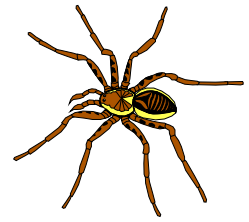




# Cobwebs



Spring 2002 - Volume 6

A Newsletter for Alumni in Biology, Natural Resources Management, Environmental Science,  
Planning and Resource Management and Group Science

## A Woodchuck Dilemma

Karel Rogers, Biology Dept. Chair



**R**emember that old thing we used to say when we were kids? "How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?" I just discovered that is as hard to type as it is to say. Woodchucks are the subject of this column because for nearly a year the Biology Department has been deeply involved in the

well being and fate of one particular woodchuck that we've named Spinner. Being biologists, we all know we shouldn't interfere with the often harsh workings of natural selection, but sometimes situations simply call for some exceptions.

Last spring, a couple of frantic non-biology GVSU students came to the Biology Department office because there was a woodchuck staggering around in circles over by the arboretum pond. Realizing that natural selection is OK with most people as long as it doesn't result in public, painful death, we gave these students a nice box and encouraged them to bring the woodchuck back to the department office. At the time, we thought they would never be able to get it in the box so our problem would be solved. Instead they returned shortly with Spinner. The name makes sense now, doesn't it? Our department coordinator, Connie Ingham, has many talents and foremost among them is the ability to solve just about any problem that occurs, including finding medical care for a spinning woodchuck

### *In Spinner's case, her strength is her personality.*

On her way home, Connie left Spinner with the Blandford Nature Center of the Public Museum of Grand Rapids, a nature center and wildlife rehabilitation center located in northwestern Grand Rapids. If Spinner didn't make it, we thought we could recover her body and have her become part of the mammal collection that Joe Jacquot has been developing. Their diagnosis was that she had a broken leg. They thought they could get it healed and build her up physically so she would be ready to spend the winter back in the wild. Things weren't quite so simple though. Spinner ended up losing a toe because of maggot infection and it soon became clear that she was an exceptional woodchuck who could not be released to the wild. Spinner will "spin" as long as she lives because she has a permanent balance issue. It seems that our weaknesses are frequently balanced (no pun) by strength though.

In Spinner's case, her strength is her personality. Shortly into her rehabilitation, Spinner learned to roll over on to her back to take

medicine, her personality is very mellow, and she is a natural at begging for food. The nature center personnel decided that Spinner could have a permanent home at the nature center as one of the animals who are involved in educating the public about wildlife. So the upshot of this story is that Spinner's genes are out of the woodchuck gene pool but she is experiencing a gentler, kinder version of natural selection and is performing some excellent community service with her life. So maybe the saying should be, "How much good could a woodchuck do if a woodchuck would coach kids?"

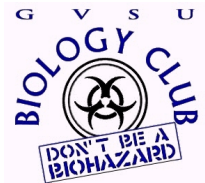
On another note, the MS in Biology has been approved by the Faculty Senate and will likely be implemented for Fall 2003. Although the implementation time line is uncertain, we are preparing to recruit for our first class during the 2002-03 academic year. Even though this is a versatile master's program designed to meet the individual needs of Biology and Natural Resource Management professionals in the west Michigan region, it is not advisable to take courses before your program of study has been approved. In short, even though the wait has been long, it is important to be patient until this program is implemented. The wait will be worth it, I'm sure.

## β β β and Biology Club News

Heather Bill and Nicole  
Dafae

Mark Staves, faculty advisor

**I**t's been another busy year for the Biology Club! We've tried to bring Biology out of the classroom by hosting speakers and extracurricular activities for students and faculty in the department. During the fall semester, we invited a number of professionals coming from a variety of backgrounds to speak to the club. Topics ranged from forensic science



with distinguished alumnus Kristen Schelling to the future of transgenics with Dr. Pam Swiatek of the Van Andel Research Institute. We had another successful hayride this fall at Char's farm and also joined forces with a campus chapter of Circle K, an international volunteer group, to collect canned goods for donation to the Dégagé Soup Kitchen during the holiday season. In addition, Grand Valley's chapter of Beta Beta Beta Biological honor society inducted seven new members this fall and we're looking forward to having them join us for the winter semester!

