FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the first Biology newsletter. Starting a new tradition is always a daunting task. Where do you start? There is no obvious place to do so. After this first newsletter, it will be a lot easier since we will only need to cover all the new news. When I first started at Gettysburg College (in 1993), there were ten Biology faculty members. Since then, we have grown to twelve, with the addition of two new positions. So, I thought we would start with the "new" faces. The next newsletter will provide more updates on those of us who have been here longer!

—Véronique Delesalle

NEW FACULTY

Assistant Professor
Istvan Urcuyo

Istvan joined the Biology Department in the Fall of 2000 as a one-year sabbatical replacement. He did such a fantastic job for us that we decided to keep him around. Although not exactly a new face, he only became a tenure-track member of the Biology Department in 2004 and this year he successfully completed his tenure review. Istvan is originally from Nicaragua but received his undergraduate degree from The Citadel, in South Carolina, and a Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University. In our department he teaches the first year sequence of introductory biology as well as upper-level courses in Tropical Marine Biology (which has a two-week lab at a marine research station in the Bahamas) and Paleobiology. He also teaches a First Year Seminar titled "A Dying Ocean" during which freshmen learn about and discuss the many environmental problems that our world's oceans are facing. In past years he has taught Oceanography and Environmental Issues for the ES department. As a graduate student he participated in nine international oceanographic research expeditions to deep-sea habitats in the Gulf of Mexico and the Northeast Pacific Ocean by using submersibles such as ALVIN and JASON. He has moved his research to much shallower waters: Istvan's research now focuses on the biodiversity of marine invertebrates along the pacific coast of Central America. His summer plans usually include four weeks of fieldwork on the pacific coast of Nicaragua accompanied by Gettysburg College undergraduate research assistants.

Assistant Professor
Matthew Kittelberger

In 2006, we added our 12th line with the hiring of a neurobiologist. The Neuroscience minor began with the 2002-2003 academic year and there are currently 33 students...
minoring in Neuroscience. The strong interest in this minor made it essential for us to have a neurobiologist on campus. Matt joined us in the fall of 2006 from a post-doctoral research position in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University. He received his Ph.D. in neurobiology from Duke University, and his B.A. in biochemistry from Harvard University. Matt teaches Neurobiology and Cell Biology, and helps coordinate the interdisciplinary Neuroscience minor. He is also developing a new first year seminar for the fall of 2009 entitled “Autism: Facts, Myths, and Controversies.” Matt’s research interests concern the neural mechanisms of behavior, with a particular focus on the neurons and circuits involved in vocal communication. He is currently working on a species of toadfish, a type of toadfish called the plainmidshipman. Studying brain circuits involved in vocalization in these fish allow him to explore questions regarding the evolution of the brain, as well as questions regarding the basic mechanisms by which animals modulate their vocal communication behaviors during social interactions. To learn more, check out his website at:  http://public.gettysburg.edu/~mkittelb/neuroweb/.

Many of you may have read in the Autumn 2008 issue of the College’s alumni magazine that this is Ralph Cavaliere’s last year of full-time teaching (it’s a great article, check it out). After 42 years, Ralph has decided that it was time to slow down a little. What that means is a sabbatical in 09-10 and then we hope that Ralph will stay connected to the Department by helping us teach Biology 101 or Electron Microscopy whenever we need his help. During his sabbatical, we expect Ralph to spend a lot of time with his grand-children but also with all the fungi he can find. It is hard to imagine the department without “Mr. Biology”. As we prepare for this transition, I hope you will drop us a line to let us know how you feel about Ralph and his contributions to our college community. He has been a great mentor and a friend to many of us. It would be wonderful to put these together for the tribute we plan for him (next fall in association with Homecoming).

