

CSB/SJU BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Number 6
October 27, 1998

1. Message from the Chair

I've always loved Halloween. The combination of candy and craziness has always been rather appealing to this "Boy Wonder" (<http://www.users.csbsju.edu/~ssaube/images/robin.htm>). I've been particularly fascinated by the history of Halloween and more specifically, how pumpkins became associated with the holiday. If these questions interest you, too, then you might want to check out my website (<http://www.users.csbsju.edu/~ssaube/essays/halloween.htm>).

I'm always looking for materials to publish in this newsletter. If you have anything, please forward it to me. Or, send it to our student editor, Ms. Aggie Wawra who has been doing a terrific job of pulling this newsletter together. Thanks Aggie.

Have a happy and safe Halloween. And, don't forget to vote. If you need suggestions about who/what to vote for, let me know. Cheers.

2. Student News:

This past summer **Jen Smith** (CSB Sr.), **Patty Hunt** (CSB Sr.), **Dr. Wurdak**, and **Dr. Campos** worked together on a research project. They started out by getting cow's eyes from the slaughterhouse and dissected out the retina. They tried to isolate the micro-vessel's and grow the living cells in culture. Once the cells were growing in culture, they were going to isolate the proteins from the cells. Their main objective was to look at the blood cell permeability and the different proteins involved keeping the blood vessels tight. They also worked on the Transmission electron microscope. Patty and Jen both gave a talk about their project and made posters that summarized their research.

3. Faculty News

On Halloween eve, **Dr. Reagan** will be the honorary assistant coach for the CSB volleyball team for their game against the University of St. Thomas at 7:30PM in the HCC.

On October 26, 1998 **Dr. Saube** testified before the St. Cloud Council on the scientific basis for preserving the O'Gorman property.

4. Curriculum News

The directory for spring courses will soon be published. I am happy to report that I've managed to keep my perfect record intact this semester – that is, as chair, I've made some sort of mistake in every issue of the biology course schedule that I've done. The spring semester goof (hopefully there's only one) is that Dr. Poff should be listed as the instructor of Journal Club (BIOL347) that will feature the topic of Pollination Biology.

5. Biology Club News

**Halloween Science - The Biology Club is sponsoring Halloween Science once again. If you are interested in participating in this program, which will be held from 9:00 am to 12:00 PM on Halloween, October 31, our next meeting is 28 October 1998, in the Herbarium. If you can't attend this meeting but still want to help, contact Dr. Saube or Jennifer Smith.

6. Calendar of Events

Oct 30 Cheer on Dr. Reagan and the CSB Volleyball team - Claire Lynch Hall
Oct 31 Halloween Science at CSB/SJU; 9:00 am.
Nov 5 "Meet Some Pros" – Beth Clysdale ('95) and 16-20 CSB/SJU Alumni's
Nov 5 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Applications are due
Nov 7 GRE Test Dates
Nov 10 Howard Hughes Medical Institute application deadline
Nov 12 **Seminar:** Pathogenesis. Dr. Pat Schievert, UM Seminar
Nov 17 CSB/SJU Career Exploration Series presentation on volunteering
Dec 12 GRE Test Date
April 10 GRE Test Date
April 17 MCAT exam

7. Internships/Scholarships/Jobs

****BIOLOGY LABORATORY COORDINATOR.**

100% time position, Dept. of Biology, University of Minnesota, Duluth (UMD). Applicants must have bachelors degree in biological sciences and experience in lab management or support; masters degree in biological sciences preferred. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, transcripts (copies ok), name, address, and phone number of three references to: Dr. C. E. Firling, Department of Biology, University of Minnesota, 10 University Drive, Duluth, MN 55812-2496. Postmark deadline November 14, 1998. For more information call 218-726-7566

**Biology Department Job Page - Don't about this great resource that you can link to it from the biology department home page or go directly to <http://www.users.csbsju.edu/~biology/biojobs.html>.

