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SEB Microbe Media

Newsletter of the Southeastern Branch, American Society for Microbiology

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Georgia Southern, GA

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Greetings from the President

Greetings to all new and returning members of the Southeastern Branch of the American Society for Microbiology. We are looking forward to an exciting 2009 annual conference in Savannah, Georgia! Your site for all 2009 meeting information is: <http://www.asm.org/branch/brSoE/home.html>.

The meeting will offer engaging scientific and educational content. We have excellent keynote speakers on Friday and Saturday morning. Dr. Arturo Casadevall will kick off the meeting with a talk entitled "Insights into the Origin of Microbial Virulence", and Dr. Brad Goodner will discuss the incorporation of genomics into the undergraduate curriculum on Saturday. Concurrent sessions will focus on pathogenesis, the stress response, environmental & food microbiology, and education. In addition, sessions are planned for posters and student oral presentations.

The meeting will also provide opportunities to relax with colleagues. There will be a Microbiology quiz bowl Smack Down during the Friday afternoon reception – schools should be ready to register their 4-member teams on Friday at the registration desk. Auburn University has taken the trophy two years running, so it is time for other schools to step up!! After the reception, participants will have the opportunity to dine in the historic district, catch a ghost tour, or sample the local nightlife. The meeting will resume on Saturday with a breakfast business meeting for all members and conclude with the awards luncheon.

Georgia Southern University is the host institution for this year's conference, but the meeting is being held at the Coastal Georgia Center (CGC), as the university is about 50 miles west of Savannah. The CGC is located in the historic district in downtown Savannah. Three hotels within walking distance of the meeting venue have offered reduced rates for conference attendees (\$80-\$139). Hotel reservations should be made as early as possible, because hotels can fill up quickly in this tourist destination.

Important 2009 meeting deadlines: (1) Abstracts due **October 1**; (2) Faculty Enhancement Meeting Award applications due **October 1**; (3) Early registration rates through **October 8**; (4) Reduced-rate conference hotel rooms available through **October 5**; (5) Meeting dining options (lunch/banquet) available with registration through **October 21**.

Excellence can pay off. All presenting students will be given a travel award, and cash prizes will be awarded to students with outstanding papers. A new travel award, the Faculty Enhancement Meeting Award, is being offered to help faculty members with predominantly teaching positions at 2- or 4-year institutions attend their first SEBASM meeting.

We hope to see you in Savannah!
Laura Regassa



Annual Meeting Southeastern Branch ASM

November 6 – 7 2009
Georgia Southern University
Coastal Georgia Center
305 Fahm Street
Savannah, GA 31401

<http://cgc.georgiasouthern.edu/>



2009 SEB Host Highlights –Georgia Southern University

Georgia Southern University is the largest and most comprehensive university in S. Georgia. The university's hallmark is a student-centered education for undergraduates and graduate students alike. GSU enrolls over 17,000 students from every state and 86 nations; and offers 130 degree programs in eight colleges. Housed on a shady 850-acre campus, the university offers a long list of educational, cultural, and athletic opportunities. On-campus attractions include an art gallery, botanical garden, wildlife education center, and museum. A state-of-the-art performing arts center hosts a variety of events. The recreation activity center and associated intramural fields provide the full range of indoor and outdoor sports for students. GSU competes at the NCAA Division I level in over a dozen men's and women's sports. Now classified as a Carnegie doctoral-research university, GSU successfully merges the small college benefits of small class size and personal attention with big college opportunities to get involved in cutting-edge research.

The Biology Dept. at GSU offers educational and research opportunities from the molecular to the ecosystem level. The Dept. has approximately 750 undergraduate majors and 45

graduate students. Degrees offered are the B.A., the B.S., and the M.S.. Currently housed in three buildings, the Dept. has dedicated animal rooms, greenhouse and microscopy facilities, herbarium and herpetology collections, computer labs, shared molecular core facilities, and two research vessels.

GSU's location in the coastal plain ecosystem provides students with the opportunity to conduct research in a variety of habitats including sandhills, forests, marshes, and cypress swamps. Of particular note is the 200 km band of salt marshes which extend along the length of the Georgia coast from the Savannah River to the St. Mary's River. This complex ecosystem provides habitat for many of the rare and endangered species of the state. In addition, faculty and their students carry out research projects at geographically diverse field/biology research stations in the U.S. and abroad (e.g. tropics, coral reefs).

