

CSB/SJU BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Number 1
September 17, 1999

Hi.....this is the first issue of the *Biology Department Newsletter* for the 1999-2000 academic year. The purpose of this (hopefully) weekly newsletter is to keep you informed about departmental activities. The newsletter will exist only in email form - we won't issue a hard copy. This first issue is being sent to ALL students. Subsequent issues will only be sent to students who: (1) list biology or natural science as a major or minor; and (2) those who want to be placed on our distribution list. Thus, if you are not a biology or natural science major/minor but want to receive the newsletter, send me an email indicating that you want to be included on the mailing list. *You do not need to do this if you are a biology or natural science major because you will receive it automatically.* Anyone is welcome to join our mailing list!

I encourage you to submit to me items to be included in future editions. Future issues will be formatted like this one. I welcome submissions by email, snail mail, phone (x2782), or fax (x3202). I welcome feedback. If you miss an issue you can read it on our spiffy departmental web site (<http://www.csbsju.edu/biology>).

1. Message from the Chair

Welcome back! As you may know, I spent the spring semester serving as the Director of the CSB/SJU Study Abroad program in South Africa. It was a terrific experience. We had a great bunch of students, saw lots of neat areas and met many wonderful people. Some of my favorite memories including surfing the Indian Ocean and watching wart hogs. I have adjusted quickly to life stateside and enjoying my semester teaching plant taxonomy. We already taken several fun field trips. I hope your semester has started off equally well. I look forward to a great year.

Speaking of great – on Monday don't miss the seminar and visit by Dr. Anthony Mahowald. He is a highly regarded scientist from the University of Chicago and should give a great talk. Later that night, you can catch the Schirber Lecture presented by his wife, which should be equally good.

2. Student News:

Matthew Colaizy (SJU '98) is having a great quarter at the UM Dentistry school. In addition to learning the essential lab work, like cutting crown preps, he also became familiar with several other important aspects of dentistry through his classes. Matt is also getting a better feel for his blue grass style of banjo pickin'. He said, "If I were to die tomorrow I'd die a happy man."

David Grandmaison (SJU '98) is also doing well. He has been tracking Moose up in Thief River Falls. A lot of it has been strenuous labor but the occasional moose autopsy makes the job interesting. He has also been offered a 3-month research position in Hawaii.

Stephen Heideman (SJU '99) has acquired a part time job taking care of tropical plants.

Jenn Jerabek Hasslen (SJU '97) started dental school at Creighton this fall. She spent her summer running around to plan her move to Omaha. Sounds like her hard work paid off and everything is going how she planned.

Steve Klaus - is with the Peace Corps in Mali, West Africa. He has been there for about three months and will be finishing his training and going out to his site to where he will be going to be living for the next two years. It is in the western part of Mali near a city called Kita. He is working with the Natural resource management sector of PC where he mainly works with tree nurseries and plant propagation. Then he will be raising trees from seedlings for lumber, fuel and nutritional needs. He is also am working with fruit tree grafting and environmental education.

Eric Kraus (SJU '98) spent six wonderful weeks of his summer traveling in East and South Africa. Last fall he got accepted for a one-man land management internship that incorporated the local metropark system and the 60+ acres of land and water that he grew up on. His daily activities include anything from greenhouse care to waterfront tree removal. But the real beauty of the work is that it involves everything from the plants to the animals to the water, earth, and sky that they inhabit. Although this kind of work sounds great, Eric's funding terminated at the end of May 1999. Eric then began looking for a seasonal employment job (preferably in the fisheries).

3. Faculty News:

4. Curriculum News: We have completed the class schedule for spring term. There will be 12 upper division courses offered, not including a Journal Club (led by Dr. Reagan) and a techniques course (on pollen sampling).

