



# Biological Sciences Newsletter

**UIC** COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES  
Department of Biological Sciences

Volume 5, Issue 1

Fall 2010 Newsletter

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## Boss' Corner

Hi Everyone -

The fall is always a busy time for the department. Not only do we resume teaching undergraduate and graduate classes, but we also start planning the spring and summer semester courses. It is also a time for award dinners, and I am happy to report that Professor Paul Malchow and Hormoz BassiriRad received recognition for their teaching excellence. On a separate occasion, I was honored as a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor, and gave a public talk about my research at the end of October.

I hope everyone has a good holiday and may the upcoming end of the year be pleasant and restful. For me, the end of the year will be the start of a new adventure for me, when I begin a six month sabbatical at the University of Zurich. It should be an exciting time to learn new techniques, think more deeply about research, and become immersed in a new culture. I look forward to reporting to you about my experiences in a future newsletter.

Best regards,  
Brian Kay, Ph.D.



Students, faculty, and staff gather for the annual Department of Biological Sciences cookout to kick off the school year.



Professor Dave Wise (left) pictured with Professor Joel Brown (right).

**Not sure what you want to do when you graduate?**

Visit the Office of Career Services.  
1200 West Harrison Street  
Room 3050 Student Services Building (SSB)  
Chicago, Illinois 60607

Call (312) 996-2300 to schedule an appointment or consult the Office of Career Services website for drop-in advising times.

Research Library open Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 5pm.

## Faculty Spotlight: Associate Professor Robert Paul Malchow

A New York City boy, born in “Da Bronx”; a quick move north to “Yonkers” (sounding like “us” at the end) just above the City....

Steps away, the Croton aqueduct, pouring millions of gallons of pure Catskill water to thirsty denizens of the City. Surrounding forests (now long gone) on steep hillsides; a boy out to discover the secrets of the forests....finding, unexpectedly, salamanders under rocks in streams trickling along hillsides....

A high school teacher with an infectious enthusiasm for Biology; examining light effects on germination of pea plants; the feel of test tubes, the smell of chemicals, science feels right...the Kensico Reservoir in Valhalla, another forest to explore, a few fish to catch...



College - science and a black belt in karate. Hiking the Appalachian Trail along Bear Mountain and Harriman State Park; the view from a lean-to overlooking the Hudson River - miles away, the outline of NYC spires. A double major in Biology and Psychology and a minor in Chemistry, setting my interests toward...

Neurobiology in graduate school; the retina as model to understand how we see, think, feel emotion; wedded to an Italian from the Bronx, calamari for Christmas; the salty sea nearby; electrophysiology, histology, in the lab; bluefish at Captree Boat Basin; Society for Neuroscience presentations; two children born...

Migration to the Midwest; a blue 1972 Volkswagen Beetle left behind; photoreceptors the focus of postdoctoral work; corn belts, tractor pulls and marching bands; more electrophysiology, more anatomy, and a brown belt in judo...

To Chicago and UIC; a west-ender in Ophthalmology; dissociated retinal cells, voltage-gated currents, GABA transporters; summer research at the Marine Biology Laboratory as a Grass Fellow; 4th of July Woods Hole parade in a grass skirt; a third child born (the only native Chicagoan)...

To the east end, to Biology; the joy of working with undergrads and grad students; Honors College students and Balls; through caves and fields, streams and forests with Biology Colloquium students; Undergraduate Research Symposia; the amazing cacophony of languages - Polish, Lithuanian, Korean, Chinese, Arabic, Indian- in the main quad; outstanding students...

Sojourn to Washington DC; for two years, Program Director at National Science Foundation, buried beneath thousands of grant applications; organizing review panels, learning the review process; snow in Old Town Alexandria, science at the French Embassy, dancing at the Kennedy Center, petunias in February...

Return to UIC and undergrads and grads and now, BIOS 100 - Cells & Organisms; a new 4 week compressed summer BIOS 240, Intro Physiology; new views, techniques and approaches to teaching and learning; the tremendous satisfaction of “oh...” uttered by an undergrad - the glow of understanding...

Summer last, Research Experience for Undergrads program director at the MBL...undergrads from around the country integrated into in-depth research; whale watching, bridge-jumping, island-hopping, coyote-howling; two grad students joyfully enveloped in Crick’s “Mad Pursuit” of scientific discovery...

And still, the trail calls...as for Whitman:

“Afoot and light-hearted, I take to the open road...  
The long brown path before me, leading wherever I choose...”

to a new forest...Someday soon...

### Faculty Awards

- Professor Paul Malchow is the recipient for the UIC Award for Excellence in Teaching for the 2010-2011. Professor Malchow also received an NSF REU at the Biological Discovery in Woods Hole.
- Professor Hormoz BassiriRad received a NSF supplement REU.

### Faculty in the News

- Clinical Assistant Professor Alan Molumby was quoted in in a Southtown Star/Chicago Sun-Times article about the large population of mosquito-chomping dragonflies during the summer months.
- Associate Professor Jennifer Schmidt was interviewed by Canada’s CBC “Radio One” on the program. Listen to it [here](#)
- Professor Boris Igic was published in *Science*, a highly recognized journal. Read it [here](#)

### Graduate Office

**Director of Graduate Studies:**  
 Roberta Mason-Gamer  
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 robie@uic.edu

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 3250 SES  
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### Faculty and Staff Recognition

**Thanks to those whose continued support and dedication have shaped UIC into the highly recognized university that it is! Photos (below) from the recognition breakfast contributed by Professor Brian Kay.**

*Professor Howard Buhse: 45 years*

*Associate Professor Don Murphy: 25 years*

*James Scios: 30 years*

*Wayne Sterling: 10 years*

*Farris Williams: 30 years*



Wayne Sterling



James Scios



Professor Howard Buhse



Associate Professor Don Murphy and Adrien Davis.



Farris Williams

## Scholarships

### **Scholarships!**

The Office of Special Scholarship Program (OSSP) assists undergraduate and professional students in applying for nationally competitive and UIC scholarships.

For more information on upcoming scholarships, visit them in 2506 University Hall, or at their website:  
<http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/ssp>.

### **December Deadlines:**

*UNCF Merck Science Initiative Research Program*

Scholarship for African American juniors in a life sciences, physical sciences, or engineering major.  
<http://umsi.uncf.org/ScholarshipsInternshipsFellowships/tabid/151/Default.aspx#Undergraduate>

### **January Deadlines:**

*Association for Women in Science*

Scholarships for women pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.  
<http://www.awis.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=340>

*Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE)*

Summer research in Germany for students in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, and earth sciences.  
<http://www.daad.de/rise/en/>

*Knowles Science Teaching Foundation*

Fellowship available to biological sciences, physical sciences or math majors who intend to teach high school science.

<http://www.kstf.org/fellowships/teaching.html>

### **February Deadlines:**

*Jewish Federation Academic Scholarship Program*

Scholarship available for Jewish students pursuing a "helping" career.  
<http://www.jvschicago.org/scholarship/>

*National Institute of Health Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP)*

Scholarship, research experience, and paid positions available for students pursuing careers in bio-medicine or behavioral social science-health research  
<https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/ugsp>

## Calendar of Events

January 10: Instruction begins.

January 17: Martin Luther King Day. No classes.

January 21: Last day to complete late registration.

March 18: Last day to use optional late drop and receive grade of 'W' on academic record.

March 21-25: Spring Break. No classes

### Advisor's Corner

- Students declaring the biological sciences major in fall 2010 or later have the option to complete MATH 180 (Calculus I) or STATS 130 (Statistics for the Life Sciences) to fulfill the math requirement for the major.
- If you received a 'D' or 'F' in a class and plan to retake it., you may be eligible for GPA recalculation. Please see an advisor in LAS (3rd floor UH) to confirm eligibility. You must have taken the course for the first time fall 2009 or later, re-register for the course within 3 semesters of receiving the original grade, and fill out appropriate paperwork to initiate the request.
- Are you looking to become involved in research? Please see the [Undergraduate Research Experience](#) for information on becoming involved on campus.

### Announcements

- LAS is on facebook! Check it out [here](#)
- Summer Research Opportunity available at the University of Cincinnati. Please check out the [website](#) for more information.
- President Michael J. Hogan writes a blog to share news and events with faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Follow him [here](#)
- Commuter Center Resource Center (CSRC) is now open at 2 South Area in Student Center East. The purpose is to enhance the educational process of commuter students who currently compose 85% of the student body.

### Interested in the Biology Colloquium?

Want to know more?

Check out the BCQ website at:

[http://  
www.uic.edu/  
depts.bio/bcq/  
index.htm](http://www.uic.edu/depts.bio/bcq/index.htm)

To make a gift, simply write a check payable to:

The University of Illinois at Chicago

In the Memo section write:  
Unrestricted Biology

University of Illinois at Chicago

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Department of Biological Sciences (MC 066)

845 West Taylor Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60607

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Caption from Photo in Banner (Front page): Graduate student Isabel Caballero is studying the genetic structure of reestablished populations of peregrine falcons. One of her many subjects is this female peregrine that makes her home on University Hall. She is pictured here with her three chicks.

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/bios/ungradstudy.shtml>

## Make a Gift to Biology

**We are committed to developing support for our Biology students. We have a number of scholarships to fund students and their research. We are focused on increasing the scholarship opportunities provided to them, and enhancing the classroom experience by acquiring up to date technology for our laboratories. Making a gift is easy and tax-deductible and it has an immediate impact on the experience of Biology students.**

Keep in Touch!  
Alumni Questionnaire

Please send me more information on:

- Contributing to an article in the newsletter
- Upcoming seminars
- Department needs for private support
- Volunteer opportunities
- Other please specify

Name

Address

E-mail Address

Phone

CUT OUT, COMPLETE AND MAIL FORM TO:

VANESSA RICKER  
DEPARTMENT OF  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (MC 066)  
845 WEST TAYLOR STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607-7060

-OR-

E-MAIL US THE INFORMATION AT RICKERVK@UIC.EDU