

# THE SCOPE

A publication of the Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology

## Inside this Issue

- 1 President's Report
- 2 Spring Meeting Information
- 3 Hotels
- 3 Directions
- 3 Thomas Whittam Obituary
- 4 Student Chapters
- 4 James Jay Obituary
- 5 Fall Meeting Preview
- 5 Finance Report
- 5 Corporate Partners
- 6 Officers and Board

## President's Report

Mike Ryan

The Spring 2009 meeting will be held Friday - Saturday March 27-28 at Delta Community College. Kris Baumgarten and Audra Swarthout of Delta have taken the lead in organizing this meeting whose topic that promises to be both interesting and timely: **The One Health Initiative: The Interrelationship between Humans, Animals, and Pathogens.**

Dr. Kimberly Signs of the Michigan Department of Community Health will deliver the Friday evening talk, **"Zoonotic Diseases: The Convergence of Animal and Human Health"**. Kimberly Signs, DVM, is a zoonotic disease epidemiologist in the Division of Communicable Disease at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). (<http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases>)

On Saturday, Laura Kramer, Ph.D. will present a talk entitled **"The Global Emergence of Mosquito-borne Viruses"**. Dr. Kramer, an ASM Branch Lecturer, is a Research Scientist at the Wadsworth Center,

Zoonotic Disease and Clinical Virology, New York State Department of Health. She is also an Associate Professor of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Immunology and Infectious Disease, School of Public Health, University of Albany, State University of New York. Dr. Kramer's research interest as part of the Arbovirus Laboratories, focuses on studies examining the interaction of mosquito and tick-borne arboviruses, arthropod vectors, and vertebrate hosts, and how this interaction impacts the transmission cycle of the pathogen. The research program includes studies with alpha- and flavi- viruses, examining intrinsic (genetic) and extrinsic (temperature, dose, time after infection) factors affecting vectorial capacity. Studies also include molecular epidemiologic studies of West Nile virus; the development of new assays for arboviruses in mosquito pools and vertebrate tissues; and mosquito genetics.

<http://www.wadsworth.org/resnres/bios/kramer.htm>

The third speaker will be Dr. Julie Funk, who will present her talk, **"Foodborne Zoonoses: Control on the farm"**. Dr. Funk is the Program Director for the Master

Continued on Page 3

# The One Health Initiative: The Interrelationship between Humans, Animals, and Pathogens

*March 27-28, 2009, Delta College*

## Friday, March 27

- 5:30 - 6:30 pm **Plenary Speaker 1** F-013  
**Dr. Kimberly Signs, DVM** ([website](#))  
 Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist  
 Communicable Disease Division  
 Michigan Department of Community Health  
*"Zoonotic Diseases: The Convergence of Animal and Human Health"*
- 6:30 - 7:30 pm Mixer Commons
- 7:45 - 9:45 pm MI-ASM Board Dinner Bay Valley

## Saturday, March 28

- 7:45 – 8:50 am Breakfast and Registration Founders Hall
- 8:50 – 9:00 am Introduction Lecture Theater
- 9:00 – 10:00 am **Plenary Speaker 2** Lecture Theater  
**Dr. Laura Kramer** ([website](#))  
 ASM Branch Lectureship  
 Wadsworth Center  
 New York State Department of Health  
*"The Global Emergence of Mosquito-borne Viruses"*
- 10:00 – 11:30 am Poster/vendor viewing G-wing  
 Coffee break
- 11:30 - 12:30 pm **Student Speakers 1-4** Lecture Theater
- 12:40 – 1:40 pm Lunch and Business meeting Commons
- 1:45 – 2:45 pm **Plenary Speaker 3** Lecture Theater  
**Dr. Julie Funk, DVM, MS, PhD** ([website](#))  
 Program Director  
 Master of Science in Food Safety Program  
*"Foodborne Zoonoses: Control on the farm"*

*Continued from Page 1*

of Science in Food Safety Program at Michigan State University and an Associate Professor of pre-harvest food safety in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine. She received her DVM from Michigan State University after which she spent two years as an associate in a predominantly swine practice in Wolcott, Indiana. She has completed a Residency/Masters Program at the University of Illinois in Population Medicine and a PhD from North Carolina State University in Comparative Biomedical Sciences that had an epidemiology focus. Prior to joining Michigan State University, she was an Associate Professor of food safety epidemiology in the Department of Veterinary Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, The Ohio State University. Dr. Funk's research interests include the pre-harvest epidemiology of foodborne pathogens in food animals as well as antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance in food animal populations. (<http://www.online.foodsafety.msu.edu/>)

In addition to the meeting's poster session, we will continue student research presentations that were a great success when introduced at last spring's meeting. A wide variety of vendors will be present as will be

## Hotels

Rooms for Friday night have been reserved at the Bay Valley Resort for \$67.00/night. <http://www.bayvalley.com/>

Mention that you are connected with the Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology and to get that rate. The cutoff date for this block of rooms is Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

Other hotels convenient to the meeting venue can be found on our website (<http://www.mi-asm.org/Meetings/spring09meeting/hotels.htm>).

