

# Henson School of Science and Technology

## Department of Biological Sciences

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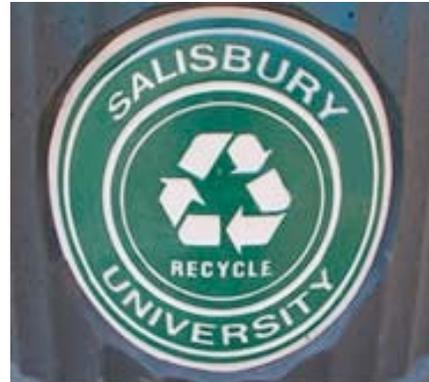
April 2009 Newsletter

DO NOT PRINT THIS!

**Celebrate Earth Day!**  
**April 22, 2009**

**PLANT A TREE!**

**Check out all of the upcoming events and read about how you too can make a change.**



### Announcements

- **Salisbury University hosts their 8th Annual Student Research Conference, April 24th, from 12:30-7:30 p.m.** The conference will be held in Henson Hall and the Wicomico Room in the Guerreri Center. An exciting aspect of the conference this year will be our Poster Session and Art Exhibit. We will include art pieces among our posters along with live music. The annual Faculty Mentor Award will also be given out. For more information: <http://www.salisbury.edu/ugresearch/susrc.htm>
- In an effort to advance sustainability at our institution, SU is undertaking the beginnings of a campus-composting program; an efficient and cost effective way to recycle food waste. This helps lessen the load on the local landfill (a reduction in Salisbury University's "footprint") and provides rich, organic soil that can be used both for horticulture and agriculture. This program was officially launched on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Go Salisbury! For further information about SU's sustainability commitment, go to the following site: <http://www.salisbury.edu/president/sustainabilityinitiatives/index.html>
- The American Association for the Advancement of Science and Hitachi Ltd. are pleased to invite you to the First Annual Hitachi Lectureship at AAAS. April 23, 2009; Lectures 6:30 p.m. Reception AAAS Auditorium, 2nd floor 1200 New York Avenue, NW Entrance at 12th and H Streets, NW Washington, DC RSVP: <http://www.aaas.org/spp/events.shtml> Addresses by Hideaki Koizumi, Hitachi Ltd. Dr. Koizumi is recognized worldwide as an early proponent and major advocate of the new transdisciplinary field of Mind-Brain Science. Thomas Woolsey of the Washington University School of Medicine is a world-renowned neurobiologist best known for his discovery of the cortical barrels in rodents.
- **DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM:** There will be an orientation to UMES for all students taking courses there for the first time in the fall (or next spring). Thursday, April 16, leaving at 3:00 and returning at 5:00. Participants should RSVP by Tuesday, April 14 to Dr. Judith Stribling, Program Coordinator. [JMStribling@salisbury.edu](mailto:JMStribling@salisbury.edu)

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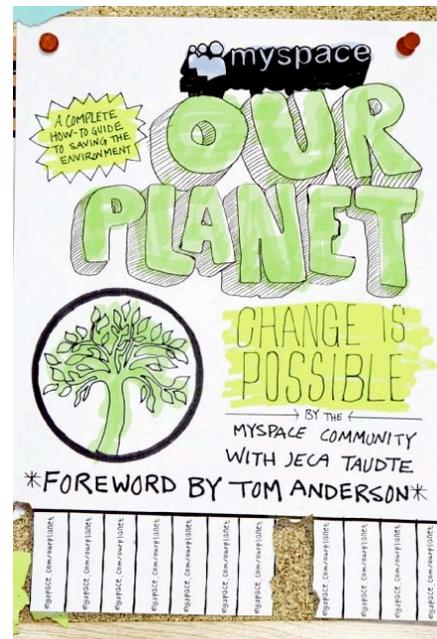
- Check out the display case near the first floor cafeteria and reading room. Dr. Ryan Taylor has showcased some of the shells that he has collected over the years. As you will see, the display case is still evolving!

