
THE NICHE

Volume 1, Number 1

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WILLIAM AND MARY DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY STUDENT-FACULTY NEWSLETTER: FIRST ISSUE

We are a large and successful department with outstanding students and faculty, all busy with a wide assortment of activities and pursuits. Exciting things are happening within the department, but our size and variety sometimes present problems of communication: we often don't or can't "get the word out" to every member of the Biology family. This newsletter is an attempt by interested students, faculty, and staff to establish better and more frequent communication between and among the various people and groups within the Department. We hope it will be useful for all of us. Your suggestions will be appreciated.

WELCOME TO THE NICHE FROM THE THREE STUDENT EDITORS (VOLUNTEERS)

The purpose of **THE NICHE** is to foster cooperation and communication among the faculty and students of the William and Mary Department of Biology. Although only three student names appear below, we hope that many more will become involved.

We, along with the department chair, invite anyone interested in this endeavor to contribute to what we hope will be an ongoing information source for our department. Such interest may include cooperative participation in upcoming newsletters or suggestions students may have for the department. For students who do not wish to participate directly, this newsletter can serve as an informative communication source for items dealing with class information, student research and job opportunities, and items of special interest to all of us interested in biology at William and Mary.

If you wish to become involved, you may contact any one of the three of us; Jamie Doyle, president of the Biology Club (campus mail to Jamie in Biology); or Lawrence Wiseman, Chair of the Department.

We hope this newsletter will provide a congenial and open atmosphere for discussion and exchange within the department. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Dave Haworth
Elise Hughes
Bruce Koplan*

GENETICS TO BE OFFERED TWICE IN FALL, NOT IN SPRING

Beginning this Fall, two sections of Genetics will be offered. **Genetics will not be offered in the Spring.** As the only upper level Biology course required of all majors, Genetics always experiences extreme enrollment pressure in the Fall semester as students completing 101 and 201/202 begin taking upper level courses. We hope this new arrangement will afford more students the chance to take Genetics when they most want to take it.

Professors Grant and Hoegerman will team teach both sections (9-10 and 11-12, MWF) and three laboratory sections (1-5, MTuW). If you have questions please see either professor.

Rising seniors who have not yet completed the Genetics requirement must plan to take it this Fall to graduate with a Biology major in 1990.

Please contact the Department Chair if the new arrangement presents special problems for you.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Many William and Mary biology majors do research with our faculty, much of which is published in scientific journals. If you are interested in research, find out what faculty are doing and talk to those who are working in areas of interest to you. You can stop by the Chair's Office, Millington 104, for a list of faculty research interests. **Research in Biology 403 and Honors 495-496** include the majority of research students within the department.

Professor Bradley is Chair of the Department's Undergraduate Research Committee (Millington 302). You can speak with him about opportunities. Additionally, the left-hand bulletin board across from Millington 117 serves as a "notice board" for summer research and field biology programs, jobs, and course work at other universities and biology stations.

Several examples of William and Mary Biology Major research publications:

Post-Chestnut Forests in the Central Blue Ridge of Virginia, in *Castanea*.

Non-Random Layout of the Amino Acid Loci on the Genome of *Escherichia coli*, in *Journal of Molecular Biology*.

Ultrastructure of Meiosis in *Dasya baillouviana* (Rhodophyta). I. Prophase I, in *Journal of Phycology*.

Pregnancy Failure in *Peromyscus maniculatus bairdii*: Influence of Postinsemination Latency in Exposure to the Female of the Strange Male, in *Journal of Mammalogy*.

Effect of Juvenile Hormone Analog Methropene on *Nasonia vitripennis* when Administered Via a Host, *Sarcophaga bullata*, in *Environmental Entomology*.

Outbreeding Via Frequency-Dependent Mate Selection in the Parasitoid Wasp, *Nasonia* (= *Mormoniella*) *vitripennis* Walker, in *Evolution*.

DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

The Biology Department sponsors a seminar series each semester to which everyone is invited. Biologists speak on a variety of topics, usually from 4-5 PM, Friday afternoons. Doughnuts and coffee/tea precedes each seminar in the Reading Room at 3:30 PM. The reception gives students and faculty a chance to talk with the speaker. Notices of each week's speaker and topic are posted outside Millington 117.

Coming seminars (all on Friday at 4 PM):

- March 17: Behavioral Responses of Larval Crustaceans to Environmental Factors, by Dr. Richard Forward of Duke Marine Laboratory.
- March 24: Cartilage Proliferation: A Unique Host Response to a Metazoan Parasite, by Dr. Wolfgang Vogelbein of Virginia Institute of Marine Science.
- March 31: Nitrogen-Fixing Systems in *Azolla*, by Dr. Wu of Virginia Commonwealth University.
- April 7: Microtubule Dynamics in Mitosis, by Dr. Gary Gorbsky of University of Virginia Health Sciences Center (Gary is a 1976 graduate of our department).

BIOLOGY CLUB MEETINGS

Biology Club meets in Millington 117, Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. A schedule appears on the bulletin board right outside room 117. Coming meetings include a talk on March 29th by Professor Beck on "Terns and Other Colonial Nesters."

SENIORS-FACULTY PICNIC PLANNED

The department is planning a picnic for faculty and seniors at the Lake Matoaka Shelter sometime toward the end of April. Food and beverage will be provided.

WHAT DO OUR STUDENTS LOOK LIKE AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

Here are some "facts" about William and Mary Biology Majors you might find interesting (from a survey of alumni and statistical information from the university):

Over the past five years slightly over 100 William and Mary students per year have graduated with a Biology Concentration. That represents almost 10% of all graduating seniors.

ADVANCED TRAINING SINCE GRADUATION

Doctor of Medicine 26%
Doctor of Philosophy 13%
Doctor of Dental Surgery 5%
Juris Doctor 2%
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine 2%
Doctor of Optometry 1%
Master of Arts/Science 14%
Master of Business Admin. 3%
Master of Education 2%
Master of Public Health 1%

Total Advanced Training 77%

Although about 9% of students concentrate in Biology, approximately 17% of Phi Beta Kappa inductees during the past five years have been Biology majors.

Five of the last eleven recipients of the Lord Botetourt Medal have been Biology students. The Medal is given to the graduating senior at William and Mary achieving the highest distinction in scholarship.

THE NICHE

Biology Department Newsletter
College of William and Mary
Millington Hall
Williamsburg, VA 23185

This is the first issue of **THE NICHE** for the students and faculty of William and Mary's Biology Department. There are announcements about course changes, department seminars, undergraduate research opportunities, and other items of interest. There is also a page of "facts" about our undergraduate Biology majors and what they do after graduation.

We hope you will read the material, make suggestions, become involved in future issues. To try to get **THE NICHE** to you two or three times each semester, three student editor-volunteers have signed on for active duty. We invite others to join us.

Let us know what we should include in future issues.

LOGO CONTEST

We need a logo --something crisp, clear and interesting. We want something that will become recognizable and immediately associated with **THE NICHE** and the Biology Department. Please submit designs by April 15 to **THE NICHE**, Biology Department. The person with the winning entry will receive the first **NICHE** T-shirt (with the new logo) and lunch at the restaurant of his or her choice.

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TO: