May 23rd had arrived, finals where over for spring semester, and most students on campus were planning their Memorial Day weekend celebrations. Buildings around campus were generally quiet, but not the Dorothy Hermann Science Center. For two years, fifteen faculty and students who were part of the Convention Planning Committee had worked together to make sure everything was ready for the week of May 26th to June 1st, 2008.

We were now “down to the wire”. Thirty student volunteers, Tri Beta members from the Mu Iota Chapter at NKU, the Xi Gamma Chapter at the College of Mount St. Joseph, and the Rho Theta Chapter of Thomas More College were being assigned their tasks by Rachael Logsdon. At the “Mission Control” room Vicki Martin Kier was updating the large white-board with the latest information on “airport pick-up times”, and attempting the impossible task of keeping Dr. Kannan focused and organized! It was clear to me at that point why so many people had warned me about how “crazy” it was to have agreed to host the National Convention of Beta Beta Beta! However, in retrospect, the efforts were well worth it.

On May 26th members of the Executive Committee began to arrive. They had meetings on

Karen Burwinkel receives 1st place Brooks Award from Dr. Gary Wolgaumott, National President of Beta Beta Beta.

Photo by student Edward Morris.
Chris Curran earned her Bachelor’s degree from Ohio University in science journalism and spent several years working as a science writer covering medical and environmental news in West Virginia, Alabama and Cincinnati. She began teaching as an adjunct faculty member after earning her master’s degree in biological sciences from the University of Cincinnati, focusing on the genetic and environmental influences underlying Alzheimer’s disease. She earned her doctorate from UC’s Department of Environmental Health where she used knockout mice to study genetic susceptibility to PCB-induced developmental neurotoxicity. She has collaborated with scientists at the U.S. EPA and Cincinnati Children’s Research Foundation and did postdoctoral studies at NIOSH where she examined two occupational neurotoxicants: inhaled manganese and a common industrial solvent 1-bromopropane. She looks forward to extending her studies on gene-environmental interactions and neurobehavior with the help of NKU undergrads.

On a personal level, Curran is the mother of three daughters (her favorite genetic experiments!) and a longtime resident of Anderson Township. Her husband Andy teaches interactive multimedia at UC’s Clermont College. Chris is a long-time Sierra Club volunteer, and loves hiking and backpacking. Her favorite local hiking spot is the California Nature Preserve despite the dubious distinction of once falling victim to a wild turkey attack there. But her greatest hiking happiness will always be out on the ice, making her a natural Norse of course!

Dr. Christine Curran

Chris Curran enjoys a break on the Kennicott glacier in Alaska’s Wrangells-St. Elias National Park during her family vacation this summer.
For a week in August this year, I will conduct another workshop to train technicians in ecological monitoring techniques for coral reef ecosystems. This is the fifth year that I have run this workshop at the Glover’s Reef Research Station located on a small island off the coast of Belize in the western Caribbean. The workshop is designed for locals who work in some capacity for the conservation of reefs and living resources (particularly species that are the focus of commercial fishing). The trainees have been mostly local Belizeans, but a few have come from Jamaica and Honduras. The locals are young people who work for the government of Belize in the Fisheries Department or Coastal Zone Management office. Other trainees work for non-governmental organizations like the Nature Conservancy or the Belize Audubon Society. Most of the trainees are high school graduates, while a few have had Bachelor’s degrees from the local university. What they all have in common is an intense commitment to learning about marine ecology and to conservation of their local ecosystems.

In the workshops, we discuss ecological and conservation issues in the marine environment. These issues range from pollution abatement to sustainable fishing practices, focusing on local problems. The trainees also practice basic methods for monitoring seawater quality, quantifying reefs and associated habitats (like mangroves and sea grass), and measuring population attributes for analyzing fishery dynamics. They practice catching commercially-valuable fishes, lobsters, and queen conchs, and taking data on size, sex, and other parameters. I also review with the trainees basic principles of data management and simple analytical methods such as graphing. The training focuses on field methods that can be done with minimal, low-tech equipment. The reason for this is that most of the trainees work for agencies or departments that have few financial resources or advanced technologies for this type of research.

