 2022 meeting (although plans for the 2021 meeting are still unresolved). The North American Mycoflora Project received an additional $2,495. In 2019 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:** In 2020 board-designated and named funds received $21,199 and an additional $3703 in unrestricted donations. The balance in the Applied Mycology Fund will be transferred to the general operating fund, correcting an accounting error from several years past. In comparison, 2019 Donations were higher: $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:** In 2020 *Mycologia* brought in $111,089 in royalties and $3535 in subscription revenue. The bill for publication ($12,091) was not received by TRG until January 2021, so the actual net revenue from *Mycologia* is actually $102,553.

**Meeting**—The 2020 virtual meeting brought in $6,726, including $2256 from the auction and $545 in donations for T-shirts. The cost of the meeting was $14,036 and included fees for the internet platform ($500), audio/visual assistance ($148.40) and management fees from The Rees Group ($13,260). By making the registration fee negligible, it is likely that we attracted additional members to MSA. Membership income increased $6100 compared to 2019.

In comparison 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.

**Administrative** - The major administrative cost is our contract with The Rees Group ($4,232/month). Additional expenses include: accounting fees $1,207; bank fees ($102); copying, postage and phone ($490); travel (Bill Stoeffler to Madison $640); web page/internet $4,044; dues and fees to other organizations $1,780; insurance ($2,322).

**Student Section** – The student section received donations of $110 in 2020. The balance (as of Dec 31, 2020) in the account managed by the Rees Group is $1996.24. I am working with the Student Section Treasurer to monitor the section's finances.
**Transition to Rees Group** – The transition of our accounting duties to The Rees Group was completed in 2020. Taxes were filed in a timely fashion and MSA’s tax-free status was renewed in March, 2020, at the height of the pandemic fear. Working with TRG and the Middleton Advisory group has been extremely beneficial for MSA and has greatly simplified our financial affairs.

Respectfully submitted,

_Jessie A. Glaeser_

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

Mycologia Issue 113 (1) is on schedule to print in January 2021. The journal has continued on-time printing of all issues throughout 2020.

The 2019 impact factor for the journal was 2.149, which is a substantial drop from last year (2.861) and the prior 4 years. The drop is mainly attributable to a highly cited 2016 article (Spatafora et al.) that contributed to the 2018 but not the 2019 IF. Analysis of the Mycologia impact factor over the past 20 years is given here: https://www.scijournal.org/impact-factor-of-MYCOLOGIA.shtml.

The journal received 299 new manuscripts and 223 revisions in 2020. This was an increase in the number of new manuscripts over 2019 (283) and 2018 (222). In 2020, 280 manuscripts received a final decision, of which 90 were accepted and 190 were rejected. The 2020 rejection rate of 67.9% was close to that of previous years: 68.1% in 2019, 57.9% in 2018 and 67.8% in 2017. The journal now provides a Reject and Resubmit option, which was rendered for 60 of the rejected manuscripts (21.4% of total decisions).

Achieving reasonable times to decision continues to be a challenge. For the aforementioned 280 articles the time to first decision ranged from 0–127 days and averaged 40 days. Of those, 23 had first decisions more than 90 days after receipt in the EM system. Times to final decision ranged from 0–731 days and averaged 81 days. Of those, 34 took more than six months. Although these statistics include times for authors to submit their revisions (for which Mycologia has continued to be generous with extended deadlines), there is still room for improvement on the times taken for editors to assess revised manuscripts once received, averaging 31.8 days for revision 1 (n = 106), 14.3 days for revision 2 (n = 74), 9.5 days for revision 3 (n = 26), 5.8 days for revision 4 (n = 4) and 19 days for revision 5 (n = 1).

For comparison, average time from submission to first decision (40 days in 2020) was the same as in 2019 (40 days) but down from 2018 (56) and 2017 (55). The average time from submission to final decision (81 days in 2020) was up compared to 77 in 2019, 61 in 2018 and 74 in 2017.

The journal continues to maintain its international appeal. Submissions in 2020 originated from corresponding authors residing in 53 countries. Ad hoc reviewers numbered 494 from 58 countries.

The MSA and Mycologia Editorial Board thank outgoing Associate Editors Jozsef Geml, Jolanta Miadlikowska, Robert Roberson, Carlos Rojas Alvarado, Matthew Smith, Jeffrey Stone and Donald Walker for their expert and dedicated service.

The Editors welcome new Associate Editors Posy Busby, Michael Freitag, Matthew T. Kasson, Soo Chan Lee, Anna Ronikier and Joey Tanney to the Mycologia Editorial Board.
Betsy Arnold is replacing Chris Schardl as Review Editor, but also generously staying on as an Executive Editor until a replacement can be identified. Chris Schardl is the new Managing Editor.

The MSA and Mycologia Editorial Board especially thank Brian Shaw for his four years of dedicated and essential service as Managing Editor of Mycologia.
The MSA newsletter, *Inoculum*, is published three times a year, tentatively in January/February, May/June, September/October. The purpose of *Inoculum* is to be a fun, informal, high quality newsletter to share news and photos of interest with membership and keep the Society up to date on important things such as election results and award winners.

