



# BUILDING A STUDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



March 2005

## Biology Club News

The Club's upcoming meetings will be March 1, 15, and 29 at 5 p.m. in S-382. Come find out what the Club has planned for the rest of the semester! If you'd like to be added to the Club's email list, send your name and email address to Advisor Frank Gilliam at [gilliam@marshall.edu](mailto:gilliam@marshall.edu). New members are always welcome, and even if you are unable to attend the meetings, you will receive email updates about activities you may be able to fit into your schedule.

## One-year Undergraduate Tuition Waivers Available

The Department has a small number of undergraduate research tuition waiver awards available for the 2005-2006 academic year. Applicants must be WV residents, and usually are juniors or seniors. Students awarded tuition research waivers may be doing Independent Study research projects or Capstone projects; awards are based on scholarship and evaluation of the research plan. If departmental funds are needed for research supplies, you must fill out the separate form requesting funding, and submit this with your application. Forms may be obtained from the BSC main office, S-350, or from Dr. Hight, S-267. The deadline for application is **April 1, 2005**.

## How to Apply for Fall Graduate Teaching Assistant Positions

If you will be enrolled as a BSC graduate student this Fall, you can apply to be a teaching assistant (TA). If selected, you will teach laboratory sections of undergraduate courses, help prep an upper-level course, and/or be assigned other departmental duties. You also must enroll for at least 9 credits of graduate courses. In exchange, you will receive a tuition waiver, a stipend, and valuable experience. If you are not already admitted to the Graduate School you must complete their forms and be granted admittance. Applications may be picked up and returned to the main BSC office, S-350. The deadline for application to be a TA is **April 15, 2005**.

## It's Time to Apply for Undergraduate Research and Capstone Funds

If you plan to enroll in BSC 485-488 or BSC 491 for the Fall 2005 semester, the deadline to apply for funding for your research project is **April 1, 2005**. A committee will evaluate the proposal/budget that you prepare with the guidance of the faculty member in whose lab you will be working. Limited funds are available to purchase essential research materials not already on hand in the department. Stipends and travel can not be included. Applications may be picked up and returned to the BSC main office, S-350. To enroll in **Capstone**, you must complete the form at [www.marshall.edu/biology](http://www.marshall.edu/biology).

## A Course to Consider: Plagues, Past, Present, and Future

This Spring, Dr. Frank Binder will teach the three-credit course **BSC 480/580, Special Topics: Plagues, Past, Present, and Future**. This course will examine the major plagues and their influence on human affairs. Diseases to be covered in detail will include smallpox, bubonic plague, influenza (including bird flu), polio, tuberculosis, and leprosy. Present day plagues will include AIDS and resistant HIV strains, and future plagues will consider the role of emerging microbial pathogens such as *E. coli* O157:H7, antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and emerging viruses such as new strains of influenza and SARS. Presentations will include VHS tapes, journal articles, and selected readings on these topics.

## Departmental Seminar Series

The BSC graduate students present seminars every Monday and Wednesday from 4 - 4:50 p.m. in room 374. The grad students speak on some aspect of the thesis research on which they are working. Feel free to attend seminar to learn something new, and to learn about the kinds of research being done right here in your department!

## Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Opportunity

The Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program is funded by the State of WV to encourage promising young researchers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math fields. The program runs for 10 weeks, from May 21-July 31, 2005, and provides a \$4000 stipend so that the student may concentrate solely on research during that period.

This program is targeted toward currently enrolled MU students, with strong preference toward those with one or more semesters of research experience. The major application document is a research proposal based on your prior research, and the quality of this proposal, as evaluated by a panel of reviewers, will be used to rank all applicants. Students with previous informal or non-grant-supported research will receive the same consideration as those with formal, agency-supported research. The full participation of your faculty mentor during all phases of the preparation of your application is encouraged.

Details of the program can be found at: <http://mupfc.marshall.edu/~norton/sure.html>. The application deadline is **March 11, 2005**. For guidance, BSC majors should contact Dr. Marcia Harrison at [harrison@marshall.edu](mailto:harrison@marshall.edu). Students in other science, technology, engineering, and/or math programs should check the program website for the contact person in their field.

## Career and Education Advice for Science Students

Are you unsure what kind of job you can attain with a Bachelor's Degree? Not positive what to expect or what jobs you might qualify for with a Master's or PhD? To gain a better understanding of what level of education qualifies you for which jobs, explore this article by Mike May: [http://recruit.sciencemag.org/feature/advice/foc\\_92404.shl](http://recruit.sciencemag.org/feature/advice/foc_92404.shl)

**Brag Box** - an abbreviated list of recent BSC student and faculty accomplishments:

- **Lisa Gatens**, BSC M.S. 1996 with Dr. Mary Etta Hight, is the new Curator of Mammals at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.
- **Carrie Williamson**, BSC B.S. 2004, has accepted a job at Volcano National Park in Hilo, Hawaii, where she will work on an avian disease project.
- **Laura Miller**, BSC M.S. 1992 with Dr. Dean Adkins, is the Taxonomic Entomologist for the Pest Identification Laboratory of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture in Charleston.
- Publication: **Collier S**, Lee H, Burgess R, Adler P. The WD40 repeat protein Fritz links cytoskeletal planar polarity to Frizzled subcellular localization in the *Drosophila* epidermis. *Genetics*. 2005 Jan 16 [E-publication ahead of print version.]

**It's True:** There are more living organisms on the skin of each human than there are humans on the surface of the Earth. In addition, there are more microbial cells in our bodies than there are human cells! In fact 95% of all the cells in the body are bacteria, mainly living in the digestive tract.

Selected BSC Contact Information			
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