**Directions** to Delta College, the Bay Valley Resort and parking for the meeting can be found on our website.

<http://www.mi-asm.org/Meetings/spring09meeting/directions.htm>

Cheryl Aslakson, Ph.D. Chair, Exam Development Committee of the American Board of Medical Laboratory Immunology, ASM to discuss employment opportunities in clinical microbiology and immunology.

This promises to be yet another outstanding meeting; please plan to attend, register early and consider bringing others with you! Your Board believes that the MI-ASM is one of the most active state branches in the country but to remain strong we need your help...as a professional or a student at any level... we encourage you to be involved and share your ideas!! Please take time to explore the MI-ASM web site (<http://www.miasm.org>) for additional meeting information, student chapter updates, position announcements and links to

additional sites.... Speaking of interesting web sites, try the HealthMap Global Disease Alert, it's both informative and current! (<http://www.healthmap.org>)

## Thomas S. Whittam



Thomas S. Whittam, 54, died December 5, 2008 at his daughter's home in Columbus< Ohio after nearly a two-year battle with brain cancer. He was born March 12, 1954 in Newton, Pennsylvania.

A 1976 graduate from Franklin and Marshall College, he went on to earn his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona and was currently employed as a Hannah professor at Michigan State University. He was mentor to countless undergraduate and graduate students and above all a life-long teacher.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Beth Whittam; three children, Benjamin, Elizabeth and Andrew; his mother, Helen Whittam; sister, Lynda Whittam; as well as other relatives and many friends.

An informal celebration of his life was held on Saturday, December 13, 2008. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to either: Greater Lansing Food Bank or American Brain Tumor Association (<http://www.abta.org/>).

Paine College in Augusta, GA. He taught at Southern University, and Wayne State University, where he retired after more than 30 years on the faculty. He also served as Adjunct Professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Professor Jay is survived by his wife of 49½ years, Patsie Jane Jay, three children: Mark Jay, Alicia Jay White, and Byron Jay and four grandchildren. He is also survived by three siblings, Gertrude Henley, Rev. Lewis W. Jay, Joseph Jay, two daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, a host of nieces and nephews, many students and dear friends. Dr. Jay has authored two books and co-authored 150 papers, chapters, and other publications. The publication, *Modern Food Microbiology*, is in its seventh revision. This publication has been translated into Spanish, Mandarin, Hindi, and Chinese.

Dr. Jay has been a Member of IAMFES since 1982. In 1995, he presented the Ivan Parkin Lecture at the Opening Session of the IAMFES 82nd Annual Meeting. He has served on the editorial board of *Journal of Food Protection* and is the former Associate Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Food Microbiology*. Dr. Jay is a Fellow of ASM, IFT, the American Public Health Association, and most recently, IAMFES. In recognition of his achievements in research and teaching and of his contributions to the quality and reputation of the graduate programs, he was the recipient of the 1992 Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award from Wayne State University, James Jay was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Funeral services will be held at the Levett & Sons Funeral Home at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday,

## James M. Jay

*Free Press*



PhD professor and author, died on October, 14, 2008 in Atlanta, GA after undergoing a hospital procedure. Professor Jay received his MS and PhD in Microbiology from the Ohio State University and his BS from

## Student Chapters

Check them out online. Most have links to their own websites. <http://www.mi-asm.org/Student%20Chapters/student.html>

- Central Michigan University
- Eastern Michigan University Microbiology Club
- Michigan State University Microbiology Club
- Michigan Technological University
- Tri-Cities Microbiology Club
- University of Michigan - Dearborn
- University of Michigan - Flint
- Wayne State University
- Western Michigan University

**\*\*\* Student Chapters, remember to apply for funding to help defray costs of attending meetings!**

October 18, 4347 Flat Shoals Parkway, Decatur, 404-241-5656.

## Fall Conference

*Susan Bagley*

The 2009 MI-ASM Fall Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, October 2 & 3 at Lake Superior State University\*.



Faculty and students from both Michigan Technological University and Northern Michigan University will assist with the meeting. While details are still being formulated, a working title of, "The Microbiology of Michigan's Great Lakes" is being used.

Students, please make sure your chapter applies for all funding available to help defray the cost of coming to the Fall meeting.

