Final grades have been submitted and spring is in the air – well maybe not quite given the weather lately. Summer students are starting work. The field season is beginning for many of you. This is the time of the year when my Ph.D. supervisor used to say, “it is time to begin the spring campaign!” He was referring to the annual push many of us make at this time of year to get our research programs into high gear. It is also time for us to acknowledge the outstanding research accomplishments over the past year for the Department of Biological Sciences. We have had another great year in the department. Our graduate program is flourishing. Research productivity is increasing. A notable highlight for this past year is Olga Kovalchuk being awarded the Canada’s Top 40 Under 40 (TM) Award. Congratulations to everyone for another exceptional year! I wish you all the best for continued success!

Cheers,

Brent

IN THE NEXT ISSUE
Watch for the special graduate student edition of BioUpdate in Fall 2011. As always, this newsletter cannot be produced without the input and support of all Department members, and we thank you for your contributions. If you have suggestions for future newsletter issues, please send them to Tatiana Arjannikova (arjannikova@uleth.ca) or Katrina Mendez (katrina.mendez@uleth.ca).
2010 DEPARTMENT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Awards and Honours:

Department Members:

Olga Kovalchuk was awarded the Canada’s Top 40 Under 40(TM) Award. She was one of seven Albertans and six women among the award recipients (June 2010).

Joe Rasmussen was awarded the Frank Rigler Memorial Award from the Society of Canadian Limnologists (January 2010).

Graduate Students:

Kim Dohms (supervisor T. Burg) received both an Alberta Ingenuity Graduate Scholarship and a Joseph Grinnell Award, which supports beginning research efforts of Ph.D. graduate students in any aspect of avian biology.

The ACA Grants in Biodiversity program is pleased to announce that Biological Sciences student, Kathryn Kuchapski (supervisor J. Rasmussen), is amongst this year's grant winners. Kathryn's project, “Selenium exposure in streams draining reclaimed coal mines: Toxicity and effects on fish community composition,” exemplifies the Grant program's goal to enable research that will ultimately conserve, protect, and enhance Alberta's fish, wildlife and natural habitats.

Journal Articles, Book Chapters, etc.:

(Department members shown in bold, graduate and independent study students underlined)


**Patents:**

Kovalchuk, I., Maheshwari, P. (2010) USPP: Method of transforming plants. EFS ID 5873340