In 2020 the primary editors were Chris Schardl and Anne Pringle. Beginning with the upcoming issue in February, the new *Inoculum* editor is Michaela Schmull, with assistance as needed from Anne and Chris.

Content varies from issue to issue, from standard Society reminders of membership renewal and meeting registration, to news and articles of interest to all lovers of fungi and fungus-like organisms. Content is written and submitted by members, including the photos that grace the header of each issue.

Articles included in almost every issue of the newsletter are: President’s Corner, Book Reviews, In Memoriam, and Executive Vice-President’s Report. Regular reminders are sent out for membership renewal, to thank our generous donors, announce award winners, and to disseminate information related to upcoming meetings/recap past meetings. In 2020, there were seven book reviews, five memorials, and over fifteen special interest articles submitted and published, along with numerous photographs and other announcements. *Inoculum* also announces elections with candidate statements, and profiles the winners.

Articles published over the last year that would not be considered ‘Society news’ are listed below.

**Intriguing Inscriptions**

*Teaching Mycology During a Pandemic*
*There’s No Social Distancing from Your Fungal Housemates*
*Mycology During the Quarantine; News from Bogota Colombia*
*Searching for a Subtle Seed-borne Systemic Symbiosis*
*Finding New Fungi in Familiar Places*
*Home Ectomycorrhiza Succession Project During the COVID-19 Pandemic*
*Millipedes and Mealworms and Mucoromycota, Oh My!*
*Images of Licea Iridescens, a Corticolous Myxomycete Species New to Science, and Crystals of Unknown Origin on the Tree Bark of Living American Elm Trees*
*Influences of a Prolific Gut Fungus (Zancudomyces culisetae) on Larval and Adult Mosquito (Aedes aegypti) – Associated Microbiota*
*10th International Congress on the Systematics and Ecology of Myxomycetes*
*Evolution of the North American Mycoflora Project*
*Identifiers Wanted: iNaturalist and You!*
*What Type of Fungus Are You?*
*The Collection of Zoosporic Eufungi at the University of Michigan (CZEUM): A New Resource Unifying Historically Significant Research Collections*

All past issues of *Inoculum* are archived in PDF format on the MSA website, msafungi.org, under “Publications” and available for your viewing at any time. We continue to be thankful to everyone who submits content and look forward to sharing *Inoculum* with membership for a long time to come.
The MSA Editorial Advisory Committee met on Nov. 16th. After initial introductions, the committee discussed several issues related to the MSA publication Mycologia over the one-hour meeting. The committee chair (Harris) summarized information presented at the Mycologia/Taylor & Francis meeting on Oct. 27th, including relevant metrics such as impact factor, downloads, and acceptance rates. Based on these metrics, the committee agreed that Mycologia is doing well. The chair also updated the committee on Taylor and Francis’ open access policy, as well as the brief discussion near the end of the Oct. 27th meeting that focused on re-negotiation of the publishing contract in 2021. On the later point, the committee agreed that the arrangement with Taylor & Francis appears to be working well.

The committee discussed the three proposals/motions that were provided to the chair by Marc Cubeta, as well as the responses from the Managing and Associate Editors. The first motion was to encourage debate on a current contentious topic at the annual meeting, with subsequent publication of the debate in Mycologia. The committee was generally lukewarm about his idea. Potential concerns include identifying a relevant issue (are there enough issues that this could be done multiple times?), coordinating the manuscripts across several authors, and whether this would really have any impact. The second motion was to provide recognition of an outstanding paper along with free open access publication in Mycologia. The committee agrees in principle that this would be a good idea, but is shares concerns about the cost (especially if more than one paper per year is recognized). If funding is available, we would encourage this. An alternative might instead be to recognize outstanding presentations at the MSA Annual Meeting by offering expedited review (<one week turn around) if a manuscript based on the presentation is submitted to Mycologia. The final motion was to add a land acknowledgement section to the article format. The committee strongly and enthusiastically supports this, though suggested that it might be optional and would require some editorial oversight.

The committee also spent time discussing open access policies. Although the committee recognizes the burden that a shift to gold open access would place on the publisher and potentially on authors in countries where funding levels are lower than in the US/EU, there is agreement that it is in the best interest of Mycologia to at least consider this option. Other societies (e.g., American Phytopathological Society) have recently shifted their flagship journals to gold open access, and the committee will consult with APS colleagues to gain more insight into their discussions. In addition, the committee will also investigate open access policies and fees for the 29 journals that the ISI has listed under “Mycology”, reasoning that comparison across the field will be informative. The committee will next meet in Jan. 2021 to follow up on these efforts.
2021 Mid-year Report of the Karling Lecture Committee

The MSA Karling Committee for 2021 consisted of Alisha Quandt (Chair), Kevin Garcia, Peter Kennedy, and Tania Kurbessoian. In discussions that took place during August and September 2020, the committee considered 28 candidates that included nominees from previous years in addition to several new outstanding nominees. As mentioned in the 2020 discussion, the time since a Karling lecture focused on mycorrhizae was something taken into consideration in our discussions this year. An effort was made to nominate a more diverse pool of applicants for the Karling, and we hope that in the future more nominees will be added from countries outside of the USA and EU. This lectureship is our society’s most prestigious, and we need to think about increasing representation of non-white scientists.

