

December 2003

Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI)
Center for Biomedical and Behavioral Research at Spelman College

CB²R Newsletter

A Message from the President



Dear Colleagues,
As I travel around the country talking to alumnae and friends of the College, I am proud to tell them about the Center for Biomedical and Behavioral Research (CB2R) and the positive impact it is having on our capacity to not only teach our excellent students but to contribute to the advancement of science through the research that it supports.

As President, I serve as principal investigator of the RIMI grant and have had the wonderful opportunity to learn more about the activities of our faculty through this grant. Of course, the day-to-day administration of the Center is provided by a faculty leader. I am grateful that such leaders have consistently stepped forward to take on this administrative responsibility. I would like to publicly thank Dr. Pamela Gunter-Smith for her past service and extend a warm welcome to Dr. Mark Maloney in his new role as director of this project. As the year progresses, we look forward to adding a Director of Research Resources to this administrative team, further enhancing the support for scientific research at Spelman. Best wishes for a very productive year!

Grantsmanship Workshop

Dr. Stephen Daniel of Mercy College will be on campus December 11th and 12th to act as a grants consultant for proposals relating to biomedical or behavioral research.

He will give a workshop on Thursday morning, December 11th, on grant writing and funding opportunities. Then he will meet with individual faculty members regarding their specific proposals or grant opportunities on Thursday afternoon and Friday. Dr. Daniel utilizes a very "hands on" approach to consulting.

If you have a grant proposal, even if it is in a rough draft form, please bring it with you to your session with him. This grant workshop is sponsored jointly by the SCORE program and the RIMI Center for Biomedical and Behavioral Research. Please call Brenda Harrison in the CB2R Office (extension 5781) to reserve time with Dr. Daniel on Thursday afternoon or on Friday.

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Second Annual Vendor Show

The 2nd Annual CB²R Vendor Show occurred on Thursday, December 4, 2003. This annual event provides a great opportunity for researchers to view the latest innovations, equipment and supplies that is fundamental to scientific research.

This year's participating vendors included: Mettler Toledo, EMD Chemicals, Mallinckrodt, Baker Chemicals, Labcon, Barnstead Thermolynem Mediatech, Thermo Orion, Nalgene, Nunc, Wilmad/Labglass, Eppendorf, VWR Life Science and VWR Furniture.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made this a successful show.

Research Spotlight

Dr. Jean Dimandja

Dr. Dimandja is an assistant professor in the Chemistry department. He received his Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University in analytical chemistry, and his professional experience includes employment with the exobiology group at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA – Ames Research Center), and the center for environmental health at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

His current research interests focus on new methods for environmental and biological monitoring of volatile organic compounds, and utilize the emerging technology of comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography (GCxGC). GCxGC provides better separation power than conventional GC instruments and is capable of unraveling the composition of complex samples. This technology was invented, patented and developed in Dr. Dimandja's graduate research group at Southern Illinois University, and is now a commercially available product that is marketed by several companies in the United States and in Europe. Companies such as Shell Oil have applied GCxGC to the analysis of petroleum samples and their by-products, and Dow Chemical (Midland, MI) has also used GCxGC in the elucidation of the breakdown of pyrolysis samples.

Projects currently underway in Dr. Dimandja's laboratory include the analysis of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in human urine, the determination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and persistent pesticides in human breast milk, and the analysis of essential oils in perfumes and in tobacco

products. In addition, the feasibility of GCxGC technology as an improved methodology for the determination of residual solvents in pharmaceutical drugs is also being investigated. These projects are developed by Spelman undergraduate students, and partially supported by a RIMI seed grant. A manuscript of a portion of the work has been submitted for peer-review in one of the leading journals in the field (Journal of Chromatography).

Dr. Dimandja's office is located in the Science building (Room 386) and he can be reached at (404) 215-7763 or via e-mail at Jdimandja@spelman.edu.

Continuation Funding for Biology Department

Dr. Michael McGinnis, chair of the Biology Department, has received continuation funding for the project entitled "Institutional Research and Academic Career Development" in the amount of \$68,867.

This funding is part of an award from Emory University under a parent grant from the National Institutes of Health. Total funding awarded to date over four years is \$258,070.

Former CB²R Director Receives ACE Fellowship



Dr. Pamela Gunter-Smith

The American Council on Education has awarded Dr. Pamela Gunter-Smith, Porter professor of physiology, an ACE fellowship for 2003-04. The ACE Fellows Program is the nation's premier higher education leadership development program that prepares senior leaders to serve American colleges and universities. Fellows spend a semester or academic year on another campus, working directly with presidents and other senior leaders, observing firsthand how the institution and its leaders address strategic planning, resource allocation, development, policy, and other issues and challenges. Fellows observe and participate in key meetings and events, and take on special projects while under the mentorship of a team of experienced administrators. The program also includes participation in national seminars, visits to other campuses, attendance at national meetings, and contact with a national network of higher education leaders. Dr. Gunter-Smith will spend her fellowship at the University of Miami under the leadership of President Donna Shalala. Her project is "Learning Environments and Outcomes Assessment."

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Meet the Staff

Employee: Syreeta Nicole Skelton, MPA

Title: Program Evaluation Coordinator

Hire Date: July 7, 2003

Office Location: Science Center #315

Office Telephone: (404) 270-5787

Email: Sskelton@spelman.edu

Syreeta Skelton



This past July, the Center for Biomedical and Behavioral Research hired me as its program evaluation coordinator. Since coming on board as a new member of the CB2R staff, I have worked internally to develop systems that coordinate the collection of programmatic data to measure the Center's performance.

As the program evaluation coordinator, my main goal is to determine the extent to which the overriding goals and specific objectives of the Center are being achieved. During my tenure with the CB2R at Spelman, I will utilize a user-oriented system of evaluation that strives to engage the Center's participating faculty, staff and scholars in the evaluation process for proactive program capacity building and development. I believe that a user-oriented evaluation approach will work well with this faculty driven program to reinforce its user-focused design and customer service orientation.

Your input, feedback and participation will be essential to effectively determine the changing needs of the CB2R as well as its successes. I look forward to working with you in the near future and welcome you to contact me at Sskelton@spelman.edu or any questions, concerns or comments.

Denise Willis, Post Grants Award Administrator will be featured in the next Meet the Staff.

D E C E M B E R 2 0 0 3	
4	2nd ANNUAL VENDOR SHOW 11 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. Science Center Atrium
10	GRANTMANSHIP WORKSHOP Dr. Stephen Daniel Mercy University
11	ONE ON ONE GRANTS CRITIQUES Dr. Stephen Daniel Mercy University
12	ONE ON ONE GRANTS CRITIQUES Dr. Stephen Daniel Mercy University
22	SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR WINTER BREAK THROUGH JAN. 02, 2004.

Are you expecting packages or other deliveries during the holiday break? If so, please call Shipping and Receiving to make arrangements for your deliveries. Please make sure to order all tanks by December 15, 2003 for delivery before December 19, 2003. Most packages will be picked up from the mail center. Make the call today to Kimberly Wardlaw at extension 6035 or 5788.

Contact a Staff Member:

Dr. Mark Maloney, Program Director
mmaloney@spelman.edu: ext. 5719
Directs the CB2R, ensures the integrity of the existing program.

LaShaun Collier, Program Manager
lcollier@spelman.edu: ext. 5783
Responsible for daily operations of the CB2R program and administrative staff.

Brenda Harrison, Sr. Admin. Assistant
bharrison@spelman.edu: ext. 5781
Contact for comprehensive clerical and administrative needs.

Janice Tittle Manuel, Lab Manager
jtittle@spelman.edu: ext. 5782
Oversees the effective functioning of the laboratories and lab procurement.

Jane Chu, Core Lab Technician
jchu@spelman.edu: ext. 5785
Core Lab Administration, assistance with experimentation.

Kim Wardlaw, Shipping and Receiving Agent
kwardlaw@spelman.edu, ext. 6035, 5788
Handles the shipping and receiving functions of the program.

Syreeta Skelton, Program Evaluation Coor.
skelton@spelman.edu: ext. 5787
Responsible for effective evaluation of the project.

Denise Willis, Post Grants Award Administrator
dwillis@spelman.edu: ext. 5895
Handles post grant award process and provides assistance with awarded grants.