Faculty members have active collaborations with numerous institutions and NGO's. For example, there is a close association with the Institute of Arthropodology and Parasitology, which houses

(Continued on Pg. 3)



Southeastern Branch Annual Meeting

November 6 – 7, 2009
Georgia Southern University
Coastal Georgia Center
305 Fahm Street
Savannah, GA 31401
<http://cgc.georgiasouthern.edu/>

Abstract submission deadline: **October 1, 2008**

Executive Meeting: Thursday Nov. 5th - 4 PM

Friday, November 6th 7:30 AM – 6:30 PM

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 7:30 am – 5:00 pm | SEBASM Registration Desk |
| 7:30 – 8:20 am | Poster set-up |
| 8:20 – 9:30 am | Welcome Remarks & Keynote Address: <i>Arturo Casadevall</i> <i>"Insights into the Origins of Microbial Virulence"</i> |
| 9:30 am – 4:30 pm | Poster viewing |
| 9:30 am – 4:30 pm | Exhibitors |
| 9:30 – 10:00 am | Refreshment Break |
| 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Concurrent Sessions Session I: Graduate Student Talks Session II: Undergrad/Grad Talks Lunch (on-site or on your own) |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Poster Presentations |
| 1:00 – 3:00 pm | Concurrent Sessions |
| 3:00 – 4:30 pm | Session III: Microbial Pathogenesis Session IV: Food & Environmental Reception & Micro Smack Down |
| 4:30 - 6:30 pm | |

Saturday, November 7th 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 8:00 – 10:15 am | SEB ASM Registration Desk |
| 8:00 – 9:00 am | Continental Breakfast / SEB General Membership Meeting |
| 9:00 – 10:00 am | Keynote Address: <i>Brad Goodner</i> <i>"Genomics in the Undergraduate Curriculum"</i> |
| 10:15 am – 12:15 pm | Concurrent Sessions Session V: Stress Response/Adaptation Session VI: Evidence-based Microbiology Education |
| 12:15 – 1:45 pm | Luncheon & Award Presentations |

For questions, please contact SEB ASM 2009-2010 President
(LRegassa@GeorgiaSouthern.edu)

(GSU Highlights continued)

the U.S. National Tick Collection. This internationally known program hosts visiting scientists and post-doctoral associates and provides research expertise and identifications of ticks and other disease-bearing arthropods. Many faculty programs also utilize the GSU Applied Coastal Research Laboratory that is located on the campus of the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography.

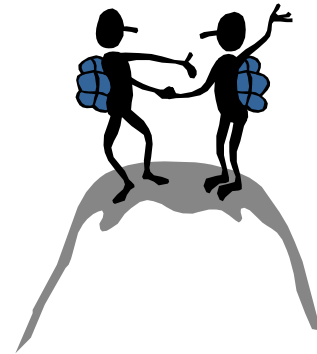
GSU recently received a \$2.3 million NSF GK-12 grant to support biology graduate student education. The Molecular Biology Initiative (MBI) Program is designed to enhance molecular biology graduate education, with one component of that enhancement involving outreach to area high schools. The MBI Program is led by Dr. Laura Regassa (PI, Dept. of Biology), Dr. Bret Danilowicz (co-PI, College of Science & Technology Dean), Dr. Stephen Vives (co-PI, Dept. of Biology Chair) and Dr. Mary Bennett (co-PI, Dept. of Teaching and Learning). The first cohort of graduate students will begin Fall 2009, with a total of 14 MBI Fellows to be involved each year. The MBI Fellows will benefit from comprehensive mentoring and focused molecular biology coursework. Each of the MBI fellows will also engage in outreach to area high schools as part of their professional development activities. During the first two years, four Georgia county school districts will be involved; but additional schools/districts will be added as the grant progresses. As a result of the program, fellows will complete their degrees with enhanced time management, communication, teaching, teamwork, leadership and career planning skills.



Molecular Biology Initiative Program

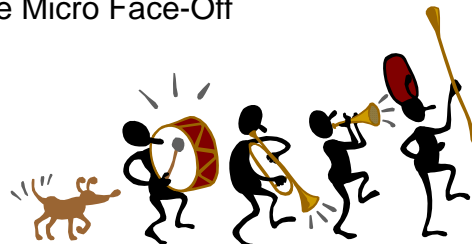
Front row: Stephen Vives, Dept. of Biology (professor and chair); Laura Regassa, Dept. of Biology (associate professor); Mary Bennett, Dept. of Teaching and Learning (assistant professor); and Bret Danilowicz, College of Science and Technology (Dean).

Back row: Bruce Grube, University President and Linda Bleicken, University Provost.



- Top 5 Reasons to Attend SEB Annual Meeting -

5. Discovering new techniques to try on your project
4. Honing of presentation skills in friendly atmosphere
3. Escape the lab for two days (with permission)
2. Establish or rekindle collaborations while socializing
1. Three words: The Micro Face-Off



Microbiology SMACK DOWN!

GET YOUR TEAM READY
FOR THE BIG EVENT!!

What: Microbiology Knowledge Face-Off

When: Friday at reception

Why: Your team could walk away with the title and prizes

How: Sign up your team at registration desk by 3 pm on Friday

Rules: 4 students per team (grad and undergrad may participate); maximum 2 teams per school; limited to the first 8 teams signed up

Event Moderator: Dr. Don McGarey

Past Winners: Auburn University (2007 & 2008)



News from 2008 SEB Branch Meeting (Jacksonville, FL)

The 2008 annual SEB meeting was held at the University Center on the campus of the University of North Florida (Jacksonville) in November 2008 in conjunction with the Florida Branch meeting. The meeting was hosted by Dr. Cindy Battie. The combined meeting allowed for two ASM Branch speakers. Dr. Laura Kramer discussed West Nile virus transmission and Dr. Eugene Madsen discussed bioremediation. Many undergraduate and graduate students presented their research findings. Kudos to the mentors of the 46 student presenters. The highlight of the meeting was once again the Face-Off competition between students at the various universities. The Face-Off was held in conjunction with a reception on Friday night. The meeting ended with an

awards luncheon on Saturday.

Thanks to everyone who made this meeting such a success. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Fall meeting hosted by Dr. Regassa in Savannah.



Drs. Laura Kramer and Eugene Madsen

SEB Member Meeting May 18, 2009

A members meeting was held at the ASM General Meeting in Philadelphia. Dr. Cindy Battie discussed last year's meeting and the financial state of the branch. Dr. Laura Regassa presented the proposed agenda for the Fall 2009 meeting in Savannah and asked for input regarding the program. The attendees discussed ways to increase attendance by widening the breadth of the meeting to include non-academic microbiologists while still emphasizing student research. Moreover, the need to increase the participation in SEB by more institutions was discussed. An auditing committee per the Bylaws was formed to examine the financial records of the Branch. The value of student chapters was discussed and it was decided to mount a campaign to increase active student chapters.

2007 SEB Student Grant Winners

2007 Winners are being highlighted due to problems with the 2008 Newsletter distribution. We give credit where it's due, just sometimes a little late. The Editors

C. Ryan Bates

Undergraduate – Georgia Southern University and Dr. Laura Regassa

Phylogenetic analysis of novel *Spiroplasma* isolates using the *gyrB* gene

Spiroplasmas are helical, motile descendants of Gram positive bacteria that have evolved to occupy numerous habitats within insects and plants. To date, phylogenetic analysis of spiroplasmas has relied on 16S rDNA sequence with surface serology being the definitive character for classification of new *Spiroplasma* species.

As the number of new species continues to increase genetic characters are being investigated for more robust phylogenetic analyses and as a means for species characterization. In particular, protein-encoding genes have been found useful for quantitative evaluation of overall phylogenetic relatedness. The *gyrB* gene is a protein-encoding gene that could help add resolution and context to spiroplasma evolutionary relationships.

The *gyrB* gene will be partially sequenced from the genomes of 25 novel spiroplasmas that are part of a large, geographically diverse collection currently under study in the Regassa laboratory. To sequence the *gyrB* gene, genomic DNA is being isolated from each spiroplasma and the region of interest will be amplified with *gyrB*-specific primers using polymerase chain reaction (PCR). PCR will yield a 1.7 kbp amplicon that will be sequenced using the PCR

primers and additional internal primers. Sequences will be aligned to ensure double-strand sequence coverage. A final sequence of approx. 1550 characters will be chosen for phylogenetic analyses to add greater resolution to the evolutionary relationships of the spiroplasmas.

