



Note from the Chair

Letters from alums:

Welcome to a new Fall quarter at Wright State. Hopefully you had a fulfilling summer, with the right combination of work and play. For a number of our recent graduates, summer was a time for professional transitions and experiences, including moving into new jobs or further educational opportunities. In the last Dialogue, I described the diversity of career directions available with a degree in Biology. Let me share with you a few emails I've received in recent months from departmental graduates who followed some of those directions. Hopefully these will provide you with additional incentive to focus your studies and pave the way for your own career trajectory!

- **Nina A.** completed her M.S. degree in Biology in 2006. Nina's graduate work (mostly coursework, with some independent research) focused primarily on molecular biology and bioinformatics. Nina tells us:

"Hello everyone, I wanted to let you know that I accepted a position as a Patent Examiner for the Biotechnology Department at the United States Patent and Trademark office. I live and work in

Alexandria, VA which is about 10 minutes from Washington, DC. I started June 12, 2006. I am really enjoying what I am doing. I am still in training so I am learning a lot."

- **Stacy W.** received her undergraduate Biology degree about four years ago. She has been working since then for a biotech company in Cincinnati, mostly assisting with work in chemistry. That combination of an interest in biology with experience in chemistry led Stacy to decide on the next step forward:

"I just wanted to let you know that I got my acceptance letter yesterday from UC school of Pharmacy. I start classes in the fall (of 2006). I am so excited."

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Biology Welcomes New Faculty Member

Thomas Rooney, Ph.D., has joined the Department of Biological Sciences as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Rooney is an ecologist and conservation biologist with interests that span the population, community and ecosystem levels of organization. He received his B.A. in Biology from the University of Delaware, a M.S. in Biology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Wisconsin. His research centers around (1) how deer shape plant community composition and structure and (2) the nature, rate and magnitude of change in temperate forest and grassland communities, the stability of community

structure over time, and the converging of species composition with communities. Dr. Rooney will be teaching courses in areas of ecology and welcomes inquiries from students interested in his areas of research.

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Stireman Receives NSF Grant

Dr. John Stireman, Asst Professor in Biology, was recently awarded three years of funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for his proposal “*Adaptive radiation of a gall midge-fungus mutualism in a multitrophic context*”. The proposal is in collaboration with investigators at Vanderbilt Univ.



Stireman’s research encompasses a diversity of interests in both evolutionary biology and ecology, such as ecological organization of insect communities, behavioral ecology of parasitoids and the evolution of species interactions. To learn more about his research, visit:

www.wright.edu/~john.stireman/

Isenhouer and Barto GRO and GRO

Two of the E.S. Ph.D. students in Biology – **Gwyn Isenhouer** in Dr. Stephanie Smith’s lab, and **Kathryn Barton** in Dr. Don Cipollini’s lab – have recently been awarded “Greater Research Opportunities (GRO)” fellowships

from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These fellowships, which provide stipend, tuition, and research funds, are highly competitive and for two students from WSU to be

awarded these in the same year is outstanding! Gwyn is currently in her third year in the E.S. doctoral program, while Kathryn is in her fourth.

Congratulations to both of you for such an accomplishment!!

Krane & Rowland analyze Blue Jacket DNA

For more than a century, popular history has claimed that Indian chief Blue Jacket was Marmaduke Swearingen, a boy captured by the Shawnee in the mid-1700s. But recent analyses by **Dr. Dan Krane** and **Carrie Rowland**, to be presented at the Ohio Academy of

Sciences meeting and published in the Ohio Journal of Science, shows instead that Blue Jacket was all Indian. The finding has been of great interest to followers of the Blue Jacket Story, which is recreated on stage each summer in Xenia.



Professor Tim Wood wins Fulbright



Dr. Tim Wood, Emeritus Professor of Biology, received a Senior Specialist Award from the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) Fulbright Program. The award allows Wood to continue his collaborative efforts with Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand. In addition to further studies of bryozoans,

which have been ongoing for the past several years, the Fulbright award will contribute to developing a new Master’s program in environmental sciences, and to instituting a program of freshwater ecology more generally at the Thai Institution.

