



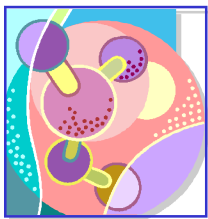
# Biology Buzz



## What Happened Next?

- Michael Beer '07 is working full-time as a lab tech at the University of Michigan. He is in a lab making heat-stable vaccines against hepatitis that are administered through the nasal cavities - funded in large part by the Gates Foundation.
- Kerry Pearson '07 is also a full time lab tech at Northwestern University. She is working in an IVF clinic using micro-array technology to see if gene expression in cumulus cells is a valid predictor of the health and fertilizability of harvested oocytes

.....  
*Let us know what happened next for YOU!*



## Some newer department faces; dynamic research

Department Chair and Associate Professor **Warren Hauk** joined the faculty at Denison in 1998. He earned a B.A. at Baylor University, an M.A. at the University of Kansas-Lawrence and a Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Hauk specializes in evolution and classification of plants. He teaches Intro to Science, Ecology and Evolution, Plant Systematics and Advanced Evolutionary Biology. This is Warren's first year as chair of the department.

Professor **Eric Liebl** joined the faculty at Denison in 1994. He earned a B.S. at the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. at the University of California. Liebl teaches Introduction to the Science of Biology, Cell and Molecular Biology, Genetics, Developmental Biology and team-teaches Bioethics. His research uses fruit fly genetics to study

how the central nervous system develops.

Assistant Professor **Rebecca Homan** joined the faculty at Denison in 2003. She earned a B.A. at Wellesley College and a Ph.D. at Tufts University. Her research interests include ecology of amphibians in human-dominated landscapes with an emphasis on identifying conservation strategies. Homan teaches Intro to Science, Ecology and Evolution, Conservation Biology and Herpetology.

Newer to the department is Assistant Professor **Andy McCall**. Andy earned his B.A. from Carleton College, a M.Sc. from the University of Canterbury, and a M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis. He is currently conducting research on induced defenses in flowers, inbreeding depression, and bioinformatics using plant secondary chemicals and currently teaching

courses in Plant Ecology, and Ecology and Evolution.

Assistant Professor **Kristina Mead** joined the faculty at Denison in 2002. She earned a B.A. at Williams College and a Ph.D. at Stanford University. Mead is interested in how crustaceans use chemical, visual and mechanical cues to track odor plumes. She also does research on the fertilization and early development of marine invertebrates. Her courses include Intro to Science, Animal Physiology and Intro to Neurophysiology.

Associate Professor **Jessica Rettig** joined the faculty at Denison in 2000. She earned a B.A. at Earlham College and a Ph.D. at Michigan State University. Rettig teaches Intro to Science, Ecology and Evolution, Population and Community Ecology and Invertebrate Zoology. Her research uses bluegill sunfish to

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## 2007-2008 Student Fellows

Senior Fellow Awards in the Department of Biology are based not only upon excellent academic performance and service to the department, but also the positive attitude and contributions brought to the classroom, research lab and the general environment of the major. The Biology Faculty

view Senior Fellows as students who pursue biology for its own virtue and provide excellent role models for other students.

Elected the Fall semester of this academic year are three seniors possessing all these qualities and much more! We welcome **Alice Brindle**, **Ashley DuMont**, and **Brian Slaby**. Be

sure to visit our website to learn even more about these outstanding students and their interests. <http://www.denison.edu/biology/> and select the Biology Majors link.

## BIOS *from front cover*

study population and community ecology of ponds and lakes.

Assistant Professor **Laura Romano** joined the faculty at Denison in 2003. She earned a B.S. at the College of William and Mary and a Ph.D. at the University of Arizona. Romano studies the evolution of genes that regulate sea urchin development in an effort to learn more about the genetic basis of morphological diversity. She teaches Intro to Science, Developmental Biology, Cell and Molec and Evolutionary Developmental Biology.

Professor **Tom Schultz** joined the faculty at Denison in 1990. He earned a B.A. at the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. at the University of Texas-Austin. Schultz teaches Intro to Science, Animal Behavior, Conservation Biology, Ecology and Evolution, Entomology, and courses in environmental studies. His research involves the use of color by insects in deception and communication and the biomonitoring of insects as indicators of environmental quality.

Associate Professor **Geoff Smith** joined the faculty at Denison in 2000. He earned a B.A. at Earlham College and a Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Smith is interested in the ecology of amphibians and reptiles and, in particular, the effects of environmental change on amphibian populations and communities. He teaches Intro to Science, Ecology and Evolution, Population and Community Ecology and Vertebrate Field Biology.

