



BIO-BUZZ

THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES NEWSLETTER

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ALUMNI. We want to hear from you.

Vol. 3 Issue 1

Friday, October 24, 2014

Message from the Chair

Greetings!

Welcome to all our new and returning undergraduate and graduate students! And hello to all our subscribers. We appreciate your feedback and comments – we strive to keep you current with what's happening in our department, and to provide you with information on upcoming changes to our programs and our campus.



We have 44 MSc and 18 PhD students this term. To our graduate students - your participation in the delivery of our courses and labs, tutoring, grading and other opportunities keep our programs alive and thriving. Life on campus at the University of Lethbridge will afford you opportunities not only to study and learn, but to make valuable connections with faculty and students alike. Our department members are here to help and support you. Take advantage throughout this year to join in on symposiums, and departmental gatherings, which will be announced to you through email and notices. This is YOUR opportunity for personal as well as career growth!

To our undergraduate majors – be proactive - meet your professors, learn about their individual research projects and how to add to your own research opportunities. You might consider an Independent Study or undergraduate thesis, as this will give you a real opportunity to interact with our faculty. This can lead you down paths in your future which you have not anticipated, and will certainly enhance your



Submit photos, stories, awards. Tell us about your work and/or your life. We want to showcase you!

Contact us at
biology@uleth.ca

Upcoming Events

Departmental Retreat -
This event will be held
Friday, December 5,
2014. Dr. David
Townsend will moderate
the meeting which will
deal with issues such as
departmental growth and
change, curriculum and
other relevant issues.

Destination Exploration Photos - June 2014



Some of our younger
upcoming scientists
interacting with Dr.
Randy Barley, Instructor,
Department of Biological
Sciences at Destination
Exploration at Galt
Gardens.

University experience.

Consider joining (if you haven't already) our newly re-formed BioClub – we have a growing membership with lots of opportunities to enhance leadership skills, and to have some fun with people who have similar interests. We wish you great success.

Our departmental space committee members, chaired by Dr. Elizabeth Schultz, are very busy with the proposed Destination Project (i.e., new Science Building). There has been a lot of coverage in the ULeth publications. Three designs are being considered, and the building will be sited near the north end of Level 6 of University Hall. There's a lot of work to be done and the Space Committee will be involved all the way.

The U of L will receive \$1,000,000 over five years from the Potato Growers of Alberta (PGA), McCain Foods, ConAgra Lamb Weston and Cavendish Farms to establish a Chair in potato science. The University will immediately begin its search for a scientist with demonstrated experience in the potato industry, and who is able to collaborate with producers and industry partners.

We welcome Jenny Burke to our department. Jenny is replacing Katrina Mendez, Instructor, who is on leave. Jenny completed her MSc under the supervision of Dr. John Bain.

We are still asking everyone, especially our Alumni, to let us know how we are doing! We thank you for your interest and response to our news. We pledge to keep you informed of upcoming departmental news and events. Please continue to send us your news and comments.

Best wishes,
Brent Selinger, PhD,
Chair

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Welcome to New Faculty

Jenny Burke did both her undergraduate and graduate degrees here at the University of Lethbridge. She



currently lives in Fort Macleod and is very proud of her little town, where she is involved in the community garden, local food cooperative, and early

childhood development coalition. She is also on the board of the South Country Fair and looks forward to this great music and cultural festival every July. Most importantly, however, Jenny is mom to Charlie, who just turned three years old. His favorite activity is playing on his new drum set. He occasionally invites his mom to play along so she has recently reconnected with an old hobby – playing the piano.

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Discovery Grant & NSERC Funding

A total of 12 University of Lethbridge researchers, four of whom are in the department of Biological Sciences, are receiving funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) this year, enabling future U of L discoveries in a variety of areas including neuroscience, biological sciences and chemistry and biochemistry. The four faculty from Biological Sciences, receiving Discovery Grant funding, are Dr. Alice Hontela, Dr. Olga Kovalchuk, Dr. Theresa Burg, and Dr. Lawrence Flanagan. NSERC also announced recipients of its graduate scholarships and fellowship awards. Mark Hornsby, Biological Sciences and a PhD candidate, received a graduate scholarship. NSERC grants aim to develop, attract and retain the world's most talented researchers at Canadian universities who are working in a multitude of scientific and engineering disciplines.

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Top 25 Women of Influence in Canada

Dr. Olga Kovalchuk has been named one of twenty-five Women of Influence. An [article in the Lethbridge Herald](#) outlines the process for voting which of the twenty-five will be featured on the cover of an upcoming publication of a magazine.



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BioClub

The Department of Biological Sciences is very pleased to announce that the BioClub has re-formed.



BioClub is a ULSU ratified club. Its purpose is to promote educational, social and volunteer opportunities amongst University of Lethbridge Students who are interested in any aspect of Biological Sciences.

You do not have to major in biology to join the club. It is open to anyone, including: all undergraduate students, graduate students, and department members! We currently have 14 exec members and 35 members.