## Finance Report

*Alan Hudson*

We had a great meeting at Eastern Michigan University (Thanks Lynn, Daniel et al). We ended the meeting with \$1,070.14 to the good. This is largely due to the fact that Coy Laboratory Products supported our Breakfast (thank you!) and a

## Fall 2008 Awards

### Oral Presentations

Best Oral Presentation, Undergraduate  
Lauren Peterson, Michigan State University  
Best Oral Presentation, Graduate  
Kristi Whitehead, Michigan State University

### Poster Presentations

Best Poster Presentation, Undergraduate  
Kyle Flippo, Aquinas College  
Best Poster Presentation, Graduate  
Brett Hanson, Wayne State University

few other unexpected turn of events.

In January our CD matured and the \$6000 we had invested and interest will be reinvested in another 6 month CD. A second 6 month CD is planned to be purchased around April for \$5000. The plan is that we will have a CD maturing every 3 months which will allow us to use the interest for Branch activities if needed.

Approximately \$10,000 will be held in liquid assets at all times so that we'll have enough resources to meet any meeting or other needs without touching the CD monies.

Finally, our 501(c)3 status has been renewed for 5 more years.

## Election

We will be holding an election for MI-ASM President (Term: July 2010 – June 2011) during our Spring business meeting. If you would like to nominate yourself or anyone else for this position, please contact current president, Mike Ryan. [ryanm@ferris.edu](mailto:ryanm@ferris.edu)

## Corporate Partners

Corning  
Morton Publishing  
Whatman  
USA Scientific

**Elected Officers**

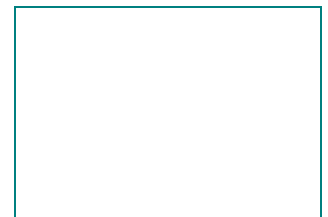
- PRESIDENT, Michael Ryan**, Ferris State University, [ryanm@ferris.edu](mailto:ryanm@ferris.edu)
- PRESIDENT- ELECT, Kris Baumgarten**, Delta College, [kabaumga@delta.edu](mailto:kabaumga@delta.edu)
- PAST PRESIDENT, Mary Ann Cardani**, UM-Flint (retired), [mcardani@comcast.net](mailto:mcardani@comcast.net)
- SECRETARY, Audra Swarthout**, Delta College, [audraswarthout@delta.edu](mailto:audraswarthout@delta.edu)
- TREASURER, Alan Hudson**, Wayne State University, [ahudson@med.wayne.edu](mailto:ahudson@med.wayne.edu)
- COUNCILOR, Silvia Rossbach**, Western Michigan University, [Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu](mailto:Silvia.Rossbach@wmich.edu)
- ALTERNATE COUNCILOR, Susan Bagley**, Michigan Technological University, [stbagley@mtu.edu](mailto:stbagley@mtu.edu)

**Appointed Officers**

- EDUCATIONAL CHAIR, Kris Baumgarten**, Delta College, [kabaumga@delta.edu](mailto:kabaumga@delta.edu)
- CORPORATE LIAISON, Michael A. Cohen**, [mbcman@charter.net](mailto:mbcman@charter.net)
- UNIVERSITY and COLLEGE LIAISON, Jeff L. Ram**, Wayne State University, [jeffram@med.wayne.edu](mailto:jeffram@med.wayne.edu)
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR, John Geiser**, Western Michigan University, [john.geiser@wmich.edu](mailto:john.geiser@wmich.edu)
- WEBSITE MAINTENANCE, John Geiser**, Western Michigan University, [john.geiser@wmich.edu](mailto:john.geiser@wmich.edu)
- ARCHIVE REPRESENTATIVE, Richard Bell**, Macomb Community College, [bellr@macomb.edu](mailto:bellr@macomb.edu)
- COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIAISON, Audra Swarthout**, Delta College, [audraswarthout@delta.edu](mailto:audraswarthout@delta.edu)

**Board Members-at-large**

- Mary Ann Cardani**, UM-Flint (retired), [mcardani@comcast.net](mailto:mcardani@comcast.net)
- Judith Whittum-Hudson**, Wayne State University, [jhudson@med.wayne.edu](mailto:jhudson@med.wayne.edu)
- Joan B. Rose**, Michigan State University, [rosejo@msu.edu](mailto:rosejo@msu.edu)
- Steve Gorsich**, Central Michigan University, [gorsi1sw@cmich.edu](mailto:gorsi1sw@cmich.edu)
- Carol Hurlburt**, Lansing Community College, [hurlbuc@lcc.edu](mailto:hurlbuc@lcc.edu)



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED