

CSB/SJU Biology Department Newsletter

Volume 2 Number 1

September 14, 1998

Hi.....this is the first issue of the *Biology Department Newsletter* for the 1998-1999 academic year. The purpose of this weekly newsletter is to keep you informed about departmental activities. The newsletter will exist only in email form - we won't issue a hard copy. This first issue is being sent to all students. Subsequent issues will only be sent to students who: (1) list biology or natural science as a major or minor; and (2) who want to be placed on our distribution list.

Thus, if you are not a biology or natural science major/minor but want to receive the newsletter, send me an email indicating that you want to be included on the mailing list. You do not need to do this if you are a biology or natural science major because you will receive it automatically.

Anyone is welcome to join our mailing list!

I encourage you to submit to me items to be included in future editions. Future issues will be formatted like this one. I welcome submissions by email, snail mail, phone (x2782) or fax (x3202). I plan to mail the newsletter every Tuesday. I welcome feedback about this newsletter. If you miss an issue you can read it on our spiffy departmental web site (<http://www.users.csbsju.edu/~biology>).

1. Message from the Chair - *This section will contain a brief "editorial" note. The topic will vary considerably - whatever I happen to be thinking about at the time I sit down to write.*

As you know, the biology department has had a very busy summer. The day after May graduation everything was moved out of the old Science Center (OSC) so that renovation could begin. We were able to start moving back into the new Science Center (NSC) in early August but didn't get back into the OSC until the Monday before classes began. We are still unpacking, organizing and rearranging materials in both buildings and will likely be at it for awhile. We ask for your patience until everything is up and running at full speed, especially because there are lots of little things that the construction workers still need to complete.

We hope that you agree that our new science facilities at St. John's are state-of-the-art and among the best anywhere! We are particularly excited about: (1) our new Biological Imaging Center that will feature a networked Mac and PC hooked to a 2 x 2 slide scanner, flat bed scanner and digital video system; (2) the addition of several new labs; (3) improved and greatly enlarged herbarium; (4) improved natural science museum and hallway displays; (5) vertebrate and invertebrate research collections; (6) new communal research spaces for students and faculty to work in a collaborative manner; (7) new introductory biology lab spaces; (8) new physiology lab spaces. This also means that we can now teach A&P on the St. John's campus, too; (9) improved animal care facilities; (10) rooms for growth chambers and environmental chambers; (11) walk-in cold room; (12) cell culture room; (13) improved chemical storage facilities; and (14) oodles of other great stuff.

I hope you agree that Biology at CSB/SJU is on the road to the 21st century!

2. Student News - *this section will feature news about student. Awards, job offers, acceptance to medical or other graduation programs will be among the included items. Please submit items for me to include.*

Susan Switras (CSB '97) was accepted into the Horticultural Sciences program at the University of Minnesota. She will begin her studies in Fall '98. Congratulations Susan!

Kristine Johnson (CSB '96) is working with the DNR in Brainerd in the Regional Division of Non-Game Wildlife and reports that "it's been a wonderful experience".

Summer Researchers at CSB/SJU - this past summer several students remained on campus and participated in research. Keep posted for more information.

Dominic Ackerman (SJU '94) worked as a teaching assistant at the University of Minnesota Lake Itasca Forestry and Biology Field Station during the past summer. Dom is completing his MS in Forestry at the University of Minnesota.

Sean Leonardo Knowles (SJU '98) is working as a medical researcher at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City. He can be reached at vaj7@columbia.edu.

3. Faculty News - *this section will highlight faculty activities, including publications, conferences, and presentations.*

Two new faculty joined the biology department this fall:

Dr. Philip Chu - he comes to us from the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh. Dr. Chu will be teaching Comparative Anatomy, Vertebrate Natural History and introductory biology. His specialty area is evolutionary biology of birds and he is an expert in the field identification of avian creatures. His office is on third floor in the new Science Center.