J. Haritha Lakshmi

MS Candidate – Georgia Southern University and Dr. Laura Regassa

Phylogenetic analysis of closely related, novel *Spiroplasma* species

Spiroplasmas are the smallest self replicating prokaryotes known. They are helical, motile descendants of Gram-positive bacteria that have evolved to occupy many habitats within insects and plants. Given the ubiquitous nature of these microbes, a methodical approach that focuses on serologically distinct isolates from a single host family is being used as an initial step in understanding spiroplasma diversity and distribution.

Tabanid-associated spiroplasmas represent the most thoroughly studied group to date, so this project is examining a spiroplasma field isolate collection (>200 isolates) that was obtained from tabanid flies in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Australia, and the United States. Traditional strain classification divided the genus *Spiroplasma* into 34 groups based on serology, and recent phylogenetic reconstructions using 16S rRNA sequence suggest a

strong correlation between phylogeny and the serological groups.

In this project the 16S-23S rRNA spacer region will be used to differentiate closely related spiroplasma isolates because it is less conserved than the 16S rRNA genes. The results from this study will help us to better understand the biogeography and biodiversity of spiroplasmas.

Shannon McQuaig

Ph.D. Student - University of South Florida and Dr. V. J. Harwood

Development of a SYBR Green QPCR assay to detect Human Polyomaviruses (HPyVs) and the documentation of HPyVs in animal and human wastes.

Currently, government agencies mandate the use of indicator organisms (fecal coliforms, enterococci, and *Escherichia coli*) to assess microbial water quality. While these indicator organisms (IOs) are found in high titers in human feces they are also commonly found in storm-water and animal feces. The ambiguity of the source of these IOs gives no insight on the origin of microbial water quality degradation.

Methods have emerged to identify points of contamination using microbes. This study expounds on research previously done using Human Polyomaviruses (HPyVs) as indicators of human fecal pollution. HPyVs are double-stranded DNA viruses, and approximately



60-90% of the human population harbors antibodies against HPyVs. These viruses are known for asymptomatic viremia in immunocompetent people.

The goal of this study is to adapt the previously developed method into a SYBR Green QPCR. In addition, this study will also focus on the enumerating HPyVs in sewer and septic tank systems. This research will result in the development of a rapid, cost effective and sensitive method to predict water quality and potentially protect humans from exposure to pathogens as well as help officials to identify sources of water pollution for swift remediation of environmental waters.

2008 Branch Presidential and Faculty Awards

Poster Presentations

Undergraduate

William Zaragoza*, Clayton Cox and Max Teplitski

Pathogen Contamination Elimination Through Inhibition of the Highly Conserved GasS/GacA Regulatory System
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Graduate

C. Still*, S. Foppe and S. Sanchez

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus intermedius Group in Companion Animals as a Potential Reservoir for the Staphylococcal Cassette Chromosome mec V
University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Oral Presentations

High School

Avery Bullock*¹ and Wade Jeffrey²

Temperature and Ultraviolet Radiation Interactions on Bacterioplankton Production in Pensacola Bay, FL

¹IDBP, Pensacola High School, Pensacola, FL; ²Univ. of West Florida, Pensacola, FL

Undergraduate

Michael Padovano* and Diane Vaughn

A Molecular Method for Testing Human Fecal Pollution in Environmental Waters Using the Alternative Indicator Organism, Bifidobacterium
Orange County Utilities, Orlando, FL

Jennifer Scott* and Robert Baque

A Real-Time PCR Screening of Giardia Genotypes with Human-Specific Genotype Probes
Orange County Utilities, Orlando, FL

Graduate

Dawn Goldsmith*¹, Rachel Parsons², Kimberly Pause², Craig Carlson³ and Mya Breitbart¹

Abundance and Diversity of Viruses Throughout the Water Column in the Northwestern Sargasso Sea

¹Univ. of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL; ²Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences, St. Geroges's, Bermuda; ³Univ. of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

Jennifer Delaney*, Robert Ulrich, David Fries, and John Paul

Evaluation of the rbcS Gene as a Target for Real-Time NASBA Detection of Pseudonitzschia
Univ. of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL

Katherine E. Sherwood* and Julie A Maupin-Furlow

Biochemical and Genetic Characterization of Glycerol Metabolism in Haloferax volcanii
Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, FL



For A Job Well Done!

