8-1991

UA66/6/2 Bionews from the Hill

WKU Biology

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August, 1991

Dear Biology Alumnus,

Greetings from the Department of Biology at Western Kentucky University. Enclosed in our annual newsletter is an update of activities in the department during the last academic year.

Please send us news concerning your career, family, activities, etc. so that we can include them in the newsletter next summer. Please use the questionnaire included at the back of this newsletter for this information.

Please accept our appreciation for your generous contributions in the form of scholarships and gifts to the Biology Developmental Fund. You can be sure that your contributions will be used to continue and to improve our teaching and research activities.

I trust that you will find this issue of Bionews from the Hill informative. Please remember to send us your news!

Sincerely,

Valgene L. Dunham, Head
Department of Biology

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STUDENT AWARDS

**Outstanding Biology Graduate, 1991**

Angela M. Pike (Horse Cave, KY)

Mrs. Pike, a recombinant genetics major, is a graduate of West Hardin High School and Elizabethtown Community College.

**L.Y. Lancaster Award for Excellence**

Kristy Garrett (Central City, KY)

Ms. Garrett, a biology major, will be entering medical school this fall at the University of Kentucky. The L.Y. Lancaster Award for Excellence is given each year to the outstanding senior in our pre-medical program.

**Young Botanist Recognition Award**

Angela M. Pike

This national award was presented to Mrs. Pike by the Botanical Society of America "honoring excellence and outstanding promise as a contributor to the advancement of knowledge in the botanical sciences".

**Howard Hughes Predoctoral Fellowship**

Becky Burdine Whitis (Somerset, KY)

Mrs. Whitis, a 1990 graduate in recombinant genetics and currently a second year Ph.D. graduate student at Yale University, received this prestigious national award to assist her Ph.D. studies in cell biology/immunology.

**NCAA Women's Basketball Committee**

Kelly Smith (London, KY)

Ms. Smith, a biology major, was recently selected for a two year term as a student member of a NCAA committee to oversee women's collegiate basketball. Ms. Smith, point guard on our very successful basketball team, will begin pharmacy school this coming fall at the University of Kentucky. Ms. Smith also served on the staff of our NSF Young Scholars program in molecular biology.
Scholar of Ogden College
Sean Willgruber (Bowling Green, KY)

This award is presented each year at commencement to the outstanding student in Ogden College of Science, Technology and Health. Mr. Willgruber finished his B.S. degree (double major in biology and chemistry) with the highest grade point average in the entire college.

Bowling Green Medical Society Scholarship
Sean Wilgruber (Bowling Green, KY)

This annual award of $1000 is presented by the Bowling Green Medical Society to the outstanding senior entering medical school. The recipient must be from Warren County or the BRADD service area.

Summer Research Programs
Nehal Doshi (Bowling Green, KY)

Ms. Doshi was awarded a summer undergraduate research fellowship (SURF) at Southwestern Medical College in Dallas, Texas. Ms. Doshi, a senior biology/pre-medicine major is investigating the DNA sequence which codes for a peptide that blocks transduction of hair cells in the inner ear. Her research is guided by Dr. Gillespie, a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. James Hudspeth.

Raniéle Dozier (Radcliff, KY)

Ms. Dozier, a recombinant gene major, was selected to attend the SMART program (Summer Medical and Research Training) at the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX. Ms. Dozier will be a junior this coming fall semester and is a product of our NSF Young Scholars Program. Her research, with Dr. Thomas Caskey, involved isolation of the gene involved in Emery-Dreifus muscular dystrophy.

Kelly Elliott (Bowling Green, KY)

Ms. Elliott was selected to do research in a NIH-IRTA program as a student research intern. The program, located at NIH in Bethesda, MD, enabled Ms. Elliott to work with Dr. Charles Vinson on the helix-loop-helix structure of DNA binding proteins. Ms. Elliott will be a junior biology/pre-medicine major this coming fall semester.
GRADUATE SCHOOLS

The faculty of the Department of Biology are extremely proud of the students who are continuing their education this coming fall. They include:

Jason Campbell (Glasgow, KY)  M.S.  Western Kentucky University
Paula Chilton (Louisville, KY)  Ph.D.  University of Louisville
Lester Doyle (Bowling Green, KY)  M.S.  Western Kentucky University
Stephanie Ellis (Henderson, KY)  M.S.  Western Kentucky University
Hope Guenthner (Elizabethtown, KY)  M.S.  Western Kentucky University
Brian Keplinger (Bowling Green, KY)  Ph.D.  Vanderbilt University
Andrew Kloek (Frankfort, KY)  Ph.D.  Washington University, St. Louis
Tim Shannon, M.S. (Louisville, KY)  Ph.D.  Ohio University
Brian Thornton (Paris, KY)  Ph.D.  uncertain
Marian Upchurch (Huntsville, AL)  M.S.  Western Kentucky University
Wen Jun Wu, M.S. (Taiwan)  Ph.D.  uncertain

STUDENT CLUB NEWS

Association of Medical Technology Students

Officers elected for the 1991-2 academic year are:

President  Mike Schott (Bowling Green, KY)
Vice President  Chris Foster (Elizabethtown, KY)
Secretary-Treasurer  Shannon Cline (Bowling Green, KY)
Historian  Randall Clark (Madisonville, KY)
Faculty Advisors  Drs. Elliott and Toman

The following students have been accepted to attend Medical Technology School for the year 1991-92:

Margaret Daniel  University of Louisville
Christine Dorley  Vanderbilt University
Sherri Harpenau  St. Mary’s School of Medical Technology, Evansville, Indiana
Collett Hughes  University of Louisville
Tamra Liggett  St. Thomas School of Medical Technology, Nashville, Tennessee
Melinda Mullen  St. Mary’s School of Medical Technology, Evansville, Indiana
Sonia Orange  Vanderbilt University
Matt Smith  Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital
Ann Whittle  Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital
One hundred percent of students applying to medical technology schools were accepted from Western. This compares to five of six or 83.3% of students who applied last year.

The medical technology program continues to enjoy an excellent relationship with the Medical Center in Bowling Green, KY. Recently the Medical Center established four scholarships for WKU medical technology students.

**Medical Technology Scholarship**

Sonia Orange (Russellville, KY)

Ms. Orange will receive $1500 toward her year in medical technology school at Vanderbilt University.

In addition to the scholarships, the Medical Center donated electrophoresis equipment and supplies to the Department of Biology as part of National Medical Technology Week, April 14-20, 1991.

**Beta Beta Beta**

Officers for the 1991-92 academic year elected by the members of the L.Y. Lancaster Mu Gamma Chapter of the national society are:

- President: Kelly Jo Elliott (Bowling Green, KY)
- Vice President: Patty Grove Walchak (Scottsville, KY)
- Secretary: Shelly Elizabeth Cosby (Bowling Green, KY)
- Historian: Jon Bary Allen (Bowling Green, KY)
- Activities Chair: Nancy Ann Ayers (Bowling Green, KY)
- Faculty Advisors: Drs. Elliott and Winstead

In February of 1991 the local chapter of Beta Beta Beta was informed that it had been recognized as being in the top ten percent of chapters in the United States and Puerto Rico in judging for the Bertholf Award (385 total chapters). The award was based on the chapter’s activities for the 1989-90 academic year. This is the third such recognition for the chapter since it was formally initiated as part of the national organization in 1972.

During the 1990-91 school year 21 new full members were formally initiated along with four associate members. The chapter will start the fall semester with approximately 50 active members.