In the end, each committee member generated a ranked list of 5 individuals from the candidate list. Seven candidates received at least one ranked vote. The two top names were forwarded to the MSA Council. The Council subsequently approved the invitation of both Professor Sil accepted our invitation. Anita Sil is a Professor in Microbiology and Immunology and a Howard Hughes Investigator at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine. Dr. Sil received both her MD and PhD from the University of California San Francisco, and her lab has worked for decades studying the mechanisms and basic biology of medically important fungi such as *Histoplasma* and more recently *Coccidioides*. Dr. Sil is a leader in infectious disease research for which she is known for her excellent work on fungal pathogen evasion of the innate immune response due to changes in environmental conditions. As a Karling lecturer she will help merge the chasm between the medical mycology and MSA communities. The title of Dr. Sil’s lecture has not been finalized.

—MSA Karling Annual Lecture Committee
MSA Program Committee report, 15 January, 2021

The 2020 meeting, scheduled for Gainesville, FL, was shifted to an online format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision to shift was made in March, and persons who had been selected to give symposia and/or workshops were given the option of holding these online, postponing to 2021, or postponing to 2022.

We decided not to solicit symposia or workshops from the membership for 2021 because:

- Organizers whose symposia and workshops had been accepted last year had been given the opportunity to defer until 2021 or 2022, and several took the “defer until 2021” option
- The 2021 meeting is a joint meeting with the Botanical Society of America, the Association for Plant Taxonomy, the American Fern Society, and the Society of Herbarium Curators. Traditionally in these joint venues the number of symposia are limited, as, indeed, is the case this year

The status of MSA symposia for 2021 is:

- Five symposia accepted in 2020 chose to delay to 2021 (one was given in 2020, and one has deferred until 2022)
- Of these five deferred, two did not respond to e-mail follow-ups in mid- to late 2020
- Three will be given as part of the 2021 meeting:
  - Fungal Chemistry: Variations on a theme, proposed by Geromy Moore and Joan Bennet
  - Gene Regulatory Networks in Fungal Development and Morphogenesis – Towards Fungal Evo-Devo, proposed by Lászlo Nagy and Jacky Hess
  - Fungi in Marine Sediment, proposed by Brandon Hassett (this one as a colloquium)

For Odd Reasons pertaining to the way BSA organizes things, the two symposia will not be called “symposia” – but they will be symposia in every other sense.

As for the meeting itself, its nature remains uncertain. What is as certain as anything can be is that content will be provided online. What is less certain is whether content will also be provided in an in-person manner, in Boise, ID. Under present (high-COVID) conditions, the Boise Convention Center has dozens of meeting rooms but can only accommodate 10 people per room in order to follow social distancing guidelines; the more relaxed but still somewhat distanced status in October was 50 per room. BSA is in the process of getting a final offer from the Boise Convention Center to allow price comparisons between an online-only vs. a hybrid (live plus online) meeting. We sent a poll to the MSA membership on Monday, January 11, regarding willingness to attend meetings in different formats, and will present the survey results (due today) to the other organizations involved in Botany 2021 when we meet with them (later in the month). We hope to have a solid decision on meeting format within the next couple weeks and begin to solicit registrations and abstracts in February.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Hallen-Adams
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!

   • I have not seen all memorials before or after they are submitted to *Inoculum* or *Mycologia*. I have no problem with this other than it is difficult to keep track of progress for reports.

   • Published memorials continue to be available as open access articles -- a good thing.

2) Unassigned
   • Lafayette Frederick (March 9, 1923 -- December 29, 2018) see https://www.aaas.org/5-things-about-me-biologist-lafayette-frederick; https://www.the-scientist.com/supplement/lafayette-frederick-48196. Fred’s death was not known until an obituary was discovered by accident; apparently the society was not contacted.

3) Memorials published in *Mycologia*


4) Work in Progress
   • Cletus Paul Kurtzman – Antonis Rokas, Tom Jeffries

   • Ian Ross (May 22, 1930 -- November 29, 2019) -- Iris Charvat

5) Published in *Inoculum* and additional URLs provided for more information
   • In Memorium: Donald J.S. Barr - MSA Past President (September 18, 1937 - November 20, 2018) Jim Ginn February 2019:s.n.

   • In Memoriam: Jonathan D. Walton June 16, 1953 - October 18, 2018 February 2019:s.n. corrected url


• In Memorium: Doug Eveleigh (December 6, 1933 - December 30, 2019). Inoculum February 2020:s.n. J.W. Bennett.

• In Memorium: Ian Ross (May 22, 1930 -- November 29, 2019) – Inoculum February 2020:s.n. (correction: Stephen Poole, NOT Meredith Blackwell)


• Steven E. Carpenter (October 15, 1951 - June 9, 2020) Inoculum (upcoming) Amy Rossman.

• Harold G. Brotzman (September 18, 1941 – July 9, 2020) Inoculum (upcoming) Meredith Blackwell.

6) Acknowledgements
I thank Marin Brewer and Marc Cubeta for their helpful involvement.
1) [This is the same information from earlier reports.]
   “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.”

   The future depends on submitting digital materials to J. Dustin Williams <jdustin@andrew.cmu.edu>, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation or to me <mblakwell@lsu.edu>. 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.

