
THE NICHE

Biology Department Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 2

College of William and Mary

April 19, 1989

From the Student Editors: THE NICHE Well Received, To Become Monthly Biology Department Newsletter in the Fall

Judging from the response we have received from both students and faculty, the first issue served its purpose well and **THE NICHE** will be continued all next year. We sincerely appreciate the suggestions we have received and wholeheartedly welcome any and all further comments. We've recently acquired our own mailbox, so any communication can be sent to us through campus mail or just by dropping it in the mail room of the department (across the hall from the secretaries' offices). Anything through campus mail should be addressed: **THE NICHE**, Department of Biology.

To reiterate some of what was said in the first issue, we hope to use this publication as a source of information and a pathway of communication on issues of relevance specifically to this department and to biology as a whole. We think that such a device can prove useful in a community as large and diverse as the Biology Department. Among the things we hope to present here is a resource for students to become more familiar with the faculty and acquire a knowledge of each faculty member's area of specialization. This, we believe, will help facilitate choosing advisors and picking faculty with whom students would like to do individual research.

We would also like to create a method of recognizing achievement within the department and informing the community of the activities and accomplishments of the faculty and students in our Department.

Although we three are the only ones listed below, we could not have published this issue without the help and cooperation of many others including every member of the faculty. We sincerely thank them, and the others whose suggestions and time have proved so valuable. Anyone else who would like to help out is welcome! If you

would like to contribute to this, please get in touch with one of us, either through the mail, or personally. Again, we'd like to thank everyone who helped create this issue and eagerly welcome any suggestion or contribution. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Dave Haworth, Elise Hughes, and
Bruce Koplan*

ALL BUT THREE COURSES STILL HAVE OPENINGS FOR FALL

All Biology Majors should be enrolled in all Biology courses for which they registered as "Priority 1 or 2." If you were disenrolled from a course that you indicated as 1 or 2, please come to the Office of the Chair. Apparently there are still some flaws in the Registrar's computer program.

The following courses have ten or more openings: Comparative Anatomy; Genetics; Mycology; Cell Biology; Radiation Biology; Vascular Plants; Aquatic Ecology; Entomology; Molecular Biology of the Gene (note: undergraduates with permission of the instructor can enroll in the laboratory for this course).

General Ecology, which will also be offered in Spring Semester, experienced a serious over-enrollment (more than 100 students registered for 48 spaces). The Department will consider offering both sections of Ecology in the Fall after next year, as we are beginning in Genetics this Fall (**NO STUDENT WILL BE TURNED DOWN FOR ENROLLMENT IN GENETICS LECTURE NEXT FALL**).

Both Vertebrate Biology and Animal Physiology (which is offered both semesters) were slightly oversubscribed. If you did not register for them as Priority 1 or 2, you may have been disenrolled. Please see instructor.

BIO CLUB NEWS

The Clayton-Grimes Biology Club recently elected new officers. The Bio Club is completing an active growing year during which participation and finances have grown remarkably. A letter from the new President follows:

Dear Professors and Students,

My name is Jonathon Akin and I am the newly elected President of the Clayton-Grimes Biology Club. I believe that the Biology Club can serve as an important liaison between the department and biology oriented students. The Biology Club currently has more members and funds than ever before and we will be able to have even more activities and projects next year. Please contact me if you have any comments or suggestions (address: The Clayton-Grimes Biology Club, Department of Biology).

Sincerely,

Jonathon A. Akin

The other newly elected officers are:
VP-Social affairs: Thu Le
VP-Fundraising: Jim Lowry
VP-Philanthropy: Amanda Allen and David Haworth
VP-Publicity: Lara Palinesar, Erika Shugart, and Suzanne Wenderoth

Congratulations and good luck in the coming year!

FOUR BIOLOGY MAJORS INDUCTED INTO PHI BETA KAPPA

Four Biology majors were recently elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Congratulations to Peter Matthew Alberti, Julie Kathleen Hill, Rebecca Ellyn Humes, and Mei Teck Tan. We are proud of their academic accomplishments and wish them luck in their future plans.

BIOLOGY FACULTY TO HOST GRADUATING SENIORS APRIL 27th AT LAKE MATOAKA PICNIC

The Department invites all graduating seniors to a picnic celebration. Food and beverages will be provided. To get an idea of how many of you will be attending we will put a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from Millington 117. Please sign-up and come enjoy a pleasant afternoon together with the faculty.

