

The Biology Flash

Spring 2012



Student News

Andrew Baughman was accepted into Altoona Regional Health System School of Medical Technology.

Melissa Heintz won the Women Divers Hall of Fame & Aggressor/Dancer Fleet Graduate Scholarship in Marine Conservation to support her MS work at Univ. NC at Wilmington.

Hillary Heiss was accepted into Altoona Regional Health System School of Medical Technology

Lauren Maline won the Women Divers Hall of Fame Undergraduate Marine Research/Internship award to support her during a summer internship.

Megan McClain was accepted into University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.

Macy Rupprecht was accepted into Edward VIA College of Osteopathic Medicine, Virginia Campus.

Bethann Sledziewski was accepted to New York Chiropractic College.

Scott Seaman was accepted into Penn State Hershey Medical Center.

Emily Zagorski was accepted into the Medical Science Preparatory Program at Drexel University

New Science Center Will Enhance Student Research Opportunities

On October 9th, 2011, with financial support from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Saint Francis University broke ground on the new Science Center. Located between Schwab Hall and the Immaculate Conception Chapel, the Center will enhance the science programs at SFU inside and outside of the classroom.

In addition to featuring state-of-the-art classroom space and teaching laboratories, the new building will feature additional lab space dedicated to faculty mentoring of undergraduates in research. Undergraduate research is important prepara-

tion for most career paths in the sciences, including virtually all types of graduate schools.

SFU biology students are already heavily involved in research. This year, for example, saw the debut of the Biology Department's STAR program, which provides a supply budget to help freshmen begin research during their second semester at Saint Francis. Furthermore, many upperclassmen, such as senior Erika Bendick (see page 2), have made research an ongoing part of their programs at SFU.

The new building will include a 1250-square foot molecular biology lab, a cell culture lab, a

dedicated aquatics lab, and an environmental and organismal research lab.

Also featured will be a prominent, diveable aquarium that will be maintained by students in the new Aquarium and Zoo Science major. Finally, the building includes several dedicated "student zone" areas, allowing biology students to spend more time interacting and studying in the science building.

Floor plans for the first floor of the building, which will house the biology department, can be found on the reverse side of this newsletter. The building is scheduled to open Fall 2013.

What's New in the Biology Department?

- Biology – Dr. Lane Loya co-authored the paper "An Inventory of the Odonates of the Dunning Creek Wetlands, Bedford County, Pennsylvania," which was published in the October issue of *Argia*, the news journal of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas.
- Congratulations to following freshmen biology majors that received STAR awards to support research with faculty this spring: Shannon Adams, Abigail Blair, Chelsea DesJardins, Gretta Ghaner, Timothy Heiss, Gabrielle McDermott, Paige Mundy, and Meghan Studds.
- The Biology Department is hosting the 2012 Tribeta District Convention on March 31st.

Department of Biology

Student Profile: Erika Bendick

Dr. Marian Langer, Chairperson
 Biology Department
 Saint Francis University
 P.O. Box 600
 Loretto, PA 15940-0600
 Phone: 814-472-3080
 Fax: 814-472-2773

Office of Admissions
 Saint Francis University
 117 Evergreen Drive
 P.O. Box 600
 Loretto, PA 15940-0600
 Phone: 814-472-3100
 Phone: 866-342-5738 (toll free)
 Email: admissions@francis.edu

Alumni: do you have news to share? New job? Attending graduate school? Please contact us and let us know:
Dr. Justin Merry, Editor
 (jmerry@francis.edu)

Erika Bendick, a senior Biology/ Environmental Science major, is researching the ecological interactions among predators, prey and plants. She and fellow biology senior Phillip Harchack are focusing on milkweed bugs, which store distasteful chemicals from milkweed seeds as a defense against predators. Erika and Phillip are attempting to figure out if there is an advantage provided to bugs feeding on one milkweed species over another. Dr. Lane Loya, Associate Professor of Biology, is advising the project. During her junior year, Erika also completed research as part of the Immersion Semester program at the Raystown Field Station. Erika and her team investigated the relationship between white-tailed deer populations and the water chemistry of five local natural springs.

Outside of the classroom, Erika has also been actively involved in the community.

During the summer of 2011, she interned at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center at Penn State, where she worked to educate the general public on a range of conservation issues. She now volunteers with the Raptor Center at Shaver's Creek to conduct programs that promote the understanding and value of birds of prey. Following her time at SFU, Erika plans to continue her education in the field of Conservation Biology and has applied to graduate programs at schools such as University of Maine and the University of Montana. Erika is the daughter of Sheri and David Bendick of Port Matilda, PA.



Erika Bendick, senior Environmental Science major, studies chemical defenses in milkweed bugs.

Science Building, 1st Floor (the "Biology floor")

