WELCOME

New Online Masters Students for Fall 2013: Cayman Adams, FL; Marquice Barnett, NC; Joel Baublits, KS; Matthew Baublits, KS; Carol Bensen, MS; Laura Bethel, PA; Jessica Bonney, CO; Larissa Braden, AZ; Tara Bradley, PA; Julia Bristow, CA; Mariann Britzman, NC; Jonathan Brooks, VA; Dustan Burns, MA; Angela Cayce, TN; Richard Chadwick, NC; Jiarzen Chang, TX; Alicia Christian, FL; Jordnn Cogan, KS; Marisa Colyer, FL; Kelsey Dayharsh, CA; Jason DeFuria, MA; Shane Dixon, TN; Karman Downs, AL; Lisa Doyle, TN; LeShante Fairell, MD; Thomas Frazier, UT; Anita Grochulski, NJ; Reem Halabi, ME; Jacquelyn Hewins, KS; John Higley, TX; Michael Hipp, TX; Joshua Hynes, KY; Jerrid Johansen, NE; Christopher Kornak, ME; Mimely Little, NJ; Collin MacLeod, WA; Andrew Marshall, MD; Caryn Masters, NE; Ashley Mayall, NE; Rebecca McClay, TX; Joseph McLennan, CO; Ivette Medina, NJ; Jonathan Mersereau, OR; Joseph Milholm, TN; Malachi Nyaroo, MN; Sarah Paquette, MA; Danitra Peterson, KS; Sandra Pollock, VA; Maria Raquepas, Armed Forces Europe; Brandon Reed, CA; Jordan Reich, CA; Fernando Rodriguez, PA; Colleen Rothe-Groleau, NE; Carli Seaver, OH; Tiffany Seder, CA; Nicholas Stevenson, MI; Kerry Todd, TX; Allison Tsata, MA; Kelly Ugrinov, FL; Matthew Walsh, NY; Stacey Wheeler, NE; Jaren Whisler, MO; Michael Yows, UT

CONGRATULATIONS

Summer 2013 Graduates:
James Bogus, Chelsea Bunn, Robert Caballero, Allen Chezick, Ashley Cunningham, Genady Filkovsky, Brent Frankland, Jennifer Gernhart, John Goldston, Erin Hoffman, Lacey Hopper, Jennifer Judt, Donald Koller, Crystal Lewis, Ryan Mahlberg, Velta Napoleon-Fanis, Hannah Phillips, Julana Shmaefsky

Three students were able to attend the UNK Summer Commencement ceremony on July 26th held in the Nebraska Student Union.

Graduate Ashley Cunningham celebrates with UNK Biology faculty at the graduation breakfast held in Bruner Hall.

(from left to right): Dr. Paul Twigg, Dr. Casey Schoenebeck, Dr. Julie Shaffer, Ashley Cunningham, Dr. Wyatt Hoback, Dr. Kerri Farnsworth-Hoback, and Dr. Janet Steele.
Pictured left (from left to right): Dr. Kerri Farnsworth-Hoback, Jennifer Gernhart, Velta Napoleon-Fanis, Ashley Cunningham, and Dr. Joe Springer.

Pictured right: Graduate Velta Napoleon-Fanis poses with her research mentor Dr. Kerri Farnsworth-Hoback.

Publications, Meetings, Grants

Publications


Meetings


Continue to send us updates on any meetings, publications, grants, or awards that you have been involved with. Please email details to msbiology@unk.edu.

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**Director’s Desk from Dr. Janet Steele**

