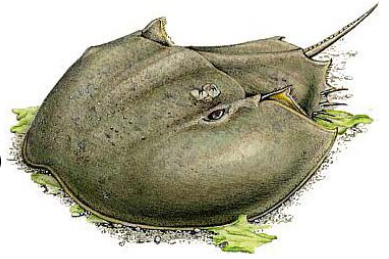


# LIMULUS



## NEWSLETTER

Department of Biological Sciences, Wagner College, Staten Island, NY

Volume 2007, Issue Fall-01

October, 2007

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

#### THE BIRTH OF THE LIMULUS

The Department of Biological Sciences at Wagner College has decided to publish a newsletter. At the last meeting of the department on Friday, October 12, the faculty members appointed me to be the first editor of this newsletter. I see this decision in first place as an honor, but I am aware that it is also a challenge

My first action was to give the newsletter a name: LIMULUS. Being a Zoologist who specializes in Invertebrate Physiology, I liked the idea to relate our newsletter to these fascinating living fossils that are so common at the shores of our island.

My next activity was to give the LIMULUS a first shape. You see it here in front of you. Consider this first Issue "Fall-01" in Volume 2007 as a meager trial version that intends to stimulate the input and active contribution of all of you.

This first issue of the LIMULUS is distributed only "internally" to "Biopeople" (Biology majors and minors, Microbiology majors and minors, Biopsychology majors, Microbiology graduate students, Biology faculty and Biology staff). It is planned to update the issues of volume 2007 on a monthly basis (Issue Fall-1, Fall-2, Fall 3, ...), although this depends also on your input. I hope you all will actively contribute.

The purpose of the monthly appearing LIMULUS is to distribute news, to keep students and others informed about biology-related activities and opportunities on campus and on our island in general. Announcements, initiatives, developments, profiles, faculty, student and staff awards, and creative works by departmental members will be covered. The newsletter could also have a classifieds section and keep contact with alumni.

The monthly updated issues will be published as pdf-files and sent out via e-mail. In the beginning of each semester a special edition of the LIMULUS will be produced from the monthly issues. The first of these issues will be published as "Volume 2007, Issue-Fall". This issue will be distributed by e-mail and a limited number of hard copies will be produced in order to make the newsletter visible also to non-Biology people on and off campus. It may be considered to distribute the newsletter to other departments of the college and to alumni of the college or at least our department. This special issue will

reflect news, activities and accomplishments of our department during the last semester.

If we get our website renewed, it is also planned to post the LIMULUS newsletters on the website of the department.

At first, I will try to cover the editing of the different sections on my own as well as I can, but I hope that the LIMULUS will rapidly become so successful that I cannot do this job alone anymore. Already now I welcome all "Biopeople" with interest and time to actively contribute. See the section "GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS" at the end of this issue. On a longer time scale I may consider to open Assistant Editor positions, giving students the chance to develop their writing skills and to expand their resumes.

So far my first ideas. I invite everybody to contribute and to supply suggestions and contributions that may improve the LIMULUS.

Dr. Horst Onken

The Editor

### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

This section may be used for a note from the Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This section may be used to publish selected messages sent to the editor by readers. These notes may be responses or comments to articles in former issues, but could also relate to news or events.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION COULD BE HERE!

### BIOLOGY STUDENT NEWS

A section for news about students of our department.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION COULD BE HERE!





## BIOLOGY STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

A section for news about staff and faculty members of our department.

### WELCOME PROFESSOR BEECHER



Since the beginning of the Fall semester 2007 the Department of Biological Sciences has a new Adjunct Assistant Professor. Professor Sierra D. Beecher earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2004 and her Master of Science in Environmental Science and Regional Planning in 2006 at Washington State University in Pullman, WA.

In this semester, Professor Beecher teaches Human Biology (BI 120) for non-science majors and Forms and Functions of Life (BI 217). In the spring semester 2008, Professor Beecher will teach classes that relate more closely to her interests in environmental sciences.

Welcome to the Department of Biological Sciences at Wagner College!

*Contributed by Dr. Onken*

### YOUR CONTRIBUTION COULD BE HERE!

## CURRICULUM NEWS

News about the curricula of the different programs of the department will be posted here.

## BIOLOGY CLUB NEWS

Until some years ago Wagner College had a very active Biology Club that organized interesting activities in a fun environment. At the last department meeting the faculty members of the Department of Biological Sciences have expressed their interest to support the re-establishment of a Biology Club. The Department appointed Dr. Onken to act as a catalyst in order to stimulate the formation of such a club and as its advisor from the Department of Biological Sciences.

The faculty members of the Department of Biological Sciences feel that in a time when the future of this planet appears to be at stake a Biology Club at Wagner College could have a pathbreaking role in the life and development of our college community as well as in the response of our community to the upcoming environmental challenges.

