

# CSB/SJU Biology Department Newsletter

Volume 1 Number 5

May 20, 1998 – The Last One of the Year!

---

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

During the semester I have had some interesting conversations with a student about one of her humanities classes. She has been frustrated because her professor and some classmates have frequently attacked science. For example, they suggest that the classification system established by my hero, Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus, is at the root of our problems with racism. While it's true that Linnaeus established the binomial system of nomenclature and created a popular classification of plants based on their sexual characteristics, to blame him for racism is as absurd as holding Orville and Wilbur Wright for the crash of TWA Flight 800. I could ignore these comments if it was an isolated incident, but it's not. A recent article in *Discover* (March 1998) describes a movement by "left-wing academics" who are vilifying science, and in particular, evolution. According to the author of the article, Matt Cartmill, "the postmodern critique of science runs something like this: There are no objective facts. All supposed "facts" are contaminated with theories, and all the theories are infested with moral and political doctrines. Because different theories express different perceptions of the world, there's no neutral yardstick for measuring one against another. The choice between competing theories is always a political choice". I guess they forgot the lessons they learned in introductory biology. In any event, be sure to read this article because you never know who you'll run into at the beach - if you meet a left-wing academic you'll want to be able to defend my hero Linnaeus (by the way, the 291<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his death is the last day of finals, Friday, May 22nd).

Well, it's getting time for me to start preparing for a trip to the beach, too. But first, I want to wish our 1998 graduates all the best in their future endeavors. Keep in touch and don't hesitate to stop back to visit us. And to everyone I wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous summer. Be safe, and to quote a logo that I read on a napkin in a restaurant that I visited in New Zealand during January Term, "Go Hard or Go Home".

**2. Achievements** – it's the time of year when individuals are getting summer jobs and graduates are looking toward the future.

***Here are some of the responses that were given (in no particular order) when graduating biology majors were asked, "What will you do after graduation?"***

**Tessa Honer** will start PT school in July at Mayo in Rochester.

**Jennifer Loos** - will attend the University of Michigan in the Hospital and Molecular Epidemiology Program in the School of Public Health.

**Ryan J. Rubischko** – will work as a pharmaceutical sales representative for Hoechst Marion Roussel in the St. Paul area.

**Joanna Hoffmann** – will enroll in the Physician Assistant Master's program at Midwestern University, Downers Grove, IL.

**Shana Bischof** - is seeking a job in research.

**Amie Proell** – will enroll in the Perfusion Technology Program at Rush University, Chicago, in September.

**Maggie Price** – will attend graduate school at UC Berkeley in Biostatistics

**Megan Holloway** – is waiting to hear about various positions for which she has applied.

**Eric Kraus** – plans to travel in East and South Africa (Tanzania, Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Zambia) from June through early August, 1998 then pursue work with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources until enrolling in a graduate program in fisheries or aquatic ecology.

**Kari Gapinski** – will attend the Medical Institute of Minnesota for veterinary tech.

**Jennifer Siebenaler** – will work as a Nursing Assistant at St. Benedict's Center in St. Cloud

**Matthew M. Kraker** - will work for Nova Environmental Services in Chaska.

**Leah Genelin** - plans to return to school for perhaps developmental biology.

**John G. Cummings** – plans to get a biologically oriented job that gives the opportunity to travel the world.

**Dennis Olson** – plans to attend Chiropractic College in the spring or fall of '99.

**David Radabaugh** – plans to become a rock-n-roll star or attend graduate school.

**Matthew Steil** – is planning to volunteer in the Peace Corps and then go to grad school to study either aquatics or conservation biology.

**Shana Vifian** – will attend the University of Iowa Medical School

**Matthew C. Lewis** - will work as a laboratory technician in protein crystallography research at the University of Minnesota -Twin Cities with Dr. David Levitt, Dept. of Physiology. He then plans to attend medical school.

**Jen Layton** – has an internship with EcoLab this summer where she will be working in the Food & Beverage Division. Then she plans to dental school for Fall of 1999. In the meantime, she will work at Abbott Northwestern Hospital as a lab tech and phlebotomist.

**Michael Collins** - will be attend the University of Minnesota Dental school this fall.

**Peter Mathison** – dental school and fishing are in his future.

**Jonathan Pohland** – plans to take a year off and then hopefully get into med school.

**Cory Klemmensen** – plans to attend grad school in a year

**Sarah Wanner** – will work with Lab Support, a corporation that assigns it's employees to temporary and long term lab jobs. I plan on doing this for a year or so and then going to graduate school.