And speaking of the winter semester...we are hoping to be able to reschedule our annual Ravine Clean-up as it was cancelled during the fall due to inclement weather. We are also excited to see continued faculty support and involvement in the club. Trips in the planning stages include a zoo trip, a trip to the Frederick Meijer Gardens and of course the annual trip to Chicago. Continued  $\beta\beta\beta$  expansion will also be a focus for the coming semester. We hope to establish a weekly journal club for  $\beta\beta\beta$  members and faculty, as well as induct more members this semester. We are looking forward to another great semester with the students and faculty of GVSU!

**2001-2002 Officers:** Heather Bill, President; Jennifer Slusher, Vice President; Nicole Dafoe, Secretary; Ryan Frisch, Treasurer.

Check out upcoming events at [www2.gvsu.edu/~bioclub/](http://www2.gvsu.edu/~bioclub/)!

## Soil and Water Conservation Society News — Neil MacDonald, Advisor

This year's officers include Nikki MacDonald (President), Bob Sanders (Vice President), Shawn Weisler (Treasurer), and Kelly Hoffman (Secretary). Fall, 2001 activities included the M-45 Highway clean-up and an adopt-a-stream project to repair check dams at Van Raalte Park in Holland. During the fall semester, SWCS hosted presentations by Chip Francke, naturalist with the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission, and Tim Sullivan of the USFWS Sea Lamprey Control Program. In October and November, we assisted the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission with a survey project at Hager Park in Georgetown Township. SWCS members Kate Rieger, Bob Sanders, and Bruce VanDenBosch conducted surveys to establish a series of benchmarks along the stream, which allowed the NRM 250 class to rapidly survey a series of cross sections at designated stream locations.

Results of these surveys are being used by park planners and engineers in the design stages of the Hager Creek restoration project. A group of SWCS members also attended the State of the Lakes Conference hosted by AWRI in Muskegon on November 7<sup>th</sup>. This was an especially productive conference in that two of the SWCS attendees subsequently obtained either an internship (Nikki MacDonald) or a job (Kate Rieger) at AWRI this winter. During the winter, 2002 semester, we hosted a series of guest speakers, including Tim Redder, Ottawa County Soil Erosion Agent, Nancy (Morse) Cuncannan, District Representative for the MDEQ Land and Water Management Division, and Jeff Reicherts, Surface Water Specialist for Kalamazoo County Human Services



Department. All are graduates of the GVSU NRM program, and spoke about the responsibilities and challenges of their current positions. By popular demand, they also discussed how they successfully made the transition from being GVSU students to becoming resource management professionals. On February 21, SWCS members attended the MDEQ Soil Erosion Control Concepts 2002 conference in Grand Rapids. SWCS activities planned for the end of the semester include helping with the GVSU Science Olympiad, participating in another adopt-a-stream project in Holland, and ending the semester with the traditional highway clean-up. As usual, we also enjoy impromptu pizza lunches, social outings, and the annual t-shirt design contest.

## Grand Valley Vet Club

**Bobbi Conner, President**

Still a relatively young organization on campus, the Grand Valley Vet Club has



been working on expanding on the goals set forth by some of its founders in 1999. The main focus of the organization is to provide a support group for those Grand Valley students interested in pursuing a career in veterinary medicine, whether students are looking to become veterinary technicians or doctors of veterinary medicine. The club meets on a bi-weekly basis, in order to discuss upcoming events, alert each other about job opportunities, new information about veterinary schools and requirements, and any other pertinent information. As of late, another focus of the meetings is to discuss news in the field, usually in the form of journal articles concerning animal diseases and treatments. The goal is simply to expand each member's knowledge about the field of veterinary medicine.

