Department News

Faculty Awards

Sidney Kasuga, professor of biology, was honored as Undergraduate Professor of the Year. Peggy O’Connell, professor of biology, received the Dean’s Excellence Award.

Computer Lab Grant

Thanks to Scientific Instructional Technician II John Shields’ efforts, our computer lab received an EWU Student Technology Fee grant for 12 new PCs. The lab now includes 13 Macs and 14 PCs—all less than 2 years old.

Faculty Comings & Goings

Craig Miller, assistant professor of biology, is leaving to pursue post-doctoral work. Applications are being screened for a 1-year temporary replacement to teach introductory biology for majors in 2007-08. The permanent position that starts Fall 2008 will be posted later. Dona Boggs will be on leave Fall and Winter quarters AY2008.

Faculty Grants

Ross Black, professor of biology, was awarded a grant for the Kalispel Tribe for biological investigation of the Little Pend Orielle Lakes. Margaret “Peggy” O’Connell, professor of biology, and James Hallett, adjunct faculty, received grant funding by the Kalispel Tribe for a survey of riparian habitats on the Pend Oreille River. Peggy was also awarded a grant from Washington State Parks & Recreation to survey mammals at Nine Mile and Riverside State Parks. Allan Scholz, professor of biology, received a grant from the Kalispel Tribe for study of bull trout passage at Albeni Falls Dam.

Congratulations to all!

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Michael Clawson received a Frances B. Huston award for demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, and service. One of only four awards in the College of Science, Health & Engineering and twenty campuswide, this honor signifies Mike’s tremendous achievements.

Outstanding Biology Seniors for 2006-07:

Biology
Dan Bickel
Mike Clawson
Joseph Cwik
Aj DeBee
Jeffrey Demmert
Thomas Elder
Amanda Faire
Cora Hartill
Janell Hays
Lisa Hill
Kristine Hostager
Alice Loraine
Charity (Jodi) Mull
Kimberly Pestana
Courtney Poirier
Lacie Westbrook
Zarah Willis

Natural Science
Kelsey Nord

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### 2007 Graduates

#### Master's Graduates:
- Ryan West

#### Bachelor's Graduates:
- Ross Abplanalp
- Solina Adelson
- Atsushi Aikawa
- Kylie Allen
- Kyle Arrington
- Phillip Baker
- Melissa Barrett
- Nicholas Bean
- Piper Benjamin
- Ashley Bennett
- Daniel Bickel
- Ken Boggs
- Triesha Boquist
- Joanna Brasch
- James Bullock
- Benjamen Burnett
- Leah Burnett
- Grant Bursell
- Kelsey Buscher
- Amanda Canales
- Deborah Capes
- Erin Chappell
- Michael Clawson
- Chad Collier
- Elizabeth Contreras
- Michael Cosby
- Molly Coyne
- Ryan Cronrath
- Joseph Cwik
- Aj DeBee
- Jeffrey Demmert
- Stefan Didier
- Carrie Donaldson
- Jason Dunkin
- Thomas Elder
- Amanda Faire
- Kristina Fritz
- Heather Fuller
- Riddhi Gahdhi
- John Getz
- Kelsey Granley
- Amy Granly
- Michael Graybeal
- Luke Gumke
- Brian Gump
- Heather Hafer
- Nicole Hagemeyer
- Stephanie Hall
- China Hansen

### Bachelor’s Graduates:

#### (cont.)
- Matthew Pippenger
- Philip Plesek
- Courney Poirier
- Donalyn Punio
- Christina Putman
- Thomas Repas
- Nichole Riggs
- Juan Rocha
- Scott Sato
- Daniel Schrempp
- Krystal Sharp
- Karleen Smith
- Meg Smith
- Nolan Smith
- Angela Smith
- Timothy Snell
- Michael Squicciarino
- Danielle Stimson
- Heather Stout
- Maegan Strand
- Gina Swallow

### Symposium Honors

Biology students garnering honors at the 2007 EWU Student Research & Creative Works Symposium in May were:

#### 1st Place – Oral Presentation:
**Mike Clawson**, Undergraduate (co-authors: Matthew Berg, Sasha Greenspan, Markael Luterra, Michael Panza & Alex Rigney), for Diversity and Abundance of Multiple Taxa in Ecuadorian Cloud Forest: Trees, Epiphytic Ferns, Invertebrates, and Birds.