### Come join the Biology department as we welcome new seminar speakers:

- April 16 - Frode Jacobsen (UMBC) “Inferring Evolutionary Relationships within the New World Orioles (Genus *Icterus*) using Multi-locus Approaches”
- April 23 - Nicholas Carbonetti (Univ. of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore) Topic TBA
- April 30 - Dave Tullis (East Carolina School of Medicine) Topic TBA
- Finally in our series of presentations, May 7 is the Henson Biology 210 Poster Session

## Earth Day Celebrations

- **Salisbury University’s Children’s and Young Adult Literature Festival and Green Earth Book Awards:** April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009) For more information: <http://faculty.salisbury.edu/~elbond/childlitfestival.html>
- **Earth Day & Zoo Stampede 5k Run**, April 18th, 2009. This year’s theme is the “Diamond Back Terrapin.” Join family and friends and run or walk for the Salisbury Zoo. The course runs thru the Zoo and the City Park. Sponsored by Vernon Powell Shoes. Free shirt for 1st 120 runners, random drawings and give-aways. 9:00 am - race starts; 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.
- **2nd Annual Earth Day Event on Chincoteague Island, VA.** May 9, 2009 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. Live Music all day with Mama Jama, Earth Band and local talent. Arts and Crafts Show, Farmers Market, Flea Market, Children’s play area, Educational Booths, Bio Diesel cars and so much more.



## Upcoming events

- **Join the Ocean to Bay Bike Tour, April 18, 2009:** Fenwick, Bethany, Delaware, and surrounding areas. Riders can choose a 20-, 35-, or 50-mile route through the Quiet Resorts. This high profile event hosts close to 700 cyclists, both serious and amateur.

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- **Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Classes & Conference, April 20-23 2009:** Learn techniques to create award-winning entries from champion carvers including Bob Guge, Jeff Rechin, Rich Smoker, Rosalyn Daisey, Chris White, Pat Godin, Vern Jones, Bruce Lepper, Captain Tom Cornicelli, and Lonnie Dye. Classes also offered during the show. For more information: <http://www.delmarvalite.org/>
- **Delmarva Birding Weekend, April 22-26, 2009.** Delmarva celebrates the migration of hundreds of warblers, shorebirds, and waterfowl as well as many nesting birds and raptors. The region possesses an extensive variety of environments including barrier islands, coastal bays, tidal wetlands, cypress swamps, upland fields and primeval forests. The weekend combines boat trips, canoe treks and expeditions by foot. Birders, both novice and experienced, can make an important statement about the economic value of birds and their habitats. For information go to [http://www.skipjack.net/le\\_shore/birdingweekend/](http://www.skipjack.net/le_shore/birdingweekend/)
- **Delaware Bird-A-Thon.** During any single 24-hour period from May 2 through May 10, 2009, bird anywhere in the State of Delaware, count as many bird species as you can, and check them off on the Delaware Field Checklist. You can sit in your backyard, walk through your neighborhood or visit a state park. Remember, you have only one 24-hour time period, so make it count. Visit: <http://www.dosbirds.org/bird-a-thon/2009/bat2009.htm>

### Achievements/Awards

- **Congratulations to Christina Martin!** Christina is the first recipient of the Davenport-Hopkins Scholarship, available to biology majors. This is the first time the call went out and all of the candidates were outstanding. Christina did research with Dr. Ryan Taylor last summer in Panama and she presented her work at the Animal Behavior Meeting in Snowbird, UT, 2008. She currently is working on writing her research up for publication.
  - The Davenport-Hopkins Scholarship is a \$2000 scholarship 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.
- **Congratulations to BIO major Sarah Ullah!** Sarah has been selected as the Center for Student Achievement's Scholar Holler recipient for the month of April! Scholar Holler is a new program that recognizes academic excellence. Sarah has been involved in undergraduate research and tutoring at SU, and she has been accepted to the University of Maryland Medical School. Congratulations Sarah! We are very proud of you!
- **Lauren Leonard** was accepted by 3 Vet schools: VA Tech, NC State and U Penn. She has decided to attend VA/MD Vet School at VA Tech. Congratulations!
- **Dr Joan Maloof** just completed her service on the City of Salisbury's Environmental Policy Task Force. From July 2008-March 2009 the 17-member committee met to develop recommendations which would make the City of Salisbury more environmentally responsible. The recommendations were presented to the Mayor and the City Council.