5. Biology Club News: none submitted

6. Calendar of Events

Sept 20	Schirber Lecture - Dr. Mary Mahawold - "Gender, Justice and Genetics"
Sept 20	Dr. Anthony Mahowald – Uniqueness of the Germ Line: It's Origin and Evolution" – 4:00 pm, New Science 146
July 16-20, 2000	North American Prairie Conference

7. Internships/Scholarships/Jobs

Goldwater Scholarships

Candidates for a Goldwater scholarship must be sophomores or juniors, who are majoring in a NS, plan on a career in the natural sciences (outside of clinical medicine), and have a GPA of 3.7 or better. For more information, contact Dr. Gordon Brown for more information (dgbrown@csbsju.edu)

NSF Graduate Fellowship Program - Seniors planning on grad school in the sciences should consider this program. For more information contact Dr. Gordon Brown dgbrown@csbsju.edu

Are you interested in an "Earthy" Opportunity?

Mississippi Topsoil's, Inc. is a new company, started by an SJU grad (Brad Matuska), that provides natural soil products that improve soil nutrient content, soil structure, and plant growth while naturally suppressing plant diseases and organic recycling services of yard trimmings like grass clipping, leaves, brush trimmings, and tree trimmings to the general public. The purpose of the position is to coordinate and implement duties to meet customer product quality standards, to provide quantitative and qualitative data for product marketing, to maintain a effective and efficient production facility, and to provide the highest standard of customer service. A willingness to learn is the most important characteristic. Others that may help include: customer service experience, ability to communicate well with customers, computer skills, heavy equipment operations, light equipment operations, knowledge of biological systems and related scientific experiments

The greatest challenges/opportunities will be understanding the business to realize the value of its primary aim and understanding customers and implementing tasks/programs to satisfy

their needs. Also, it is a tremendous challenge/opportunity to fully understand a dynamic biological process and participate at the ground floor with the development and growth of a new business, finding a niche where you can meet your goals and dreams.

This position provides the unique opportunity to witness and help develop a new business. In addition, there is the opportunity to become intimately involved at the ground floor, carving out a specific niche in a business and pursuing specific career paths in management, sales, ownership, operations, marketing, etc. **For more information contact Mississippi Topsoils at 267- 4544).**

Floyd Forsberg Environmental Scholarship

The Minnesota Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Scholarship Committee is seeking qualified candidates for the Floyd Forsberg Environmental Scholarship. SWANA is a statewide professional association of individuals and organizations that are involved in resource conservation and solid waste management. SWANA is an international and national association that the Minnesota chapter has been a member of since 1986.

Students enrolled in Environmental Engineering, Public Health, Environmental Studies, Solid Waste Management or other environmental related programs at post High School educational institutions in Minnesota are eligible to apply. Preference however, may be given to SWANA members and their children, undergraduate students (sophomore and up) and graduate students that are enrolled at least half time. This year SWANA is offering two scholarships in the amounts of \$1,000 each. The scholarship(s) will be presented at the 5th Annual Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) and SWANA Conference on October 28, 1999 in Brooklyn Center.

In order to be considered for this year's scholarship(s), the scholarship committee must receive applications no later than October 7, 1999. Completed applications may be mailed, faxed or hand delivered to Rick Patraw at the address shown below: The above information must be sent to: Rick Patraw, Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance, 520 Lafayette Road North (2nd Floor), St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4100; 651-215-0193, Fax: 651-215-0246, E-mail: rick.patraw@moea.state.mn.us.

8. Seminars/Lectures/Symposia

Gender, Justice and Genetics" - Schirber Lecture Series 1999-2000 – by Dr. Mary Mahowald, from the University of Chicago, will be speaking in the Alumnae Hall, HCC on Monday, September 20, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. That genetics is not gender neutral is clear from examination of its particular impact on women, both biologically and socially. This talk documents the impact of genetics on women and develops a conception of justice that is consistent with an egalitarian version of feminism. It argues that inequities triggered by women's reproductive and caregiving roles are inseparable from those associated with class and ability. The conclusion proposes a modest strategy for reducing injustice towards women, the poor, and those who are disabled - especially but not only in applications of "the new genetics."

For more information (including relevant articles written by Prof. Mahowald) contact Dr. Jean Keller at #5097 or jkeller@csbsju.edu.

"The Uniqueness of the Germ Line: its origin and evolution" – lecture by Dr. Anthony Mahowald, Professor and Chair of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Chicago. His laboratory is primarily interested in the genetic control of oogenesis, using *Drosophila melanogaster* as a model system. Thier primary interest is in the establishment and maintenance of the female germ line and they are developing conditions to culture germline cells and to reintroduce cultured cells into the germline of a host embryo. They are also analyzing the role of juvenile hormone in initiating endocytosis of yolk proteins during oogenesis. The lecture will be at 4:00 PM, Monday September 20, 1999 in New Science 143. Before the presentation, from 3:00 – 4:00 pm, Dr. Mahowald will be available to meet with interested students in the Museum. Refreshments will be served.

17th North American Prairie Conference - North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) in Mason City, Iowa, July 16-20th, 2000.

9. Miscellaneous

Does a Quiet Cabin in the Woods Sound Nice?

Sigurd Olson was a Minnesota conservationist and writer. His books include *The Singing Wilderness* (1956), *Listening Point* (1958), *The Lonely Land* (1961), *Runes of the North* (1963), *Open Horizons* (1969), *The Hidden Forest* (1969), *Wilderness Days* (1972), *Reflections From the North Country* (1976), and *Of Time and Place* (1982). In 1974 Sigurd received the Burroughs Medal, the highest honor in nature writing.

The Olson family has recently formed the Listening Point Foundation. As part of this foundation's outreach, they are inviting students to tour the near-wilderness property and cabin called Listening Point and Sigurd's writing shack in Ely, Minnesota. They feel that college-aged students are at the most appropriate level to benefit from this experience.

Research?

The Committee on Research with Human Participants (CRHP) serves as the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the campus communities. The purpose of an IRB is to review research involving human participants (subjects) according to federal criteria which are described in the Federal Register, Volume 56, Number 117, Tuesday, June 8, 1991, which defines research as "a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge." If you are engaged in a "research" activity with human subjects, it is necessary to become familiar with the CRHP policies and procedures to determine whether your study should be reviewed by the CRHP. Some studies are exempt. If you would like more information about the CRHP, a complete copy of our policies, procedures, and forms may be found at <http://www.csbsju.edu/ugacademicdeans/Faculty/staffing.htm> under the link titled "Application for Research with Human Participants." Clicking this link will allow viewing and printing of the CRHP Policies and Procedures using the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Or, call x5681.

Your Environmental Opinion is Needed!

We need your thoughts and ideas to be voiced. Here's an incredible opportunity to offer your opinions on where and how the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund money should be spent. This past November, Minnesotans overwhelmingly voted to continue the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, monies collected from the lottery to be used for the environment. Now the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), the legislative commission that offers recommendations to the legislature on which projects should receive the Trust Fund monies, is asking for your input. This is a great opportunity for you to share what environmental efforts you believe should be funded, and by what criteria. The process is quite simple and we ask that you forward this opportunity to other interested Minnesotans. Please take the time to answer the two following questions: Question 1: What are natural resources and environmental issues needing financial support? Question 2: What criteria should be used to determine Trust Fund expenditures? Send your comments to the LCMR office via fax, e-mail or post by September 17, 1999. Address the replies to: LCMR; 100 Constitution Avenue; Room 65, State Office Building; St. Paul, MN 55155; Fax: (651)296-1321; e-mail: lcmr@commissions.leg.state.mn.us

10. Joke of the week:

This takes place in the future, when cloning is legal

Jim and Tim are clones of each other and they are walking up a hill just talking. Jim is using really harsh words and swearing up a storm, so Tim thinks "This just isn't right, I don't want my clone to be walking around with this attitude and this terrible mouth". When they get to the top of

the hill, Tim decides to push Jim off. Well, Jim ended up dying from the fall. When Tim got to the bottom of the hill, he was arrested for making an obscene clone fall.

11. Frequently Asked Questions: Can I count an internship experience toward the requirements for the Biology Major? Typically, internships do NOT count toward as one of the six upper division courses required for the Biology major. However, individual research projects (i.e., BIOL372) does count. Contact the Chair of the Department for more information.

For more information, contact:

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