This work is done pro bono with financial support for travel and accommodations from the Wildlife Conservation Society based in New York City. Although it is an intensive week of work, this workshop is becoming an annual event which is a good thing. The reward comes from seeing the enthusiasm of the trainees and knowing that this is one small step to achieving conservation goals we would all like to realize. On the selfish side, I get to go diving on one of the world’s most spectacular coral reefs - without the expenses of being a tourist.
Introducing 6th Grade Girls to Women Scientists
— by Bethany Bowling

Northern Kentucky Girls in Science connects local women scientists from academia, government, and industry with area schools. School administrators, teachers, and parents are encouraged to begin an after school science club for 6th grade girls. The club meets approximately once a month for an hour. At each of the meetings a local woman scientist visits with the girls, discussing her current job, why she became a scientist, how her job is useful to society, what it took to get the job, etc. The scientist also provides a hands-on activity related to her field, engaging the girls in an interactive science lesson.

The program is currently focusing its efforts in the urban areas of Northern Kentucky. We have worked with two school districts and approximately 40 students over the past year and we are seeking to expand the program in the fall. We are supported by NKU’s Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics.

This past year the students truly participated in
Several biology faculty members participated in the CINSAM camps for a variety of age groups this summer. Dr. Bethany Bowling hosted a Middle School Fun with Science Camp in which 16 students attended each day for a week. The students tested the water quality of the Ohio River at the Thomas More Field Station, learned about nutrition and prepared a lunch with Drs. Debbie Pearce and Eimear Mullen, and investigated the microorganisms of NKU’s Loch Norse with Dr. Miriam Kannan. Faculty members from the other science departments were involved as well, leading activities in astronomy, chemistry, geology, and physics.

The Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) Camps gave middle and high school students a taste of the science involved in solving crimes. The students were presented with a mock crime scene and several biology faculty members presented sessions on the methods used to analyze the evidence. Dr. Greg Dahlem introduced forensic entomology to the students and helped them determine the time-frame of the crime based on insects feeding on decomposing matter (rotting chicken meat, not the real thing). Dr. Jon Hastings taught the students basic methods of forensic osteology, giving them the tools to deduce the sex, age, and racial affiliation of unknown crime victims from skeletal remains. Finally, Dr. Bethany Bowling trained the students in molecular biology techniques, including DNA fingerprinting and PCR, which they used to identify which suspect was at the crime scene.

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### Major Instrumentation Comes to Biological Sciences

This summer Biology faculty received not one, but two NSF Kentucky EPSCoR major instrumentation grants. Each $100,000 instrumentation grant will outfit our labs with state-of-the-art equipment that will give our students unique learning opportunities, and provide our faculty with the tools needed to take their research to a new level.

**Dr. Kristi Martines**, with Co-Pls **Drs. Curran and Schultheis**, received their grant for the purchase of a MicroBrightField Stereology System. Stereology allows the study of the three-dimensional aspects of a structure. It is becoming a standard in the neurosciences and will be used by these faculty for brain imaging and quantification of cells.

**Dr. Richard Durtsche**, with Co-Pls **Drs. Boyce, Kannan, Thompson, Kelley, and Acosta**, received their grant to purchase two instruments, a Microwave Digester and an Inductively Coupled Plasma (ICP) Spectrometer. These instruments function in tandem to break down samples and analyze all desired elements simultaneously for evaluation of changes found in the environment or in living organisms.
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--Tri-Beta Convention from page 1--
campus all day May 27th and
ended the day by attending a
Cincinnati Reds game, where
the Reds won! In the meantime,
Norse Commons was filling
with student delegates from
Puerto Rico, Florida, California
and around the country. On
Wednesday May 28th, the
pace of delegates arriving
accelerated. With help from the
Northern Kentucky Convention
and Visitors Bureau and student
volunteers, the registration
process went flawlessly! The
official start of the convention
was marked with a delicious
welcome picnic on the Science
Center lawn. The presence of
our President, Jim Votruba,
made the welcome picnic even
more special. Leo Calderón
of Latino Student Affairs was
also there helping to make the
40 delegates from Puerto Rico
feel “at home”. By 5:00 pm
it was time for dessert and the
career Fair! The third floor
was bursting with people.
There were graduate school
recruiters from as far away as
West Virginia. Lines at the
tables for P&G, the FDA, the
EPA, and Cincinnati Children’s
Hospital and Medical Center
were long. Faculty and students
enjoyed talking to exhibitors
from the Kentucky Academy
of Sciences, the Newport
Aquarium, and the Cincinnati
Zoo. The evening ended with
students talking with working
professionals at 9 different
career panels. Not surprisingly
for a Tri Beta meeting,
the panel that focused on
medical careers was the most popular.

