



CGE Independent

A Publication of the Coalition of Graduate Employees, AFT Local 6069

February 2008

CGE, Your Voice at Oregon State University

New Semester, so much going on! “What is happening?” you may ask. Well, only the start of **negotiating your entire contract!** Plus a billion other things such as a **NEW President**, a **NEW VP of Organizing** and a **NEW Organizing Staff Member**. Not to mention, events such as “The Great Office Flood of ’08,” the creation of a new website, and conferences all over the place. Not too forgot: delegate elections and the Winter Membership Drive and General Membership Meeting are here, too!

CGE understands how busy and time-restricted graduate students are, yet so many of you have in engaged in making CGE’s mission known. Again, CGE is immensely grateful and thankful for everything YOU have accomplished.

Bargaining Update

Since November, the Bargaining Team has been meeting frequently to discuss upcoming contract negotiations.

In the end of November, on behalf of Graduate assistants, CGE delivered a notice of intent to negotiate a new contract to the Graduate School and Human Relations.

With the delivery of the notice, CGE and HR must meet within 30 days to establish ground rules. However, as this deadline fell over winter break, it was mutually agreed that the meeting would take place once all parties returned.

On Monday, February 4th, CGE and HR exchanged ground rules. After smoothing out differences, both groups agreed on language. A final draft should be signed by the bargaining team soon! Future negotiation dates include:

- * **Wednesday, February 20**, at 3 pm, at the Westminster House
- * **Wednesday, March 5**, at 3 pm, at the MU
- * **Monday, March 17**, at 3 pm, at the Westminster House

READ THE BARGAINING BLOG FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://cge6069.org>

Upcoming Events

February 14th 6:00 pm **Vagina Monologues @ La Sells**
Flyering about Health Care

February 15th 5:00 pm **Vagina Monologues @ La Sells**
Flyering about Health Care

February 20th **1st Bargaining Meeting**
3:00 PM @ Westminster House

March 5th **2nd Bargaining Meeting**
3:00 PM @ Memorial Union

April 18th-20th **AFT-OR Convention**
Sun River, Oregon

Thursdays 4:00 pm **Weekly Executive Council Meetings @ Westminster House**

Contact CGE by phone or email to answer any of your questions!

541-757-7141

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NEW PRESIDENT NEW VP of ORGANIZING

Sadly, our very own CGE President, **Jim Neeway** (Chemistry) moved to Washington at the end of winter term. Good-bye Jim!

Former VP of Organizing **John Osborne** (COAS) stepped up to assume the Presidential seat.

The new VP of Organizing is **Melissa Hastings** (MIME).

Welcome Melissa!

CGE has a new Website!!

Thanks to the super-human efforts by **Rob Hess** (Mathematics), CGE has a new website up and running.

The link is: <http://cge6069.org>

The new site includes a Blog about bargaining (much like the one on the GTFF's website).

Stay updated with the latest bargaining news!

Also, executive council members, office staff, and our AFT reps have their own email addresses.

Soon, you will be able to access the online calendar of upcoming events and a general news sections.

If you would like to help create the CGE website, please contact the CGE office. No experience is necessary - just come with your enthusiasm!

save the Date

Thursday, February 20th
3:00 pm. @ CGE's Office

Located at the corner of 23rd and Monroe.

Join CGE in beginning negotiations!

(Cut and apply me to the corner of your corner of your monitor so you don't forget.)

Election Results Notification:

At the GMM, on Thursday, February 7th, CGE held elections to send delegates to attend the AFT-Oregon Convention. The convention is April 18th – 20th in Sunriver, OR. We are sending John Osborne, Rob Hess, Jim Duncan, Logan Mitchell, Erin Lieuallen and Brian Deitel. NEVER a dull moment!

How Can I Help Build CGE?

The more members we have, the greater strength we have in negotiating to reduce fees, improve the health-care coverage and more. The way we add more members is by recruiting fellow grad assistants to join the union.

Can you give two hours (or more) to build the union?

There are several ways to build the union: You can always go on office visits to recruit more members. Also, you help build CGE by making sure fellow CGE members in your department are up to speed with what CGE is fighting for!

CONTACT CGE TO VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME!

Graduate Assistants Launch Contract Campaign

On November 28th, 40+ graduate assistants met at Kerr Hall to present a formal notice of intent to negotiate a new contract to the University. Before delivering the notice, CGE Vice President for Collective Bargaining **Joe Tyburczy** (Zoology) addressed the assembled members to explain the importance of the task we are undertaking and how all of our combined efforts help to ensure success in reaching the bargaining goals set by the membership.

First, the group went to the Graduate School, then to several Human Resources offices to deliver the notice to the Director of Human Resources. After business was concluded, CGEers retired to Bombs Away Cafe for fellowship and refreshment.

The fact that dozens of grad assistants cared enough to come help deliver this letter lets OSU know how important this contract is to us. However, this was just the first step in the process of bargaining the new contract. In order to be successful we will need to sustain and even build upon this effort by turning out grad assistants throughout the bargaining process. We look forward to seeing you at the next event!



Top Left: Vice President for Collective Bargaining **Joe Tyburczy** addresses members in front of Kerr.

Top Right: Dozens of grad assistants crowd into the office of the Graduate School to deliver our notice of intent to bargain a new contract to Sally Francis, Dean of the Graduate School at OSU.

Bottom Left: Grad assistants leaving the HR offices after delivering our notice of intent to bargain to Jacque Rudolph, director of HR at OSU. The troop is enroute to Bombs Away Café.

Member of the Month

Jim Neeway – aka Spider Monkey



Jim Neeway has sadly left CGE and moved to Washington. Jim has played a very active role in CGE over the last couple of years. Most notably, he held the position of President for the last year and a half.

When Jim is not playing with radioactive nuclides, he likes to run and play soccer. In fact, his stylish offensive techniques earned him the nickname of Spider Monkey.

Jim contributed to CGE in many ways. He has conducted phone banks, membership drive, and orientations, etc., etc., etc. Thanks to Jim's help and support CGE continues to grow and become stronger voice for graduate employees.

CGE wishes Jim the best of luck on the next leg of his journey through life.

Left: Jim Neeway at the 2007 Fall BBQ.

The CGE Independent is published by:

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