New information for midyear 2021:

2) The Rees Group and President Marc Cubeta requested information on awards; the information was needed to respond to questions from an administrator who was notified of a MSA award winner. I began writing short descriptions and biographies for named awards. The Alexopoulos Prize was completed and sent to the Rees Group.

3) I wrote memorial for John Karling for introduction of the Karling Lecture. There had never been a Mycologia memorial for Karling, but there was lots of information easily available on the Internet, although it was scattered.

4) A short Story Corps-type series of recorded interviews suggested by the Reed Group and tentatively called Truffle Tales, is being developed with President Cubeta and the Rees Group. Although a number of topics have been suggested, others will be solicited from members.

5) An entry for Inoculum about the 2020 Charles Thom awardee, Nancy Keller, was submitted; this included a short biography of MSA charter member Charles Thom.
Midyear Report - Education Committee  
Submitted by Emily Cantonwine, Committee Chair, 1/14/2021

The Committee continues to collect resources for teaching college level mycology courses online and posting these to the MSA website. A plan is also underway to initiate a recurring column for Inoculum to highlight a teacher of mycology. The committee is also developing a proposal to establish a Certificate of Excellence to recognize high quality courses in mycology. We hope to bring this proposal to the attention of Council by the end of the year.

Membership Committee  
2021

Teresa Pawlowska, Sarah Bergemann, Jennifer Bhatnagar, Omon Isikhuemhen, Savannah Gentry, Todd Osmundson, ex officio, Past Chair

1. The Membership Committee revised the section of the MSA MANUAL OF OPERATIONS devoted to activities of the Committee.

2. The Committee interacted with Cori VanGalder, the MSA Membership Coordinator, to improve membership renewal process, alerting Cori that MSA e-mails soliciting membership renewal are often misdirected to the spam folder.

3. The Committee and The Rees Group is engaged in the ongoing discussion on ways to: (i) increase the number of Sustaining Members and (ii) make the Society more diverse and inclusive.
   
   (i) The Committee identified several commercial entities that could be invited to become Sustaining Members. The language for the invitation letter is being developed.

   (ii) The Membership Committee has been meeting with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Student Section to discuss:

       a) updating membership categories to make them more inclusive (ongoing),
       b) abolishing the need for endorsement for any membership category (accepted),
       c) adjusting membership dues to better reflect the wages among members in those categories (ongoing),
       d) reaching out to minority serving institutions to showcase MSA educational resources (ongoing).
Finance Committee Report 2021

Matias J. Cafaro, Chair; Henry Van T. Cotter, Vice-Chair; Jessie Glaeser, ex officio, Treasurer; Marc Cubeta, ex officio, President; D. Jean Lodge, ex officio, Past-Chair; Bill Stoeffler, Management Group Liaison; David Middleton, Chief Investment Officer

The MSA investment account had a value of $1,986,325.91 on 31 December 2020, an 18% increase of $304,269.61 since last midyear report (beginning value $1,682,056.30 on 29 June 2020). From this increase $51,500.00 were deposits transferred from the closed USBank account. Thus, the increase in value ($252,769.61) of our investments during the last half of 2020 more than offset the losses during the first half of 2020—a remarkable feat given the market volatility in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The investments are managed by our Chief Investment Officer (CIO), David Middleton at Middleton Advisory. Management fees are 0.92% of investment portfolio, charged as 0.23% quarterly. Our investments have performed well despite market fluctuations and the Committee is pleased with the state of our portfolio, which David Middleton adjusted as needed. The investment market will likely remain volatile and investment income will likely be uncertain for at least the next few years, especially given the economic impact of the COVID-19 epidemic (see appended report and outlook from CIO David Middleton). In the near term, the new government and relief economic package will likely have a positive impact on the market. We intend to remain on course for our investment time horizon of at least 15 years, adjusting our portfolio as needed to maintain balance and stability.

According to the spending plan in our Investment Policy Statement, re-approved by the committee in August 2020, the level of spending in the pooled endowment fund will generally range from 2% to 6% (~$39,726 - $119,179). 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 2021. The MSA Finance Committee met on 12 August 2020 and all members affirmed our Investment Policy Statement. The Committee worked on the Manual for Operation Procedures and updated the composition of the MSA Finance Committee: two regular members (the Chair and Vice-Chair), 3 ex officio members, the Chief Financial Investment Officer (CFIO), and the Society Management Group Liaison.

On November 9, 2020, CIO David Middleton informed us that the government strategies put in place so far are likely to stay and bolster a fragile recovery including the announcement of early COVID-19 vaccine trials showing positive results. While this is no guarantee of a normal year in 2021, it gives investors a good reason to retain their stocks and wait. He expects to see low interest rates for some time, stimulating development and growth, until concerns about inflation prompt the Fed to raise interest rates.
28 Jan 2021  
Endowment Committee Report for Jan-Dec 2020

I. Donations from Jan-Dec 2020:
Thanks to all who donated to MSA in 2020. These are difficult times for many people, and we are grateful for your continuing support of MSA in the face of the challenges.

Members who donated to MSA funds at the end of the year had the option of receiving a matching donation to a food bank of their choice, until the matching money was fully committed. Thanks to the MSA benefactors who provided over $2000 in matching funds for the food banks.