Hopefully everyone is aware of the comprehensive exam that you must pass in order to graduate. This exam takes the place of the thesis defense required of students in the on-campus thesis program and documentation of successful completion of this exam must be on file with the graduate office. This means you need to think about this exam well in advance of your graduation date. The exam covers material from the required courses (BIOL 802, BIOL 820, BIOL 827 or BIOL 863 depending on which course is on your program of study, BIOL 831, and BIOL 881) and you need to save your materials from these courses in order to prepare for the exam. Courses do not remain available indefinitely on Blackboard so it is your responsibility to keep materials from these classes. You do not need to be completely finished with the BIOL 831 sequence in order to take the exam as the questions cover generic concepts regarding research, but you should have completed BIOL 831A, 831B, and 831C prior to scheduling the exam. The exam has two parts, a multiple-choice section and an essay section. You must earn 70% to pass the exam and you are permitted two attempts. Yes, students do fail the exam on their first attempt so you need to schedule the exam early enough in the semester in which you plan to graduate so that you allow time to retake the exam if necessary. Yes, students have had to delay graduation a semester because they failed the exam and did not allow enough time to reschedule the exam prior to the deadline for graduation materials to be submitted to the graduate office. If you have to retake the exam you will be given exactly the same exam, but you must wait a month between attempts. In addition, you must identify a proctor for the exam and the materials will be sent to your proctor.
Dr. Dawn Simon and Dr. Letitia Reichart are developing labs that can be used to incorporate bioinformatics across the undergraduate curriculum. This is part of an NSF-funded collaboration with faculty members from the University of Nebraska-Omaha and Nebraska Wesleyan University. These labs are available for use from the project website http://ccli.ist.unomaha.edu/. Many of the labs include additional materials, such as power point presentations and assessment questions. All the labs currently listed on the website are designed for undergraduates, however a few have also been successfully implemented at the high school and graduate level. If you are a teacher and would like to use these labs, while it is not necessary, we encourage you to contact Dr. Simon (simondm@unk.edu). In some cases, other versions are available that may be better suited for your specific needs. We would also appreciate any suggestions for improvement or further development of new labs that may more specifically meet your needs. This project is ongoing and additional labs will be added over the course of the next two years.

Dr. Kerri Farnsworth-Hoback will be taking a year-long sabbatical starting this fall. She will be working with Dr. John E. Foster, Research & Extension Entomologist at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, to learn molecular techniques that can be applied to the analysis of population structure. Her research will apply AFLP- PCR methods to determine the level of genetic variation inherent in isopod populations as well as gene flow between meta-populations. She feels sad about having to grind up cute little roly-polies to extract their DNA but since these familiar arthropods are actually non-native and potential crop pests, she views this as necessary to better understand the distribution and dispersion of these soil-dwelling organisms.

Dr. Marc Albrecht and wife Helen are happy to announce the birth of their twins Elaine Mary (2,240g) and Isaac Rory (3,005g) on the 5th of July. (pictured right)
Student News

Gale Albrecht (July 2009 distance graduate) graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus on May 24, 2013. She is currently pursuing a post-graduate general practice pharmacy residency at Exempla St. Joseph’s Hospital in Denver. (pictured left)

Jocelyn Bryant (December 2010 distance graduate) is the Endocrinology Lab Manager at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago and was elected as Communications Chair to the International Society of Wildlife Endocrinology (ISWE) www.iswe-endo.org.

Tara Hoffman (Spring 2013 distance graduate) recently accepted an instructor position at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Chelsea Bunn (Summer 2013 distance graduate) gave birth to her daughter Brooklyn on June 29th at 1:01 pm. Brooklyn was 21 inches long and weighed 9 lbs 1 oz. (pictured below right)

Jeremy Grauf (current on-campus student) welcomed Kaeden Michael Grauf on July 7th. Kaeden weighed in at 8 lbs 15 oz and 22 inches long. (pictured below left)

Please let us know what is going on in your lives; email us your news at msbiology@unk.edu.
Office Space

Fall 2013 Deadlines:
August 26th – Fall classes begin
September 15th – Last day to apply for December graduation
October 25th – Last day to drop a course (no refund at this time)
October 28th – Early registration begins for all currently enrolled students
November 22nd – Comprehensive Exams (for graduating students) must be returned to the Biology Dept
December 16th-19th – Final Exams
December 20th - Graduation

Students planning to graduate this December 2013 must apply for graduation on MyBlue. Even if you do not plan to attend ceremony you must apply in order to receive your degree. The deadline to apply for December graduation is September 15th. There is a $25 application fee which can be paid on-line during the application process. Commencement ceremony will take place at 10:00 am on December 20th in the Health and Sports Center. Please consider making the trip to Kearney to walk in graduation and if you do, please let the Biology Department know so we can plan some special events for you.