

Starting with this installment of the Botany Graduate Student Newsletter, we are going to be highlighting academic achievements by students within the department. Students work hard writing grant proposals, doing research, presenting their research, and writing manuscripts based on the research. Often students go through this entire process without their peers aware of what's going on. We want to recognize the hard work that goes into the graduate student process. We had a limited response from our first request for student updates, so please forward details of your publications, upcoming/recent talks, and/or awarded grants to bpscmingisa@gmail.com.



Join the Botany GSA Facebook Group in order to stay connected with the department and remain updated on current events.

[Botany GSA](#)

Recent Publications:



Marti Pottorff; coauthor:

Muchero et al. – October 2009

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. Vol: 106 No: 43 Pg: 18159-18164

A consensus genetic map of cowpea [Vigna unguiculata (L) Walp.] and synteny based on EST-derived SNPs.

Invited Talks:



Heather Schneider

January 6th, 2010 – Desert Institute, Old Schoolhouse Lecture Series

"An Analysis of the Seed Bank at Joshua Tree National Park in Sites Invaded with Exotic Forbs and Grasses"

Upcoming Talks:



Heather Schneider

February 27th, 2010 – 35th Annual Desert Tortoise Council Symposium

"Digging deeper: An examination of invasive species and nitrogen deposition effects on aboveground annual forb communities and seed banks in the California desert."

Grant Awards:



Mike Bell

Jan 2010 - FIRMS Stable Isotope Award

"Determining the source of anthropogenic atmospheric nitrogen pollution through the use of dual stable isotopic analysis"



Kai Palenscar

Jan 2010 - Shipley/Skinner Research Grant

"Community Factors Effecting Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) Establishment within the Riparian Plant Community of Southern California"

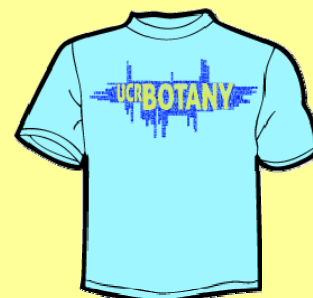


Lynn Sweet

Jan 2010 - Shipley/Skinner Research Grant

"Environmental and Community Factors Influencing the Distribution of *Pennisetum setaceum* in California"

Current Fundraisers:



Botany Department T-Shirts are now available. They are **\$15** are available in both Men's and Women's sizes. Come to Coffee Hour or contact a BGSA member to get your T-shirt Today!



Vintage Botany Department Coffee Mugs (circa 2007) are also available for the discounted price of **\$3**. Come to Coffee Hour and pick one up and then fill it with a tasty beverage.

Upcoming Events

Yermanos Lecture:

Each year, a graduate from the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences is nominated by current faculty and is invited to return to campus and present their current research to the students and faculty. This year's speaker is Dr. Diane Elam, the Regional Director of Pacific Southwest Region from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The lecture will take place on **March 10, 2010**, during the BPSC 260 Seminar. Prior to the lecture, there will be a student lunch from 12:00-1:30pm where students will be able to meet with Dr. Elam and discuss her current projects and how she has used her PhD to excel in the professional world outside of academia.

Coffee Hour

Botany GSA sponsors Coffee Hour every **Tuesday at 10:00am** in Batchelor 2158. We are always looking for Labs or Individuals to help us out and host one. Hosts are responsible for providing bagels, cream cheese, half and half (all reimbursable), and some type of snack for our visitors. If you are hesitant to volunteer because you either do not have the time during the morning, or are a single member of your lab, please talk to one of us, and we can work with you. Even if you can only pick up bagels for the morning, it will still be helpful. For more information, and to sign up, visit the bulletin board outside of the Copy Room.

The bGSA would like to recognize and give special thanks to Mien Van de Ven for her consistent contribution of delectable baked goods.

Photo Contest:

We are still trying to collect photos of members of the Botany Department in action. The deadline to the photo contest is **February 15th**. The photos should depict each lab research activities, showing lab members "at work", research sites, species under study, or research techniques. Photos may be submitted by students, faculty, and or staff. If photos are in digital form, please email them to bpscminigsa@gmail.com. If they are already printed, please put them in the BGSA mailbox with your name and email address attached.

Photos will be voted on by impartial third party and winners will be announced at Coffee Hour on **February 23rd**. Prizes will be awarded for the top three photos entries.

Snack Club:

The Snack Club has been restocked with an assortment of new items for Winter quarter. We also have a revised billing system set up, so please do not attempt to pay off your tab until you are given a bill at the end of the quarter. We have also added a recommendations list on the refrigerator in order to better serve you in the future. Please stop by and help support Travel Grants

bGSA Travel Grants Deadline:

Travel grants to Academic Conferences are available to students through the bGSA of up to \$100 per conference. Grants may be received by students once per academic year. In order to qualify for Travel Grant awards, students must participate in bGSA activities (Coffee Hour, greenhouse cleanups, event setup/cleanup). The Deadline to turn in travel grants from Fall 2009 will be **Friday, February 5th**.

For more information and to download the application form, go to <http://plantbiology.ucr.edu>.

Botany Graduate Student Association 2009 - 2010



Mike Bell
Co-Chair



Silvia Heredia
Secretary / EAC
Representative



Kai Palenscar
Treasurer / EAC
Representative



Sarah Pasquini
Co-Chair



Abira Selvaraj
GSA Representative



Shang Wu
GSA Representative

If you have any questions or recommendations for the bGSA, please email us at bpscminigsa@gmail.com