Thursday morning, oral
presentations started early with the
competition for Brooks Awards. There
were 4 concurrent sessions. The judges
commented on the high quality of all the
presentations! These were undergraduates,
but their research presented could compete
even at the graduate level. After lunch
delegetes were treated to a choice of field
trips that included the Cincinnati Zoo
and Botanical Gardens, the “Bodies”
exhibit at the Cincinnati Museum Center,
“The Newport Aquarium” as well as
specialized career-oriented field trips
and electrofishing with ORSANCO at the
Thomas More College River Station on
the Ohio River. After dinner that evening
Dr. Elizabeth Murray, faculty advisor for
the Tri Beta chapter at College of Mount
St. Joseph and renowned biological and
forensic anthropologist, delivered an
inspirational talk. It had been a long day,
but many of us still had enough energy
to join the Puerto Rican students and the
local Caribbean band “Son del Caribe”
for a Fiesta Latina, courtesy of the Office
of Latino Student Affairs. From Salsa to
Reggae, it was a great cultural experience.

The Poster session started
Friday morning. There were 60 poster
presentations, and again, the judges
commented on the high quality of work by
these undergraduates. The afternoontoagain
was reserved for field trips and after dinner
we were treated to a key-note address by our very own Dr. Hazel Barton. Her talk
entitled “Playing to Your Strengths: My
Life as a Cave Microbiologist” took the
audience from ice-covered Antarctica
to the lush jungles of Venezuela.

Saturday was devoted to field
trips. The convention ended officially
Saturday evening with a Riverboat Cruise
and Awards Banquet aboard the
BB Riverboat River Queen. Suzanne
Truesdell and her band provided the
entertainment. The menu featured
Cincinnati specialties like Skyline Chili.
The moment for which everyone
waited came after dinner with the
announcement of awards! We did it
again!! Fifteen years in a row NKU
has won Brooks and Johnson Awards
at all the Regional and National Tri
Beta Conventions we have attended.
In the Cellular and Molecular Biology
category, first place Brooks Award for
Best Oral Presentation went to Karen
Burwinkel and third place to Christina
Nichols. Andrew Jones got a third
place Brooks Award for Microbiology.
In the Poster competition, Elizabeth
Droessler gave NKU a first place
Johnson Award for best Ecology poster. Brittany Muench got a third
place Microbiology Johnson Award.
Although not award winners the
posters presented by NKU students,
Dana Cunningham, Edward Morris,
Daniel Hennigen, Brandon Iker, Mark
Broering, Eric Banks, Kelly Stuard,
Suzanne Summe, and Brittany Garera
were also outstanding. NKU’s Mu
Iota Chapter received a Host Chapter
Recognition and plaque and I was
honored with the 2008 Yokley Faculty
Service Award. This last award would
not have been possible without the
incredible help from the members of
the Convention Organizing Committee
and in particular from Vicki Martin
Kier, Cynthia Cain, Rachael Logsdon,
Richard Boyce, Hazel Barton
Elizabeth Murray, and John Hageman.

The Awards Ceremony ended
with an extremely complimentary
resolution presented to the local
organizing committee and NKU
by Dr. Gary Wolgamott, National
President of Beta Beta Beta. We
look forward to the next national
BBB convention in Puerto Rico.
Over the past five years I have collaborated with Dr. Chuck Holliday of Lafayette College on a comprehensive study of eastern cicada killer wasps (Speius speciosus). This summer we studied two populations of S. speciosus in northern Florida. The size difference in these two populations was truly striking. Part of the explanation of this difference appears to relate to a finding from focal studies we conducted of individual females that we captured: individual females do not hunt cicadas at random, but are, or become, very specialized.

We observed that nearly every focal female provisioned their nest with only one of the four available species of cicadas. For reasons yet unexplained, in Newberry, most female wasps showed a strong preference for small prey, while at the other site most females showed a strong preference for large prey. This accounts for the difference in size of the wasps, but what explains the difference in hunting preferences among individual females? Any volunteers for next summer?

