

BSA SECTION REPORT, 2024
PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTIONS (PUI) SECTION

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

- **Chairperson:** Nathan Jud (serving three years, rotating off 2024)
- **Program Coordinator/ Vice Chairperson:** Carrie Wu (initially serving two years to complete the previous vice chairperson's term, to rotate off 2023; stayed on an additional year to prevent position vacancy)
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Greg Pec (serving three years to 2025)
- **Student/Postdoc:** Rajeev Ranjan (serving through 2023)

CONTINUING GRANT FUNDING:

NSF DEB-2218485: Conference: Botany 2022, PUI Section: Careers and Mentorship at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions. \$48,081. (2021-2023)

Following the success of our three grant-funded events at Botany 2022, members of the section published an article (Jabaily et al. 2023) in the Plant Science Bulletin providing information to readers about what a faculty position at a PUI can be like, and strategies for preparing competitive job applications targeting these institutions.

PUBLICATION:

Jabaily RS, JL Ison[†], CT Ivey[†], RM McCoy[†], ML Taylor[†], and **CA Wu[†]**. 2023. Preparing for a faculty position at a Primarily Undergraduate Institution (PUI). Plant Science Bulletin 69(1): 13-22.

BOTANY 2023 MEETING ACTIVITIES:

With approval from NSF, we were able to use remaining grant funds that were not spent at Botany 2022 to support participation in events at Botany 2023. We supported five faculty with \$600 travel grants to attend the Botany 2023 meeting and the PUI luncheon. This PUI section-sponsored luncheon at Botany 2023 hosted NSF representatives Judy Stone and Matthew Herron, who described several funding opportunities available to principal investigators at primarily undergraduate institutions. They subsequently fielded numerous questions from the audience for the duration of the lunch. We had 12 participants sign our attendance form in addition to our guests from NSF, with a handful of additional participants who left without getting to sign in.

PUI Section Business Meeting

We held the annual section meeting virtually on August 18, 2023.

Since some of the leadership is rotating off after this year, we opened nominations to the PUI Section Committee, but we did not receive nominations. In the future, it will likely be easier to recruit nominees if we hold the section meeting in person during the conference, but that did not happen this year (2023).

The committee described the section activities from the past year. This included discussing priorities for the section. Among these are establishing awards for undergraduate posters and talks for students from PUIs. We also discussed the status of our cross-society PUI Section grant initiative.

PUI Science Societies Collaboration

The leadership team has been meeting throughout the year with PUI representatives from several scientific societies, including the Botanical Society of America, American Society of Plant Biologists, Ecological Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America, and the American Society for Microbiology. This “Cross-Society PUI” group meets regularly and has deployed a survey to determine what kinds of activities our members would participate in with an NSF grant's support. Our goal as a group is to facilitate connections across disciplines and societies, with a focus on PUI issues. We have been discussing several possible initiatives, including the establishment of highly-local interaction networks (HLNs). Grant writing is expected to begin in 2024. Efforts are ongoing – stay tuned.

Since some of the leadership is rotating off after this year, we opened nominations to the PUI Section Committee with a form in the previous Section Newsletter.

Your current section leadership for 2023–2024 is:

Chair

Dr. Nathan Jud (2024)
William Jewell College
judn@william.jewell.edu

Vice Chair (2023)

Dr. Carrie Wu
University of Richmond
cwu@richmond.edu

Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Greg Pec (2025)
University of Nebraska Kearney
pecg@unk.edu

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Postdoc Ambassador
Dr. Rajeev Ranjan (2023)
Purdue University

Respectively submitted by,
Nathan Jud, Carrie Wu, Greg Pec, and Rajeev Ranjan