



# Susan Rundell Singer

GRFP Recipient: 1981

*Undergraduate Institution:*

B.S. 1981, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

*Graduate Institution:*

M.S. 1982, Ph.D. 1985, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

*Graduate Field of Study:*

Biology

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*Current Position:*

Laurence McKinley Gould Professor of Natural Sciences, Departments of Biology and Cognitive Science, Carleton College; and Director, Division of Undergraduate Education, National Science Foundation

## RESEARCH INTERESTS //

Susan Rundell Singer's biological research focuses on the evolution, genetics and development of flowering in legumes, complemented by educational research on genomics learning. Actively engaged in efforts to improve undergraduate science education, she has chaired several National Academies studies on understanding and improving learning in science and engineering and co-authored an introductory biology text.

## HOW I BENEFITED FROM THE GRF PROGRAM //

"My GRF has literally shaped my professional life, from my integrated approach to biological and education research to my commitment to the work of the National Science Foundation, which now includes two stints as a rotator. Receiving the GRF convinced me to give graduate school a try and put my high-school teaching career on hold. The funding made it possible for me to engage in research on floral development at Rensselaer, while also interacting with Ian Sussex's plant development group at Yale. The independence I was afforded and the opportunities to weave in meaningful experiences teaching undergraduates gave me the skills and confidence to launch a successful career at Carleton after graduate school."

## A FOND MEMORY OF MY EXPERIENCE AS A GRF

“Graduate school was filled with memorable experiences, from shaking tissue culture incubators all night during multiple power outages to hosing down the greenhouse to keep my plants from frying. But the most meaningful memories are of fellow students and faculty at Rensselaer, Yale and at the Marine Biological Laboratory embryology summer course who have become lifelong friends and colleagues. As a 24 year old, I returned to work with a days old infant. My advisor, Carl McDaniel, welcomed me with a bassinet set up by his office for my daughter. His belief in my ability to parent and do first-rate research made all the difference.”

## MY PROFESSIONAL WEBSITE //

<http://apps.carleton.edu/people/ssinger/>

## AWARDS/ HONORS //

- Science Prize for Inquiry-Based Instruction, American Association for the Advancement of Science (2013)
- Charles Edwin Bessey Award, Botanical Society of America (2011)
- Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science (2009)
- Excellence in Teaching Award, American Society of Plant Biologists (2004)
- Rensselaer Scholar Fellowship (1981)
- Class of 1902 Prize for Undergraduate Research, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1981)

## POSITION PROFILE //

*Singer joined the faculty at Carleton College in 1986. Since then, she has chaired the Biology Department (1995-1998), served as director of the Perlman Learning and Teaching Center (2000-2003), and as co-director of the Carleton Interdisciplinary Science and Math Initiative (2005-2006). From 1999 to 2001, she was program director for the Developmental Mechanisms Program at the NSF.*