

# Fall 2012 Meeting

1:30 p.m. Thursday, October 11 to ~12 p.m. Saturday, October 13 (Thursday lunch begins at 12:15.)

Spring House Hotel

Block Island, Rhode Island

Thursday lunch is included in the meeting registration. Post-meeting field trips will be offered Saturday afternoon.



Important Due Dates:

August 22 - abstracts due September 5 - student travel award application due September 25 - online meeting registration due September 27- last day for conference rate at the hotel October 3 - registration payment due to Treasurer



#### Hosts

The Graduate School of Oceanography, University Of Rhode Island

local organizers: Veronica Berounsky, Walter Berry, Charlie Roman, MJ James-Pirri and Autumn Oczkowski

Newcomers to the New England Estuarine Research Society (NEERS) have heard about the well attended 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008 NEERS meetings on Block Island and now we are giving you the opportunity to experience it yourself! Long time NEERS members are looking forward to returning to the island 12 miles out from the Rhode Island mainland that the Nature Conservancy calls "one of the world's last great places". We will discuss science, management, and education issues concerning estuarine and coastal ecosystems. You can do all this while gazing out over the Atlantic Ocean from the wraparound veranda of our meeting site, "The Spring House Hotel" – the same grand hotel where we met in 2000, 2004, and 2008. Just a 15 minute walk from the ferry landing, Block Island's oldest (but renovated) hotel is situated on a 15-acre promontory overlooking Old Harbor, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Block Island foothills.

Organizations are always welcome to be meeting sponsors and support is greatly appreciated. Please contact NEERS treasurer, <u>Cindy Delpapa</u>, to learn about our sponsorship levels and how to support the NEERS meeting.

### **Meeting Details**

Special Symposium - "Thinking Beyond Boundaries: Broader Perspectives in Coastal Ecology"

Call For Papers - presentation guidelines and submission form. Due Wednesday, August 22.

Check out the all new Ignite Session!

Registration - fee schedule and submission form. Due September 25. After this date, please register on-site.

### Society

Students - Presentation prizes and student travel awards.

Business Meeting - The NEERS Business Meeting will be held after the last presentation on Friday afternoon. All meeting participants are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion.

Program - final version

Abstracts - on-line access

<u>Meeting Evaluation Form</u> - Please respond, we'd like your input! (This is a .docx download.)

# **Accomodations & Activities**

Accommodations - Hotel information. Register by September 27th for the conference rate.

Meeting Site - meeting venue and local attractions

Field Trips

Meals and Social Events

**Directions** 

# Contacts

**General Information** - Veronica Berounsky of URI-GSO (<u>vberounsky@gso.uri.edu</u>, 401-783-8437) and Walter Berry of EPA (<u>berry.walter@epamail.epa.gov</u>, 401-782-3101) are again running another NEERS meeting in Rhode Island (will our luck hold out for an EIGHTH time?) MJ James-Pirri (<u>mjjp@gso.uri.edu</u> or 401-874-6617) and Charley Roman (<u>croman@gso.uri.edu</u>, 401-874-6886) of URI-GSO are also returning, plus we have roped Autumn Oczkowski of EPA (<u>Oczkowski.Autumn@epamail.epa.gov</u>, 401-782-9677) into joining us!

Abstracts or Other Program Concerns - Hilary Neckles

Registration, Student Travel Awards - Sara Grady

Website Issues - Jamie Vaudrey

Having trouble accessing the email addresses? Download a .pdf of the <u>Team NEERS</u> contact information.



# **Student Awards**

#### **Travel Awards**

Three \$100 travel-awards will be awarded by NEERS, plus additional awards have been donated by our sponsors. Graduate and undergraduate students who are giving presentations at this meeting and are members of NEERS (by the meeting date) may apply. Selection will be made by lottery and will not affect eligibility for student presentation prizes.

To apply for a travel award, send an email with your abstract attached to the NEERS treasurer, <u>Cindy Delpapa</u>, by September 5. Provide your name, address, college or university, email, and telephone number. In addition, please have your faculty advisor send the treasurer an email certifying that you are a student in good standing. Award applicants will be notified of award status by September 12.

