



# Life Science Department News

May 2, 2001

## End-of-Year Potluck and Retirement Reception

We will have our annual potluck on Wednesday, May 16 at noon. Please sign up for your dish as soon as possible. Following the potluck, we will honor Linda Wegener on the occasion of her retirement. The entire campus will be invited, so please help us make this a successful event to send Linda off.

## Biotech Expo

Denise Clark and several students presented their work on April 20 at the Southwest BioPartnering Expo at the ASU Research Park in Tempe. They were treated to a speech by George Rathman, founder of Amgen, Icys, and Hyseq, which are all successful biotech firms. The students received much valuable feedback and congratulations for their poster presentations from a very knowledgeable audience. Students presenting were:

- Dennis Nolen -- Morphological Differences between Normal and Malignant Breast Cells
- William Gronberg -- Proliferation of Cervical Cancer Cells
- Katherine Clark -- Visible Characteristics Unique to Cancer Cells from Different Tissue Types
- Britta Crone-Pergakis -- Comparison of Cultured Epithelial Cells from Normal and Malignant Breast Tissue

Denise also reported that she made many contacts for our biotech program including some potential opportunities for student internships. Faculty from ASU were also impressed with the progress of our program and pledged to facilitate transfer to ASU for students completing our biotech courses. Congratulations to Denise for a successful event.

Students who presented at the Expo will be sharing their work with us on Friday, May 4 at 3 p.m. in the LS Building. Refreshments will be served.

## Withdrawal Policy Proposal Adopted

At our last department meeting, we adopted the Withdrawal Policy that we had been talking about. Please modify your syllabi for future courses accordingly, and note that this may affect your attendance policy and/or procedures as well.

- All faculty are required to withdraw students (W) who stop attending before the 45th day.
- All faculty are required to record the last date of attendance for every student after the 45th day.
- All faculty are required to record attendance by some means sufficient to determine the last date of attendance.
- When students stop coming to class, faculty must withdraw them.
- Withdrawn students must be given a W (withdrawn passing) or a Y (withdrawn failing).

Thus, we will withdraw students who stop coming to class, give them a W or a Y, and record the last date of attendance. You can use the new drop/add forms or the final withdrawal rosters, which are

due about two weeks before the end of the semester. For GPA purposes, a Y is the same as an F. However, a Y like a W clearly indicates that the student was withdrawn. Appropriate withdrawals prevent financial aid fraud. Many students have been requesting that they not be withdrawn, so they can continue to receive financial aid awards. This should never be allowed as it might jeopardize our financial aid status as an institution. When a withdrawal is clearly indicated with a last date of attendance, financial aid is prorated to the dates actually attended. A final point about attendance is that we are also required to prevent students who are NOT enrolled from attending our classes. Only enrolled students are covered by our insurance. Students who are not enrolled present a liability issue. It is not clear if we share any responsibility for allowing non-enrolled students to attend our classes. Thus, it is incumbent upon each of us to know who is attending our classes. To do this, we need some form of attendance.

## Notes from our Lab Techs

At our regular meeting, the following issues were raised.

- The lab tech phone numbers should not be given out as general message numbers for use by students. However, you can and should give their number to family members who might need to contact you while you are working in the building.
- Whenever you request the order of some special supply for your class, please give the lab techs the specific catalog numbers of the items that you are requesting. This will prevent confusion and extra work of misordered items.
- The drawers and cabinets in the prep rooms are NOT for storage of books or personal items. They are for storage of equipment and supplies in support of our lab instruction. Please use ONLY the file drawers in the prep room for personal storage, which can be allocated by the lead instructors.
- Several items are missing including a Spec 21, a DNA kit, and a Leitz microscope. Please contact the lab techs or Brad with any information about these items.
- Please report any missing items to the lab techs and Brad. If the items appear to be stolen, we need to report them as soon as possible to Public Safety and the Dean of Administrative Services.
- Please take care in 'borrowing' AV or other equipment from other labs and classrooms. Promptly return the items or notify the lab techs. If AV equipment needs repair, promptly notify Media Services -- their number is on every phone in the LS building.
- Please do not allow any students to remain unsupervised in the prep rooms (or the labs). Exceptions to this policy will be made as necessary, but we need to make sure that everyone is aware of their presence (especially the lab techs).
- Please do not relocate any models etc. to the study lab without notification of the lab techs. Please be aware that other classes may have plans for items even though your class may be finished with it.

## LS Enrollment Data

In conjunction with the SyRIS project, we collected enrollment data for the 2000/2001 academic year. It is included here for your information. Data indicate high point enrollment according to department records.

	Fall 2000	Spring 2001
BIO 100	713	605
BIO 105	252	159
BIO 108	90	93
BIO 160	99	98
BIO 183	0	23
BIO 109/110	0	14
BIO 181	406	392
BIO 182	98	116
BIO 201	261	212
BIO 202	114	142
BIO 205	105	113
BIO 220	11	7
BIO 245	0	7
TOTAL	2149	1981

## Red Mountain Supervision

After our meeting with the President on April 25, I submitted a proposal for Red Mountain Supervision by a FT faculty member in the department. My proposal includes remuneration at the RFP evening supervision rate for all courses taught at Red Mountain plus reassigned time according to the rate for Chairs according to the RFP. Presumably, this would occur while teaching a course at RM and completion of most chair responsibilities at RM. It has not been approved, but, following my conversation with the President after the general meeting, I see no difficulty getting it approved at least on a pilot basis for next year.

Thus, if all of the 9 courses scheduled have sufficient enrollment, our Red Mountain Coordinator would receive \$2,160 and 3 hours of reassigned time. Peter has volunteered for next spring, but I am still looking for someone to take this role for next fall. Please let me know if you would be willing to perform this important function.

## Pilot MCC Adjunct Faculty Development Experience

Dean Gail Mee and Jonelle Moore, CTL Faculty Development Coordinator, have proposed a program to give PT faculty more development opportunities. This is a long overdue effort to support our adjunct faculty. Details will be forthcoming, but the program will provide PT faculty with up to \$500 for any of the following: adaptation of an online course, curriculum projects, courses offered by the CTL, workshops designated for professional growth, development or delivery of a workshop, adaptation of an existing course with innovative or experimental methodologies or service on a college committee (up to \$100).

It is uncertain at this time how much money will be available for this program. The CTL is planning to issue a call for proposals for the 2001/2002 academic year. Please let me know in advance about projects that you are considering. Only projects that have potential to further the mission of the Life Science Department or MCC will be supported.

## Learning Grants 2001-2002

The Learning Grant program funds projects that are designed to improve, advance, and enrich student learning. This program is administered by the District Maricopa Center for Learning and Instruction and is open to all faculty including adjuncts. I will distribute information and proposal requirements, but proposals are currently being accepted from April 16 to June 14. There will also be an August 15 to October 15 funding cycle depending on funds available. This is an excellent way to fund instructional materials development or methodologies for employing new technologies. If you submit, you are advised to have contingency plans for the possibility that you may only receive partial funding.

## **Copyright**

Please be extra cautious about copyright violations for instructional materials that you may use. It has been reported that a faculty member from MCC was found to have posted a publisher's copyrighted material on the MCC website. Lawsuits have been threatened, but hopefully removal of the offending materials will end the matter.

If you are uncertain about our fair use rights under copyright law, please see the district legal [website](#) under intellectual property for more information ([fair use](#)).