**Jen Davis** - will work as a research technician in the oncology research lab at the Mayo Clinic.

**Heather Malmanger** – hopes to work for the DNR and someday move out West.

-----  
***What will you be doing this summer?***

**Sara Meyering** - will work at the University of Minnesota studying SIV, the monkey form of HIV.

-----  
**3. Faculty News.**

**Dr. Norman Ford** – As you know, Dr. Ford will retire at the end of this academic year following 31 years of dedicated service to the students in the CSB/SJU Biology Department. Dr. Ford received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Zoology from the University of Kansas in 1957 and subsequently earned both his MS (1962) and Ph.D. (1967) degrees in Zoology from the University of Michigan. He arrived at St. John's in 1967 and worked his way up through the ranks until he earned his full professorship in 1978. Among the classes he has taught are Vertebrate Natural History, Introductory Biology, Ornithology, Field Biology, and Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy. Dr. Ford was also invited to teach summer courses at the University of Minnesota Lake Itasca Biological and Forestry Station, Bell Museum, and the University of Michigan Biological Field Station. Dr. Ford is a member of numerous organizations including the American Ornithological Union and regularly attends professional meetings. He has presented several papers at meetings and has several publications including his most recent, "Polyterritorial polygyny in native American passerines. *Journal of Field Ornithology* **67**: 10-16 (1996).

The Biology Department has long valued Dr. Ford's many contributions. However, we were particularly gratified when he was awarded the title of **Professor Emeritus** at yesterday's faculty awards ceremony. This honor is bestowed on faculty who exemplify the ideals of teaching and scholarly excellence throughout his/her career. And, even more importantly, Dr. Ford won the **Robert Spaeth Teacher of Distinction Award**. This is, in my opinion, the highest and most significant award that a faculty member can receive. Dr. Ford is a most deserving recipient.

You may want to stop by his office and offer your best wishes. But, don't be too sad, the good news is that he will be around in his office next year to offer advice and a cheerful smile.

-----  
**Dr. Philip Chu** – will be our new vertebrate biologist beginning in the fall. He will replace Dr. Ford. Dr. Chu, who is currently on the staff of the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, recently accepted our offer to join the CSB/SJU Biology and we are very excited about adding him to our staff.

-----  
**Dr. Manuel Campos** – received a grant from "Fight For Sight", the Research Division of Prevent Blindness America, for his proposal entitled "The Involvement of Protein Phosphatases in Regulation of Tetinal Microvascular Endothelial Cell Permeability". In addition, Dr. Campos has received a MacPherson grant from the CSB/SJU Faculty Development Program to support his studies of phosphatases, microcystin and cell signaling in diabetes. Congratulations!

-----  
**Dr. Charles Rodell** - received a Curriculum and Program Development grant from the CSB/SJU Faculty Development Program to sponsor a workshop of Biology department faculty members to discuss curricular issues.

**Dr. Gordon Brown** - received two Curriculum and Program Development grants from the CSB/SJU Faculty Development program to develop instructional materials for the new Environmental Studies course (ENVR 250) and for a proposed summer course in field ecology.

-----

**Dr. Ronald Henry** – received an award at the CSB/SJU Academic Affairs Awards Ceremony for 25 years of service. Great job!

#### **4. Curriculum News.**

No submissions.

#### **5. Biology Club News.**

No submissions.

#### **6. Calendar of Events.**

May 23	CSB Commencement
May 23	Reception for 1998 Graduates in the Natural Sciences (4-5:30 p.m., following the CSB Commencement; in Ardolf Science Center).
May 24	SJU Commencement
May 26	Biology Department must be moved out of the building. Let the renovation begin!
Oct 6	Virology – Nobel Conference, Gustavus Adolphus College

#### **7. Internships/Scholarships/Jobs.**

Minnesota Conservation Corps – work with the Greening of the Great River Park, St. Paul. Paid. For more information contact Mr. Tim Grass (612) 722-7566 or [tim.grass@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:tim.grass@dnr.state.mn.us).

#### **8. Seminars/Lectures/Symposia.**

**Jason Marsh** – presented a seminar entitled, “Effects of Spring Burning on the Blooming Time of Selected Prairie Herbs”, on the last day of class.

-----

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.**

No submissions.

#### **10. Frequently Asked Questions.**

**How do I receive a copy of this newsletter? Can I continue to receive it after I graduate?** *The biology department newsletter is automatically sent to any student who selects “biology” as his/her major or minor. If you would like to receive an email version of the newsletter, send a note to Stephen Saupe ([ssaupe@csbsju.edu](mailto:ssaupe@csbsju.edu)) and ask to be placed on the mailing list. We welcome anyone to our mailing list, even cat lovers and Chemistry majors : ). If you are*

*graduating and want to remain on the list, simply send your new, off-campus email address and you'll feel like you never left!*

**For more information contact:**

*Dr. Stephen G. Saupe*

*Chair & Professor*

*Biology Department*

*College of St. Benedict/St. John's University*

*Collegeville, MN 56321*

*(320) 363-2782; (320) 363-3202 (fax); [ssaupe@csbsju.edu](mailto:ssaupe@csbsju.edu)*