As always, NEERS greatly appreciates donations to the Bill Niering Student Travel Endowment fund (student endowment contributions can be made when you pre-register). Travel awards may be offered to non-presenting students if sufficient funds are available; students are welcome to contact the NEERS Treasurer about availability of such support for general student travel.

#### **Presentation Prizes**

Prizes will be awarded to students chosen by the judging panel in four categories: graduate student oral presentation (Buck Ketchum Prize, \$100), undergraduate student oral presentations (Stubby Rankin Prize, \$100), graduate student poster presentation (David Dean Prize, \$100) and undergraduate student poster presentation (Scott Warren Prize, \$100). All eligible students will be automatically entered into the appropriate presentation prize competition.

Papers and posters are judged by a committee in terms of overall effectiveness, scientific content, and quality of the presentation. Students are stongly encouraged to review the <u>scoring criteria</u> in advance.

Students who have won an award are not eligible for that award again, but can compete for a different award. NEERS appreciates contributions towards the endowment fund for these prizes, so give generously when you pre-register. One free Banquet ticket is provided for the lead author of each student presentation.



# **Conference Accomodations**

#### Spring House Hotel

52 Spring Street Block Island, Rhode Island

NEERS rooms are reserved until September 27, 2012 (rates are same after deadline but room availability *not* guaranteed after this date).

Please identify yourself as registering for the NEERS conference rate. Check in time is 3 p.m. but you can request early check in for Thursday.

standard room = \$99.00 + tax suites = \$175 + tax (4 people max., various arrangements: 2 doubles, studio, suites) houses = \$120 + tax, per room The Spring House is a short walk (0.5 miles) from the ferry

The **Spring House Hotel**, known to Islanders as "the Jewel" for 160 years, will be familiar to NEERSians since the Fall 2000, 2004, and 2008 NEERS meetings were held there. It offers Victorian charm and elegance in comfortable accommodations with modern amenities in two adjacent historic buildings. The dining room offers exquisite meals with majestic ocean views. All accommodations, meals, and meeting events will be at the Spring House Hotel, 52 Spring Street, Block Island, RI. Spouses, significant others, friends, and children are welcome.

There are 3 types of room available and all include a private bath and continental breakfast at our special NEERS prices. Standard rooms have either a queen bed or 2 twin beds for \$99 per night plus taxes. Suites sleep up to 4 people (either two room suites or studios with a sofa bed) and are \$175 per suite per night plus taxes. The Spring House Guesthouses, right behind the main building and with nice views, are the 3rd type. Because these have 3 bedrooms and three full bathrooms plus a living room, dining area, and kitchen, these would be ideal for colleagues, labs, classes, or families that want to be together. They could also be host to discussion groups. On the second floor, each house has a master bedroom with a queen bed and adjoining full bath, another bedroom with a queen bed, a third bedroom with twin beds, and the second full bathroom. The first floor has a third full bath and the common rooms mentioned above, plus dishwasher, and washer & dryer. All this for \$120 plus taxes per bedroom per night. If you have a group, make your reservations with the hotel. If you have other questions or only a partial group, contact Veronica Berounsky (401-783-8437, vberounsky@gso.uri.edu).

We encourage you to share hotel rooms in order that the Spring House Hotel can accommodate all NEERS attendees. Also, if you can get away early, the Spring House Hotel is offering the same rates on Wednesday night. (You can check out "downtown"

restaurants for dinner Wednesday night.) Please make your reservations directly with the Spring House Hotel, at 1-800-234-9263 or (401) 466-5844 (a local call from Rhode Island's South County) and identify yourself as attending the NEERS meeting. The Hotel would appreciate reservations by **September 27**. We will have the Hotel buildings all to NEERS, but once they are full, you will have to go to other hotels, so make your reservations early. Also, earlier reservations get the better views. Find out more about the Spring House Hotel at their web page: <u>www.springhousehotel.com</u>.



# **Meeting Venue**

The Fall 2012 meeting of the New England Estuarine Research Society (NEERS) will be held at the Spring House Hotel, Block Island, Rhode Island.

Located on scenic Block Island, the Spring House Hotel is just a short walk to the ferry, all attractions, shopping and the breathtaking waterfront.

