Department News

Upcoming Presentations
Check out the Biology Seminar Series web page at http://www.ewu.edu/x64410.xml. You'll find a schedule of upcoming and tentative seminars, links to fliers, and speaker biographies … along with contact information to get more details. Spring quarter seminars include: Lauren Hallett, 4/23 (Ecological Filters to Seedling Establishment at Mediterranean Climate Restoration Sites); Jonathan Wisor, 5/7 (Neurobiology of Sleep/Wake Cycles: How, When and Why we Sleep); and Ben Miner, 5/21 (Ecological and Evolutionary Consequences of Inducible Defenses in Marine Systems).

Other scheduled presentations:
- Graduate finishing talks by Katie Wagner (5/14); Thayne Lacy (5/20); and Candace Bennett (6/4). Contact the Biology Department for times and locations.
- Omar Jobe, BS (EWU, 2008, and McNair Scholar) and current PhD Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Wisconsin will give an informal brown bag lunch talk on 4/16, 11AM-1PM in Monroe Hall 107.
- 2010 Symposium 5/18-19 (see page 2 for more information)

Physiologist Selected
The Biology Department welcomes David Daberkow into the position of Physiologist starting Fall 2010. David received his BS in Zoology from Southeastern Louisiana University, his MS from Utah State University (Logan), and PhD from the University of Utah (Salt Lake City).

Biopeds Beat Feet
Biopeds – the Biology Department’s Corporate Cup entry into Bloomsday – scored 12th in their division. Becky Brown, Andrea Castillo, Peggy O’Connell, Robin O’Quinn and John Shields comprised the team. Shields finished in 47:45 – his personal best.

Students Teaching Students
EWU biology and natural science students entertained and educated 227 seventh and eighth grade MESA students from five School District 81 middle schools in March. Participating in Anatomy/Physiology sessions, seventh graders tested hypotheses involving hand grip strength and reaction time, checked their eyes for astigmatism, and determined through a smell/taste test if their nose or tongue provided the experience of taste. In Ecology classes, eighth graders compared macroinvertebrates collected from two different sites on a local stream to determine the quality of water at each site.

Leading instruction were biology majors Kaitlin Maile, Ben Osborne, and Christine Schucker, along with natural science majors Lochinvar Bradford, Krista Caldwell, Beau Crisp, Hannah Hedman, Mark Huyler, Tristan Russell, Stacia Schofield, and Stephen Trainor, Dana Stroud, research assistant in the Biology Department, helped with instruction. Heather McKean, senior lecturer, coordinated activities and instruction.
Students Teaching (cont. from page 1)

MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) is a program that provides enrichment opportunities for underrepresented students in grades K-12. In addition to the biology classes, the students from Chase, Glover, Sacajawea, Salk, and Shaw Middle Schools attended sessions on computer science, engineering, mathematics, physics, and science education that included a house energy project and windmill blade design.

Accompanying the MESA students was EWU biology alumnus Tom Varner (BS, 1994). ♦

News (cont. from page 1)

Tech Receives Scholarship
Russell Matheson, scientific instructional technician, received a Tecniplast scholarship to attend the annual meeting of the Northern Rocky Mountain Branch of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science. Matheson was selected for the award from among all technicians in the region. Matheson was also nominated by Dr. Ken Roberts, director of the WWAMI program and associate dean at WSU, for Technician of the Year.

Faculty Grants
Three Biology Department faculty received Start Something Big Faculty Mini Grants: Andrea Castillo, assistant professor of biology; Charles Herr, associate professor of biology; and Luis Matos, quarterly faculty. ♦

Student News

NCUR Presenters
Three biology majors presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in April at the University of Montana (Missoula):
Jessica Allen, One Small Branch on the Tree of Life: Assessing Marker Utility for Phylogeny Reconstruction in Perennial Spring Beauties (poster)
Gerald Claghorn, Walleye and Smallmouth Bass Predation on San Poil River Kokanee Salmon and Rainbow Trout (oral)
Megan Korst & Gerald Claghorn, Burst Swimming Performance of Reintroduced Juvenile Coho Salmon in the Columbia Basin (oral)

The conference is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in all fields of study. This annual gathering welcomes up to 2,600 scholars and their faculty mentors from all institutions of higher learning in the United States. Mentors for the EWU presenters are: Robin O’Quinn (Allen); Allan Scholz (Claghorn); and Thomas Hancock (Korst and Claghorn).

