

# Henson School of Science and Technology

## Department of Biological Sciences

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### February 2009 Newsletter

#### Announcements

- **The Bioenviroins Club** will be sponsoring a Dual Degree social on March 11 that will be held at Ledo's Pizza on Nanticoke Rd. at 6 pm. Faculty and students are invited to attend.
- **Deadline to register for the 6th Annual Science Meeting of the Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex** is Tuesday March 10, 2009. All registration forms should also be sent to Chelsea and she may be reached by telephone at 410-228-2692, ext. 108. The cost of registration is \$20 and you will receive a continental breakfast, lunch, and morning and afternoon snacks. The Annual Science meeting will be held on Wednesday March 18, 2009 at Chesapeake Community College on Rt. 50 in Wye Mills, MD.
- **8th Annual Student Research Conference April 24, 2009**  
This year Salisbury University continues its tradition of supporting student research and education by showcasing the innovative research of top undergraduate and graduate students from across the university. The conference will be held on April 24th, from 12:30-7:30 p.m. in Henson Hall and the Wicomico Room in the Guerreri Center. Submission deadline is April 2<sup>nd</sup>. For more information, go to: <http://www.salisbury.edu/ugresearch/susrc.htm>
- **SU's Ward Museum of Wildfowl** is hosting an annual "Student Art Exhibit". Free and open to the public Feb. 19 - March 22. Museum hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.
- **Biological Drawing & Illustration (BIOL 260)** - Drawings from the students taking BIOL 260 are & will continue to be displayed throughout the semester in the display case outside HS 265 (all the way at the end of the bio lab hallway). Please come check out the great biological artwork that these students are creating. They will be changed weekly.
- **New Bulletin Board:** the new "Opportunities for Students" bulletin board can be found is outside of the Office of Biological Sciences. Jobs, Internships, and more will be posted throughout the year.
- **Coming in April - Henson Speaker:** Dr. Tony Reeves from the US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense. Please go to the following website to view the upcoming seminars hosted by Department of Biological sciences:  
[http://faculty.salisbury.edu/~rlgutberlet/biology\\_seminars.html](http://faculty.salisbury.edu/~rlgutberlet/biology_seminars.html)

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### Achievements/Awards

- **Dana Bronecke** and **Lisa Guy** have been awarded the **Biology Faculty Award** for 2008-2009. Congratulations Dana and Lisa!!!



**Dana Bronecke**



**Lisa Guy**

- The following individuals received Service awards for their years of service at Salisbury University. Dawn Johnson (35 years), Dr. Tom Jones (30 years), Dr. Mark Frana (20 years), Dr. Stephen Gehrich (20 years), Dr. Ellen Lawler (20 years), Dr. Mark Holland (15 years), Dr. Elichia Venso (20 years), Dr. Ann Barse (10 years).
- **Shannon Walters** (graduating in May 2009) has been accepted to College of Notre Dame of Maryland School of Pharmacy.
- **Dr. Williams** was awarded a \$500 travel grant from the Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to attend their annual meeting in New Orleans in April.
- **Dr. Les Erickson** was recently elected as the secretary/treasury for the Mid-Atlantic section of the American Society of Plant Biologists for the 2009-2010 term.
- **Dr. Patti Erickson** was accepted to the Silencing Genomes Workshop at the St. Louis Science Center in St. Louis, MO. This 5-day workshop on RNA interference (RNAi) brings college educators up-to-the-minute with this revolutionary discovery. In labs and computer work, participants learn all the steps needed to go from genomic sequence information to induce RNAi to silence individual genes in the roundworm *C. elegans*. Dr. Erickson plans to incorporate RNAi technology into her Contemporary Genetics (Biol440) course this fall.

### Grant/ Scholarship Opportunities

- Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, **Grants in Aid of Research (GIAR)**: supports fulltime undergraduate students in conducting scientific research in any field of science and

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engineering. Sigma Xi membership not required. Deadline: March 15, 2009.

[www.sigmaxi.org/programs/giar/index.shtml](http://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/giar/index.shtml)

- Biology Majors who are currently doing, or have done, undergraduate research! There is a new scholarship, the **Davenport-Hopkins Scholarship**, available to biology majors. This scholarship is in memory of Dhimitra S. Davenport-Hopkins, a 1975 graduate in Biology. This award honors Dhimitra's love of biology and her enthusiasm for sharing her broad range of interests and knowledge with her students. The scholarship is \$2000. Graduating seniors (May 2009) are not eligible. Application deadline is March 12, 2009. **Requirements include:** 1. Biology Major; 2. Sophomore standing (completed at least 30 credits), minimum of a 2.8 GPA; 3. Completion of Biology 210 and Chemistry 121; 4. Active in undergraduate research; 5. Financial need.  
The application packet must include: 1) an essay addressing your goals as a biologist, and 2) a letter of recommendation from a Biology faculty member. Please bring your completed application packet (essay and letter of recommendation) to Sandy Ramses in the Biology office (HS 230 F). If you have any questions, please send them to Dr. Kimberly Hunter, [kxhunter@salisbury.edu](mailto:kxhunter@salisbury.edu)

