A Note From The Chair

The “other” health care degree: ever consider it?

Spring is in the air. It was obvious today when I took a walk in the park behind my house: the trilliums were blooming, and I watched bluebirds and pileated woodpeckers at their nests. The arrival of spring is equally obvious at Wright State. Of course, another quarter is upon us. At the same time, we hear news on a regular basis about our students’ post-graduation plans—especially about admission to professional schools. Medicine, Physician’s Assistant, and Physical Therapy—those are the ‘big three’ for our students. This has been a good year for our students’ admission to those programs. This spring also brings another event in my own life as one of my own children is graduating from school—in this case, from a Master of Public Health program. Continued on Page 5…
Bio Students in the News

Wright State Biology students shine in many ways. Here are some of the amazing things they are doing on campus and across the globe.

**Jonathan Ali**

You simply must read the most recent edition of the Wright State University Magazine. The cover features none other than Bio junior Jonathan Ali, who is working in research studying the effect of invasive honeysuckle to native species in Dr. Cipollini’s lab. Invasive species control efforts and other aspects cost the nation over $100 billion dollars a year. Jonathan stated, “It is time consuming, but rewarding because I am producing something.” We couldn’t agree more! Congratulations on this fabulous feature Jonathan!

**Daniel Hyman**

Daniel Hyman, a Bio sophomore, was also prominently featured in Wright State University Magazine. Daniel conducts research in Dr. Pohlman’s lab in collaboration with Dr. Morris in the Boonshoft School of Medicine’s Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology. Daniel joined Dr. Pohlman’s research lab in his freshman year, which is commendable, and his current project involves exercise physiology and the applications for patients with diabetes. To learn more about Daniel and the swimming mice (!) please read this great article. The Bio Dept. would like to congratulate Daniel on this spotlight on his work. Hard earned and well deserved!

**Amma Boakye**

Wright State University Bio-Exercise Biology junior, Amma Boakye, was featured in the Wright State University NEWSROOM online series titled, *Opening Doors*. Amma was highlighted for her research studying epilepsy while in Brazil on a study abroad experience. When speaking about research, Amma said, “…research for me is like running…it’s like a runner’s high. You feel like you really accomplished something.” This is a phenomenal accomplishment Amma, and the Bio Dept. congratulates you on this feature!

To read Wright State University Magazine:  
http://webapp2.wright.edu/web1/community/  
To read WSU NEWSROOM:  
https://webapp2.wright.edu/web1/newsroom/2012/03/21/researching-epilepsy-in-brazil/
Spring 2012 Departmental Seminar Series

Seminars will be held in 135 Oelman Hall at 1:30 p.m.

Mar. 26  Dr. Pohlman, Wright State University
“Exercise and dietary interaction in mice”
Host: Dr. Hartzler

April 2  Dr. Chew, Tufts University
“Consequences of multiple species invasions: a native butterfly confronts exotic plants and parasitoids”
Host: Dr. Cipollini

April 9  Dr. Ebert-May, Michigan State
“Evidence-based teaching: Just the facts or thinking like biologists?”
Host: Dr. Schen

April 16 Dr. Jenkins, Purdue University
“Returning fire to the Appalachians”
Host: Dr. Rooney

April 23 Dr. Hundley, Indiana University
“Effects of RNA editing and double-stranded RNA structures on gene expression”
Host: Dr. Bubulya

April 30 Dr. McPherson, University of Toronto
“DNA cross-link damage and Fanconi anemia: the story of the mini-pirate mice”
Host: Dr. Bubulya

May 7   Dr. Greeney, Yanaycu Biol. Stat.
“To eat and not be eaten: avian and lepidopteran life history strategies from Arizona to Ecuador”
Host: Dr. Stireman

May 14 Dr. Feldman, Trent University
“Spatiotemporal dynamics of ducks and hummingbirds”
Host: Dr. Bahn

May 21 Dr. Matteson, Miami University
“Conservation, monitoring, and distribution of pollinator communities in urban landscapes”
Host: Dr. Cipollini

June 4  Dr. Lanier, University of Michigan
“Deep barriers, shallow structure: How history and selection drive diversity in pikas”
Host: Dr. Peters

Congratulations Winter 2012 Graduates!

Elizabeth Gullion       Heather Harrison
Allison Heitman         Nicholas Hess
Sara Jagroop            Melissa Max
Angie Metzger           Stephanie Moeller
Jeremy Morrow           Kim-Dung Nguyen
Dustin Ratliff          Ryan Satchell
Ellen Smith             Marissa Steppe
Rudra Trivedi           Sean Verma
Julie Wood              Insang Yang
Summer 2012 Class Offerings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 115</td>
<td>Evolution &amp; Diversity</td>
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<td>BIO 210</td>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
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<td>BIO 211</td>
<td>Molecular Genetics</td>
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<td>BIO 212</td>
<td>Cell Biology</td>
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<td>BIO 213</td>
<td>Molecular Techniques</td>
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<td>BIO 231</td>
<td>Intro to Ecology</td>
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<td>BIO 402</td>
<td>Current Literature in Cytoskeleton</td>
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<td>BIO 407</td>
<td>Wetlands Biology</td>
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<td>BIO 448</td>
<td>Advanced Cell Techniques</td>
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Important Dates for Spring 2012

- April 1: Last Day to Register, add/drop/withdraw & receive 100% refund using Wings Express
- April 9: Last day to register/add classes without $250 late fee
- April 13: Last day for all students to drop a class without a grade
- May 11: Last day for all students to drop a class with a grade of a W
- May 25: Last day to apply for Aug. graduation

EXB Student Presentations

Exercise Biology students gave poster presentations of their senior projects in EXB 451 Clinical Physiology II this past Winter Quarter. Student projects covered a wide range of subjects and were very well received by those who attended the session. Great work EXB seniors!

Funding News!

Dr. John Stireman has been awarded a new grant, “Phylogeny and evolution of World Tachinidae (Diptera).” Primary collaborators on the grant are at the University of Tennessee and the Canadian National Collection of Insects. The grant summary states, “Tachinidae are the most important group of insect parasitoids outside of the wasps. A sound grasp of their history and a reliable taxonomic infrastructure are necessary to understand their roles as enemies...It will also inform broad issues in biology such as biogeography, ecological specialization and the causes of adaptive diversification.” Congratulations on this new grant Dr. Stireman!
I’ve had a soft spot for careers in public health for a long time—my sister has an MPH degree and has worked in public health in the San Francisco area for the past 25 years. Following my daughter as she has progressed through her studies, and seeing the job opportunities that have come her way (yes, she has landed an exciting job that will start right after graduation), has convinced me even further that this is an excellent career direction. And, indeed, if your motivation for going into health care is to help people—as we commonly hear—you couldn’t do better than to enter public health. Think about it: public health addresses all of those “preventable deaths” that occur from causes that often relate to community infrastructure and human habits. Something like 30 million deaths per year worldwide, and probably between 0.5 – 1 million per year in the US, are classified as “preventable,” deriving from causes that include hypertension, lack of access to clean water and healthy diet, smoking, and others. Doctors tend to treat diseases one patient at a time; public health workers often address the bigger picture.

This brings me to another spring activity. Have you started assembling your summer reading list? I probably don’t need to tell you that you should always have a reading list. For those of you looking to enter medical school, you might be interested to know that our students’ average scores on the Verbal Reasoning section of the MCAT always are the lowest of the three sections, this year more than 1.5 pts below the average score on Biology (and more than 2 pts below for those who have not yet been admitted).

With all that in mind: here are a few books on topics related to public health. Reading them will be enlightening & thought provoking. Who knows, maybe they will get you looking for applications to MPH programs.


Smallpox— the Death of a Disease: The Inside Story of Eradicating a Worldwide Killer, by D. A. Henderson. The eradication of smallpox is one of the great successes of public health in the history of humankind.

Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World, by Tracy Kidder. Paul Farmer is an M.D., but his work to bring equity in health care to poorer nations like Haiti captures the essence of public health.

The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance, by Laurie Garrett. This book is now 15 years old, but the issue of emerging infectious diseases, from viruses encountered in tropical forests to antibiotic-resistant bacteria—how they enter human society, and how we deal with them—remains pressing. Garrett’s more recent book, Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health, argues that most nations are not prepared to deal with an epidemic.

The Making of a Tropical Disease: A Short History of Malaria, by Randall M. Packard. After a major eradication campaign, the US was declared free of malaria as a significant public health concern in 1949. However, the WHO reports that worldwide in 2010 there were 216 million cases of malaria, and more than 650,000 malaria deaths. Solutions include pesticides, mosquito nets, and, hopefully, vaccine development.

Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal, by Eric Schlosser. The title says it all…Access to healthy food & choices about what to eat, are central issues in US public health.


Dr. David Goldstein, Chair
Semesters are coming!

The semester change is real and it is very near. This August will mark WSU’s transition to a semester calendar, which is available on the semester website. There are numerous resources available for you to learn more about the change and the best resource is your academic advisor. Meet with us to discuss what the change will mean for you.

Important Dates:
- Aug. 27, 2012: First Day of Fall Semester Classes
- Dec. 7, 2012: Last Day of Fall Semester Classes
- Dec. 10-15, 2012: Finals Week
- Jan. 7, 2013: First Day of Spring Semester
- April 20, 2013: Last Day of Spring Semester
- April 22-26, 2013: Finals Week

Wright State University

ACADEMIC ADVISING
Please call the Advising Line at (937) 775-4226 to schedule an appointment with an advisor.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES:
Jacqui Neal ~ Dr. Patti Roberts ~ Courtney Smith
Clinical Lab Sciences: Bev Schieltz ~ Dr. Cheryl Conley
Graduate Degrees: Laura Buerschen

EDITOR: COURTNEY SMITH
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