

This is the inaugural edition of the BPS Graduate Student Newsletter. The Botany Graduate Student Association is trying to centralize announcements and information for graduate students and will be putting out a newsletter on a monthly basis. Please contact us if you have additional announcements you would like to add to upcoming editions.

Upcoming Events:

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. For more information, and to sign up, visit the bulletin board outside of the Copy Room.

*Thank you to everyone who volunteered Fall Quarter.

Winter Party

You are cordially invited to attend the Botany & Plant Sciences Holiday Celebration on Thurs, Dec. 17, 2009 at 3pm in the 2nd floor lobby area of Batchelor Hall. Sign-up sheets to bring your favorite dish, appetizer or dessert have been posted on the glass display cases in the lobby area.

*Please contact Joy Ashburn if you have any questions.

Photo Contest

In an effort to enhance our Botany and Plant Sciences website, we are opening a photo contest among all the labs in the department. 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.

Recent Events:

Green House Clean-Up

Special thanks to Sara Jo Dickens, Heather Schneider, Kai Palenscar, Alejandra Martinez, Cara Stipe, Lorraine Weller, Olie Bachie, Aaron Hoops, Brent Barnes, Mike Bell, Sarah Pasquini, and Sylvia Heredia for helping clean up the weeds growing in the greenhouse space behind Batchelor Hall. Rob Lennox and all of the greenhouse tentants appreciate your assistance.

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!



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.

Snack Club:

The Snack Club located on the 3rd floor of Batchelor Hall is teetering on the edge of failure due to people taking food/drink items from the area without paying or adding it to their tab. bGSA is currently losing money by providing this service to the department. Whenever you take an item from the Snack Bar, please pay the marked price or tally your Tab on the fridge. The Snack Club is run on the Honor System and will be shut down if this does not improve.

bGSA Travel Grants:

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). For more information, please download the application form at <http://plantbiology.ucr.edu>.

Spring/Summer Recipients:

Congratulations to Reed Sorenson, Kristin Weathers, and Sarah Pasquini. The bGSA Travel Grant Award recipients for Spring/Summer 2009.

Education Advising Committee:

Educational Advisory Committee (EAC) is asking you to take a minute of your time and visit the Botany and Plant Sciences webpage and critique our page and its links. The purpose of this exercise is to gather data on what information and links are beneficial as well as what information and links are missing on our current webpage. Once these data have been gathered they will be used to upgrade our departmental webpage. This will hopefully increase its searchability and make it more intuitive for the perspective graduate student.

*Please send your responses to: kpale001@ucr.edu

BOTANY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION 2009-2010



Mike Bell
Co-Chair



Sarah Pasquini
Co-Chair



Kai Palenscar
Treasurer



Silvia Heredia
Secretary



Abira Selvaraj
GSA Rep



Shang Wu
GSA Rep

To stay updated on bGSA events and activities, please join our Facebook group: **Botany Mini GSA**
If you have any questions or recommendations for the bGSA, please email us at bpscminigsa@gmail.com