



Department of Biological Sciences Newsletter

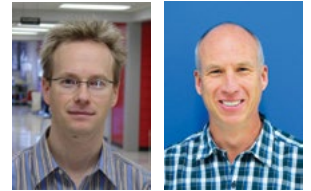
“from biomolecules to the biosphere”

No. 15

April 22, 2016

Announcements

We are pleased to announce that **Greg Moorhead** has agreed to serve a three-year term as Associate Head (Graduate Programs) starting 1 July. Greg will work closely with Ray over the next couple of months so that the transition is as smooth as possible. Greg has lots of experience in the Department and with graduate matters. His perspective and input will also be valuable on the Department's Executive and Head's Advisory committees. We greatly appreciate his willingness to take on this important role.



At the same time, we want to thank **Ray Turner** for his dedication and tireless work as Associate Head. It has been a very busy three years, with lots of changing policies and increased pressures on students and supervisors.

Ray has put in place new activities and processes to meet these challenges, and he leaves the graduate programs in great shape for Greg to step in.

Robert Barclay and Doug Storey

Department members, just a reminder that, as in the past few years, the Department has entered a team for the **Mother's Day Race and Walk**. So far 16 people have signed up. Well done! For the past few years, we have had great fun and helped raise money for the various Neonatal Intensive Care Units in Calgary and Southern Alberta.

The race is on Sunday 8 May (yes it is Mother's Day...a good exercise before brunch with mum or as a mum).

Warm-up starts around 0840h, and races/walk start around 0900.

The start and finish are at Chinook Mall as in the past couple of years. Easy access via LRT which is free for participants.

There is a 5km race/walk and a 10km race. Also wheelchair races.

No experience necessary and all levels of fitness are welcome as long as you can walk 5km.



Important Dates

April 29 - University 50th birthday - afternoon event in EEEL (3-5 PM)

June 9 - Convocation (morning) and stand up luncheon



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I will pick up the race packages and distribute them on Friday 6 May, so you needn't worry about that.

You can get all the information and register at: <http://www.mdrunwalkride.com/calgary-registration-information.html> Deadline to register is 1 May.

To register, you will need to know the Team name (Biosci UofC) and password (DNA).

We welcome students, staff, faculty, post-docs, family members etc.

Last year, Casey Hubert's group took bragging rights as the biggest group on our team. I don't see them on the list so far....must still be recovering from last year!!

Perhaps some friendly competition (in terms of participation not speed!) among research clusters, research groups, floors in the building, etc) can be generated?! Come on students, shame your supervisor into getting off their... chair and getting some exercise!

Many thanks. Looking forward to another fun event

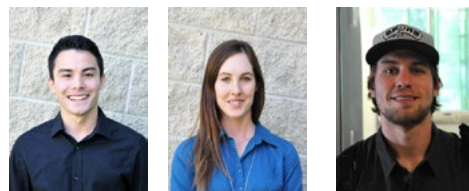
Robert

Welcome to the new BGSA exec:

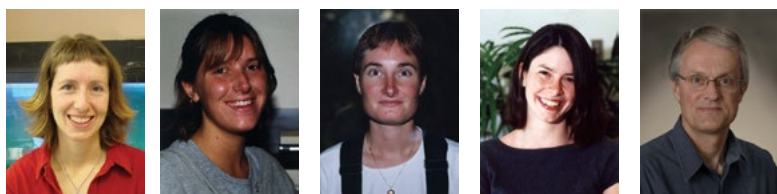
President: **Jonathon Lee**
VP Internal: **Kara Vanden Broek**
VP Events: **Jessica Hopson**
VP Finance: **Alex Perry**
VP Student Life: **Taylor Woo**
VP Communications: **Susan Anderson**



Commissioner: **Scott Seamone**



Recent Publications



Tanya MJ Luszczyk , Jason MK Rip , **Krista J Patriquin** , **Lydia M Hollis** , **Joanna M Wilson** , Heather DM Clarke, Jan Zinck and **Robert MR Barclay**. 2016. A blind-test comparison of the reliability of using external morphology and echolocation-call structure to differentiate between the Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*). Northwestern Naturalist, 97:13-23.

Graduate Student Affairs



Research Proposals

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Lisa Cahoon**, in the area of “Ecology”, was accepted by her Supervisory Committee on April 14, 2016.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Vaidehi Patel**, in the area of “Physiology”, was accepted by her Supervisory Committee on April 15, 2016.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Marwa Thraya**, in the area of “Physiology”, was accepted by her Supervisory Committee on April 18, 2016.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Brooke Rackel**, was accepted by her Supervisory Committee, on April 21, 2016.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Gul Rukhsar Zeb** entitled “Methane biofiltration in tailings ponds”, will be held on April 22, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 186.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Ahmad Vahab** entitled “Characterization of AtSLP1, a new serine/threonine phosphatase from Arabidopsis thaliana”, will be held on April 25, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 499.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Ruth Moges** entitled “The Immunomodulatory Effects of Tylvalosin on Porcine Macrophages and Neutrophils”, will be held on April 25, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Julie Thomas** entitled “Effects of bark beetle disturbance and salvage logging on habitat use by wildlife in the Southwest Yukon”, will be held on April 27, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 246.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Dimitri Desmouts de Lamache** entitled “Anti-viral and immune-modulating properties of Tulathromycin in porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome”, will be held on April 27, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 312.

