December 2014 Issue

Publications


Awards and Recognition
Three biochemistry seniors have been selected as recipients of the Dow AgroSciences Research Award. The funds to establish this award are part of Dow’s Aid to Education program. The award includes $500 to be used to support the students’ research efforts in the lab. This year’s recipients are Allison Norvil (Gowher lab), Mitch D’Aloia (Weake lab) and Kyle Robinson (Golden lab).

Humaira Gowher received a 2014 Shared Resource Projects Award from the Purdue University Center for Cancer Research in the amount of $6,000 for her proposal entitled, “Determining the genome-wide changes in DNA methylation that are affected by impeding histone demethylation by inhibitor treatment during differentiation”. (12/01/2014-05/31/2015)

Mark Hall received a grant from the Summer Science Program in the amount of $64,960 for his project entitled, “Using biochemistry and evolution to enable drug discover”. (11/18/2014 - 08/15/2015)
Kristi Trimble (main office) received the 2014 Eudoxia Girard Martin award. This award was established in 2001 and is given annually to recognize a staff member, preferably a woman, who is a full-time administrative assistant or level five secretary. The selection is based on the degree to which the recipient, in service to the University community, demonstrates those qualities of heart, mind and spirit that evince a love for and helpfulness to students, faculty and staff.

New Faces

Mike Christy joined the department on December 9 as a storekeeper/inventory control clerk for the biochemistry stores. Mike spent 28 years with Purdue’s Printing Services department as a bindery supervisor and shift production coordinator and most recently he worked for Purdue’s Materials Management and Distribution Center (MMDC), which is the central campus stores, where he was a utility receiving clerk working in any one of the 22 MMDC assigned facilities around campus. He retired from Purdue in August after 30 years of service, but is back to work part-time. Mike has lived in Lafayette for most of his life and is a veteran of the US Army. He and his wife Carolyn have been married for 40 years and have two grown daughters and a grandson. They are both baseball fans and frequently travel to watch live games in the National League Central Division.

Saying Goodbye

Joelle Muhlemann (Dudareva lab) will be leaving the department on December 31. She will move to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and begin a postdoctoral position at Wake Forest University in the laboratory of Dr. Gloria Muday. Dr. Muday is an alumna of the department (Ph.D. 1989, Herrmann) and she visited the department in March when she was presented a 2014 Distinguished Women Scholars award.

Dr. Lee Weith finished teaching and administering his last final exam on December 17. Lee has been on voluntary early partial retirement since 2010 and teaching only the fall semester. He will officially retire June 30, 2015 after 39 years.
Graduates News

Qianyi Yang (Forney lab) passed her Ph.D. defense on December 3.

December Graduates
Ph.D. and M.S. Graduates

Meng-Chieh (Claire) Chen (M.S., Tao)

Kayla Harmeyer (Ph.D., Briggs)
Next Stop: Postdoctoral research at the University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine, working in Dr. Devraj Basu’s lab.

Qianyi Yang (Ph.D., Forney)

Wenjie Zeng (M.S., Chapple)
B.S. Graduates

Iris Archer
Next Stop: Jan-July: Research Intern, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR
Fall 2015: Applying to Ph.D. programs in Immunology

Ashley Ochs
Next Stop: Jan-June: Intern, The Four Sixes Ranch, Guthrie, TX
Fall 2015: DVM student, Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine

Staff and Faculty Appreciation/Holiday Party

The Staff & Faculty Recognition/Holiday Party this year was celebrated with the theme, “Rock n’ Roll Hall of Fame”. Everyone was encouraged to express their favorite bands, singers or musical genre through dress. The highlights of the party included a costume contest, Rock n’ Roll Jeopardy, and a heated tournament of Finish the Lyrics.

The department recognized two staff and two faculty for their milestone Purdue years of service. Sherry Honn (20), Karyn Rodkey (25), Mark Hall (10) and Beth Tran (5).

We would like to thank the following vendors for their donation of prizes for the event:

- Arni’s
- Bach Chorale Singers, Inc.
- Beef and Boards Dinner Theatre
- Bestwestern
- Buckles
- ComedySportz Theatre
- Crew Car Wash
- Don Pablos
- Henni’s Hairshop
- Hour Time
- Indianapolis Children’s Museum
- Indy Eleven
- Indianapolis Indians
- Indianapolis Speedway
- Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra
- Knickerbocker
- Noodles
- Old Town School of Folk Music
- Orange Leaf
- Purdue Convocations
- Science Central
- Thai Essence
**BCHM Renovation Projects**

The third floor annex project will be going out for bids in early January.

The Venturi Vacuum replacement project is in full swing. Three biochemistry labs were used as “mock ups” and now have completed, ready-to-use vacuum systems. Work is continuing throughout the building. The project is expected to be completed in March.

The BCHM 112 and 113 renovation project has gone out for bids. Construction is still targeted to begin in March or April 2015.

The first floor air handler that services the 1st floor offices and conference rooms (111, 110, 110a, 109, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 121a) has been installed and is awaiting control wiring to be finalized.

The BCHM building is scheduled to have all of the windows replaced in the summer of 2015. An onsite assessment has been completed.

**Going the Extra Mile**

Mark Hall traveled to Ottawa, Canada, where he presented a seminar entitled, “Substrate recognition by the anaphase-promoting complex: new insights and therapeutic implications” at the University of Ottawa Medical School.

Ann Kirchmaier traveled to Crown Point, IN, where she spoke to AP Biotechnology high school students.

**Safety Corner by Karyn Rodkey**

The Biochemistry department ISP Audit was performed this month and overall they were very impressed with the safety condition of our labs. The inspectors walked through three labs and found a few violations (mostly minor) that required abatement and several were able to be taken care of immediately.

The department safety committee plans to focus on these improvement goals in 2015:

1) Help ensure that all eyewashes are flushed weekly to allow clean and uninterrupted flow
2) Add an additional member to the safety committee to represent HANS & WSLR
3) Add at least one graduate student to the safety committee to allow representation from all peer groups
4) Make the safety committee meeting minutes available to the department
5) Amend the department’s Chemical Hygiene Plans (CHP) to make them lab specific

Reminders:

Never affix anything to the front of an electrical panel.
Do not store anything within 36 inches of an electrical panel.
Chemical fume hoods should be used exclusively for work OR exclusively for storing chemicals, but not both.
Chemicals should be segregated by hazard.
Do not store anything within 18 inches of the sprinkler heads.

**Strictly Personals**

Kayla Harmeyer (Briggs lab) got engaged to Brett Guidry on November 21. Brett is in Purdue’s Industrial and Organizational (I/O) Psychology graduate program and plans to graduate in May.
Ben Woodworth (Dudareva lab) married his longtime girlfriend, Lauren Tarka, on November 15 in Nashville, IN, in Brown County State Park. Lauren teaches middle school math at Fall Creek Academy in Indianapolis.

Birthdays
Jim Forney
Humaira Gowher
Longyun Guo
Joe Levell
Zhiguo Li
Amjad Nasir
Kay Wood
Howard Zalkin

Upcoming Events
January 1-2        University Holidays (offices closed)
January 12        Classes resume
January 19        Martin Luther King Jr. Day (offices closed)