For the second year the chapter was a participant in a booth and the cookout at homecoming celebration held under tent tops by Smith Stadium. A similar function will take place during the homecoming activities for 1991 and former members are urged to come by and refresh memories by examining the scrapbooks of previous years.
In addition to formal meetings with guest speakers the chapter also sponsored for the second year a fall cookout early in the semester for all students and faculty in the Department. The cookout is held in the Italian Garden adjacent to Snell Hall and the chapter has a long range commitment to help renovate that particular spot on the campus.

**Alpha Epsilon Delta**

The Kentucky Gamma Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a national pre-medical honor society, assists pre-professional students in learning the challenges and rewards of professions related to medicine through invited speakers, surgical observation programs at local hospitals and trips to state medical schools.

Officers elected for the 1991-1992 academic year are:

- **President**
  - Lori England (Fountain Run, KY)

- **First Vice President**
  - Carla Michael (Grandview, IN)

- **Second Vice President**
  - Jennifer Martin (Owensboro, KY)

- **Secretary**
  - Laura Lee Wilson (Bowling Green, KY)

- **Treasurer**
  - Tracy Cross (Nashville, TN)

- **Historian**
  - Patty Walchak (Scottsville, KY)

- **Scalpel Reporter**
  - LeAnn Hoffman (Livermore, KY)

- **Alumni Chairperson**
  - Susan Murray (Bowling Green, KY)

- **Associate Chairperson**
  - Shelby Cosby (Bowling Green, KY)

- **Faculty Advisor**
  - Dr. Blaine Ferrell

**Acceptance to Professional Schools**

**Medical**

- Kent Filbeck (Benton, KY)  
  - University of Kentucky
- Kristy Garrett (Greenville, KY)  
  - University of Kentucky
- Blaine Houchin (Madison, TN)  
  - East Tenn. State Univ.
- Tajuana Lisenby (Horse Cave, KY)  
  - University of Kentucky
- Pat Padgett (Elizabethtown, KY)  
  - University of Kentucky
- John Strode (Bowling Green, KY)  
  - University of Louisville
- Sean Willgruber (Bowling Green, KY)  
  - University of Louisville
- Paula Williams (Hardinsburg, KY)  
  - University of Kentucky
- Michelle Willoby (Dry Ridge, KY)  
  - University of Kentucky

**Optometry**

- Robert Duvall (Central City, KY)  
  - University of Alabama, Birmingham
The 1990-91 academic year was the third year of the Association of Undergraduate Geneticists (AUG). The officers for this year were:

President: Hope Guenthner (Elizabethtown, KY)
Vice President: Troy Reece (Bowling Green, KY)
Secretary/Treasurer: Sharon Tagg (Tampa, FL)
Historian: Karen Daniels (Middlesboro, KY)

Officers for the 1991-92 academic year are:

President: Sharon Tagg (Tampa, FL)
Vice President: Karen Daniels (Middlesboro, KY)
Secretary/Treasurer: Amanda Hines (Calhoun, KY)
Historian: Stephanie Ellis (Henderson, KY)
Faculty Advisors: Drs. Balak and Rinehart

This year the club representatives were involved in several service activities such as student recruitment in high schools, talks to high school students at the annual Hilltopper Science Days and a booth during homecoming. A forum was held on what graduate school is really like with Drs. Dunham, Rinehart and Toman as panel members. A speaker from the state police forensic laboratory, Stacie Carey, spoke on the current applications of molecular and genetic diagnostics currently being applied to solve criminal cases in the state. Several members visited Oakridge National Laboratories and University of Louisville.

AUG was given a club room which was refinished and decorated by donations from faculty and students. AUG has lots of information on file for graduate programs around the country thanks to the kind donations of past members.

In addition to academic activities the club designed and sold T-shirts with the AUG logo and organized an end-of-the-year potluck as a goodbye to graduating members.