DIRECTIONS

#### Spring House Hotel

52 Spring Street Block Island, Rhode Island Phone: (401) 466-5844 | (800) 234-9263

You need to either take the ferry or a plane to get to the island. The "Block Island Ferry" runs from Point Judith in Narragansett to Old Harbor, Block Island:

Day	Departs Point Judith	int Judith Departs Block Island	
Tue, Wed	7:45a, 11:45a. 4:45p	9:30a, 2:30p, 6:30p	
Thu	6:30a, 11, 4:45p	8:15a, 2:30p, 6:30p	
Fri	9a, 1p, 6p	10:45a, 4p, 7:30p	
Sat	7:15a, 11a, 4:30p	9a, 3p, 6p	
Sun	9a, 12p, 4:30p	10:30a, 3p, 6p	

#### Oct 9th - Oct 14th, 2012

You should be at the ferry dock a half hour before departure. Missing your ferry is not a legitimate reason for getting your hotel deposit back, so don't be late! The trip to the island takes about an hour and costs \$24.95 round trip for an adult (and \$23.95 for senior citizens, \$13.00 for children 5-11, and free for children 4 and under). See also <u>www.blockislandferry.com</u> for more information or to order tickets on line or call toll free 1-866-783-7996 (the local number is 783-7996). (Note that Friday's session will start about 8:00 AM, and the first ferry over to Block Island arrives about 10. So if you are coming by ferry, you must arrive sometime Thursday in order to be there for the beginning of the session on Friday. Note also that if you are arriving Friday for the banquet, the last ferry is the 6 pm.) Parking is available near the Ferry Dock in Point Judith for \$5-\$20/day. You will NOT need a car for the meeting. A bike is

a good idea to bring (only \$6.40 round trip on the ferry) or rent on island, one can easily bike most of the island in a few hours (with beautiful views and not too many hills!)

Directions to the Point Judith Ferry Dock: From the South: From 95N take Exit 92; turn right onto Rte. 2; turn right on Rte. 78; at end of Rte 78 turn left onto Rte.1. Take "Galilee/Pt. Judith" exit on Rte. 1 (sign will say BI Ferry). Turn right off exit and then right onto Rte 108. After about 3 miles, take the right hand exit for Block Island Ferry and Galilee. When the road ends, take a left. The ferry is located at the Galilee State Pier, across from the Department of Environmental Management.

From the North: From 95S take Exit 9 (Narragansett) to Rte 4; follow Rte 4 which turns into Rte 1; take Rte 108 Exit from Rte 1. Continue on Rte 108 for 3 miles to right hand turn for Block Island Ferry and Galilee. When the road ends, take a left. The ferry is located at the Galilee State Pier, across from the Department of Environmental Management.

See <u>www.blockislandchamber.com</u> for airplane schedules and other information.

# **Night Life**

Yellow Kittens, pool table, Jimmy Buffet on the juke box - need I say more?

# **Local Attractions**

Since Block Island has been designated as one of the "12 Last Great Places" in the Western Hemisphere by the Nature Conservancy, we would be remiss if we didn't give you time to roam the island or take a field trip.

Come over Wednesday afternoon or if you are an early riser, take the 6:30 am ferry on Thursday to Block Island, and have several hours to explore on your own before the Symposium & lunch at 12:30. Bring your bike to do some sight-seeing or to get to the Island's 25 miles of nature trails. Block Island contains a variety of habitats, such as morainal grasslands, coastal bluffs, 17 miles of sand or cobble beaches (don't forget your swimsuit!), salt & brackish ponds, sand dunes, and various freshwater wetland ecosystems.

More than one-third of the island's land is now preserved as open space. Block Island is home to over 40 rare or endangered species and natural communities, including the globally endangered American Burying Beetle. There is also a stand of native Phragmites!

Block Island has been called the best birding site in North America during the fall migration so bring your binoculars.

Check out more about Block Island through The Nature Conservancy's web page, <u>www.nature.org</u> and search on Block Island or at <u>www.blockislandinfo.com</u>. You can find a variety of hiking/biking/sightseeing maps on the internet. Tours of the town may be given by NEERS Honorary Member and Past President and one time Block Island summer resident Bernie McAlice.



# Field Trips - Saturday afternoon

Specifics to come at a later date, but there will be at least one field trip (and maybe more) to beautiful spots on Block Island and it will take place right after the talks on Saturday and finish in time to catch the 3 pm ferry back to the mainland!

On the registration form, you will have the option of purchasing a box lunch.

TRIP 1 - check back later...

TRIP 2 - check back later...



### **Meals and Social Events**

#### NEERS Welcoming Social and Dinner - Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Location: Spring House Hotel, Victoria's Parlor

Time: 5:30 p.m.

The Welcoming Social will be held immediately following the Symposium, and will provide an opportunity to check out the posters before the official poster session on Friday. There will be light refreshments served (including complimentary beer and wine) and a chance to mingle and chat about topics of estuarine and coastal significance with the astute and erudite NEERSians gathered for this special meeting.

Dinner will be served following the social, on the patio (weather permitting) or the Spring House Dining Room. Thursday dinner is NOT included in the cost of registration, members and friends are invited to sign up for the Thursday dinner when they register (see below for details).

#### NEERS Awards Social, Banquet, and Evening Festivities - Friday, 5:30 p.m. to ??

Location: Spring House Hotel

Time: bar and appetizers open at 5:30 p.m. (included in registration), dinner at 7:15 p.m. (additional fee)

Members and friends are invited to sign up for the banquet when they register. The Friday evening festivities will begin with a social, included in the meeting registration fee. Drinks will be available from the bar (cash bar).

The Awards Banquet, timed so that people taking the 6 pm ferry out of Pt. Judith (that arrives at Block Island at 7) can make it, will be a complete buffet that includes main dishes of fish, chicken, beef, and vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options; Chef's Selection of vegetable and potato; rolls and butter; garden salad; assorted desserts; and coffee and teas. The student awards for best oral and poster presentations will be awarded at the close of the banquet.

Walter is planning some fun & games over dessert, so if you liked "NEERS Jeopardy" or "Who Wants to Win an NSF Grant?" at previous Block Island meeting, plan to come to the banquet. Plans are in the works for Post-Banquet music right at the Spring House, highlighting the musical talents of NEERSians. Contact Chris Deacutis at <u>deacutis@gso.uri.edu</u> or <u>Sara Grady</u> if you are interested in playing or singing.

After dinner we will walk down the hill to a local venue, for dancing and more socializing (Yellow Kittens, pool table, Jimmy Buffet on the juke box – need I say more?). As always we will be on the lookout for the next Stickleback Award winner, so dance late and make

sure you're physically (if not mentally) present at the first talk the next morning.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE BANQUET, only those that pre-register for the banquet can be guaranteed a meal due to space limitations. Please indicate whether you will attend on the meeting registration form. The caterers are aware of dietary restrictions. If you would like to discuss any accomodations for dietary restrictions, contact MJ James-Pirri who can be reached at mijp@gso.uri.edu or 401-874-6617.

Students delivering an oral or poster presentation (as lead presenter) and entered into an Undergraduate or Graduate presentation prize competition attend for free. All eligible students will be automatically entered into the appropriate presentation prize competition.

### **Other Meals**

Meeting registration includes lunch on Thursday and Friday, the welcoming social on Thursday, and mid-morning and afternoon breaks. All meals will be served in the Spring House Dining Room.

#### LUNCH

#### Thursday lunch - included in registration fee, but \$25 if extra person wants to join us

Cup of Clam Chowder, Pasta Salad, Garden Salad, Tofu, Assorted Deli Meat Tray, Assorted Cheeses, Assorted Breads & Rolls, Chips

#### Friday lunch - included in registration fee, but \$25 if extra person wants to join us

Caesar Salad, Assorted Pizzas, Baked Ziti , Vegan option

Saturday box lunch - \$17 (not included in the registration fee)

A Saturday box-lunch (for field trips or travelers) is available for \$17.00. Please pre-register for a box-lunch when completing the registration form. Turkey Club Or Veggie Wrap, Chips, Fruit, Bottled Water, Cookie or Brownie (Chef's choice).

#### DINNER

You must pre-register for Thursday and Friday dinners. These meals are not included in the registration fee to allow people the flexibility of choosing where they will eat. Members and friends are invited to sign up for the Thursday dinner and the Friday Banquet when they register.

#### Thursday Dinner - BBQ on the patio (\$50)

Garden Salad, Cole slaw, Potato Salad, Baked Beans (no meat), BBQ Chicken, BBQ Ribs, Corn Bread, Pasta Primavera (for those not eating meat), Water Melon

#### Friday Dinner - NEERS Awards Banquet (\$50)

See the description of the banquet above.

#### BREAKFAST

A continental breakfast is included with your Spring House Hotel room registration fee. If you are staying elsewhere, breakfast at the Spring House is not included.

# **Dietary Concerns?**

Please contact MJ James-Pirri who can be reached at mjjp@gso.uri.edu or 401-874-6617.



# **Special Symposium**

Thursday, October 11, 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### Symposium Title: "Thinking Beyond Boundaries: Broader Perspectives in Coastal Ecology"

This will be followed by a social hour so if you must leave Thursday, you still have time to socialize and discuss before catching the 6:30 ferry back to Pt. Judith.

The symposium will take place on Thursday, October 11 and will "kick-off" the NEERS meeting. We have planned the timing of the symposium program around the ferry schedule (see "Getting There" section). You can take the 11:00 AM ferry to Block Island, be on island at 12 noon, check into your room, enjoy lunch at the Spring House dining room, then be ready for the first talk at 1:30 PM in Victoria's Parlor of the Spring House. Lunch at the Spring House Hotel before the symposium is included in the registration fee (whether you register for the whole meeting or just the day).

Thursday evening there will be a more informal discussion of this topic in the living room of one of the guest houses at the hotel. More details to follow.

#### **Background and Goals:**

Dr. Scott W. Nixon was an active participant in NEERS meetings for many years – giving presentations, asking probing questions, keeping the discussion going and he always encouraged students to present their research results at NEERS. Scott loved the NEERS Block Island meetings, and although never officially on the NEERS planning committees, he often suggested speakers, topics, and ideas for the Rhode Island NEERS meetings and this past winter and spring was no exception. To honor Scott we thought that, rather than having a session focusing on Scott's works (since there will be other sessions dedicated to that at URI-GSO and CERF), we would do it NEERS style, and have a session that Scott would have enjoyed. Scott was not afraid to think outside of the box, nor was he afraid to jump into public debate. This session will embody some of the key aspects of Scott's work: thinking beyond the boundaries of scale, time, space,



ecosystem, discipline and convention. We also think this symposium would be appreciated by two others that recently left us: Dr. Michele Dionne of the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve in Maine and the Providence Journal environmental writer Peter Lord who spoke at several Block Island NEERS meetings. Hopefully this session will keep us thinking and inspire us to move onward from the work of Scott, Michele, and Peter. Thursday evening there will be a more informal discussion of this topic in the living room of one of the guest houses at the hotel.

Symposium speakers will be invited by the local planning committee.

Location - main meeting venue

### **Invited Speakers**

coming soon...



# **Call For Papers**

### Abstracts are due Wednesday, August 22, 2012

### mmmm

Abstract Submission Form is Inactive

The deadline for submitting abstracts has passed. Contact the Program Chair, Hilary Neckles, with questions.

### mmmm

Abstract submissions for contributed oral and poster presentations are invited on any subject related to estuaries or coastal environments. Reports of work in progress as well as work in advanced stages and reviews of relevant topics are encouraged. Contributed oral and poster presentations will be scheduled for Friday morning and afternoon and Saturday morning.

Oral presentations will be limited to 15 minutes with an additional 5 minutes for discussion. Poster presentations will be displayed throughout the meeting, and highlighted during a poster session. Students can compete for the Ketchum and Rankin Prizes for oral presentations or the Dean and Warren Prizes for posters (prize information).

We are going to try something new at this meeting, in terms of presentation opportunties: an **Ignite Session**! We will have six speakers, each with 5 minutes to talk. Each speaker has 20 slides, and the presentation is on a timer so that the speaker has only 15 seconds to deal with each slide. This format forces the speakers to be prepared and really think about what they want to say about each slide, and to work on their timing. And we can get 6 talks out there in 30 minutes. If interested, please check this under "presentation style". For questions, contact Walter at <u>berry.walter@epa.gov</u>, 401-782-3101.

Abstracts must be submitted online (link above) by August 22, 2012.

All presenters must be or become a NEERS member. Information on becoming a member is included on the pre-registration form, or at <u>Join NEERS</u>.