FACULTY NEWS

Since the last issue, the editors of THE NICHE went to faculty individually to ask for suggestions or contributions and the response was overwhelming. Nearly every faculty member had something to contribute and all were extremely helpful. Because of limitations of space we could not print everything this extremely active faculty does, and we may have missed someone because of schedules. To those missed or left out we apologize. We will get you next time. And, if anyone would like more information about the activities, research or accomplishments of our faculty, a summary of activities can be picked up in the Chairman's Office. Some of the faculty and their more recent activities are listed below.

- -Dr. Black is continuing his research on the stinging polypeptides found in jellyfish.
- -Dr. Bradley is continuing his work on reproductive physiology utilizing new equipment including an oxygen monitoring cage. Bradley, Chair of the Department's Undergraduate Honors and Research Committee, is the faculty member to contact for information if you are interested in undergraduate or honors research projects.
- -Dr. Brooks has an article entitled "Predator-prey Size Relations in Three Species of Lizards from Sonora, Mexico," co-written with J.C. Mitchell in press in THE SOUTHWEST NATURALIST.

- -Dr. Byrd is currently working with several state and federal government agencies, primarily doing bird counts and analyses. He has two articles currently in press and is working with substantial grants in the areas of ornithology and endangered species.
- -Dr. Grant has two articles published recently, "Background selection by the peppered moth (*Biston betularia* Linn.): individual differences," co-authored with Rory J. Howlett published in *BIOLOGICAL JOURNAL OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY* (1988), 33:217-232. and "Reverse sex-ratio adjustment in an apparently outbreeding wasp, *Bracon hebetor*," co-written with his honors research student, Karen S. Galloway, published in *EVOLUTION*, 43(2), 1989, pp.465-468.
- -Dr. Hall will travel to Borneo this summer to observe the plants and animals of this East Indian island.
- -Dr. Wiseman, the Department Chair, has recently co-authored a book, *THE OLD COLLEGE TRY: BALANCING ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS IN HIGHER EDUCATION* with John Thelin, the School of Education, due out in September. He was also the speaker at the School of Education's Annual Lecture on Higher Education and Public Policy. His topic was "The Industrialization of American Universities".

MILLINGTON 150 GETS A FACE LIFT THIS SUMMER

Millington auditorium, with few desks left whole, and the ones left older than most students here, is getting completely redone over the summer vacation. Included in this upgrade are new seats, new carpets, re-painting, new wall-coverings and new chalkboards. Everyone who uses the auditorium looks forward to these long overdue improvements!

WE STILL NEED A LOGO!!

We hope to have a logo to go on the first issue of *THE NICHE* in the Fall.

DR. KIM REECE JOINS DEPARTMENT NEXT YEAR AS VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. Kim Reece, who has been with us on a part-time basis this semester giving lectures in Genetics, will join the Department as a Visiting Assistant Professor for the 1989-90 academic year.

Dr. Reece will be teaching Molecular Biology of the Gene in the Fall while Dr. Black coordinates a new Honors Course for first-year students. Our new faculty member received her Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from Cornell University in 1988, and her B.S. in microbiology from the University of Rochester. Her research concerns the molecular evolution of the rice actin gene family.

Undergraduates interested in taking Molecular Biology of the Gene Laboratory next Fall see Dr. Reece to discuss the possibility. This graduate laboratory is open to interested undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

THANKS TO DRS. BROADWATER, SCHENCK, AND WEEKS FOR THEIR PART IN A SUCCESSFUL DEPARTMENT YEAR

The Department is indebted to Dr. Sharon Broadwater (teaching Cell Biology and Human Physiology), Dr. Russell Schenck (Genetics and Biostatistics), and Dr. Beverly Anne Weeks (Immunology) for their contributions this year.

Broadwater will be returning to her post at Lafayette High School in Williamsburg; Schenck has accepted a position in Michigan; and Weeks continues on the faculty at William and Mary's School of Marine Science. These three biologists enriched our curriculum and our experiences as faculty and students while they were with us. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS -- WE WISH YOU THE VERY BEST!!!

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College of William and Mary
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Department To Get Scanning Electron Microscope and Other Equipment

Within the next several months the Department will be installing a new Scanning Electron Microscope. Together with the Transmission Electron Microscope on the second floor, this new addition will add to the growing Electron Microscope Suite. In addition to faculty and student research, the improved and expanded facility will augment the Cell Biology course.

The new microscope is part of more than \$300,000 in recent equipment purchases made possible by the Commonwealth of Virginia Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund. This Fund, established by the state, is meant to upgrade scientific and research equipment in Virginia's public colleges and universities.

**GOOD LUCK ON YOUR FINAL EXAMINATIONS AND
HAVE 'A GREAT SUMMER!!!**

THE NICHE
Department of Biology
College of William and Mary
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TO:

***** WELCOME ALL NEW BIOLOGY MAJORS *****
