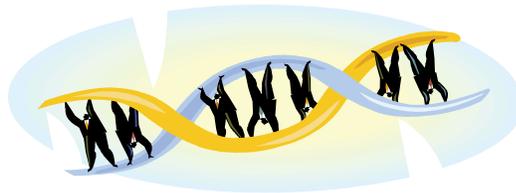


BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

DOUBLE HELIX



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

November 2005

Notes from the (Rocking) Chair

Biology majors have had or will have opportunities to hear excellent speakers this fall and winter. On Oct. 26, Tim Bent, Director of Environmental Affairs for BSAH (Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc.), presented the work of his corporation in the area of environmental awareness. This talk was co-sponsored by the Environmental Studies program and the School of Sciences. Elsewhere in this issue you will see information about the SURS Keynote Address and the Vaughn Science Lecture. Students and faculty are currently heavily involved in advising leading up to priority registration. The Department continues to receive information about graduate and professional schools. Those that seem to be most likely of interest to students are posted on the bulletin boards on the third floor. All others are filed in file cabinets in HSB Room 207 and are available for student review. Try to make use of these—and while on the third floor, take note of bulletin boards outside the Department office for news of student and faculty activities. Study hard and take care of yourself! - Dr. Grammer

Belmont Students Present Abstracts



If you thought that students majoring in Biology only become doctors, teachers, pharmacists or vets, think again. Biology majors are also involved in research and they publish papers about their findings! This semester students from the Department of Biology at Belmont will be presenting research articles in Tennessee and Washington D.C. Bethany Thomas and Kristal Wicks will present their abstracts at the TAS (Tennessee Academy of Science) Conference on November 18 at UT, Martin. Their abstracts will be published in a future edition of the *Journal of Tennessee Academy of Science*.

Meg Voss and Kelly Deweese, along with Dr. McGrew and Dr. Grammer, will be attending the Neuroscience Society Meeting in Washington D.C. on November 12 where they will present their abstracts.

All four students will be presenting their abstracts at SURS on December 1. These abstracts can be viewed on the bulletin board outside of HSB 304.



SURS

Science Undergraduate Research Symposium

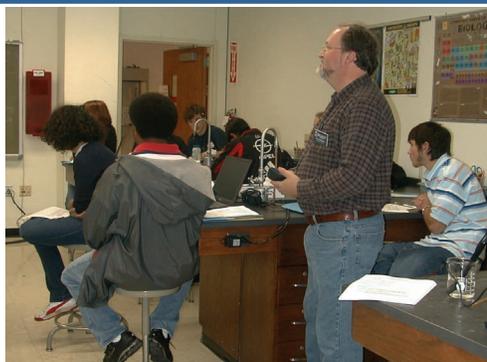
Thursday, December 1, 2005

SURS will take place on Thursday, December 1, 3:00 – 7:00 in Beaman Meeting Room A. Dr. Michael McDonald, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University (Ph.D. in Cognitive and Biological Psychology), will present the keynote address at 3:00 in Beaman A & B. A reception and a student poster session will be held at 4:00 in the Beaman Meeting Room Lobby and the Atrium West Lobby followed by 5:00 student presentations in Beaman A & B. Presentations last about 15 minutes each. Convo credit will also be given.

SURS evolved in 2004 out of PURS (Psychology Undergraduate Research Symposium). Many students who present at SURS will go on to present at BURS (Belmont Undergraduate Research Symposium) in the spring. Students in past BURS have also been winners in TAS (Tennessee Academy of Science) Collegiate Division where their abstracts have been published in the Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science (current abstracts are available for viewing on the bulletin boards outside of Hitch 304). SURS gives students in the School of Sciences the opportunity to present research projects to their peers as well as listen to keynote speakers. This fall will be the second annual SURS presentation and there will be 16 Biology and 2 BMB students presenting posters of work they are currently completing. Some of these students participated in the Summer Scholars program while others have been working on their research projects this fall. This is an opportunity for Biology majors to come out and see what their peers are working on and talk with them and the keynote speaker about their research projects.

Biology Department Scholarship

The Department of Biology has been able for the last two years to offer competitive scholarships for students involved in Summer Scholar Communities. Awards are based on the best work accomplished in the summer experience and are determined by faculty supervisors. Winners for 2004 were Alex Grzeszczak and Kristin Furman, while awards for 2005 were given to Amanda Stinnett and Ashley Dozier. Funding for the scholarships came from sale of lab manuals, candy and soft drinks coordinated by Ms. Templeman in the Department office.



