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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY · COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



# Department of Biology



## Message from the Department Chair

Hello Alumni and Friends,

We're on the tail end of another academic year in Biology, and our department continues to realize the successes of the effort put in by our students, faculty, and staff. This year we expect to graduate approximately 190 Biology majors.

Another 80 [Neuroscience](#) majors will also fledge from our department by the end of the year. These two undergraduate majors are among the most sought-after life sciences training programs in the state, and we're fortunate to have a diverse student group that embraces the challenges and opportunities that come from undergraduate training in a research-based university environment.

We are equally proud of our graduate student and postdoctoral training programs, which also continue to flourish. We've been successful in recruiting highly qualified students and researchers from across the U.S. and internationally, forming a diverse group with research interests spanning the breadth of Biology -- from the circadian

patterns of gut bacteria to the desiccation tolerance of plants. These budding researchers competitively vie for prestigious fellowships, earn grants to support their work, and publish in the top scientific journals. They leave our M.S., Ph.D. and postdoctoral training environment as experienced researchers and educators, moving on to new postdoctoral positions, faculty positions, and jobs in industry and the private sector.

And have I told you yet about our amazing faculty and staff that form the backbone of Biology? Our faculty have developed into one of the strongest research and teaching departments in the College of Arts & Sciences. We teach an impressive 26,000 course hours each year while also running cutting-edge research programs funded by the [National Science Foundation](#), the [National Institutes of Health](#), and a number of additional public and private foundations. Their research and scientific expertise is at the heart of our student training, both in the classroom and in the laboratory and field. Our staff, including our Department Managers and Academic Coordinator, are the invaluable X-factor in Biology. They do it all, from managing payrolls, to keeping our instructional labs and seminar series running. And then they do more.

Collectively, our department is an amazing place to work and train. This is largely because it embodies a positive culture that fosters a strong “buy in” by its participants; we’re proud of what we’re doing here and we’re motivated to keep identifying new ways to grow our programs and support our students, often with the generous support of our donors. I look forward to continuing to share these goals and successes with you in the coming months and years.

Sincerely,

**[Dave Weisrock, Ph.D.](#)**

Professor and Chair  
Department of Biology  
University of Kentucky  
David.Weisrock@uky.edu  
Phone 859-257-2249

## UPCOMING BIOLOGY EVENTS

**[April 20th @ 3:30pm in THM 116](#)**

Ribble Seminar Series speaker Dr. Van Savage from UCLA will present "Calculating Collapse and Stability of Food Webs Based on Consumption Constraints, Body Size, and Changing Temperature"

**[April 21st @ 3:00pm in the Plant Science Building, Cameron Williams Auditorium](#)**

BIO 601 Series and PLS speaker Dr. Christopher Vulpe will present "Functional Screening Approaches to Identify Cellular Toxicity Mechanisms"

**April 27th @ 3:30pm in THM 116**

Ribble Seminar Series speaker Dr. Ned Dochtermann will present "Behavioral Syndromes: Evolutionary Constraints and Adaptive Explanations"

**October 5th**

Thomas Hunt Morgan Annual Lectures and Reception with guest speaker, **Dr. Sarah Tishkoff**. Date and time are subject to change.

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

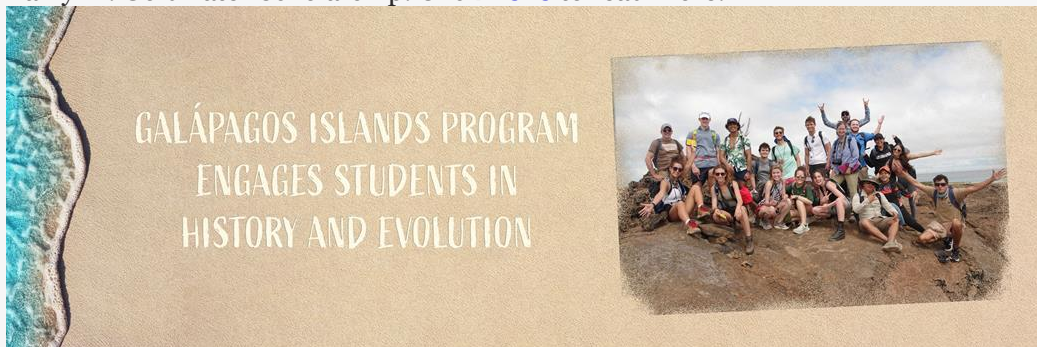
A&S Student

**ISHA CHAUHAN**

Named Goldwater Scholar



The University of Kentucky Office of Nationally Competitive Awards has announced that UK sophomore Isha Chauhan, from LaGrange, Kentucky, has been awarded a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. Click [here](#) to read more.



**Jim Krupa**, UK biology professor, led a course on the evolutionary ecology of the Galápagos archipelago in the summer of 2022. Click [here](#) to read more.

Noted Rockefeller University Researcher

**Erich Jarvis**

to Offer Ribble Seminar Series Talks at UK



[Erich Jarvis](#), a professor and investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Rockefeller University, was the featured speaker for the 2022 Ribble Seminar Series. Click [here](#) to read more.



Cagney Coomer, a postdoctoral trainee in the Halpern Laboratory in Molecular and Systems Biology at [Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine](#), has been selected as a 2022 Hanna H. Gray Fellow by the [Howard Hughes Medical Institute](#). Click [here](#) to read more.



Ashley Seifert's expertise lies in animals that can regenerate body parts — African spiny mice are something of his specialty. Click [here](#) to read more.



[Taking Flight — Next Level](#), a program run by The University of Kentucky's [Ecological Research and Education Center](#); the [Red Oaks Forest School](#) in Stanton, Kentucky; and [Kids MakeIt](#) has received the [Kentucky Academy of Science Excellence and Outreach Award for 2022](#). Click [here](#) to 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](http://www.as.uky.edu/givetoas). By mail, please send to:

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

For assistance, please contact **Gavin Colton** at **859-218-5551** or [gavin.colton@uky.edu](mailto:gavin.colton@uky.edu).



Events



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Giving &  
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Department of Biology  
675 Rose Street  
Lexington KY 40506-0225

Phone:(859) 257-4711  
Email: [biology@uky.edu](mailto:biology@uky.edu)



 **University of  
Kentucky**  
*College of Arts and Sciences*

University of Kentucky College of Arts & Sciences  
202 Patterson Office Tower  
Lexington, KY 40506-0027

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