Greetings from Biological Sciences!

This semester has been a whirlwind of activity in the Department. We welcomed two new microbiology faculty: Drs. Emily Rosowski and Anna Seekatz. The Eukaryotic Pathogens Innovation Center (EPIC) celebrated its 6th birthday and continued working to understand the molecular mechanisms of some of the most devastating human diseases. We engaged with school children through a musical theater production to promote marine conservation. The department also hosted speakers from across the country who shared their knowledge and expertise on diverse topics spanning from Molecules to Ecosystems.

As we move into the homestretch before May graduation, we emphasize our appreciation of your support of all our Tigers! Come visit us in person or on Facebook to see more.

NIH grant supports research study of tooth decay in young HIV patients

Much of the research concerning the human microbiome focuses on the gut and the influence that diet and nutrition have on the microbes residing in our digestive systems. Fewer studies consider the mouth and what food that we eat, whether that is from our mouth, influences bacterial specificity of their respective oral sources. Tooth decay (caries) is a condition that occurs when plaque bacteria break down the sugars in food into acids that erode tooth decay in the teeth of infants and in particular children from Nigeria.

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