At the end of the academic year the officers and members voted to change the constitution to allow this organization to branch to other academic institutions. Our first affiliate will be Elizabethtown Community College.
DEPARTMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

Pre-Physical Therapy Program

The following students were accepted into the physical therapy program at the University of Kentucky:

Sheila Kennedy (Eddyville, KY)
Melanie Frost (Monticello, KY)
Jessica Wilson (Horse Cave, KY)
Kevin Covington (Pembroke, KY)
Melissa Runner (Bowling Green, KY)

The 1991 fall Physical Therapy Class at the University of Louisville will include the following Western Kentucky students:

Anessa Moberly (Danville, KY)
Shelley Young (Hopkinsville, KY)
Jeana Vaughn (Bowling Green, KY)
Rachael Allender (Alexandria, KY)

The Pre-Physical Therapy program at Western Kentucky University is coordinated by the Department of Biology. Dr. Jeff H. Jenkins serves as the faculty advisor and coordinator.

FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

Public Service Award, Ogden College

Joe E. Winstead

RETIREMENT

The faculty, friends and students of the department will certainly miss Dr. Dan Skean. Dr. Skean’s contributions to the department and the university are numerous and include service on the university’s academic probation committee over a twenty year period, research advisor to high school students and university students in several departments, and instructor to numerous students in microbiology and immunology, who have benefited from his knowledge and his care for each of them as individuals.

Dr. Skean, who was appointed as an assistant professor in 1966, has willingly given his time and talents to the department and its students over his tenure at WKU. We will miss him and wish him happiness and success in retirement.
NEW FACULTY

The Department of Biology is pleased to welcome three new assistant professors for the fall semester.

Dr. Cheryl Davis - Immunobiology, microbiology
B.S. University of Oklahoma, 1979
M.S. University of Oklahoma, 1983
Ph.D. Wake Forest University, 1988
Postdoctoral Research - Wake Forest University, 1988-91
Dr. Davis' dissertation involved the molecular interactions between *Trypanosoma cruzi* and murine host cells.

Dr. Nancy Dawson - Cell biology
B.S. Oklahoma Baptist University, 1976
M.S. Northeast Louisiana University, 1978
Ph.D. University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1989
Part-time faculty member, WKU, 1989-91
Dr. Dawson's research interests focus on the ultrastructure and molecular components of euglenoid flagella.

Dr. Jeffrey Kent - Comparative physiology
B.A. Slippery Rock State College, 1972
M.S. Slippery Rock State College, 1974
Ph.D. University of Illinois, 1985
Postdoctoral Research - Milton Hershey Medical Center, University of Illinois, 1985-90
Teaching Experience - Assist. Prof., Bowdoin College, 1990-91
Dr. Kent's dissertation involved tissue hypertrophy, a quantitative adaptational strategy during cold acclimation in channel catfish and green sunfish.

MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

At the spring commencement the number of students listed as graduating with degrees directed by the Department of Biology lead all other traditional science-oriented departments. It is felt that the numbers of students choosing majors within the department reflect the general prediction that the beginning of the 21st century will be the era of the life sciences. Degrees housed within the department are: Biology, Recombinant Genetics, Medical Technology and Biochemistry.
Students Listing majors in 1991 Commencement Program

Department of Biology    76  
Agriculture            52  
Mathematics             44  
Geography/Geology       37  
Computer Science        29  
Chemistry               15  
Physics                 6  

We believe that the Department of Biology has a rich tradition of excellence thanks to you. We appreciate your financial assistance by your contributions to the Biology Development Fund, c/o The College Heights Foundation. Biology students will be involved in the phonathon this fall and we will be grateful for your generosity.

Excellence requires alumni participation!
The following is news and information about alumni of the Department of Biology who returned last year's questionnaire. The listing is organized by the date of the first degree from WKU.

Memorial

Luther V. Maynor, 1941, B.S. 117 Elmwood Terrace, Greensboro, NC 27408. Sales representative and owner of Maynor Casket Supply, Mr. Maynor passed away on April 24, 1990 at the age of 73. Our sympathy is extended to friends and family.