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### Internship Opportunities

Internships involve outside career-oriented experiences in the workplace. Please contact the internship program coordinator for specific information:

- Dr. Victor Miriel - Microbiology/Molecular & Cell Biology
- Dr. Judith Stribling - Environmental Biology
- Dr. Elichia Venso - Environmental Health Sciences
- Dr. Dana Price (sitting in for Dr. Joan Maloof) - Environmental Studies Internship

Also visit the **SU Career Services web site** for up to date information and links: Below are current listings from their website.

- (The) Academy of Natural Sciences, Opportunities for undergraduates to obtain research experience in preparation for graduate school in the biological sciences.
- American Zoo and Aquarium Association-Find all zoos and aquariums in US and internship listings.
- Marine Sciences and Oceanography Summer Internship Opportunities
- National Science Foundation-Research Experiences for Undergraduates
- Orion Grassroots Network
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)-Intern at PETA
- Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research -National Institute of Health (NIH)
- The summer Undergraduate Research Program (URP) at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory  
Approximately 20-25 students are accepted to the 10-week program each summer. Students work with Laboratory staff in the areas of cancer biology, neurobiology, plant biology, cell biology, genetics, molecular and structural biology, or computational biology.

### Job Opportunities

- Don't forget to visit the "**Opportunities for Students**" bulletin board situated across the hall from the Department of Biology's Main office.
- **Request for Summer Help at Patuxent Research Refuge** - Reply by April 27, 2009  
The Patuxent Research Refuge is looking for one or two students to assist with visitor services and maintenance functions this summer and possibly beyond. We are hoping to hire under the authority of the Student Temporary Experience Program (STEP). If you know of any college students (who will NOT be graduating this May, who may be interested in a part time or full time work experience, please have them get in touch with Nell Baldacchino (301-497-5766) or Brad Knudsen (301-497-5582).
  - **Some basic information for a visitor services position:**  
Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen, at least a half-time college student enrolled in a degree program. Applicant would need to be available to work on weekends (or at least one weekend day - our anticipated greatest need is Sunday).  
Applicant should be: outgoing and enjoy working with people, dependable and conscientious. Applicant should have good writing and speaking skills.  
Applicant should be able to do basic computer applications. Interest in natural resources is desirable, but not critical.

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- **Basic information for a maintenance/laborer position:**

All of the requirements as stated in the above announcement for visitor services. Duties to include general outdoor maintenance (lawn mowing, landscaping, etc.), as well as general assistance to higher graded maintenance staff on indoor maintenance including plumbing, painting, electrical, carpentry, etc.

**Needed from student:**

1. An official copy of the student's transcript
2. A statement from college (Registrar's Office) noting that the student is at least a half-time or full-time student enrolled in a degree program
3. Resume

### Seminars/ Activities

- March 5<sup>th</sup>, SU Biology dept. hosted, **Scott Bowdridge** (Dr. Hunters brother) from Virginia Tech. Dr. Bowdridge's title was "Discovering the Biology of Resistance to Gastrointestinal Parasitism in Sheep: Approaching the Problem Using Genetics, Immunology, and Molecular Biology"
- March 12<sup>th</sup>, **Dr. William Barse** (Dr. Ann Barse's cousin) from the Smithsonian Institution, spoke to us about Paleosols, Archeology, and the Shifting Savanna-Tropical Forest Boundary throughout the Holocene in the Orinoco River Valley.
- March 26<sup>th</sup>, the Dean of Henson School of Science and Technology, **Dr. Karen Olmstead** gave a presentation titled "The Ecology and Evolution of Waste-based Defenses in Tortoise Beetles (Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)". Dr. Olmstead discussed her past and current research dealing with insect defense and host-plant interactions, and her applied research on tallgrass prairie restoration.
- April 2nd, SU's Biology dept. held their first ever Skype seminar from Uruguay with **Dr. Joe Polacco** (University of Missouri and Universidad Federal do Rio Grande do Sul ). We watched him live via computer, while Dr. Holland changed the slides. He discussed his research titled "Urease, What Have You Done for Me Lately? Unexpected Answers in Signaling and Defense". This type of seminar will open up a world of opportunities for international seminar speakers.
- April 9<sup>th</sup>, **Dr. Tony Reeves** from the US Army Research Institute of Chemical Defense gave a presentation about "Thermodynamic Design of Oximes for the Reactivation of Human Butyrylcholinesterase after Nerve Agent Intoxication."
- Dr. Chris Briand and Dr. Paul Greccay Paul attended: Presenting Data and Information: A One Day Course Taught by Edward Tufte at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington VA on Apr 6, 2009.