Dr. Panvini and Dr. Murphree talk to high school students about environmental issues during Explorations in Environmental Studies on

October 28, 2005





Vaughn Science Lecture

Thursday, January 19, 2006

The 2005-2006 Vaughn Science Lecture will be held January 19, 2006 in the Massey Boardroom. The speaker will be Dr. Bill Bass, forensic anthropologist and founder of the famous Body Farm, associated with the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Dr. Bass has had a distinguished career in forensics anthropology and will meet students interested in that field. The Vaughn Science Lecture is sponsored by Dr. Tony Vaughn, a 1984 alumnus of the Department of Biology. This lecture series has brought a number of distinguished speakers to the Belmont campus, providing students with great opportunities for lectures and conversations with outstanding professionals in science.

Pre-Professional Evaluations

Are you planning to apply to a medical, dental, veterinary, pharmacy or other allied health school? If so, scheduling a pre-professional advisory committee interview will be part of that process. These meetings are scheduled in **August, September and October** in the fall semester and **January, February and March** in the spring semester. Consult with your advisor to determine if you have met the requirements for a personal interview. Pick up a form (shown at right) from the administrative assistant of the Department of Biology, Terri Templeman, at least three weeks prior to the interview time desired. Select a minimum of four professors for the committee. Three will be from the Department of Biology and one from any other area. Once you have selected your committee members and available interview times, return the form to Ms. Templeman. She will then schedule an interview time for you and your committee. If you have more questions, contact Dr. Ragsdale at ragsdalen@mail.belmont.edu or Ms. Templeman at templemant@mail.belmont.edu, 460-6431.

Pre-Professional Advisory Committee Selection August, September or October

To begin the process:

1. **Consult with your advisor** to determine if you have met the requirements for a personal interview. Requirements include the submission if not completion of the MCAT application process.
2. **Select a minimum of four professors - three** from the Department of Biology and **one** from any other area. You should have had at least one class if possible with each of the professors (your advisor should be one of the committee members). Please make personal contact with each professor you select before submitting this form for processing.
3. **Present this form** to the administrative assistant of the Department of Biology at least three weeks before the interview is desired. Be as flexible as possible in your own schedule. The committee members will be contacted and a time and location scheduled for the meeting. You will be advised by e-mail and/or telephone of this information.
4. **Submit** the list of schools with the correct addresses to the department's administrative assistant where your letter of recommendation should be mailed. If there are deadlines, these should be noted. List all the schools to which you are applying, regardless of whether supplemental requests have been received. As the supplemental requests are received, give those names and due dates to the administrative assistant.

Please complete the section below and submit to the administrative assistant of the Department of Biology when you are ready to schedule your committee evaluation meeting:

Student Information:

Today's Date _____ Full Name _____

Day phone number _____ Email _____

AMCAS # _____ SS# _____

Major _____ Minor _____ Emphasis _____

Committee Members: (At least *four* members chosen must be currently teaching on campus.)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1) _____
Advisor/Chair Department | 2) _____
Name Department |
| 3) _____
Name Department | 4) _____
Name Department |
| 5) _____
Name Department | |

List a minimum of 5 calendar dates & times when the student can meet for an hour. (Show blocks of time when possible TR.1-3pm)



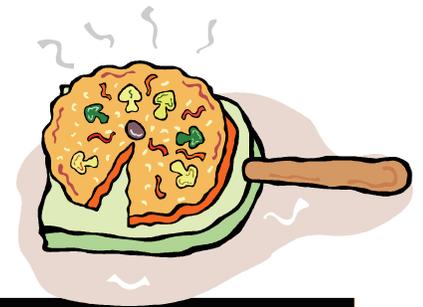
BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Dr. Robert T. Grammer, Professor and Chair
Dr. C. Steven Murphree, Professor and Gulf Coast Research Lab Coordinator
Dr. Lori L. McGrew, Assistant Professor and ICoRD Fellow
Dr. Darlene Panvini, Assistant Professor and ENV Coordinator
Dr. D. Nicholas Ragsdale, Assistant Professor and Pre-Health Advisor
Dr. Jennifer T. Thomas, Assistant Professor and BMB Coordinator
Ms. Terri Templeman, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Ray Seely, Laboratory Manager and Chemical Hygiene Officer

PIZZA DAY !!!



Join your fellow Biology Majors for pizza and conversation on Wednesday, December 7 at 12:00. Pizza and drinks will be on hand in room 306. Sign up sheet will be posted outside room 304, so sign up and join us for a slice of pizza and celebrate the end of the semester!



IMPORTANT DATES

November 14—Tri-Beta Nashville Zoo Convo
November 19—O.N.E. Exotic Plant Pull Warner Parks 9-11
November 21—O.N.E.: Walden's Puddle
November 23-27—Thanksgiving Break
December 1—SURS (Science Undergraduate Research Symposium)
December 6—Last Day of Classes
December 7—Pizza Day 
December 8-13 -Final Exams
December 16—Winter Commencement
December 19— Winter Recess Begins

