

CSB/SJU Biology Department Newsletter

Volume 3 Number 9

November 23, 1999

1. Message from the Chair

Well, it's almost 5:00 pm on Tuesday before our Thanksgiving break. The place is empty but I want to send this off. It was a good week, especially filled with registration issues. However, I did take some time to hear Ron Wienhold's excellent presentation on seed dispersal.

The Bean Counter and Bean ID contests haven't been particularly popular. There wasn't a single entry. So – never one to easily give up, I'm extending the deadline for entries until Study Day. Submit your entries now – you could win a fabulous book. And, there's a new contest, too. The Plant Puzzler Contest. The current puzzler is about watermelon's is posted in the Herbarium and is reprinted below. You can't win if you don't enter.

Have a Thanksgiving.

2. Student News:

Thanks to **Alison Bormann, Tom Warrington, Elaine Fernandes, Claire Hill, Andrea Berg, Ryan Hansen,** and **Steve McGreevey** for presenting a poster at the Summer Research in Biology – 1999 poster session.

3. Faculty News:

Dr. **Marcus Webster** presented the Beta Beta Beta Fall Lecture at Moorhead State University Nov. 9th. His talk was entitled "Getting by on bug juice: energetics and water balance of the Verdin, a tiny desert bird."

4. Curriculum News:

Additional Concepts Lab Added: Because of the unanticipated demand for Biology 116 in spring 2000, an additional section of laboratory was added (Day 6, 1-3:50 p.m.). I apologize to any student inconvenienced by finding Concepts closed. Don't worry, we'll find a place for anyone who wants to take Biol116. If you are having trouble, please contact me (Dr. Saupe; x2782) and I'll make sure you find a spot.

Wildlife Management Requires Botany: I received a call from one of our former students, Amy Forsland, who is currently working for the Silver Lake Ranger District, Fremont National Forest, USDA. Amy reports that students interested in government wildlife biology jobs (GS-486) are required to have 9 semester hours of coursework in botany or plant-related science! As a botanist, I

was excited that the fed's have finally appreciated plants. (as an aside, you are also required to take at least 9 semester hours in such wildlife subjects as mammalogy, ornithology etc., and 12 hours in zoology.) I'm excited that now I can advertise that Plant Taxonomy and Plant Physiology are good courses for students interested in wildlife management!

5. Biology Club News:

none submitted

6. Calendar of Events:

- Nov 24 Entries in the Bean Counter and Seed Identification Contest Due. Submit them in the box in the Herbarium (SC 329).
- Nov 29 Winners of the Bean Counter and Seed Identification Contest will be announced.
- Dec 1 **Expanding the Classroom – Informational Meeting; SC 373**
- Dec 1 Kaplan Practice MCAT – UM- Physics Building, 5 – 9:30 pm. For more information, call 1 800 kap test or www.kaplan.com.
- Dec 2 **"The South African Study Abroad Program 1999: What Really Went On?"** Dr. Stephen G. Saupe; College of St. Benedict/St. John's University; Biology Department; NSC 140; 4:00 PM
- Dec 11 Biology Subject Test – GRE
- Mar 10 Lil' Sibs Weekend
- Mar 31 CSB Senior Parent Weekend
- Feb 15 Deadline for Claire Booth Luce Scholarship Applications
- April 1 SJU Mother-Son Dance
- April 8 Biology Subject Test – GRE
- April 29 Pinestock

7. Internships/Scholarships/Jobs:

Summer Research Opportunities! – by *Dr. Michael Reagan*. If you attended the Summer Research Poster session you saw the many exciting projects that students worked on last summer right here in the Biology Department at CSB/SJU. Because of that poster session there are many students who are interested in doing research next summer. We consistently hear from graduate schools and employers that the single most important thing an undergraduate can do to be admitted to graduate school or to get a job is to be involved in research at some point. There are MANY opportunities for summer research for students of ALL classes, from first year students to juniors. But you need to start thinking and applying NOW! It is very likely that the Biology Department will again have a number of students doing research in labs here on campus. However, *there are many other summer research programs specifically designed for undergraduates!* Just about every graduate school of Biology or Biomedical

Sciences has a summer research program for undergraduates. Students are paid and usually are expected to be in the lab for 10 weeks. These programs are outstanding opportunities for you to be involved in real, cutting edge research. The deadlines for applying to these programs are usually at the end of January or beginning of February! So start looking into these opportunities now! On the third floor of the older science building on the west side (facing the church) there are many posters and fliers for summer research programs. Also, here are some web sites with lots of information:

For information about the Summer Research program at the University of Minnesota: http://biosci.cbs.umn.edu/summer_research/. Applications are posted on the bulletin board outside of Dr. Saupe's office.