1960's

Edward P. Eberth, 1968, B.S., M.D. Georgetown University, 1972. Anesthesiology, Indiana University and Purdue University at Indianapolis, 1975, Box 350, Madison, IN 47250. Dr. Eberth is chief of the Anesthesiology Department of Kings Daughters Hospital in Madison, IN. Dr. Eberth was the founding President of WKU's AED club. The Eberths have four children and his wife, Marianne, operates a farm which includes 90 American miniature horses.

Barbara Kacer, 1969, B.S., M.S., WKU 1972, Ph.D. University of Iowa 1989. 864 New Cut Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42101. Dr. Kacer is Assistant Professor in secondary education at WKU and is involved in preparing and presenting workshops on cooperative learning and instructional uses of technology.

1970's


Shirley Hassell Chamberlain, 1971, M.S. WKU. Department of Life Sciences, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809. Ms. Chamberlain is Program Director of Medical Technology at Indiana State University.

Kenneth E. Bewley, 1973, B.S., DMD, University of Louisville, 1977. P.O. Box 519, 423 Crume Road, Vine Grove, KY 40175. Dr. Bewley is a self employed dentist whose wife is presently a M.S. student at WKU. Dr. Bewley and his son Jeremy recently participated in the National Matches, high-power rifle division at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Ronald King, 1973, B.S., M.S. WKU, 1976, DMD University of Louisville, 1984. 4104 Lilac Road, Leitchfield, KY 42754. Dr. King has completed a residency in anesthesiology at the University Health Center of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh.
Larry Wegmann, 1974, M.S. 1209 North 3rd Street, Festus, MO 63028. Mr. Wegmann is a biology and chemistry teacher at Crystal City Public Schools and a biology instructor at Jefferson College in Hillsboro, MO. Mr. Wegmann is active in consulting for the Math and Science Institute in St. Louis and has published papers on DNA extraction and construction of a DNA model in Science Teacher.

C. Scott Gaines, III, 1974, B.S. Ivy Hill, Harlan, KY 40831. Mr. Gaines is vice president of Gaines Lumber Co., Inc. in Harlan, KY.

Christopher D. Steward, 1974, B.S., M.S. WKU, 1976, DMD University of Kentucky, 1981. 2027 Iron Mountain Road, Park City, KY 42160. Dr. Steward is a self employed dentist and a part-time faculty member at WKU. Dr. Steward farms 400 acres in Barren County and has three children.

James W. Stark, 1975, B.S., M.S. Eastern Kentucky University, 1980, Rank I, University of Louisville, 1990. 2227 Elmcrest Avenue, Bardstown, KY 40004. Mr. Stark has taught science at New Haven Middle School for 15 years and at St. Catharine College as an adjunct professor.

John C. Vance, 1975, B.S., M.D., University of Louisville, 1979. 715 Kirkland Dr., Lexington, KY 40502. Dr. Vance is Director of Neonatal Services at Humana Hospital in Lexington, KY.

Mary Bray Broach, 1976, B.S. 2173 Highway 80 East, Nancy, KY 42544. Mrs. Broach worked as a research technician at Vanderbilt University (1976-77) and as a quality control analyst for Mallinkroft, Inc. (1977-80). Married to Dr. Broach, a dentist in Somerset, KY, Mrs. Broach is currently Area II Director of the American Cancer Society.

George P. Johnson, 1978, B.S., M.S. WKU, 1980, Ph.D. North Carolina State University, 1985. Department of Biological Sciences, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, AR 72801. Dr. Johnson is Assistant Professor of Biology and Curator of the Herbarium at Arkansas Tech.

Mark G. Keen, 1978, B.S., M.S. North Carolina State University, 1980, Ph.D. University of Tennessee-Memphis. 5411 Fossil Court North, Fort Collins, CO 80525. Dr. Keen is currently Research Associate sponsored by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to study Lyme disease at the Centers for Disease Control, Molecular and Bacteriology Section, Fort Collins, CO.

