

## What to do and What not to do? 'Handy book' for new entomology graduate students!!!

### As soon as you arrive to Penn State:

- Go to the HUB-Robeson Center- First Floor- PNC Bank and ID+ office. If you need to open a **bank account**, stop at the first counter on your left and do so. If you don't need to open a bank account, Just ignore the guy on the left and keep going to the end of the room.... They'll take your photo (Oops!! Remember not to go there on a bad-hair day...your photo will be on your ID as long as you're at Penn State!!!)...and Give you your **Penn State ID**.
- Why do I need my ID? Your PSU ID is your access ID to all facilities on campus...but that's not all....ID+ has developed an account system where you can put money on your ID and use it in stores and restaurants in and around campus. Go to <http://www.idcard.psu.edu/> and check for **Lion Cash** information.
- Open a **PSU email account**: After getting your ID, cross the street from the HUB to the Boucke building. The first floor computer lab has specific signature stations. Ask for assistance to open your PSU email account. Write down your username and password!!!
- Once you have your email account, you can access **eLion** on <http://elion.psu.edu>. Use this link for:
  - ✓ **course registration** (student registration on the left margin- Ask your advisor for course requirements- LuAnn Weatherholtz can also assist you in registering your first semester courses)
  - ✓ Checking your **course schedule** (student schedule)
  - ✓ Checking your **account** (Bursar account)
  - ✓ Seeing your **transcript** at the end of the semester (Transcript)
- You can also check [www.registrar.psu.edu](http://www.registrar.psu.edu) - Schedule of courses – to see the courses offered throughout the university each semester.
- You will need to use **ANGEL** in many courses and TA assignments. Check: <http://cms.psu.edu>.

## During your graduate years at Penn State:

- If you ever have to send **payments to the Bursar**, it is better to send in a check, credit card payments include surcharge!!!
- If you have a car, you need to get a **parking permit** online at <http://www.transportation.psu.edu/parking/student/permits.shtml> and pick it up from the parking office
- You can **park your car** in Lot 44, by the Bryce Jordan Center and take any of the Loop or Link buses to get to ASI (Check the last pages of this handbook for campus and bus maps)
- If you have a **bike**, register it at the parking office (Eisenhower auditorium, basement), and don't ride it on sidewalks or risk a \$15 ticket!
- Many labs have **lab copy cards** for use at the library. Ask a technician or graduate student in your lab.
- Each Lab has an account number for use on the **photocopy machine** in the mailroom. Ask your lab for their.
- Are you TAing a class? The **teaching budget** will cover the costs of the textbooks for the class as well as the photocopies. Ask Karen for the budget number to use on the machine.
- Do you want to improve your resume? Check out the **MBNA Career Center**. There are walk-in and scheduled appointments available with career counselors.
- If you don't want **insurance** through PSU (e.g. you're on your parents insurance), make sure you decline it because you are automatically enrolled.
- Start your **insect collection** yesterday and keep up on it. Keep your kill jar with you (everywhere you go :)
- Go to the **library** and check out books. Use the automated check out, it is really speedy. PS- you return your books by putting them on a small

inconspicuous poorly labeled conveyor belt next to the main checkout service desk or on outside drop drawers on the right side of the building.

- You can **reserve library books online** so that they will pull them for you- and have them ready for you to pick up in few days. You'll be notified when they have them ready. PS- As a grad student- you can keep books for the whole semester unless they're requested by someone else.
- To check **electronic resources**, click on Libraries on the PSU home page, Go to University Libraries or go to <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/siteindex.html>; Click on "E-Resource list" in the left margin. The easiest way is to go to Web of Science, do a General Search and then once you find what you're looking for, click on the blue "GET IT" link that is usually on the right side of the page.
- Information technologies at PSU offer students , faculty, and staff resources to manage, update, and maintain your PC and/or Macintosh computer. This site provides current updates on IT issues and also free downloadable (and safe) software such as Norton Anti-virus and others.
- **University Health Services** "UHS offers a convenient campus location in the Student Health Center which is adjacent to the Eisenhower Parking Deck and the Bank of America Career Services Building off Bigler Road. The Campus Loop stops on Bigler just south of the Student Health Center. See the Penn State Core Campus Map (for location: [http://www.campusmaps.psu.edu/print/pdf/main\\_color.pdf](http://www.campusmaps.psu.edu/print/pdf/main_color.pdf)>STH Student Health Center B6).  
Call and make an appointment when you feel sick. Otherwise, you will be waiting forever. If it is not an emergency, you can schedule your appointments online at: <http://www.sa.psu.edu/uhs/>
- There is a **Statistical Consulting Center** (part of the Statistics department) which can help you (for free!) learn the best way to analyze your data.

