Sutherland Migrates South

Next year, one smiling face that will no longer grace the hallowed halls of the Science Center is that of Ms. Jessica Sutherland. Jessica, the Grand Poobah of Concepts laboratory, will begin a PhD program in Environmental Toxicology at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. We will sorely miss the wisdom, wit and clever stunts that have enlivened our department. To Professor Fern Liverwort, we say a sad goodbye, thanks for everything and best wishes.

Knox Presents Gift

As a farewell gift, Dr. Cheryl Knox, CSB/SJU Biology Department molecular biologist and poet, gave a bottle each of vitamin C and vitamin E to Ms. Jessica Sutherland. Upon presenting these valued gifts, Dr. Knox read the following poem she wrote in Jessica’s honor:

Because as a student your diet will be in the toilet,
We’re giving you something to help control it.
Call us weird, alarmists or even fanatics,
Here’s something to slurp up those nasty free radicals.

Why Do Textbooks Cost So Much?

In late April, Mr. Kevin Kane, Executive Editor for the Life Sciences for Wm. C. Brown Publishing, visited campus and presented a lecture, “Why Does Your Biology Textbook Cost So Much Money?” Kevin, who is an SJU English Major alum, provided a behind the scenes description of what goes into the production of a textbook. Among the many items he discussed is the paradox of price: on one hand textbooks are overpriced, but they are worth it. He also described some possible scenarios for books in the future.

Land Use Presentation

In April, Dr. Stephen Saupe, was invited to give a presentation on “Land Use” to prepare a group of students from Distric 742 for a state competition in the Future Problem Solving Program. Dr. Saupe used empty film cans and seeds to model the grazing of a pasture as an example of the tragedy of the commons.

Infectious Disease Lecture

Dr. George Lavalle, Chief of Clinical Laboratories for the Minnesota Department of Health, visited campus to present a lecture entitled, “What’s New in Infectious Diseases of Public Health Concern”. Dr. Lavalle’s very informative lecture focused on several diseases that people commonly think have been “conquered”. These include tuberculosis and the sexually-transmitted diseases such as syphilis. Tuberculosis is particularly frightening because, after many years of decline, the infection rate is on the rise. This disease is especially problematic because it can be readily transmitted and because many strains are resistant to common drug therapies. Dr. Lavalle indicated that some health professionals are advocating the isolation of tuberculosis patients.

Ford Gives Bird Walk

Dr. Norman Ford, CSB/SJU Biology Department, gave a bird walk as a part of the Earth Week celebration on campus. Dr. Ford was accompanied by several interested birders including special guests Mr. Kevin Kane (Editor for Wm. C. Brown Publishers and Co-chair of the U.S. Environmental Protec-
Pollution Prevention Presentation

Mr. Kevin Kane, Co-chair of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Committee on Pollution Prevention Education, visited campus during Earth Week and gave a presentation about his role in pollution education. He described a project sponsored by the EPA which is designing hands-on educational activities for children in grades K-12 to develop awareness of environmental pollution.

Oak Hill Elementary Visits

The fourth grade from Oak Hill Elementary School, St. Cloud, visited the Biology Department to learn about plants. Dr. Stephen Saupe, CSB/SJU Biology Department, gave the group a tour of the greenhouse and did some seed germination experiments with them. The children then took a hike to the chapel.

Wetlands Workshop

The CSB/SJU Biology Department in conjunction with St. John’s Abbey and the Central Minnesota Audubon Society recently sponsored a “Wetlands Workshop”. The morning sessions, which were held in the Science Center focused on educational aspects of wetland classification, restoration techniques and preservation. In the afternoon, participants had the option of touring the St. John’s wetlands with Father Paul Schwietz or a restored wetland on the farm of Jim and Carol Kuebelbeck (parents of Stacy, ’91 CSB Alumna).

Earth Day Mushroom Walk

On a cold, drizzly day, Dr. Stephen Saupe, CSB/SJU Biology Department, lead a group of about a dozen hearty (or fool-hearty) naturalists on an expedition to hunt for mushrooms. Although it was still too cold to find many ‘shrooms, the explorers did uncover jelly fungi, various bracket fungi and some spring flowers like hepatica. This walk was a part of Earth Week activities.