### Meetings and Presentations

- SU hosted the first ever Delmarva bat meeting. The meeting brought together staff from Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, Virginia's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and environmental consulting firms, as well as faculty and graduate students from Delaware State University, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Appalachian Laboratory, and **Dr. Hogue** from Salisbury University. The purpose of the meeting was to lay out a strategy for monitoring migratory tree bat populations along the mid-Atlantic coast to assess the potential impact of off-shore wind turbines on these species.
- In February, **Dr. Gutberlet** gave a talk to the Tri-County Bird Club about his trip last June to Alaska. Also he will be leading a trip for the club on Sat., Mar. 7 to locations in the western part of Wicomico County, including spots along the Nanticoke River.

### Activities

- On February 10<sup>th</sup> the department celebrated the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of publication of *On The Origin of Species*. Students and faculty joined together to learn and talk about Charles Darwin and many other great biologists! SEE PICTURES BELOW.
- In 2008, **Dr. Counts** served as a reviewer of the Corbicula portion of the Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan (DRERIP), CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program, University of California – Davis.
- In January 2008, **Dr. Lawler** and **Sarah Rubin** (SU BIO student) went to DC and did research in the Rare Books Room of the Library of Congress. According to Dr. Lawler, they

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studied the nature writings of Henry Callister, a colonial resident of Oxford, MD. In his journal, Callister referred to a book by Dr. John Hill published in England in 1752. At the Library of Congress, they were able to access Hill's book and study the relevant sections to try to determine to what degree Callister's ideas were influenced by Hill.

- **The Henson Sustainability Committee** recently received word that the administration has approved its proposed financial incentive plan for reducing energy use in the Henson and Devilbiss buildings. The committee, which is comprised of faculty from all Henson departments, including Dr.'s Hogue, Stribling, Venso, and Maloof from Biology, will now be putting together a plan to achieve significant energy reductions in these buildings. More news to come!
- **Blue Light Special (BLS)** will be playing The Cactus Club in Salisbury on Friday, April 3, starting at 9:00 PM. **Dr. Les Erickson** plays sax in the all SU-faculty band.
- Twelve Salisbury University Biology, Marine/Environmental Science and Environmental Issues students traveled to Roatan Island, Honduras, as part of a winter course in **Coral Reef Biology** from Jan 10-17, 2009. Lead by **Dr. Ann Barse**, the students in this year's group were: **Lauren Anderson, Kristie Bon, Dana Bronecke, Kelly George, David Hersl, Alex Jacoski, Kristen Lesko, Kyle Martin, Erin Mason, Leigh Anne Riedman, Megan Timony, and Carolyn Weis**. The course actually falls under BIOL 399: International Field Studies. Dr. Ann Barse and Dr. Joan Maloof resurrected the course in 2001 as a coral reef biology class and have taken turns teaching it every winter session since then. Students attend lectures for a week in Salisbury before the trip, learning about the types of and importance of reefs, coral anatomy, how corals grow and obtain nutrition, how they reproduce and where they can survive. We also review recent scientific literature on coral reef ecosystems. In Roatan, we go to Anthony's Key Resort which is home to the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences. From there, we travel by boat to different dive sites most every morning and afternoon. Students can either snorkel or scuba dive at every site. Of course corals - such as acroporids, finger coral, mustard hill coral, several species of star corals, lettuce leaf coral, brain and maze corals, and the infamous fire corals - are a focal point, but fish usually take most of the students attention. With over 500 species of fishes native to the Caribbean, there are plenty to see! Common sightings included four-eye, banded and spotfin butterflyfishes, Queen and French angelfishes, the rock beauty, blue tangs and doctorfish, rainbow, blue and stoplight parrotfishes, various species of wrasses and damselfishes, hamlets, groupers, snappers, squirrelfish, gobies, trumpetfish, barracudas, eels, rays, and seahorses. Interestingly this year, we observed a population explosion of sharpnose pufferfish. We also were lucky to see sea turtles on three occasions by those snorkeling and diving. Students also learned about and then spent some time interacting with a healthy population of captive bottlenose dolphins. Barring some rainy weather, the trip this year was a great success.

**Check out pictures from this years trip below!**

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Coral Reef Biology 2009- Roatan Island, Honduras



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### Publication and Articles (\*Undergraduates)

Ananieva, E., Gillaspay, \*G., Ely, A., Burnette, R., and **Erickson, F. L.** (2008) Interaction of the WD40 Domain of a Myo-Inositol Polyphosphate 5-Phosphatase with SnRK1 Links Inositol, Sugar and Stress Signaling. *Plant Physiology* 148: 1868-1882.

Miriell, V.