Elizabeth Droessler: This summer I have been working with Dr. Richard Durtsche in pursuit of understanding the full effect of the invasive shrub Amur honeysuckle (Lonicera maackii) on Wood frog (Lithobates sylvaticus) tadpoles. Honeysuckle leaves entering pondscanaffecttadpoledevolution. In particular, I have been observing the possible implications on growth and fitness from the decreased dissolved oxygen levels as a result of honeysuckle leaf decomposition. Our experiment tests the growth response of tadpoles raised in leaf teas with and without bubbled air.

Matthew Ewald: With mentor Dr. Charles Acosta, I have been studying the spatial population dynamics of the Rusty Crayfish, Orconectes rusticus, at Three Mile Creek and Gunpowder Creek in Northern Kentucky. Once collected with baited minnow traps, crayfish physical characteristics (carapace length, sex, species and presence/lack of mark) were recorded, and the crayfish were marked and released at the site of capture. The collected data were then analyzed using the Jolley-Seber capture-mark-recapture population estimation model. Other crayfish species collected were cataloged to document stream variation in species diversity.

Christina Nichols: With Dr. Joe Mester, I investigated the diverse therapeutic applications of Cat’s Claw (Uncaria tomentosa) extract. Our hypothesis is that Cat’s Claw extract can both stimulate and suppress human cell-based immune responses, given this botanical’s reported anti-tumor, anti-viral and anti-inflammatory properties. We found that short-term extract exposure suppressed IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, MIP-1α and TNFα expression from B cells. Long-term exposure suppressed IL-10 and TNFα expression from B cells, and enhanced IL-6 and IL-8 expression. These results demonstrated that Cat’s Claw extract is immunomodulatory for human B cells, and depending on the length of exposure, may cause either immune inhibition or enhancement.

Laura Trauth: Soy-based diets lower cholesterol and reduce heart disease; however, the mechanism and components are unclear. Dr. Eimear Mullen and I hypothesized that isoflavone in soy lowers cholesterol by inhibiting proteasome activity. Genistein and daidzein may decrease proteasome activity and would thus act as proteasome inhibitors. Using a proteasome Activity Assay and the Western Blot Test, we investigated the levels of certain proteasome target proteins. The theory is that if genistein and daidzein are inhibiting the proteasome we expect to see an increase in levels of these proteins.

Elizabeth (right) measures tadpole growth.

Matt collects crayfish at stream site. (left)

Christina (right) presents some of her findings.
Biology Student Clubs!

Beta Beta Beta: The highlight of the year for Tri-Beta was the hosting of the National BBB Convention at NKU May 26 to June 6, 2008 in collaboration with the sister chapters from Thomas More College and Mt. Saint Joseph. Many of the NKU students presenting at the National Convention also presented at the Regional BBB meetings that were held in Greenville, South Carolina in early April. Other activities this year included several fund raisers highlighted by our annual Valentine flower and bake sale. We recruited many new member at both our fall and spring initiations and our numbers continue to grow. Several Tri-Beta members again this year went to Mexico to shadow doctors there in a variety of medical situations. Dr. Kannan lead this Spring Break trip in and around Guadalajara. Everyone learned a great deal, had a wonderful time, and came to appreciate the exceptional US health care system. While new members join Tri-Beta, we had a strong graduating class this year on their way to fame and fortune.

2008 BBB Graduates receive their Honor Cords.

Photo by student Edward Morris.

ECOS: ECOS was very busy for 2007-2008 hosting 3 events as part of a nationwide effort, called “Focus the Nation,” to promote attention and discussion on issues of globalwarming. These events included a national webcast in January, a faculty discussion panel in February, and in March a panel of local representatives who presented information about local and regional efforts, or lack thereof, to reduce carbon emissions through more effective public transportation options, greener fuels, public awareness, etc. We ended the year on a high note with yet another successful campus Earth Day in April with a green film festival featuring “Who Killed the Electric Car?” and “Revolution Green.” We maintained our adopted 2 mile stretch of the AA highway with 2 clean ups and raised money with our usual bake sales. These monies will be invested in a new program to use washcloths rather than paper towels when drying hands. We have carabineers with the ECOS name on them that have an attached washcloth. We plan to promote these intensely this year. Our hope is that you will soon see people all over campus using their own reusable washcloth when drying their hands as opposed to using a wad of paper towel once and throwing it away. REDUCE! REUSE! RECYCLE!

