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The Leaflet

Department of Biology, KU

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News Shorts

- Congratulations to Drs. Cristen Rosch and Todd Underwood for receiving tenure. Dr. Underwood was also promoted to Associate Professor.
- Dr. Daniel Aruscavage joined the Department of Biology Fall 2010.
- Congratulations to Drs. Angelika Antoni and Angie Hoptak-Solga for new additions to their households (a.k.a. babies).

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the first edition of *The Leaflet*, the Biology Department Newsletter!!! We are hoping that this newsletter will help us keep in better touch with alumni and emeriti, and will also enable us to share news about our department with all who are interested. As you may or may not be aware, the Department has changed quite a bit over the last decade. We are still enjoying our greatly expanded science facilities, and if you haven't seen our new/renovated building, we strongly encourage you to stop by for a tour. We would love to see you!!



Over the past several years, the Biology faculty complement has undergone several changes with many faculty retirements, and also a large number of new faculty hires. In this issue of *The Leaflet*, we have included short biographies of tenure-track faculty who have been hired over the past three years. You will also see that the *Ecoplot* has been renamed as the *Ronald R. Rhein Environmental Study Area* in honor of Emeritus Professor, Dr. Ron Rhein, who played a major role in securing the land for the site back in the 1960's, long before he began his 16 year service as Chair of the Department.

This and future editions of *The Leaflet* will include faculty and student accomplishments as well as news from alumni and emeriti. We would very much like to hear from you, and if you would like, we will include your news in future editions of *The Leaflet*. So please get in touch with us and let us know how you are doing. We have included contact information on the last page of the newsletter. We hope to hear from you in the near future!!!

Best wishes!!!

Carol C. Mapes

Carol C. Mapes
Chair of the Biology Department

Emeritus Spotlight: Ronald Rhein

The Ecoplot was renamed and dedicated as the Ronald R. Rhein Environmental Study Area at a ceremony held on October 19, 2009 in honor of Dr. Ron Rhein, Emeritus Professor of Biology. Back in the 1970's, Dr. Rhein played an instrumental role in encouraging the University to set aside 23 acres of college property as a natural area for ecological and environmental



studies. He was also instrumental in establishing the BS degree in Environmental Science, and acted as the first coordinator of the program. More recently Dr. Rhein served as Chair of the Biology Department for 16 years, prior to retiring in 2007. You can view portions of the dedication ceremony at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ha-EWO47AcQ>



Photos: Ron (red jacket and sunglasses) posing with current faculty, staff, an alumnus and former LAS Dean Carl Brunner (Top); with Acting LAS Dean Anne Zayaitz and President F. Javier Cevallos (Top Left); with wife Mary Lou and daughter Kathleen (Bottom Left); and with Biology Emeriti Dr. Frank Muzopappa, Mr. Bob Gray, and Dr. Don Mellinger (Bottom Right).



The Biology Department Grows:

Dr. Angelika Antoni

Dr. Antoni was a temporary faculty member in the Biology Department at KU before taking her place on the tenure track with the Department in Fall 2008. Dr. Antoni coordinates the labs for the non-majors biology course and teaches Introduction to Biology for non-majors as well as Principles of Biology for majors. Dr. Antoni also teaches new courses she developed in immunology and cancer biology. She obtained her Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Microbiology from the University of Montana in 1998, and then spent six years in Postdoctoral training in Immunology at The University of Chicago. Dr. Antoni's research is focused on trying to understand the genetic component of autoimmune diseases, but she is also expanding her interests into understanding the establishment of normal gut microbiota, especially in formula-fed infants who were born by cesarean. Dr. Antoni's husband is a civil and environmental engineer and they have two children, a 3 ½ year old daughter and an 8 month old son. They enjoy spending time together and especially love going to the Shore in the summer and the zoo, any time of year.



Dr. Daniel Aruscavage

Dr. Aruscavage, our most recent hire, joined the department in Fall 2010. He earned his B.S. from the University of Scranton, his M.S. from Bloomsburg University, and his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. Most recently he joined us from SUNY Pottsdam. Dr. Aruscavage's research is focused on food safety in the home. Dr. Aruscavage is currently teaching courses in Microbiology. In his free time he enjoys taking care of his three dogs.

Dr. Allison Roy

Dr. Roy started at KU in Fall 2009, where she teaches Biology and Environmental Science courses including: introductory biology, ecology, conservation biology, and ENV/BIO senior seminars. Her research involves characterizing land use impacts on stream fishes and macroinvertebrates, and assessing responses to various management strategies (e.g., riparian buffers, stormwater management). Dr. Roy received her B.S. in Biology and Environmental Science from Allegheny College, and her M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. Prior to coming to KU, she spent five years as a post-doctoral research scientist with the EPA's Sustainable Environments Branch in Cincinnati, Ohio. Currently much of her free time is spent playing with her 1½ year old daughter, but in her past life her hobbies included hiking, camping, and building and repairing homes for families in need.





Dr. Gregory Setliff

Dr. Gregory Setliff joined the Biology Department in Fall 2008. He earned his Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Minnesota. Greg's research focuses on insect taxonomy and systematics with an emphasis on the weevils (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) of the Indo-Australian region. Prior to coming to Kutztown, Greg conducted insect surveys in Namibia, the Philippines, Guatemala and Honduras and conducted field studies for three years on the diversity and host specificity of lowland rainforest insects in Papua New Guinea. Greg continues to work on New Guinean weevil taxonomy but has recently started projects on the Cryptorhynchinae of Puerto Rico and surveys of PA weevils with Kutztown University students. Greg lives with his wife and two daughters in Kutztown.

Dr. Matthew Stone

Dr. Stone joined the Biology Department in Fall 2009. He earned his B.S. in Biology from Eckerd College in 2000, his M.S. in Biology from Missouri State University in 2003, and his Ph.D. in Zoology from Oklahoma State University in 2009. Dr. Stone's research focuses on issues of reptile and amphibian conservation, particularly turtles. Additionally, Dr. Stone is interested in how reproductive effort influences maternal bone density. At KU he teaches courses in introductory biology, physiology, histology, and herpetology. Matt lives with his wife (see alumni spotlight) and two dogs near Kutztown. In his free time he enjoys a variety of outdoor recreational activities.



Professor Christopher Winslow

Chris joined KU in Fall 2009. He was born in Midland, MI but spent most of his childhood in Cleveland, OH. Chris earned his B.S. from Ohio University in 1997 and his M.S. degree in 2002 from Bowling Green State University (BGSU). Chris is set to defend his Ph.D. research from BGSU in October 2010. His research has explored fish behavior and the mechanisms that regulate fish populations and structure freshwater fish communities. Chris is interested in how major ecological processes, such as competition, predation, and the presence of invasive species, structures freshwater food webs. His research encompasses three broad but interconnected areas: (1) assessing how varying selection pressures across habitats impact fish behavior, (2) working to understand the various modes of interaction between invasive and native fishes, and (3) quantifying the impact of Hypoxia on fish behavior and overall population dynamics.



Faculty Accomplishments of Note

- Professor **Chris Winslow** received two grants this past summer, totaling \$19,561 for his research on the effects of hypoxia on fish species assemblages in Lake Erie. The grants were obtained from the Ohio Sea Grant Agency, an extension of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- **Dr. Marilyn C. Baguion** was granted by the Republic of the Philippines Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the DOST *Balik-Scientist* Short Term Program Award. As DOST *Balik-Scientist*, Dr. Baguion shared her time and expertise in molecular biology to strengthen the scientific and technological capabilities of Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), Batac, Ilocos Norte, and other academic and research institutions in the region during the summers of 2009 and 2010.



Dr. Marilyn Baguion (middle) posing with MMSU president, Dr. Miriam E. Pascua (left), and MMSU researcher Marissa Atis (right).



Dr. Ryan and student guide, Susan

- **Dr. Wendy Ryan** spent three weeks as a visiting faculty member at Yantai University this past May. Highlights of this visit included classroom lectures for students in Aquaculture, International Business, and English, mostly because of the opportunity to interact with many curious and well-spoken Chinese students. She was also invited to judge a Speech Contest, which was, thankfully, largely delivered in English. Dr. Ryan also gave an invited lecture on the latest developments and future directions in Marine Science for employees of the City of Yantai Foreign Affairs Office. Her hosts at Yantai University were wonderful, and she was treated to many formal dinners and events, most of which featured local seafood which was fabulous.
- **Dr. William Towne** was recognized for his research and contributions to the study of honeybee navigation behavior when he was awarded the 2010 Chambliss Award, the highest honor a faculty member at KU can receive in recognition of their research. This award can be received once in a lifetime. Congratulations Dr. Towne!!
- **Dr. Todd Underwood** received a grant from the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education for \$4,746 to fund his research on the interactions between avian brood parasites and their hosts. His research will be conducted at a field station in Manitoba, Canada for two summers.

