

CSB/SJU Biology Department Newsletter

Volume 1 Number 3

May 4, 1998

1. Message from the Chair (Dr. SG Saupe).

Maybe it was the weather. Who knows? Anyway, sorry I missed sending the newsletter out last week. Hopefully this issue will make up for its absence.

I've been especially busy with registration issues during the past several days. At this time, most of our upper division courses are full or nearly. Although the Biology Department considers this a healthy sign of student interest in a very exciting area of study, it has caused some problems for students wanting to enroll in these courses. However, there is GOOD NEWS. By late Monday or early Tuesday, we should have opened some additional sections of courses such as Plant Taxonomy and Virology. This should significantly improve our space crunch. If you have problems enrolling in Biology courses, please contact me (x2782, ssaupe@csbsju.edu).

Late last week, faculty and staff were given a tour of the new science building which is about 70% complete. It's starting to look pretty good inside. The lab spaces look fabulous. I can't wait to teach Plant Physiology in the new Cell/Development lab space. And, we will have a great culture facility for doing plant tissue culture work. The Science Museum will move out to the entryway and will be in a nice large airy space. We are just beginning to plan for our big move into the new space. If you are a student worker and need to get some extra hours, talk to any faculty member about how you could help us pack up. Thanks.

Lastly, please send me info to include in the next newsletter. Later.

2. Achievements.

Congratulations to Noah Whiteman, SJU Senior, for winning the Winchell Award for presenting the best paper that the Ecology/Environmental section at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Academy of Science, held in Winona this past weekend. Noah's paper, on character displacement in polistine wasps is the result of his Honor's thesis research.

Several student biologists recently represented CSB/SJU at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). This prestigious meeting was held in Salisbury, MD. Tony Baumert (Biology Major, Senior), Karla Johannes Biology Major, Junior), Maggie Price (Biology Major, Senior), David Radabaugh (Biology Major, Senior), Karen Ronningen (Natural Science, Junior)

Perry Regas (Biology Major, Senior), one of the co-presidents of the Biology Club, received an award from the St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce in honor of his volunteer commitment. Congratulations.

Three students recently attended the Undergraduate Research Conference held at St. Mary's College, Winona. They are: Jennifer Loos (Effects of an herbicide, atrazine, on the development of *Rana pipiens*), Maggie Price ("Bumblebee pollination ecology in a restored prairie ecosystem"); and Noah Whiteman ("Morphological character displacement in the social wasp *Polistes fuscatus*"). Congratulations.

Sharon Doucette has been accepted to the Master's Program in Ecology and Natural Resources at St. Cloud State University.

3. Faculty News.

Staff Changes – next year will see a variety of new and renewed faces. The biology department has recently offered jobs to 4 different individuals. Of these, so far only one has officially accepted. Dr. William Lamberts will start a tenure-track position in the department in the fall. He will be responsible for teaching Aquatic Ecology, Plant Kingdom and introductory biology and core courses. We are anxiously awaiting word from the others and will forward this information to you as soon as it's available.

As many of you know, Dr. Ford is retiring at the end of this year. Do stop by his office and wish him well. Fortunately for us, he will be on campus next as an Emeritus Professor.

Dr. Saupe will be directing the South Africa Study Abroad program in the Spring, 1999. The main impact that this will have on staffing is that we will not likely be offering Plant Physiology (BIOL327) this semester.

Dr. Rodell presented a lecture, "Sex, flies, and Darwinian Fate", as a part of the CSB/SJU Collegial Conversation series.

Dr. Henry attended the spring meeting of Minnesota Interlaboratory Microbiology Association in Bloomington in April.

Dr Poff and W. Lamberts attended the NCUR conference in MD. They accompanied several CSB/SJU who presented papers.

4. Curriculum News.

Check Webster for new lab sections of Plant Taxonomy (BIOL308) and Virology (BIOL315).