The club also boasts a website, [www2.gvsu.edu/~pre-vet/index.html](http://www2.gvsu.edu/~pre-vet/index.html), which is maintained by the Vet Club's advisor, Terry Trier. The website, while still growing, currently includes information about the pre-vet emphasis, suggested course work, some of MSU's Veterinary requirements, as well as sources for additional information.

In addition to the weekly meetings, the Vet Club has organized an annual bake sale, represented Grand Valley at a local

veterinarian's Pet Celebration, and has brought in a number of speakers from different fields animal science. Members also attend the annual Vet-A-Visit at Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

With the new pre-veterinary biology emphasis, the Vet Club is expecting more pre-veterinary students to enroll at Grand Valley with each coming year, and our hope is that the Vet Club continues to provide an avenue of learning and support.

## Student Scholarship Day 2001

Undergraduate research/scholarship is a very important part of the teaching mission in GVSU Biology and Natural Resource Management. Each year students present their results at Student Scholarship Day (SSD) held in the spring. Research topics this past year spanned the complexity of biology, covering cell and molecular biology, ecology, physiology, resource management, environment and health issues, anatomy, and animal behavior. Below are a list of the authors, titles of talks given, and their faculty sponsors who gave much of their time and efforts. We should be very proud of these students!

**Matthew Early.** *Do rapid bio-assessment protocols (RPB's) give erroneous results in the determination of stream quality?* Sponsor: J. Dunn

**Kris Williams.** *Measuring the influence of soil moisture on soil CO<sub>2</sub> efflux.* Sponsor: K. McCracken

**Angela Faber.** *Drinking water quality on dead-end streets.* Sponsor: N. Shontz

**Chad Hipshier.** *Effectiveness of pheromones and insecticides in controlling insects on farms in southwest Michigan.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Michelle Green.** *Patterns of sperm depletion in tree swallows.* Sponsor: M. Lombardo and P. Thorpe

**Stefanie Shuker.** *Identification of environmentally sensitive areas in Plainfield Charter Township.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Kris Williams.** *Developing a GIS-based environmental modeling lab for nonscientists.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Emily Sauter.** *Effects of PCB contamination on tree swallows in the Kalamazoo River Basin.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Shelley Brege.** *Woodlot Management Survey at Blandford Nature Center's Sugarbush Festival.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Steven Hallock.** *Rapid reclamation and reuse of nonpotable water.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Jaime Freed.** *Applying acaradial compound dusters to squirrel feeders to treat mange in wild squirrels.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Erin McIntosh.** *Duration of exposure to full-spectrum light affects vitamin D levels in captive reptiles.* Sponsor: J. Hunt

**Jessica Hackman.** *Participation of grassroots organizations in natural resource management.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Mitchell Grohowski.** *Nesting preferences of white-footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*).* Sponsor J. Jacquot

**Scott Szabo.** *Landscape planning around WGVSU transmission towers.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Armetris Forman.** *The effects of calcium channel blockers on the generation of action potentials in *Chara corallina*.* Sponsor: M. Staves

**John Shoup.** *Restoration and management plan for riparian areas impaired by livestock on Weldon Creek.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Rachel Morrison.** *On the anatomy of the cloacal "kiss" of the tree swallow.* Sponsor: M. Lombardo and T. Strickler

**Chris Mieczkowski.** *Developing a ravine system nature trail - Lubbers Farm, Ottawa County, MI.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Keith Piccard.** *Potential for gene pool losses during long-term seed storage.* Sponsor: S. Blackman

**Jason DeBoer.** *Biological and chemical changes in forest composition in relation to topography.* Sponsor: K. McCracken

**Lisa Robinson.** *Predicting fire outbreaks through GIS technology.* Sponsor: S. Menon

**Jeffrey Linkfield.** *Soil analysis of an organic farm and management implications.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Pete Bosscher.** *Assessing viable wild turkey habitats among different ecosystem types.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Brenda Tinsley.** *Relationship between aquatic insect community and water quality on the Pigeon River.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**John Stegmeier.** *Wetlands mapping for township ordinances using GIS.* Sponsor: S. Menon

**Bryan Rugar.** *Wild turkey habitat analysis for Ottawa County, Michigan.* Sponsor: S. Menon

**Katherine Rieger.** *Knowledge of fish consumption advisory guidelines among Grand Rapids residents.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Kapala Hoge.** *Using geographic information systems to analyze the optimal habitat for the salmon in the Willapa River watershed in Washington state.* Sponsor: S. Menon

**Jason DeBoer.** *The relationship between the family Centrarchidae and water quality.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Terry Grimard.** *Wetland inventory for Brooks Township, Newaygo County, Michigan.* Sponsor: C. Griffin

**Brenda Tinsley.** *Urban sprawl - can GIS inputs in planning provide an antidote?* Sponsor: S. Menon

- Alan Braspeninx.** *Predictions of high health risk areas due to arsenic levels in groundwater.* Sponsor: S. Menon.
- Bryan Rupa.** *Management plan for improving wildlife habitat, timber revenues, and ecosystem health.* Sponsor: C. Griffin
- Terry Grimard.** *Road/streamcrossing inventory of Duck Creek.* Sponsor: S. Menon
- Adam Nelson.** *Microbiological survey of public drinking fountains on GVSU campus.* Sponsor: R. Morgan
- Brenda Tinsley.** *Putting spotted knapweed to sleep - restoring native grasses on a disturbed site.* Sponsor: N. MacDonald
- Ryan Frisch and Michael Poulos.** *What are you eating? A molecular analysis of fish muscle proteins.* Sponsor: R. Morgan and N. Shontz
- Michelle Green, Devan Hauck, Mindy Mazurek, Rachel Morrison, Jacquelyn Schei, Amber Seggie, Jennifer Slusher, Elizabeth Sperry and Matt Vanden Heuvel.** *Survey of large mammals at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, Barry Co., MI.* Sponsor: J. Jacquot
- Michelle Green, Devan Hauck, Mindy Mazurek, Rachel Morrison, Jacquelyn Schei, Amber Seggie, Jennifer Slusher, Elizabeth Sperry and Matt Vanden Heuvel.** *Survey of small mammals at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, Barry Co., MI.* Sponsor: J. Jacquot
- Frances Haarsma.** *The character of solid waste found in the GVSU ravine system.* Sponsor: J. Jacquot
- Rebecca Miller and Bruce Whitaker.** *Evaluation of petrifilm plates as a possible method to determine levels of E. coli in surface water.* Sponsor: R. Morgan
- Richard Schmaltz.** *Microbiological survey of sediment at a suspected contamination site on Muskegon Lake, MI.* Sponsor: R. Morgan
- Leslie Stanton.** *A statistical analysis of weather at GVSU.* Sponsor: M. Northup and N. Rogness
- John Stegmeier.** *Isolation of bacteria from the sarcophagus of the pitcher plant *Sarracenia purpuria*.* Sponsor: R. Morgan

## New Courses approved:

**NRM 150 - Introduction to Natural Resources.** NRM 150 is designed to provide an overview of the natural resource and environmental management fields. An interdisciplinary approach is used to explore both the natural and social science aspects of these areas of study. We will discuss the reasons why management of natural resources and their human use is necessary. Then we will discuss a variety of natural resources (soil, vegetation, animals, water, and air) and how they are managed.

**BIO 418 - Natural History of Florida.** In May 2001, thirteen GVSU students participated in a two-week field course to southern Florida led by Professor Joe Jacquot. The group spent time near Naples, in the Everglades, Florida Keys, and the Dry Tortugas. Trip goals included visiting a diverse set of ecosystems from pine woodlands to coral reefs, determining the dominant organisms and processes within each system, and to look at the effects of introduced species in southern Florida. A more detailed trip report with pictures and links can be found at <http://www.gvsu.edu/biology/florida/Florida.html>.

## Photo Contest

The first annual Biology Department Photo Contest was held this fall semester. Students were asked to submit photos that dealt with some aspect of biology or natural resource management. We had 41 photos submitted by 15 different people. The faculty then voted for the best photos. The top eight photos are currently on display on the second floor of Padnos. The photos can also be viewed at: [www.gvsu.edu/biology/photos/photos.html](http://www.gvsu.edu/biology/photos/photos.html).

## Faculty Profile:

### Dr. Sheila A. Blackman



Sheila was born in Bethesda, Maryland, the daughter of an American economist and Scottish linguist. Her family moved to Kabul, Afghanistan, when she was about 1 year old. From

Afghanistan her family moved to Istanbul, Turkey, where Sheila lived until she was 8. The five years in Turkey were formative in Sheila's later interest in biology. She spent most of her time exploring the woods and fields in commonly-held wild preserves near her house. Sheila's family next moved to Calgary, Alberta, Canada where Sheila continued to pursue her love of outdoor life. Her parents provided her with numerous books about science, which Sheila avidly devoured. In ninth grade, career guidance exercises showed her most suitable career to be wildlife photographer.

However, in high school, Sheila showed more interest and aptitude for Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics than Biology. Sheila was - and still is - interested in "why?" and "how?" questions and Biology, at the high school level, tended to be more descriptive than the other sciences. Nonetheless, Sheila persevered in biology, and gravitated to the cellular and biochemical aspects as she progressed in her undergraduate degree. She won a national fellowship to work with Dr. Ed Yeung, a new graduate of Yale University, at the University of Calgary during the summer after her junior and senior year. This



opportunity to do research was pivotal for her career as a scientist. Dr. Yeung was an enthusiastic young scientist, and guided Sheila in a successful study of seed development. This work resulted in her first published paper. In 1981, Sheila entered the graduate program at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

Her Ph.D. dissertation with Dr. David Dennis, involved a problem of plant cell biology. She investigated how some proteins synthesized in the cytoplasm were transported into plastids, such as chloroplasts.

After obtaining her Ph.D., Sheila left for Ithaca, NY, where she studied with Dr. A. Carl Leopold (son of Aldo) at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research for several years. Dr. Leopold was the kind of scientist that Sheila had aspired to become when she was an undergraduate. Dr. Leopold had inherited his father's ethics and nerve to persuade the public on scientific issues important to the future of the world and humanity. He introduced Sheila to the importance of preservation of genetic diversity in agricultural plant species.

It was natural for Dr. Blackman then to take a position at the National Seed Storage Laboratory in Ft. Collins, CO (a facility of the USDA) to try to "rescue" some corn seed. These were the last remaining seed from some Argentinian landraces. These landraces were a "goldmine" of genetic diversity but were no longer being cultivated in Argentina because farmers had switched to modern hybrids. The seeds had deteriorated to the extent that they were officially pronounced "dead" (incapable of field germination) but Sheila was able to mollycoddle the embryos in tissue culture so that plants and seeds were produced from some of the original seeds. Her work emphasized the tremendous importance of maintaining viable populations representative of the entire genetic diversity within agricultural species.

After completing her work at the National Seed Laboratory, Sheila took a position as research scientist with Weyerhaeuser corporation in Seattle, WA. Her team was trying to make artificial seeds of Douglas fir through a process known as somatic embryogenesis. She worked there for several years, continuing a very long-distance relationship with her husband-to-be Mark Staves (then a professor at GVSU). In 1995, she became disgruntled with the commute, and announced to her manager that she was quitting Weyerhaeuser.

In the fall of that year, she moved to Grand Rapids without a job, but found GVSU, always growing and looking for new instructors, was searching for a plant developmental biologist. Sheila applied for the position and she has been at GVSU ever since. She regularly teaches Bio 406 (Cell and Molecular Laboratory), 112 (Introductory Biology), and 423 (Introduction to plant development and biotechnology).

She has a research program involving undergraduate students in several areas. The first involves cellular mechanisms controlling development in plants. She is particularly interested in the existence and nature of short-distance controlling factors. At the moment she is pursuing the hypothesis that cell wall-plasma membrane adhesion proteins are important in plant development (*Physiologia plantarum* 112: 567-571). On this project, she collaborates with Dr. Mark Staves. In addition, Sheila has a project investigating the effects of long-term seed storage on genetic diversity in a model system. Further, she is active in investigating agricultural policies and practices (including genetically modifying foods) here and in developing nations.

## New faculty Stephen Burton



Dr. Burton received his B.S. and M.S. from Northeastern State University in Oklahoma. He recently completed his Doctor of Arts at Idaho State University. Dr. Burton is active with the Science Education group at

GVSU and co-teaches the GVSU Science Teacher Assistants seminar along with Professor Paul Huienga. Research interests for Dr. Burton include both education and biological emphases. He is interested in developing and evaluating the effectiveness of inquiry based activities. His biological research interests are in conservation biology with a focus on the effects of habitat destruction and alteration on amphibians. Currently he is working with students to implement amphibian research in Michigan. Furthermore, he and Dr. Karel Rogers are working with 3 students in developing a project to study amphibian diversity in Madagascar. Dr. Burton teaches Biology I, Environmental Ethics, and Science Teaching Assistant Seminar.

## Alex G. Nikitin

Dr. Nikitin received his Masters Degree in Biology and Education from Kiev State University in Ukraine, and shortly thereafter was accepted into a Ph.D. program in Biology at Bowling



Green State University. His dissertation was devoted to the genetics of life histories of the fruit fly *Drosophila*. His postgraduate work was in the field of gerontology and development. Prior to arriving at Grand Valley, Dr. Nikitin worked in the Pediatric Oncology Division of the University of Michigan Medical School, where he studied the genetic processes that control normal development and the

developmental “mistakes” that lead to cancer and other human diseases. The genetic control of human development is the focus of his research activity here at GVSU. In his research, he uses the fruit fly *Drosophila* as a model system to study the genetic control of organ formation (organogenesis) during early development.

## Jerome Drain

Dr. Jerome Drain joined the biology department in the winter of 2001 as a Visiting Professor and now is an Assistant Professor. Originally from Durham, NC, he received his B.S. in Chemistry from Wake forest University and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. His formal training is in the areas of protein/lipid biochemistry and cell biology. His Ph.D. research and current research interests involve the biochemical pathways of the non-immune killing of parasites. At GVSU he teaches general biology and cellular and molecular biology laboratory.



## Patricia Matthews



Patricia Matthews is completing her 30th year of employment at GVSU. Before entering into a tenure track position in the Biology Department, Pat worked for over twenty years as an adjunct professor. She did most of her undergraduate coursework at the University of Michigan and received both her B.S. and M.Ed. at GVSU. She has currently completed her Ph.D. coursework at Michigan State University in the College of Education, Department of Higher, Adult, Lifelong Education. She will be doing research on her dissertation this summer, in

addition to freshman orientation at GVSU. For the Biology Department, she teaches Introductory Biology, Biology of People, Introductory Environmental Science, Medical Bioethics, Human Genetics, Genetics Lab., Teaching Reproductive Health, and Freshman Studies. She enjoys interacting with all levels of students and likes the diversity of her teaching assignments. Pat continues to do community service as a firefighter-paramedic for two volunteer rural departments – service that she enjoys even more than teaching (if that is possible!).

## Faculty Activity

**Dr. Shaily Menon** attended a Summer Institute on Writing in the Sciences at MSU, June 2001, presented an invited paper in a symposium at the Association for Tropical Biology meeting in Bangalore, India, July 2001, received an NSF travel grant to attend the ATB meetings, attended Conservation Biology meeting in Hilo, Hawaii, August 2001, where she presented a poster, attended a workshop on teaching Conservation Biology, and participated in a discussion on conservation literacy

guidelines. She also became a member of the Society for Conservation Biology's Education Committee.

**Dr. Mark Staves** chaired the Botany and Plant Ecology Section of the Michigan Academy of Sciences at the University of Michigan – Dearborn. He was the coauthor (with **Dr. Sheila Blackman** and GVSU biology graduate **Marc Miedema**) of a paper published in *Physiologia Plantarum*. He also presented papers (co-authored by GVSU student **Angela Faber**) at the annual meetings of the American Society of Plant Biologists and the Michigan Space Grant Consortium. Dr. Staves is also the Principal Investigator for a \$469,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health, which will bring under-represented minority students to GVSU to pursue careers in biomedicine.

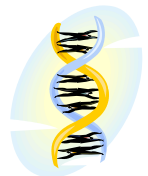
~~~~~  
*And seek for truth in the groves of academe.*  
Horace

~~~~~  
*They learn enough who know how to learn.*  
Henry Brooks Adams

## Life After GVSU

### Hi Pat!

I was wondering if alumni are encouraged to participate in Biology Club and Tri-Beta. I graduated 7 years ago from GVSU. You may remember me as the geeky guy who worked in the stockroom setting up fruit flies for Nancy Shontz, washing dishes for Lana, and attempting to do PCR with chicken genomic DNA for you. Well, a lot has changed since then. The last time I saw you was 4 years ago just before my wedding. Now, I've graduated from LSU with the Ph.D., and I am a post-doc here at the Van Andel Institute. Interestingly enough with all the beer I drank as an undergrad, I guess it's a good thing that I'm a yeast geneticist!



If you have a few free moments, I would like to have lunch with you sometime and see all the new things at GVSU.

Best wishes,  
Donald L. Pappas, Jr., Ph.D.

## Alumni News

GVSU graduate Keri Konarska was “in the news” as they say, when the Detroit News covered her GIS work for Livingston county. The full story can be read here:

<http://detnews.com/2002/livingston/0201/15/d051-391020.htm>

## New Arrival!

**Katherine Kantz and Keith Fessel** are pleased to announce the birth of their son, **Henri Paul Fessel** on May 26, 2001 (8lbs 15oz, 20in.). Henri has already started building the community service portion of his CV by participating in the Lake Michigan beach clean-up.



**Looking for back issues of Cobwebs?** No problem! We are online at:

<http://www4.gvsu.edu/triert/cobwebs/Cobwebs.htm>

### Keeping in Touch

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and that you will keep in touch with us. We welcome your feedback. Share news with us—even if it is old to you. Give us your email address and expect some kind of response (though not an instant one). We are accessible through [rogersk@gvsu.edu](mailto:rogersk@gvsu.edu), phone: 616-895-2470. Keep the Biology Department informed of changes in your mailing address, and if there are classmates out there that you’ve lost touch with, ask us for addresses. And don’t forget to visit us at [www.gvsu.edu/biology](http://www.gvsu.edu/biology) or from the GVSU homepage under academic programs.

**April 22, 1805.** “I ascended to the top of the cutt bluff this morning, from whence I had a most delightful view of the country, the whole of which except the valley formed by the Missouri is void of timber or underbrush, exposing to the first glance of the spectator immense herds of Buffaloe, Elk, deer, & Antelopes feeding in one common and boundless pasture. . . . walking on shore this evening I met with a buffaloe calf which attatched itself to me and continued to follow close at my heels untill I embarked and left it.”



**May 31, 1805.** “The hills and river Clifts which we passed today exhibit a most romantic appearance. The water in the course of time in decending from those hills . . . has trickled down the soft sand clifts and woarn it into a thousand grotesque figures, which with the help of a little immagination and an oblique view . . . are made to represent eligant ranges of lofty freestone buildings . . . statuary . . . long galleries . . . the remains or ruins of eligant buildings . . . some collumns standing . . . others lying prostrate an broken . . . niches and alcoves of various forms and sizes. . . . as we passed on it seemed as if those seens of visionary inchantment would never had and end . . . vast ranges of walls of tolerable workmanship, so perfect indeed that I should have thought that nature had attempted here to rival the human art of masonry had I not recollected that she had first began her work.”

Meriwether Lewis

----- cut here -----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year graduated: \_\_\_\_\_

Corrected address : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to: Biology Department  
Grand Valley State University  
Allendale, MI 49401





GVSU Vet Club member **Erin McIntosh** searches for a career in veterinary medicine during Vet-A-Visit at Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine.