Biological Sciences

Note from the Chair

Greetings to all our alumni and friends! I'm thrilled to note the past 14 years I've been at Clemson, and particularly this past year after a national search this spring. The past year has been an amazing time to be at Clemson. I'm thrilled with the passion and enthusiasm from our Biological Sciences faculty, staff, and students in our graduate programs in Biological Sciences, Environmental Toxicology, and Microbiology. Our undergraduate majors in Biological Sciences and Microbiology have grown, with 300+ students in each major.

We have been busy! Just this year, we hired 4 new assistant professors, 3 new lecturers, 3 new undergraduate academic advisors, several postdocs, staff for Microbiology teaching labs, and many more. New assistant professor Sourabh Dhingra examines plant evolutionary ecology and microbial interactions in the context of community health, while Drs. Mike Sears and Eric Riddell (Biological Sciences Ph.D. '17) focus on infectious diseases, specifically plant-pollinator interactions. New assistant professor Vince Richard's genomic analysis shows antibiotic resistance moving from humans to non-human communities to increase biological literacy.

A glowing "TIGER mouse" helps understand brain injuries, infections and diseases

Biological Sciences' associate professor David Feliciano and his lab devised a way to track tiny movement of information-rich particles found in bodily fluids throughout the body, called exosomes, in real-time. They use a glowing mouse – appropriately dubbed the "TIGER mouse" – to trace the movement of exosomes from brain injuries, infections and diseases. As important as the bacteria are, little was known about their makeup until now. Biological Sciences' associate professor Barbara Campbell recently published a paper indicating that the bacteria living in seagrass play a crucial role in the clam's survival while also contributing to the overall health of the seagrass in which the clams live. Bacteria are more taxonomically diverse than previously thought.

Microbes diversity key to healthy coastal ecosystems

A glowing "TIGER mouse" helps understand brain injuries, infections and diseases

Students explore careers and network with alumni at 2019 Tigers on Call event

An aspiring physician, Biological Sciences sophomore Aimey Jimm knows how important the MCAT exam will be someday for getting into medical school. What she didn't realize until recently was the role the interview will also play in medical school admissions. "I never really thought about what happens after the big exam," said Jimm, who participated in a mock interview as part of the fifth annual Tigers on Call: Making Connections in Medicine event on November 1. "I learned a lot in that 20 minutes, especially since I'd never really been in a professional interview before."

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