

College and University news

Class of 2002 seniors are invited to celebrate their “senior-ity” at the Senior Send-Off, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Friday, April 5, 2002 at the McNamara Alumni Center. This FREE event will feature a performance by the Acme Comedy Co., a pasta buffet by D’Amico, and a chance to win \$500 and \$250 cash gifts, a DVD player, and a Palm Pilot. The University of Minnesota Alumni Association will distribute complimentary Alumni membership cards, which reward each new member with instant benefits and a continued connection to the “U”. To attend the Senior Send-Off, register online at www.umaa.umn.edu/event/sendoff.

Join fellow CBS faculty, staff, and students for the CBS Annual End-of-the-Year Picnic to be held May 10, 12 noon –3 p.m. on the front lawn of Snyder Hall. Admission is free, but you must have a ticket to attend. Tickets may be picked up between April 3 and May 3 in 123 Snyder Hall, 223 Snyder Hall, or in CBS department offices. Graduation gifts will be given to seniors who attend the picnic, and all students will have a chance to win door prizes. A senior class picture will be taken at 1 p.m. Call Lija Greenseid at 612-625-7705 for further information.

All are invited and encouraged to attend the CBS Commencement ceremony to be held Saturday, May 18, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in Northrop Auditorium. Commencement speaker is alumna Ruth Shuman, founder and president of Genra Systems. A reception on Northrop Plaza will follow the ceremony. Faculty and staff invitations will be mailed soon. Direct questions to grad@cbs.umn.edu or contact Jessica Murra at 612-624-9717.

Volunteers are needed to staff the CBS booth at the Minnesota State Fair, August 22–September 2. This year, CBS will display a beautiful new exhibit designed for this event, and demonstrate research conducted at the college. Volunteers will receive free admission to the fair and a T-shirt. Call Emily Johnston at 612-624-4770 for further information.

Artist Eduardo Kac has been commissioned to create the public art for the new Microbial and Plant Genomics building. He is internationally recognized for the use of biology in his work and is the creator of the famous green bunny, “Alba.” For further information about the artist and to see some of his work, go to www.ekac.org.

The Bell Museum faculty and students have initiated “Museum Lunch,” a seminar series designed to bring the components of the museum closer together. Spring semester seminars are scheduled for Thursdays at 12 noon in 480 Hodson Hall. For further information or to sign up for e-mail announcements, contact Bob Zink, rzink@cbs.umn.edu.

Lab Fest 2002 will be held April 17, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel Metrodome, and April 18, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. in the North Star Ballroom, St. Paul Student Center. This scientific product show is an opportunity to view new products and speak with representatives from lab manufacturers, distributors, and University departments. Lunch will be served both days.

The 1942 paper “The trophic-dynamic aspect of ecology,” by former U of M ecologist Raymond Lindeman, was cited by biologists as the third most influential journal article, with respect to their career training, in the March 2002 issue of *BioScience*. In the article, Lindeman’s paper was rated higher than Watson and Crick’s “Molecular structure of nucleic acids: A structure of deoxyribonucleic acid.”

People

Bianca Conti-Fine, professor of biochemistry, molecular biology, and biophysics, is one of two University faculty to receive the 2002 Distinguished Women Scholars Award. The awards will be presented at the Office for University Women’s Spring Celebration on Wednesday, April 3, 3–5 p.m. at the Weisman Art Museum. The awards are sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Dean of the Graduate School, the Office for University Women, and the Office for Multicultural and Academic Affairs.

Karen Oberhauser, ecology, evolution, and behavior, has received \$45,000 from the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office for “Monarchs and More: Insect Ecology for Middle School Teachers,” and \$38,217 for a similar program for elementary school teachers.

Gary Dunny, microbiology, has been awarded \$30,614 from Microbia, Inc. for “Rabbit Endocarditis Model.”

Jocelyn Shaw, genetics, cell biology, and development, has been awarded \$12,100 from the Minnesota Medical Foundation for “Function of Gap Junctions in Development.”

Media Watch: Have a paper coming out in a leading journal or other news of interest to the media? Contact Peggy Rinard, communications coordinator, at prinard@cbs.umn.edu, or 612-624-0774.

Events, seminars, and conferences

- March 28 Sigma Xi special lecture “Unexpected Multipotency of Adult Stem Cells.” Dr. Catharine Verfaillie, Director of the U of M Stem Cell Institute, will speak at the National Marrow Donor Program Offices, Broadway Ridge Building, Suite 500, 3001 Broadway Street Northeast, Minneapolis, 7 p.m. For further information and directions, contact Florence K. Gleason at florence@cbs.umn.edu.
- April 26–28 Chain Gang Weekend at Itasca, Lake Itasca Forestry and Biological Station. Contact Kristen Murphy at kmurphy@cbs.umn.edu or 612-624-6743, to sign up.
- May 1 Life Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium, Earle Brown Center, 2–6 p.m.
- May 7 Plant Biological Sciences Colloquium, “From Mist and Salt-Spray: The Lichens of Haida Gwaii;” Dr. Irwin Brodo, National Museum of Canada; 335 Borlaug, 3:30 p.m.
- May 10 CBS All-College Picnic, front lawn of Snyder Hall/Gortner Lab, 12–3 p.m. Contact Lija Greenseid at 612-625-7705 for further information.
- May 18 CBS Commencement ceremony, Northrop Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- May 27 Memorial Day holiday; no classes, offices closed.
- May 31–June 2 Life Sciences Summer Undergraduate Research Programs (LSSURP) Orientation weekend.
- August 9 LSSURP Poster Session and Farewell Banquet; location TBA.
- August 22–
September 2 Minnesota State Fair
- September 21 Cedar Creek 60th Anniversary Celebration, Cedar Creek Natural History Area. Program, cake and ice cream social, 1:30–2:30 p.m.; tours and displays, 2:30–5 p.m. Contact Lija Greenseid at 612-625-7705 for further information.
- October 11–12 CBS and U of M Homecoming activities

Go to www.cbs.umn.edu/college_info/seminar.html for links to department seminar lists.

Next issue: April 10 ■ Copy deadline: April 3

Send your items for *CBS News* to Kristen Murphy, 220 BioSci, or kmurphy@cbs.umn.edu.

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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Kristen Murphy, 612-624-6743.