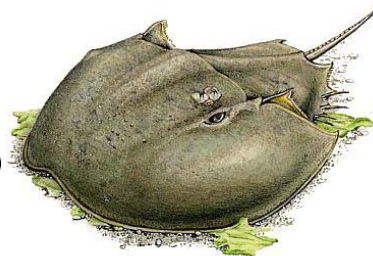


Limulus



NEWSLETTER

Department of Biological Sciences, Wagner College, Staten Island, NY

Volume 2011, Issue Spring-04

April/May, 2011

SENIORS IN THE RFT MAJORING IN BIOLOGY, MICROBIOLOGY, OR BIOPSYCHOLOGY



In the front from left to right: Aimee Marin, Jessica LaVacca, Nidhi Khanna, Roseanna Valant, Julianna Maniscalco, Violeta Capric (junior), Bedrije Goga, Lauren Raynor, Farha Rashid, and Shaza Irfan. In the back from left to right: William Etts, Glenn Muoio, Peter Pisano, Philip Kaplan, and Terence Downing. Not in the photograph are the seniors Felicia Giunta and Victor Stora. Graduating seniors who finished their RFT in last fall: Kaitlin Eppinger, Medije Mashkulli, Alex Molesan, and Caroline Mroz.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The last Limulus in the academic year 2010/2011 presents our graduating seniors (see above) and their achievements (see below). That Nidhi and Farha graduate is of course well-deserved. However, for the newsletter and for me it is a loss.

It will be difficult to substitute such diligent editors. With pride we celebrate the tenure of Dr. Cook and with sadness we realize that Dr. Houlihan is leaving us.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Dr. Horst Onken, The Editor





BIOLOGY STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

BIOLOGY PROFESSOR RECEIVES TENURE



Dr. Heather Cook has been at Wagner College for several years. She teaches many courses in the biology department including: Cells, Genes, and Evolution, Gene Expression and Development, Molecular Cell Biology, and Science: The Good, the Bad, the Controversial (the Freshman RFT). She is an active researcher and her new research

project focuses on the effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals on drosophila development. In the past, Dr. Cook received the “Teaching with Technology” award at the Faculty Awards Dinner in 2009. Recently, she learned that she received tenure. The members of the biology department went to celebrate Dr. Cook’s good news. Photographs from the event are pictured in later pages of the newsletter. On the behalf of the Limulus Staff, I would like to congratulate Dr. Cook!

Contributed by Nidhi Khanna with a photograph from Dr. Moorthy

DR. ONKEN BECOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF THE HONORS PROGRAM

Dr. Horst Onken is an associate professor of Physiology and Zoology at Wagner College. Dr. Onken has been teaching at Wagner since 2006 and has received recognition for his exceptional work. He was the recipient of the “Teaching with Technology” award and the Faculty Award for Exceptional Performance in the Area of Scholarship.



Dr. Onken has published articles in various prestigious publications, including two articles in the Journal of Experimental Zoology. The papers published in this journal were co-authored by his Wagner research students. His research interests include studying epithelial tissue and working with the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. In addition to his extensive research schedule, Dr. Onken teaches several courses in the biology department including Human Biology, Forms and Functions, Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy, and Animal Physiology. This past year, he published a chapter in the book Epithelial Transport Physiology. He also serves as the chair of the Academic Honesty Committee.

Dr. Erica Johnson has been the director of the Honors Program for several years. She has done exceptional work for the program, and this year alone, the number of graduating students that participated in the program has doubled. At the end of the summer, she will be stepping down as the director. Dr. Onken will be the new director of the program beginning this fall semester. Congratulations to Dr. Onken!

Contributed by Nidhi Khanna

FAREWELL TO DR. DEVORAH LIEBERMAN

Since 2004, Dr. Devorah Lieberman has worked hard to create a platform at Wagner College where every student could have opportunities through their classes and their co-curricular activities to contribute to the College, to the local community, to the greater metropolitan community, and to the international community. At Wagner, the faculty members are deeply dedicated to teaching and advising students as well as pursuing scholarship in their disciplines. The principal mission of the Wagner administration is to support the educational programs of the College, the work of the faculty, and the learning of our students. Dr. Lieberman’s responsibility, as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, was to oversee this process. Dr. Lieberman has been an active reader of the Limulus monthly biology newsletter, and the Limulus staff would like to wish Dr. Lieberman good luck in her future endeavors. She has accepted a position as President of the University of La Verne, and we are confident that she will do a superb job. We thank you for your support throughout your time at Wagner College.



