Hello from Denison University! Right now we are in the thick of finals, plus folks are looking forward to the upcoming break, so there is a lot of energy buzzing around the halls. I’m happy to report the Biology Department experienced exciting things this fall. **Dr. Homan** returned from a successful full-year leave due to a sabbatical and an RC Good fellowship, and **Dr. Schultz** returned from a spring semester sabbatical leave. It’s great to have them back! Both **Dr. Romano** and **Dr. Hinton** are enjoying their much-deserved sabbatical leaves this semester and will return in the spring. In addition, we have a new face in the department. **Jed Dioguardi**, a spring 2018 graduate and biology major, was hired as our Biological Laboratory Specialist. This is a two-year position supported by the Provost’s Office. We are thrilled to have Jed working in the department! Finally, Visiting Assistant Professor **Dr. Angela Zhou** will leave the department at the end of this semester and on to Chemical Abstracts in Columbus, and we are thankful for all her contributions.

As for our students, they are moving forward. All are preparing for finals, and some are putting the finishing touches on their research projects. In terms of departmental community building, the ever-active DUBS group has been busy this semester with a student/faculty ice cream social Meet & Greet in September, designed and sold another cool DUBS/departmental t-shirt, and hosted a fun Cookies & Cocoa event.

Please let us know what you’ve been up to by contacting your former professors or emailing Jenny Etz at biology@denison.edu. We’d love to hear from you! Also, next spring we are planning to hold a medical career panel. If you are interested in serving on a panel, please let me know at weingartc@denison.edu.

Finally, this will be my last *Notes From The Chair* as I will be stepping down after next semester, and **Dr. Rebecca Homan** will be the next chair starting this summer! It’s been fun updating you about the goings on that make the Biology Department special at Denison.

Enjoy the BioBuzz!

Chris Weingart

---

**Department of Biology 2018-2019**

1: Lina Yoo, Jenny Etz, Chris Weingart, Cristina Caldari, Angela Zhou, Whitney Stocker  
2: Andy McCall, Rebecca Homan, Ayana Hinton, Jessica Rettig, Eric Liebl  
3: Geoff Smith, Jed Dioguardi, Heather Rhodes  
4: Warren Hauk, Jeff Thompson, Tom Schultz  

Not pictured: Laura Romano, Clare Jen
BIORESERVE NEWS

Folks will see new metal trail signs in the reserve with photos or drawings to reflect the area.

These metal signs will last far longer than the hand-painted ones!

JED DIOGUARDI, OUR NEW LAB SPECIALIST!

This fall I had the amazing opportunity to join the Department of Biology as the Laboratory Specialist for the next two academic years. I am thrilled to be able to gain experience in academia in a place that fosters such a deep love of learning. Throughout my time as a student at Denison, the department created such a welcoming space not only for its students, but the campus community as whole, and I am grateful to be a part of such a caring group of people. This position has offered me time to gain valuable experience in preparation for graduate school.

Preparing the labs for “Multicellular Life” course poses a new adventure each week, from working with rapidly growing slime mold to hiking with students through our Biological Reserve looking for insects atop the goldenrod. The students’ passion for learning drives my work and reaffirms for me that teaching is truly what I want to pursue. My experiences in this position have been incredibly rewarding thus far, and I can’t wait to see what lies ahead!

A FEW ALUMNI UPDATES:

- I am starting as an Assistant Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at St. Olaf College in Minnesota this fall! I’ll be teaching courses related to ecology, environmental science, conservation, and management. I’m excited to be returning to a liberal arts college, albeit on a different midwestern hill! **Meredith (Atwood) Holgerson ’09**
- My students and I from Champion Middle school have been creating a difference in the local environment. The last 5 years the entire 5th grade has partnered with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Students have cut invasive plants along the Cuyahoga River as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. With $15,000 in grant money that I have secured this year students developed plans for an outdoor learning area behind our new school. This has enabled students to seed and then plant over 5000 native wetland flowering plants in a new storm water basin that drains into a local wetland. In addition, 2 chimney swift towers along with nest boxes for bats, purple martins, swallows, and bluebirds have been built and are being placed in the outdoor area. Water monitoring equipment will allow students to gather real time data from the basin. Educational signage will be placed in the area to help educate students and the public of how students can make a difference in their world. I never expected that as a teacher that I could help the environment by empowering so many in the local community. **Dave Murduck ’83**
- Merck scholarship while in vet school. **Robert Stenger ’13**, Lost Creek, W.Va., is a fourth-year student at Mississippi State College of Veterinary Medicine. He received his bachelor’s degree in Biological Sciences with a major in biology and minor in chemistry from Denison University. Robert has worked in research and has had externships in Uganda, Uruguay, Romania and throughout the United States. Following graduation, Robert would like to own a practice serving in an area suffering from the absence of large animal veterinary services.
- **2018 Kadesch Prize in Genetics - Penn Epigenetics Institute/Kate Palozola ’09.** Click below to read about Kate’s recently awarded PhD and this recognition. [https://events.med.upenn.edu/genetics/#!view/event/event_id/699863](https://events.med.upenn.edu/genetics/#!view/event/event_id/699863)
COMMUNITY BUILDING

Jr & Sr Biology Majors posters

Linking a name to a face!
We thought posters of our upper class folks would be a nice community-building activity. Some students supplied a photo, others used their directory image. Some Aha! moments happened!

We had some fun in October!
Halloween Boo-oology Photo Boo-oooth

Have an update for our next BioBuzz? biology@denison.edu
Find us on Facebook
Find Denison Biology Alumni & Faculty ask to join!
**NEW BIO CORE INFOGRAPHIC**
We thought having a graphic to distribute to majors and prospective students would be helpful, emphasizing the foundation courses for the upper-level offerings.

DUBS did it again with organizing another awesome Biology tshirt sale!

**COOKIES & COCOA!**

Students found it hard to pass up a chance to decorate cookies, drink cocoa, and make pinecone birdfeeders with peanut butter and birdseed the last week of classes before finals! The feeders were hung on tree branches with care around Talbot and the birds are much appreciative!