



Life Science Department News

September 4, 2001

New Faculty

Please welcome Dennis Wilson to the Life Science Department. He will be representing us at the Red Mountain campus, but will also maintain a significant presence at the main campus. As a native of England, he did his undergraduate work there and his graduate work at the University of Oregon. He came to Arizona as a postdoc at ASU continuing his studies of plant/insect/fungus interactions. Most recently, he has been working on an instructional technology project documenting his 14 month, 24,000 mile trip from South Africa to England, which has been dubbed the African Edventure.

Please also welcome Randi Papke and Russell Ott to the department. Both will be doing OYO's with us this year. Randi is finishing her Ph.D. in butterfly sexual selection with Ron Rutoski at ASU. She will focus on BIO 100 this year. Russell is Linda Wegener's replacement (can anybody do that?) and is a molecular/micro-biologist. He did his graduate work at Stanford and taught several years at Boise State University before moving to Arizona. Russell will teach 181 this fall and add 220 (microbiology) in the spring.

Recycling

Please point out the recycling bins in every lab and classroom to your students. Please advise them of the materials we can recycle and encourage them to do so. Note that aluminum cans should be recycled in the bins that are on each end of the main hallway. We have been getting lots of trash in these bins lately, so please ask your students to do their bit for the environment.

Also, please use the bins in our workroom and PT office. We have been doing better at including only recyclable matter in them, but there is room for improvement. Brad has small bins that you can use to collect recyclables in your office. See him if you would like one.

Math Science Social

A social event for all Math and Science faculty has been scheduled for **September 14 at 2 p.m.** in the Kiva room. Refreshments will be served, but the highlight will be a demo of Virtual Math Resource Center developed by some math faculty. This could be a model for a resource that we could develop for our students. Hope that you all can come.

Reserve Materials in Library

You may have noticed that all reserve materials in the Library have been returned to us. The Library making efforts to comply with copyright laws. Hence, copies of articles can be left on reserve for only one semester without written permission from the publisher. Copies of videos will not be accepted at all -- only the originals can be put on reserve. See the library [website](#) for their reserve policies. Contact Judy MacQueen at 1-7677 if you have questions.

Math Science Courtyard Project

The Math Science Courtyard project is progressing. The plans are done and concrete work is beginning. Eventually, the courtyard will include a water feature and lots of shaded seating for faculty and students. Many thanks to Delaine and Peter for their work in representing the department on the courtyard committee.

Red Mountain News

The Red Mountain Campus has opened to much fanfare. Dennis Wilson, Ron Dinchak and Joel Stein are teaching our RM classes. We are offering 4 BIO 100 classes and 1 BIO 105 in our new facilities. As you might expect, there are many building issues to be resolved, but I think our faculty are keeping a good attitude about the situation.

We are very fortunate to have Emily Dimson as our RM lab tech. She has the difficult task of working for several departments at once, but I think we get special attention as Emily is a plant physiologist with an MS from the University of Guelph in Canada. Welcome to MCC and our department Emily!

Tutoring Opportunity for Students

The Learning Enhancement Center has a new director, Sara Henderson. Her hiring is symbolic of an increased commitment to providing reasonable tutoring services commensurate with the size of our institution. She is increasing the staff of student tutors and is asking for help in recruiting tutors. Please look for a form in your mail box with which you can recommend students for tutoring positions. You might identify your best students and ask them individually if they are interested in tutoring. The pay is in the \$7-8 range and tutor training will be offered. Students can earn tutor certification, which apparently is a nice addition to their resume.

The Learning Enhancement Center also needs some professional tutors. If anyone is interested in helping our students while making a little money, please contact Sara Henderson at 17678. Sara is also helping us to develop a tutoring plan for the Math/Science Tutoring Center in the remodeled MS building. We are hoping that this will include a professional biology tutor, which is a position that might interest some of our adjunct faculty.

AV- Computer Systems

The technology is great when it works, but can be very frustrating when it breaks down. We have had some problems with our AV systems in our classrooms and labs. One issue is keeping track of the status of all the systems. Whenever you encounter a problem, please call Media Services at 17687 to report it. If the problem is not immediately resolved, please also notify Brad of the problem.

If there is a computer problem in a lab or classroom, send Brad an email so he can report it. The IT staff is overwhelmed right now, but seem to respond quicker if the request comes from the department chair.

We are also planning to return all of the video units on carts that are in the LS building. If anyone has a need for these units that can not be met with our existing units or those that Media will deliver on request, please let me know.

Office Hours

All of us have set our office hours, which have been publicly posted on our new department directory. Please make every effort to be available during your office hours. If you must miss an office hour, please post a notice on your door. The office gives out these hours freely, and students invariably

complain to us whenever they can not find you during your hours.

Transitions Between Classes

The transitions between classes are a problem everywhere on campus, but this seems to have been exacerbated by our increased use of technology. Please end your class on time and allow the next instructor to enter the classroom to setup for his or her class. If you need to talk to students, please do so outside the classroom.

Microscope Burnout

Many of you are aware that we have had some problems with the power supplies on some of our new microscopes. We suspect that it is the power in the building that is causing this problem. If you have a burned out Zeiss microscope, please note the plug that it was attached to when the problem occurred. This could help us explain this problem, which could get very expensive for us if we continue to lose power supplies from these microscopes. Check with Margaret if you have questions.