Contributed by Gregory Balaes

DR. HOULIHAN TO TEACH AT RANDOLPH COLLEGE NEXT FALL



Dr. Houlihan began teaching at Wagner during the fall 2008 semester. Even though he has been at the college for a few years, Dr. Houlihan has definitely helped the biology department grow. He will be leaving Wagner to teach at Randolph College in the fall. Randolph College is in Virginia and is a small liberal arts college. He will be teaching

microbiology and genetics classes to undergraduate students. Additionally, he will teach a class that is similar to Wagner’s Cells, Genes, and Evolution and will have students conducting research in his lab. The biology department and all of Dr. Houlihan’s students will miss him dearly, and wish him the best of luck in the fall.

Dr. Houlihan received his Bachelors in Molecular Biology from the University of Mississippi. He later obtained his PhD in Microbiology from Cornell University. Dr. Houlihan’s research is focused on plant microbe interactions, specifically the ways in which plants resist and respond to infection. He recently became more interested in gastrointestinal microbiology research.

Dr. Houlihan has taught several courses at Wagner including: Cells, Genes, and Evolution, Plagues and Outbreaks, Applied Food, Microbial Physiology, Microbiology, Microbial





Ecology, Immunology, Serology, and a few years ago, he began teaching a freshman learning community with Dr. Stearns entitled, "Human Health and Survival."

Prior to Wagner, Dr. Houlihan admits that he had very limited teaching experience. "I had some teaching assistantships in graduate school, but at Wagner, this was the first time I was able to teach in this capacity," he stated.

Additionally, Dr. Houlihan mentioned that it was extremely rare for a college with less than 200 undergraduate students to have such an impressive microbiology program. He said, "The microbiology program is very unique and is made up of dedicated faculty. I believe that it is good for the college to have such an excellent program."

Dr. Houlihan enjoyed his time at Wagner and believes that the family environment is beneficial both to the students and faculty. "The thing that stood out at Wagner was that it felt like everyone was part of a family. This aspect of the college is something that I will truly miss," he said.

Contributed by Nidhi Khanna

BIOLOGY STUDENT NEWS

SENIOR ACCEPTED BY TOP SCHOOLS

Senior biology major and psychology minor Peter Pisano received acceptances from four prestigious dental schools. Peter was accepted to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) and New York University's College of Dentistry last semester. During spring semester, Pisano learned that he gained admission to the School of Dental Medicine at Stony Brook University and Columbia University. He will be attending Stony Brook University in the fall.



Additionally, Pisano will be graduating with departmental honors. He will receive the Kevin Sheehy Award in Biology, given in recognition of the highest cumulative grade point average in the study of biology and the Dr. Norman L. Freilich Memorial Award, given to a graduating student accepted into medical or dental school at the Senior Awards Banquet that will be held before Commencement.

On the behalf of the Limulus staff, I would like to congratulate Peter on all of his accomplishments!

Contributed by Nidhi Khanna

GRADUATING SENIOR TO ATTEND DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE FALL

Senior double major (Biology/Chemistry) Victor Stora was accepted to two excellent veterinary schools. Stora will be attending Louisiana State University and will be pursuing his D.V.M. (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) and PhD in Molecular Cell Biology starting this fall semester. Stora was also accepted to Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Stora conducted research this past summer at the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He



worked in the PennGen Lab for Inborn Errors of Metabolism and the Deubler Lab for Genetic Testing. Stora's research mentor was Dr. Urs Giger DVM PD FS MS ACVIM. The results from this research are being presented at the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in Denver. It is under review by the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA).



Additionally, he is the vice president of Allied Health for the Pre-Health Society. He is the SGA representative for Tri-Beta and works in the Peer Tutoring Center as the biology tutor. On the behalf of the Limulus staff, I would like to congratulate Victor on all of his accomplishments and wish him the best of luck in the fall!

Contributed by Nidhi Khanna

BIOPSYCHOLOGY MAJORS ACCEPTED TO GRADUATE SCHOOLS

This year, three biopsychology majors will be attending various graduate schools this upcoming fall. The Limulus staff would like to highlight the achievements of these three senior students.