Our Executives include:

President: Breanalee Beer

Vice Presidents: Vanessa Rogers, Alycia Amatto, Tyler Tamayose

Secretaries: Allison Farfus, Siobhan Pett

Treasurers: Rebecca McCubbin, Chelsea Happner

Event Co-ordinators: Sylvia Chow, Taylor Wolters, Benjamin Leuck, Mieke Heyns

Fundraising Chair: Nevada Bennis

Social Media Managers: Jody Heerema, Pedro Almeida

Junior Executive: Araba P. Sagoe

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New MSc and PhD Students

We welcome our new MSc and PhD students to the Department, and wish you all great success in your various studies.



Anu Anele, MSc Student

Start date: Jan 2014

Supervisors: Brent Selinger &
Wade Abbott



Dillon Barker, MSc Student

Start date: Sept. 2014

Supervisors: Dr. James Thomas
& Dr. E. Taboada



Alessandra Bosco, MSc Student

Start date: Sept. 2014

Supervisor: Dr. Greg Pyle



Sylvia Chow, MSc Student

Start date: May 2014

Supervisors: Dr. Greg Pyle





Tyler Tamayose, MSc Student

Start date: May 2014

Supervisor: Dr. Olga Kovalchuk

Jody Heerema, MSc Student

Start date: Sept. 2014

Supervisor: Dr. Greg Pyle



Xia Qing, MSc Student

Start date: Sept. 2014

Supervisor: Dr. Theresa Burg



Anas Eranthodi, PhD Student

Start date: Sept. 2014

Supervisors: Dr. Elizabeth Schultz and Dr. N. Foroud

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Graduates with M.Sc. and Ph.D Designations

Best wishes to all graduates in our MSc and PhD programs. We wish you continued success in your future endeavours.

In Spring 2014, the following individuals graduated:

Sobadini Kaluthota , M.Sc. Biological Sciences

Supervisor: Dr. S. Rood

Christine Lacho, M.Sc. Biological Sciences
Supervisor: Dr. J. Rasmussen

Matthew Thomas, M.Sc. Biological Sciences
Supervisors: Dr. B. Selinger and Dr. D. Inglis

Andriy Bilichak, Ph.D. Biomolecular Science
Supervisor: Dr. I. Kovalchuk

Jennyka Hallewell, Ph.D. Biomolecular Science
Supervisors: Dr. J. Thomas & Dr. T. McAllister

Edmund Sottie, Ph.D. Biomolecular Science
Supervisors: Dr. J. Thomas & Dr. S. Acharya

In Fall 2014, the following individuals graduated:

Cody Lewis, M.Sc. Biological Sciences
Supervisor: Dr. R. Golsteyn

Chen Liu, M.Sc. Biological Sciences
Supervisor: Dr. E. Schultz

Tanzila Rahman, M.Sc. Biological Sciences
Supervisor: Dr. R. Golsteyn

Scott Seward, M.Sc. Biological Sciences
Supervisor: Dr. J. Rasmussen

Trevor MacMillan, PhD Biological Sciences
Supervisors: Dr. I. Kovalchuk and Dr. F. Eudes

We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

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Exploration Expo - Let's Talk Science

On June 7, 2014 the department of Biological Sciences participated in Exploration Expo at Galt Gardens. It was an unqualified success. Department members and a lot of student volunteers worked at several science displays. The kids who attended had the opportunity to get excited about science through interactive displays, research presentations and performances. Our department provided several book prizes, accompanying a little kid's quiz, which had over 90 entries. The winners of the books are Aliya Jansen, Evan Phillips, Rob Morrisette, and Hallie Bisette.

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Biological Sciences Welcome Back Fall Barbecue



Our Welcome Back barbecue was held at Popson Park on Friday, September 12. We were delighted with the turnout - having a huge number of grad students present made the evening a great success. We didn't have any retirements, but keep noticing the kids are getting older, but we aren't ageing at all!

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BioClub Meet the Faculty Night

We had our "Meet the Faculty/Corn Maze" event on October 8th. It was super fun! We had 5 faculty members attend and 15 students! The students raced through the corn maze with a faculty member and filled out a worksheet with questions about the faculty member's past and present research. We learned about independent and applied studies opportunities. To top it all off there was a bonfire with pizza, pop, and prizes at the end!



Upcoming events: Some other event ideas for this year include: biology pumpkin carving contest, Halloween party, Christmas party, laboratory tours, and a faculty poster session. The dates will be emailed out to members of BioClub and posted to Facebook (University of Lethbridge BioClub) and Twitter (@ulethbioclub).

If you are interested in joining BioClub or have any questions about the club, please send an email to bio.club@uleth.ca or talk to any of our executives in the hallway!

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Team Winners of the Meet the Professor night at the Corn Maze. Dr. James Thomas answered the most questions asked by BioClub team members.

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BioClub members exploring the Corn Maze.

BIO-BUZZ Newsletter

Above is the latest newsletter from the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Lethbridge. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, forward this email to biology@uleth.ca with a message asking us to remove you from our mailing list OR unsubscribe using the link below.

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