Recent Publications in the Department

- Patel, V.A., D.J. Lee, L. Feng, **A. Antoni**, W. Lieberthal, J.H. Schwartz, J. Rauch, D.S. Ucker, and J.S. Levine. 2010. Recognition of apoptotic cells by epithelial cells: conserved versus tissue-specific signaling responses. *J Biol Chem* 285:1829-1840.
- Roy, A.H.**, M.J. Paul, and S.J. Wenger. 2010. Chapter 16: Urban Stream Ecology. Pages 341-352 In J Aitkenhead-Peterson and A Volder (eds). *Urban Ecosystem Ecology*. Agronomy Monograph 55, American Society of Agronomy, Madison, WI.
- Sanders, C.**, S. Turkarlan, D-W. Lee, and F. Daldal. 2010. Cytochrome *c* biogenesis: the Ccm system. *Trends Microbiol* 18:266-274.
- Savanick Guiney, M., D. A. Andow, S. J. Weller, and **G. P. Setliff**. 2010. An unusual wing color of a female Karner Blue butterfly, *Lycaidesmelissasamuelis* (Lycaenidae) in Minnesota. *J Lepidopterists' Society* 64(2): 112-113.
- Stone, M.D.**, B.H. Arjmandi, and M.B. Lovern. 2010. Dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) as a non-invasive tool for the prediction of bone density and body composition of turtles. *Herp Review* 41:36-42.
- Thurston, H.W., M.A. Taylor, W.D. Shuster, **A.H. Roy**, and M.A. Morrison. 2010. Using a reverse auction to promote household level stormwater control. *Env Science and Policy* 13:405-414.
- vanEngelsdorp, D., J. Hayes Jr., **R. M. Underwood**, and J. Pettis. 2010. A survey of honey bee colony losses in the U.S, fall 2008 to spring 2009. *J of Apicultural Research* 49(1): 7-14.

Alumni Spotlight:

Dr. Cristen Rosch



After receiving her B.S. in Biology (Organismal/Ecology track) at Kutztown University, Cristen completed her M.S. and Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology at Lehigh University in Bethlehem. Following graduation from Lehigh, Cristen taught for three years in the Biology Department at Cedar Crest College in Allentown and is now in her sixth year of teaching at Kutztown where she teaches a variety of courses including Cell Biology, Developmental Biology, Genetics lab, and Intro to Biology. Her research interests focus on gene expression and regulation and the use of fluorescence microscopy to study the cell cytoskeleton. In addition to her teaching and research, Cristen is also the Coordinator of the Medical Technology Program and the advisor of the Department's Health Careers Society. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family and her dog, going to Phillies games, reading and traveling.

Dena Stone

Dena (Hartzell) Stone is a Class of 2001 Biology graduate. Since graduating from KU she worked in association with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Department of Environmental Protection. Dena then earned her M.S. in Zoology from Oklahoma State University in 2006. After receiving her M.S. she worked for the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma for 4 years, 2 of which she served as director of their environmental program. Currently, Dena is an employee for the U.S. Department of Labor in Allentown, PA.



Spotlight on Students:

Taryn Dick

Taryn, a recent Biology graduate, was an exemplary student in the molecular/micro/cell track. In 2010, Taryn received a Silver Medal Chambliss Academic Achievement Award. She was also a recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Student Award presented by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists. Taryn was successful at obtaining several grants to fund her undergraduate research. She presented her findings at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists. Her project, co-authored with Dr. Antoni, was entitled *Cloning genes differentially expressed by two different but related cell lines*. Currently, Taryn is in a Ph.D. program in cancer biology at Penn State Hershey.



Taryn receiving her award at the 2010 CPUB awards banquet



Dr. Towne and Katelyn at the 2010 CPUB awards banquet

Katelyn Dovey

Katelyn, a recent Biology graduate, was a recipient of numerous academic achievement awards during her tenure at KU. She made the Dean's List every semester while at KU. In 2010, Katelyn received a Copper Medal Chambliss Academic Achievement Award. Additionally, she was the KU nominee for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Ali-Zaidi award. This award recognizes one student out of all the PASSHE academic institutions. This past spring she presented the results of her collaborative research with Dr. Towne at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists Annual meeting. She was awarded 1st place in the Ecology & Organismal Biology platform session for her presentation, entitled, *The depth of the honey bees' backup sun compass system*. Currently, Katelyn is a high school teacher at Donegal High School in Mount Joy, PA.

Other Student Accomplishments:



Congratulations:

- **Dominic Stennet** was awarded the Ron Rhein scholarship in recognition for her exemplary service to the University, and Community.

Contact us: We are always interested in how alumni are doing. Please drop us a line and update us on your activities.

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