For a list of many sites at which summer research programs for undergraduates are located: <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/reu/reubio.htm>

For information about the summer research programs for undergraduates at the Mayo Clinic: <http://www.mayo.edu/mgs/surf.htm>

Additional Information:

- CSB/SJU Summer Research Program: More details to come. Typically students spend 10 weeks working closely with an advisor on a research project. A stipend and room and board allowance are included. Look for more info in January.
- University of Minnesota Summer 2000 Research Program - runs from June 1 to August 13. Application deadline is January 13! Application forms are posted outside Dr. Saupe's office (SC335). More information is available at http://www.cbs.umn.edu/summer_research.
- University of Minnesota NSF-REU Summer Research in Aquatic Environmental Studies. Application deadline January 13. See above for web site.

Integrated Pest Management Research on Sweet Corn and other crops:

Students interested in applied ecology and insect pest management of vegetable or field crops are encouraged to apply. Several students will be hired to evaluate impact of alternatives to conventional insecticides and other studies. Last summer, **Robert Koch** (Senior, Biology Major; x2942) worked in this project. He would be happy to talk to interested students to provide more information. Bob plans to pursue graduate studies with this research team. To contact the group directly, call Bill Hutchinson (612 624 1767) or Eric Burkness (612 624 3670).

Research Opportunity in Microbiology: During his seminar on November 11, Dr. David Sherman, Microbiology Department, University of Minnesota Medical School, expressed a willingness to help students interested in biological research opportunities at the U. Contact Dr. David Mitchell if you would like to take advantage of this great opportunity.

UNCF-Merck Undergraduate Science Research Scholarship Awards:

African-Americans who will be a junior in 2000-2001 academic year with a GPA 3.3 or better and committed to completing two summer internships at Merck are invited to apply for scholarship up to \$25,000 and summer internship stipends of \$10,000. For more information visit the web site: www.uncf.org.

Claire Booth Luce Scholarship - Here's some very exciting news for female, second-year students in the natural sciences: CSB has received a major grant to fund up to four, free-ride (covers tuition, room and board), scholarships for the junior and senior years. These scholarships are specifically destined for women who are not planning a career in medicine. The application deadline will be February 15, 2000. Details are available at:

<http://www.employees.csbsju.edu/hjakubowski/cblucehomepage.htm>

8. Seminars/Lectures/Symposia:

"The South African Study Abroad Program 1999: What Really Went On?"

Dr. Stephen G. Saupe; College of St. Benedict/St. John's University; Biology Department; NSC 140; 4:00 PM. Come listen to the South African national anthem, see images of our students in action, and view a clip from a ceremony held in honor of our group at the Pendla Primary School in the Kwazakhele community.

9. Miscellaneous:

Extending the Classroom Walls: A Unique Biology Course/Research/Field Experience: Informational Meeting - 5:00 pm, Wednesday, December 1; SC 373

During the Spring Term 2001, the Biology Department will be offering students a unique opportunity to mix course work with a field research opportunity. This program will be offered as part of the Learning Communities project sponsored by CSB/SJU and the Bush Foundation.

Students who enroll in the program will spend the first half of the term on campus studying evolutionary ecology, field research methods, writing, and a related Upper Division Humanities or Senior Seminar. During the second half of

the term we will travel to the southern Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina where we will spend five weeks at the Highlands Biological Station doing field research in this ecologically fascinating area. We will also spend a week on the coastal islands of the Carolina's or Georgia, examining a very different ecological setting.

If this program sounds interesting but you can't attend the Meeting? contact Dr. Poff know as soon as possible. (Phone 3179; email jpoff). This is a truly unique course offering and although it is over a year away planning has to begin now. We will be putting together a student list during the next few months, so we must know now if you are interested.

Bean Counter Contest – The CSB/SJU Herbarium is sponsoring a contest to guess the number of seeds in the gumball container. The container is in the display case in entryway of the Science Center. If you guess the correct number you will win a brand new introductory biology textbook. All entries must be submitted by November 24th. Submit your entry to Dr. Saupe via snail mail, email (ssaupe@csbsju.edu) or slide a scrap of paper under my office door (SC 329). The winner will be contacted by November 29.

Identify the Seed Contest – If you correctly identify the species of seeds in the gumball container in the display case (common name, scientific name, family) you will also win a brand-new introductory biology text. Entries must be submitted to Dr. Saupe by November 24th. The winner will be contacted by November 29.

Looking for a good place to study?

Check out the Herbarium or Natural Science Museum. You are welcome to sit and relax or study in a wonderful biological atmosphere.

Taking the MCAT? – Kaplan offers a practice MCAT, no cost, December 1, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus; Physics Building, Room 170, 5–9:30. For more information call 1 800 KAP TEST.

Botanists take Note: The Univeristy of Minnesota is offering a new graude degree program in Applied Plant Sciences that mergers programs in agronomy, horticulture and plant breeding. For more information contact Dr. N. J. Ehlke at ehlke001@tc.umn.edu or visit their web site: <http://www.appliedplantsciences.umn.edu>.

Need Writing Help? Confused about the correct usage of commas, semicolons, verb tenses, in-text citations, etc.? You e-mail them a question . . . they e-mail you an answer. Your Personal On-Line Peer Writing Tutor brought to you by the

SJU Writing Center. Located in the basement of Mary Hall. Contact them at writinghelp@csbsju.edu

New Zealand in January?

Dr. Ernie Diedrich will be leading a UMAIE class to New Zealand during January Term. There is a late opening. If interested, contact Dr. Diedrich at ediedrich@csbsju.edu.

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10. Web Sites Worth a Visit: *(have you visited any cool sites lately? Let us know so we can post them here!)*

Pre-Med Web Site: <http://www.users.csbsju.edu/~premed/>

Biology Department Web Site: <http://www.csbsju.edu/biology/>.

DNR Volunteer Opportunities: Check out the web site at the following address:
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

Claire Booth Luce Scholarship:

<http://www.employees.csbsju.edu/hjakubowski/cblucehomepage.htm>

11. Joke of the week: *(we welcome your jokes and other contributions!!)*
The following were presumably quotes taken from the walls of various public restrooms. *(Someone sure spent a lot of time in the bathroom!)*

The best way to a man's heart is to saw his breast plate open.
Women's restroom, Murphy's, Champaign, IL

Beauty is only a light switch away.
Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

I've decided that to raise my grades I must lower my standards.
Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

If life is a waste of time, and time is a waste of life, then let's all get wasted together and have the time of our lives.
Armand's Pizza, Washington, D.C.

Remember, it's not, "How high are you?" it's "Hi, how are you?"
Rest stop off Route 81, West Virginia.

God made pot. Man made beer. Who do you trust?
The Irish Times, Washington, D.C.

No matter how good she looks, some other guy is sick and tired of putting up with her crap.

Men's Room, Linda's Bar and Grill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

To do is to be. -Descartes

To be is to do. -Voltaire

Do be do be do. -Frank Sinatra

Men's restroom, Greasewood Flats, Scottsdale, Arizona.

At the feast of ego, everyone leaves hungry.

Bentley's House of Coffee and Tea, Tucson, Arizona

It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

Written in the dust on the back of a bus, Wickenburg, Arizona.

Make love, not war. - Hell, do both, get married

God is dead. - Nietzsche

Nietzsche is dead. - God

The Tombs Restaurant, Washington, D.C.

If voting could really change things, it would be illegal.

Revolution Books, New York, New York

A Woman's Rule of Thumb: If it has tires or testicles, you're going to have trouble with it.

Women's restroom, Dick's Last Resort, Dallas, Texas.

If pro is opposite of con, then what is the opposite of progress?

Express Lane: Five beers or less

Sign over one of the urinals, Ed Debevic's, Phoenix,AZ.

You're too good for him.

Sign over mirror in Women's restroom, Ed Debevic's, Beverly Hills,CA.

No wonder you always go home alone.

Sign over mirror in Men's restroom, Ed Debevic's, Beverly Hills, CA.

12. Frequently Asked Questions:

For more information, contact:

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