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ASPB Ambassador 2025 End of the Year Report

Serving as an American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) Ambassador throughout 2025 was an honor. In this role, I actively supported the plant science community through networking, outreach, and participation. This report details my involvement with ASPB this past year.

Activity 1: SURF Program Support & Alumni Tracking: I focused on strengthening the ASPB SURF program's alumni engagement. This involved contacting previous SURF participants to update their contact information, gather details on their current positions, and monitor their career progression. I assisted with coordinating and scheduling alumni interviews, which are set to take place early next year. This foundational effort in scheduling is essential for the subsequent task of building comprehensive alumni profiles, which will allow us to further evaluate the long-term impact of the SURF program.

Activity 2: Plant Biology 2025 (Virtual Participation): Due to personal obligations and financial constraints, I was unable to travel to the in-person meeting. However, I registered for and attended Plant Biology 2025 virtually. While I missed the in-person networking, the online access allowed me to stay current with the latest research developments and Society updates despite being unable to physically attend.

Challenges and Future Outlook: Being based in Singapore presents specific logistical challenges, particularly regarding the "Hands-On" meetings which occur at 3:00 AM SGT. While I could not attend these live in the past, I maintained engagement by reviewing the After-Action Reports from Shoshana. I note that upcoming meetings are scheduled for 4:00 AM SGT, and I am hopeful that I will be able to attend these live to participate directly. Looking ahead to 2026, I aim to focus on contributions that bridge this geographical gap, such as contributing to the ASPB blog and facilitating online networking. My goal is to ensure I can contribute meaningfully to the community from an international location, rather than letting distance be a barrier to participation.