Truman Professors Receive Grant to Fund Plant Genome Research

Brent Buckner, associate professor of biology, and Diane Janick-Buckner, associate professor of biology, were recently awarded a National Science Foundation grant. Buckner and Janick-Buckner are co-principal investigators on a grant awarded within the Plant Genome Research Program.

The grant, titled “Functional Analysis of Genes Involved in Meristem Organization and Leaf Initiation,” is a collaborative effort between the Truman researchers and the laboratories of Michael Scanlon from the University of Georgia, Patrick Schnable from Iowa State University, and Marja Timmermans from the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories. Scanlon is the senior principal investigator.

The award is for a total of $3,939,129 during a four-year funding period. The Truman State University research effort will receive more than $173,000 of support for its four-year commitment to this collaboration. The main research effort will be focused on using Laser Capture Microscopy and Gene Microarray analysis to understand the gene interactions that take place during the differentiation of shoot apical meristem cells into leaf tissues.

Once the microarray data is generated, Truman students will be involved in the bioinformatics analysis of these data. Truman students already involved in this project are Sara Murray, junior health science major from Eden Prairie, Minn.; Anup Parikh, senior computer science and biology double major from Kirkwood, Mo.; Mike Ravenscraft, senior biology and business administration double major from Festus, Mo.; Chris Spencer, junior biology major from St. Louis; and Jackie Weiss, senior biology major from St. Louis.

Mathematical Biology Initiative Awarded National Science Foundation Grant

Jon Beck, associate professor of computer science, and Jason Miller, associate professor of mathematics, with assistance from Michael Kelrick, professor of biology, and Jeff Osborn, associate professor of biology, were awarded a $100,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to support their Mathematical Biology Initiative.

The Mathematical Biology Initiative is an ambitious effort to help prepare undergraduates for careers or graduate programs that will have them working at the intersection of the mathematical and biological sciences. The award will support the development of innovative courses and course materials, the creation of research experiences for undergraduates and for faculty, and will support faculty and student travel to professional conferences.

The grant has been awarded for a two-year period. The grant award is indirectly associated with the mathematics and computer science division’s current four year, $400,000 National Science Foundation scholarship program, the Support for Undergraduate Scholars in Mathematics and Computer Science program.

The Mathematical Biology seminar is aimed at exposing local opportunities for faculty and students to work in mathematical biology, and already participants have identified several exciting and accessible areas for investigation. All students and faculty are invited to participate in this seminar at 3:30 p.m., biweekly on Thursdays, in Violette Hall 1200. Those with questions can contact any of the four faculty mentioned above for more information. A calendar for the seminar is available at the Mathematical Biology Initiative home page located at http://vh216801.truman.edu/MathBio2003/.
Truman Forensics Team Hosts “Show Me” Swing Tournament

Participants from more than nine states plan to visit Truman for the third annual Truman State University “Show Me” Swing Forensics Tournament Sept. 26-28. Competitors will be able to enter one or both of two individual speaking event tournaments or a separate tournament in a Lincoln-Douglas or Parliamentary Debate.

The three-day event is often called a “swing” tournament, in which two separate tournaments are hosted on the same campus during the weekend. Expected participants will come from schools in Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska and Texas. Additional possible participants include schools from Arkansas, Indiana, Minnesota, Montana and New Mexico.

The first half of the weekend, the Buck Stops Here Invitational (“Show Me” Once), will be hosted by members of Truman’s chapter of Pi Kappa Delta, the national speech honorary fraternity. The second half of the swing, the Bulldog Alumni and Parents Tournament (“Show Me” Again), will be co-hosted by parents, program alumni and current students of the forensics program.

The entire tournament is open to the public.

For more information, contact Kevin Minch, assistant professor and director of forensics, at 785.5677 or visit http://forensics.truman.edu/tournament.html.

Detours and Index Win National Journalism Awards

The Society of Professional Journalists awarded two student publications and a former student with prestigious Mark of Excellence Awards at the national convention Sept. 11-13 in Tampa, Fla.

Detours won a 2002 national third place for Best Student Magazine published more than once a year, and Index won a 2002 national third place for Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper published less than twice a week. Both of those awards were based on calendar year 2002.

In addition, Luke Trautwein won a 2002 national second place in General News Photography for “Budget woes worsen.” Trautwein was competing with all schools, regardless of size. Truman was the only school of all sizes that had two publications as national finalists.

United Way Continues to Seek Group Leaders for Campus Fund Drive

The campus fund drive for the Adair County United Way is still seeking group leaders to conduct the 2004 campaign.

The responsibility entails contacting approximately 10 neighboring colleagues, informing them about United Way, and extending the opportunity to contribute. The campaign kicks off Oct. 1 and continues through November.

If interested in being part of the campus fund drive team, contact drive co-chairs, Kay Anderson at 785.4143 or e-mail her at aka@truman.edu or Dale Blesz at 785.4398 or e-mail him at dblesz@truman.edu by Sept. 24.

Truman State University Press will host a poetry reading for Christopher Bakken 2001 winner of the T. S. Eliot Prize

7 p.m.
Sept. 24
SUB Governors Room

Bakken will be reading selections from his award-winning book, “After Greece,” which draws on his two-year stay in Greece.

Bakken will lead an open discussion on “Career and Craft”
10 a.m.
Sept. 25
Jazzman’s Cafe located in the lower level of the SUB

LAST CHANCE TO PRE-ORDER HOMECOMING 2003 APPAREL

ADULT SIZES
Short-sleeve T-shirt-$10
Long-sleeve T-shirt-$15
Sweatshirt-$20
Hooded Sweatshirt-$25
Available in purple or gray.

YOUTH SIZES
Long-sleeve T-shirt-$10
Crew neck sweatshirt-$15
Hooded Sweatshirt-$20
Youth sizes only available in purple.

The Center for Student Involvement has extended the office pre-order deadline to Oct. 1. Call 785.4222 for more information.

Committee members, from left to right, co-chair Kay Anderson, student drive co-chair Ann Sterrett, Truman President Barbara Dixon, student drive co-chair Rebecca Rose, and co-chair Dale Blesz.
Wolfgang Hoeschele, assistant professor of geography, recently had his article, “Intra-governmental Communication and the Application of GIS to Improve Wastelands in India,” published in the University of Arizona’s Aridlands Newsletter in the May/June 2003 issue. Jeffrey Vittengl, assistant professor of psychology, recently had the article he co-authored, “Separate Personality Traits from States to Predict Depression,” published in in the Journal of Personality Disorders, Vol. 17, No. 2.

**Alpha Sigma Gamma Launches Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Week**

The women of Alpha Sigma Gamma service sorority will have their third annual fund-raiser in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Week from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., Oct. 1-3, on the Quadrangle.

A “Show Your Support” display will be featured all week with decorated bras made by faculty, staff, students and members of the Kirksville community. Individuals may sponsor and decorate a bra in exchange for a $3 donation. The donation goal for the organizations is $20. T-shirts will also be available for $8.

There also will be a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m., Oct. 2, by the Flame to the Second Century for a ceremony that will feature speakers and poems from individuals who have felt the effects of breast cancer in their own lives.

The goal of the week is to join together the University campus and the Kirksville Community in raising money to help fight breast cancer. All donations are welcome. All proceeds received during the week will go to the National Alliance for Breast Cancer Organizations to be used for breast cancer research.

For more information, contact Katy Griner at 665.7895 or e-mail her at kmgriner@truman.edu.

**Freshëns Smoöthie Company and Frozen Treats Newest Addition to Down Under**

Students stand in line to order one of the various treats available at the recently opened Freshëns Smoöthie Company and Freshëns Frozen Treats, located in the Student Union Building Down Under. Freshëns Smoöthie Company and Freshëns Frozen Treats offers smoothies, parfaits, milk shakes, cones, cups, sundaes, soft-serve ice cream, and frozen coffee drinks. Fat-free and non-dairy smoothies also are available. All smoothies include a choice of one nutritional booster.

**Notables**

**2003 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration**

“Accentuating Diversity within the Latino/a Culture”

“Fire In the Morning”

Guest Speaker: Yolanda Alvarez
8 p.m.
Sept. 25
Student Union Building Down Under

**Hispanic Heritage Festival**

7-10 p.m.
Oct. 2
Ryle Hall Lounge
Food samples, music, dance performances and instruction, crafts for children, and ongoing mini-lecture on “The Changing Face of Northeast Missouri.”

**First Sunday Dinner:**
**A Taste of Home-Hispanic Fare**

6-7 p.m.
Oct. 5
MAC, Adair Building
R.S.V.P. required.
Call 785.4142 to reserve a plate.

**Let’s Go to the Movies:**
**“Frida”**

8 p.m.
Oct. 9
Violette Hall 1000

Activities are sponsored by Multicultural Affairs, Residential College Program, Hispanic-American Leadership Organization (HALO) and Casa Hispanica. For more information, call 785.4142.

**The University Career Center is hosting**

**A Backyard Barbeque**

10 a.m.-2 p.m. • Sept. 25
Behind the Career Center, across from the north side of Violette Hall
Free food, games and prizes
Contact Nicole Kellogg at 665.0827 for more information.
Mostly Live Composer’s Society will sponsor a Student Composition Recital from 3:30-4:20 p.m., Sept. 23, in the OP Performance Hall. Contact Jenny Hinkle at jmhb490@truman.edu for more information.

Ekklesia will kick off their “We Care Campaign” with events at 7 p.m. every night through Sept. 27 at 1302 E. Fillmore Street. For more information, call Barry Poyner at 785.4063.

The Take 5 Game Room and the Truman Bookstore will host a Back to School Bash from 8-11:30 p.m., Sept. 23, in the SAB Down Under. There will be a dance from 8:9:30 p.m. The movie “The Breakfast Club” will be shown at 9:45 p.m. The event is free. Contact Danny Witzofsky at 785.7615 for more information.

The 2003 Weekly Lunch Series will approach the topic “Assessing Writing in Your Course,” from 12:30-1:30 p.m., Sept. 24, in the SAB Spanish Room. For more information, contact the Center for Teaching and Learning at 785.4391.

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) will meet at 9 a.m., Sept. 25, at the University Club. For more information, call Marc Becker at 785.6036.

Dr. Drew Pinsky of MTV’s “Loveline” will visit campus at 7 p.m., Sept. 25, in Baldwin Auditorium. Tickets are free to students with a valid ID and general admission tickets cost $5. Tickets will be available at the SAB office, located in the lower level of the SUB. Contact SAB at 785.4722 for more information.

The University Observatory will have an Open House from 8-10:30 p.m., Sept. 25, weather permitting, at its new location at the University Farm. Call the Science Division office at 785.4597 or visit the Observatory Web site at http://observatory.truman.edu for more information.

The Truman Bulls Rugby team will take on the University of Nebraska at 1:30 p.m., Sept. 27, at the Rugby Field, located at the corner of LaHarpe and Florence. Call 627.2507 for more information.

The Echo Yearbook will be taking individual pictures for free for the 2003-2004 yearbook issue from 8 a.m.-11 p.m., Sept. 29-Oct. 2, on the third floor of the SUB. Call the Echo Office at 785.4450 for more information.

Students interested in study abroad programs in Scotland can speak with Michelle Stewart, international liaison manager for the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, from 1:30-4 p.m., Sept. 29, in the Conference room, KB 116. Contact the Center for International Education Abroad Office at 785.4076 for more information.

Dr. Alexander Shurbanov, native of Bulgaria, will present a reception and performance of “Shakespeare in Eastern Europe/Bulgaria” at 6 p.m., Sept. 29, in BH 251. Call the Center for International Education Abroad at 785.4076 for more information.

The Center for Student Involvement will host an Etiquette Dinner from 5-8 p.m., Sept. 30, in the SAB Spanish Room. The cost is $5 without a meal plan and $3 with a meal plan. Slots are limited. For more information or to reserve a space, call the Center for Student Involvement at 785.4222.

The Division of Business and Accountancy now offers a minor in business administration. The deadline for application for the spring semester is Sept. 30. For more information, go to VH 2400 or call 785.4346.

The Global Issues Colloquium presents “Globalization and (Fair) Trade” from 7-9 p.m., Oct. 2, in the SAB Alumni Room. An episode from the BBC program “Panorama” titled “Ready, Steady, Trade” will be featured. Contact Julie Lochbaum at 785.4477 for more information.

SAB presents the movie “2 Fast 2 Furious” at 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., Oct. 3, in the Baldwin Hall Little Theatre. There is no cost. For more information, stop by the SAB Office located on the lower level of the SUB or call SAB at 785.4722 for more information.

Centennial Hall will kick off its 35th anniversary with “Festival Centennial,” at 3 p.m., Oct. 4, in the Centennial Hall courtyard. The celebration will include free food, live music and games. For more information, contact Jeffrey Fleming at 785.5083.

The Residential College Program will present the Major/Minor Fair from 1-5 p.m., Oct. 8, in the SUB Activities Room. Students can explore possible majors and minors, potential careers, study abroad opportunities, internships, and research opportunities with Truman faculty. For more information, contact Jason White at 785.7404 or e-mail jwhite@truman.edu.

Truman Today is a weekly publication of Truman State University for students, faculty and staff. Deadline for entries is 5 p.m., the Wednesday preceding Tuesday’s publication. Entries should be submitted by sending an e-mail to ksvoboda@truman.edu or by completing a Truman Today form available in the Public Relations Office, McClain Hall 102. The form also may be accessed online at http://trumantoday.truman.edu/submissionform.pdf. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, style and space.