Notes from the Chair

Must be Spring...
A few months ago we hurried from building to building in the cold, rain, and snow. Today, however, students linger to catch a few rays before heading to class, a student sits under a tree playing a guitar (this is Belmont, after all!), and an English class meets under a tree. Signs of spring abound on campus this afternoon. Spring is also evident in the Hitch Science Building: bones are strewn on the hallway tables as A&P students distinguish the radius from the ulna, gram staining occurs feverishly as micro students identify their unknown bacteria, glassy-eyed parasitology students peer through microscopes at tapeworms, and Biology freshmen review dichotomous keys for their upcoming lab practical. The research labs look spiffy since the seniors just cleaned everything. Salamander eggs thrive in the cold room awaiting the summer undergraduate research projects to begin. Other signs of spring include the numerous conferences and awards ceremonies we have been busily attending that highlight the excellent work of our Biology students—as you can see in this issue of the newsletter. Enjoy celebrating spring with us!

Dr. Darlene Panvini
Chair, Biology Department

Scholarship Day Awards—Biology Shines!

The Biology department is extremely proud of JoAnna Adkisson and Monique Parrish. Both students received the University Hale Leadership Awards. Adkisson received the First Year Award. Parrish received the Second Year Award. These awards are given to those students who show outstanding values in leadership, service, scholarship and faith. The Biology department congratulates JoAnna and Monique on their accomplishments!
Biology Department Presents Awards at CAS Ceremony

On April 21, 2010 The College of Arts and Sciences hosted its annual Awards Day ceremony. Faculty of the Department of Biology made presentations to six deserving students, from freshmen to graduating seniors. The awards are given for different accomplishments, to different majors, and to different classes. Award recipients are listed at right.

Freshman Achievement Award in Biology: Brad Johnston
Ronald M. Barrett Pre-Health Award: Emily Smothers
Donald R. Ramage Award for Service to the Learning Community in Biology: Monique Parrish
Department of Biology Scholarship: Sara Bentley
Award for The Outstanding Student in Biology: Sara Bentley
Freshman Achievement Award in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology: Benjamin Walloch
David R. Hill Environmental Service Award: Lindsay Walker

Sara Bentley, Emily Smothers, Lindsay Walker, Bradley Johnston and Monique Parrish

A Paradise and Amphibians Lost

For the 5th straight year Environmental Science (formerly Environmental Studies) and ONE Club hosted a speaker event. Dr. Jason Rohr of the University of South Florida spoke on Thursday, March 25. Dr. Rohr’s talk, entitled “A Paradise and Amphibians Lost,” discussed his latest research linking pesticide use, climate change and disease to the worldwide decline of amphibians. Dr. Rohr spoke with students in the BIO 1120 classes and discussed aspects of his research. Afterwards Dr. Rohr joined ENV and ONE club members for a lunch discussion of environmental issues and research. The day ended with an evening convo in Beaman.
For the third year Belmont School of Sciences hosted the TAS (Tennessee Academy of Science) Middle Collegiate Division Meeting on April 17. Undergraduate students from Belmont as well as Austin Peay, Vanderbilt and Tennessee State were represented at the morning sessions. Students presented their research abstracts in areas of Chemistry, Biology, Ecology, Physics, Math and Computer Sciences.

ENV meets ASB

Dr. Darlene Panvini and Environmental Studies major Lindsay Walker attended the 71st Annual Meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB) April 7 through 10 in Asheville, NC. Dr. Panvini presented a paper on a classroom lab exercise used to introduce high school students to science learning. Lindsay Walker presented a paper on composting materials.

Belmont Alum Update

Jill Neblett, Biology major, class of 2008, has recently been hired at Vanderbilt’s Biology department. Her job title is Laboratory Teaching Assistant. Jill’s duties include TA for the Intro Bio lab for majors and pre-meds, all the lab set-up, clean-up and prep.
Biology Alumni Update

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

Contact Us!

- Have any comments about the newsletter or the Department?
- An alum with an update on activities?
- Like further information about the Department, its offerings or activities?

Please contact us by one of the following e-mail addresses or by postal service.
Ms. Terri Templeman, Administrative Assistant, terri.templeman@belmont.edu
Dr. Darlene Panvini, Chair, darlene.panvini@belmont.edu

Department of Biology
Belmont University
1900 Belmont Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37212

Biology Alumni Update

We want to hear from you! Please take a moment to fill out the information below and send to us.

Name________________________________________________Graduation Year_______________
Address___________________________________________________________________________
City_____________________________State_____________Zip Code________Phone____________
Email address_______________________________________________________________________
Employment____________________________________Title________________________________
Recent promotion, honor, award, family activity?_________________________________________

We're on the web!
www.belmont.edu/biology