**Interested in Volunteering after Graduation? The CSB/SJU Career Exploration Series will feature a presentation on November 17, 1998 in Teresa Reception Center, CSB at 7:00 p.m.

"Meet Some Pro's!" - this will be a gathering of 16-20 CSB alums, including Beth Clysdale ('94) who is currently working at the MN Pollution Control Agency. The alums will be available to talk with CSB/SJU students about majors, jobs, etc. This activity will be held on Thursday, Nov. 5, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., in the Alumnae Hall, Haehn Campus Center.

The CSB/SJU Pre-Med. Web Page –<http://www.users.scbsju.edu/~premed/>. Check it out!

8. Seminars/Lectures/Symposia

**Dr. Pat Schlievert, a famous microbiologist from the University of Minnesota will present a seminar on November 12, 4:00 PM, Science Center Auditorium. The title of the seminar is "Similarities in the mechanisms of pathogenesis of *Staphylococcus aureus*, group A Streptococci, and *Enterococcus faecalis*". There will be a reception for Dr. Schlievert from 3:00 - 3:45 in the Natural History Museum. For more information, contact Dr. SG Saupe (2782; ssaupe@csbsju.edu).

9. Miscellaneous

Mexico acts to protect its burned forests

Mexico President Dr. Ernesto Zedillo has announced plans to protect forests burned in his country this year so they will be able to regrow and not be converted to farmland. Zedillo, participating in the World Wildlife Fund Gift to the Earth program, has identified 85 priority forests in 21 of the 32

Mexican states that cover 188,000 hectares. [Full Story http://www.enn.com/news/enn-stories/1998/10/101998/mexfires14.asp](http://www.enn.com/news/enn-stories/1998/10/101998/mexfires14.asp)

Didjknow...The **Nobel Prize** in Physiology or Medicine was awarded. The winners study the role of NO (nitric oxide) in cell-cell signal transduction. Robert Furchgott, Louis Ignarro, Ferid Murad shared it. Ignarro has a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the U of M!
The Nobel Prize web site is really informative. <http://www.nobel.se>

MTBE banned in South Lake Tahoe

Starting in April 1999, the controversial gas additive MTBE will no longer flow out of gas pumps in South Lake Tahoe, Calif. The city council in that town has voted unanimously to give local gasoline dealers six months to get rid of MTBE. Judy Brown, the current mayor of South Lake Tahoe, believes other California jurisdictions will follow the city council's lead.
[Full Story <http://www.enn.com/news/enn-stories/1998/10/100998/mtbeban.asp>](http://www.enn.com/news/enn-stories/1998/10/100998/mtbeban.asp)

U.S. government shutdown looms over riders

A host of anti-environmental riders attached to must-pass spending bills could lead to a government shutdown similar to the one in 1995, environmentalists said Thursday. "Extremist members of Congress are trying to use President Clinton's personal problems as a smokescreen for advancing the most anti-environmental agenda ever to come out of the Capitol," said Rodger Schlickeisen, president of Defenders of Wildlife.
[Full Story <http://www.enn.com/news/enn-stories/1998/10/100998/riders.asp>](http://www.enn.com/news/enn-stories/1998/10/100998/riders.asp)

10. Joke of the week: *(a new section - we encourage submissions, especially if you don't want more stupid jokes like the following one)*

What kind of tree has hands?

A palm tree

11. Frequently Asked Questions: Why did Dr. Saupe mistakenly list Dr. Brown as teaching Pollination Biology when Dr. Poff will be teaching this course in the Spring? *Clearly Dr. Saupe is envious of both Dr's Brown and Poff and subconsciously wants to be just like them.*

For more information, contact:

Dr. Stephen G. Saupe
Chair & Professor
Biology Department
College of St. Benedict/St. John's University
Collegeville, MN 56321
(320) 363-2782; (320) 363-3202 (fax); [ssaup@csbsju.edu](mailto:ssaupe@csbsju.edu))

Student Editor:

Ms. A. Wawra
Biology Major
College of St. Benedict
St. Joseph, MN 56374