"Congratulations to last years' winners! Who will be selected this year?"

Faculty Awards

Ivan Roth Award
Dr. James Barbaree
Auburn Univ., Alabama

Margaret Green Award
Dr. Laura Silo-Suh
Auburn Univ., Alabama

SEB-ASM Councilor's Report 2009 (Philadelphia)

General Information:

Councilors approved the proposal to launch *Microbe-Open*, a new online-only, Open Access ASM Journal in July, 2010. Background: *Microbe-Open* is envisioned as a high-impact journal that offers the microbial community rapid publication (avg. of 3 months from submission to on-line pub) of short (6-pg) original articles focused on cutting-edge basic, clinical, and applied research. An interactive website will offer a lively venue for post-publication commentaries and exchanges by readers. *MicrobeOpen* will serve all disciplines that address microbiological issues: biochemistry and molecular biology, genetics and genomics, immunology, environmental science, evolution, infectious disease, and physiology. Topics covered will include bacteria, viruses, parasites, and simple eukaryotic organisms, including host-pathogen interactions.

Annual Reports (Highlights) Please direct your questions or details request to Charlotte Daniels, Leadership Services Mng. (cdaniels@asmusa.org).

(1) The Treasurer's Report (Dr. J. M. Tiedje). For the year ending Dec. 31, 2008, ASM's Net Income on Operations (before Investments /Adjustments) was \$6.68 million (M) compared to a budget of \$397,000. Revenue Programs netted \$12.8M led by ASM Journals (\$8.79M) and Meetings (\$4.2M). Society Programs consumed \$3.0M and Corporate G&A consumed \$3.1M, resulting in the \$6.7M Operating Net. Net investment loss, including unrealized investment losses of \$17.8M, was \$17.6M, and along with other adjustments turned the Net Income into a loss of \$11.0M. **Reserves** decreased from \$76.2M to \$60.5M (-20.6%) in 2008, as all markets and most asset classes lost trillions of value in Sept. and Oct. amid housing and financial crisis. Total Reserves, early 2009 was \$70.0 million (down 9%).

(2) The American Academy of Microbiology (Dr. R.J. Collier). The Academy's mission is to "recognize scientist for outstanding contributions to microbiology and provide microbiological expertise in the service of science and the public." AAM Fellows are elected on the basis of scientific excellence and stellar achievements. 72 new Fellows were elected in 2009; which included 16 International Scientists and 9 members of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. The Academy, on behalf of ASM, awarded special awards in microbiology at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair for high school students. ASM awarded cash prizes and ASM student memberships to more than 20 high school students. A new award (The Maurice Hilleman /Merck Award) was presented for the first time at the ASM 2009 General Meeting. This award carries a cash prize of \$20,000, a medal, and is presented to a scientist for innovative research in pathogens and/or vaccine development.

(3) The Education Board (Dr. N. Baker). The Committee on K-12 Education, Chaired by Mark Gallo, held a planning retreat in Sept. 2008. This Committee's mission is: (i) to promote the community of microbiologist and educators in K-12 education, (ii) to assume a leadership role in K-12 microbiology education, and (iii) to develop and disseminate microbiology resources for teachers and students. The Committee on Graduate and Postdoctoral Education held a retreat Jan. 2009, and reaffirmed its sponsorship of the Annual ASM Kadner Institute in Preparation of Careers in Microbiology, and identified new initiatives for the next 3 years. These include: (i) developing guidelines for best practices in graduate and postdoctoral education, and (ii) teaching postdoctoral programs, and (iii) sponsoring a scientific

writing and publishing institute (www.asmga.org) for graduate students and postdoctoral scientists (planned for March 2010). This Board sponsored 2 sessions at the 2009 Meeting: (i) Teaching Careers for Microbiologists, and (ii) Careers Preparations in Microbiology – Non-Academic Track. This Board has raised more than \$3.5M for students in undergraduate through post-doctoral training. The largest grant supports the Annual Biomedical Conference for Minority Students, which serves 1600 undergraduate students pursuing advance training in biomedical and behavioral sciences. The 2008 ABRCMS (final registration of 2,841) was held in Nov. at the Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, Orlando, FL.