Assistent Professor
Jennifer Powell
This past fall we conducted a search for a tenure-track faculty member to teach in the cellular and genetic portion of the departmental curriculum. As a result of this search we hired Jennifer Powell, who received a B.A. from Hendrix College in Conway, AR, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. At Berkeley she studied the sex determination pathways of the nematode Caenorhabditis elegans in the laboratory of Barbara Meyer. After graduate school, Jennifer spent a year teaching genetics and developmental biology at Sewanee: The University of the South. Her postdoctoral research in Frederick Ausubel’s lab at Massachusetts General Hospital has focused on dissecting the mechanism of innate immune recognition in C. elegans. As a member of the Gettysburg biology department, Jennifer will continue her research on the role of the G-protein coupled receptor FSHR-1 in triggering the host response to infection, as well as teach genetics and microbiology. Jennifer, her wife Thi, and their son Lucas are excited to join the Gettysburg community this fall.

We are happy to report that Professor Istvan Urcuyo has received tenure and will be promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, starting in Fall 2009. In addition, Professor Peter Fong was promoted to the rank of Professor last Fall (2008).

STUDENT RESEARCH
In the past academic year students have presented their research projects to the Faculty and fellow students:

**Biology Majors:**
- Monitoring Changes to the Golgi Apparatus in 816F10 Mouse Melanoma during Induced Cell Differentiation by Steven Papuchis
- Feeding and Male Calling Behavior of Equolurated Fruit Bats in Kruger National Park by Tim Gesi and Brittany Evans
- Effects of Biophenol A on Sexually Dimorphic Play Behavior and Risk Assessment by Ashton Trawinski
- Multi-directional Flexibility Properties of the In Situ Curable Polyurethane Nucleus Pulposus Replacement For Nucleoplasty Reconstruction by James Klink
- The Behavioral Effects of Prozac (Fluoxetine HCl) on Siamese Fighting Fish, Betta Splendens by Scott McLaughlin
- The effects of estrogen exposure on MCF7 cell proliferation and Aurora A protein kinase activity by Kelsey Holmes
- The nimO18 mutant is required for repair of DNA double strand breaks and alters recovery from replication arrest by Leigh Goedeke
- Cytotoxicity of Nicaugaua Quispibranach Species Against NIH3T3 Mouse Fibroblast Cells by Maggie Buell
- The nimO18 mutant is required for repair of DNA double strand breaks and alters recovery from replication arrest by Leigh Goedeke
- Reduced Retinoic Acid Synthesis in Embryonic Zebrafish Does Not Result in Retinal Colobomatous Malformations by Sarah Fritz
- Identification of proteins modified by SUMO during male germ cell development by Constantine Monzidelis, Jr.
- The nmo018 mutant is required for repair of DNA double strand breaks and alters recovery from replication arrest by Leigh Goedeke
- Reduced Retinoic Acid Synthesis in Embryonic Zebrafish Does Not Result in Retinal Colobomatous Malformations by Sarah Fritz

**BMB Majors:**
- Development of a Method for Sequencing the Full Proviral HTLV-2 Genome Using Transposable Elements by Tyler Kreitz
- Using Cat As A Model for Retinal Atrophy by Jasmine Myrakalo
- 2,6-Dioxabicyclo[3.2.1]octane Rings A Novel and Efficient Synthesis by Rob Kowtoniuk
- The Development of a Method for Sequencing the Full Proviral HTLV-2 Genome Using Transposable Elements by Tyler Kreitz
- Using Cat As A Model for Retinal Atrophy by Jasmine Myrakalo
- 2,6-Dioxabicyclo[3.2.1]octane Rings A Novel and Efficient Synthesis by Rob Kowtoniuk

**RETIREMENT**
We would love to hear from you! Share your news with us either 1) by filling the form below and returning it to us:

**TENURE AND PROMOTION**

**Biology Department News**
Box 392
Gettysburg College
Gettysburg PA 17325

Or 2) sending your info to dkcooper@gettysburg.edu

Keep in Touch!

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Name:
Class Year:
Your News: