A Note from the Chair…..

Welcome back to Wright State, and best wishes for another enriching year! While we all settle back in here, I would like to recount one of my own summer adventures, and in the process to extol the virtues of getting out of town!

Dayton and Ohio may be “the heart of it all,” but there’s an awfully big world out there in the “periphery!” I have always loved to travel, and I always encourage students to do so. This summer, I had the chance to accompany a group of students and faculty, mostly from Wright State but also from the University of Iowa, on an expedition to Brazil. The trip was built around the theme of “translational physiology,” the interacting contributions of laboratory research and clinical medicine. The 22 American students who participated included a mix of medical students and undergraduate and graduate students interested in careers in biomedicine. Our hosts in Brazil were centered at the Ribeirao (pronounced “Hibeiron”) Preto branch of the University of Sao Paulo and included Brazilian medical students and faculty associated with the medical school, either in research or in clinical practice.

Our time in Brazil was structured around a series of lectures and visits to research and clinical facilities. Students heard about basic aspects of biomedicine (e.g., animal models for research; hypertension; aspects of immun- and neurobiology) and visited various facilities (e.g., dialysis and epilepsy clinics, and cardiovascular research labs). But they also learned about issues less likely to be encountered in their American training, such as problems associated with re-using medical supplies in hospitals (because they can’t afford to discard after one use); the etiology and treatment of tropical diseases like Chagas and Dengue; and the use of starfruit extract (have you eaten starfruit?) in inducing experimental epilepsy, and the dangers of eating starfruit when in renal failure.

Of course the experience wasn’t all structured learning. The students negotiated travel and daily affairs in a setting where few residents speak English. They sampled a diversity of local cuisine (pizza with palm hearts; jabuticaba fruits; corn flavored ice cream; cashew juice; roasted capybara). They were surrounded by the natural diversity of a tropical environment, with parrots overhead, monkeys in the city park, and banana trees around town. They saw one of the world’s largest cities (Sao Paulo, population between 20 and 30 million), and drove past neighborhoods in abject poverty interspersed among ads with Brazilian models selling beauty products.

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Dr. Allen Burton President of SETAC. Dr. Burton has recently been elected President for the World Council of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. SETAC is a nonprofit, worldwide professional society that promotes the advancement and application of scientific research related to contaminants and other stressors in the environment, education in the environmental sciences, and the use of science in environmental policy and decision-making. Congratulations Dr. Burton!

Dr. Bobbie Pohlman Receives Teaching Awards. The Center of Teaching & Learning awarded faculty members who embraced high-end technology by using WebCT to enhance or deliver courses. Dr. Pohlman was one of their lucky recipients. She was also Honors Teacher of the Year. Congratulations Dr. Pohlman!

Andy Diller Honored with Senior Leadership Award. Andy Diller, a 2005 honors graduate of Biological Sciences, received the most prestigious award given to a WSU senior: The Distinguished Senior Leader Award. This award is given to a graduating senior who has contributed greatly to the betterment of the campus community through activism and involvement. Andy also received the Outstanding Community Service Award and was accepted to WSU School of Medicine. Way to go, Andy!!

Department News

New Advising Center: Our Department Advisors have moved to a new location! Jacqui and Laura can now be found in room 104 BH. The Advising Center contains offices for both advisors as well as a waiting room for students. Open advising hours for Fall quarter are as follows:

Jacqui: 9:30 – 11:30 am  T, Th
1:00 - 3:00 pm  T, Th
*other times by appointment

Laura: appointments only

New Faculty Members! The Department welcomes 3 new faculty members and 3 new instructors. Our new faculty members include Dr. Lisa Kenyon (Bio-Science education) Dr. John Stireman (invertebrate ecology and evolution) and Dr. Paula Bubulya (cell and molecular biology). We also welcome our new instructors, Dr. Tom Bubulya and Meredith Reedy as well as our new adjunct instructor, Reggie O’Hara. Please read pages 3-4 of the newsletter to learn more about our new members.

WSU Twosome Preparing for “Fear Factor”: Reggie O’Hara, our new EXB adjunct instructor and an exercise physiologist at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and Stacy Osterholt, a graduate student in our department specializing in exercise biology, were chosen as finalists for the NBC reality game show Fear Factor. Both have signed contracts with Fear Factor and were informed that they could be flown to Los Angeles if chosen to appear on an episode. Reggie and Stacy have been undergoing intense training regimes to enhance their chances of winning as they wait for the final phone call to appear on the extremely challenging game show. Good luck to both of them!

Dr. Dan Krane Appointed to Forensic Science Board. Dr. Krane was recently appointed by the Governor of Virginia to the state's Scientific Advisory Committee for the newly created Forensic Science Board, which oversees the Division of Forensic Science. The legislation creating these entities was passed in recognition of the need for scientific and political oversight of DFS to address quality control and administration concerns. In the process, Virginia hopes to become a model for the new generation of state crime labs. Congratulations Dr. Krane!

Dr. Keith Grasman Heads North. Dr. Grasman has accepted a new position at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, starting Fall quarter. Dr. Grasman, who received his undergraduate degree from Calvin, has been a member of our faculty since 1995 and has been a key contributor to our Environmental Health Science undergraduate and graduate programs. Dr. Grasman taught courses in Ecotoxicology, Natural Resource Management and Intercellular Communication, among others, and was advisor to numerous students in his laboratory. We wish him the best in his new position!
New Faculty Members

Dr. Lisa Kenyon
My research interests include explicit instruction of nature of science and inquiry-based instruction for K-16. I recently finished a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Northwestern University where I designed science curriculum materials for middle school students. One of my design strategies has been to integrate a functional approach of nature of science for constructing and evaluating scientific explanations. I received a B.S. in biology from University of Missouri-Kansas City, a M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University, and an Ed.D in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Houston. I also taught undergraduate biology courses and developed and taught a nature of science course at Texas A&M University at Galveston.

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Dr. John Stireman
My main research interests are focused on the ecology and evolution of invertebrate animals, primarily insects. I find particularly fascinating how insects interact with one another and with other organisms, and how these interactions influence the structure and function of ecological communities. I view all facets of my research from an evolutionary perspective and I am deeply interested in how the amazing diversity of life on earth has evolved over the last few billion years. I have a broad biological background and an intense love of Natural History. Some of my recent (and ongoing) research projects have included: An analysis of the evolution of ecological specialization, speciation in plant feeding insects, host-race formation in insect parasitoids, community dynamics of wasps in fig fruits, and ecological determinants of parasitism in caterpillars. My research involves both lab and field work, the latter of which has been conducted in the Midwest US, Louisiana, Arizona, Mexico, and Ecuador. My favorite animals are flies, especially tachinid flies, which attack other insects and whose young eat their host from the inside while the host is still alive! I am excited to join the excellent faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences at Wright State University and I look forward to sharing my knowledge and enthusiasm about ecology, evolution, and invertebrates with graduate and undergraduate students.

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Dr. Paula Bubulya
My research interest is to understand how structures in the nucleus of mammalian cells are involved in regulating gene expression. I am studying the functions of several newly identified nuclear proteins that likely play exciting roles in pre-mRNA synthesis and processing. My favorite research tool is the microscope, which I use to observe the movements of nuclear components in living cells. I encourage students to visit my lab to see movies of cellular proteins in action!

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Reggie O’Hara

I am employed by Wright Patterson AFB as a research exercise physiologist and when I’m not working I enjoy running, resistance training, and swimming. I have two Master's Degrees; one in Exercise Physiology and the second in Biology. Additionally, I am near the completion of my Ph.D. I believe that to teach is to learn twice and I want students to understand practical techniques they can use in the field when they are employed. I will be teaching our EXB 353 course this fall.

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Meredith Reedy

I received both my Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences (2001) as well as my Master's degree in Microbiology and Immunology (2003) from WSU. I was employed as a research assistant at Cincinnati Children's Hospital shortly after graduation in 2003 and later established a position as a research associate for Drs. Tom Brown and Mark Anstadt, both professors at WSU. I will be teaching the Microbiology course M&I 220 for nurses.

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Dr. Tom Bubulya

My doctoral and postdoctoral research focused on understanding the regulation and localization of transcription factors during interphase and mitosis. Last year, I made a career transition to bioeducation, and I had the pleasure of teaching current molecular biology techniques to high school students and teachers at the Dolan DNA Learning Center at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. I hope to initiate new community outreach programs at the high school level here at Wright State University, and I am also very excited by the opportunity to interact with WSU undergraduate and graduate students. I will be teaching BIO 492 section 04 this fall.

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**WINTER QUARTER – Sneak Peeks**

**Schedule for BIO 492:**
- Section 02: P. Bubulya
- Section 03: Dr. Runkle
- Section 04: Van’t Hof

**Schedule for BIO 800:**
- Section 01: Dr. Vadeboncoeur
- Section 02: Dr. Arlian
- Section 03: Dr. Runkle

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**Quote for the Quarter:**

"The more decisions that you are forced to make alone, the more you are aware of your freedom to choose."

--- Thornton Wilder

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**Spring 2005 Graduates**

**Undergraduate Students**
- Jonathan Bailey
- Amanda Brookey
- Lataasha Cowen
- Michael Dorsch
- Amy Hamilton
- Bryan Liming
- Sarah Miller
- Krystal Sherman
- Esley Heizer
- Carl-Johan Hillstrom
- Shannon Romer

**Graduate Students**
- Scott Baker
- Dale Brown
- Jennifer Crabtrey
- Jennifer Eckhart
- Eric Harris
- Blake Lloyd
- Kimberly Morris
- Nathan Smith
- David B. Fisher
- Carol J. Hillstrom
- Shannon Romer

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**Biology Shirts for Sale.** The Biology Club is selling long-sleeve T-shirts to raise money for the club. A sample shirt is on display across from 217 BH. If you are interested in purchasing one, please see Jacqui in room 104 BH. Prices start at $12 per shirt. Support the Biology Club….buy a shirt!

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**Join the Biology Club!**

Are you looking to meet new friends? Or take part in extracurricular activities? Maybe even volunteering for community service? If so, the Biology Club is a great way to achieve all of those goals. The Biology Club is an opportunity for students to become members of an organization that will foster an enhanced interest in science through informational seminars, fund raisers, faculty-student relationships and various social activities. Membership is easy! All you have to do is fill out an application form and pay your membership dues ($15/year). Fall quarter is filled with meetings, presentations, social events, and much more! Come join us at our first meeting.....

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**Biology Club Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 21st**

4:30 – 6:00 pm
204 BH

......we will be reviewing the Fall quarter agenda, introducing the ‘05/06 Bio-Club officers and meeting new club members. Don’t miss out…..snacks and drinks will be provided! (If you can’t make the meeting but still like to join, applications will be available in room 104BH)