

Fall 2011, Issue 4

#### Fall 2011 Seminar Series

September

13-14

HHMI Science Without Limits Symposium Week

### **Topics Include:**

- Beyond Buzz Words
- The Molecules of HIV-1
- Student Research Posters

October

10 - Michael Beach Seminar

November

17 - Paul Stamets Seminar

All seminars are free and open to the public. They are a great way to meet faculty, current biology majors, and researchers in the NW community. Light refreshments provided.

**Overseas Programs** 

New Zealand

In Spring of 2012 Greg Hermann will lead the overseas trip to New Zealand. The program focuses on the rich biological and cultural history of this unique location. ity to make progress towards departmental requirements while studying overseas.

### **Contact Us**

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Chair: Kellar Autumn

# **Faculty News**

New Faculty
Tamily Weissman



Our newest faculty member, **Tamily Weissman**, spent most of her summer relocating from Cambridge Massachusetts to Portland. In the Fall she will be teaching Bio 490, Neuroanatomically Correct, which will focus on brain structure and function. She will also be taking over Gary Reiness' advanced neurobiology course, which will be offered in the Spring.

Tamily is very much looking forward to being a part of the biology department at LC. Her lab was renovated this past summer, including the installation of a zebrafish facility where she and her students will raise the fish.

Once the fish start breeding she will be able to begin experiments using vivo imaging of fluorescent fish during development. Note that Tamily will be looking for a few students this Fall to help her set up the fish and the lab, and begin research!

Awards, Publications, & Research Greta Binford was awarded a \$260,000 grant from NIH for her research on spider venom. An Australian spider (Austrarchaea binfordae) has been named in her honor in recognition of her research. She also hosted the American Arachnological Society meeting here on campus this past summer.

Greg Hermann will be leading the Biology Overseas program in New Zealand in Spring 2012, and has a lab full of students working on The Worm.

Jason Merwin will be back at LC teaching Bio 200 in the Spring and working with research students in the Fall in Lycan's lab.

Peter Kennedy will also be returning from sabbatical leave and is teaching Microbiology in the Spring. Please note that he will not be teaching microbiology again until Fall 2013, so if you are an interested in taking this class you should try to get in now. There will also be a post-doctorate joining his lab in January. Her name is Jennifer Walker and she is coming from the University of British Columbia, Okanagan. She will be working on Peter's NSF-supported research on tri-partite bacterial=fungal-plant interactions.

Deborah Lycan will be teaching two sections of molecular biology and a molecular biology lab this Fall to a total of 40 students. She and her students are working on ribosome biogenesis this summer. Also, let's congratulate her on her recently funded NIH grant of \$257,775 in support of her project, "Nuclear export of the small ribosomal subunit".

## **Senior Thesis Research**

The biology department is proud to have seniors conducting yearlong senior research theses:

Laura Bogar and Ryan Bubriski will be conducting senior theses in the Kennedy lab this year. Laura will be studying the specificity of ectomycorrhizal fungal communities associated with alder trees and Ryan will be studying competitive interactions among false truffle fungi.

Want to learn more about senior thesis requirements? Download the "Writing a Senior Thesis" pdf at: <a href="http://www.lclark.edu/college/departments/biology/student-resources/policies/">http://www.lclark.edu/college/departments/biology/student-resources/policies/</a>

### **Alumni Successes**

Two recent graduates, **Logan Higgins** and **Dylan Smith**, presented their senior research at national meetings this past summer. Logan presented a poster entitled "Symbiotic Frankia bacteria in Alnus forests in Mexico and the United States: Is geography a good predictor of assemblage structure?" at the American Society of Microbiology in New Orleans, LA. Dylan presented a poster entitled "Arbutus menziesii mycorrhizal communities are highly diverse, influenced by host neighborhood, and share taxa with conifer hosts" at the Mycological Society of America in Fairbanks, AK.