Assistant Professor **Jeff Thompson** joined the faculty at Denison in 2003. He earned a B.A. at Kalamazoo College and a Ph.D. at the University of California, Los Angeles. Thompson studies the role of chromatin structure as a regulator of gene expression, genome organization and other epigenetic phenomenon, using yeast as a model organism. He teaches Intro to Science, Cell and Molec, Genetics and Immunology.

Assistant Professor **Chris Weingart** joined the faculty at Denison in 2002. She earned a B.S. at Mount Union College and a Ph.D. at Miami University. Weingart teaches Intro to Science, General Microbiology, Virology and Cell and Molec. Her research interest is bacterial stress responses and their involvement in causing disease.

Assistant Professor **Lina Yoo** joined the faculty at Denison in 2005. She earned a B.S. at Duke University and a Ph.D. at Washington University. Yoo studies the role of PTEN in bladder cancer. She teaches Intro to Science, Cell and Molec and Advanced Cell Biology.

Visiting Assistant Professor **Tessa Carrel** joined the department in 2006. She earned her B.S. at Muskingum College and her M.S. and Ph.D. at Ohio State University. She teaches Cell and Molec and Developmental Neurobiology along with an Honors course in Reproductive Biology.

Visiting Assistant Professor **James Marshall**, with us for the next two years, teaches E & E along with an FYS class this semester entitled Apocalypse, Catastrophe and Collapse. Receiving a B.A. in English and a B.S. in Environmental Science at TCU, a M.S. at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and a Ph.D. at Ohio State University. His doctoral research looked at the effects of West Nile virus on the survival and nesting success of Northern Cardinals. Ongoing research interests include nesting ecology of shrub-nesting birds, and tradeoffs between immune function and other energy demands in birds. Long-term goal is a tenure-track position in a liberal-arts college.

Visiting Assistant Professor **Marek Sliwinski** joins us this academic year teaching Cell & Molec and Environmental Micro. Marek's B.S. was obtained at University of California at San Diego and obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He continues his research in plant evolutionary and developmental biology (EvoDevo).

Assistant Professor **Heather Rho-**

**des** will be joining the Department in the Spring. She hails from Boston University. Spring 2008 she will teach Human Physiology. Heather and husband, Adam, are proud parents of a new little girl, Mabel. We hope to have more information to share in our next newsletter.

**G. Whitney Stocker**, BioReserve /Lab Prep Manager and has been with the Biology department since 1993. His own interest in crayfish (see his website from the departmental page) makes him quite a resource in the field.

Department Secretary, **Jennifer Etz** has worked at Denison since 1999, originally working part-time in the Alumni office. In 2004 she replaced long-time department secretary Jude Hall when she moved to the department of GeoSciences to work part-time there.

### EMERITI INFO:

**Dr. Phil Stukus** is retired and living in Granville. He resigned as Director of the Anderson Endowment in September, but still maintains an office in Talbot. He continues research with his "bugs" and does regular microbiological consulting with Owens Corning. He and his wife, Kathy, are enjoying their four grandchildren, who live in Cleveland and West Lafayette, IN. They head a 50+ group at their church, and have major responsibility for operation of a food pantry in Newark. Dr. Stukus is always delighted to hear from his former students.



2006-2007 Department Photo

## What's New?



**Jeff Thompson** gave a poster presentation, "Histone H3 K79 methylation and histone H4 acetylation play

multiple overlapping roles in the response to UV damage in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*," at the FASEB Summer Research Conference on Chromatin & Transcription, July 2007 at Snowmass, Colorado. The poster was co-authored with Denison students

**Margery Evans '07, Ashley Albrecht '07, Andrew Keller '06, & Lindsey Bostelman '05.**

Recently **Eric Liebl** was awarded the Richard Lucier Distinguished Professorship for demonstrating outstanding teaching and scholarship that enhances opportunities for students at Denison to study relevant and innova-

tive issues and ideas, such as Professor Lucier did during his tenure at Denison, and as he continues to do through his ongoing relationships with former students

On the advice of the President's Advisory Board, **Rebecca Homan** was awarded the Bayley-Bowen Faculty Fellowship for a three-year term. This fellowship was founded to honor the lifelong personal and professional friendship between two of Denison's Life Trustees, Dr. David Bayley and Dr. William Bowen. It is meant to recognize and encourage continued superior talent and outstanding scholarship and promise on the part of an untenured assistant professor who has just completed a successful third-year review.

**Geoff Smith**, presented "Lack of effect of nitrate, nitrite, and phosphate on wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*) tadpoles" in *Applied Herpetology*. Geoff and **Aquil Awan '04**, "The effect of group size on the responses of Wood Frog (*Rana sylvatica*) tadpoles to fish" in the July 2007 issue of the *American Midland Naturalist*. This paper is based on a portion of Aquil's senior thesis.