Leandra Manfredini is a commuter student from Staten Island, NY. She is a member of various honor societies on campus including Psi Chi (the International Honor Society in Psychology), Omicron Delta Kappa (the National Leadership Honor Society), and Psi Epsilon Alpha (the Biopsychology Honor Society). Manfredini is also a proud member of the sorority Alpha Sigma Alpha and served as the VP of Programming and Ritual for ASA. She also was the Greek Senate chair for her sorority. Manfredini was accepted to the City University of New York's Graduate Program for Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), and will begin her studies this upcoming fall semester.

Aimee Marin is also a commuter student from Staten Island, NY. She is a member of ODK, Tri-Beta, Psi Chi, and Gamma Sigma Epsilon (the Chemistry Honors Society). She founded the Wagner chapter of Psi Epsilon Alpha (Biopsychology Honor Society) this year and she served as the organization's president. She gained admission to the Evelyn Spiro College of Nursing at Wagner College. Marin will be pursuing her second Bachelors in Nursing this fall and hopes to continue her education at Wagner to receive her Masters in Nursing in the near future.

Thomas Rammelkamp is a resident student from Long Island, NY. Rammelkamp is a student athlete and was named to the NEC (Northeast Conference) Winter Academic Honor Roll on several occasions during his undergraduate career. Athletes that are on the NEC Honor Roll need to have a grade point average of at least 3.20 and need to have distinction as an athlete on a varsity college team. He is a member of the Men's Track and Field team. Despite having a demanding academic and athletic schedule, Rammelkamp was able to graduate a semester early and finished his undergraduate career this past



December. He gained admission to Stony Brook University's Physical Therapy (DPT) program and will begin his studies shortly this upcoming June.

On the behalf of the Limulus staff, I would like to congratulate all of the biopsychology majors on their acceptances to three excellent graduate programs! I wish you all the best of luck in the future.

Contributed by Nidhi Khanna

BIOLOGY STUDENTS HONORED AT UNDERGRAUATE AWARDS DINNER



The Undergraduate Awards Dinner was held on Friday, April 29th. Many students from the department received honors and recognition for their exceptional academic work. The awards that students received are in italics. The following students were honorees at the dinner: Gregroy Balaes (Biology Major, Spanish Minor)- *The Student Government Award*, Terryn Marette (Biology Major)-

Robert D. Blomquist Memorial Award in Biology; Victoria Felix (Psychology Major, Biology Minor)- *Gertrude Aull Award*; Melanie Valencia (Chemistry Major, Biology Minor)- *Wagner College Award in Chemistry*. Congratulations to all the honorees!

Contributed by Farha Rashid

BIOLOGY MAJORS RECEIVE ATHLETIC AND ACADEMIC HONORS

Junior biology major Thomas Iannacone and Tiffany Dawson received recognition for their outstanding athletic ability. Iannacone is a distance runner for the Men's Indoor Track team and he was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the team. During the 2009-2010 season, he had the best time for his team at the 1500-meter race at the Princeton Invitational Tournament. Dawson was named the MVP of the Women's Tracks and Field team. During the 2009-2010 season, she finished with the team-best and personal-best in the 60meter hurdles at Fordham. In addition, sophomore biopsychology major Dominique Serpe and senior biopsychology major Thomas Rammelkamp were named to the 2010-2011 NEC Academic Winter Honor Roll.

Congratulations to the department's student athletes!

Contributed by Nidhi Khanna

SENIORS RECEIVE DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

Some seniors received special recognition for their outstanding work in the biology department. Three seniors received awards for presenting at a conference, and for their high GPA. Congratulations to Peter Pisano, Caroline Mroz, and Philip Kaplan!

Contributed by Nidhi Khanna



LIMULUS EDITORS

Farha Rashid and Nidhi Khanna, student-editors of Limulus, and fourth-year students at Wagner, will be graduating, and therefore leaving not only Wagner College, but also the Limulus staff. Although their enriched contributions will no longer continue to captivate Limulus readers, they will continue their journey elsewhere.



