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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY · COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Department of Biology



Message from the Department Chair

Hello Alumni and Friends,

It makes me very happy to reflect on efforts over the past couple years to bring our department closer with our alumni. Two particular items stand out, both of which I see having long and bright futures here in Biology.

First, in October we had our second-annual **Thomas Hunt Morgan Alumni Reception**, bringing together current Biology students, faculty, and staff with undergraduate and graduate alumni. We had a wonderful night at the historic Thomas Hunt Morgan House in downtown Lexington, socializing and celebrating student accomplishments over the year, including many of our Biology student scholars who have been supported by generous alumni donations. It was simply awesome to see many of our alumni there mingling with students, postdocs, staff, and faculty, and celebrating our shared history. This event continues to grow, and I hope to see many of you there next year!

Second, I'm very excited to announce the assembly of our very first **Biology Alumni Board**. This group comprises 17 of our amazing undergraduate and graduate alumni, some recent and some not, but all with professional successes across a range of careers (e.g., academia, medicine, and the military). We had our first in-person meeting in October, providing an opportunity to connect them with our students and faculty and discussing new ideas about increasing our connections with all Biology alumni. A primary takeaway from this meeting for me was the desire by alumni to maintain a sense of connection to their home here at UK, particularly with Biology and the people and experiences that prepared them for the next steps in their lives. Using this motivation, the Alumni Board is eager to begin working on new initiatives. You'll be hearing from them soon!

Sincerely,

Dave Weisrock, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair

Department of Biology

University of Kentucky

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UPCOMING BIOLOGY EVENTS

November 30, 2023 - 3:30pm in THM 116

Ribble Seminar Series speaker Dr. Elizabeth Hobson from National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health at NIH will present "Leveraging Animal Behavioral Interactions to Learn About Cognition & Social Dynamics".

Click [here](#) for more information.

December 7, 2023 - 3:30 pm in THM 116


Ribble Seminar Series speaker Dr. Alexander Chesler from Intramural Research Program at NIH will present "Cells and Molecules for Touch, Pain and Interoception". Click [here](#) for more information.

Click [here](#) for our events calendar.

BIOLOGY GRADUATE

KAYLI BOLTON

NAMED GATES CAMBRIDGE SCHOLAR



Two University of Kentucky seniors, Kayli Bolton and Kayla Horne, interviewed for the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, and Bolton was awarded one of only 23 Gates Cambridge Scholarships presented nationally to students hoping to pursue postgraduate study at the University of Cambridge in England. [Read more.](#)



The Department of Biology's
Student Spotlight:

BETH ELLIOTT

Beth Elliott began her UK Biology research as a high school student in the MSTC program at Dunbar High School and has continued her “learning through research” efforts as a Biology major and Chemistry minor, STEMcats volunteer, contributor to multiple manuscripts, and recipient of fellowships and named scholarships. [Read more.](#)

**Biology Student Soars
to the Top with
Astronaut Scholarship
and Research
Internship in Germany**



Isha Chauhan, a biology major in the University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences and Lewis Honors College student from La Grange, Kentucky, will receive one of 68 [Astronaut Scholarships](#) this year and has completed a DAAD RISE research internship in Germany. [Read more.](#)

BIOLOGY & CHEMISTRY ALUM PURSUES DOCTORAL STUDY AT DUKE

ANGELA GRACE JONES



Angela Grace Jones, BS Biology '20, BS Chemistry '20, joined chemistry professor Arthur Cammers for an alumni interview. [Read more.](#)



Postdoctoral
Scholar
Dr. Sumanth Manohar
Recipient of Knights
Templar Eye Foundation's
Career Starter Grant
2023-24

Dr. Sumanth Manohar, a postdoctoral research scholar working in the lab of [Dr. Ann Morris](#), was one of 25 scientists selected to receive the Knights Templar Eye Foundation's research funding into the prevention and treatment of sight threatening diseases in children. [Read more.](#)



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
OUTREACHING TO THE
COMMUNITY

Approximately 200 elementary and middle school students attended the UK STEM Camp in summer 2023 and engaged in hands-on activities with the Department of Biology. [Read more.](#)

Ann Morris Honored as 2023-24 University Research Professor



Dr. Ann Morris, a professor in the Department of Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Kentucky, is one of 16 University Research Professors for 2023-2024. [Read more.](#)



Genetics Researcher Dr. Sarah Tishkoff

Delivers UK's Department
of Biology Thomas Hunt
Morgan Lectures

Sarah Tishkoff, the David and Lyn Silfen University Professor in Genetics and Biology at the University of Pennsylvania, delivered the annual Thomas Hunt Morgan Lectures at the University of Kentucky. [Read more.](#)

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

The **Department of Biology** in the College of Arts and Sciences offers students opportunities to engage in the exciting study of how living systems operate and to discover who we are in this vast living world. The study of biology tells us where we came from, and it tells us where we might go as a species. The Department of Biology is the fulcrum for these endeavors at the University of Kentucky and is committed to become an even greater part of the intellectual life of this great university.

Your gift to the **Biology Development Fund** will provide critical resources to respond to student needs, attract world-class faculty, and provide innovative opportunities to enable our students to compete in the global marketplace.

A gift to other funds that support the department can be made online at www.as.uky.edu/givetoas. By mail, please send to:

UK Philanthropy
P.O. Box 23552
Lexington, KY 40523

For assistance, please contact [Debra Gold](#) at 859-257-8124 or debra.gold@uky.edu.



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