

# BIOLOGY NEWS FROM JEWETT HALL



## Name the Newsletter Contest!

We've given the annual newsletter a new look and we hope you enjoy it. However, we need a creative name to better suit its new appearance. We know how talented and bright our alumni are, and we can't think of a better group of people to ask for help in developing a fresh new name! So put on your thinking cap, engage your right brain and send your idea to: <http://tinyurl.com/p32bd7>. If your clever contribution is selected by our elite panel of judges (aka the Biology faculty), you will receive prizes and wealth beyond your wildest dreams (aka a \$25 gift card to the Fredonia Bookstore). The deadline for submission is **October 16, 2009**. The winning entry will be posted on the department webpage [www.fredonia.edu/biology](http://www.fredonia.edu/biology) after October 30,



*Laura Lynn, a graduate student from Bernhards Bay, NY, conducts bat research in Dr. Karry Kazial's laboratory.*

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#### Special points of interest

- New Science Building—Coming Soon
- Dr. Chris Mirabelli donates Syngene gel imager
- Katie Hite wins prestigious Lanford Presidential Prize
- John Baust, '65, visits his Alma Mater

## New Science Building—Coming Soon!

As much as we will miss the pink tiles of Jewett Hall, the Biology faculty and staff are looking forward to moving to a new home within the next few years! SUNY Fredonia has secured \$60 million from the state for a state-of-the-art Science and Technology building. The Biology and Chemistry departments will be making the move to the new building which is set to break ground within the next year and a half. The architects are Mitchell Giurgola Architects, LLP, whose many award-winning designs include the new science buildings at Western Connecticut State University and Keene State College.

## Scholarships

Biology is awarding \$8700 in scholarships to high-achieving students during the 2009-10 academic year. These scholarships are possible thanks to your generous contributions to the endowment funds, below. Contributions to our scholarship programs can now be made at the new online site [www.fredonia.edu/giveonline](http://www.fredonia.edu/giveonline).

- **1929 Bioethics Award**, Megan A. Riley of Phelps, NY
- **Archer and Mabel Fox Memorial Scholarship**, Allison Dole of Jamestown, NY and Ashlee Ransbury of Lakeview, NY
- **Bruce and Nancy Garlapow Memorial Scholarship**, Bethany Holbrook of Leicester, NY
- **Alice M. Sam Biology Scholarship**, Sara Macleod of West Seneca, NY
- **Willard F. Stanley Memorial Scholarship**, James Bartok of DeWittville, NY
- **Adele Maytum Hunter Scholarship**, Lauren Abato of Williamsville, NY, Andrea Solano of Fredonia, NY, and Katelyn Miller of Fredonia, NY
- **Kourelis-Stavrides Award for Outdoor Interests**, Carolyn Henretta of Rochester, NY
- **Herbert and Marion Mackie Memorial Scholarship**, Jessica Wooten of West Henrietta, NY

## A visit from the Holmberg Foundation

Representatives of the Holmberg Foundation in Jamestown, N.Y. visited the department for a tour of Jewett Hall and a review of the research projects performed by student recipients of Holmberg fellowships. Our visitors were impressed with the quality of work performed by the students.

The Foundation has been a longstanding partner of Biology student research on campus, and we are very grateful for their continuing support.

*Pictured at the right is the Holmberg Foundation's Board of Directors.*





## Cancer Biology Seminar to be offered this fall

We are excited to announce the development of a new honors-type seminar in Cancer Biology. The lead instructor will be Dr. John Baust, '65, Professor of Biology at the University of Binghamton, and Fredonia Biology Department alumnus. Joining him will be several of his Binghamton colleagues, as well as Fredonia faculty Astry, Lee and Yunghans. Instruction will occur on the Fredonia campus via live lectures as well as podcasts. A highlight of the course will be a weekend trip to the University of Binghamton for an intensive, two-day series of study. Application for admission to the seminar was competitive; only ten students were accepted.

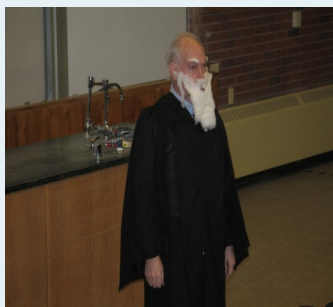
## Darwin Day Celebrations

The Department observed a special event this year: the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birthday. Our Darwin Day celebrations ranged from the cerebral to the comedic. Biology Club students hosted a potluck supper- complete with a cake in the shape of the HMS Beagle. Guest speakers presented seminars of a Darwinian nature, a logo T-shirt competition was held, games and other activities were offered, and the venerable scientist himself put in an appearance! Seminars included:

- "Speciation and Adaptation in Flowering Plants", by Dr. Justin Ramsey of the University of Rochester

- "Plumage, Evolution and Foraging Performance in a Tropical Warbler - A Darwinian Tale in Black and White", by Dr. Ron Mumme, Allegheny College

- "Exploring the Killer Whale Mind", by Dr. Michael Noonan, Canisius College, Buffalo, NY.



*Guess the Darwin impersonator and get a free subscription to the newsletter!*



*Ed McCarrick taking charge of the grill at the Biology Fall Picnic, 2008.*

## Biology web page updated and expanded

Professor Astry and Ed McCarrick put many hours into the development of the new web-page, and would be pleased to receive feedback from you! Visit us at <http://www.fredonia.edu/biology/>

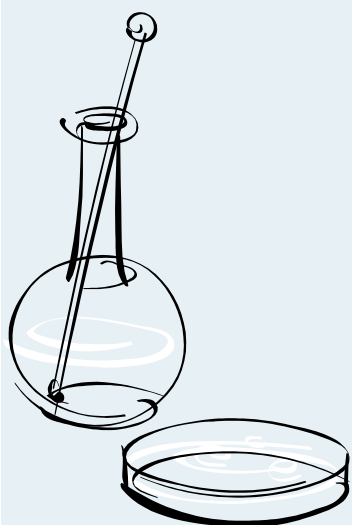
## Dr. Chris Mirabelli donates Syngene gel imager

The Biology department received a wonderful gift recently in the form of a new gel imaging instrument. The Syngene G:Box iChemi XR gel imager will prove essential in offering modern molecular biology education and research opportunities to the department's students, preparing them more fully for careers, graduate school and professional school opportunities upon graduation.

The gift was made possible by the generosity of Dr. Christopher K. Mirabelli, '77, a Biology alumnus who now serves as a Managing Director for Cambridge, Mass.-based HealthCare Ventures, a venture capital firm specializing in life science industry investing. Dr. Mirabelli was formerly chairman of the board and chief executive officer of LeukoSite, Inc., and a co-founder of Isis Pharmaceuticals. He received his doctoral degree in Molecular Pharmacology from Baylor College of Medicine.

## Welcome back, season's greetings, congratulations, and best wishes to the graduates!

Biology faculty, staff and students enjoyed a number of gatherings and activities this year. A cookout was held at Russell Joy Park in early September to welcome new and returning students, faculty and staff to the beginning of a new academic year. The department hosted a reception for Dr. John Baust when he visited us in November. Potluck dinners were held in December to celebrate the close of a successful semester, and in February as part of the Darwin's Day celebration. An afternoon reception to honor our scholarship and award-winning students was held in May, and we were pleased to be joined by Drs. Michael Marletta, '73, and Jeffery Kelly, '82. Finally, we hosted a breakfast reception for 60 happy graduates, family members, and friends on Commencement morning!



## Did you know...?

Over the past two years, department faculty have had 14 manuscripts accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

# PROGRAMS

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## *What's new with Biology.....*

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Changes to the core sequence were instituted several years ago to more effectively instruct students in the central concepts of the scientific method, molecular and cellular biology, evolution and the diversity of life. All Biology majors are now required to take a core sequence of lecture and lab courses including Principles of Biology I and II, Genetics, Biodiversity, Biochemistry and Ecology.

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## *What's new with Biology Adolescence Education.....*

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During the past two years, eight Biology Adolescence Education majors completed their student teaching requirements and graduated. The success rate of these students is very high, with a 100% passage rate on the Content Specialty Exam over the past five years. These students have also achieved an average GPA of 3.09, well above the state-required 2.75.

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## *What's new with Medical Technology.....*

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Eight senior medical technology students will be starting their clinical internships this summer. The program continues its high success rate, with 100% of all eligible Medical Technology juniors being accepted into internship programs, and 100% of all graduating Medical Technology seniors passing the American Society of Clinical Pathologists Board of Registry certification exam (compared with a national first time passage rate of 84%) these past 5 years.

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## *What's new with Molecular Genetics.....*

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Molecular Genetics students performed a "CSI Fredonia" lab in which college administrators sent anonymous notes to the class. The students isolated DNA from the envelopes and worked to match those samples to DNA collected from the administrators' cheek cells. Although you wouldn't know it from the TV shows, obtaining gene amplification products from envelope samples is not easy! Even though the class had a bit of difficulty with this part of the process, the students ultimately learned a great deal about forensic DNA typing.

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## *What's new with Graduate Studies.....*

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Our Master's programs (thesis and non-thesis) are extremely active. There are 16 graduate students currently enrolled, four of whom are graduate teaching assistants. Additionally, the new Master's of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program, developed under the auspices of the Science Education Partnership (SEP), is generating a great deal of interest among students. The highly innovative program has attracted a number of Biology graduates who wish to pursue careers in secondary school education. This new program has already graduated three students with ten others currently enrolled.

# STUDENTS

## Katie Hite awarded highest student honor, the Lanford Presidential Prize

Kathleen M. Hite, (left) a 2009 Summa Cum Laude Biology graduate whose career at SUNY Fredonia encompassed numerous leadership positions, extraordinary service and many individual honors, was awarded the 2009 Lanford Presidential Prize. The honor, considered the top recognition awarded by the university to a member of its senior class, is funded by the Oscar and Esther Lanford Endowment of the Fredonia College Foundation. It recognizes a graduating senior who has exhibited balanced achievement and exemplified Fredonia's ideals. Katie was the recipient of several scholarships, studied abroad in St. Andrews, Scotland, and was a resident hall assistant, the President of the Biology Club and a university student of the month. She will begin work on her Master of Arts in Teaching program this fall and plans a career in education.

## Three students win awards for presentations

Graduate Biology student Cassidy Hahn won the "best poster award", and undergraduate Biology major Nick Sard won the "best oral presentation award" for their research presentations at the Great Lakes Research Consortium Conference in Syracuse. Cassidy and undergraduate Molecular Genetics major Sara Stark won awards for their poster presentations at the "Great Lakes Days" in Albany.

## Student Research Activities

Many undergraduate and graduate students engaged in significant research-based activities during the 2008-09 year. Nine students performed summer research thanks to generous funding provided by the Holmberg Foundation, the Constantine Barker Endowment and the Biology Endowment, and gave formal presentations to the campus in October. Fourteen students displayed research posters at the Fredonia Student Research and Creativity Expo in April. Fifteen students presented posters and or/talks at the American Chemical Society, Great Lakes Research Consortium, North American Symposium on Bat Research, Annual Fisheries Society, and NYS Sea Grant State of the Lake annual conferences.

### 2008 - Summer Research Student Presentations

**Mr. Richard Boheen & Ms. Marie Thomas:** Microbial Source Tracking of *Escherichia coli* in Lake Erie.

**Ms. Laura Lynn:** Little Brown Bats, Sonar Calls, and Geographic Location: Is There a Sonar Call Dialect and Do Bats Pay Attention To It?

**Mr. Timothy Greco:** Effects of Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) on Cover and Growth of Introduced Native Species Near Canadaway Creek.

**Ms. Cassidy Hahn & Mr. Nicholas Sard:** Genetic Divergence of Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) Populations in New York State Lakes and Tributaries; & Fine Scale Genetic Divergence in Lake Erie's Potadromous Smallmouth Bass Population.

**Ms. Jessica Pawlowski & Ms. Erica Stephens:** Does the Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) Use Chemical Cues to Discriminate Between Individuals From Near and Far Roosting Sites?

**Mr. Patrick Paulot:** Insertion of Spearmint Gene Into Active Bacteria.

**Mr. Matthew Schillinger & Associates:** Assessment of Paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) Restoration in the Allegheny River System.



### Biology Department students recognized by the University as 'Students of the Month'

Senior Katie Hite (above), Juniors Julie Graham and Katelyn Miller, were named students of the month for February, March and April, respectively, by the Division of Student Affairs.

These young women were all honored for their exceptional scholastic and extra-curricular accomplishments within the department, university and community. Congratulations Katie, Julie and Katelyn!

# ALUMNI



## Dr. John Baust Visits the Biology Department

What happens to human cells when they freeze, and what does that have to do with the treatment of cancer? Biology students and faculty learned the answers to those questions when distinguished Fredonia alumnus Dr. John Baust, '65, visited his alma mater last November. Dr. Baust, Professor of Biology and Director of the Institute of Biomedical Technology at SUNY Binghamton, is considered one of the world's leading researchers in the area of cryobiology, and is responsible for the development of cryotechniques that are used successfully in the treatment of a variety of disease conditions, like cancer.

Students in Dr. Byrne's Physiology class and Dr. Fountain's Biochemistry class were the fortunate recipients of Dr. Baust's lectures. He also offered two seminar presentations during his visit. His first, "From Bugs and Butterflies to Cancer Therapies," offered a chronicle of his life experiences beginning with his education at SUNY Fredonia to his present position as an academician, research scientist and entrepreneur. The second seminar, "Cryoablation: A Marriage of Molecular and Biophysical-Based Approaches to Cancer Therapy," was a technical seminar focusing on the medical applications of his cryotherapy research, particularly in the treatment of prostate cancer. His guest lectures and seminars received rave reviews from students, faculty, staff and administrators, and students had an opportunity to chat with Dr. Baust about research and graduate school opportunities during a reception hosted by the department. Many thanks to Dr. Baust for sharing his time, energy, goodwill and expertise!



## Dr. John Baust and Dr. Kim Neifer-Caldwell to be honored at Alumni Weekend

Dr. John Baust, '65 and Dr. Kim Neifer Caldwell, '87, will receive Outstanding Achievement Awards at this year's Alumni weekend activities.

Dr. Baust received his bachelor's degree in Biology from SUNY Fredonia, and his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. He currently holds the positions of Professor of Biology and Director of the Institute of Biomedical Technology at SUNY Binghamton, and is also an adjunct Professor of Surgery at the Medical College of Houston. Dr. Baust has been a highly successful entrepreneur, in particular as the founder of BioLife Solutions. BioLife develops, manufactures and markets solutions that are used for cryopreservation of cells, tissues and organs. He has published a number of articles in research journals, is co-author of the book *Advances in Biopreservation*, and is Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Cell Preservation Technology*.

Dr. Caldwell received her bachelor's degree in Recombinant Gene Technology from SUNY Fredonia, and her Ph.D. in Cell, Molecular & Developmental Biology from The University of Tennessee. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, where she performs research on protein misfolding and neurodegeneration associated with Parkinson's disease. Dr. Caldwell has published in many outstanding peer-reviewed journals including *Nature*, *Science*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and has been recognized by the National Science Foundation, the National Academy of Sciences and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.



**Eva Saulitas**, a SUNY Fredonia Biology major from 1982-84, gave a department presentation on the recovery of killer whales impacted by the Exxon Valdez oil spill. She gave her talk on March 24, 2009, which was the 20th anniversary of the spill. Eva is an English professor at the University of Alaska-Homer, and works as a killer whale scientist during the summer.

**Alex Feygin**, B.S. Molecular Genetics, '04, and candidate for an M.S. in Biology, gave a seminar entitled "Eight-Cell Laser Ablated Microinjection" this past May. Alex is a Microinjection Production Specialist at Ingenious Targeting Labs in Stony Brook, NY.

