Biochemistry Newsletter

Issue No. 13, May 2007

May Graduates
Undergraduate Students:

Matt Albin
Thu-Hong Bui
Peter Dawson
Paxton Forgue
Cory Gilsdorf
Matt Hibberd
Lynda Jeutang
James Kurasawa
Carrie Lebsack
Alexander Lin
Steven Martin
Carolyn Meyer
Natsuki Nagashima
Trung Nguyen
Shay Peterson
Brooke Phun
Patrick Seitz
Angelique Walstrom

Graduate Students:
Robert Galbenus, M.S.

Honors and Awards:

- Dr. Vadim Gladyshev
  received additional funding from the National Institutes of Health
  03/01/07 – 12/31/07
  $240,601
  “Methionine Sulfoxide Reduction, Selenium and Aging”

- Dr. Steve Ragsdale
  received additional funding from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences
  04/01/07 – 03/31/08
  $294,173
  “Enzymology of the Reductive Acetyl-CoA Pathway”

- Dr. Cheryl Bailey
  received a Faculty Seed Grant from the UNL Research Council
  $10,000
  “Sumoylation in Chlamydomonas”

- Dr. Melanie Simpson
  received a Faculty Seed Grant from the UNL Research Council
  $10,000
  “Mechanisms of Hyaluronan-induced Bone Growth”

- Dr. Greg Somerville
  received additional funding from the National Institutes of Health
  03/01/07 – 01/31/08
  $31,379
  “Environmental Regulation of Staphylococcus Epidermidis PIA Synthesis”

- Dr. Melanie Simpson
  received a Layman Fund Award
  06/01/2007 – 05/31/08
  $10,000
  “Hyaluronidase Activation and Function in Cancer”

- Dr. Joe Barycki
  received a Layman Fund Award
  06/01/2007 – 05/31/08
  $10,000
  “Characterization of Disrupted Multi-subunit Enzyme Interactions that Impair Cardiac Valve Development and Function”

- Dr. Don Becker
  received competitive renewal funding from the National Institutes of Health
  04/01/07 – 03/31/08
  $297,863
  “Mechanistic Studies of Functional Switching in the PutA Flavoprotein”

Congratulations!!

Kendra Kaldahl, Mrs. Twila Sahagian, and Joshua Bies

Kendra Kaldahl and Joshua Bies were awarded the Benjamin M. Sahagian Memorial Scholarship for the 2007-08 academic year.
News Worthy:

- UNL has started an Undergraduate Chapter of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. This will enable one student to present at the ASBMB annual meeting.
- Tara Somer was named “Outstanding Student Organization Officer” at the CASNR week banquet.
- Carol Hegel was nominated “Outstanding Staff Member” at the CASNR week banquet.
- Joan Krush was nominated for “Superior Academic Advising” at the CASNR week banquet.

KUDOS!

The following Biochemistry May graduates have been selected to graduate with

Highest Distinction:

Matthias Albin  Matthew Hibberd
Peter Dawson  Alexander Lin
Jeanine Frey  Kristin Williams

Distinction:

Angelique Walstrom  Bill Laun

Elected into Phi Beta Kappa:

Matthias Albin  Alexander Lin
Natsuki Nagashima  Angelique Walstrom
Kristin Williams

McNair Faculty Mentor Profile:

Dr. Mark Wilson

An Assistant Professor, Dr. Wilson is currently mentoring two McNair scholars. Dr. Wilson’s view on being a good faculty mentor is that it’s his responsibility to treat students with respect and dignity, to gain a sense of individual student needs, and take a flexible approach in order to meet students wherever they are along the path. While mentoring, like all good teaching, takes time, Dr. Wilson finds the investment worthwhile, especially as he sees students grow as researchers, gain academic confidence and take control over their own education.

UCARE Presentations on April 12, 2007 from Biochemistry students:

Bill Laun
Dr. Harshman’s Lab
Biological Sciences

Bridget Foley
Dr. Rajca’s Lab
Chemistry
CONGRATULATIONS!!
The following Biochemistry individuals are recipients of the Milton E. Mohr 2007-2008 Scholarship and Fellowship Awards:
Kendra Kaldahl – Scholarship
Scott Kindle – Scholarship
Vyacheslav Labunskyy – Graduate Fellowship
Amy Miller – Graduate Fellowship

BIOC Club members helped with the Science Olympiad held on East Campus on Saturday, March 24.

(REU Summer Program)
The Nebraska Redox Biology Center is offering a ten-week summer program. This program is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and Department of Defense and will place the student with a faculty mentor in whose lab the student's research project will be pursued. This year 12 students from educational institutions throughout the United States were accepted into the program. Most of the students (9) will be located in the Beadle Center, with 2 in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences and 1 in Chemistry, all in the Redox Biology Center members' laboratories. The program begins on June 4 and ends on August 10, 2007. The summer program will conclude with a campus-wide luncheon and poster session at which all summer REU participants will present a poster on their research project at the City Campus Student Union.

DR. MARK HARGROVE (Iowa State University) was Biochemistry’s Alumni Speaker on April 24, 2007
“Structural Highlights in the Evolution of Oxygen Transport Globins”

Dr. Hargrove and the current Interim Head of Biochemistry, Dr. Chollet.

Dr. Knoche, Dr. Sarath, Dr. Hargrove and Dr. Dam; faculty members that had mentored Dr. Hargrove during his time at UNL.

Dr. Glider and Dr. Hargrove. Dr. Hargrove was a TA for Dr. Glider in Biological Sciences while he was an undergraduate student at UNL.