Pippa Pinckley-Stewart, 1979, B.S., M.D. University of Louisville, 1984, pediatric residency, University of Louisville, 1987. 2819 Carriage Hill Dr., Bowling Green, KY 42104. Dr. Pinckley-Stewart is a pediatrician at Graves Gilbert Clinic in Bowling Green, KY.

Gaye Lacefield Foster, 1979, B.S., Teachers Certification, WKU, 1988. 302 W. Main St., Scottsville, KY 42164. Ms. Foster, a middle school and high school
chemistry teacher in Allen County, works at Greenview Hospital, Bowling Green, KY in the summer as a microbiologist.

1980’s

Kevin Kast, 1981, B.S., Masters in Forest Resources, University of Georgia, 1983. Rt. 2, Box 86, Winnfield, LA 71483. Mr. Kast is Area Forester at Cavenham Forest (163,000 acres of timberland). Mr. Kast and his wife, Shannon Duchenois Kast, B.A., 1981 in Math, WKU, have two children. Mrs. Kast is Assist. Professor at Northwestern State University.

Shawn Sansom, 1981, B.S., M.S. WKU, 1989. 153 E. 6th St., Russellville, KY 42276. Mr. Sansom is a chemistry teacher at Russellville High School, Russellville, KY. Mr. Sansom was recently honored by the Sigma Xi Club at WKU for his outstanding contributions to his students.

Michael P. Faler, 1981, B.S., M.S. South Dakota State University, 1984. P.O. Box 697, Varson, WA 98610. Mr. Faler is currently the south zone Fishery Biologist for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in the state of Washington. Mr. Faler reports he has married a rich rancher's daughter from Montana and is enjoying the western wilderness and patiently waiting for a large inheritance!

F. Michael Cretella, 1981, B.S., M.S., WKU, 1985. 10807 Clear Fork Dr., Humble, TX 77396. Mr. Cretella is a research chemist for the City of Houston, Department of Public Works, Division of Water Quality.

Irene Kokkala, 1984, M.S., Ph.D., Clemson Univ., 1991. 2530 E. North St., 11A Yorktown Condominiums, Greenville, NC 29615. Ms. Kokkala has taken a position as an assistant professor in the Biology Department at Furman University.

Todd R. Cheever, 1987, B.S. 95 Country Ct., London, KY 40741. Mr. Cheever is a senior medical student at the University of Kentucky and is applying for a residency in pediatric-psychiatry.

Mary Birch, 1987, B.S. 3516 S. Park Ave., Apt. 3, Springfield, IL 62704. Ms. Birch is a 4th year medical student at S. Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, IL and is pursuing a residency in internal medicine.

Kimberly Zeigler Head, 1988, B.S., M.S. WKU, 1990. 5308 Hames Trace, Apt. 227, Louisville, KY 40291. Mrs. Head is Special Procedures Technician in the Toxicology Department of Smith Kline Beecham Laboratories in Louisville, KY.

1990’s

Kimberly D. Tabor, 1990, B.S. 981 Kettlestick Rd., Rockfield, KY 42274. Ms. Tabor will start physical therapy school in the fall at the University of Kentucky.
Rebecca Burdine Whitis, 1990, B.S. 386 Prospect St. E7, New Haven, CT 06511. Mrs. Whitis will be a second year Ph.D. student at Yale University this fall. She recently received a Howard Hughes Pre-doctoral Fellowship (see Student Award section of this newsletter). Her husband, Dwayne, has a B.A. from WKU.
Biological Science Alumni Survey
Western Kentucky University

NAME

ADDRESS

EDUCATION

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Bachelors Degree
Masters Degree
Additional Degree(s)

CURRENT JOB TITLE

PRESENT EMPLOYER

NEWS FOR ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Thank you for your assistance.