#### Honorable Mention – Oral Presentation:
**Tamara Knudson**, Graduate, for Factors Affecting Growth and Success of Stocked Rainbow Trout in Eastern Washington Lakes.

#### Best Poster: **Nicholas Bean**, Undergraduate, for Diet and Growth of Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*) in Box Canyon Reservoir, Pend Oreille River, Washington.

**Congratulations, Graduates!**

Excellent job, awardees, and to all participants!
2007-08 Scholarship Recipients

Scholarships awarded for the 2007-08 academic year:

**Swartz Undergraduate Biotechnology Scholarship** – *Chris Adair, Timothy Hawley & Robert Morrow.* The J. Herman & Jean Swartz Undergraduate Biotechnology Scholarship is awarded to students pursuing biotechnology research.

**Swartz Graduate Biotechnology Scholarship** – *Brittany Davidson, Cara Hulce, Margaret Marshall, Jessica Wampole.* The J. Herman & Jean Swartz Graduate Biotechnology Scholarship is for students in the graduate program focusing on biotechnology research.

**Swartz Medical Technology Scholarship** – *Timothy Hawley & Regina Thompson.* The J. Herman & Jean Swartz Medical Technology Scholarship goes to students doing lab work who plan to pursue a career in medical technology.

**Swartz-Narrance Fellowship** – *Margaret Marshall.* The J. Herman & Jean Swartz and Nate Narrance Fellowship is for graduate students who have conducted lab or field research. The award alternates annually between students in biotechnology and general biology. This year the award is for Biotechnology.

**Swartz-Werschler Fellowship** – *Jillian Hernandez.* The J. Herman & Jean Swartz and Frances & William P. Werschler Fellowship is for graduate students who have conducted lab or field research. The award alternates annually between students in biotechnology and general biology. This year the award is for General Biology.

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ALUMNI UPDATE

**Dawn Maghakian, Master of Science (Biotechnology), 2005**

Dawn just transferred from Sacred Heart Medical Center (SHMC) in Spokane where she was doing molecular diagnostic research to a position as Clinical Lab Supervisor at Stanford Hospital & Clinics – Molecular Pathology and Biochemical Genetics Laboratory in Palo Alto, California. Prior to leaving SHMC, she brought about their first molecular oncology test for JAK2 mutation analysis and had two tests in the pipeline for CML (BCR-ABL) and APL (PML-RARa). SHMC was also adding a quantitative TaqMan assay for HBV that she recently finished.

Earlier this year, Dawn received a California state license as a Clinical Genetic Molecular Biologist / Scientist. She is also scheduled to speak at two national conferences this year: “Validating Molecular Diagnostics Methods for the Clinical Laboratory: Are We There Yet?” at Cambridge Healthtech Institute QPCR Conference; and “Clinical Validation and Regulation of Real-time QPCR Test Systems for Onco-Molecular Diagnostic Markets” at G2Reports from Bench to Bedside: Onco-Molecular Diagnostics in the Clinical Laboratory.
Fund Raising

Normally the Biology Department participates in a Phone-A-Thon early in Fall quarter. This year, the EWU Foundation is handling fund raising differently. Besides bringing in donations, the Phone-A-Thon was our opportunity to connect with alumni. Subsequently, we’d like to remind Biology Department alumni to keep in touch – we’d want to hear what you’ve been doing since graduation, what you’re currently working on … how you’re doing!

And, of course, if you want to make a donation, we’ll gladly accept anything you’d like to send.

Watch for the Fall 2007 Biology News … new faculty/staff, faculty research, scholarships 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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