2011 Genetics Section Report to BSA Council

Activities of the BSA Genetics section during the 2010-2011 year include:

1. Business meeting conducted in Providence, RI, Monday, 2 August, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
2. Genetics section had 5 contributed paper sessions with 36 papers and 12 posters over three days at the Botany 2010 meeting in Providence (these include both Genetics section and related thematic sections that fall under the general headings of Molecular Ecology & Evolution, Population Genetics, Genomics & Proteomics, and Molecular Biology).
3. Genetics section co-sponsored a symposium on plant architecture for $1,000 at Botany 2010.
4. The 2010 Margaret Menzel Award ($200) for the best paper was given to James Clarkson from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew for his presented paper on “The dynamic Nicotiana genome: diploid hybrids, tetraploid hybrids and inter-allelic recombination.” Co-authors: Laura Kelly, Andrew R. Leitch, Sandra Knapp and Mark W. Chase.
5. The 2010 Genetics Section Poster Award was not distributed due to the lack of available judges (to be corrected for Botany 2011).
6. The 2011 Graduate Student Research Award based on evaluation of seven submitted proposals was awarded to two students (PhD and a MS). Kim Thompson, an University of Cincinnati PhD student earned her award for her proposal titled "Chloroplast Microsatellite Analysis of Manilkara zapota (Sapotaceae), a Tropical Fruit and Timber Tree." A MS student, Guadalupe Borja from Oklahoma State University received her award for her proposal titled "Integrating Phylogeny and Population Genetics: Distinguishing Incomplete Lineage Sorting and Gene Flow to Infer the Evolution of the Southeastern Bladderpods (Paysonia spp.)." Both awards include $500 for research and an additional $500 to cover travel costs for a subsequent BSA meeting.
7. The 2011 Genetics Section Travel Award was given to Ari Novy of Rutgers University, who will be giving two presentations at Botany 2011. He received $200.
8. During the 2010-2011, the Chair began sending out email updates to sectional members, which have been well-received (e.g. several members volunteered to judge talks and posters at the 2011 meeting).
9. Genetics section will have 5 paper sessions at the Botany 2011 meeting in St. Louis (including both Genetics section and related thematic sections that fall under the general heading of Genetics).
10. Genetics section will co-sponsor the following symposia/colloquia at the Botany 2011 meeting:
   - Advances in Plant Systematics and Population Genomics: Application of Next Generation Techniques; Organizer: Ashley Egan; $1,200
   - Plant Reproductive Strategies Under Environmental Stress; Organizers: Arathi Seshadri and Brenda Molano-Flores; $500
   - Onagraceae as a model experimental system; Organizers: Peter Hoch and Warren Wagner; support in name only.

Genetics Section Officers:

Chair: Theresa Culley (U. of Cincinnati); will step down at end of Botany 2012
Vice-Chair: Kristina Schierenbeck (Cal State Chico), will be Chair at end of Botany 2012
Sec/Treasurer: Jeannette Whitton (The U. of British Columbia), will be Vice-Chair at end of Botany 2012

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Culley, Chair
July 5, 2011