

March 10, 2014 5:15 PM

Entomology Graduate Student Association

*Approve Feb 2014 Meeting Minutes

Officer Reports:

President – Michael Forthman

- **For my part, tonight's theme is about involvement.**
- EGSA members need to participate more in EGSA and Departmental functions, not by just attending but by volunteering time to help run these functions throughout the year. Members are no longer allowed to sign up for multiple tasks per event. This is to get more of the membership involved or risk having EGSA events cancelled. This will hold for the rest of my term, and it will be up to future Presidents to determine if such a restriction is necessary.
- Constitution was ratified on February 28th and took effect that evening. Committee chairs, officers, and representatives are asked to review the Constitution again and note any changes or actions you need to make.
- More graduate students should be involved with the job candidates by going to the lunches and/or interviews.
- EGSA 2014 camping trip: Idyllwild Campgrounds, part of Mount San Jacinto State Park, on Sep 26-28. In the past, we have reserved a lot of spots for people only to have less than or half of the spots used. How can we get more participation, or should we reduce the size of the reservation? Note that this is supposed to be an “ice breaker” for our incoming students to make friends with other cohorts, encourage them to participate in our department, to make them feel welcomed, and above all, have fun.
- EGSA Faculty and Staff Awards – Nominations ended Friday, Mar 5th. Voting will happen Mar 17-21 via the Highlander Link (highlanderlink.ucr.edu). The winners will be announced and will receive a plaque at the Spring Social. Thanks to everyone who submitted nominations.
- Future elections and ballot measures to be voted on through Highlander Link. Remember that as members of EGSA, you have voting privileges, and should participate in elections and ballot measures.
- Entomology intruder is back, so please be aware. He has also been spotted in the Genomics building and items have gone missing there.

Vice President – Amelia Lindsey

- Linnean Games Practices Wednesday, 5 PM, SCR. PBESA team will be: Genevieve, Adena, James, Amelia, Aviva (alternate)

Treasurer – Judith Herreid

February/March 2014

Expenses:

\$233.53 Hot Dog Social
\$74.24 Pizza

Total Expenses: \$307.77

Income:

\$60.00 Hot Dog Social Donations
\$59.00 Merchandise Sales

Total Income: \$119.00

Balances:

\$263.40 Cash
\$4,851.55 Bank

Total Balance: \$5,114.95

Minister of Truth – Colin Umeda

EGSA Representatives:

Outreach Coordinator: Amelia Lindsey

- Mar 22, 10:00-5:00 PM, San Bernardino County Museum “Insectival”
- Mar 31 – potentially two events in the San Bernardino Mountains. Need 3-4 volunteers once confirmed and details finalized

GSA Representative: Cole Symanski

ISAC Representative: John Hash

- Student feedback on Recruitment Day to report at next ISAC meeting, Wed, Mar 12?

Committees:

1) Fundraising Committee – *Debbie De La Riva & Amy Murillo (Co-Chairs), Kim Hung, Parry Kietzman, Stephanie Leon*:

2) Exam Committee – *Parry Kietzman (Chair)*:

- Please provide copies of question from your writtens so the binder can be updated

3) Merchandise Committee – *James Ricci (Chair), John Hash, Adena Why, Erich Schoeller, Judith Herreid, Amelia Lindsey, Debbie De La Riva*:

- James is the new chair
- Possible new items being proposed
- Table at Urban Entomology Conference Mar 25 at UCR Extension. An announcement will be made by Dr. Choe at a future date.

4) Hospitality Committee – *Emily McDermott (Chair), Amy Murillo, Austin Baker*:

- Thanks to everyone who volunteered to assist with Recruitment Day!
- In addition to letting John Hash no issues/concerns to bring up to ISAC, please let us know as well

5) Social Committee – *Amelia Lindsey (Chair), Alex Knyshov, Cole Symanski, Jackie Serrano, Levi Zahn, Judith Herreid, Emily McDermott*:

- Thanks to everyone who volunteered with the Hot Dog Bar Social! 50 people signed in and ate over 130 hotdogs! We spent \$233.53, received \$60 in donations.
- So far, expenses total \$363.47 and we have received \$107 in donations.
- Any suggestions for future socials? (Possibility of a movie night)

6) Technology Committee – *Eric Gordon (Chair), Ryan Perry, Kim Hung, Max Collignon, Colin Umeda*:

- EGSA website has been updated to reflect changes in our Constitution

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Plant Path GSA interested in getting other CNAS GSAs together for Relay for Life (Amelia)
2. Next Meeting: April 7

Outstanding Faculty Nominees:

Dr. Dong-Hwan Choe

Nominating Student 1:

Dr. Choe served on my qualifying exam committee and put a lot of effort into his exam. His commitment, despite not serving on my guidance committee, really helped to develop my research proposal and prepare me for the oral exam. Not all of the faculty are this dedicated when it comes to providing constructive criticism/comments. Overall, I think Dr. Choe is a great resource for research and is very approachable for students beyond his lab.

Nominating Student 2:

Dr. Choe is really awesome. He not only takes the time and patience to assist his graduate students' research needs but he also spends a lot of time with other graduate students as well. Without him I imagine that at least 5 other graduate students would not have their research completed.

Dr. Matt Daugherty

Nominating Student 1:

Dr. Daugherty is an awesome and very supportive advisor whose door is always open, and he is always available for advice and discussion. In addition, he is an especially helpful committee member for many graduate students in the department, providing crucial guidance in experimental design and data analysis/interpretation. He is the chair of the outreach committee, supporting the graduate students who regularly provide and coordinate outreach services and ensuring that events run smoothly and students are not taken advantage of.

Nominating Student 2:

Dr. Daugherty is a great resource for experimental design and statistics, and has a casual, approachable attitude. He seems to be genuinely happy to help solve puzzles.

Dr. Greg Walker

Nominating Student 1:

As it is probably known Dr. Walker plans on retiring in the very near future. Which in my opinion, is a tremendous loss to the department. Firstly, Dr. Walker is a fantastic teacher. His creativity and inventiveness, especially when it comes to describing difficult concepts, is second to none. He is a very enthusiastic individual who brings a much needed energy into the classroom. That brings up my second point. I have seen very few teachers who care more about teaching than Dr. Walker does. He truly has the students best interest at heart and it is apparent in his teaching style, his class preps, and even his tests (oral exam). As such, I believe he is more than deserving of recognition for his efforts.

Nominating Student 2:

Although Dr. Walker has recently received faculty of the year, don't let that stop him from being nominated again, because when you are great, you are great! I'm speaking about Dr. Walker who has taken to mastering a field outside of his specialty in order to thoroughly and enthusiastically teach a part of the core and provide first year graduate students with a comprehensive understanding of morphology. While doing so, he demonstrates and exemplifies what an excellent teacher is and should be doing, which benefits those desiring to remain in academia after their graduate studies. His methodologies also help raise the bar and standards for our department as a whole, both on the student and faculty sides. Dr. Walker has enthusiastically taught Entomology 202 providing interesting, exciting, yet broad appeal and perspective to the subject. His lectures and notes cover many topics with great depth but are succinctly written as well. His undying devotion to answer any and all questions class members may throw at him is what I think helps to truly set him apart from 'average' faculty. On numerous occasions we have asked him questions, many which he could answer immediately or with a little thought. Those questions that took additional research he energetically looked up. And, when answers were not readily available, he consulted many other resources including additional faculty and experts in the field, and without fail, always reported back to the class what he discovered. Further, his long term commitment to the success of students is exemplified by his teaching style, in particular, with his infamous oral midterms, which frighteningly help to prepare students for their future oral defenses. He is a man who can always take time to turn anything into a learning experience, and does so by uniquely engaging the student in an academically and socially relaxed manner but one which simultaneously fosters a great deal of interest and contagious enthusiasm. I think these qualities all help illustrate the positive impact Dr. Walker has had within the Entomology Department. Make no mistake, despite his retirement this year, this award would not be simply honoring any old person retiring this year; Dr. Walker has earned this award on his own several times over!

Outstanding Staff Nominees:

Regina Hazlinger

Nominating Student:

Regina is an accounting whiz and has played a pivotal role in grant acquisition; she always seems to go above and beyond when it comes to submitting grant proposals. Regina also keeps lab accounts straight for everyone. She is always willing to help out with any account questions or issues.

Melissa Gomez

Nominating Student:

Melissa magically seems to complete an inordinate list of tasks for the graduate students and faculty (of more than one department!!) everyday. She knew my name before meeting me in person when I visited on recruitment day (impressive!) and has never forgotten it, despite the hundreds of people she deals with regularly. She handles my registration issues, my financial issues, my candy-deprivation issues, and always with a warm smile. She regularly goes above and beyond what is expected of her, simply to please the members of the department and to support the activities of graduate students.

Camthi Pham

Nominating Student:

Cam is patient and friendly when answering clueless and repeated questions about funding and hiring. She provides quick and accurate answers, and has offered to go to extra trouble just to make things easier for me.

Breanne Juarez

Nominating Student:

Breanne has been extremely pleasant and helpful in the difficult and bureaucratic process of processing travel information. It is time consuming and often obscure and she guides us through with a smile on her face. She is even proactive and reaches out to individuals when documents aren't showing up on time just to check that things are on track. For all these reasons I feel that Breanne deserves to be recognized with this award showing how much we appreciate her help with everything she accomplishes here in our wonderful department.

Les Greenberg

Nominating Student:

Les has been instrumental in many graduate students research including mine. He is basically a wealth of knowledge.

March 10 Meeting Attendance

#	Name
1	Colin Umeda
2	Amelia Lindsey
3	Michael Forthman
4	Kim Hung
5	Stephane Leon
6	Genevieve Tauxe
7	Eric Gordon
8	Judith Herreid
9	Levi Zahn
10	Emily McDermott
11	James Ricci
12	Austin Baker
13	Amy Murillo
14	Elizabeth Murray
15	Deborah De La Riva
16	Chris Shogren
17	Korie Merill
18	John Hash