

UAB DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY NEWSLETTER



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



If you have suggestions for a story or would like someone in particular to be featured in a future issue, please contact us at biology@uab.edu.

FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Stacy Krueger-Hadfield



Dr. Stacy Krueger-Hadfield, a marine evolutionary ecologist, joined the Biology Department in July 2016 as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. Dr. Krueger-Hadfield comes to us with international reputation for improving our understanding of the impacts of seascapes and complex life cycle on marine population dynamics.

A native of Southern California, Dr. Krueger-Hadfield grew up taking regular trips to the seaside and tide pools. It was these trips that cultivated her lifelong interest in marine biology. As an undergraduate at California State

University Northridge, she developed a keen interest in marine macroalgae. After obtaining her bachelor and master's degrees, Dr. Krueger-Hadfield moved abroad to pursue a joint PhD in Marine Ecology and Phycology from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and Université de Pierre et Marie Curie Sorbonne Universités, respectively. She then embarked upon post-doctoral appointments at the Marine

Biological Association of the United Kingdom and the College of Charleston, during which she became interested in how biological invasions affected mating systems using sea squirts as models. She also began adapting population genetic tools for microbial ecology. Just prior to arriving at UAB, she was a co-Principal Investigator on a large, collaborative research project with colleagues in the United States, Germany, France, and Japan investigating genetic adaptation during biological invasions. She can't wait to get started building her laboratory and recruiting graduate students to expand the hypotheses and models she's previously investigated.

In addition to devoting a great deal of time to her research and teaching, Dr. Krueger-Hadfield is a regular contributor to the blog *The Molecular Ecologist*, where she writes weekly posts on the latest developments in molecular ecology. She is also involved in outreach programs to bridge the gap between science and art, and she looks forward to continuing and expanding these programs at UAB and in Birmingham.

Biology Welcome Reception



This semester got off to a great start with our first ever Biology Welcome Reception held on August 28, 2016 in Bartow Arena's Green & Gold Room. Incoming Biology freshmen and transfer students, as well as their families, were invited to join us for an afternoon of lunch, music, and mingling with faculty, staff, alumni, and peers. Blaze even dropped by for a visit! After lunch, the students attended breakout sessions to learn about research opportunities and study away opportunities within the department, as well as invaluable tips on how to succeed as an undergraduate. Meanwhile, the parents had the opportunity to converse with faculty and our Chair, Dr. Steve Austad. The event was a resounding success. We enjoyed meeting all of the students and their families, and we look forward to doing it again – even bigger and better – next year.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Tyna Adams, Ph.D.

From a student's standpoint, Dr. Tyna Adams may be the most important person in the Biology Department. She is our lead student advisor. Having been with the Department for only four years, she has already been recognized as Outstanding New Advisor for UAB and was awarded the National Academic Advising Association's Outstanding New Advisor award in 2015. "Students go out of their way, regularly trudging from the first floor of Campbell Hall to my office on the fourth floor, just to tell me how helpful Tyna has been to them," says Biology Chair Dr. Steven Austad.

Currently, Tyna advises Seniors, Post-Bac, 5th year master's students, Natural Science, Immunology, and Genetics and Genomic Sciences majors. She also teaches two sections of the Freshman Year Experience course, CAS112. Before coming to UAB she worked in residence life at Mississippi State University where she completed her bachelor and master's degrees. She finished her Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in College and University Leadership at Colorado State in 2014. Tyna's research interests focus on millennial students and their parents' expectations of higher education institutions. She is also interested in methods to improve transfer and non-traditional student success in higher education.



**FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA**



ILLUMINATING ALUMNI

Dr. Carmen Moss



Dr. Carmen Moss, D.M.D. (UAB Biology class of '91) knew she was destined to be a dentist from the time she started hanging out in a relative's dental practice as a child. Later, working in several offices throughout college, she developed a mental picture of what she wanted her own dental practice to be like. At the beginning of her UAB Biology experience, her human anatomy course cemented – as if cementing was needed – her desire to become a dentist. She particularly remembers being inspired by Drs. Steve Watts and Anne Cusic who were tough but excellent at teaching and prepared her well for dental school. With her biology degree in hand, Dr. Moss was off to our School of Dentistry. For

many students, the 4 years of dental school are in part stressful (passing those exams), tedious (memorizing all those details), and exciting (you are about to begin the career you've dreamed about). But for Dr. Moss, it was 4 years of sheer joy. She continues sharing that joy even today.

Not dallying after completing her studies, Dr. Moss designed, built, and opened her own dental office - now known as Beyond Dental - right away in Cullman, where her grandparents lived. Dr. Moss enjoys volunteering at the UAB SOD Clinic teaching future dentists from her private general practice perspective which focuses on prevention, occlusion, and cosmetics with a passion for excellent customer service. Apparently, a love of dentistry can be inherited. Her daughter, Victoria, now a junior in the Biology Department, plans to follow in her mother's career footsteps, creating the first mother/daughter dental team they know of. Beyond Dentistry -- Moss and Moss. We can see it now!

(Dr. Moss can be contacted at doctor@beyond-dental.com.)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mr. and Ms. UAB

The Biology Department had a strong showing in this year's Mr. and Ms. UAB Scholarship Competition. The Mr. and Ms. UAB Scholarship Competition, now in its 35th year, is one of UAB's oldest Homecoming traditions. Ten finalists were selected through two rounds of interviews and a student vote and five of those ten were Biology majors:



Sandhya Krishna, Daniel Mendoza, Oladele Osisami, Gina Sherman, and Lakshmi Subramani. Congratulations to them all.

Ms. Subramani and Mr. Mendoza were eventually named first alternates in the competition. Subramani, a junior in the Honors College majoring in Molecular Biology and Philosophy, is in the Early Medical School Acceptance Program, is an orientation leader, and is a volunteer at Children's Hospital of Alabama. Mendoza, a junior in the Honors College majoring in Biology, is a Gates Millennium Scholar recipient and a new member educator for Theta Chi Fraternity. Both Subramani and Mendoza will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.



Morgan Burke

Editor & Contributor
Program Coordinator II



Dr. Steven Austad

Editor-in-Chief
Distinguished Professor &
Department Chair