

# BIOLOGY

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Margaret Riley received the Distinguished Outreach Teaching Award and Chancellor's Medal.
- Elsbeth Walker awarded Biology's Gilgut Professorship
- Six new research labs in Morrill will open for faculty and students in 2016.
- Assistant professors Alex Gerson and Elena Vazey join the Biology Department.
- Julia Curran '12 won WEST Giving Back Award, given to women in science and technology who made a profound impact on society.
- Duncan Irschick, Jeff Podos, and Mark Briffa published *Animal Signaling and Function: An Integrative Approach*.

## EDUCATION

- BA, BS
- Graduate degrees are offered through four interdisciplinary programs with more than 40 graduate students mentored by Biology faculty:
  - Molecular & Cell Biology
  - Neuroscience & Behavior
  - Plant Biology
  - Organismic & Evolutionary Biology
- Research areas span the levels of biological organization from the molecule to the organism in its environment.
- 60+ courses for undergraduate majors offered annually, covering all areas of biology.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Biology majors awarded: Candace Slozek, Peter K. Hepler Research Scholarship; Laura Carlucci, UD DOE ORISE fellowship; Jessica Law, William and Margaret Nutting Scholarship; Jonathan Giacomini, Kofi Cash award; David Matthews, Theresa Biusu Maravelas Memorial Scholarship; Jenny Olin UMass Amherst Rising Researcher; Gabby Crosby, Anna Yeaton, and Matthew Johnson, Undergraduate Summer Research Internships.

Graduate students awarded: Sarah Goodwin and Dana Moseley Best Talks, Association for Field Ornithologists and Wilson Ornithological Society; Muvari Tjiurutue Schlumberger Faculty for the Future Fellowship; Evan Palmer-Young and Andy Smith NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement grants; Sandra Roy Manning Inventor Fellowship; Abby Vander Linden NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

- Biology offers undergraduates opportunities for research and independent study:
  - Biology Undergraduate Research Apprenticeships (BURAs)
  - Three new Biology Summer Research Internships for undergraduates
- Biology is aligning its undergraduate curriculum with its three major research areas to give students more focused study and concentrated training in these areas:
  - Cellular, development, and genetic mechanisms
  - Genomics, evolution, and biodiversity
  - Neuroscience and animal physiology

- Nearly 350 undergraduate majors involved in research projects and teaching and research practica annually.
- The Junior Fellows in the Life Sciences conduct undergraduate research projects and organize the Undergraduate Life Science Research Symposium.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Biological Sciences Student Association (BioSci Club)
- Biology Majors Advisory Committee (BMAC)

## BY THE NUMBERS FY15

Tenure-track faculty	32
Lecturers	10
Postdoctoral fellows	9
Undergraduate majors	1,321
Graduate students	42
Research awards	\$4.93M

## RESEARCH AREAS

- Cell biology
- Neurobiology
- Evolutionary biology
- Ecology and behavior
- Genetics and genomics
- Physiology
- Plant genomics and physiology

## RESEARCH FACILITIES

- Biology Computer Resource Center
- CNS Research and Education Greenhouses
- UMass Amherst Herbarium
- UMass Amherst Natural History Museum
- Zebrafish breeding facility

## BIOLOGY

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