HPC: The Health Professions Club had an eventful 2007-2008 that included a myriad of speakers to expose our members to the many opportunities available in the health professions, and several interesting volunteer activities. We had speakers from multiple health related professions, including talks from Admissions offices at local professional schools, and a memorable speaker on behalf of the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program at Louisville. Presentations included those by Dr. Mike Anstead, University of Kentucky Board of Admissions, NKU Alum, Adam Ziegler, a second year student at Pikeville School of Medicine, and of course the NKU Pre-Medical Review Board. HPC took to the outdoors with a tree planting at AJ Jolly Park in Alexandria, and participated in the Relay for Life during homecoming week. Unfortunately, it was also time to say good-bye to a great advisor, Dr. Giesmann. At the elections a new advisor and executive council were chosen which consist of Dr. Kristi Martines (advisor), Brittany Muench (President), Dana Cunningham (Vice President), Zineb Syed (Secretary), and Thomas Negassi (Treasurer).

BIOSE: Biology Integration and Outreach for Science Education is designed to integrate biological sciences with P-12 education. Over the past 5 years BIOSE has conducted teacher development workshops, presented numerous in-school science education programs, assisted current teachers in developing inquiry-based classroom activities, and created in-the-field learning opportunities for high school students in Northern Kentucky. Watch for more news on BIOSE programs in the future.
Chair’s Message continued – from page 1-

includes the opportunity for each student to engage in hands-on science by joining one or more faculty members in research, an opportunity that is in large part possible due to the continuing support of our alums – thank you! Please do stay in touch; hearing from former students is one of the things that help to make what we do much more than just a job.

Hazel Barton,
Recipient of an NSF Career Award!

Dr. Hazel Barton has just received a prestigious National Science Foundation Career Award to study cave microbes. This $710,000 award is rarely given to researchers outside major research institutions, with only ~200 granted each year for all sciences in the US. This is truly an exceptional honor for Barton and NKU, and is a testament to the high caliber of research in her lab. As an example, during this past year alone, the research activities of Dr. Barton have brought her and often times her students to Antarctica, China, Venezuela, New Zealand, Vienna, Alaska, and on several trips coast-to-coast in the US. This award will support Dr. Barton’s research program over the next 5 years.

CONGRATULATIONS!

KUDOS!

Dr. Kristi Martinez visited Germany on a grant to explore international collaboration on her dendromer research project. She also had two publications in the Journals of Clinical and Experimental Psychopharmacology and Nanomaterials.

Dr. Miriam Kannan had two publications in Quaternary Science Reviews concerning paleolimnology, and received an NKU grant: Oil from Algae: a Feasibility Study with Dr. Kelley.

Dr. Hazel Barton received early tenure this past year, an achievement only reached by those considered to have extraordinary merit by the University. She was also promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. Bethany Bowling was lead author of two publications (BioScience and Genetics) on bio education.

Dr. Richard Boyce presented an oral presentation and a poster at the Ecological Society of America meeting in Milwaukee this summer.

Dr. Bernie Lohr had two national publications. He was lead or coauthor on presentations at 4 national/international meetings, and received a CINSAM research grant for field studies on nesting songbird activity in a restored grassland with student Lacey Laudick.

Dr. Richard Durtsche presented his research at the Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Montreal, and at the ESA meetings in Milwaukee this summer. He received a $20K grant from the KY Science & Engineering Foundation for microprobe development, and a CINSAM research grant with Dr. Boyce to evaluate Amur honeysuckle effects on tadpole digestion.

Dr. Joseph Mester presented his research this summer at the American Society for Virology at Cornell University. He also received a CINSAM research grant, and a KBRIN fellowship grant.

Dr. Rebecca (Evans) Kelley & husband Reggie with their new F1, RJ.

Dr. Rebecca (Evans) Kelley received a $26K grant from NKU to establish an environmental education center at St. Anne’s Convent in Melbourne, KY.