Direct donations to MSA funds to 30 different funds: $24,902. Among the generous donations was a large donation of $10,465 to the Board Designated Forest Fungi fund.

Overall donations

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<tr>
<th>Calendar year</th>
<th>Total donations</th>
<th>comments</th>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>$24,902</td>
<td>$10,465 to the Board Designated Forest Fungi fund</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>$26,084</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$94,982.86</td>
<td>Includes $40,000 to Applied Mycology Award and $10,000 to uncommitted Endowment</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$62,628.72</td>
<td>Includes $17,500 Applied Mycology award and $17,605 to Forest Ecology Award</td>
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II. Other MSA fundraising: Auction & t-shirts

Auction. Our 2020 auction online auction was organized by the Rees group. Endowment committee members sent personal emails to MSA members to solicit donations. Many thanks to the 2020 donors who agreed not only to give up their treasures, but to mail these items to the winning bidders.

While the total income was far short of an MSA in-person auction (eg, $11,965.71 in 2019), we considered the 2019 auction a success for its contribution to community engagement.

Auction gross earnings: $2256  
Auction expenses (approx..): $1460  
Auction net earnings: $796

T-shirt sales netted MSA $545

III. Suggestion for 2021, the Endowment Committee should arrange to receive quarterly spreadsheets showing individual donations to each fund. The Rees group provides thank you
letters in a timely manner to all donors, but Endowment Committee members could profitably take a more active role in acknowledging donations, especially the larger ones.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Berbee, Endowment Chair (2018-2021)

Endowment Committee Members
Peter Avis (2016-2021)
Megan Romberg (2020-2024)
Antonio Izzo (2020-2024)
Paris Hamm, Student Rep (2020-2021)
Jessie Glaeser, ex officio, Treasurer
Marc Cubeta, ex officio, President
Don Hemmes, ex officio, Past Chair

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MSA Diversity and Inclusion Committee Midyear Report 2021

Part 1: MSA Diversity and Inclusion Committee Board 2020-2021
Geromy Moore (Past-Chair), 2018-2021 - Research Microbiologist, USDA-ARS, New Orleans
Brian Lovett (Chair), 2019-2022 – Postdoctoral Research Associate, West Virginia University
Anna Bazzicalupo (Vice Chair), 2019-2023 – Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of British Columbia
Sonya Erlandson (Secretary), 2020-2024 – Postdoctoral Research Associate, South Dakota State University
Abeer Alqurashi (Early Career Member), 2018-2021 – Postdoctoral Research Associate, Clemson University
Elizabeth Feliciano (Student Member), 2019-2023 – PhD student, University of Florida

Part 2: Activities through August – December 2020 (monthly meetings)
2.1 DivCom has developed a plan for a diversity page on the MSA website which will feature DivCom activities, MSA Diversity Award and MSA Ambassadors Interchange Fund awardees and to host any statements or resources created by MSA DivCom. This “website within a website” will be proposed to MSA leadership for implementation via The Rees Group.
2.2 Vice Chair Anna Bazzicalupo has led an effort to develop a document outlining guidelines for safe fieldwork in mycology. A similar document is under development by Dr. Roo Vandegrift and Dr. Patricia Kaishian, which is more specifically tailored to their interests. In coordination with these authors, we are planning to adapt this document to be broadly appropriate for MSA members. We envision this document can be hosted by MSA and distributed to relevant events and affiliates to build a culture that more intentionally considers how to mitigate risks during fieldwork.
2.3 Early in this period, DivCom initiated an internal review of the membership categories of MSA as a barrier to inclusion in the society. Major concerns about membership categories were written up into a motion, which was sent to MSA President Marc Cubeta for consideration. Serendipitously, the MSA Membership Committee reached out to DivCom to advise on how to improve membership categories. Dr. Cubeta agreed that these concerns fall under the purview of the Membership Committee and so DivCom is working to address concerns through consultation with this committee. Two joint brainstorming meetings were held during this period, with a plan to devise membership recommendations to be presented to the Executive Council.
2.4 DivCom wrote a motion to require land acknowledgements in *Mycologia* articles recognizing where specimens were collected and where work was conducted. The aim of this motion is to pay respect to these Indigenous communities, raise awareness among members about past and present colonial practices and facilitate connections with Indigenous communities.
2.5 We have continued to fundraise to reach our Diversity Award Fund goal of $10,000. Over this period, we have nearly reached this goal with donations, Bonfire campaigns and generously shared sales with the MSA Student Committee.
2.6 DivCom has coordinated with Dr. Sara Branco to develop the MSA Ambassadors Interchange Fund. Our committee will solicit and evaluate applications for this award.
Bylaws and a call for this initiative have been written, and the award has been announced to the membership via an *Inoculum* article.

2.7 An executive order issued “on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping” has had a chilling effect on DEI work affecting many mycologists, particularly in the government. DivCom is considering calling for a statement opposing this larger effort.

2.8 Student Member Elizabeth Feliciano is leading an initiative to encourage ethical collaborations among mycologists. Ultimately, we would like to encourage members to collaborate with and recognize contributions by local scientists. We are planning to solicit feedback on this issue with an *Inoculum* article.

