

Alumni News

The Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences

Winter 2012

FROM THE DEAN...

Greetings Alumni,

I hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday season!! 2012 is off to a great start for us in the Division. We have received over 1180 applications this year, an increase of 10% from last year. Applicant interviews have begun and our program directors, admissions committee and staff have been working hard to make this year's admission season a success.

This fall, we had the opportunity to host the Pre-Conference for those attending ABRCMS (Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students) in downtown St. Louis. Rochelle Smith spearheaded a full day, multi-campus event that brought 200 faculty and students from campuses across the country to Washington University. It was a tremendous success!

Lastly, thank you for the great response we have received from those of you updating your alumni information! The newly created electronic form is a much more convenient way to update us with your information. Please keep in mind that the Alumni Office has a new email address, DBBSAlumni@wusm.wustl.edu – please update your email contact list to reflect this change. As always, please continue to send feedback or suggestions on future issues of the Alumni newsletter and how the Division can better serve Alumni to DBBSAlumni@wusm.wustl.edu – we appreciate your input!

Best wishes,



John H. Russell
Professor and Associate Dean for Graduate Education

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Are you LinkedIn??

Looking to network with other DBBS Alums, Current Students, Faculty & Staff?
Join our LinkedIn Group-
"Division of Biology & Biomedical Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis"



Monsanto funds fellowships for graduate students

Washington University in St. Louis has received a \$930,000 grant from the Monsanto Co. to support graduate student research in life sciences.

The grant, to be distributed over the next seven years, will establish a Monsanto graduate fellowship program. Each year, two graduate students pursuing doctoral degrees in the Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences (DBBS) will be selected as fellows and receive up to \$31,000. Students can receive up to three years of support, beginning after their second year. Life sciences include plant sciences, microbiology, biochemistry, immunology, genetics and other specialties.

Jordan Teisher, a doctoral student in evolution, ecology and population biology, and Jeremy King, a doctoral student in plant biology, have been named the first Monsanto graduate fellows at Washington University. "Through this fellowship program, Monsanto is giving Washington University graduate students a unique opportunity to be exposed to the breadth of research in life sciences," says Stephen Beverley, PhD, the Marvin A. Brennecke Professor of Microbiology at the School of Medicine and chair of the executive council of the DBBS.

The students will be taught how to run laboratory research programs. As part of the fellowship, Teisher and King also will interact with Monsanto scientists to gain experience in a corporate research environment.

SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATES NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Do you know an outstanding undergraduate student interested in pursuing biomedical research careers? If so, please encourage them to apply for the BioMedRAP program!

BioMed RAP is a 10-week summer research experience for talented undergraduate students, particularly those from groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate education. The program is designed to provide a rigorous in-depth research experience to prepare participants for top quality Ph.D and M.D./PhD programs.

The Amgen Scholars Program is designed to recruit exceptional students interested in careers in biological and biomedical sciences with an intensive 10-week laboratory experience at one of the top research institutions in the nation. Scholars will engage in an independent research project under the mentorship of faculty at Washington University in St. Louis

The application deadline is Wednesday, February 1, 2012. For more information and application instructions, please visit <http://dbbsummerresearch.wustl.edu> or contact Rochelle D. Smith, Director of Diversity Programs and Community Outreach at smithr@dbbs.wustl.edu or (314) 362-7963.

BioMedRAP is sponsored by Washington University's Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP), the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences, and the Genome Sequencing Center Office of Outreach. The Amgen Scholars Program is funded by a generous grant from the Amgen Foundation.

2011 Midstates Research Symposium

DBBS hosted the 2011 Midstates Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) in the Biological Sciences & Psychology on October 28th and 29th. Students and faculty from 13 participating colleges and universities attended the symposium and presented their research experiences in oral or poster presentations, students also attended scientific talks and other social networking events throughout the course of the weekend.

One hundred and fifteen students and twenty faculty participated in the Symposium that included 32 student oral presentations and 77 student poster presentations.

This year's workshop opened with a welcome dinner and an activity aimed at increasing interaction with the student participants. Dan O'Brien a current Washington University MD/PhD student and member of the Young Scientist Program ran a neurology-based activity. The activity was followed by a Poster Session.

William R. Hammer, Ph.D., the Fritiof Fryxell Professor of Geology at Augustana College presented the 2011 Janet Andersen Award lecture entitled "Dinosaurs on Ice: Antarctica during the Age of Reptiles" on Saturday afternoon.

This year's symposium featured a condensed schedule to allow participants to return to their campus's Saturday evening instead of Sunday afternoon. Participants who choose to stay Saturday night were treated to an evening at the City Museum.

SPRING 2012 DBBS DIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES

On March 5, 2012, the Division will hold its the sixth DBBS Diversity Lecture Series, featuring Rhonda Sharpe, Ph.D. Dr. Sharpe has been a professor at Bennett College for three years. She holds her BS in Mathematics from North Carolina Wesleyan College, MS in Applied Mathematics from Clark Atlantic University, MS in Operational Research from Stanford, MA in Economics from Claremont Graduate School and Ph.D in Economics/Mathematics from Claremont Graduate University. The mission of the lecture series is to address contemporary issues of diversity in research and encourage discussions about the future.

Dr. Sharpe's talk, *Is the Diversity of STEM Disciplines an Anomaly?* (working title), will be followed by a reception, where faculty, staff and students were invited to meet informally with Dr. Sharpe.

The DBBS Diversity Lecture Series is co-sponsored by The DBBS Diversity Programs Office, The Office of Post Graduate Affairs, The Medical Scientist Training Program, The Office of Diversity Initiatives and The Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) uSTAR Program at Washington University.

For more information on the Diversity Lecture Series, visit <http://dbbs.wustl.edu/diversity>.

Are you interested in serving as the speaker for an upcoming DBBS Alumni Career Talk?

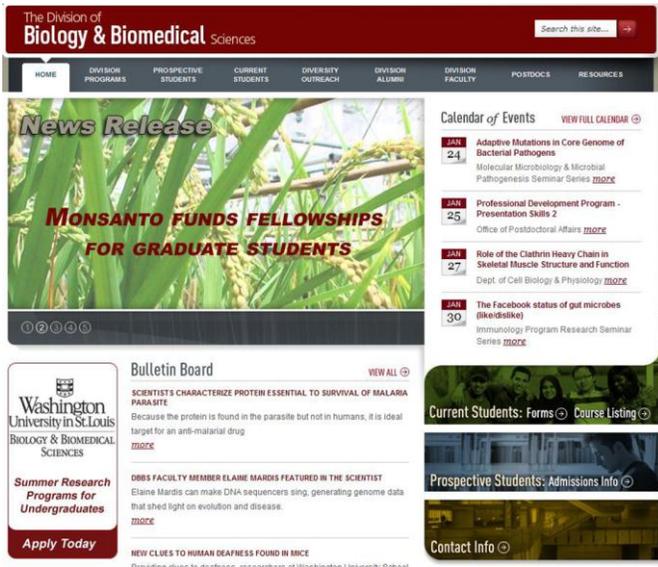
If so, please contact Mary Bradley at bradleym@dbbs.wustl.edu.

JOB BOARD

DBBS maintains a job board for postdoctoral and career positions. If you have a position available that would be of interest to someone with a PhD degree, please list the position on the website.

You may visit <http://dbbs.wustl.edu/jobs> to complete the online form. The Division also maintains a postdoctoral candidates database. If you know anyone seeking a postdoctoral position, please encourage them to review the jobs board and list their information in the database to be reviewed by DBBS faculty.

DBBS Launches New Website



DBBS launched a new website in August. The new site includes current student profiles and is much easier to navigate than the previous site.

If you haven't seen it already- check it out <http://dbbs.wustl.edu/Pages/index.aspx>

Get Connected!

Are you following DBBS on Facebook, Blogger and Twitter? Information regarding Division events and news of note are included on the respective sites. Visit <http://wu-dbbs.blogspot.com> and <http://twitter.com/dbbs> to find out what's happening in DBBS! If you are a member of Facebook, join the *Washington University Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences* group.

In the near future, the Alumni Office will launch a Facebook group page for Alumni, providing you with an opportunity to communicate with classmates, other alums and current students. Stay tuned for more information!



ALUMNI "CLASS NOTES"

Have you recently made a career change, earned an award or had a life change such as a birth, marriage, etc.? We'd love to hear about it and so would other Alums!

Email your Class Note submission to Jennifer at lawlerj@wustl.edu and include your name and graduation date. Photographs will also be accepted!

RECRUITMENT CORNER

Are you currently working with or training undergraduate students or know someone who would be a good graduate student? If so, please send their contact information (name, email address and phone number) to Jennifer Lawler Brown, Manager, Recruitment & Alumni Affairs, at lawlerj@dbbs.wustl.edu and she will follow-up with those students. Also, if you would like a supply of Division brochures, please let us know and we will send them to you as soon as possible.