Dr. Larry Davis - is our new geologist who will officially be a member of the Biology Department. His office is on third floor of the old Science Center but his lab is in the basement so you will likely find him on the stairs or riding the elevator. Dr. Davis is a paleontologist who has been involved in studies of Nautilus. In fact, he created the wonderful nautilus (and dinosaur) display in the front entry of the Old Science Center.

Please stop by, introduce yourself and make the newest faculty in the biology department feel welcome.

4. Curriculum News - *this section will describe any items of curricular interest.*

Environmental Studies Minor - will be holding an informal meeting for students interested in learning more about the minor on Thursday, 17 September from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in Ardolf 130. They encourage any interested student to stop by, say hello, chat for a while, get questions answered, and enjoy some pizza and pop. For more information contact Gordon Brown (X 3175, e-mail dgbrown), Ernie Diedrich (X3518, e-mail ediedrich), or Kate Graham (X 5409, e-mail kgraham)

5. Biology Club News - *items of interest from the Biology Club.*

Biology Club Meeting - the first meeting will be held Monday, September 21 at 6:00 pm in Room 140, New Science Center. If you have questions, contact one of the co-presidents - Jen Smith (7718) or Jake Hausaer (2318).

Halloween Science - The Biology Club and Department is considering repeating our Halloween Science program this year for students in grades 2-6. If you are interested in participating in this program which we are planning for Oct 31 from 9:00 a.m. - noon, contact Dr. S. Saupe (x2782; ssaupe@csbsju.edu).

6. Calendar of Events - listing of seminars and other items of interest.

May 23	CSB Commencement
May 24	SJU Commencement
May 26	Biology Department moves out of the building. The renovation begins!
Aug 1	New Science Center completed! Biology moves in.
Aug 29	Biology moves back into the Old Science Center
Sept 8	Classes begin in NSC and the renovated OSC
Sept 11	Ceremony to officially open the buildings!
Sept 21	Biology Club Meeting
Sept 22	Dr. Ashley Haase Seminar
Oct 6	Virology - Nobel Conference, Gustavus Adolphus College
Oct 15	Free Day

7. Internships/Scholarships/Jobs - news related to possible opportunities

Biology Department Job Page - Thanks to Dr. Gordie Brown for updating our web page of research and employment opportunities for biology majors. You may link to it from the biology department home page or go directly to <http://www.users.csbsju.edu/~biology/biojobs.html>. The page lists a variety of research & job opportunities (mostly summer) in ecologically-related fields.

Internship - Cold Spring Clean Water Partnership - this position, which is a cooperative project between The City of Cold Spring, St. John's University, the Minnesota Project and Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District, position to develop a public education campaign to introduce residents of the city of Cold Spring to water protection programs. 10-15 hours per week. \$7.00 per hour. Contact Brendan Kelly on campus (x2312) or Dennis Fuchs at the Soil and Water Conservation District for more information (dennis.fuchs@co.stearns.mn.us; 320-251-6718).

Helen N. & Harold B. Shapira Heart Scholarship - available for students working in a medically related curriculum with potential application to patients with disease of the heart and blood vessel system. For more information call the American Heart Association at 1-800-331-6889.

Northwest Airlines Pilots' Wives Club Scholarship - available for students interested in health sciences to obtain a summer internship for work in a laboratory of a heart researcher. For more information call the American Heart Association at 1 -800-331-6889.

For information about careers, check out the CSB/SJU Career Services web site (<http://www.users.csbsju.edu/~career/index.html>). For specific information about biology jobs, especially check out the "What can I do with a biology major section" (<http://www.users.csbsju.edu/~career/index.html>)

Mayo Summer Undergraduate Program - Now's the time to start thinking about next summer. The Mayo program gives students that opportunity to conduct their own small research project or work on part of an ongoing research investigation for 10-12 weeks, develop technical skills, participate in a special weekly seminar series, and best of all, receive a fellowship award of \$4000. For more information and an application contact Dr. Richard McGee, Phone: 507-284-3862; Fax: 507-284-0999; Internet: rmcgee@mayo.edu or <http://www.mayo.edu>.

Internship: Community Market Study - The goals of this internship are three-fold: to study the feasibility of establishing a community market in St. Joseph, to identify and apply for grant money to develop a marketing site, and to enhance the intern's knowledge and skills in the completion of these projects. The internship is for 450 hours (10-13 hours per week through the school year or its equivalent) and pays \$7 per hour. Modest travel expenses for interviews and like activities will

be reimbursed. A joint staff that may include Common Ground personnel, a City representative, and a college professor will supervise the intern's work, which will be done in the Common Ground office and in Clemens Library, where computers are readily available. To apply, submit a single packet containing a cover letter that includes an explanation of why s/he should be chosen for the internship position, a personal resume, a sealed letter of recommendation from a professor, and a current academic transcript. The application deadline is September 21, 1998. Send to Common Ground Garden; 104 Chapel Lane; St. Joseph, MN 56374

Interested in volunteer possibilities - check out the directory called "The Back Door Guidebook". Available in the Career Resource office

Doctoral Fellowships in Plant Biotechnology - The Plant Biological Sciences graduate program at the University of Minnesota will award USDA National Needs Fellowships for doctoral students interested in Plant Biotechnology. The Fellowship awards provide an annual stipend of \$17,000 for 3 years plus tuition waiver beginning September 1999. An additional 2 years of support will be available. Applicants must be US citizens or US nationals and have an interest in training and a career in some aspect of plant biotechnology. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Completed applications must be received by December 15, 1998. To obtain application forms and additional information please contact: Plant Biological Sciences Program Secretary, University of Minnesota, Department of Plant Biology, 220 Bioscience Center, 1445 Gortner Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108; 612-625-4222/Email: Lulu.L.Krogh-1@tc.umn.edu.

Interested in a job in plant science? Check out the Career Information on the Botanical Society's web page: <http://www.ou.edu/cas/botany-micro/careers/>

GRE Test Dates - if you are planning on taking the GRE, the test dates are Nov 7, Dec 12 and April 10. The registration deadlines are rapidly approaching.

MCAT exam is administer on April 17, 1999. For more information contact the Career Resources Office and/or homepage (<http://www.csbsju.edu/career>)

Interested in Volunteering after Graduation? The CSB/SJU Career Exploration Series will feature a presentation on November 17, 1998 in Teresa Reception Center, CSB at 7:00 p.m.

The Tri-College Graduate School Fair will be held Oct 1 at Atwood Center, St. Cloud State University from 10:30 - 2:00 p.m.

8. Seminars/Lectures/Symposia - *obviously, news about upcoming intellectual activities*

NOBEL Symposium - VIRUS: The Human Connection. This conference will be held October 6-7, 1998 at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota. Lectures include: The Evolution of Virology: From the Beginnings of Molecular Biology to the Conquest of Viral Disease; Virus Evolution: Implications for Disease; The History of Infectious Disease as a Characteristic of Civilization; Some New Approaches to HIV and HIV Disease; Recombinant Gene Transfer: Lessons from Viruses and Applications to the Human Disease; Coevolution: Pain or Promise?; Emerging Virus Diseases: 5000 B.C. to the Present.

The Biology Department is planning to send a bus to the conference on October 7 that would leave in the morning and return about dinner. If you are interested in attending, contact Dr. Steve Saupe (x2782) or Dr. Ellen Jensen.

9. Miscellaneous - *stuff that doesn't fit elsewhere* no contributions for this issue

10. Frequently Asked Questions: *How do I get on the mailing list for the Biology Department Newsletter?*

Biology and natural science majors/minors will automatically receive the newsletter. Anyone else is welcome to become part of our distribution list. To join, send an email to Dr. SG Saupe (ssaupe@csbsju.edu) requesting to be added to the list. You can be removed anytime by sending your request to the same address.

For more information, contact:

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