2.10 The Student Committee expressed interest in having a DivCom student liaison to better coordinate between our committees. Elizabeth Feliciano has since begun attending MSA Student Committee meetings, and both committees are happy to have this line of communication open.

2.11 Dr. Matt Kasson is developing a virtual seminar program to encourage networking and discussion among members: an experience which is lacking during the global pandemic. This program would feature diverse mycologists and topics (spanning research, advice and career development). Dr. Kasson is leading an ad hoc committee and Dr. Brian Lovett is serving on that committee to represent DivCom.

2.12 Our committee continues to support the MSA Executive Council by contributing to motions and statements. In this session, we supported the successful motion to establish the MSA Ambassadors Interchange Fund and statements on the executive order limiting visas and the rioting inside the U.S. Capitol.

Dr. Brian Lovett, Dr. Geromy Moore, Dr. Anna Bazzicalupo, Dr. Sonya Erlandson, Dr. Abeer Alqurashi and Elizabeth Feliciano
January 6, 2021

To: Mycologia Society of America Council

Re: Association Management Membership Report, as of January 6, 2021

Prepared and submitted by Cori VanGalder, MSA Membership Coordinator

The following report includes:

- MSA membership retention services
- MSA membership communication
- 2020 MSA Virtual Meeting recap
- Additional management team roles within the MSA

Since March of 2019, 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
- Cori VanGalder, MSA Membership Coordinator

**Membership Retention Services**

Renewals for the 2021 calendar year are well under way. The initial membership renewal reminder was sent to 1099 current or recently lapsed MSA members on September 20, 2020 with follow-up emails sent on November 18, 2020, and December 23, 2020. Additional notices are scheduled for January, February, and March.

As of January 5, 2021, the MSA membership renewals and enrollments totaled 589 members. This consists of 572 renewing, Emeritus, Life, and Honorary members and 14 new members.

Below please see a table of current and past MSA membership information, noting that 2013 – 2018 statistics were provided by previous management companies.

**MSA Membership Data as of January 5, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
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<td>--------</td>
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<td>--------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Member Worldwide Online &amp; Print Journal 1 YR</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td>Post-Doctoral Member Worldwide Online Only</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Member Worldwide Online Only</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>164</td>
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<tr>
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<td>123</td>
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<td>Emeritus Member Worldwide - Online Journal</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emeritus Member Worldwide - Print &amp; Online Journal</td>
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<td>Sustaining Member Worldwide - Online Only</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustaining Member Worldwide - Print &amp; Online</td>
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<td>Life Member Worldwide Online Only</td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Member Worldwide Online &amp; Print</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>70</td>
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<td>Affiliated Member Worldwide Online Only 1 YR</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affiliated Member Worldwide Online Only Auto-Renew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discounted Membership - Developing Country</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Member Worldwide Online Only</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>Complimentary Member</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>589</strong></td>
<td><strong>691</strong></td>
<td><strong>973</strong></td>
<td><strong>982</strong></td>
<td><strong>1059</strong></td>
<td><strong>1137</strong></td>
<td><strong>1043</strong></td>
<td><strong>1078</strong></td>
<td><strong>1098</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In January of 2020, MSA membership renewals were at 691. As of January 5, 2021, MSA membership renewals total 589. 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSA Member Renewals</th>
<th>October, 2020</th>
<th>November, 2020</th>
<th>December, 2020</th>
<th>January, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of members renewing/new members</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSA Member Renewals</td>
<td>October, 2019</td>
<td>November, 2019</td>
<td>December, 2019</td>
<td>January, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of members renewing/new members</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSA Member Renewals</td>
<td>October, 2018</td>
<td>November, 2018</td>
<td>December, 2018</td>
<td>January, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of members renewing/new members</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The newly offered option of auto-renewing membership for certain membership types continues to slowly grow in popularity; last year at this time there were 5 members utilizing auto-renew. This year there are 26. Members receive an email in December reminding them that their card will be charged.

In 2020, 67 emails were sent to membership and supporters to keep them informed and engaged in MSA business. These emails include membership renewal, and also focused on other important Society business, such as award nominations, election ballots, student newsletters, and Inoculum-related content.

TRG has been working closely with the Membership Committee to discuss the best ways to attract more members and keep the members we have. Recently, TRG has facilitated joint meetings between the Membership Committee, Student Section, and Diversity and Inclusion Committee to brainstorm and collaborate ideas with a focus on increasing new membership, membership retention, and making the Society more diverse and inclusive.

**2020 MSA Meeting: Mycology from the Cloud**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic of 2020, for the first time ever MSA hosted an all virtual annual meeting. While regrettable that everyone was not able to meet in person, the virtual platform opened the door for many people to attend that otherwise would have been unable to do so. 517 members registered from 17 different countries. Throughout the registration process a total of $6830.00 was donated to various MSA funds.

In collaboration with The Rees Group, MSA hosted their meeting using the Zoom platform. It included two engaging symposia that attendees were able to alternate between, along with regular components such as the Karling Lecture, Business Meeting, President’s Address, Poster and Virtual Abstract session. It even included a virtual auction.

MSA members and supporters really stepped up to the plate to ensure the success of the virtual auction, held on Auction Frogs, and over 70 items were donated to be auctioned off. Total bids ended up being $2151.00, with an additional $105.00 donated to endowment funds.

