October 2012

To Alumni and retired Faculty of the Interdepartmental Toxicology Graduate program at Iowa State University:

In 2014, Interdepartmental Toxicology will celebrate its 30th anniversary and it is a good time to reflect back on the history and continued successes of the program. We have a high percentage of students selected for Research Excellence awards at the end of their degree programs. Our students have gone on to very successful employment at colleges and universities, in government positions, and for industry, meeting the challenges of the 21st Century. Our Toxicology Graduate Program has a very significant history of success as judged by the importance of the research conducted by our graduate students and the careers that they have been able to take up as an Iowa State Toxicology Graduate. The program is innovative, has a history of excellence, and is welcoming to new Graduate Students.

A request for funds in support of our program.

The Interdepartmental Toxicology Graduate program provides support for the general operation of the program and new student recruitment. A continuing challenge for our program is to obtain funding in support of the toxicology lecture series and for advanced student travel to national conferences and symposia. Invited toxicology speakers provide exposure to toxicology research around the nation. Graduate student travel funds allow the toxicology graduate students to interact and network with other toxicologists. Conferences and symposia are excellent opportunities for students to build excitement and curiosity for their research. The program has an account with the Iowa State University Foundation and we welcome your donation. Funds can be donated on-line at www.foundation.iastate.edu/toxicology or mailed using the form on page 3. Please feel free to contact us about any specific concerns: toxmajor@iastate.edu. We will honor any specific areas to which you wish to donate these funds or specific areas you do not wish these funds to be used. We would like to acknowledge your gifts in toxicology newsletters and website unless you indicate otherwise. Thank you.
Toxicology faculty met in 2011 to discuss the direction of our program. They reviewed and updated required program courses including the addition of training in scientific ethics; changed the membership of the Toxicology Supervisory Committee to reflect and support faculty diversity, but stressed the importance of first having involved faculty on the committee; indicated recommended dates by which students should complete organization of their committee, program of study, and prelim; required all new international students to take the Oral English Certification Test (OECT) to prepare for teaching at Level 1 (this is the old Speak/Teach examination); and required attendance at toxicology seminars (TOX 689X) of all toxicology majors. The Toxicology faculty are working within their departments to increase faculty participation in our program by encouraging the hiring of faculty with strengths in toxicological based research. We are investigating whether our program could provide an on-line training course that would support Diplomat American Board of Toxicology certification (DABT, DABVT).

Another area for which support is requested is a NAMED scholar in toxicology fellowship. This would support an advanced toxicology graduate student during his or her training. It is an opportunity to give back to the program, give forward to the training of an exceptional future toxicologist, and remember someone important in your life. The average cost of a fellowship would be around $40,000 per year (stipend, benefits, tuition, fees, professional travel). This NAMED scholar in toxicology will address research that is concerned with how chemicals affect development in humans and animals, how they interact with people and animals in the workplace and home and their affect on the health of developing and aging adults. Thereby we advance the next generation of toxicologists.

If this is something you would consider supporting, would you contact either Dr. Richard Martin, Chair of Interdepartmental Toxicology, (rjmartin@iastate.edu, 515-294-2470; Joel Coats, Entomology, jcoats@iastate.edu, 515-294-4776; or Linda Wild, Program Coordinator (lmwild@iastate.edu), 515-294-7697 or 1-800-499-1972.

www.toxicology.iastate.edu
Celebrating 30 years of the Interdepartmental Toxicology Program

During the program’s formative years (1980-85), ten faculty from four colleges met regularly and hammered out the basics of the program proposal, requirements and coursework. These faculty were Joel Coats-Entomology, Gary Osweiler-Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Mike Stahr-Veterinary Pathology, Gene Lloyd-Veterinary Pathology, Pat Murphy-Food Technology Department, Gary Atchison-Animal Ecology, Don Dyer-Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology, Dave Hopper-Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Erv Klaas-Animal Ecology and John Hathcock-Food and Nutrition. Others involved early in the formation of the program were Homer Walker – Food Technology; Al Kraft – Food Technology; Carl Tipton – Biochemistry and Biophysics; Jim Thomas – Biochemistry and Biophysics; George Kraus – Chemistry; Ray McAllister – Agronomy (weed scientist/herbicides); and Paul Hartman – Bacteriology.

Faculty from the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Agriculture had the most faculty interested in participating in the program, but faculty from the College of Home Economics and College of Science and Humanities were interested as well.

Dr. Daniel J. Zaffarano, Dean of the Graduate College, 1971-1988 was a strong proponent of interdisciplinary research in the 1980s. He believed that today’s complex problems required an interdisciplinary approach. He recognized the potential for toxicology to address a growing number of challenges in our society and was very supportive of the formation of the Interdepartmental Toxicology program. The program sponsors an annual Zaffarano Lecture in his memory.

Chairs of the Interdepartmental Toxicology program began with Joel Coats and included Gary Osweiler, Patricia Murphy, Tom Carson, Franklin Ahrens, Suzanne Hendrich, Gary Munkvold, Anumantha Kanthasamy, and presently Richard Martin.

In 1980 the original proposal for formation of the Toxicology program arose out of a growing awareness and concern with toxic substances leading to the emergence of toxicology as a distinct discipline. The toxicology needs of the State of Iowa cont....
were numerous and included the agricultural, industrial, environmental, household, and personal aspects of our culture.

Who were the first students to complete their degrees? Steven Bradbury (Entomology/Coats) and Walter Hyde (Food Technology/Stahr/Kraft) completed their Ph.D.s in December 1985. Dr. Bradbury is Director, Office of Pesticide Programs, US EPA, in Washington D.C. Dr. Hyde is retired Iowa State University faculty having run the Veterinary Diagnostic Racing Chemistry Lab for many years. In 85/86 there were two graduate student toxicology majors; by 1992-1993 there were 25 toxicology majors. Students who graduated in the first five years were hired by the EPA, a medical college, Dow Chemical, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, as a state toxicologist, and the National Vet Laboratories in Ames. Students accepted post docs at Cornell University and Boston University. As of Summer 2012, the toxicology graduate program has awarded 64 Ph.D.s, 73 M.S. degrees and 17 minors in toxicology.


We plan to reminisce with you over the 2012-2013 school year about the program’s early history. If you have stories or photos you would like to share about your participation in the program, please do so. Send to toxmajor@iastate.edu or to Interdepartmental Toxicology, 2102 Molecular Biology, Ames, IA 50011-3260.

We are excited about what is possible in the years to come for the program, faculty and graduate students.

Sincerely, Richard J. Martin, Professor and Chair Interdepartmental Toxicology