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### Publication / Articles / Abstracts (\*Undergraduates)

- **Drs. Kim Hunter, Richard Hunter, and Katherine Miller (Chemistry); \*Shelby Smith and \*Valerie Brinsfield** will all be attending the European Society of Evolutionary Biology 12th Congress in Turin, Italy August 24-29, 2009. Their abstract was selected to be presented in the Ecological Consequences of Polyploidy in Plants and Animals Symposium. Title: Nordihydroguaiaretic Acid in the Polyploids of *Larrea tridentata*: Effects of Temperature and Developmental Stage.
- Thengchaisri N, **Miriell, VA**, Rivers RJ. 2009. Multiple adenosine receptor subtypes and multiple mechanisms of dilation are involved in vascular network dilation. *Microvasc Res.* 2009 Jan 26. [Epub ahead of print]

### Alumni News: Staying in Touch

- Christopher L Mortorff is currently US Army Medical Research Materiel Command where I am currently in charge of product compliance for the Special Immunizations Program, i.e. Q-Fever, Tuli, EEE, WEE, VEE, BOT, HE-BOT, CHIK and a few others.
- Emily Seldomridge was accepted into the Geology program at UMD with guaranteed funding as a TA for up to 3 years. She has also been awarded the NOAA NERRS grant! She plans to finish her MS this summer and start the PhD in the fall.
- Diane Moss (May 06) and Matt Jones (May 05) have both just been accepted to Ross University's School of Vet Medicine. Matt also did a stint in the Peace Corps working locals & livestock in South America.
- Brittany Kiessling (May 08 grad) was just accepted to two doctoral programs for anthropology: the Univ. of Georgia, and Florida International University.
- Elizabeth Clifton was recently hired by Dupont Biotechnology in Wilmington, DE. Beth graduated with a biology degree from SU in the fall of 2008. Beth performed undergraduate research for 3 semesters in the Erickson Lab.



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### ECO Friendly Tips

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1. Save money and waste by carrying a refillable bottle. Think of how many bottles of water get consumed on a campus every day.
2. Save energy, and wear and tear on your hardware by shutting down your computer at night. Especially while you are away for the weekend or on break.
3. Print on two sides on your computer. Even though most software programs give that option, most of us still print only on one side of the page. Only print things that you absolutely need to print (e.g., you do not need to print out every email you obtain).
4. Buy used textbooks instead of new (and sell them back at the end of the year). You will save trees and money!
5. Walk, bike, use public transit, carpool, drive slower, and keep your tires inflated.
6. Save energy and money on your electric bill. Lower your thermostat in the winter. Put a sweater on and close the windows. Raise the thermostat in the summer and open the windows.
7. Don't waste water. Turn the water off while you brush your teeth, and shave. Take Shorter Showers. This will not only save on water but it saves on the tremendous amount of energy required to heat water.
8. Turn it off. Turn off lights, lamps, computers, printers, TVs, radios and any other equipment when not in use. If every student made an effort to conserve energy, the university's electric bill wouldn't be as steep.
9. Limit the use of disposable cups and plates. If you're moving into your first off-campus apartment, it can be tempting to buy disposable cups and plates to save time. This adds up to a lot of waste and money. Buy yourself some inexpensive plates and wash them. You can do this if you live in a dorm room too. Many dorms have a kitchen, and if yours doesn't, wash dishes in the bathroom sink.
10. **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!**

For more ways to save energy and money, go to the following SU website.

<http://www.salisbury.edu/president/sustainabilityinitiatives/whatcanIdo.html>



If you have announcements to add or general comments regarding the Newsletter, please contact  
Dr. Dana Price: [dlprice@salisbury.edu](mailto:dlprice@salisbury.edu) Your opinion matters!