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AIBS*news*

SEPTEMBER 2005/VOLUME 55 NUMBER 9

Mary McKenna, AIBS Human Resources Committee Chair, Addresses Gates Scholars

On 14 July, Mary McKenna, a professor at Howard University and chair of the AIBS Human Resources Committee, addressed scholars at the Gates Millennium Scholars Graduate School Institute (*www.gmsp.org*). The Gates Millennium Scholars Program is managed by the United Negro College Fund and supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The program offers financial assistance to African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students, providing them with the opportunity to complete a college education. Students are encouraged to pursue a graduate degree program in a field in which their racial or ethnic groups are traditionally underrepresented. This year 100 scholars participated in five days of interactive workshops and activities designed to hone the knowledge and skills essential to the graduate school process.

McKenna presented information on AIBS's diversity programs and career options in biology. Many of the scholars are interested in the biological sciences, and AIBS will continue to foster connections with the program to encourage these promising students to pursue careers in biology.

AIBS Participates in ECO-Hosted Career Skills Workshop

The Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) places over 200 university students and recent graduates in summer internships with government agencies, nonprofit groups, and private companies across the country. On 25 July, ECO hosted a career skills workshop in Washington, DC, where interns met to learn about career opportunities, job hunting, interviewing, networking, and résumé-writing skills. AIBS Education and Outreach Program Associate Abraham Parker was one of the DC-area professionals who shared their experiences, tips, and strategies with the interns. Other participating representatives from the environmental and scientific communities were from organizations such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the American Fisheries Society, and the Jane Goodall Institute. The interns, who practiced the skills they had learned throughout the workshop in roundtable discussions with the panelists, expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to meet and talk with professionals in their fields of interest.

AIBS Responds to Intelligent Design Movement

The AIBS Public Policy Office has stepped up its public response to the intelligent design movement following some headline-making comments by President Bush and a high-profile vote by the Kansas State Board of Education.

In August, the president suggested in an interview that it would be appropriate to teach the concept of intelligent design/creationism alongside the theory of evolution. This counters statements made by his science advisor, John Marburger III, who has called evolution the "cornerstone of modern biology" and maintains that "intelligent design is not a scientific concept."

A week later, the Kansas school board voted 6–4 to adopt science standards that question evolution and redefine science so that teachers could employ nonnaturalistic explanations of phenomena—such as intelligent design, which is not scientific because it cannot be tested. The standards will go through an external review panel before they become official, but observers expect the board to approve the standards in their current form this fall.

AIBS was quick to respond to these events. President Marvalee Wake remarked, "If we want our students to be able to compete in the global economy, if we want to attract the next generation into the sciences, we must make sure that we are teaching them science. We simply cannot begin to introduce nonscientific concepts into the science curriculum."

For more information, visit *www.aibs.org/public-policy/teaching_evolution.html.*

Recent Articles Online at *www.actionbioscience.org*

Original article in English

- "Evolution's Importance to Society," interview with Massimo Pigliucci, Department of Ecology and Evolution, State University of New York at Stony Brook

Spanish translations of previously posted articles

- "Las Patentes del ADN Crean Monopolios en los Organismos Vivos" [DNA Patents Create Monopolies on Living Organisms], from the Council for Responsible Genetics

- "La Dosis Define al Veneno, ¿Cierto o no?" [The Dose Makes the Poison—or Does It?], by Nancy Trautmann, director of Cornell University's Environmental Inquiry program

I N S I D E

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Public Policy Report for 1 August 2005

- Congress approves FY 2006 interior and environment appropriations
- House considers NIH reauthorization
- NASA reauthorization moves forward
- Senate confirms Olsen for NSF deputy
- New in *BioScience*: "NSF Funding Still Lags Behind, but More in Congress Show Concern"
- From the *Federal Register*

Public Policy Report for 18 July 2005

- White House memo sets forth science priorities for FY 2007 budget
- NASA reauthorization legislation advances in House and Senate
- Tulsa Zoo won't put up creationist display after all
- New in *BioScience*: "The Summers Affair: Has It Prompted an Effective Plan for Harvard?"
- From the *Federal Register*

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How to Contact Us

BioScience

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202-628-1500

Submission Inquiries: *tbeardsley@aibs.org*
202-628-1500

Subscriptions: *admin@aibs.org*
703-790-1745

AIBS

ActionBioscience.org: *editor@actionbioscience.org*

Education Office: *smusante@aibs.org*
202-628-1500

Executive Director: *rogrady@aibs.org*
202-628-1500

Meetings and Conference Services: *sburk@aibs.org*
703-790-1745

Membership Records: *admin@aibs.org*
703-790-1745, ext. 29

Membership Services and Benefits: *droyston@aibs.org*
202-628-1500

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AIBS is "on the ground" in Washington, DC, working for its members on research, education, and public policy initiatives at the local, national, and international levels. We collaborate with AIBS member societies and organizations as well as with other scientific associations. We report to AIBS members through *BioScience*, public policy and education news reports, and other outlets. Networking services to link AIBS members to one another include AIBS meetings, online directories, and e-mail reports.

Listen and be heard

AIBS public policy staff edit the "Washington Watch" column in *BioScience* and provide expert analyses of legislation and other developments while representing biologists' interests to policymakers, and vice versa; recent topics addressed include evolution education and research funding. AIBS education staff write the "Eye on Education" column in *BioScience* and have worked recently on textbook assessments and undergraduate curriculum reform.

American Institute of Biological Sciences

Read BioScience

A blend of peer-reviewed articles, feature stories, and reports written for researchers, K–16 teachers, and students alike, *BioScience* publishes every month and is ranked among the top 8 journals of 65 in the biology category of ISI's *Journal Citation Report*. It includes "AIBS*news*," "Washington Watch," and "Eye on Education" and is provided to all members, in print and online, as part of AIBS dues.

Attend annual meetings

The AIBS annual meeting's format since 2000 has featured a theme-driven program with plenary lectures by some of the world's most eminent biologists, combined with informal discussion sessions for the meeting attendees, plenary speakers, and other discussion leaders. Recent themes are biocomplexity (2001), evolution (2002), bioethics (2003), and invasive species (2004).

View online lectures in the AIBS Virtual Library

Individual members of AIBS have free access to the AIBS Virtual Library of plenary lectures recorded at AIBS annual meetings from 2000 onward. Presentations from the AIBS National Roundtable Series are also online. You can view synchronized audio, video, slides, and transcripts of the presentations. CD-ROMs of the recordings are available for purchase.

To join AIBS and gain access to these and other services and products, go to

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