



# CGE Independent

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

October 2007

## CGE, Your Voice at Oregon State University

October is our first full month back on campus, beginning what is expected to be a busy and super-event-rific year for CGE. The "Upcoming Events" Calendar is jam-packed packed with conferences, meetings, and group events. In addition, CGE is handling several grievances on behalf of graduate employees, conducting membership drives, and preparing for contract negotiations.

CGE is such a strong union because of the dedication of its volunteers. 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.

### Payday Delay

Was your September paycheck late or incorrect? Did YOU sign your paperwork on time but your tuition remission has not gone through? Did your department "lose" your paperwork? If so, then you are not alone!

Many graduate employees received incorrect paychecks or no paycheck at all. Also, many graduate employees have not had their tuition removed from their bill.

Please contact the CGE office if you had pay-related issues or are still having an issue! [cge@peak.org](mailto:cge@peak.org) or 541.757.7141.

This includes: No paycheck, Late Paycheck, Incorrect Paycheck Amount, or lost or misplaced paperwork or you were not given paperwork in a timely manner.

The University does offer help: For what ever reason your paycheck was not issued, you may be able to take a draw of up to 75% of your expected pay. Please contact your department's "billing person" for information on draws.

If you have any problems, please contact CGE so we can help.

### Upcoming Events

September 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> AGEL Conference  
Columbus, Ohio

October 18<sup>th</sup> **Fall General Membership**  
Thurs. Meeting (Fall GMM)  
5:00 PM Nearly Normals

October 9 – 19<sup>th</sup> Fall Membership Drive  
Ask how you can volunteer!

October 25<sup>th</sup> Bargaining Training Seminar  
Time and location, TBD

October 27<sup>th</sup> AFT-Oregon Conference  
Salem, OR

Thursdays Weekly Executive Council  
4:00 – 5:30 Meetings, Westminster House

October CGE 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scavenger Hunt  
**FREE COFFEE**, see website for details

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

541-757-7141 [cge@peak.org](mailto:cge@peak.org)

<http://www.peak.org/~cge/>

## Fall Membership Drive

October 8<sup>st</sup> through October 19<sup>th</sup>  
Please Call CGE to find out how you can help!

CGE members and staff will be making office visits October 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>,  
and the following week on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 17, and 18<sup>th</sup>.

It is appreciated if you can donate an hour or two of your time on one of those  
days to help recruit new members in your department.

Also, on October 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be envelope-stuffing mailings to non-members,  
along with new and returning members. Please contact CGE if you can spare  
some time on that Thursday.

## General Membership Meeting

BEER, FREE FOOD, FREE FUN, FREE BEER, FREE FOOD, FREE FUN, FREE FOOD, FREE

FREE FOOD, FREE FUN,

FUN, FREE BEER, FREE

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

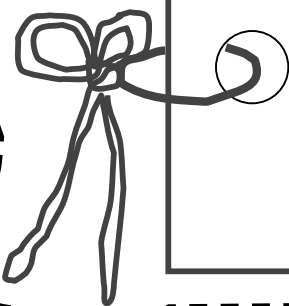
The Fall GMM will take place on  
**Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Upstairs of Nearly Normals (15<sup>th</sup> and Monroe)  
5:00 pm festivities begin, 5:30 meeting

FREE FOOD, FREE FUN, FREE BEER, FREE FOOD, FREE FUN, FREE BEER, FREE FOOD

SAVE THE DATE CARD. Cut on dashes, adhere to side of monitor.

### SAVE THE DATE

CGE General membership Meeting  
Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>,  
Upstairs of Nearly Normals (15<sup>th</sup> and Monroe)  
5:00 pm festivities begin, 5:30 meeting



## Fall AGEL Conference

AGEL stands for the Alliance of Graduate Employee Locals. It is a division of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). AGEL provides an effective structure within the AFT through which graduate employees who are actively participating in existing AFT unions or in active campaigns can offer one another regular support and guidance. In addition, AGEL provides a mechanism for the graduate employee unions to form positions to forward to the AFT higher education program.

Last weekend, CGE sent John Osborne, COAS, to the Fall AGEL Conference in Columbus, Ohio. John reports that the meeting went well and he learned a lot.

Of particular interest, CGE is volunteering to host the Spring AGEL Conference. The goal is promote aware of spring bargaining schedule and contract negotiations.

**Great Job, John!!!**

## TAKE THE BARGAINING SURVEY

Please log on to  
[www.peak.org/~cge](http://www.peak.org/~cge)

CGE will tally the survey results to determine what Graduate Students feel are the most important issues for the upcoming Contract Negotiations.

*Your* input is needed: CGE Bargains on *your* behalf, to resolve matters of interest most important to *you*!

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual CGE Scavenger Hunt

### CGE Scavenger Hunt Fall 2007

### How Well Do You Know YOUR Union? (aka - Free Coffee!)

Join your fellow CGE-ers this fall on an epic quest –  
**The First Annual CGE Scavenger Hunt**

Log on to the CGE website:

[www.peak.org/~cge/](http://www.peak.org/~cge/)

Click on your department's link to begin the hunt

Those who finish successfully will be richly rewarded with **free coffee!**

## International Students

### *Focus Group*

### **Are you an International Student?**

If so, CGE would love to hear from you!

CGE is coordinating a focus group of international students. CGE wants to know which issues are most important to you.

- What would you like to see in the next contract?
- What would make CGE more accessible to you?
- What has your experience with CGE been like?

As we approach the upcoming contract negotiations we need the input of all our members. Please contact us and share your thoughts.

541-757-7141 or [cge@peak.org](mailto:cge@peak.org)

## **Bargaining Team Needed**

3 more members are needed for the Bargaining Team!!  
Negotiate Face to Face over YOUR contract with OSU administration!!  
Interested? Contact the CGE Office.

## **Member of the Month** **JACK RUNDEL** **Chemistry**

Jack has contributed greatly to CGE during his time as a PhD student in Chemistry. Jack became involved with CGE at a time when both activity and membership were quite low, and did a great deal to revitalize the union.

Jack served as President of CGE during the 2005-2006 academic year when membership was increased and stabilized. As a direct result of this increased membership CGE was able to secure the \$250-per-term fee offset that all graduate assistants at OSU now enjoy. As President, Jack also personally ensured that CGE was represented at meetings of our state organization as well as in conferences of graduate employee locals from around the country, traveling to exotic destinations like Eugene, Portland and Detroit, Michigan.

After a year as President, Jack stepped aside to allow room for other leaders to develop, and took on the office of Vice President for Organizing for the 2006-2007 academic year. Under Jack's tenure as VP Organizing, CGE saw membership levels climb to record numbers, including expanding membership into departments where the union had not been traditionally strong.

Currently, Jack is working on completing his dissertation in analytical chemistry. If you see him around be sure to thank him for all the work he has done for all grad assistants. If you are not yet a member, join now and if you are already a member, think about following in Jack's footsteps when he says "I decided to go beyond just being a member and become active, because I wanted to give something back to the union out of appreciation for the health insurance we had won."

### **The CGE Independent is published by:**

Coalition of Graduate Employees-AFT Local 6069, AFT, AFL-CIO  
101 NW 23<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
541-757-7141  
cge@peak.org  
www.peak.org/~cge