FUNDING

The third year of our Howard Hughes Medical Institute Grant continues to provide opportunities for our students to engage in active, interdisciplinary experiences in their courses and in research with our faculty. The HHMI grant has allowed us to offer explicitly interdisciplinary courses, such as a Biophysics course this past year, and a course on drug development, merging chemistry and cell biology perspectives, this coming year. We have also used the grant to expand our use of case study methods in our introductory biology courses, and to train our students to mentor and teach others. See more below on HHMI-funded initiatives, especially in relation to student-faculty research. The College has recently announced several donations, including a $2 million gift from Eric Kolbe ’65 and a $5 million bequest from the estate of Dr. Harrison Dickson ’48. These generous donations in conjunction with a previous gift from the estate of Randy Alberte ’69, will allow us to continue to offer a diverse array of research experiences to students, beyond the end of the HHMI grant next year.

Finally, we would like to offer a sincere thank you to Dr. Véronique Delesalle, who has completed her role as Chair of the Biology Department after close to eight years of clear visioned leadership. See more below about Véronique’s accomplishments as Chair. Dr. Kazuo Hiraiizumi served as Interim Chair this past spring (and will continue to serve as Director of the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Program), and Dr. Matt Kittleberger took over as Chair in July. As always, we encourage you to stay in touch—we’re always excited to hear how your lives and careers beyond Gettysburg are unfolding.

All Our Best,
Kazuo Hiraiizumi, Interim Chair of Biology
Matt Kittleberger, Incoming Chair of Biology

FROM THE CHAIRS

Greetings from Gettysburg! We’ve had another busy and dynamic year in the Biology Department. First and foremost, we are excited to welcome two new tenure-track faculty members, Dr. Nikki Shariat and Dr. Zakiya Whatley.

Dr. Shariat uses molecular genetic techniques to study small RNA molecules – a hot field right now - in bacteria, particularly in Salmonella. She’ll be teaching our first-year research intensive Phage Biology course, as well as helping teach Genetics. Dr. Véronique Delesalle and Dr. Greg Krukonis brought the Phage course to Gettysburg in 2011, and we’ve been thrilled at the success of that course at getting students engaged with legitimate biological research in their very first semester. Nikki’s hire represents the next step in making Phage Biology a more permanent part of our first-year curriculum. She brings a ton of energy and ideas and has already hit the ground running.

Dr. Whatley is a molecular geneticist who studies DNA damage and repair in bacteria, particularly in E. coli. She served last year as a Gondwe Scholar at Gettysburg and will continue in that role this coming year before stepping into a tenure-track position in the fall of 2016. Zakiya has many exciting and creative ideas about teaching science, and will be teaching Microbiology this year and Cell Biology in future years, as well as helping with our Introductory Biology sequence. See more about both Nikki and Zakiya below.

At the other end of the career spectrum, Dr. Ralph Sorensen has announced his plans to retire from Gettysburg at the end of the 2015-16 academic year, after 39 years at Gettysburg and will continue in active, interdisciplinary experiences in their courses and in research with our faculty. The HHMI grant has allowed us to offer explicitly interdisciplinary courses, such as a Biophysics course this past year, and a course on drug development, merging chemistry and cell biology perspectives, this coming year. We have also used the grant to expand our use of case study methods in our introductory biology courses, and to

Supporting the Biology Department

Any gifts that you make to the Gettysburg Fund indirectly support the work that we do in the Biology Department. If, in addition, you want to support the Biology Department directly, you can now do that in one of two ways:

- Donations to the “Alberte Fund” will allow us to grow that resource and to support more summer student researchers.

- Donations to the “Biology Special Gifts” fund will be used to support new teaching initiatives and to buy small pieces of equipment for particular research projects.

Until the next Newsletter

Please visit the departmental website at www.gettysburg.edu/academics/biology/ for more stories about student and faculty research, and current information about the department. And remember– we always love to hear from our alums!
In its third year, the HHMI-funded Cross-disciplinary student program at Gettysburg College. Dr. Urcuyo together with Dr. Darren Glass (Math) and Dr. Jacqueline Milling (Physics) was largely responsible for writing the grant, which includes as one of its main objectives the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minorities and first generation students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) majors at Gettysburg College. Through this program, Gettysburg College will provide scholarships to 26 students, divided in three cohorts over the next five years, who plan to earn bachelor’s degrees in the following STEM disciplines: Biology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Math, and Physics. In selecting members of each cohort, the program will take heightened interest in academically-promising and financially disadvantaged underrepresented minorities. STEM Scholars will receive enhanced mentoring opportunities during their crucial first two years at college; elements include a mentor in their field, a STEM-focused First-year seminar, field trips, preference for residence in Science House, and internship opportunities with institutional industry partners. For additional information see: http://www.gettysburg.edu/s- stem/