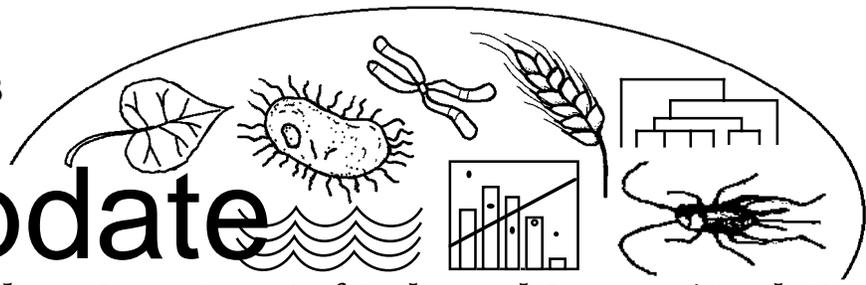


Issue #2 - April 2003

# Bio-Update

*University of Lethbridge - Department of Biological Sciences Newsletter*



## **NEWS FROM THE CHAIR**

It appears that we live in interesting times, but this is not necessarily a bad thing. Indeed, hearty congratulations to Gail and Larry who have been awarded Board of Governor Research Chairs. Further, Gail has been awarded the Ingrid Speaker Medal for Excellence in Research, an honour that warrants further congratulations. By all accounts, our department is doing well. Alice and Joe have accepted their CRC Chair appointments within our department and I expect that they will join us this summer.

The above issues will, of course, wreak havoc with the 2003/04 timetable, but we will sort this out. We should start thinking about searches for new appointments next year.

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Alberta Introductory Biology Association meetings will be held at the University of Alberta May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The focus this year will be on second year courses involving ecology and genetics. Please contact me if you wish to attend. Information is available at the following web site: [http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/news\\_events/AIBA/](http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/news_events/AIBA/).

## **WELCOME TATIANA !**

Tatiana Arjannikova started December 1, 2002 as an Academic Assistant in the Department of Biological Sciences. She is responsible for lab development and teaching for Animal Physiology laboratories, and will be participating in teaching in Biology 1010. Tatiana brings an incredible wealth of experience. She graduated with an M.Sc. from Ural State University in Ekaterinburg in 1977. While in Russia, Tatiana worked as the Director-Manager of the Sverdlovsk Zoological Garden studying problems of reproduction, and postnatal development of the white-tailed eagle. She also contributed to enlarging the Zoological Gardens' collection of rare species. Tatiana has been in Canada for 11 years. For much of that time (10 years), she has worked as a Research Assistant in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience. Tatiana lives in a beautiful old house on the South side and she spends most of her spare time fixing it up – she is very handy with a set of tools! She also indicates that she loves to dance, but hates to cook!



## **NEW FACES**



Kamran Syed joined Larry's lab as a post-doctoral fellow associated with the Fluxnet-Canada program. His research involves evaluation of carbon balance in peatland ecosystems. Kamran received his M.Sc. (1994) and Ph.D. (1999) from Univ. Arizona. He has worked at the Universities of New Mexico and Maryland on post-doc appointments. Kamran joins us with his wife Shaher and their children Jafar and Rashna.



Chad Willms started his M.Sc. in Stew's lab in January, 2003. He is from Edmonton and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1998 with a B.Sc. in Environmental and Conservation Science. Chad's research investigates the requirements of riparian cottonwoods in relation to both flow regimes and hydrogeomorphic features.



Cassandra Lang began her M.Sc. with Brent and Jim in January 2003. Originally from Medicine Hat, she graduated from U of L in 2002 (B.Sc. Biol. Sci./Psychology). Cassandra's research focuses on the development of genotypic and phenotypic bacterial profiles of enteric pathogens located within the Oldman River Watershed. Cassandra is a T.A. in Biology 1010.



Mark Klassen started his M.Sc. in January in Andy's Lab. He is currently looking at risk-sensitive foraging amongst hummingbirds. After graduating with his B.Sc. in the spring of 2002 (U of L), he worked in Andy's lab and TA'ed Bio 1020. He has spent the last 3 summers working at the Westcastle Field Station. Mark is a Coaldale native.

### OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to Sean Walker on his recent appointment to the Department of Biological Sciences at California State University, Fullerton. CSU Fullerton is located near Anaheim and has an enrollment of about 33,000 students. Sean was hired as a 'terrestrial arthropod biologist'. This is most likely a descriptor devised by Sean to describe an entomologist that works with spiders. He will teach entomology (i.e. spider food), an introductory course in biodiversity (with emphasis on spiders), and a spider-focused course in Behavioral Ecology, Evolutionary Ecology or Biostatistics. Good luck Sean!

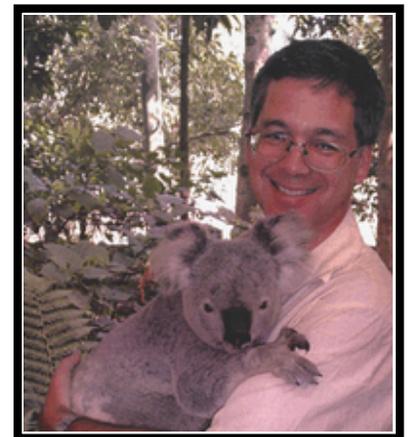
Congratulations to Kim Pearson (M. Sc. candidate in Cam's lab) on being awarded this year's Wildlife Society Student Award (Alberta Chapter). The \$1000 cash award recognizes excellence in the field of wildlife conservation in Alberta and is given to one graduate student each year. The award was presented at this year's Wildlife Society Meeting in Red Deer.

### ADJUNCT PROFILE - DR. KEVIN FLOATE

Kevin is a Research Scientist at the Lethbridge Research Centre. He has been an Adjunct Professor in the Department since 1994.

Kevin eclosed as a young nymph in Prince George, BC. He dispersed east into Saskatchewan where he received a B.S.A. (Honours) in 1983 and an M.Sc. in Biology in 1987 at the University of Saskatchewan. His thesis research on the prey of carabid beetles in wheat fields developed into a general interest in insect community ecology. He then migrated south to Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. There, he obtained a Ph.D. in Zoology in 1992 for research on responses of insect assemblages to the hybridization of their cottonwood (*Populus*) host species.

His research falls into three main areas. First, he studies the biology and ecology of parasitic wasps. In combination with field and laboratory studies, this information is being used to develop biocontrol agents of flies affecting livestock. Second, he studies the effects of chemical residues on insects breeding in dung of pesticide-treated cattle. This information is being used to develop guidelines to minimize the adverse effects of pesticide use on non-target species. Third, he studies the effects of *Wolbachia* bacteria on the fitness of insect hosts. These fascinating bacteria occur in an estimated 20-80 percent of all insect species where they can have profound effects on host reproduction, ecology and evolution.



During winter months, Kevin can be found cross-country skiing, curling, or curled up on the couch with a trashy novel. In summer, he spends much of his leisure time gardening, exploring the riparian cottonwood forest of southern Alberta... or curled up on the couch with a trashy novel. He is married to Rosemarie De Clerck-Floate, who also is an entomologist, an Adjunct Professor in the Biology Department, and a Research Scientist at the Lethbridge Research Centre. Kevin and Rose share their home with two cats, and piles of trashy novels. As an Adjunct Professor, Kevin has co-taught 'Plant Ecology', co-teaches 'General Entomology', supervises undergraduate thesis projects and has served on several M.Sc. committees.

### 2002/3 PUBLICATIONS

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