Symposium Presentations
The 13th Annual Student Research & Creative Works Symposium was held on May 18-19. This university-wide event brings undergraduate and graduate students from all departments together for oral and poster presentations on a wide range of topics. Representing the Biology Department were:

Oral Presentations
Candace Bennett (graduate), Coyotes, Wolves, and People: Coyote Abundance Across an Urban-Wildland Gradient in Northeastern Washington (Margaret O’Connell, mentor)
Jessica Bryant (undergraduate, McNair Scholar) and Brandy Reynecke (graduate), Exotic and Native Plant Distribution on the Mima Mounds of Eastern Washington (Rebecca Brown, mentor)
Dustin Cousins (undergraduate), Underground Without a Headlight: Can the Northern Pocket Gopher Sense Magnetic Fields? (Margaret O’Connell, mentor)
Christopher Dwight (graduate), Elk Hunting on Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge: Impacts on Elk Movement and Aspen Regeneration (Margaret O’Connell, mentor)
John Getz (graduate), Vegetation Analysis of a Riparian Zone After Livestock Exclusion, Cow Creek, Washington (Rebecca Brown and Suzanne Schwab, mentors)
Danielle Klinzing (graduate), Assessment of Cow Creek Following Riparian Restoration (Camille McNeely, mentor)
Maleah Melting Tallow (undergraduate), A Vegetation Survey of a Disturbed Riparian Zone in Deep Creek, Washington (Rebecca Brown, mentor)
Mark Paluch (graduate), Movements of Bull Trout Above and Below Albeni Falls Dam (Allan Scholz, mentor)

(continued on page 3)
Student News (cont. from page 2)

Oral Presentations (con’t.)

**Cassandra Pharr**, (graduate), Swim Training Effects on the Morphology of Juvenile Kokanee Salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka kennerlyi* (Thomas Hancock, mentor)

**Whitney Pinches**, (graduate), Towards the Treatment of Cancer: Polyamides and Polyanines as Gene Delivery Agents (*Travis Denton*, mentor)

**Elliott Reams**, (graduate), Carbon Turnover Rate of Gammarus Tissue (*Camille McNeely*, mentor)

**Heidi Richardson & Tammy Sammeli**, (undergraduate), Clams Have Higher Fitness When Living with Less O2 (*Joanna Joyner-Matos*, mentor)

**Terence Stephens**, (undergraduate), Cloning of Ribulose-1,5-Biphosphate Gene from *Jatropha* (*Prakash Bhuta*, mentor)

Poster Presentations

**Anthony Adams & Dustin Cousins**, (undergraduate), Free Radical Stress is Linked to Heritable Mutation (*Joanna Joyner-Matos*, mentor)

**Jessica Allen** (graduate) & **Brandy Reyneke** (graduate), Assessing Marker Utility for Phylogeny Reconstruction in Perennial Spring Beauties (*Robin O’Quinn*, mentor)

**Melissa Apperson, Nathan Lewis & Taylor Stoll** (undergraduate), *Lemma minor* Can Remove High and Low Concentrations of Lead from River Water (*Justin Bastow & Suzanne Schwab*, mentors)

**Brittany Davidson Morlin** (graduate), A GIS Approach to Characterizing Bank Stabilization Measures Within the Box Canyon Reservoir, Washington (*Margaret O’Connell*, mentor)

Justin Jarvi, Devin Sontag, Brenden Hayden & Russell Grigsby (undergraduate), Effect of Age on the Bioaccumulation of Lead in Swiss-Webster Mice (*Karen Carlberg*, mentor)

Megan Korst & Gerald Claghorn (undergraduate), Burst Swimming Performance of Reintroduced Juvenile Coho Salmon in the Columbia Basin (*Thomas Hancock*, mentor)

Chelsey LaRue & Allison Millward (undergraduate), Sigma Virus RNA is Present in *Drosophila melanogaster* Adults Lacking the Characteristic Sigma-Induced CO2 Sensitivity (*Luis Matos*, mentor)

Alexis Monetta (undergraduate), Methow Valley Beaver Relocation Project (*Margaret O’Connell*, mentor)

Tammy Sammeli & Heidi Richardson (undergraduate), Clams Can Be Successful in “Poor” Habitats (*Joanna Joyner-Matos*, mentor)

Olga Shiva (undergraduate), Identifying Promoters of *Helicobacter pylori* Genes in the Clinically Important Cytotoxin-Associated Gene Pathogenicity Island (*Andrea Castillo*, mentor)


Congratulations to all ~ Thank you for representing EWU Biology so well!

Graduate Research Recognized

Whitney Pinches’ gene therapy research was the focus of an article for the Easterner. Read about it: http://www.easterneronline.com/news/ewu-gene-therapy-research-focuses-on-cancer-1.1483318.

Alumni Update

**Cynthia Worcester** (BS, 2003) is attending graduate school at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. Her graduate project involves bite force as well as morphology in Pacus (a South American fresh water fish). Cynthia is going to Ghana in June for three weeks to help a village rebuild their school.

**Alissa Hill** (BS, 2007) is enjoying her position with the City of Spokane Wastewater Management Department.

**Julia Ojcius** (BS, 2008) has been accepted to medical school at Ohio State University. Julia learned of the school from med students she met in the Honduras last summer and was extremely impressed during the interview process.
Hollister-Stier Textbook Assistance Awards

The following students earned textbook awards for Spring quarter:

Dustan Bilte
Brielle Menegazzi
Jeff Warner

Congratulations! Thank you, Hollister-Stier, for your generosity in helping our students.

Watch for the Summer 2010 Biology News ... Graduation, faculty and student research, alumni updates, and more.

Contact Us

Biology News is a quarterly publication of the Eastern Washington University Department of Biology. To contribute items of interest – news, features, alumni updates – please contact:

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