**Dr. Briand's** pictures of *Idesia polycarpa*, *Quercus acutissima* and *Styrax japonicus*, from his webpage (<http://faculty.salisbury.edu/~chbriand/>) are being used in a display in the visitor and education centre of Kew at Castle Howard, The Garden of Trees.

**Counts, C.L.** III, and R.V. Jesien. 2008. The Coast of Maryland 1759 - 2007: A selective annotated bibliography of the literature concerning the biology, geology, history, and public affairs of Maryland's Coastal Bays (325 pp.) The publication is available at [www.mdcoastalbays.org/documents2008/CoastalBaysBibliography.pdf]

\*Coleman, J. L. and **R. L. Gutberlet, Jr.** 2008. Seasonal variation in basking in two syntopic species of map turtles (Emydidae: Graptemys). *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* 7(2):276-281.

**Mallof, Joan.** 2008. "The Naming of Things," *Environmental Philosophy* 5(2): 17-20.

**Miriell, V.A.,** Y. Chen, and R. J. Rivers. 2009. The involvement of CGRP, adrenomedullin, and sensory nerves in remote vasomotor responses within the hamster cheek pouch microcirculation. *Microvascular Research*. 77(2): 192-197.

**Price, D. L.** 2008. Phylogeny and biogeography of the dung beetle genus *Phanaeus* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). *Systematic Entomology* (2009), 34, 137–150.

Salvato, M.H., H.L. Salvato and **W.L. Grogan, Jr.** 2008. Forcipomyia(Microhelea) fuliginosa (Meigen)(Diptera: Ceratopogonidae), an ectoparasite of larval *Anaea troglodyta floridalis* (Nymphalidae). *Journal of the Lepidopterist's Society* 62: 237-238.

Swanson, D.A. and **W.L. Grogan, Jr.** 2008. New records of Ceratopogonidae (Diptera) from South Carolina. *Entomological News* 119: 411-414.

### Alumni News: Keeping in Touch

- **Glen Owen Monk** graduated from the College of Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, with the MD degree on 1/28/2009.
- **Kristin Fowler** has obtained a second B.S. degree from Delaware Valley College (Doylestown, Pa) in Ornamental Horticulture and Environmental Design (Floriculture concentration). She graduated Magna Cum Laude and is the Greenhouse Manager at Nonesuch Farm in Buckingham, Pa.

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- **Amanda (Wilson) Ely** was an SU Biology and Chemistry (double major) student. She's currently pursuing an M.D. at Penn State Medical School.
- **Matthew J. Anderson** recently graduated from Georgetown University with a Ph.D. in Tumor Biology. The title of his dissertation was: Investigation of the role of UNC45A in aortic arch development.
- **Maria Luciotti** was hired last week at the US Army's Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense. She is doing research in the Neurobehavioral Toxicology branch with nerve agents and rats.
- **Angela DiFabio** (graduated December 2008), was accepted into graduate school in Public Health at George Washington University and began the program in January, 2009. She also was offered and accepted a full time research assistant position at the Laboratory of Photobiology and Photoimmunology at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.
- **Keri Athanas** (graduated 2007) worked with Dr. Taylor in Panama in the summer of 2007. She is currently working as a research assistant on a bat/frog predation project in Ecuador with two of Dr. Taylor's colleagues from Colorado State University.

### Club News

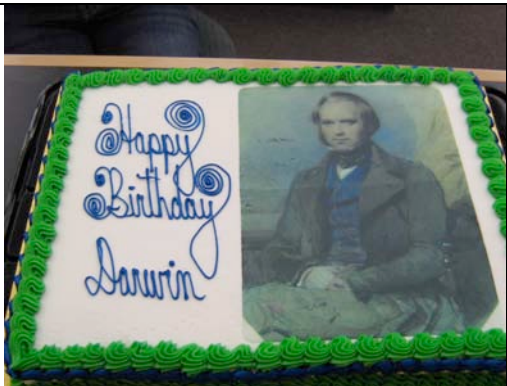
- Alpha Omega Biological Society - Alpha Omega is open to all students interested in biological sciences. Activities include speakers, socials, field trips, and community projects. Contact Dr. Emmert for more information.
- Beta Beta Beta - TriBeta is a national undergraduate biology honor society. Membership requires a major in biology, completion of certain courses, and 3.3 GPA. Contact Dr. Taylor for more information.
- Bioenvirons Club - Bioenvirons promotes awareness of environmental issues, and guidance in environmental careers. Contact Dr. Stribling for more information.
- Medical Careers Club - The club provides guidance and activities for students interested in careers in the health professions. Contact the Advising Services Coordinator, Henson Science Room 202, 410-548-7711.

### Fun Facts

- During his "Big Year", Dr. Gutberlet drove almost 70,000 miles around the United States. A Big Year is an informal competition among birders to see who can see or hear the largest number of species of birds within a single calendar year (in one chosen area).

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Darwin's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash



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