#### **Instructions for Preparing Abstracts**

All abstracts have a 1750-character limit (about 250 words) including spaces. The character limit applies to the body of the abstract only, the authors and titles are excluded from the limit. All words in the title should be CAPITALIZED. Author(s), address(es), and presentation title must appear in the proper format. Use footnotes to minimize the space for addresses when multiple authors are from more than one institution. Include full name, e-mail address, and telephone number of presenting author. Even if you would prefer an oral presentation, please consider checking the "oral preferred but poster okay" option if you are willing to present a poster instead. This greatly facilitates final scheduling.

Please indicate on the web submission form if you are submitting your abstract for presentation in the special symposium. For this meeting, symposium speakers will be invited by the meeting hosts, see the <u>Special Symposium</u> page for more details.

A confirmation page will be printed immediately upon successful submission of your abstract to the NEERS website. If you do not receive this confirmation page please resubmit your abstract. Contact the web master, <u>Jamie Vaudrey</u>, with recurring problems. Following the deadline for submitting abstracts, all submissions will be confirmed by the program chair and the lead author will be notified of his/her scheduled time. Contact the Program Chair, <u>Hilary Neckles</u>, with questions.

#### **PowerPoint Presentations**

The conference computer (PC) will use PowerPoint 2007. Please be sure to check your presentation for compatability with this version.

We will load all PowerPoint presentations onto an IBM-compatible laptop well before each session. Please bring your PowerPoint presentation on a USB thumb drive to the projection desk at the NEERS meeting. We will load your presentations the evening before your talk. Please make sure your file can be read by another computer before you hand it in. Speakers should not plan to use their own computers for their presentations.

For presentations that include graphics or media other than standard PowerPoint slides (e.g., complicated animations or embedded video clips; photographic slides or overheads), authors will need to make additional arrangements. Please contact the webmaster, <u>Jamie Vaudrey</u>, for more information.

#### **Poster Guidelines**

Presenters are expected to be present during the dedicated poster viewing session on Friday.

There will be a dedicated poster session on Friday afternoon in the Spring House Sunroom but posters will be available for viewing from the Thursday evening social until the Friday evening banquet. NEERS will have available our foam-core mounting boards, pushpins, and tape to display a poster of 40" x 60". Due to the size of the poster room, posters can be no larger than 40" x 60". For those of you who prefer conversational discussion of your work, this may be the most appropriate presentation style. Please check that option on your abstract form. If you have special needs (a power outlet, etc.) contact Walter at <u>berry.walter@epa.gov</u>, 401-782-3101).



# Registration

Registration opens on Thursday, August 23, 2012.

Registration closes on Tuesday, September 25, 2012.

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**Registration Form** 

If you experience problems with submitting your registration, contact the webmaster, Jamie Vaudrey .



Have you already registered but forgot to use the PayPal button? Click here for help...

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Payment accepted by check, money order, PayPal, or credit card (via PayPal).

# **Registration Fee Schedule - Fall 2012**

	Registration rate	walk-in rate
student	\$49.00	\$62.00
member	\$99.00	\$124.00
non-member	\$124.00	\$149.00
one-day student	\$30.00	\$40.00
one-day member	\$50.00	\$60.00
one-day non-member	\$60.00	\$70.00

Registration includes lunch on Thursday and Friday, the Thursday and Friday Socials, and all coffee breaks. One-day registration is for either Thursday or Friday or Saturday and includes lunch (Saturday is a box lunch). Members and friends are invited to sign up for the Thursday dinner and Friday banquet when they register. Pre-registration is required for all meals. See the <u>Meals and Social</u> <u>Events</u> page for details on the options being offered.

### Additional Fees - Fall 2012

NEERS membership - student*	\$5.00
NEERS membership - regular*	\$20.00
Thursday Dinner	\$50.00
lunch for people not registered for the meeting (Th, F)	\$25.00 / day
Friday Banquet Ticket**	\$50.00
Saturday Box Lunch	\$17.00
field trip	free

\* The registration form includes the option to join NEERS (<u>membership details</u>). Loyal members, annual dues are collected at the spring meeting.

\*\* Students who are lead presenters and entered into the Undergraduate or Graduate prize competitions receive a complimentary banquet ticket. For everyone, pre-registration is highly recommended, tickets are usually not available for walk-in registrations.