Diedrich and Saupe Visit Whitney

Dr. E. Diedrich (Economics) and Dr. S. Saupe (Biology) were recently invited to the Whitney Senior Center, St. Cloud, to lead a discussion concerning environmental issues. Diedrich and Saupe report that they had a great time - the conversation was so lively that it was hard to keep up with the group.

First (and probably last) Anatomy and Physiology Poetry Reading

by J.E. Sutherland, CSB/SJU Biology Department

It all started when I asked my Tuesday night A&P lab students to come up with a creative response to the quiz question “What is cryptorchidism?” if they did not know the real answer (the failure of testis to descend into the scrotum). They replied that there was no room for creativity in the anatomical realm (everything has already been named for instance) or in their 200 level physiology studies (they are merely asked to repeat experiments that millions of students before them have also done). I responded by informing them that the field of anatomy and physiology poetry was wide open. Thus, we decided to hold a poetry reading in conjunction with the last lab of the year. I’ve included my entry merely as an example (see below). The real “winners” (and I’m not sure one can “win” at poetry) were Barb O’Connor (CSB Junior, Dietetics Major) and Keri Noshub (CSB Sophomore, PreMed) for their rendition of “We All Live in a Woman’s Ovary”, which was unavailable at press time.
Congratulations to May Graduates!

Degrees in Biology:

Susan Akhaven
Robert Anderson
John Becker
Stephen Belatti
Gerrit Berg
Lisa Brettin
Patrick Carey
Brent Carlson
Elizabeth Conrad
Christopher Cowan
Jacqueline Dahle
Mark Fernholz
Rachel Franklin
Daniel Frechette
Christopher Haeg
Mark Halstrom
Steven King
David Knight
Ryan Kray
Joyce Kurpiers
Brian Lenenzeier
Peter Leonovitz, III
Rodney Link
James Leeffelholz
Alison Lundberg
Elizabeth Luzum
Kaimana MacDonald
Christopher Mack
Michael MacKen
Scott Mensen
Richard Mewes
Timothy Moschkau
Eric Myers
Jason Naber
Jessica Nei
Timothy J. Panek
Darrell Paveka
Julie Reitmaier
Kimberly Reuter
Shawn Roskop
Benjamin Roy
Peter Skwira
Darrell Suchy
Christopher Swanson
Mathew Swenson
Mary K. Tefft
Jamey Tielen
Lorie Warren

Degrees in Natural Science:

Stephen Augustine
Bryan Beel
Edward Conley
Thomas Drake
Kristina Everson
Christopher Johnson
Mark Johnson
Nancy Kilzer
Kevin Koll
David Lukinac
Gerald Marthaler
Sean Masterman
Paula Murphy
Corina Sarsland
Amy Stevermer
Daniel Weinberger

Page Three
Ode to the Kidney
by J. E. Sutherland,
CSB/SJU Biology Department

I think, that in my lifetime, I shall never see,
An organ more elegantly designed than the kidney,
It and its partner located retroperitoneally in the abdomen
Anchored by connexive tissue that keeps them from roamin'.

It receives blood from the renal artery at very high pressure
So high, in fact, that in the efferent arteriole, it is difficult to measure
The solutes in the blood then begin a journey quite perilous,
As they are squeezed thru the capillary walls of the glomerulus.

So all of the small molecules end up in the filtrate
As they pass thru the tubules, each having their own fate
Water, amino acids, and glucose are reabsorbed; urea is not
For we must get rid of what amino acid metabolism hath wrought.

In those tubules, water reabsorption would be in pandemonium
If it weren't for the active transport of a whole lot of sodium
Likewise, where toxins are concerned, the body won't be defeated
They are brought to the kidney where from the tubule, they are secreted.

If I ended this poem without mentioning ADH I'd be remiss
Ethyl alcohol shuts off its production hence the greater need to piss
So if you think that visits to the restroom don't warrant cheering
Just remind yourself of the miracle that is your urine.