

BIORHYTHMS



December, 2007
Volume 2 : Issue 4

New Stuff

Interested in the SEPC or what we do?? Do you have suggestions or comments for us? Come sit in on one of our meetings the first Monday of every month (12/3). We will be meeting in room 224B, one of the private dining areas on the second level of the dining hall at noon-so just swipe your p-card and come on up! The more the merrier!

Are you interested in studying Biology off campus? If you haven't already seen the new study abroad board in the BioCommons, check it out!

Upcoming Events

The Friday seminars for this semester are over, but keep an eye out for a great lineup for next semester.

Please come to our next study break on Wednesday, Dec. 5th at 8PM in the second floor elbow. We will be joining forces with the BioChem SEPC and will be making smores and enjoying warm drinks. Come get toasty!

Faculty Insider

Hello everyone! This insider is being brought to you by me, Sue Kolbe, one of five people on staff in the Biology Department at Grinnell College.

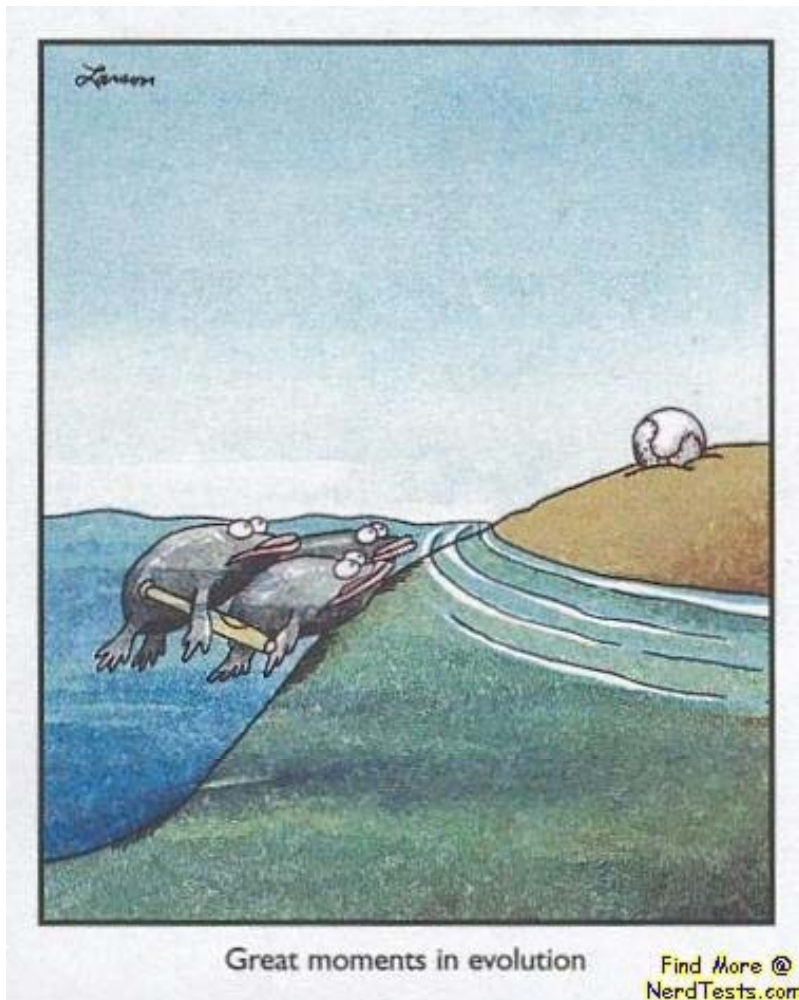
The inside scoop on my job:

In the campus directory it says Laboratory Assistant under my name, so that is what I have been trying very hard to be for the last 15 years. Sometimes I assist professors in the lab and other times I assist students. Usually I am having fun. I remember going through cupboards in labs on my first day at work and seeing a bucket labeled PIGS. "Right!" I told myself, "like there would be pigs in a bucket..." Guess what! As a lab assistant you never know when you will be deployed to drive to a meat locker in the next town to obtain a beef heart with all the vessels still attached or sent to a remote field to grab a couple of ears of corn with silk on top. I've found myself making what was essentially caterpillar soup. There have been shipments of 300 crayfish and boxes of giant hissing cockroaches to unload and contend with. More frogs than I can count have passed through my hands and been set before eager (and a few not so eager) students. Every week brings a new set of labs and every semester brings a new set of courses. Each course brings its own unique blend of people, topic, location and study and through all of this I get to work with old friends while constantly meeting new ones. I have no complaints.

The inside scoop about me:

Iowa has been home to me for close to 50 years now and I plan to stick around for a while longer. I probably wouldn't survive long in a city, but I haven't tried so who knows! I am married to a nice guy named Kevin Kolbe. We have two daughters. Emily, 22, is a Grinnell College alum. She graduated last spring with a history major and is doing a two year fellowship in Colorado Springs with the USGA. She doesn't know much about golf, but loves her job which is implementing grants for children's sports programs. Liz, 21, is a senior at Colorado College and is an Environmental Science major. Her thermostat is set at 55. We hope she comes up with a better way to save the planet or we won't be visiting her much this winter. Everyone in our family plays basketball but me. I collect antiques. Mostly funky lamps and ugly chairs but recently (last November) we bought, fixed up, and moved into an old farmhouse just outside of town. It needed more than lamps and chairs to make it livable but it is home now and we love it. Oh yes! We also have a cat named Bonnie who came as a bonus with our kitchen sink so beware of what you buy on e-bay! With that bit of wisdom I will let you go. My office is right across from the Bio Commons and you are welcome to stop by anytime for jelly beans and a chat!

Biology Comic of the Month



Random Fact of the Month

An average adult human has skin weighing about 3 kilograms in total.

From: <http://www.sciensational.com/>

Keep an eye out for future issues of BioRhythms! If you have any questions, please feel free to ask!

We can be contacted at [biosepc].

Your friendly BioSEPC,

Marci Kirchberg '09
Zach Newman '08
Courtney Smith '09
Ali Titiz '08
Caroline Townsend '09
Nick Vitko '08
Zach Wegermann '08
Hannah Yourd '09