



2003-04 sees changes in faculty, curriculum, and student organizations

This year three new tenure-track faculty joined the Department of Biology. **Heather Bruns** is teaching undergraduate and graduate immunology courses, as well as introduction to biology at the cellular level (BIO 111). Heather received her B.S. in biochemistry from Indiana University in Bloomington and her Ph.D. from the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. Her research is focused on studying the role of a transcription factor on lymphocyte function in immune responses.



John McKillip came to us from a faculty position at Louisiana Tech University. Prior to that, John was a postdoctoral associate at Mississippi State University. He received his Ph.D. in microbiology from Washington State University. John is teaching microbiology for the allied health sciences (BIO 113), majors microbiology (BIO 213), and beginning fall 2004, PCR methods (BIOT 491/591). His research interests are in the area of food safety. He brought students Kiev Gracias (Ed.D. student) and Robin Cooper (M.S. student) with him from Louisiana Tech to complete their degrees, as well as the Ball State Biotechnology Certification Program. ■



Susan McDowell joined the faculty in biology from a postdoctoral position at Eli Lilly in Indianapolis. Susan received her B.A. from Thomas More College in Kentucky and her Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine (Molecular Toxicology Program). Susan's research interests include mammalian cell signaling, and she incorporates this into her courses in the Biotechnology Certification Program.



Retirees Honored at Spring Banquet

*L to R:
Byron and Sally Torke,
Mohammad and Nancy
Behforouz*

Byron Torke retired this year with more than 25 years of service to the department, teaching courses in general biology, aquatics, and invertebrate zoology. Byron is still engaged part-time in ongoing projects with current faculty in the department, including a survey of Indiana plants with Don Ruch. He and his new wife, Sally, have already done extensive travel in South America.

Nancy Behforouz also retired this year and joins her husband, Mohammad Behforouz (Department of Chemistry) in periodic travels to Iran. Nancy maintains a presence in the department, however, having collaborated with her husband on a recently submitted NIH grant. ■

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Notes from the Chair . . .

Fall 2003 started with a bang! Two of our faculty received university-wide awards at the opening fall meeting. Clare Chatot received the Outstanding Faculty Service Award. Thomas Lauer received the Outstanding Junior Faculty Award. Both are extremely worthy. An air of excitement exists in the department with the hiring of three new enthusiastic faculty. As these three individuals enter our ranks, we are losing a stalwart in the department with the retirement of Ed Hale this spring. For years, he has taught a variety of courses from first-year medical students to freshmen taking the biology principles course. His scientific and artistic skills will be missed.

Kem Badger and Walter Smith have received a NSF grant of more than \$1.3 million, titled "Partners in the Environment" (PIE), to increase science literacy in middle school students and in-service teachers in the Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS). The grant places science doctoral candidates in middle school classrooms.

Dr. Mahin D. Maines, '64, MA '67 gave a distinguished alumna seminar on her landmark research on heme oxygenase February 27, 2004. She oversees four major NIH grants as professor of biochemistry and biophysics at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. She has also generously sponsored an award this year to the Outstanding Graduate Student in Laboratory Sciences.

And, finally, thanks to all of you who recently gave or pledged through the Telethon and, of course, the alumni who support us time and again with financial help. I spoke to many of you that night and hope to talk to more of you in the future. ■



Last fall, the **Biotechnology Journal Club** began. The group meets monthly to discuss an article covering current trends in the field of biotechnology. This spring, they will visit a forensic lab and research facility at Eli Lilly. A grant from Eli Lilly has been providing lunch for participants and, so far, 24 students, both undergraduate and graduate have joined the club. A goal of the club is to attract and inform students about the Biotechnology Certification Program.

A club for Ball State's approximately 80 **science teaching majors** in life science, earth science, chemistry, and physics is being organized. Nearly 30 students attended the club's first meeting and heard from three first-year teachers about what it is really like to teach science in high school. With support from a grant to the Department of Physics and Astronomy, more meetings are planned. The club has applied for status as an official chapter of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). In February, the group traveled to Indianapolis to attend the annual meeting of HASTI (Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc.).

The **Ball State subunit of the Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society** is a professional organization of undergraduate and graduate students interested in fisheries and aquatic sciences. The group focuses on education (outside the classroom) by hosting speakers, workshops and educational activities at Ball State while participating in state and regional meetings of the parent organization. In addition, subunit members are actively involved in serving the profession and conducting research at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

John McKillip is organizing a new Ball State **American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Student Chapter** this year, and has met with a group of some 30 interested students from biology, nursing, physiology and health science, and medical education. This chapter will foster student research and attendance at professional meetings, host outside seminar speakers, participate in field trips, and other service activities.

Student Club News . . .

The Ball State chapter of **The Wildlife Society** has reached record membership this academic year with more than 50 paid members. They took a wet and wild backcountry camping trip to the Charles C. Deam Wilderness Area over fall break. Student president Joe Allen recently returned from Pennsylvania with a large bat structure the chapter purchased and hopes to set in place this spring at Cooper Farm.

A group of **Pre-med/Pre-dent Club** students from the Department of Biology has founded the Ball State Chapter of the **Timmy Foundation**. The Timmy Foundation is an organization founded by Dr. Chuck Dietzen, a pediatrician in Indianapolis, dedicated to improving the health and well being of children worldwide. Some of our students will be traveling with the foundation on a medical mission trip to Ecuador over spring break where they will help physicians in free clinics treat the health needs of children. The club currently has about 20 active members from departments campus wide. ■

Alumni Updates . . .

- **Everett Steen**, B.A., M.A., 1952, is now retired in Portland, IN.
- **John McCory**, B.A., 1958, taught science for 41 years; has owned Hickory Grove Lakes Campground in Portland, IN, and invites research or group campouts to his facilities.
- **M. Lewis Snyder**, B.S., 1958, M.A., 1967 is currently teaching anatomy and physiology at Ivy Tech.
- **Mary (Routsong) Anthony**, B.S., 1967, is now retired in Woodburn, IN.
- **Michael Cochran**, B.A., 1969, M.A., 1971, has retired from Illinois IDNR-Fisheries.
- **Jon Niehaus**, M.A., 1972, is currently supervisory compliance officer for the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service in WI.
- **Dan Erbaugh**, B.A., 1975, teaches seventh grade science in Charabusco, IN.
- **Sandra (Scatterfield) Robinson**, B.S., 1972, M.S., 1973, is currently a biology instructor at USC-Spartenburg and was listed in the Who's Who Among Teachers in 1996.
- **Robert Kruger**, Ph.D., M.S., 1975, has just finished his forty-first year in the education profession and is currently associate professor of science at Mayville (ND) State University.
- **Sue (Maxwell) West**, B.S., 1975, M.A., 1981, is now a chemistry and AP environmental science teacher in Grand Rapids, MI.
- **Barbara (Ingermann) Sorg**, B.S., 1981, is associate professor of Neuroscience, Washington State University.
- **Dr. David Bowles**, B.S., 1982, is currently an aquatic biologist at Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.
- **Laura Pruitt**, B.S., 1984, serves as wellness director of EPA Wellness Center in Cincinnati, OH.
- **Beth Anne (Feece) Riches**, B.S., 1984, is a microbiologist at South Bend Medical Foundation, South Bend, IN.
- **Troy Henderson**, B.S., 1986, is now field manager at Old World Exotic Fish in Homestead, FL.
- **James Silver**, B.S., 1988, is a clinical pharmacist at Community Hospital in Anderson, IN.
- **Dorie (Stein) Marek**, B.S., 1988, is now the inpatient coordinator for physical therapy at Children's Medical Center, Dayton, OH.
- **Jamie Wooldridge, M.D.**, B.S., 1991, is currently a pediatric pulmonologist and assistant professor in Cincinnati, OH.
- **Roger Kult**, B.S., 1991 is district conservationist, NRCS, USDA in Brownstown, IN.
- **Jill (Baker) Sutton**, B.S., 1991, is now a project manager for clinical trials for Eli Lilly.
- **Curt Coffman**, B.S., 1993, M.S., 1995, is now professor of biology, Folsom Lake College, Placerville, CA.
- **Sheri Yager**, B.S., 1994, is a QA chemist and safety, health and environmental manager and also received her MBA in 2003.
- **Kelley (Wolter) Deak**, B.S., 1994, is an optometrist in Columbus, IN.
- **Gail Miller**, M.A., 1994, is now associate professor of biology, York College, NE.
- **Dana (Henke) Tameling**, B.S., 1996, is staff physical therapist for the Acute Rehab Unit at St. Mary Medical Center, Hobart, IN.
- **Jennifer Kooy**, B.S., 1996, is currently working as a senior editor at PR Newswire in Chicago; she writes "not exactly science-related, though I have found that it comes in handy to be the only science major amongst an office full of math- and science-challenged English majors!" She was previously a science teacher with the Peace Corps in Zimbabwe.
- **Julie Meeks**, B.S., 1997, is a medical technologist at Henry County Memorial Hospital, IN.
- **Casey (Potts) Walter**, B.S., 1997, currently in Madison, WI, is an associate veterinarian.
- **Katie Leininger**, B.S., 1997, previously worked in pharmaceutical and biotech fields as a research associate.
- **Valerie Tripp**, B.S., 1998, works in client services at the Michigan Road Animal Hospital, Indianapolis, IN.
- **Jennifer Marshall**, B.S., 1998, is an environmental scientist at the Eco-logical Environmental Services, Amarillo, TX.
- **Stacey (Miller) Keyton**, B.A., 1998, is associate director of medical education and curricular affairs at Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN.
- **Katharine Foltz**, B.S., 1999, is a chemist with the Environmental Service Group in Indianapolis, IN.
- **Jaime McCord**, B.S., 2000, is currently in her third year of medical school at Temple University in Philadelphia.
- **Jeanne Ferguson**, M.A., 2000, is a science instructor at Ivy Tech State College, Richmond, IN.
- **Holly Truemper**, M.S., 2003, is a fisheries technician at Bonita Work Center, Clinton, MT. ■

Our efforts to extend and improve the educational programs in biology are ongoing. If you would like to help, your financial gifts to the Ball State Foundation can be designated for the **Department of Biology (General Fund account 901)**. We also will be detailing some specific programs and dreams in an upcoming mailing. Donations may be made online at www.bsu.edu/giving or mailed to

Ball State University Foundation
P.O. Box 672
Muncie, IN 47308

Faculty Updates . . .



Thomas E. Lauer, associate professor of biology and director of the Aquatic Biology and Fisheries Center, received the Outstanding Junior Faculty Award for

2003. An outstanding teacher, Lauer is student-centered, while maintaining rigorous content in courses ranging from introductory biology to ichthyology and limnology. He generously mentors students, engaging them in research projects, driving them for hours to present papers at meetings, and including them in research publications.



Clare Chatot was the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Service Award at the Annual Fall Faculty Meeting in August 2003. Chatot was recognized for her service to Ball State University in a variety of areas including promotion and tenure, University Senate, North Central Accreditation Self-Study, NCAA Accreditation Self-Study, Provost Search Committee, Committee on Institutional Transformation and Change, Animal Care and Use Committee, and Radiation Safety Committee. Her service to the Indiana Academy of Science Research Grants Committee and the Midwest Teratology Association Steering Committee was also recognized. Chatot is a developmental biologist in her thirteenth year at Ball State and is currently the pre-health professional advisor.

Kamal Islam began his tenure in the Department of Biology in 1998. Islam and his graduate students' current research interests focus on a long-term study of the Cerulean Warbler, a tiny songbird that winters on the slopes of the Andes in South America and breeds in southern Indiana. This species has undergone steep population declines, especially in the Midwest, and Islam and his students are trying to determine factors responsible for its demise. To date, two graduate students have completed their field research and a third graduate student will be starting his first field season during spring 2004. Professor Islam is responsible for designing a new field studies course that will be taught in South Africa. ■



Curriculum Addition . . .

The Department of Biology now offers a two-week (May 15 - June 1, 2004) course on ecology and conservation biology in South Africa under the instruction of Kamal Islam. This expedition will explore a range of different environments to understand the intricate ways in which each ecosystem functions. Subjects covered in the course will provide an in-depth look at life in Africa. Course topics include: wildlife management techniques, sustainable resource utilization, ecosystem and biodiversity conservation, game capture and handling techniques, reserve management, and local cultures and conservation perspectives. ■



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