*If your office is in the Chemical Ecology Lab*

- ✓ small refrigerator stocked in Thelma's office (rm 122) sodas for \$0.50.
- ✓ Talk to Thelma IMMEDIATELY if you work at the CEL. She will be your life-line to everything you need to know, because she is the only secretarial help we have out there.

## Departmental activities:

- Get involved early! EGSA is your key to many social events, fundraisers as well as funding SOURCES, and basically, your chance to get to know everyone as fast as possible. Maybe you only want to make friends, or collaborators, or both... but EGSA is a great way to do this! (You can also be an active member in Penn State Graduate Student Association. Check [www.clubs.psu.edu/up/gsa/](http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/gsa/))
- Serve on **committees**. Give **talks**. Faculty see this and respect it, and all of these take a minimum of extra effort and look great on your CV, if for no other reason.
- Become a Friend of the **Frost Entomological museum for a nominal membership fee of \$10 per year**. Help giving museum tours and conserving the museum collection and live insects.
- Meet more people from the department (students, faculty and staff) in the **Friday coffee break** at 9:30 am in room 504/501 C.
- Join the students on Thursdays at 5pm for **Happy Hour!!!**
- **TALK TO YOUR FELLOW GRADS!** Everyone who is here is an expert on something - you can learn so much just from hanging out with all the students its probably as much as you will get out of any one or two courses, except it's no work!
- **Bring your pet bugs** to the department and maintain a display- everyone would love to see them!!
- There is a **locker room** in the basement of ASI. Get your own lock and use one of the cabinets if you need to. It's helpful when biking to campus in the summer!!!
- Check the **EGSA snack cabinet** in the mailroom!!! You can also help replenishing it. If interested, ask any EGSA officer.

## Entertainment and Others:

- Graduate Student Association shows **independent films** during the fall and spring semester for free. Also, mainstream movies shown in the HUB (student activities webpage- Latenight at Penn State)
- **Looking for fresh veggies?** Local CSAs- Tait Farm and Village Acres. Farmers markets in Boalsburg, State College, Bellefonte, and Millheim. Cellar Market- near the Eisenhower Auditorium, local produce from the Horticulture department, usually open Wednesday afternoons.
- Go **blueberry picking** at Rothrock; **peach, and apple picking** in Bigglersville
- There are many great **hiking** trails that are very close (where you can do some great insect collecting :)
- **Meyer's Dairy** has milk in glass bottles and very delicious ice cream sundaes
- **During** the summer months, the Farmer's Market is held in downtown State College. Numerous vendors sell fruits and vegetables as well as freshly baked goods and arts and crafts too.
- The quickest way out of the **creamery**, when the ice cream hunger starts is to get the pre-packaged ice cream from the freezers. Same flavors no wait.
- You can join CSA's (**community supported agriculture**) - you pay up front for the season and farms which bring you a box of vegetables every week (two possibilities: Village Acres Farm and Tait Farm).
- You can buy **recycled bikes** at Freeze Thaw Cycles on Calder Way.
- The first Thursday of every month is **customer appreciation day at the Pita Pit** on Calder Way (everything is half off!).
- Go to a **beer distributor** to save money on booze. Pletcher's by Giant off of Atherton is the only walk-through distributor in town.

#### **Where to eat near ASI:**

- ASI 1<sup>st</sup> floor cafeteria: Breakfast, Coffee and good soups!
- Penn State Creamery (they also have pizzas and sandwiches)
- Peet's coffee and Blue Chip Bistro in the Business Building- 1<sup>st</sup> floor

- Blue Spoon in Warnock Commons - across Shortledge from Business Building.
- Walk some more and get *good restaurant food for a good price: Right before Keller building, across the street from the Nittany Lion Inn parking on campus is Cafe Laura. It is a student run restaurant from the School of Hospitality and Housing & Food Services School. The food offered is both good quality and pretty economic food. :)*

**Useful Links:**

<http://www.catabus.com/> - CATA bus website

<http://www.statecollegefarmers.com/> - downtown State College Farmers' Market

<http://www.slowfoodcentralpa.com/farmersmarkets.html>

<http://www.mtnittanywinery.com/> - Mt. Nittany Winery

<http://www.statecollege.com/movies/> - some local movie theaters

<http://www.pennscave.com/> - Penn's Cave

If this “Handy Book” was not handy enough for you, please let us know how we can improve it. We’re also here to answer any of your questions. Do not hesitate to ask!

Your fellow OLD graduate students

In the Entomology Graduate Student Association (EGSA)

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