

## Ambassador Year-end Report 2025

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[Okay to share publicly]

### **Major Activity 1: Attend and Volunteer at Plant Biology 25 in Milwaukee**

I attended and served as a volunteer for the Plant Biology 25 meeting this past summer. I helped people get situated in the exhibit halls and pointed in the right direction for the undergraduate research symposium and other concurrent sessions. I also worked with the other ambassadors to help facilitate a sense of unity and belonging by engaging with others, especially those who were attending the meeting for the first time or early career scientists/undergraduates, and by promoting ambassador led events like board game night. Overall, it was a fantastic experience to get to connect with others based on their research and career interests. This year, I saw a lot of familiar faces from Plant Biology 24! It was wonderful to see that a lot of people still remembered each other from last year's meeting and were excited to connect with other community members they were less familiar with. I met a lot of people this year and made some great connections. Looking forward to Plant Biology 26 in Ottawa!



### **Major Activity 2: Education and Outreach**

I have mentored two undergraduate students in the lab about plant science research and in activities related to agriculture and scientific outreach. One of the students is a senior undergraduate and is highly engaged in the lab and community engagement through scientific outreach activities. She is applying to graduate schools and hopes to continue to do research in the plant sciences. The second student has just started her sophomore year in the Genetics department and is still trying to figure out her career path. Before joining the lab, both of these students did not have experience in plant science research. Now, they are both learning about the importance of plants and agriculture, gaining basic and translational research skills, and appreciating the applicability of plant science in everyday life.

I have also volunteered at multiple science outreach events in Madison, Wisconsin for the university as well as the broader Madison community. My goal is to get the general public and UW-Madison students excited about plant science. Of the events I have volunteered for, my favorite has been the Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology CMB Science Expedition in the spring as it requires preparing and demonstrating exciting hands-on plant activities for hundreds of elementary school students in the Madison area and their parents. Overall, I find these experiences to be incredibly valuable for the students and their families in advancing ASPB's mission to promoting plant science research and education for a variety of audiences. These

outreach experiences are also incredibly valuable for engaging undergraduate student mentees as it gives them the experience and confidence to help plan, coordinate, and demonstrate plant science activities for the broader community.

### **Other activities:**

#### **-Assistant Features Editor for *Plant Physiology***

Starting this 2025, I became an Assistant Features Editor for *Plant Physiology*. My role is to write News and Views Articles for reports that have been recently published in *Plant Physiology*. In writing these short articles, we expand the scope of niche research to the broader plant science community. This experience has been an interesting challenge for me. I tend to be more detailed oriented with my writing so having the opportunity to break down complex scientific articles in topics slightly related or even unrelated to my own research background to the broader community has been helpful for improving my scientific communication skills. My favorite news and views article published in 2025 is an article I wrote on how [Methyl jasmonate root secretions help improve low phosphorus tolerance in apple rootstocks](#).

**-Early Career Scholar for NAASC** (unsure if this one counts since it's through NAASC but thought you might be interested in the Lab Launchpad Webinar!)

In 2025, I was elected as an Early Career Scholar for NAASC. Many of my duties as an Early Career Scholar were rooted in science communication and community outreach. As part of my appointment, I helped organize video Q&As and career panels. These videos were also shared to the ASPB community and ASPB scientists and are available online. I was most excited about helping to organize [The Lab Launchpad Webinar](#) as it provides unique perspectives from Assistant Professors in their early career stages and how they're navigating the current landscape to start their own labs.

The image is a promotional graphic for a webinar. At the top left, the NAASC logo is displayed, featuring a stylized plant and the text 'NAASC The North American Arabidopsis Steering Committee'. To the right of the logo, it says 'Brought to you by the Early Career Scholars Subcommittee'. Below the logo, the word 'PRESENTS:' is written in green. The main title of the webinar is 'Lab Launchpad Webinar: The New PI's Guide to Starting Your Own Lab' in large white font. Below the title, the word 'Panelists:' is written in white. There are three portrait photos of the panelists. Under each photo is their name and affiliation: Dr. Rachel Shahan (University of California, Los Angeles), Dr. Kevin Cox (Washington University in St. Louis/Donald Danforth Plant Science Center), and Dr. Monika Fischer (University of British Columbia).

### **Continuing & Future Activities**

**-Working with Maren on the Ambassador Rolodex and the other ambassadors on communication and outreach efforts including blogposts and short form videos about ASPB and life as an early career scientist for social media. I have also volunteered to help create artwork for the social media accounts and blog if needed.**

**-Continued efforts with Phyte4Food, my illustrated outreach initiative. The goal of this initiative is to enhance global awareness of the phosphorus crisis and ways we can enhance Phosphorus-use efficiency. Some videos in the series have already been uploaded on Youtube and on the**

Phyte4Food website: [www.phyte4food.com](http://www.phyte4food.com). It would be fantastic if we could also upload these videos on Plantae to provide the ASPB community with fun and easy to understand teaching tools for a general public audience.

-Volunteer for PB26 in Ottawa next year!

-In previous meetings, there has been discussions about an ambassador-specific symposium for future Plant Biology conferences. If this is still of interest for the 2026 conference, I am happy to help with this!