

Department of Biological Sciences Newsletter

"from biomolecules to the biosphere"



No. 20

June 3, 2011

Announcements



to **Hamid Habibi** for being appointed to the University of Calgary Board of Governors for a two-year term starting in July.



2011 Faculty of Science Awards:

Excellence in Research: **Andre Buret**



Excellence in Teaching: **Cindy Graham**



Jim & Josie Gray Graduate Teaching Award: **Ben Borkovic**



The University of Calgary hosted the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution conference at the Banff Centre May 12-15. It was spectacular in all aspects: science, panoramas and food. More than 450 people from across Canada and the world attended and gave rave reviews. Robert Barclay gave a public lecture to a large crowd called "Bats are like bears with wings" preceeded by a CBC Homestretch interview: <http://www.cbc.ca/homestretch/episode/2011/05/12/bats/>). Congratulations to Sean Rogers who organized it all with cheerful aplomb (to the great appreciation of the rest of the Local Organizing Committee) and to the many EEB student and staff volunteers who contributed so much.

~ Mary Reid



Photos: CSEE attendees getting down on the dance floor. Robert Barclay's public seminar "Bats are like bears with wings". Rogers' lab with a hint of the stunning mountain backdrops. They worked hard on the conference, along with many other members of the EEB Group. David Schindler, awarded the CSEE's eminent ecologist award, with CSEE VP Jeff Hutchings.

Important upcoming dates

June 7	Convocation & luncheon (9:30 AM)
June 29	2nd NSERC Discovery Grant Workshop, 10-12, BI 211
July 1	Bi-Annual Progress Reports for faculty members due to Head

Recent Publications



Durdagi, S., Zhao, C., Cuervo, J.E., **Noskov, S.** “Atomistic Models for Free Energy Evaluation of Drug Binding to Membrane Proteins”, *Curr. Med. Chem.* 2011 (in press; Accepted May 16, 2011).



Durdagi, S., Noskov, S. “Mechanism of K⁺ /Na⁺ selectivity in potassium channels from the perspective of the nonselective bacterial channel NaK”, *Channels*, 5, 1, 2011. (commentary)

Durdagi, S.; Duff, H. J.; **Noskov, S.** Yu. “Combined Receptor and Ligand-Based Approach to the Universal Pharmacophore Model Development for Studies of Drug Blockade to the hERG1 Pore Domain” *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* 51, 463, 2011. This paper was selected as the most downloaded article in first quarter of 2011 from the *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling*.



Gomes, F., Teixeira, P., Cerca, N., **Ceri, H.**, and Oliveira, R. (2011) Virulence gene expression by *Staphylococcus epidermidis* biofilm cells exposed to antibiotics. *Microbial Drug Res* 17: 191-196.

Rodrigues, D., Cerca, N., Teixeira, P., Oliveira, R., **Ceri, H.** and Azeredo, J. (2011) *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Salmonella enterica enteritidis* biofilm susceptibility to different disinfectants and stress-response and virulence gene expression of surviving cells. *Microbial Drug Res* 17: 181-189.

Scholarships



Endeavour Research Fellowships provides financial support for postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows from participating countries to undertake short-term research (4-6 months) towards a Masters or PhD (which they are enrolled in a participating country) or postdoctoral research in any field of study in Australia. <http://www.deewr.gov.au/International/EndeavourAwards/IntApp/Pages/ResearchFellowship.aspx> Deadline 30 June 2011

Endeavour Postgraduate Award provides financial support for international students for up to 4 years to undertake a postgraduate qualification at a Masters or PhD level either by coursework or research in any field of study in Australia. <http://www.deewr.gov.au/International/EndeavourAwards/IntApp/Pages/PostgraduateAwards.aspx> Deadline 30 June 2011

Did you know...



Graduate Level Independent Studies Projects – Students must find a Faculty member to supervise their Independent Studies Project. If your current Program Supervisor is to be your Independent Study Supervisor, a Co-Supervisor will be required.

Biochemistry 641.XX “Selected Topics in Biochemistry”.

Description: This course deals with “selected topics in Biochemistry such as those which appear annually in the serial publication Annual Review of Biochemistry”.

Biology 607.XX – “Special Problems in Biology”.

Description: This is a M.Sc. level Independent Studies course dealing with lectures, seminars, term papers, and training in theoretical and/or laboratory methods. All students interested in completing a Biology 607 level course, must first find a BIOL 607.xx Supervisor and a suitable M.Sc. level project.

Biology 703.xx – “Recent Advances in Biology”.

Lectures, seminars and/or laboratories on special advanced topics in biological sciences. All students interested in completing a Biology 703 level course, must first find a BIOL 703.xx Supervisor and a suitable Ph.D. level project.

As these courses are manually input into the Enrollment system, I would like to request that you complete the forms as soon as possible and submit to me (Karen) so that they can be posted to your registration as soon as possible.

Forms can be found at the bottom of the following web page:

<http://www.bio.ucalgary.ca/graduate/faq.html>

The deadline for submitting these forms is SEPTEMBER 9, 2011.

and

as a reminder!!!!.... Graduate Student Annual Reports with Student and Supervisor comments are due by September 30, 2011 to the Graduate Coordinator. So, students please complete your section, so that your Supervisor’s can complete their sections ☺

Research Proposals

The Research Proposal for **Akpevwe Onoyovwi**, in the area of “Plant Cell Biology”, was accepted by her Supervisory Committee on May 25, 2011.

The Research Proposal for **Xiaoqing “Emily” Wang** entitled “Using stable isotope probing to identify the population”, will be held on June 2, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 312.

Ph.D. Comics



DO YOU OFTEN FEEL DEPRESSED, AND UNABLE TO GET MOTIVATED ABOUT ANYTHING EXCEPT CHECKING YOUR EMAIL?



DO YOU SUFFER FROM FREQUENT ANXIETY ATTACKS OVER THE LACK OF MEANING IN YOUR LIFE?



DO YOU EXPERIENCE FREQUENT HEADACHES TRYING TO COUNT HOW MANY YEARS YOU'VE BEEN IN SCHOOL?



JORGE CHAM © 2002

THEN YOU ARE AMONG THE MILLIONS OF YOUNG ADULTS THAT SUFFER FROM "POST-BACHELOR DISORDER", OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "GRAD SCHOOL".

The following is a paid advertising. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of this comic strip. www.phdcomics.com

NOW THERE IS A CURE.



"I USED TO BE IN A STATE OF CONSTANT STRESS, ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT THE NEXT PAPER DEADLINE OR CLASS PROJECT..."



"I COULDN'T EVEN ENJOY WEEKENDS, MUCH LESS SOCIAL GATHERINGS, ALWAYS ANXIOUS SOMEONE MIGHT ASK WHAT I DO FOR A LIVING OR WHEN I WAS GOING TO GRADUATE..."



"THEN I FOUND OUT ABOUT:

maximum strength
Procrastin-X
phenalazidine slackahide 200mg



JORGE CHAM © 2002

"AND NOW I CAN ENJOY LIFE ONCE AGAIN."

"HA-HA, YES... EVEN GRADUATE LIFE."

Paid advertising. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of this comic strip. See www.phdcomics.com

Ph.D. Candidacy Oral Examinations

Candidacy Exams are Closed Exams.

Man Ling "Ginny" Wong (Supervisor: G. Voordouw), will be holding her Ph.D. Candidacy Examination, in the area of "Molecular Microbiology", on August 30, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in BioSciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: G. Chua).

Aisling Brady (Supervisor: P. Vize), will be holding her Ph.D. Candidacy Examination, in the area of "Marine Biology", on August 30, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in BioSciences room 312. (Neutral Chair: TBA).

Thesis Oral Examinations

(defense seminars are held one hour before the stated defense time in BI 211 unless noted otherwise)

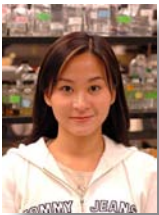
Jennifer Litzenberger (Supervisor: E. Prenner), will be holding her M.Sc. Thesis Exam, on June 3, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in BioSciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: M. Fraser).

Xuan “Lina” Zhao (Supervisor: D. Hansen), will be holding her M.Sc. Thesis Exam, in the area of “Developmental Biology”, on June 16, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. (Neutral Chair: TBA)

Cory Olson (Supervisor: R. Barclay), will be holding his M.Sc. Thesis Exam, in the area of “Animal Ecology”, on June 20, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in BioSciences room 312. (Neutral Chair: M. Reid)

Teklu Gerbaba (Supervisor: L. Gedamu), will be defending his Ph.D. Thesis Exam, in the area of “Molecular Biology”, on August 22, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in BioSciences room 312. (Neutral Chair: G. Voordouw)

Congratulations to...



...**Wai Mui “Joanna” Tjia**, who passed her M.Sc. Thesis Exam, in the area of “Molecular Microbiology”, on May 27, 2011!

.....**Dr. Mary Le**, who passed her Ph.D. Thesis Exam, in the area of “Membrane Biochemistry”, on May 27, 2011!!



Please note: *Pre-defense seminars are a degree requirement for all M.Sc. and Ph.D. students in Biological Sciences. Typically, the seminar will take place immediately preceding the Oral Defense Exam.*

It is the student’s responsibility to book the necessary com-media equipment with either Lilly (220-3578) or David (220-8307) for their examination. Please book the equipment as soon as you have the date set for your exam/proposal meeting.

Positions / Opportunities



International Opportunities, funding and Research: There are a number of funding, research, volunteer and work opportunities available. For details, visit: http://www.ucalgary.ca/uci/relations/international_funding_opportunities



**BIOGEOSCIENCE INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY of CALGARY**

Position: Technology Transfer-Cyber infrastructure support

Qualifications: BSc or MSc in biology with some background in computers

Duration: one year

This position will act as an intermediary between the GeoCENS platform development team and the users and contributors of data to the platform. The position requires a background in biology/ecology and some knowledge of the geosciences. Position also requires good personal skills. The Geospatial Cyberinfrastructure for Environment Sensing (GeoCENS) has an interactive on-line network-based platform where scientists can remotely access, share, and control geographically dispersed environment sensors and datasets through international sensor web standards. GeoCENS is unique in that: (1) GeoCENS is a network sensor web platform; (2) GeoCENS is a standard-based sensor web platform that was developed based on the OGC sensor web standards (i.e., OGC SWE); and (3) GeoCENS is an intuitive and high performance 3D sensor web browser that combines multiple sensor data sources and geographical datasets, and renders them in a coherent and unified virtual globe environment.

Application close: Open until filled.

Send CV and letter to E. A. Johnson <johnsone@ucalgary.ca>



Seeking MSc and /or PhD Graduate Students, Macdonald Campus of McGill University

We are determining the types of receptors on insect blood cells (hemocytes) that bind to specified antigens from Gram- positive and -negative bacteria and the mechanisms by which this binding triggers immediate innate antibacterial responses. The insects used are the economic pests *Galleria mellonella* (the greater wax moth) and *Malacosoma disstria* (the forest tent caterpillar). The bacteria studied are *Xenorhabdus nematophila*, *Photorhabdus* spp and *Bacillus subtilis* (a non pathogen). The former two bacteria are virulent insect pathogens that are symbionts of the insect pathogenic nematodes *Steinernema carpocapsae* and *Heterorhabditis* spp.

Experience required: physiology or cell biology, entomology is useful but not essential.

Contact: Gary Dunphy, Department of Natural Resource Sciences, Macdonald Campus of McGill University, 21,111 Lakeshore Road, Ste Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, Canada. H9X3V9.

E-mail: Dunphy@nrs.mcgill.ca Telephone: 514-398-7993

Job Title: Palaeoconservatory Technician

Job ID: 1005163

Drumheller, Regular Full-Time

Role: Propagate, cultivate, research and nurture nature in a prehistoric garden at one of Alberta's premier cultural and historical attractions. The Royal Tyrrell Museum seeks a research driven horticulturalist to look after a large and complex collection of living plants. Canada's only museum devoted entirely to palaeontology, the Royal Tyrrell Museum is committed to the collection, con-

ervation, research, display and interpretation of Alberta's palaeontological history.
<https://www.jobs.alberta.ca/jobs-dynamic.html>

Biotech Job Bank (www.bhrc.ca) has current employment opportunities in the biotechnology industry in Canada. The Biotech HR Pulse is available in PDF format at:
www.bhrc.ca/Pulse/index.html. Phone 519-457-1470, Ext 268, Fax 519-457-3997.

University Affairs Career Ads. Current employment opportunities, including all facets of the biological sciences, in Canadian universities may be found at the University Affairs website: www.universityaffairs.ca. Career ads are available in HTML format at:
http://www.universityaffairs.ca/career_ads/index.html

Conferences / Workshops / Courses



Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan,
Canada
October 18-21

AWB
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2011 BIOFUMIGATION & PESTICIDES SYMPOSIUM

"from biomolecules to the biosphere"