

## EGSA meeting minutes

4:30 pm, 23 Aug. 2011

### ASI 504

#### In Attendance:

Salil Siriwat	Xiaoying (Ellen) Liang
Jessica Richards	Anjel Helms
Peter Meng	Paul Ayayee
Lillian Moller-Jacobs	Becky Heinig
Katie Ellis	Gabriel Villar
Maggie Douglas	Beth Irwin
Ian Grettenberger	Jason Smith
Megan Greischar	Sean Halloran
Anthony Vaudo	Kerry Mauck
Flor Acevedo	Elina Lastro
Hannier Pulido	Wingyi Kung
Amber Brunskill	

#### Announcements:

*Great Insect Fair* – Organization Meeting on **Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am**. The location is currently in flux so plan on meeting at the couches on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of ASI. We encourage everybody to come and volunteer! This is our biggest outreach program of the year and also our most important fundraising event. Activities include the Insect Deli, the Insect Zoo, and the Build-a-Bug contest. Since Alexis will not be able to attend this year's GIF, she needs help in judging the Build-a-Bug contest. In addition, we need volunteers approx. a week before GIF to collect insects for the Zoo. Find out more about GIF here: <http://ento.psu.edu/public/kids/great-insect-fair>

*Critter Care* – Thank you to those who signed up for Critter Care. The schedule will be online soon, but there are plenty of weeks that are unspoken for. Email Elina at [elastro@psu.edu](mailto:elastro@psu.edu) for more details. The guide can be found [here](#).

*Ella Reagle Staff Assistant Award* – LuAnn Weatherholtz has been an invaluable part of our department and has at some point helped each one of us out of a sticky situation. Let's show our appreciation by nominating her for the Ella Reagle Staff Assistant Award. Email Becky at [yxh5118@psu.edu](mailto:yxh5118@psu.edu) with thoughts, quotes, or stories of LuAnn by **Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>**.

*Entomology Foundation* – The Entomology Foundation is holding a contest for science projects or lesson plans due **Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>**. Emphasis is on low-budget ideas to teach grades K-12 on entomological topics. There is no limit on entries. Winners will receive \$100 for each winning submission and an award at the ESA meeting in Nov. More information at <http://www.entfdn.org/scienceprojectcontest.htm>

## **Committee Reports:**

*EGSA Introduction* – Salil Siriwat introduced EGSA to incoming graduate students. This year's officers include Salil Siriwat (president), Elina Lastro (vice president), Wingyi Kung (secretary), Jessica Richards (treasurer), and Ian Grettenberger (webmaster).

*Outreach Introduction* – Amber Brunskill, the outreach coordinator, briefly discussed outreach opportunities for graduate students - such as talks for school groups (kindergarten to college level) given throughout the semester. The schedule will be updated in the outreach calendar (<http://ento.psu.edu/graduatestudents/egsa/outreach/outreach-calendar>). If you would like more instructions on how to give a talk, you can accompany a more experienced presenter or check out this [handy guide](#). Other opportunities include being a student representative to the Friends of the Frost Museum, organizing Bug Camp in the summer, and volunteering for the Great Insect Fair.

*Paycheck change* – Summer paychecks have changed from bi-weekly to monthly. This will increase taxes because although the overall stipend is the same, the amount is now combined into one paycheck, making it eligible for a higher tax bracket. It is unknown if there will be a difference in tax returns. Email Elina at [elastro@psu.edu](mailto:elastro@psu.edu) if you are interested in finding out more.

*Frontiers* – Despite previous discussion, the time slot for ENT 520 - Frontiers in Insect Science conflicts with the time slot for STAT 500/501. Salil plans on speaking to Gary on this issue.

*Seminar course offering* – Concerns raised regarding the 1-credit seminar includes topics which are too narrow and the limited seats offered. One suggestion is to approach Gary or the instructor about tailoring one week's discussion to be more relevant.

*Candidacy Dinner* – Planning for a congratulation dinner for those who passed their candidacy exam is underway! Keep an eye out for doodle polls.

**Next Meeting: Tues. Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm in CEL conference room**

*Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm*