We are off to the start of another new academic year with the smiling faces of a new cohort of freshmen students all excited about being at college and the first day on the path to their future! And we have the upper-level students returning all energized to work on finishing their degrees so they can move on to their career. This year we have constructed Learning Communities for the new students to further prepare them for the future of biology including an emphasis on data analysis. We are most excited to have two new faculty in neuroscience, Drs. Lawal and Gitcho, which continues to strengthen our research program and provide opportunities for our students. These faulty are part of the COBRE grant that was awarded to Dr. Harrington last year and is boosting the research of current faculty. With innovative teaching, expanded research, and a focus on students - this is the best of times.

**Attention Seniors**

Welcome back to what should be a very exciting year. Here is a checklist of things for you to do to prepare for graduation.

- Make an appointment with your advisor to complete your senior audits and application for graduation by September 16th.
- Verify that you have met the requirements for Senior Capstone. Please see Dr. Andrew Lloyd if you have any questions.
- Forensic Biology majors need to have research internship completed and documented with Dr. Watson by December 1.
The Biology Department Welcomes 2 New Faculty Members

Dr. Hakeem Lawal
Dr. Lawal comes to DSU from the University of California Los Angeles. His research focus is in the area of Neuroscience, using Drosophila to screen for neuroprotective drugs against Parkinson’s disease and other neurological disorders.

Dr. Michael Gitcho
Dr. Gitcho comes to DSU from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research focus is in the area of Neuroscience, investigating the basic biological function of TDP-43 using animal models and primary neuronal cultures. Specifically investigating how age and stress contribute to pathological changes that result in neurodegeneration in Alzheimer’s and other neurological disorders.

Summer Research Experiences

Nkoli Aghazue-DSU/SMILE
Nicole Brown-DSU/SMILE
Crystal Clark-DSU
Yanique Conie-University of Iowa/MARC
Kaitlyn Corder-Monsanto Research
Casy Coden-DNR/MARC
Xenia Davis-DSU/RISE
Ashley Glasper-SMDEP/Howard University
Jere Hudson-UPenn/MARC
Tamika Hare-University of Nebraska/MARC
Jamil Huggins-LSAMP, Ningbo University, China
Sonya Inderbitzin-Harvard/MARC
Ikenna Ikpeama-LSAMP, Ningbo University, China
Roderick King-MGH/MARC
Ashley Johnson-DSU/EPSCoR
Jaskirandeep Kaur-Lincoln University/MARC
Jessica Miles-LSAMP, Ningbo University, China
Diamond Moore-DSU/SMILE
Dipen Patel-DSU/RISE
Chanel Paul-DSU/EPSCoR
Jasmine Piazza-University of Southern California
Tiara Thomas-LSAMP, Ningbo University, China
Rebecca Sahroui-Nemours
Margaret Steward-DSU/RISE
Sydney Sudler-UD/MARC

Graduate Program

Director of the Graduate Program:
Dr. Sabrina McGary
sme@gary@desu.edu
302-857-7464

The Department of Biological Sciences welcomes five new graduate students.
Lisa DeShazo: Biology Education
Natalie Kendall: Neuroscience
Natalia Rivera-Torres: Biology
Karla Sanchez: Neuroscience
Keyana Tyree: Biology
Departmental Highlights

DSU’s Neuroscience Research Program under the direction of Dr. Melissa Harrington, has been awarded a three-year, $433,645 grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Several high school students conducted research in our department this summer via the Research and Engineering Program and the EPSCoR High School Summer Research Program. Mr. Khyree Powell worked with Dr. Murali Temburni and plans to join our department in 2014.

- Dr. Vincent Fondong was awarded the NSF/Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation “BREAD” (Basic Research to Enable Agricultural Development) award for $1 million.

- Dr. Vincent Fondong and Dr. Charlie Wilson will be on sabbatical during the fall 2013 semester.

- Briana Johnson (May 2013 graduate) is now attending the University of New Haven working towards her master’s of science degree in forensic science.

Forensic Science Club News
Advisor: Dr. Clytrice Watson

President: Margaret Steward
V. President: Taylor Brown
Secretary: Tamika Hare
Treasurer: To be elected

2013-14 Theme
“Excellence without Excuses”

Fall meeting schedule:
SCS111
- September 10 11am
- September 24 11am
- October 15 11am
- November 5 11am

Health Professions Club
Advisor: Dr. Cynthia van Golen

President: Sonya Inderbitzin
V. President: Sydney Sudler
Secretary: Chris Rivera Pintado
Treasurer: Ashley Glasper

Fall meeting schedule
Every other Thursday, 11 AM. SCS 111
Activities:
Seminar Series: TBA
Student mentoring program

GOOD NEWS
The Biology Club is back. For more information, contact Dr. Harb Dhillon and look out for the meeting announcements.
The Department of Biological Sciences provides a strong foundation in both traditional and modern areas of biology for students preparing for careers in the biological sciences. Careers for our typical graduates span the spectrum from professional study at graduate, medical, dental, or other health-related schools to technical positions in biology-related fields in industry or government. In partnership with the College of Education, we also prepare students for teaching careers in the field of biology. All majors in Biological Sciences are afforded the opportunity to focus their education on their specific career goals through the selection of elective courses while affording the flexibility to adjust that goal with all curricula having common core courses and requirements. Each student is expected to perform a research project as a graduation requirement (Capstone) and to participate in journal clubs, summer internships, and attend seminars.