**Dr. Chris Mirabelli**, See article on page 3.

**Jeff Conroy**, Medical Technology/Biomedical Research Technology, '87, is the co-Director of the Genomics Shared Resource core facility at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y. Dr. Lee and the Molecular Genetics lab students visited the Institute this past spring, and Mr. Conroy gave students a tour of the core lab. The students were very impressed with the equipment and techniques used at the facility and appreciative of Mr. Conroy's time and expertise.

**Ron Cruver**, Recombinant Gene Technology, '91, is the Marketing Manager of Immunodiagnostics at Trinity Biotechnology, Inc., in Jamestown, NY. Through the years, Mr. Cruver has graciously shared his time and talents with many SUNY Biology Department students. He has given tours of the Trinity facility to Professor Astry's Introduction to Clinical Sciences students, and he visits Jewett Hall every year to run an ELISA or Western Blot lab with her Immunology students. Additionally, he and Professor Astry supervise a joint immunodiagnostics research project for Fredonia Biology Department majors.

**Michele Harms**, M.S. Biology, '95, B.S. Medical Technology, '89, is the Program Director of the WCA Hospital School of Medical Technology. Ms. Harms regularly provides tours of the WCA hospital laboratory for Professor Astry's Introduction to Clinical Sciences class, and visits Jewett Hall every year to provide information to prospective medical technology interns. Under her supervision and leadership, many Fredonia medical technology seniors have successfully completed clinical internship programs, passed their certification exams and entered the workforce as clinical laboratory scientists.

**Alumni Portal** We have set up a page on the Alumni Portal where you can fill out a survey, join the Biology Group and indicate your preference for receipt of future newsletters. We'd love to stay connected with you and we value your input. Just visit <http://www.fredonia.edu/biology/> and click on "For Alumni".

### **Homecoming Weekend Activities – We hope to see you!**

Oct. 9, Friday, 3-4 PM – Biology reception for Biology Department alumni, faculty and students – Jewett Hall Lobby.

Oct. 9, Friday 4-5 PM – Seminar presentation by Dr. Kim Neifer-Caldwell – Jewett Hall 101.

Oct. 10, Saturday 9-11 AM – Breakfast reception for Biology Department Alumni and Faculty

# FACULTY, STAFF and EMERITI NEWS



## Astry named first female Biology Chair

Professor Patricia Astry was appointed to the position of Biology Department chairperson in August of 2008, and is the first female to serve the department in this capacity. She is also Director and Assistant Professor of Medical Technology, has served as the Assistant Dean for Natural Sciences and was honored with the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Professor Astry is currently engaged in a cooperative immunodiagnosics research project with Trinity Biotechnology, Inc., in Jamestown, N.Y., and teaches courses in immunology, microbiology, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. She is board certified in Medical Technology by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, and worked as a clinical laboratory scientist in New York State prior to beginning her graduate studies.

## Ivy League grad Ferguson joins Department this fall as molecular biologist

Dr. Scott Ferguson earned a B.S. in molecular biology from Westminster College and a Ph.D. in cell and molecular biology from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He was also a postdoctoral research associate at Princeton University/Howard Hughes Medical Institute. His research has included studies of the hormone melatonin, the heat shock transcription factor in gene expression, and genetic screening related to insulin signaling and checkpoint activation. Dr. Ferguson plans to undertake studies at Fredonia that have implications for understanding human health issues associated with cancer, diabetes, and neurological plasticity. He will also be teaching courses in genetics and molecular biology.

## Titus is recipient of the William T. Hagan Young Scholar Award

Dr. Jon Titus was the 2008 recipient of the William T. Hagan Young Scholar/Artist Award. This award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding recent achievements in research or creativity, and was named in honor of Dr. William T. Hagan, an eminent scholar specializing in the history of the American Indian. Dr. Titus has recently completed a long-term research study on the life forms that emerged on Mount St. Helen after the 1980 volcanic eruption. He is the author of 32 peer-reviewed journal articles, and has contributed to the authorship of several natural history books and field guides. Dr. Titus teaches the introductory biology course for department majors, as well as upper level courses in plant physiology, desert biology and tropical biology.

## Kazial initiates research activities on White Nose Syndrome in bats

Dr. Karry Kazial has commenced a study on White-Nose Syndrome in an Outbreak Border Region. White Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a poorly understood malady associated with the deaths of hundreds of thousands of bats in the northeastern United States. The condition, named for a distinctive ring of fungal growth around the muzzles and wings of many affected animals, became national news in 2007.

## Tomlinson authors book

Dr. Bruce Tomlinson has written a textbook for his Introduction to Biology course for non-Biology majors. The book, entitled, "A Slice of Life", is published by Pearson Custom Publishing. It is uniquely crafted to show non-majors how the science of biology works through the use of case studies, testable hypotheses, experiments and assignments. Student response has been very positive and they have even asked for more assignments in the next edition!

## Brown gives presentation in Africa

Dr. Bill Brown gave an invited presentation on "Sexual cannibalism and male risk-taking behavior in the Chinese praying mantis" at the International Congress of Entomology in Durban, South Africa in the summer of 2008. He was also awarded a "Top Reviewer" certificate from the publisher of the prestigious research journal *Animal Behaviour* in recognition of his excellent review of manuscripts.





*Balloons as bacteria! Students as white blood cells! Professor Astry using active learning techniques in her Freshman Seminar class.*

## Lee receives grant for assessment of lake water safety

Dr. Ted Lee has received a \$75,000 grant to fund his continuing research on microbial source tracking, *E-coli* bacteria in Lake Erie beach waters. The preliminary findings of the research are that *E-coli* are persisting in the environment and are not good indicators of fecal pollution for the Lake Erie beach waters. An earlier study done by his research group showed that geese were the primary source of *E-coli* in Cassadaga Lake.

## Byrne chairs the Science Education Program

Dr. Roger Byrne was instrumental in the development of an innovative Science Education Program and a Masters of Arts in Teaching degree program. The program and degree were developed in response to the rising need for well-educated and trained high school science teachers. The MAT program has already graduated three students, has ten more currently enrolled and is expected to attract many more.

## Yunghans develops new course in Molecular Biology

Dr. Wayne Yunghans has developed a new course in molecular biology that serves as a required course for the Molecular Genetics program (formerly the Recombinant Gene Technology program) and an upper-level elective for other department majors. The course offers in-depth discussion of gene regulatory mechanisms and practical applications of modern molecular biology.

## Fountain has paper accepted for publication

Dr. Matthew Fountain, Coordinator of the Biochemistry program, has had a paper, *Synthesis and Luminescence Properties of a Trinucleotide-Europium(III) Complex Conjugate*, accepted for publication in the journal of Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry. The methodology described in the article will help in the development of unique luminescent sequence specific probes for molecular biology and biochemical applications.

**McCarrick gives department webpage a new look** Mr. Ed McCarrick, Instructional Support Assistant, took on the arduous task of modifying pages, updating old material and adding new information to the department website this year. The result is a more informative and attractive website for the Biology Department, and many positive comments have rolled in since the new site went online in May.

**We bid Mrs. William and Mrs. Sticek a fond farewell** The end of the spring 2008 semester marked the end of an era with the retirement of Department Secretary Mary L. William. Mary began her career at the college in 1973 and joined the Department in 1978. In 2000, the university recognized her excellent service with the Pommett Outstanding Secretary Award. For 30 years, Mary helped myriad students and faculty and managed the department office with skill, good humor, efficiency and distinction. We offer her our thanks and congratulations, and wish her a long and happy retirement! Mrs. Julie Sticek served as our secretary for the 2008-2009 academic year. We thank her for her excellent work and wish her well in her new position as Secretary to the Dean of Arts and Humanities.

**Allen Benton** Since his retirement in 1984, Dr. Benton has been an active writer. For 21 years, he authored nature columns for the Dunkirk *Observer* and the Jamestown *Post Journal*. After he stopped writing the columns, he began writing books. Two have been published: "Birding Through Life: Wanderings of a Born Birder" and "To Walk in Beauty: The Way of the Naturalist". Dr. Benton and his wife, Marjorie, remain in reasonably good health, and he wants alumni to know that he hopes "to see many of you at the alumni gathering in October".

**Kevin Fox** Dr. Fox is busy with numerous activities: Hunting, fishing, maintaining a large vegetable garden, and restoring antique furniture. He commented that "By caning chairs, I've learned a great deal about patience and humility; I'm sure many of my former students wished I had shown more of both when they were around!" He has also researched New England history and genealogy and has completed a book on the Fox family history in North America.

**Ken Mantai** Dr. Mantai retired about four years ago, and wants alumni to know that "you are the best group of people I have been privileged to be associated with". Since his retirement, he has worked with the local DEC Fisheries division to measure trout populations and trout habitat improvement. He continues to enjoy racquetball, golf and fishing. Dr. Mantai would love to hear from former students and encourages all alumni to come to the Homecoming/Alumni Weekend activities this October. He also suggests checking out his wife Chris's handiwork on the Alumni Portal.

**Moti Sharma** Drs. Moti and Kanta Sharma continue to reside in Fredonia and enjoy taking trips to see relatives. They are particularly proud of their daughter, Nutan, who is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School, and has authored a recent book on Parkinson's disease. Dr. Sharma enjoyed attending the 45th anniversary celebration for the Biology department and looks forward to attending this year's reception.



**Terry Weaver** Dr. Weaver and his wife, Marilyn, embarked on Christian missionary work in Africa upon his retirement. They were faculty at the Kilimanjaro Christian College in Moshi, Tanzania, and built the Lake Manyara Christian College near the Serengeti conservation area. They also assisted with the development of the Tumaini University Medical School where Dr. Weaver taught a medical microbiology course. The Weavers now reside in Florida, and Dr. Weaver continues to be busy teaching online biology courses through the American Intercontinental University and Regent University. He is also authoring a book on Influenza. In Dr. Weaver's words, "Retirement sure is busy!"

**Sharon Zabloutney** Dr. Zabloutney and her husband, Joseph, live on the magnificent Olympic Peninsula across the Puget Sound from Seattle. They spend the winter months in Tucson, AZ, where they enjoy continuous sun and desert flora. She enjoys golfing, drawing and painting, as well as teaching the online course Emerging Infectious Diseases. Dr. Zabloutney tells us, "It is wonderful to be able to continue to share my love of microbiology with so many students from across the country each year".



## Message from the Chair...



This has been a very busy and productive year for the Department. Our Open Houses were well attended, and applications to Biology programs were 15% higher than the previous year. Faculty and students were actively engaged in research, resulting in many presentations and publications. The Department initiated a five-year strategic planning process and is preparing for the transition to a new building in 2012. Our new molecular biologist, Dr. Scott Ferguson of Princeton University, is busy getting his lab set up and organized. And thanks to the unfailing generosity of our alumni and benefactors, we were able to award thousands of dollars in scholarships and research fellowships to deserving students. Due to alumni generosity, the department also has a sophisticated new gel imager, will be offering a new honors-type Cancer Biology seminar, and was privileged to hear outstanding guest lectures and seminars.

Thank you for all you do to support the department and our ongoing efforts to provide excellent educational opportunities for students.

Please visit our website, <http://www.fredonia.edu/biology/> and share your ideas with us via our alumni questionnaire. We welcome emails, phone calls and visits from our alumni, so please keep in touch! Please don't hesitate to contact me at [Patricia.Astry@fredonia.edu](mailto:Patricia.Astry@fredonia.edu) or 716-673-3283.

My thanks to Mrs. Julie Sticek for her invaluable assistance in the preparation of this newsletter.



*Fredonia College Lodge Amphitheater. The Amphitheater was recently renovated and dedicated in honor of Dr. Willard Stanley in recognition of his many efforts to establish the Lodge as a campus facility. Many groups use the Amphitheater for educational purposes, talks and discussions.*



Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5



*(Top) Drs. Yunghans and Titus planting American Chestnut saplings on the campus.*

*(Top right) Medical Technology Jeopardy in the Jewett Hall lounge.*

*(Right) Dr. Lee's research students performing microbial analyses on Lake Erie beach water.*