(4) The International Board (Dr. K. P. Klugman). One of this board's activities was the creation of "**ASM's Task Force on Middle-Tier Country Membership**". Dr. R. Kolter (ASM Pres.-Elect) chaired the Task Force. The purpose of this Task Force was as follows: **(a)** to promote microbiology and make its resources more accessible in Middle-Tier Countries (MTC). MTCs are defined by the World Bank as Upper-Middle Income (Gross National Income [GNI] of \$3,706 - \$11,455/capita) and Lower-Middle income (GNI of \$936 - \$3,795/capita). Under the Global Outreach Program, ASM offers members in Low-income countries (GNI of <\$936/capita) free membership, free access to the entire online Journal package, and free access to the webinar series. Due to the current structure, many prospective ASM members from the MTCs are unable to join the Society or access its resources. Much of ASM's credibility and stature depends on the size and breadth of its membership base. ASM's Council approved a set of recommendations presented by Dr. Kolter. **(b)** to



Paul Edmonds, Ph.D.
Councilor 2006-2009

strengthen and expand clinical microbiology services through **ASM's LabCap Program** (www.labcap.org) in resource-limited regions, mainly through the development and roll-out of lab training programs and mentoring of in-country lab staff. Key partners in these activities include: The CDC, WHO, Pan UNESCO, the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), UNITAID, the Merieux Foundation, the Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI), and the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH).

(5) The Membership Board (Dr. T. K. Eisenstein) The total Society membership (Full, Student, Postdoctoral and Transitional), year-to-date comparison was 34,988 (3/31/09) compared to 36,912 (3/31/08). ASM has lost almost 1000 Full members per year since 2005. The Board urges all members to reverse the declines by signing up at least one new 2009 Full member. If you participate in our 2009 Member-Get-A-Member program, you will receive an ASM Estore coupon valued at \$75 for each new Full member you recruit, redeemable to purchase items until October 15, 2009. By recruiting a new member, you can pay for your 2010 membership. A major campaign is planned to ensure all members know that dues will not increase in 2010.

For full report, please see the SEB Website.



*SEB students are our
researchers of
tomorrow!*

**Active Clubs can
receive \$300 per
year from ASM!**

Active or Approved Chapters

University of Georgia,
Athens

Georgia Institute of
Technology, Atlanta

Auburn University,
Auburn

University of West
Florida, Pensacola

*University of South
Florida, Tampa

*University of Florida,
Gainesville

*University of Central
Florida, Orlando

*Denotes Faculty
Advisor Needed for
Active Status

ASM Student Chapters

There are many reasons for your local microbiology club or student organization to form an ASM Student Chapter in conjunction with the ASM Branch in your area.

- Many Branches hold scientific forums exclusively for graduate and undergraduate students, giving student researchers the opportunity to present the results of their work to their peers - a valuable experience that can prepare students for future presentations to wider audiences.
- Student Chapters affiliated with a Branch hosting a meeting often participate in program planning.
- Other student activities help students to get to know each other, become aware others' research, and create communication networks with students, faculty, industry, and clinical laboratories in their area.
- ASM Branches actively and enthusiastically support the activities of Student Chapters and encourage students to join.

Student groups focused either at a single university or comprised of students from multiple institutions within a Branch area are eligible for ASM Student Chapter status. Here are the necessary steps:

1. Draft a constitution for your group. A sample document is available from the ASM by contacting Jennifer Mercurio at jmercurio@asmusa.org.
2. Seek initial sponsorship from a university or, if clubs are comprised of students from multiple institutions, seek sponsorship from the local ASM Branch. In either case, in consultation with your Department Chair and/or the President of your local ASM Branch, select an advisor who is a full member of the ASM Branch and a member of the National ASM. If your Chapter will be affiliated with a university, chose a faculty member who is a Branch and National member.
3. After your constitution has been reviewed by the student members and any appropriate institutional officials, contact the ASM Branch in your geographic area and request sponsorship

so that you can become an ASM-recognized Student Chapter (names and addresses of Branch officers in your area can be found by following the links to your local Branch on this page: <http://www.asm.org/MemberShip/index.asp?bid=15547>. Enclose a copy of your constitution for its review.

4. If your chapter is being organized as a university-associated student group, follow any additional guidelines required by your school for establishing a student organization.

5. The Branch will then vote on sponsorship for your Chapter, and if it is approved, the Branch Councilor will coordinate with the Student Subcommittee and the ASM Membership Board Chair approval at the National level by the ASM Council during the ASM General Meeting. To make sure that the proposal appears on the Council agenda, it should be submitted no later than four weeks before the date of the General Meeting.

6. Enjoy your new status as an ASM Student Chapter!



Newest Student Chapter!

Kudos to the Newest Student Chapter at University of West Florida!

The University of West Florida Student Chapter of the Southeastern Branch of the American Society for Microbiology was formed by Graduate students Abidemi Ajidahun and Kristen Hellein. Both are members of the National ASM and of the South-eastern Branch of ASM.

They wrote a detailed constitution patterned after that of the SEB, which received approval from the UWF Division of Student Affairs. The UWF-ASM is now a "Registered Student Organization in the

Academic Category."

The SEB-ASM executive committee met at Auburn University on Saturday 10 November 2007 to vote on the acceptability of the UWF-ASM as a recognized student branch. The UWF-ASM was approved and the SEB sent their decision and a show of support to the National ASM, where the chapter was voted on last June and approved by Council to be a nationally recognized student chapter.

Members of UWF-ASM may apply for travel support to attend meetings, fellowships, and have access to many other member privileges.

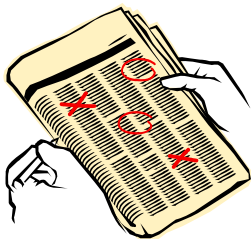


From left to right: Elizabeth Kennedy, Kristen Hellein and Abidemi Ajidahun bill.

Members are provided with many volunteer opportunities and job opportunities that become available in the field of microbiology. Anyone with an interest in microbiology, regardless of their major, is eligible to join the organization.



Help Wanted



*"Got an Opening?
Need a Job?
Look no further than
the SEB Newsletter
Help Wanted Section!"*

Your Ad could be seen here by all active SEB-ASM members within our mailing list.

Let us know if you have an opening for faculty, post-docs or grad students...

**Help us, Help you!
Contact Benjie Blair for more information.**

bblair@jsu.edu

2009 Branch and National ASM Awards

The Southeastern Branch and National American Society for Microbiology have several awards that recognize excellence in teaching, research and service. The SEB offers the following six awards to qualified microbiologists who work at an institution within the geographic area of the Branch. (see below) While submitting a nomination to the SEB, please consider submitting the award nomination to the National ASM.

For example, the Margaret Green Award is given for excellent teaching of undergraduates within the boundaries of the SEB while National ASM also recognizes the same teaching accomplishments through the **Carski Foundation Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award**, but is not

limited to any specific branch. In fact, Margaret Green was a recipient of the Carski Award in 1977 while a faculty member at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

ASM also recognizes excellence in teaching graduates through its ASM Graduate Microbiology Teaching Award. Similar to the SEB-ASM **P.R. Edwards Award** is the **Abbott-ASM Lifetime Achievement Award** for sustained, remarkable contributions to the microbiological sciences.

The **Procter and Gamble Award in Applied and Environmental Microbiology** recognizes distinguished achievement in research and development in applied (non-clinical) and environmental

microbiology much like the SEB-ASM **James C. Feeley Award**.

If nominating an individual for the **Elizabeth O. King Award**, then consider also sending in a nomination for the **BD Award for Research in Clinical Microbiology** that recognizes a distinguished scientist for research accomplishments that form the foundation for important applications in clinical microbiology. There are many accomplished microbiologists within the Southeastern Branch of the ASM. Please consider nominating our deserving members for Branch or National ASM Awards.

ASM offers many more awards than those indicated above. More information about each award is



available by selecting **ASM Scientific Achievement Awards** at <http://www.asm.org/Awards/>. The supporting documents for nomination are essentially the same for Branch and National Awards. Submit your nominations for ASM Scientific Achievement Awards to awards@asmusa.org by October 1st.

2009 Branch Awards: Deadlines and Guidelines

P.R. Edwards Award

This award recognizes excellence in microbiology and is to be made to an individual residing in the geographic area of the Branch who has rendered outstanding service in furthering high professional ideals and standards in microbiology, and who has originality and high competence as a professional in microbiology.

Elizabeth O. King Award

This award is given to an individual, who while a member of the Branch has made notable and significant contributions in the areas of diagnostic, public health, or medical microbiology. Qualifying contributions may be publications, work in microbial systematics including collection, organization and interpretation of data,

teaching and training, and /or evidence of superior performance as a diagnostic microbiologist. Contributions in the area of sanitary bacteriology, e.g. water, milk, food, soil, etc. are NOT eligible for consideration.

Margaret Green Award

This award is presented to an individual who has rendered outstanding service in the teaching of microbiology, particularly at the undergraduate level, while at an institution within the geographic area of the Southeastern Branch.

James C. Feeley Award

This award is given to an individual who has made notable and significant contributions in the area of environmental microbiology and/or occupational health micro-

biology while residing in the geographic area of the Branch.

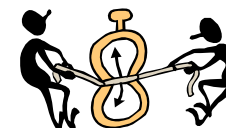
Ivan Roth Award

This award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the Southeastern Branch ASM and is deemed to have given notable and significant service to the branch.

Robert Eagon Award

This award is given to an individual who resides in the geographical area of the Branch and who has made notable and significant contributions in the area of microbial physiology and / or microbial genetics.

For more information on each award please refer to the branch website.



Award Deadlines

Nominations are to be submitted to Dr. Battie no later than October 1st by midnight for full consideration.

Packages must include:

1. Cover letter from SEB-ASM member nominating individual. Letter must include specific award applied to and statement of accomplishments that make them suitable candidate for award.
2. At least one and up to three supporting letters of recommendation.
3. Nominee's CV
4. (Optional) A letter from nominee outlining their qualifications for award.

Contact: Dr. Cindy Battie at (904) 849-4619 or c.battie@unf.edu for more information.

SEB Newsletter Productions

The SEB-ASM Newsletter is published twice yearly in August and February. The editors (Cindy Battie and Joyce Stroot) invite all members to submit any meeting announcements, book reviews, *In Press* items and brief articles regarding branch microbiology and related issues that may be of interest to our readers. The two deadlines for contributions are July 1 and January 15.

Please send all media contributions to:

seb_asm_news@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.asm.org/branch/brSoE/home.html

Renew your SEB ASM Membership Online!

The National ASM has implemented an on-line program that makes both the branch and national membership dues renewal easy! When you renew your national membership, you can renew your SEB ASM branch membership at the same time.

See the National ASM renewal link:

www.asm.org/Membership/index.asp?bid=1880



A Brief Guide to Scientific Literature

The following phrases, frequently found in technical writing, are defined for your enlightenment.

| Phrase | Translation |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| It has been long known | I haven't bothered to check the references |
| It is known | I believe |
| It is believed | I think |
| It is generally believed | My colleagues and I think |
| There has been some discussion | Nobody agrees with me |
| It can be shown | Take my word for it |
| It is proven | It agrees with something mathematical |
| Of great theoretical importance | I find it interesting |
| Of great practical importance | This justifies my employment |
| Of great historical importance | This ought to make me famous |
| Some samples were chosen for study | The others didn't make sense |
| Typical results are shown | The best results are shown |
| Correct within order of magnitude | Wrong |
| The values were obtained empirically | The values were obtained by accident |
| The results are inconclusive | The results seem to disprove my hypothesis |
| Additional work is required | Someone else can work out the details |
| It might be argued that | I have a good answer to this objection |
| The investigations proved rewarding | My grant has been renewed |
| Synthesized by standard protocols | Purchased from Sigma |
| Handled with extreme care | Not dropped on the floor |

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~jcdverha/scijokes>

--- ALSO DON'T FORGET ---

Members wishing to submit information for publication in SEB Microbe Media should submit all pertinent information to:

SEB_ASM_NEWS@YAHOO.COM

"We can't include it, if you don't send it!"