Monday, March 23, 2015

Chapter Information:
- Formed in 2005 from Undergraduate Biochemistry Club
- Currently have 55 members (primarily Biochemistry and Molecular/Cell Biology majors)
- Officers: Cheryl Cheah, Pres.; Melissa Harnois, V.Pres.; Dagoberto Robles, Treas.; Katie Burrell, Sec.; Ali Muller, Social.; Chris Chan, IT.

2015 BECUR Conference
- The first Biological, Engineering, and Chemical Undergraduate Research Conference in 2010 was developed and organized by a group of undergraduates at the University of Arizona in 2008
- BECUR was the first southwest regional Undergraduate Affiliate Network (UAN) meeting allowing undergraduates and Tucson-area high school students to present their findings on a professional level
- BECUR 2015 was held on February 21 with 54 undergraduate and high school presenters.
- There were also 2 undergraduate speakers, Taylor Szyzeka and Joseph Marshall.
  - The Keynote Speaker for the sixth annual BECUR Conference was Professor Olke Uhlenbeck. Dr. Olke Uhlenbeck has held the position of Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular and Cellular Biology at Northwestern University in Illinois, as well as Adjunct Professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Dr. Uhlenbeck’s engaging talk centered around protein synthesis and tRNA’s roles in translation. His work has earned him an induction into the National Academy of Science in 1993 and won him numerous awards including the Fritz-Lipmann Award by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 2013.
- UAN Travel Awards presented to: Kendra Liu, Kyle Lopez, Gloria Le, Corina MacIaaac

2014 BlastOff! Summer Camp
BlastOff! is an interactive, week-long science summer camp for middle school students. At the 2014 BlastOff! Camp, 19 middle school students immersed themselves in science at the most fundamental level in a fun-filled environment.
During the camp, participants are:
- Asked to think “scientifically”, utilizing problem solving skills and group cooperation to achieve a goal
- Able to engage in practical activities covering a broad range of scientific topics, from large scale “macro” biology to the small scale “micro” biology
- Able to communicate the new concepts that they have learned with parents as well as the faculty of the University of Arizona

Weekly Meetings and Social Activities
- Our UAN Chapter holds weekly meetings and monthly socials for our members, here are some of the highlights from this year!

Visiting Scholars Outreach Program
- The Visiting Scholars Program was established to encourage current high school students to look into the exciting world of science and research. The program is comprised of a group of enthusiastic and inspiring undergraduates from various scientific disciplines who are actively participating in research at the University of Arizona.

- In pairs of two, undergraduates visit science class rooms at local Tucson high schools to describe their research projects, share the lessons that they’ve learned from their college experience, and also answer any questions that the students may have.

- Tucson-area high schools visited to date:
  - Tucson High Magnet School
  - Ironwood Ridge High School
  - San Miguel High School
  - Flowing Wells High School
  - University High School

Since the 2013 Fall semester, Visiting Scholars was offered by the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for 1 unit accreditation. This program is led by Dr. James T. Hazzard and Dr. Andrew Hauszath.