Nidhi, for example, will be taking on a summer internship as she prepares herself to begin working on obtaining her Master's degree. On the other hand, apart from her studies, Nidhi was a part of a wide range of extracurricular activities both at Wagner College and elsewhere. Not only was she a student editor for Limulus, the Biology Newsletter, but also section editor for the Wagnerian and the Editor-in-Chief of Kallista (the college yearbook). "I feel that my experiences in all three of these publications has helped me grow as a leader, and I had a chance to strengthen my writing skills," said Nidhi. She was also a member of the Pre-Health Society and served as the secretary during her junior year. Additionally she was a member of the Pre-Health Program, Interfaith on Campus, Biology Club, Spanish Club, Tri-Beta, ODK, and the Honors Program. In addition, Nidhi spent her spare time volunteering full-time in Staten Island University Hospital, and was a philosophy tutor. Nidhi graduated as a double major in biology and philosophy.

When asked about her interest in science, Nidhi went on in explaining an interesting anecdote, "When I was a senior in high school, my school had a 'Global Warming Day,' and invited a guest speaker from a local college. Dr. Stearns was the guest lecturer and he gave an interesting lecture that actually sparked my interest in science. He spoke about global warming and how there is so much scientific evidence that indicates that global warming is a growing problem. Many students believed that global warming is just a political issue, and there were two sides to the issue. Dr. Stearns tried to tell students that it is important to separate falsehoods from facts, and we need to understand that there is a lot of scientific evidence that supports climate change. After that lecture, my interest in science grew, and I had a new appreciation for it."



Farha, also has plans to continue her education with plans to apply to dental school and take the DAT after graduation. She has also been actively involved in Wagner, and was an active member of the college community. Farha was a member of the Pre-Health Society, Pre-Health Program, Muslim Student Association, Honors Program, and the Biology club. Farha also served as the Historian for Tri-Beta. Additionally, Farha continues to volunteer and shadow dentists in Staten Island University



Hospital, where she provided administrative support for well above 100 hours. Farha also currently shadows a local dentist, and had previously worked as an aide at the Cerebral Palsy Association of Middlesex County, where she assisted in taking care of children with Cerebral Palsy by helping students with math and reading.

When asked about her experience at Wagner, and her interest in biology, Farha stated the following: "I absolutely loved my experience at Wagner College. These four years truly flew by. My experience at Wagner has been enriched due to all the wonderful professors. I am really happy with my decision to be a biology major because the professors of the department are very supportive and helpful. Every since I was a little girl I was fascinated with nature. There was a pond near my house and I would go look for different animals. My interest in biology grew as I got older and doing with research with Dr. Stearns here at Wagner has allowed me to explore biology in a more sophisticated way. My interest in biology has expanded and I hope to take all of the knowledge I have acquired with me to my future goals."

On behalf of the Limulus staff, and the biology department, we would like to thank both Nidhi and Farha for their time and commitment to the monthly Limulus newsletters.

Contributed by Gregory Balaes

BIOLOGY CLUB NEWS

This semester members of the biology club completed their community service off-campus. Club members and other students from the Wagner community took a trip to the NYC Bodies Exhibit at South Street Seaport. The event was a success and students stated that the trip was both fun and a good learning experience.

The biology club held elections this last month. Congratulations to the new E-Board!

President (Janna Denisenko), Vice President (Brittney Ayala), Secretary (Judy Betz), and Treasurer (Radislav Meylikh).

Contributed by Nidhi Khanna

TRI-BETA NEWS

Members of Tri-Beta have helped Dr. Palestis with "Project Safe Flight" and monitored the grounds of Harborview and Megerle for any birds that may have hit the glass windows during this migration season. Additionally, members assisted Dr. Onken in a garden clean up and helped remove weeds from the garden planters near the Megerle parking lot.

Tribeta inducted new members who were carefully selected by the executive board. Medije Mashkulli, the Tri-Beta President, stated, "I am really satisfied with our selection and I feel our newest members have shown excellence in the sciences." New members include: Samar Alwani, Gina Auricchio, Gregory Balaes, Judith Betz, Jessica Bianculli, Nicole Bouchard, Janna Denisenko, Joanna Emilio, Victoria Felix, Nimrod Philippe, William Rivera, Sheldon Rozman, Felicia Rubertone, Brianna Samson, Lisa Schneider and Melanie Valencia.