**Chris Dibble '09** presented a poster entitled "Variation in American Toad tadpole and metamorph performance among three ponds" at the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists held in St. Louis, MO in July 2007. The poster was co-authored by **Chris Dayer '07** and **Geoff Smith**.

### Future Plans:

In the fall of 2008, the Department of Biology is planning to host a seminar series! Alumni are welcome to attend.

After each seminar, students and faculty will be invited to eat lunch with the speaker.

## DUBS

**Dr. Andy McCall** is the faculty advisor for Denison University Biological Society (DUBS). The current DUBS president is senior, **Bridget Peterson** with vice president, **Becky Weber**, both hailing from Pittsburgh, PA Treasurer, **Annie Walker**, also the class of '08 is from Charleston, WV. **Nick Koogler '08**, from Dublin, OH is the DUBS

webpage editor. **Ashley DuMont '08**, also from OH (nearby Pickerington) and **Lauren Meyer '10** from McFarland, WI are the PR Chairs for the group.

DUBS events include visits to the Columbus Zoo, the Wilds, sponsoring the annual plant sale, Relay for Life and Adopt-A-Highway, just to

name a few. Speakers are invited and building tours are given by DUBS members who act as ambassadors for our department. A friendly rivalry still exists between DUBS and the department of chemistry and biochemistry/Denison Chemical Society (DCS) with various events sponsored by the two groups.

### We're on the Web!

<http://www.denison.edu/academics/departments/biology/>

## Talbot Talk

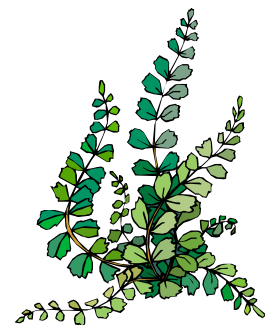


**Faculty Search:** We are seeking applications for a two-year visiting **electrophysiologist** to start fall '08. This position has a half-time teaching load; one course with companion laboratory each semester. Teaching responsibilities include Introduction to Neurophysiology (Biology 349), Cell & Molec (Biology 201) and two courses for Denison's interdisciplinary neuroscience concentration, Neuro 200

and Neuro 400 (<http://www.denison.edu/academics/departments/neuroscience/>).

In other news, **Warren Hauk** and **Andy McCall** are beginning to digitize and catalog our extensive herbarium collection. With the help of the Greene Fund they have purchased a state-of-the-art large format scanner to make high-quality digital reproductions of our herbar-

ium sheets. Of special interest is the Cathcart fern collection, a treasure trove of specimens from across the globe collected by **Wallace H. Cathcart**. To help streamline the process, Dr. Harvey Ballard, of Ohio University's Department of Environmental and Plant Biology, has kindly updated our cataloging system so that it is compatible with institutions across Ohio.



## Denison University

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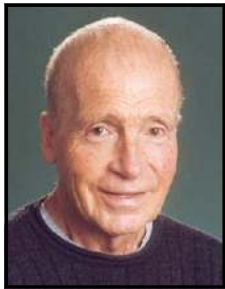
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## Loss of a friend and colleague



Denison Professor Emeritus **Robert R. Haubrich** died July 20, 2007, in Granville at the age of 84. He was a faculty member in the Department of Biology at Denison from 1962 until his retirement in 1988. He also held the Alumni Chair at Denison University from 1983 through 1989.

Bob was a 1941 graduate of Stevens High School in Claremont, N.H., and attended the University of

New Hampshire, earning his B.S. in forestry in 1949. He received his M.S. in zoology from Michigan State University in 1952. In 1957, he was awarded his Ph.D. in biology from the University of Florida. Prior to joining the faculty at Denison, Bob had served as assistant professor of biology at East Carolina University and assistant professor of biology at Oberlin College. He also served his country during WWII in the Army Air Corps.

He was a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a fellow and former vice president of the Zoology Section of The Ohio Academy of Science; a member of the New York Academy of Sciences,

Sigma Xi and the Mt. Washington Observatory; and he is listed in Who's Who in Frontiers of Science and Technology. He also was an associate of the Marine Biology Laboratory located in Woods Hole, Mass.

Bob is survived by his brothers, Frederick W. Haubrich of Bow, N.H., and Richard T. Haubrich of Claremont, N.H.; two nephews and one niece.

A Memorial Service was held Saturday, August 25 at 2:00 PM in Swasey Chapel.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bob Haubrich Biology Development Fund (22029)

Contact the Alumni Office to  
share update information!  
[www.denison.edu/alumni](http://www.denison.edu/alumni)  
Or call toll free  
at 877-336-8648 option 4.

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