1. A Message from our Department Head, Kate VandenBosch

News of People

After more than 30 years as Education Specialist in the College of Biological Sciences, Kathy Ball today marks her retirement. Kathy is one of our own, having received an M.S. at the U in 1969 in Botany, one of the progenitors to the current graduate program in Plant Biology. Kathy is a dedicated science educator. Not only did she study in this field as an undergraduate and in PhD studies, she has dedicated her career to science education. While many people are familiar with her contributions to courses including General Biology laboratory, General Botany lecture and lab, and various seminars, some may be unaware of her other educational endeavors. In the late 60s, Kathy taught junior and senior high school science and math. In more recent years, she has contributed to a summer workshop on botany for elementary school teachers and developed and taught Kids' University courses in biology. She has also taught General Biology as a correspondence course. On behalf of the department, I would like to offer our appreciation and hearty congratulations to Kathy on her long and active career, and best wishes for relaxing and rewarding retirement.

The Department of Plant Biology also congratulates Professor David Biesboer, this year's recipient of the Dagley-Kirkwood award from the College of Biological Sciences. Awarded for excellence in teaching, this honor recognizes Bies' classroom teaching over the years, including General Botany and Developmental Plant Anatomy. The nomination also cited his important contributions to the first year of Nature of Life, the new orientation program for freshman in CBS. In last year's NOL, as it is called, Dave played both an organizational role, as director of
the Lake Itasca Biological Station, and a teaching role. As instructor for "Bog Biology," Professor Biesboer introduced more than 70 incoming freshman to north country field botany. He has already headed back to Itasca for this year's summer session, and to prepare for the second season of NOL this July. Thanks to Bies, a new crop of students will return to campus with an interest in plants.

2. Phytograd and Plant Biological Sciences Graduate Program

Grant

Minnesota-Norway Fulbright Program – 2005-2006
Norwegian University of Science and Technology – Trondheim, Norway

Applicants must be U.S. citizens currently enrolled in any field in the University of Minnesota Graduate School. Knowledge of Norwegian is not necessary.

Selection Criteria: A record of outstanding academic achievement, and a clearly defined research/study proposal.

Application Procedure: Applicants are encouraged to review the NTNU information at http://www.ntnu.no/indexe.html. Campus interviews are conducted in late September or early October. Further information can be obtained from the Graduate Students’ posting board and application materials are available at the Graduate School Fellowship Office, 314 Johnston Hall.

Campus Deadline: September 10, 2004

3. Teaching and Outreach

MAY SESSION - MAY 24 – JUNE 11, 2004
PBIO 5960: SPECIAL TOPICS IN PLANT BIOLOGY

MOLECULAR PLANT-MICROBE INTERACTIONS
Sponsored by the Plant Molecular Genetics Institute

SEMINARS
3:30 p.m., 105 Cargill Bldg., SPC

DISCUSSIONS
239 Gortner Lab, 10:00 a.m., SPC

Seminar, Thursday, May 27
Dr. Turlough Finan, Professor of Biology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
“Genomes from the Root Nodule Bacteria: Post-Sequence Science”

Discussion, Friday, May 28
Seminar, Thursday, June 3
Dr. Vicki Vance, Professor of Biological Sciences, University of South Carolina/Columbia
“Viral Suppression of RNA Silencing: The Role of Small Regulatory RNAs”

Discussion, Friday, June 4

Mallory A.C., Milotshwa S., Bowman L.H., and V.B. Vance. 2003

Arctic Field Ecology Course - University of Minnesota
Itasca Field Biology Program
29 June - 23 July 2004

Sponsored By: National Science Foundation
University of Minnesota
International Institute of Tropical Forestry

OVERVIEW
Arctic Field Ecology is offered by the University of Minnesota Itasca Field Biology Program and sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry. The course integrates research, education, and traditional ecological knowledge. This summer the class will visit a number of sites along a climatic gradient from the southern to northern Canadian Arctic.

ITINERARY
We will begin with a kayak trip along the Mara River to learn about the region's flora and fauna, soils, nutrient cycling, the interactions of caribou, climate, and vegetation, and the impact of people and global change in the Arctic. We will follow this with a visit to Omingmaktok to meet and camp with local Inuit instructors. For the second half we will integrate what we have learned with hands-on science as we set up a remote field camp with several scientists studying climate-soil-vegetation interactions on Prince Patrick Island in the Canadian High Arctic.

COURSE SPECIFICS
The class is part of the research program "Biocomplexity of Frost Boil Ecosystems." More information on this program is available at: http://www.geobotany.uaf.edu/cryoturbation/

Students will have the opportunity to work and learn in the field with soil scientists, climatologists, and vegetation and ecosystem ecologists involved in the project.

Credits Offered: 5 through the University of Minnesota
Instructors: Bill Gould (landscape ecologist) and Grizelle Gonzalez (soil ecologist)
Course Cost: $3300 USD

4. Calendar of Events
Kathy Ball’s Retirement Party
Wednesday, May 26th, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., 257 BioSci.

5. Seminars and Symposia

Brown Bag Lunch

The third brown bag lunch to discuss opportunities in molecular and microbial evolution will be held at noon on Friday, May 28 in 274 McNeal Hall. Focus groups asked to explore opportunities in evolutionary genetics and comparative biology; host-microbe interactions; and metagenomics will report their findings. Each group was asked to look at our strengths and gaps, what peers are doing, opportunities for growth, quantitative needs, and graduate education needs.

The series is organized by Claudia Neuhauser, head of ecology, evolution, and behavior, and Kate VandenBosch, head plant biology.

11. Miscellaneous Announcements

Are you a golfer? Would you like to golf the U of M Les Bolstad Golf Course and help support scholarships for students in the College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences?

Mark your calendars for the First College Alumni Society Golf Scramble
Tuesday, July 13
For more details contact Roger Caspers at caspe005@umn.edu or call 612-625-1994.

Editors: Kate VandenBosch, Dept. Head; Anne Caton, Admin. Director; Odette Holter, Principal Administrative Specialist

This publication is available in hard copy or email by request. Please contact Odette Holter via email (oholter@biosci.cbs.umn.edu) or call 625-1234 if you would like to receive a copy.

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