The tradition of initiation took place on April 27th, where members of Tri-Beta were sworn in, including the new members of the executive board. The 2011-2012 executive



board includes President Joanna Emilio, Vice President Sheldon Rozman, Secretary Victoria Felix, Treasurer William Rivera, and Historian Nimrod Philippe.

Contributed by Gregory Balaes



PRE-HEALTH SOCIETY

The Pre-Health Society held elections this past month. The new VP of Allied Health will be Samar Alwani, a rising junior biology major. The results for the other E-Board positions will be announced shortly. For more information, please contact Pre-Health Society President, Felicia Giunta at Felicia.giunta@wagner.edu.

Contributed by Nidhi Khanna

PRE-DENTISTRY SOCIETY

The Dental Society won the "New Organization Award" at Wagner College's annual Undergraduate Awards Ceremony. The award represents a club that has responded to a need in the Wagner College community and set a tone for other groups to follow. The Student Government Association (SGA) selected the Pre-Dentistry Society for the award because just a year after their formation, they have more than 35 dedicated members and serve as a great outlet for the pre-dentistry students. They have held events such as CPR certification (open to everyone on campus) and handed out information and toothbrushes to students to educate them about the importance of dental and oral care. They have been extremely visible and active, thus setting a tone for other groups.

Dental Health Promotion, which took place in April, was again a huge success. Students in the Pre-Dentistry Society handed out over 250 tooth brushes to members of the Wagner community. While previous events were meant to collect donations for Operation Smile, this event accepted donations for the Oral Cancer Foundation instead.

Lastly, Dr. Steven Cisternas, a local dentist, had a symposium at Wagner College. He spoke about specific topics in general dentistry, and gave helpful advice to prospective dental students. He discussed his experiences both before and after dental school, including his insight for pre-dentistry students. Gregory Balaes, the Pre-Dentistry Society President had commented on the symposium. He stated, "Dr. Cisternas was able to connect with the students on a personal level, and offered advice that was truly unique, and inspiring. His personable attitude, and pronounced charisma not only had a positive influence on the students, but were particularly motivational. Cisternas emphasized the importance of



preventative dentistry, in order to help stop dental issues before they arise. He also portrayed his vision of his dental practice, called Richmond Hill Dental Design Studio (located on 211 Richmond Hill Road, in Staten Island) as a sincere and caring dentist, where patients are treated with the utmost care, to the point where they should feel comfortable enough in the office as they are at home. The Pre-Dentistry Society, and the Pre-Health Program would like to thank Dr. Cisternas for his captivating symposium, and for taking the time to connect with the students.”

Contributed by Farha Rashid

BIOPSYCHOLOGY HONOR SOCIETY

This past academic year, senior Aimee Marin founded the Wagner chapter of Psi Epsilon Alpha, with faculty advisor Dr. Zoltan Fulop. This semester the club completed their community service requirements by donating to Project Homefront. Project Homefront is a local organization that collects items such as socks, crossword puzzles, toothbrushes, and sends care packages to American soldiers serving abroad. Additionally, the club donated to a local animal shelter. The organization held its first initiation ceremony in April. The initiates included: Hayat Abed, Angelo Cacciatore, Deeksha Chawla, James Cuzzupe, Lisa Duncan, Leonard Giordano, Leandra Manfredini, Aimee Marin, Maleeha Memon, Richard Morgan, Caroline Mroz, Ashley Nati, Dominique Serpe, Zoe Siegel, Alyssa Spivak, Eden Stark, Elissa Troisi, and Milton Vera. Several members served on the E-Board. The following members were officers in the club:

President: Aimee Marin; Vice President: Maleeha Memon; Secretary: Deeksha Chawla; Treasurer: Lisa Duncan; SGA Representative: Milton Vera.

Congratulations to the new initiates!

Contributed by Nidhi Khanna

EXPERIENCES

ACE LECTURE ABOUT THE HUMAN GENOME PROJECT



The field of biology has been advancing every day. Scientists learned to manipulate pieces of DNA and even developed ways to use machines to automate many laboratory procedures. The first rough draft of the human genome project was first proposed at the turn of the century. The human genome project was an incredible technological achievement; however,

the project stirred controversy. Many individuals believed that the genome project was a crazy idea, and many skeptics did not understand why it would be useful to sequence the entire human genome.

George Dewey, Provost and a chemistry professor from the University of La Verne, gave an ACE lecture at Wagner College recently. In the near future, Dewey speculated that parents of newborns might receive a CD-ROM version of their

child’s entire genome. Although sequencing the human genome had many benefits, there were some problems associated with sequencing the genome. The human genome has three billion nucleotide base pairs. It was rather difficult to try to assemble 3 million reads (reads refer to a fragment in the genome) in perfect order. Craig Venter, a prominent American biologist, believed that the best way to sequence the human genome was to use shotgun assembly. This method chews up the DNA and the computer will be able to read the fragments. Contrastingly, Francis Collins, an American physician-geneticist, believed that the best way to sequence the human genome was to match 1000 reads with the physical location of the chromosomes. Nevertheless, Venter’s method was the most efficient sequencing technique, and he did not need to identify the chromosomes in the fragments. Many individuals were still skeptical that it was impossible for a computer to read the DNA libraries. Eventually, Venter chopped the DNA a second time, and was able to get a different set of 1000 reads.

After the human genome project was sequenced, there were many direct outcomes. The human genome project allowed scientists to discover 1800 new disease genes and 1000 genetic tests for human disease conditions were developed as a direct result of the human genome project. Additionally, 50 major types of cancer were identified. There were also many surprises from the human genome project. Scientists realized that the number of genes in the human genome is roughly 35,000. The human genome also contains many silent genes. The outcomes from the human genome project also taught people about genes and race,

Many individuals believe that race can be defined through genes. Scientists realized that there are no genes for race and it is difficult to clearly define race through genes. The human genome project taught scientists about the differences and similarities between individuals of various races. There are three million human single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the genome. The SNPs occur at 1 out of every 1000 bases. The individual variations between people are due to the SNPs, and the SNPs allow scientists to compare how individuals are similar and different from each other. Additionally, individuals of different racial backgrounds can actually have identical SNPs. Dewey stated that race is a consequence of population migrations, but, there is no fundamental difference between race. Race is defined by society, and there is no scientific way to accurately define race.

Dewey’s lecture on the human genome focused on the importance and the controversies surrounding the human genome project. The human genome project allowed scientists to study the variations and similarities between human beings. Additionally, many genetic tests and diseases were discovered using the data that was obtained from the genome project. The wealth of data from the human genome project has also allowed scientists to study the evolution of human beings. Early humans actually had the genes for brown eyes and lactose intolerance. As agriculture developed, early humans were pressured to develop a tolerance for lactose. Even though there are a lot of ethical issues surrounding the human genome





project, scientists can use the information from the genome project to study the evolutionary history of human beings.

Contributed by Nidhi Khanna with a photograph from the University of La Verne's website

RUTHIE'S RETIREMENT

Ruthie Hernandez has retired from her position of housekeeping, and will forever go down in history as one of the best housekeeping ladies ever! To celebrate close to 45 years of hard work, co-workers from the physical sciences, social sciences, library, registrar, housekeeping and others gathered in Megerle Science Hall to wish the best of luck to Ruthie. Her commitment, strength and kind heart made her more than just another co-worker. She is truly a friend to many, and not seeing her smiling face will leave a gap in the daily routine of those who will miss her motherly attention and vibrant personality.



learned about the different plants and animals that inhabited both the forest and park.



Contributed by Nidhi Khanna with photographs from Stephanie Rollizo

RESCUE OF BROWN BAT

It began when Dr. Kathy Bobbitt came from her "General Pathology" class to let us know that as she was teaching about rabies transmission through an animal such as a bat, a student questioned if a bat was in their classroom. Dr. Bobbitt assumed the student was kidding around, but it was not a joke when she spotted the little brown bat clinging onto the ceiling. Prof. Linda Raths, Dr. Horst Onken and I immediately went to investigate. And there, quietly attached to a ceiling tile, was the tiny creature. Luckily, we are prepared in the biological sciences department, and after assessing the situation thought we might be able to rescue the frightened mammal.

With an old butterfly net in hand, Dr. Onken climbed atop a desk, reached up, and caught the bat! With the helpless animal trapped, we took it on a quick journey up to the roof of the science building, and released it. At first its wings were spread; then it quickly folded them up and rested. We left it there, overnight, and discovered it had found its way back into the wild this morning.