In addition to the auction, meeting t-shirts were also sold online through Bonfire. Between July 10th and September 11th, 61 t-shirts were sold, with a profit to the Society of $545.12.

Holding the meeting virtually and requiring membership enrollment to participate encouraged 156 **NEW** members to enroll with MSA, 38 of which were students from a developing country that would have been unable to attend an in-person meeting. Membership enrollment revenue directly associated with meeting registration totaled $8125.00.
Following the meeting a survey was sent out to all registered attendees. 96 members provided feedback, which was overall positive. 97.9% stated they would attend another virtual meeting, with many recommending in the comments section that future meetings be a hybrid of in-person with virtual attendance available as well.

Overall Evaluation of the 2020 MSA Virtual Meeting: *Mycology from the Cloud*

![Survey Results](chart)

- **45.8%** - I did not really enjoy this meeting.
- **30.2%** - The meeting was okay, but I didn't really get anything out of it.
- **19.8%** - I enjoyed the meeting and thought it ran well.
- **1%** - I thought the meeting was pretty good, and would attend again.
- **1%** - I very much enjoyed the meeting, and will definitely attend future meetings and recommend them to others!

All sessions were recorded and are currently available on the MSA website.

*Looking forward:* The popularity of the virtual meeting and the uncertainty of if we will be able to meet in person in Boise in 2021 is strongly indicative that MSA should (1) be discussing virtual options for this year's meeting, and (2) including a virtual component in all annual meetings in the future to ensure inclusion of those unable to travel.

**Other Duties of TRG:**

In addition to membership coordination, TRG also maintains the MSA website, msafungi.org. This maintenance includes editing content as requested by MSA leadership and updating as new information becomes available.

TRG documents and logs all donations made to the MSA and sends tax receipts and letters of thanks to ensure our generous donors are aware of MSA’s appreciation.

Late last year a campaign was created in Bonfire, a verified nonprofit site that prints and ships merchandise for nonprofit organizations, to sell MSA facemasks with the saying “Mycology is Better than Yours.” Between November 12th and December 1st, 58 masks were sold netting the MSA Student Section and Diversity and Inclusion Committee a total of $180.98 in profit, and additional donations of $95.00.

With regards to MSA publications, TRG works closely with *Inoculum* editors (past and present) Anne Pringle, Chris Schardl, and Michael Schmull, to ensure timely and engaging issues of the newsletter are produced. The current schedule is three issues per year, in January/February, May/June, and September/October.
TRG also works frequently with Taylor & Francis to ensure printed copies of current and back issues of the journal, *Mycologia*, are delivered to subscribers. The implementation of single sign-on access to digital issues of *Mycologia* was successful and we have received positive feedback from members that appreciate not needing to create a separate account with Taylor & Francis.

The call for award nominations is underway, as well as nominations for individuals to fill vacancies in the MSA roster. All are collected by TRG and shared with the appropriate individuals/committees.

Beginning in early 2020, TRG collaborated with many MSA council and committee members to thoroughly review and make adjustments and updates to the Society’s Manual of Operations. Final revisions are currently being reviewed by the Executive Vice President and a completed version should be available on the website in the next month or so.
Mid-year Report MSA Student Section  
January 2021

Part 1: MSA Student Section Executive Board 2020 - 2021

Part 2: July – December 2020
- MSA_SS at MSA 2020, Mycology in the Cloud
- Fundraising and Support for the Diversity Committee
- Outreach
- Student Section By-Law Changes
- Merchandise Migration to Bonfire

Part 3: January – July 2020
- MSA Student Section Monthly Virtual Events/Colloquium
- MSA Student Section at MSA 2021

Part 1: MSA Student Section Executive Board 2020-2021

Chair: Rob Powers, University of Michigan  
Vice-Chair: Tania Kurbessoian, University of California - Riverside  
Secretary: KC Cifizzari (Washington State University)  
Treasurer: Soleil Young (University of Wisconsin – Madison)  
Communication Chair: Gillian Bergmann (University of California, Davis)  
Merchandise Chair: Lynn Harrow (University of Wisconsin – Madison)  
Webmaster: Maria-Jose Romero-Jimenez, Western Illinois University  
Postdoctoral Representative: Arthur Grupe (University of Colorado, Boulder)  
Past-Chair: (automatic transition from Chair, non-voting) Rebecca Shay, Michigan State University

Part 2: July 2020 – Dec 2020 Mid-Year in Review

2.1 MSA 2020 Mycology in the Cloud

At the 2020 MSA Mycology in the Cloud Virtual meeting, the Student Section held a moderated career panel for students to ask questions and learn about diverse career paths in the mycology. The panel consisted of Jessie Uehling, Rosanne Healy, Chris Smyth, Rachel Koch Bach, Maureen Quinn, and Dimitri Mollov. It was moderated by
MSA Student Section Board members. Attendance was excellent, with over 100 participants on the Zoom session. Feedback from students was uniformly positive.

Additionally, the MSA Student Section Board held our annual meeting, attended by past and current Board members and current MSA student and postdoc members. The meeting consisted of updating members on what the Student Section is currently doing and soliciting suggestions from attendees of what they would like the Student Section to do in the future. The meeting had approximately 50 attendees and we received excellent ideas and feedback from the attendees.

Online T-shirt sales from Mycology in the Cloud brought in $265

2.2

(a) Fundraising

Our current paypal account total as of January 2021 is $1,964.51, which includes the 2019-2020 previous balance and money from donations at MSA 2020. The grand total for fundraising includes expenses and costs of new material purchase and transport, which are summarized in Table 1 at the end of this document.

(b) Support for the Diversity Committee and the Interchange Fund

The MSA Student Section Board wanted to express our strong support for the Diversity Committee’s Interchange Fund/Initiative. To this end, the board approved donating $500 from the Student Section account to support the Diversity Committee’s Interchange Fund. The intention is that the Student Section will provide this money in future years as well if we have the necessary funds available.

Additionally, the MSA Student Section worked with the Rees group and the Diversity Committee by providing the design for the face mask campaign on Bonfire that raised ~$300 in sales for the Diversity Committee.

2.3 Outreach

(a) Social Media Presence

As of January 15th 2021, the Student Section MSA Facebook page has 8266 likes [+489 since July 2020], the Twitter account (@MSAStudents) has 2171 followers, the Instagram account (@msastudentsection) has 119 followers, and the LinkedIn group has 177 members.
(b) Newsletters
The Communication Chair and Webmaster have created three newsletters since July, with two Student Spotlights, gift guides, recipes, and fungal facts. We have also been soliciting fungal photos on our social media pages. We have fully transitioned to using Canva for newsletter design, and the newsletters are sent directly to all student section members by the Rees Group.

(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/

(d) Increased Communication with MSA Student Representatives on Committees
Traditionally there has not been a set mode of communication between the MSA Student Section Board and student representatives that serve on committees. Because of the overlap of interests, ideas, and initiatives of the MSA Student Section Board and the students on committees, we have initiated a once-per-semester virtual meeting with the MSA Student Section Board and Student reps. We have also set up an email list that contains all of the Student Section Board and students serving on committees.

2.4 Student Section By-Law Change
The current by-laws for the MSA Student Section list the official name as "The Student Section of the Mycological Society of America" with no mention of postdoctoral members, when in fact we have a postdoctoral representative on the Student Section Board and our events and outreach are geared to both students and postdocs. On Oct. 29th 2020, the MSA Student Section Board voted unanimously to put a vote out to all MSA Student Section Members asking:

"Shall the MSA Student Section amend its by-Laws so that the official name shall be "The Mycological Society of America Student and Postdoc Section"?"

An email was sent from the Rees group to all members of the Student Section explaining the rationale for changing the by-laws and asking them to vote. The vote was open from Nov. 16th -> Dec. 16th 2020. A total of 41 votes were received, with 92.7%
supporting the proposed change. The MSA Student Section is now forwarding the proposed change to the MSA Council for further action.

### 2.5 Merchandise Migration to Bonfire

The Student Section’s primary source of funding comes from donation money from T-shirts, hats and sticker sales. Presently, we have an unwieldy system involving Paypal with the Rees group maintaining inventory and having emails of purchases forwarded to them for fulfillment. After meeting with the Rees group in November 2020, the Student Section has decided to move all online sales to Bonfire. Bonfire will allow us to not have to pay up-front for, or manage, inventory or fulfillment, and allow for a greater variety of sizes, styles, colors, and designs for student section merchandise. Our current physical inventory will be kept for the next in-person MSA Annual Meeting, but we are hoping to transition fully to Bonfire by Feb. 2021.

### Part 3: January 2020 - July 2020

#### 3.1 Monthly Student Sponsored Virtual Events/Colloquium

At the Student Section Board Meeting during Mycology In the Cloud, numerous students suggested that the Student Section hold panels, talks, and other virtual get-togethers throughout the year. After polling the students and postdocs, the Student Section is initiating monthly virtual events. Our first event will be a colloquium featuring mycological talks from two Student Section members and will take place on Jan. 29th. Future monthly events are planned that include panels on DEI, mental health in graduate school, international student get-togethers, student socials, and additional student seminars and colloquia.

#### 3.2 MSA Student Section Presence at MSA 2021

*a) Virtual Student Social*

We plan to host a virtual 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 2021, to increase awareness of the Student Section.

d) **Swag**

Our swag will be updated and available at MSA 2021. We look forward to the meeting every year to raise funds for the Student Section, to use in our future endeavors. Switching our merchandise front to Bonfire will allow us to sell a wider range of designs, and to easily make available shirts with custom designs from members.

**TABLE 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July 2020-January 2021 Overview</th>
<th>Current Funds</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>PayPal Account Balance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rees group balance for student and postdoc section</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>July 2020-January 2021 Overview</th>
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<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Total Balance 2019-2020</td>
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<td>$893 in Rees group account</td>
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<td>PayPal Account Balance 2019-June 2020</td>
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<td>Merch Sales via PayPal July-December 2020</td>
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<td>Merch Sales via PayPal 2021</td>
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<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T-Shirt Sales MSA 2020</td>
<td>$265.00</td>
<td>$1,158.00</td>
<td>Split between diversity section and student section</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mask Sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<table>
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<td>Donation to diversity scholarship</td>
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<td>Canva subscription</td>
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