JT '99 Course Offerings - I realize that's it's early to start to think about January, but you might be interested in the planned offerings for JT99: C Rodell – UMAIE course to New Zealand; M Campos – Topics in Human Biology; E Jensen – Microbes in the Kitchen; J Poff – Biological Crimestoppers; M Webster – Neurobiology; and C Ness – Medical Terminology.

Beginning next fall we will be offering for the first time an integrated environmental studies course (ENVR 250) designed for ES minors. Students entering in autumn 1998 or thereafter will be required to take this course if they want to minor in environmental studies. Students entering before then have the option of the older system or the newer one. Explanations of these two systems are available at: <http://www.csbsju.edu/environment/minor/index.html>. For more information, contact one of the ES directors: Gordie Brown, Ernie Diedrich, or Kate Graham.

5. Biology Club News.

The Biology Club picnic weekend before last was great. Dr. Saupe's softball team were the clear winners.

6. Calendar of Events.

May 5 Dr. William Ardren, SJU Alum, "Conservation Genetics of Steelhead Trout in the Pacific Northwest". SC 326; 4:10 pm

May 7 Ms. Shellie Kieke, CSB Alum, "Immunotherapy: Enhancing the immune system using protein engineering". SC 343; 4:10 pm

May 8 Registration ends

May 11 Peggy Callahan, "Wolves in Minnesota"; Sexton 200; 7:00 pm

May 23 Reception for 1998 Graduates in the Natural Sciences (4-530 pm, following the CSB Commencement; in Ardolf Science Center).

7. Internships/Scholarships/Jobs.

Junior Laboratory Technician - UM. Duties will be to collect data on the food sources of the Karner blue butterfly in the Oak savannah of Wisconsin and northern Minnesota. Contact: Professor Ed Sucoff, 103 Green Hall, 1530 North Cleveland Avenue; Ph: 612-624-7249.

Lab assistant/trainee. Soil, Water and Climate Dept Univ of MN. For more information contact Steve Copeland; 625-2747; 179 Borlaug Hall, St. Paul Campus. Email: copeland@soils.umn.edu

Summer Internships Available At Common Cause. For more information check the website: http://www.commoncause.org/about/intern_intro.htm

Summer Internship Position - The Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Cold Spring, St. John's University and the Minnesota Project are going to provide an internship experience for a talented, motivated individual that works well with little supervision. The purpose of the program is to expose students to environmental issues and give them the opportunity to gain professional experience. For more information, contact Dennis J. Fuchs, District Administrator Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District; 110 Second Street South, Suite 128; Waite Park, MN 56387; ph. 320-251-6718; fx:320-251-9171; dennis.fuchs@co.stearns.mn.us

8. Seminars/Lectures/Symposia.

"Conservation Genetics of Steelhead Trout in the Pacific Northwest" – by William Ardren, an SJU Alumnus from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Tuesday, May 5th, 4:10 pm; SC 343.

"Immunotherapy: Enhancing the immune system using protein engineering" – by Shellie Kieke, an CSB alum currently at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, in the Immunology program; Thursday, May 7, 4:10 pm; SC 343. Shellie will be available to meet with students interested to talk about graduate school, research, life after college, etc. from 2:30-3:30 pm in the Science Center Lounge.

"Wolves in Minnesota" – by Peggy Callahan, Executive Director of the Wildlife Science Center, Monday, May 11, 1998; 7:00 pm, Sexton 200, SJU. This presentation is sponsored by the Environmental Studies group.

Virology is the theme of Nobel Conference XXXIV that will be held at Gustavus Adolphus College, October 6 & 7, 1998. Mark your calendars.

9. Miscellaneous.

10. Frequently Asked Questions.

How do I petition into a biology class that is closed? Obtain an "Add Form" from the Registrar and then contact the chair of the Biology Department. The chair will determine if space is available. If so, the chair will sign the "Add Form". Do not contact the instructor of the course in which you want to enroll.

For more information contact:

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