Notes from the Chair,
My congratulations to the department for meeting it's United Way goal. I give thanks to all of the United Way donors and also to Elizabeth Gilbertson for her helpfulness in organizing United Way events. Congratulations also go out to Geoff Wood, Brandon Lillie and Hein Snyman for their support for Movember aimed at fundraising for prostatic cancer research. After seeing the photo of these three guys trimming their facial hair, I thought for next year we should publish a 'Pathobiology Calendar' highlighting more of our remarkably photogenic Pathobiologists. I am sure we could sell enough to build an extension on the building or at the very least pay out any departmental deficit.

On Friday 2 December there is a community meeting where college initiatives for our upcoming integrative plan will be highlighted. Our initiative for a Poultry Health Network will be among those presented. The Poultry Health Network, consisting of our own poultry researchers and those in other departments, AHL, and other colleges will facilitate and advance collaborative multi-disciplinary poultry research. The community meeting will be followed by meetings with break-out groups interested in further discussion of particular initiatives. I urge you to come out and listen to the college initiatives and ask questions at the break-out meetings. Departmental initiatives which include: the upcoming retreat to examine where we want to go with our one remaining open faculty position, achieving teaching efficiencies, increasing collaborative research work within the department, and increasing our collaboration with the AHL will be handled through our regular departmental meetings commencing in the New Year.

I will be travelling with my children over the holiday period and regretfully will miss our seasonal lunch. This is always a wonderful event and I hope everyone who is here will be able to attend. I wish you all and your families a healthy and happy holiday season and best wishes for the New Year. Sincerely, R

Movember Canada!
Drs. Brandon Lillie, Hein Snyman and Geoff Wood raised approx. $500 for the Prostate Cancer Foundation Research Global Action Plan. Thousands of moustachioed men helped Canada become the world's leading country in Movember donations this month, using their whiskers to raise more than $32 million in the last 30 days.

Good News and Congratulations
Al Dam, OMAFRA Poultry Specialist, and his partner, Krista Wells on the birth of their son Anders Rutley Wells Dam, a little brother for Delaney. Anders was born on Oct 25th at 5:05 am, weighing 7 lbs 4oz.

John Prescott was a Co-Chair of the Antimicrobial Stewardship in Canadian Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Conference, held in Toronto October 30th to November 2nd. He gave the conference introduction “What are we trying to achieve?”. Patrick Boerlin was also on the Organizing Committee, and gave several invited talks including “Resistance in Companion Animals and Horses: Emerging Issues” and “Research - Old and New Issues in AMR from Bacteria of Poultry”. Scott Weese gave an invited talk on “Companion animals and horses” in the Session on “Stewardship of antimicrobial drugs in animals and humans in Canada. How well are we doing?”. The conference captured and energized the momentum for change in this area.

Graduate Student Research Symposium
Congratulations to graduate students who won awards at the symposium. Poster Presentation: 2nd place Kayla Price and Michael St. Paul for MSc; 2nd place Jennifer Thompson for PhD; 3rd place Bryan Griffin and Mosun Ogedengbe: Oral Presentation; 3rd place Olivier Côté and Kathleen Thompson-Crispi.

Andrew Peregrine is now a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologist (ACVM).

Graduate Defenses & Reminders

Dec. 15th, Marlene Palbomesai, PhD Oral Qualifying Exam, 9:30 am, room 1817.

Reminder for Graduate Students to Register for Winter 2012 - due date to avoid late fees is Friday December 16, 2011.

OVC Awards - Pathobiology Information Session on Monday Dec. 12th at 9:30 am in room 1812;

Pathobiology Seminar Series
[Frndays at 11:00 AM in Room 1810 unless otherwise noted.]

Fri. Dec. 9th, Andrew K. Benson, Dept. of Food Science & technology, University of Nebraska, “You aren’t only what you eat: the vertebrate gut microbiome is shaped by complex combinations of environmental factors and host polygenies”.

Events

United Way Events

Fri. Dec. 2nd, OVC Bake Sale, Sunken Lounge & outside the OVC cafeteria, 10:00-11:00 & 12:00-1:00. Thank you to all of Pathobiology for their support during the campaign. Special thanks to Jennifer Brisbin and her husband, and Westin Bakery, for their donation of breads for our Chili and Lasagna lunches. Our department has surpassed it’s goal of $6k and donated $6653.

Way to go!

Dec. 4-6, Conference of Research Workers in Animal Disease [CRWAD] Meeting; the Chicago Marriott, Downtown Magnificent Mile, Chicago, Illinois. Details for registration and events can be found at http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/mip/crwad/.

Pathobiology Seasonal Celebration Lunch will be held on Wednesday, December 21 at noon in the OVC cafeteria, room 1707. Tickets $10.00 (cash) from Elizabeth Gilbertson, room 3840. Deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, December 14.

Don’t be disappointed, buy your tickets early.


Notices

Timesheet Day Adjustments, timesheets will be due on Wed. Dec. 14 for the period of Dec. 2-15; and Tues. Dec. 20 for the period Dec. 16-29.

Holiday Ventilation Shutdown, is scheduled to run from 4:00 p.m. Fri. Dec. 23rd/11 until 7:00 a.m. Tues. Jan. 3rd/12. Please share this information with the staff in your department and advise on the following: 1) Are there any areas in your department that can be shut down prior to December 23rd? 2) Do you have any special ventilation requirements during the holiday period? If the answer to either of these questions is yes, please send the details to

Alex Magyar, alexma@pr.uoguelph.ca, and Paul Casey, paule@pr.uoguelph.ca, by Friday, December 16th.


Check Web, Local Media During Bad Weather
When a winter storm hits and you need to know if the University of Guelph is open before setting off for school or work, the best information sources are the U of G’s website and local media; CJIOY, 1460 AM; MAGIC, 106.1 FM, Guelph and many more. The campus switchboard will also have a recorded message. More information can be found at http://www.uoguelph.ca/news/2011/11/check_web_local_1.html.

Safety Corner:

Washing your hands is the best way to stop spreading germs that can make you sick. When your hands are dirty, wash with soap and water. But when you can’t wash with soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to kill germs.

How to clean your hands
1. Wet your hands with warm running water.
2. Put soap on your hands and rub them together to make foam.
3. Scrub your hands together for at least 15 seconds.
4. Scrub all over, including the back of your hands, wrist, between fingers, and under nails.
5. Rinse your hands well with water.
6. Dry your hands with a clean cloth or paper towel.
7. Turn off the faucet with the cloth or towel.

Graduate Student Learning Initiative [GSLI]
Graduate Students as Professionals
Part of the goal of graduate studies is to prepare you for a career when your studies have concluded. While many graduate students pursue careers in academia, others find positions in industry, government, or elsewhere. There are resources available for graduate students pursuing either course. Many of the skill development opportunities available through the GSLI are applicable in the world of work. The most relevant are listed below; browse the pages for learners, researchers, and instructors for more opportunities. The GSLI website is located at http://gсли.uoguelph.ca/professionals/. On this page you will find:

* Identifying Career Goals and Options
* Interview Skills
* Job Search Strategies
* Time and Project Management
* Working Effectively in Groups
* Writing a CV and Cover Letter

The contact person is Maryann Kope, ext. 58313 or email her at gsli@uoguelph.ca.