Congratulations, Dr. Wood!

- **Christine S.** completed both her B.S. (with Honors) and M.S. degrees in Biology at Wright State. Her interests lay in environmental studies and ecology. She moved to California after graduation and took a series of jobs in research and then Biotechnology. However, Christine recently decided to go back to her first love, the environment, and she gave up the job in biotech:

“The career is treating me well! I have now successfully transferred to the Watershed Planning Division in the County’s Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). It took months for the transfer to happen, but I’m finally in the group full time. I can’t tell you how excited and relieved I am to have landed this job. I’ll now be involved with the conservation policy side of things and with reporting to the EPA. I am now responsible for managing the southern watersheds in San Diego County...these are Tijuana, San Diego Bay and the Sand Diego River watersheds. Cool, huh?”

- **Penelope Y.** graduated this past summer with her B.S. degree in Environmental Health Sciences:

“I got the job! I’ll be working for Tetra Tech EMI, a private consulting firm with EPA contracts.

I’ll be trained in hazardous materials response and site assessment. I’ll be working with EPA START (superfund technical assessment and response team) in region 4 (south east). This is an international company with some interesting credentials. They were the initial responders to the anthrax threat at the nation’s capitol, and were responsible for the cleanup of the mail distribution center. They are handling nuclear waste removal from the Hanford site to Yucca Mtn. Tetra Tech also responded to assess and contain the environmental damage caused by hurricane Katrina.

- **Andy D.** graduated with his B.S. in Biology in 2005. He stayed on at Wright State and entered medical school in Fall 2005. During this past summer, following his first year of medical school, Andy joined a medical service learning trip to Swaziland. (How many of you could identify Swaziland on a world map??!) He wrote:

“Needless to say, it was an eye-opening, thought-provoking trip that gave me a lot of different perspectives on health care and on life in general. Besides working in the hospital, we were able to go to a couple rural clinics, orphanages,

and do touristy things as well (i.e.- game parks, we saw lots of wild animals). Swaziland has been devastated by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The World Health Organization estimates that approximately 40% of Swazis are infected. The ramifications of the disease are readily visible, namely in that the life expectancy of the population is around 37 years. I could go on and on about my trip and everything that I saw.”

As you can see, our graduates end up across the country, in all sorts of exciting jobs and career paths. Some jump right into jobs from their undergraduate degree, many continue on (sooner or later) to further education, as is often necessary for careers in the sciences. And hopefully you can also see that success at these various careers requires a combination of skills: knowledge of biology is important, but so are analytical skills, oral and written communications, time management, personal interactions, and more. As we move into another academic year, we hope to provide you the opportunity to develop all of these talents!



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Bio Sci III Under Construction

The Biology Department will be seeing some major changes over the next 5 years. A new building, BIO III, is currently under construction. BIO III is set to open Fall, 2007 and will house research labs for some of the faculty in the Biology and the Biochemistry Departments. In the years to follow, the existing Biology building will be completely renovated, so that teaching, research and student spaces will all be improved.



To view the pictures of the ongoing construction, visit our website at:

www.wright.edu/biology

Completion of the entire project is set for Spring, 2010.

Students in the News.....

- For the 6th consecutive year, a team of WSU students placed in the top 10 universities competing in the National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl. This year's team captain was one of our very own biology students, **Jennifer Rammel**. The competition challenges college students' critical reasoning skills as they examine moral cases anchored in current ethical topics such as national security, emergency management, and eminent domain.
Ms. Rammel has also co-authored a publication in the Journal of School Health. The article, titled "*Barriers to Care of Inner-City Children with Asthma: School Nurse Perspective*", was published this year.
- **Rob Ligas**, B.S. Biology 2006, received an internship through the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Bureau of Land Management. The 5-month internship was located in Twin Falls, Idaho and involved work in riparian monitoring and assistance to the fisheries program collecting data on sensitive species.
- According to recently published data, in the most recent year for which national data are available (2004-2005), WSU graduated **3 African American students with M.S. degrees in Biology**. And though that number is small, it was tied with Case Western for the most in Ohio and the 30th highest in the country.
- **Stefanie Ward**, a 4th year biology student, spent a summer at the University of Missouri Columbia as a Mizzou summer research intern. She worked in the National Center for Soybean Biotechnology. A poster of her research is on display outside of Dr. Smith's lab (124 BH)
- The Biology Club has elected new officers for the 2006-07 academic year. They are: **Jennifer Dazey**, President; **John Trombley**, Vice President; **Elaine Schaaf**, Secretary; **Laura Bonvillian** and **Becky Brudzynski**, Activities Coordinators.
- **Eusondia Barto** recently presented her undergraduate departmental honors research titled "*Proteins released by White Green Ash in response to Wounding by Emerald Ash Borer*". Ms. Barto graduated summer, 2006, with a B.S. in Biological Sciences and worked with Dr. Don Cipollini.
- WSU Student Government recently selected **Theodore Hufford**, B.A. Biology, as a new representative for the 2006-2007 academic year. Mr. Hufford is "adopting" the Biology Club and providing a direct link between the organization and student government.

Students & Faculty

Please send us information on your recent accomplishments so that we can share them with other members of the Biology Dept. Please email them to:

jacqueline.neal@wright.edu

Biology Club Info

Are you looking to meet new friends, take part in extracurricular activities, or volunteer for community service? If so, **join the Biology Club!** The Biology Club is an opportunity for students to become members of an organization that will foster an enhance interest in science through informational seminars, fund raisers, faculty-student relationships and various social activities. The Biology Club will be hosting its first meeting of the year on:

Wednesday, September 20th
4:00 – 5:00 pm
Room 204 BH

Membership is easy! All you have to do is fill out an application form and pay your membership dues (\$15/yr). Stop by the first meeting to fill out your membership (and get a T-shirt!), pick up the fall quarter schedule and meet your '06/'07 Bio-Club officers. *Don't miss out....snacks and drinks will be provided!*

Fall Fest 2006

Date: Friday, September 8, 2006

Time: 10:00-3:00 pm

Place: North Lawn
(Rain location: SU Apollo Room)

* See how you can get involved in the campus and the community. Student organizations, including the Biology Club, will be giving out information and signing in new members at their booths. There will also be food, live bands, inflatables, vendors, and much more. Come join the fun.....and don't forget to **visit the Biology Club booth!**

Burton Leaves Biology for Geology

Dean Michele Wheatly, CoSM, recently announced that the Department of Geological Sciences has been renamed the *Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences*. In addition, **Dr. G. Allen Burton**, a member of the Biology Department for the past 20 years and Professor of Environmental Sciences, has been appointed Chair of this new

department. Dr. Burton is currently the Director of WSU Institute for Environmental Quality and has played a major role in the development of the E.S. Ph.D program. He has 26 years of experience with ecosystem risk assessments and has held several distinguished positions worldwide.



Department Seminars *103 BH, 1:30 pm*

- Sept. 11 ***Evaluating forensic DNA evidence:*** Dr. Dan Krane, WSU
- Sept. 18 ***Variable tritrophic interactions in natural and managed habitats:*** Dr. Lee Dyer, Tulane University
- Sept. 25 ***Pervasive invasiveness and complex trophic interactions: fire ant/aphid mutualisms as keystone interactions agroecosystems:*** Dr. Micky Eubanks, Auburn University
- Oct. 2 ***Genetic variation within natural populations of *Caenorhabditis nematodes*: implications for demography and the action of weak selection:*** Dr. Asher Cutter, University of Toronto
- Oct. 9 ***Translational selection and yeast proteome evolution:*** Dr. Hiroshi Akashi, Penn State University
- Oct. 16 ***Planting the rodent tree:*** Dr. Ronald DeBry, University of Cincinnati
- Oct. 23 ***Gene flow and reproduction in fragmented populations of two understory rainforest species:*** Dr. Catherine Woodward, University of Wisconsin
- Oct. 30 ***Insect antifreeze proteins and related adaptations:*** Dr. John Duman, University of Notre Dame
- Nov. 6 ***Mutational analysis of the maize gamma zein C-terminal cysteine residues:*** Dr. Stephanie Ems-McClung, Indiana University
- Nov. 13 ***Characterization of diverse microorganisms and communities with implications for bioremediation:*** Dr. Matthew Fields, Miami University

Leslie Murdock is New EXB Instructor

The Department welcomes Leslie Murdock as our new EXB instructor. Leslie received her M.S. in Exercise Science from Miami University where she taught Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics laboratories. She conducted research in age-related differences in running and locomotor targeting with structural

interference, as well as triathlon cycle-run transitioning.

Leslie is married with two children, Chloe (7) and Lukas (5). Her hobbies include running half-marathons, kayaking with her husband, travel and spending time with family. She comes to WSU with great enthusiasm for

the Exercise Sciences and high standards for her students. Her goals are to develop well rounded Exercise students through instruction and by providing expanded networking and job opportunities.

Welcome to the Department, Leslie!



The BioLogue is a quarterly student newsletter that contains important dates and information for students in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Need Advising?

If you need to schedule an appointment with an advisor, please call 775-2655 or email bioadvising@wright.edu. Make sure you include the name of the advisor you wish to meet with along with your availability.

Undergraduate degrees:
Jacqui Neal

Graduate Degree:
Laura Buerschen

Clinical Laboratory Sciences
Beverly Schieltz

We're on the Web!
www.wright.edu/biology

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Send comments or questions to
jacqueline.neal@wright.edu

Fall Quarter Schedule:

Dates To Remember.....

- Sept. 5** Fall quarter begins
- Sept. 11** Last day to register, add classes or withdraw and receive 100% refund of fees.
- Sept. 20** Late registration/add fee of \$250 begins
- Sept. 25** Last day to drop w/o a grade
Winter qtr registration begins
- Oct. 23** Last day to drop with a "W"
- Nov. 10** University closed/holiday
- Nov. 11** Last day of Fall classes
- Nov. 13** Final exams for Fall qtr begin
- Nov. 18** Fall commencement
- Nov. 23** University closed/holiday
- Nov. 24** University closed/holiday
- Dec. 7** Last day to apply for Winter quarter graduation
- Dec. 22** University closed/Christmas
- Dec. 25** University closed/Christmas
- Jan. 1** University closed/New Years
- Jan. 2** Winter quarter begins

Congrats Spring 2006 Graduates

Undergraduate

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Stephanie Tubbs | Mariel Giesige | Gavin Spitler |
| Ryan Rillo | Nicholas Gould | Randall Stevenson |
| Ryan Boone | Bradley Hensley | Shantelle Strait |
| Laura Hess | Kelly Johnson | Kristen Tamplin |
| Jared Kleman | Kelly Kammer | Derek Thomas |
| Michaela Miller | Joshua Kesling | Christina Wicker |
| Rachel Atkin | Regina Krendl | Carrie Thompson |
| Aubrey Caldwell | Robert Ligas | Eric Williams |
| Stephanie Carr | Katherine Moore | Marie Recker |
| Erin Cook | Sarah Morris | Khristopher Ballard |
| Dawna Donges | Jonathan Nieves | Leah Underwood |
| Angela Dustin | Robert Partin | Rebecca Van Zant |
| Amy Faulk | Sabre Patton | Chris Williamson |
| Lindsay Ferrau | Jennifer Rammel | Bing Zhang |
| Jacqueline Finke | Dilini Ranatunga | Bailey Britton |
| Lauren Flohre | Joseph Rhodes | Maria Leiter |
| Lauren Fox | Sean Ricci | David Naas |
| Stephanie Francis | Lori Riley-Good | |
| Nathalie Gauthier | Annie Slonaker | |

Graduate

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Stephanie Enright | Jennifer Mattingly | Jacqueline Neal |
| Cynthia Williams | | |