Contributed by Gregory Balaes, Stephanie Rollizo, and Professor Linda Raths

CAPSTONE CLASS GOES ON FIELD TRIPS

The seniors in Dr. Palestis' Ecological and Evolutionary Theory Capstone course spent their last day of classes outside of the classroom. Accompanied by both Dr. Palestis and Stephanie Rollizo, the class visited the William L. Hutcheson Memorial Forest and the Cheesequake State Park. Students





Although it is true that bats can transmit rabies, as Dr. Bobbitt confirms, they still do more good than harm, eating up lots of mosquitoes, which then decreases the spread of other diseases, such as West Nile virus. See:

http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/2007/09/15/2007-09-15_bats_do_far_more_good_than_harm.html

In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that a fungus called white-nose syndrome, first noticed in 2006 in New York bats, has a 95% mortality. See:

<http://www.fws.gov/whitenosesyndrome/>. Unfortunately, according to these studies, it appears the little brown bat, will become almost extinct in the northeast in 16 years.

For his gallant efforts in saving this elusive, helpful, and now threatened animal, a big thank you to Dr. Onken!



Contributed by Stephanie Rollizo with a photograph from the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

PUBLICATIONS

Palestis, B.G., J. Cabrero, R. Trivers, and J.P.M. Camacho. 2010. Prevalence of B chromosomes in Orthoptera is associated with shape and number of A chromosomes. *Genetica* 138: 1181-1189.

PRESENTATIONS

Palestis, B.G. and **K.E. Eppinger**. 2011. A banding study of common terns on Pettit Island, NJ: Preliminary results. Greater New York/New Jersey Harbor Herons and Waterbirds Working Group. Staten Island, NY. January 12-13.

Palestis, B., I. Nisbet, J. Hatch, J. Arnold, and P. Szczys. 2011. The importance of tail length for sexual selection in roseate terns. Waterbird Society. Grand Island, NE. March 13-16.

PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

SENIOR PRESENTS AT CONFERENCE

Senior biology major and environmental studies minor Farha Rashid presented at a conference earlier last month. She presented her research that was entitled, "Spectral Photosensitivity of the Pupal Stage of the Yellow Fever Mosquito *Aedes aegypti* Larvae." This research was conducted under the direction of Dr. Stearns and was funded with the generous donations from the Undergraduate Senior Thesis Research Fund for the Department of Biological Sciences.



The research symposium that Rashid attended took place at William Paterson University. Undergraduate students from the Mid-Atlantic area presented their findings in biology and chemistry. Rashid gave a poster presentation.



Contributed by Nidhi Khanna

ALUMNI

Dear Alumni,

If you are interested in contributing to our newsletter, you are very welcome to do so. Contact Dr. Onken by e-mail (horst.onken@wagner.edu) with your submission, comment, ideas or questions! We are excited to hear about where you are, how and what you do!

CARTOONS



"Long periods of inactivity are not good for a pirate like you, Cap'n. You're taking root."

Cartoons from www.lab-initio.com



GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Authors in all sections should keep in mind that not all readers are specialized in their area of interest. Keep your contribution on a level that everybody can understand.

Contributions may vary in length between about 50 and 500 words and must be submitted by e-mail to horst.onken@wagner.edu.

Photographs or other images that accompany an article are very welcome, but must be submitted as separate files (high quality jpg is the preferred file format) attached to the e-mail. Be aware that photographs/images may be minimized in size.

Indicate the section of the newsletter where you want your contribution to appear.

The deadline for submission of a contribution is the 20th of the month. Contributions received later may or may not be considered.

The editor reserves his right to edit your contribution or post an immediate response.

Editing may involve to publish contributions in other sections as indicated by the author.

All contributions will clearly indicate the author's identity.

All contributions are reviewed and publication may be refused by the editor.

The Editorial Board:

Editor: Dr. Horst Onken, Associate Professor

Assistant Editor: Stephanie Rollizo, Dept. Secretary

Student Assistant Editor: Nidhi Khanna (Biology)

Student Assistant Editor: Farha Rashid (Biology)

Student Assistant Editor: Gregory Balaes (Biology)

Student Assistant Editor: WANTED!