In future issues of the LIMULUS this section may be used for news or announcements of/by the Biology Club.

*Contributed by Dr. Onken*



HERE YOU COULD READ THE NEWS ABOUT THE BIOLOGY CLUB OR ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THIS CLUB!

## OPPORTUNITIES

This section of the newsletter is open to faculty or staff to announce opportunities for students in their research. Internships may be recommended here. Volunteers may be found through postings in this section.

### RESEARCH WITH MOSQUITOES AND CRABS

Dr. Onken offers research opportunities for students in the frame of a project in which he collaborates with scientists from Washington State University, the University of Idaho, and the University of Alberta (Edmonton, CA). The project is funded by the National Institute of Health and studies the physiology of the midgut of larval yellow fever mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti*).



Mosquitoes are vectors of a number of parasites, transmit devastating diseases like malaria, yellow fever and dengue, and are a major threat to the health of billions of people on our planet. The principle investigators of this project address larval mosquitoes, because it appears more straight forward to fight these vectors as long as they are confined in an aquatic habitat.

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In collaboration with colleagues from the US (Mt. Desert Island Biological Laboratories, Maine), Brazil (University of São Paulo in Ribeirão Preto, University of Paraná in Curitiba) and Canada (University of Manitoba in Winnipeg) Dr. Onken pursues research with Crustacea related to the osmoregulatory capacities and mechanisms of crabs. Together with Dr. Alauddin (Chemistry) and Professor Beecher (Biology), an ecophysiological study is in an early stage of planning.

Dr. Onken can offer research opportunities for 2-3 students. If interested contact Dr. Onken in his office (Megerle Science Hall Room 411), lab (Megerle Science Hall Room 406) or via e-mail ([horst.onken@wagner.edu](mailto:horst.onken@wagner.edu)) or phone 420-4211.

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*Contributed by Dr. Onken*

### THE OPPORTUNITIES YOU OFFER COULD BE HERE!



## EXPERIENCES

Post here your experiences of your research project, internship, field trip.

YOUR EXPERIENCES COULD BE POSTED HERE!

## PUBLICATIONS

This section serves to distribute the publications of department members (students, staff, faculty). If you want, supply the citation with a little comment about the meaning and/or importance of the work. All submissions will be verified.

Freire, C.A., **Onken H.**, McNamara, J.C. (2007, *in press*). A structure–function analysis of ion transport in crustacean gills and excretory organs. *Comp. Biochem. Physiol. A*, doi:10.1016/j.cbpa.2007.05.008.

This article reviews structure-function relationships in the major organs of crustaceans involved in osmotic and ionic regulation. For reprints contact Dr. Onken at horst.onken@wagner.edu.

YOUR PUBLICATION COULD BE POSTED HERE!

## PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

Future professional meetings could be announced here. Submissions and contributions to professional meetings, or reports about such events could also be posted in this section.

YOUR POSTING COULD BE HERE!

## ALUMNI

News from or about alumni of our department could be posted here!

YOUR STORY ABOUT OR MESSAGE FROM AN ALUMNI COULD BE READ HERE!

## RECOMMENDED

Recommend a website, a book or a restaurant that you think everybody at our department should have experienced.

YOUR RECOMMENDATION COULD BE HERE!



## PUZZLES, JOKES, QUOTES, CARTOONS

You know a special puzzle, joke or quote? Have a cartoon. Post it here.

YOUR JOKE COULD BE POSTED HERE!

## CLASSIFIED

You want to sell your PC, buy a used printer? Are you looking for company for your Friday night trip to Manhattan or for your weekend trip to the NJ shore? Post it here, if you need help to fix your car or if you are able to fix them.

WANT TO POST YOUR AD HERE?

## MISCELLANEOUS

If your contribution does not fit in any of the sections above, you can post it here.

**DO YOU KNOW A SECTION THAT I MISSED? LET ME KNOW WHICH AND MAKE A CONTRIBUTION!**

### GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Authors in all sections should keep in mind that not all readers are specialized in their area of interest. Keep your contribution on a level that everybody can understand.

Contributions may vary in length between about 50 and 500 words and must be submitted by e-mail to [horst.onken@wagner.edu](mailto:horst.onken@wagner.edu).

Photographs or other images that accompany an article are very welcome, but must be submitted as separate files (high quality jpg is the preferred file format) attached to the e-mail. Be aware that photographs/images may be minimized in size.

Indicate the section of the newsletter where you want your contribution to appear.

The deadline submission of a contribution is the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month. Contributions received later may or may not be considered.

**The editor reserves his right to edit your contribution or post an immediate response.**

**Editing may involve to publish contributions in other sections as indicated by the author.**

**All contributions will clearly indicate the author's identity.**

**All contributions are reviewed and publication may be refused by the editor.**