2012 Genetics Section Report to BSA Council

Activities of the BSA Genetics section during the 2011-2012 year include:

1. Business meeting conducted in St. Louis, MO, Monday, July 11, 5:30 - 6:30 pm.
2. The Genetics Section had 5 contributed paper sessions with 39 papers and 24 posters over three days at the Botany 2011 meeting in St. Louis (these include both sectional and related thematic sections that fall under the general headings of Molecular Ecology & Evolution, Population Genetics, Genomics & Proteomics, and Molecular Biology).
3. The Genetics Section co-sponsored three symposia at Botany 2011: One was “Advances in Plant Systematics and Population Genomics: Applications of Next Generation Techniques” ($500). The second was “Plant Reproductive Strategies Under Environmental Stress” ($500) and the third sponsored symposium was “Onagraceae as a model experimental system” (in name only).
4. The 2011 Margaret Menzel Award ($200) for the best paper was given to Matthew Parks from Oregon State University for his presented paper on “Separating the wheat from the chaff: mitigating the effect of noisy data in plastome phylogenomic analyses.” Co-authors: Richard Cronn and Aaron Liston.
5. The 2011 Genetics Section Poster Award was awarded to Lubos Majesky from Palacky University Olomouc for his poster “Genetic variability in apomictic clones of common dandelion (Taraxacum; Asteraceae)” with coauthors Radim Vasut, Bohumil Travnicek, and Miloslav Kitner.
6. The 2012 Graduate Student Research Award based on evaluation of six submitted proposals was awarded to Ursula King at the University of Connecticut for her proposal titled "Provision of genome resources for Najas marina and Najas minor (Hydrocharitaceae)". The award includes $500 for research and an additional $500 to cover travel costs for a subsequent BSA meeting.
7. The 2012 Genetics Section Travel Award was given to two recipients this year: Michael McCain of the University of Georgia and Travis Lawrence of Cal State Sacramento. Both received $200.
8. The Genetics Section will have 5 paper sessions at the Botany 2012 meeting in St. Louis (including both Genetics section and related thematic sections that fall under the general heading of Genetics).
9. Genetics Section will co-sponsor the following symposia/colloquia at the Botany 2012 meeting:
   - Growing the Next Generation in Plant Genomics; Organizer: Ashley Egan; $500
   - Ecological Interactions Affecting the Evolution of Plant Mating Systems: Current Research and Future Directions; Organizers: Rupesh Kariyat and Jordan Sinclair; $1,000

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 2, 2012