Ph.D. Candidacy Oral Examination - Candidacy Exams are Closed Exams.

Besian Sejdiu (Supervisor: P. Tieleman), will be holding his Candidacy Examination, in the area of “Biophysical Chemistry”, on April 26, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 312. (Neutral Chair: H. Vogel).

Christina Amat (Supervisor: A. Buret), will be holding her Candidacy Examination, in the area of “Host Pathogen Interactions”, on May 31, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: G. Chua).

Stephanie Mogensen (Supervisor: J. Post), will be holding her Candidacy Examination, in the area of “Ecology”, on June 3, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: J. Fox).

Scott Seamone (Supervisor: D. Syme), will be holding his Candidacy Examination, in the area of “Physiology”, on July 14, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: H. Habibi).

Thesis Oral Examinations - Exams are “Open” unless otherwise noted.

Ezgi Ogutcen (Supervisor: J. Vamosi), will be holding her Ph.D. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Evolutionary Biology”, on April 22, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 312. (Neutral Chair: J. Theodor).

Abeer Alhawsawi (Supervisor: H. Habibi), will be holding her M.Sc. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Physiology”, on April 25, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 246. (Neutral Chair: G. Voordouw).

Darren Henry (Supervisor: G. Chua), will be holding his Ph.D. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Molecular Microbiology”, on April 27, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: G. Voordouw).

Evan Kerek (Supervisor: E. Prenner), will be holding his M.Sc. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Biophysical Chemistry”, on May 4, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: R. Edwards).

Larry Powell (Supervisor: A. Russell), will be holding his Ph.D. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Evolutionary Ecology”, on May 25, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: J. Fox).

Jordan Roberts (Supervisor: D. Syme), will be holding his M.Sc. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Physiology”, on May 25, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 312. (Neutral Chair: V. Zaremborg).

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

Congratulations to.....

Mohsen Ramezanzpour, who passed his Candidacy Examination, in the area of “Biochemistry”, on April 15, 2016!

Samuel Robinson, who passed his Candidacy Examination, in the area of “Ecology”, on April 19, 2016!



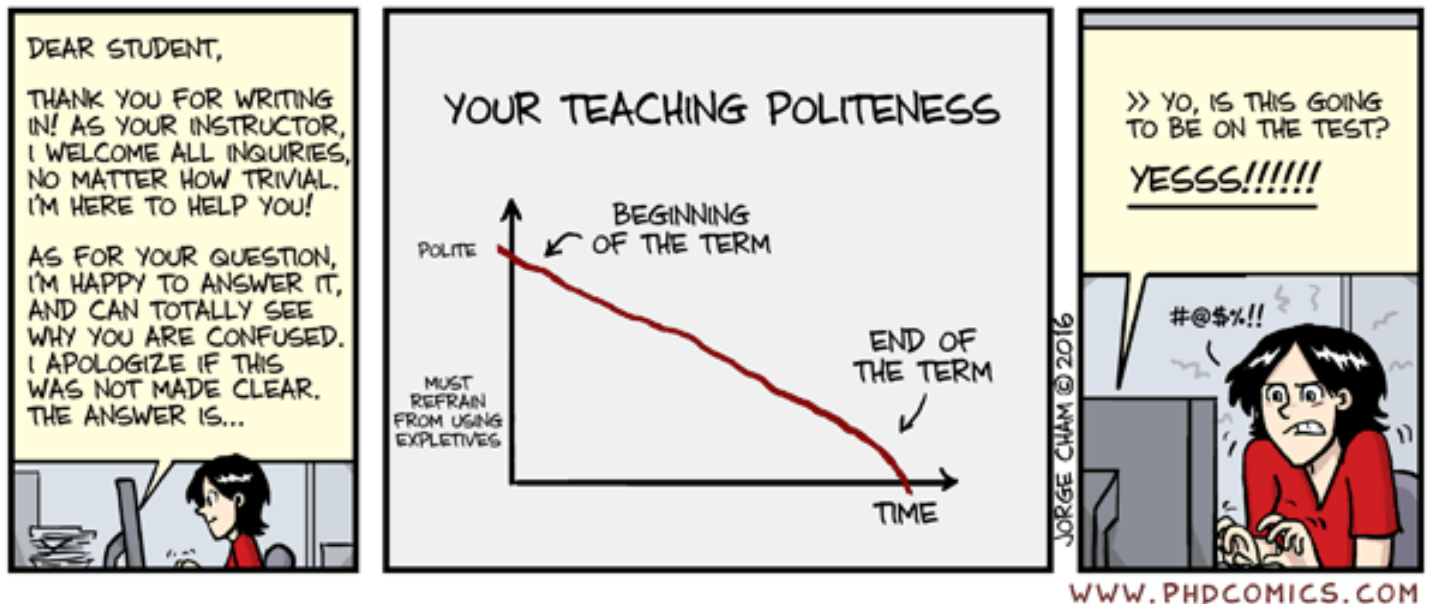
Dr. Ella Bowles, who passed her Ph.D. Thesis Oral Examination in the area of “Evolutionary Biology”, on April 15, 2016!



Lisa Oberding, who passed her M.Sc. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Environmental Microbiology”, on April 15, 2016!



Yulia Tsinko, who passed her M.Sc. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Ecology”, on April 18, 2016!



“Piled Higher and Deeper” by Jorge Cham
www.phdcomics.com