Dr. David Thompson and his student Karen Burwinkel presented their research at the Society of Toxicology meetings in Seattle.

Dr. Eimear Mullen received a KBRIN fellowship grant of $12,500 and a NKU Project grant of $6,000.
Alumni News!

A Costa Rican Excellent Adventure!
—by Vickie Kier

From the minute we arrived at Aeropuerto Juan Santamaria in San Jose, we knew our adventure had begun. Emerging, we were hit with the crush of heat, humidity, and a teeming crowd with countless offers for cabs and bag carriers. Mario, our agent, rescued us and off we went to the Balmoral Hotel.

Were we in Central America on a special mission? Not covert operations, but part of the NKU Biology Alumni participating in “Tom Rambo’s Costa Rican Boot Camp.” Fortunately, we all survived. Unfortunately, Tom and Elinor could not go with us due to health concerns. Those making the trip were Hilde and Doug Baldridge (Biology), Vern and Ann Hicks (Chemistry), Matthew (Physics), Sabine (Biology) and Samson Zacate, Scott, Alice and Joe Nutter (Physics), and the following Biology Alumni (and associates) Joan Arnold, Patty Kapesser, Kathy Schenck (sister), Cynthia Cain, Jon Cain (spouse), Michelle Fry, Debbie Wesley, Judy Gammon, Patti Flores (friend), Mike Ware, Vicki Kier and Kyle Wiehe (grandson). Vern Hicks became our fearless leader in Tom’s absence with assistance from Matthew and Sabine Zacate.

We arrived at our first destination, Punta Marenco Lodge, soaking wet from our boat ride in a thunderstorm, and waded ashore to a tropical wonderland. While there, we took a night hike, trips to Corcovado National Park to hike, and visited Isla de Caños for snorkeling. The bees, crocodiles, and jellyfish added extra excitement. Several of us visited the nearby school, Escuela El Refugio Drake, and delivered the supplies and books we brought as gifts. Samson’s Spanish class at Grant’s Lick Elementary had written pen pal letters to the students. We even had Capuchin monkeys in the cabins.

At a much higher and colder elevation, Finca de Quetzales, the birds and vegetation amazed us. After an early morning hike, we transferred to Arenal Paraiso where we had great views of Volcan Arenal from our cabins. Riding the zip line and the hike at Hanging Bridges tested the courage of the group. Ann Hicks was a natural on the zip line. Samson, Joe, and Kyle were not very confident on the bridges, but they did not let their fear of heights mar their experience. The pools of the hot springs at Tabacon were very relaxing but the exhilarating waterslide into the heated swimming pool was like a luge without a sled. That night we were also treated to the sight of Volcan Arenal glowing as we drove back to our cabins.

At Rincón de la Vieja Lodge, the trail past the steaming lagoon, fumaroles, and boiling mud pots was surreal. Steam and hydrogen sulfide belching out along the path gave brilliant color to the surrounding rocks and lagoon, and a strong, sulfur smell to the air. Our transfer to La Pacifica allowed a stop at Santa Rosa, where the Costa Ricans defeated American “filibusterer” William Walker and his mercenaries. We went river rafting on Rio Tenorio and saw many birds and other animals.

Our last adventure at Tortuguero included travel by boat up the canal paralleling the
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Gifts and Donations

We wanted to take this opportunity to say “thank you” for all of the support, including financial support, you have provided our undergraduates in the Department of Biological Sciences over the years. Without this our students would not be able to attend scientific meetings such as Tri-Beta and National/International Society meetings. These meetings allow students to interact with scientists from all over the world who often help shape their lives. Many times these students go on to graduate studies, professional schools, or find the “perfect” job for which they have been preparing as undergraduates. Our students fare quite well in the number of awards they have taken home from both state and national competitions, and their participation is possible primarily due to your kind gifts to our department. We appreciate all of your contributions, both large and small, and please know that we are discriminating about how they are used. We will be conducting our annual phonathon this fall and look forward to talking with you and “catching up” on what you have been doing. Thank you again for your continued support to The Department of Biological Sciences. We could not do it without you!

Commencement 2007-2008

Bachelors Degree

Fall 2007
Amanda Behne
Ryan Dumas
Rebecca Ernst
Timothy Ferguson
Nathan Fischer
Kevin Hunter
Adin Pemberton
David Reinhardt

Spring 2008
Eric Banks
Lindsey Bendure
Laura Brennan
Mark Broering
Karen Burwinkel
Michele Burwinkel
Jessie Caraway
Andrew Carr
Gary Davis
Maureen Delaney
Rachel Feinauer
Chad Hargrove
Bethany Humphrey
Brandon Iker
Shawn Kingsolver
Kristen Livesay
Jared Patton
Courtney Queen
Bethany Schuck
Alexa Summe
Suzanne Truesdell
Marshall Weesner

Summer 2008
Adam Kamer
Amanda Tilden

Alumni Updates

Evelyn Dietz (BS ‘86) has been a Biology teacher at Ursuline Academy in Cincinnati for 17 years. This year she was the recipient of the prestigious 2007-2008 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement. Evelyn was selected based on excellent teaching and her commitment to helping students succeed in the Advanced Placement Program. Evelyn was one of only 50 recipients of this award in the nation. Kudos to you!

A Note to Our Alumni

Thank you for past contributions. They have not gone unnoticed by the editors, the Department, or the people who read The Biologist. We hope that you will continue to support us with your updates. Take a moment and tell us where you are and what you are doing currently. You will find contact information on page 12. It helps us stay in touch. We look forward to hearing from you!

coast. We stayed at the Mawamba Lodge and enjoyed the local vegetation, saw green sea turtles laying eggs, and went on several nature cruises on the canals. Our list of birds and other animals is lengthy. Agitated howler monkeys caused a tree branch to fall into the boat injuring Judy Gammon. Dr. Doug attended to her and she was a trooper hiking around with her wrapped foot and ankle.

We returned to San Jose for shopping and our trip home. Tom planned a wonderful trip. Our guides from Cabet Travel, Mario, Manfred, and Marcella, were excellent. It was a memorable experience because of the place, the sights, and the camaraderie.

For our next adventure, we asked Dr. Miriam Kannan to consider a trip for us to Ecuador and the Galapagos.

Photos courtesy of Dr. Scott Nutter (Physics).
We’re on the Web!
See The Biologist in color at: www.nku.edu/~biology

Upcoming Events....

Merc/AAAS Student Poster Presentation
Fri., Sept. 5 – NKU Science Center 4th Floor

CINSAM Night
Tues., Sept. 16 – NKU Science Center (4-8 pm)

Alumni Annual Planning Meeting (Alumni)
Thurs., Sept. 25 – Science Center 200 (6:30 pm)
Free dinner & dessert - RSVP to cain@nku.edu
send ideas if you cannot attend

Fall Tri Beta Initiation (Tri-Beta)
mid-Oct. – NKU Honor’s House

Kentucky Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting
Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 – University of Kentucky

“History of Skin” - History Channel
Scott Bessler (BS ’06) and Melissa Miller (BS ’05) will
be featured in this program with their current research

Annual Skyline Tavern Party (Alumni)
March, 2009 – date to be set at the Sept. planning mtg

Earth Day Celebration (ECOS)
early-April, 2009 – NKU Campus

Regional Meeting of Tri Beta & Assoc. of Southeastern Biologists
Apr. 1-4, 2009 – Jacksonville, Alabama

Spring Tri-Beta Initiation (Tri-Beta)
mid-April, 2009 – NKU Honor’s House

Celebration of Student Research and Creativity
mid-April, 2009 – NKU Regents Hall

For current Biology Club activities check out their websites:

- BBB: http://studenthome.nku.edu/~bbb/
- BIOALLIANCE: http://www.nku.edu/~bowlingb2/Bio_alliance.html
- BIOTA: http://www.nku.edu/~bowlingb2/BIOTA.html
- ECOS: http://studenthome.nku.edu/~ecos/
- HPC: http://studenthome.nku.edu/~healthprof/
- BIO ALUMNI: http://www.nku.edu/~bioalum/
- BIO ALUMNI ListServ: JMALVT@fuse.net

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ALUMNI UPDATE
We want to hear from you!
Contact us at: thebiologist@nku.edu

Please include:
Contact Information/ E-mail Class year
What’s new? (promotions, special recognitions, change of job,