

Abilene Christian University
Goals and Faculty Evaluation
Year 2013-2014

Name: Jennifer Huddleston

Department: Biology

Date: 5/15/2013

Reflections Date: 4/27/2014

Teaching

Teaching Goals for the Year (completed by June 1 by faculty member)

1. Participate in the Honors Learning in Context Pilot Project in Fall 2013 as either an Honors Innovator or an Honors Fellow. This is to provide BIOL 101: Human Perspectives to a student studying in Dallas, TX, at City Square as part of the Honors Justice and Urban Studies Team. I have not yet determined what this course will look like for this student. If I choose to be an Honors Innovator, then the student will join the classes by video conferencing and four face-to-face meetings. If I choose to be an Honors Fellow, I will deliver a hybrid course using different methods such as video conferencing, online learning, and four face-to-face meetings.

2. BIOL 101: Human Perspectives is a course for non-biology majors. My goal for this course is always for them to be able to pick up a newspaper and really understand what the articles dealing with biology mean. The last time that I taught this course, I divided the students into groups according to their career goals. They gave 10-12 minute oral presentations to explain why biology was important to their career. This was good, except there were many people who wanted to be elementary teachers, psychologists, and speech therapists, so the presentations seemed to become a bit redundant. I plan to modify the topic so that it is no longer about their career paths and biology, but about current events in biology. An example from this past year could include the child being "cured" of HIV. I would expect them to talk about HIV as a virus, how it is transmitted, how it replicates, how the child was cured when other people have not, implications, etc. I will also encourage them to give their presentations at the ACU Speaking Center ahead of time (so that their presentations are more polished and professional) and I will also give them good direction on appropriate source selection and citation. Through this activity, I hope the students will gain an understanding of the biology happening all around them right now.

3. BIOL 357: Microbiology Lab. My goal is to add at least one molecular microbiology experiment to the curriculum. I have only been teaching basic microbiology skills up until this point, which is crucial. I would like to give the students a perspective about what happens in microbiology labs once those skills are mastered.

Reflections on Goals (completed by
March 1 by faculty member)

Chair's Evaluation of Goal Completion
(completed by April 1)

Not met	Met	Met with Distinction
X		
	X	
	X	

1. I participated in the Honors Learning in Context Pilot Project in Fall 2013 as an Honors Innovator. The student studying at City Square in Dallas joined in the BIOL 101 class by video conferencing and by meeting with me several

times face-to-face. He also gave his oral presentation to the class face-to-face. While the Honors College and the Innovators thought this was a good idea initially, it didn't work out as well as everyone had hoped and planned. The technology did not always work very well. The semester started out with City Square having poor internet connectivity. The student couldn't connect to the class on several occasions. He also felt awkward being on the screen and participating in class over the loud speaker. In-class activities done within groups did not work well because of technology issues and his shyness. Testing was also a problem. I did not feel like the exams were delivered to the student and back to me in a secure way. The class had to be moved out of Foster Science Building to the Core Classroom in the Library in order to accommodate the technology for the video conferencing. I could not move the heavy anatomy models from Foster to the Library for demonstration purposes. I felt like all of the students did not get the educational experience that they would have had the class been in its usual location – right across the hall from the anatomy lab with the models. All in all, my experience and those of other Innovators and Fellows showed that distance learning from ACU to City Square was much more difficult than originally anticipated. I will not teach any class in this way again. It is my understanding that the Honors College is not offering this option to students in the future.

2. BIOL 101: Human Perspectives current event group oral presentations. These presentations over current events in this semester were much better and more engaging than the presentations over biology and its relevance to careers. Some of the topics included how facebook affects the brain, gluten intolerance, and using stem cells to cure diabetes (lead by a diabetic student). These were particularly interesting to the students. However, some groups misunderstood the assignment and gave presentations over biology-related topics and not current events. Some of these topics were Down's syndrome and meningitis. These are important human diseases, but it wasn't what I was expecting. Next time I will give more clear guidelines about what constitutes a "current event". I will also work harder with the students on appropriate source selection and referencing. The students were still not giving the quality of work that I would like to see out of undergraduates.

3. Adding a molecular biology experiment in BIOL 357: Microbiology Lab. In Spring 2014, I added an extra credit assignment with a new experiment. Since this was the pilot experiment, I did not want it to negatively affect any student's grade. Most all of the students chose to participate. Typically, undergraduate microbiology students are given two bacterial strains and are told to use various biochemical tests that they have learned over the semester to figure out the identity of their unknowns. This is great. It teaches critical thinking and the students get to use what they have learned in lab and the students enjoy it. There is only one problem. In non-teaching labs, no one identifies unknown bacteria in this way anymore. For this new unknown experiment, I had the students isolate unknown bacteria from unique sources (toilet seats and mammalian mouths were off-limits for reasons of health safety). The groups isolated

Additional teaching activities not included in goals:

Not met	Met	Met with Distinction

1.-

2.-

Areas of Competence: Faculty are expected to develop competence in each of these areas (completed by April 1 by chair)

Student Satisfaction

Classroom Effectiveness

Syllabi

Integration of Faith/Learning

Class/Course Enhancement

Student Advising/Mentoring

[illegible]

Unsatisfactory Needs Improvement Effective Excellent

Teaching (Overall rating by chair)

		X	
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Comments: **Dr. Huddleston is very innovative in her teaching. Dr. Huddleston is presenting students with a real scientific environment in her classroom. Students are getting the chance to see that experiments often fail. This is the best teaching tool because there is so much pressure to succeed in life that most students forget that failure is the best teacher.**

Scholarship

Scholarship/Creativity Goals for the Year (completed by June 1 by faculty member)

1. Participate in an ACU Pursuit Grant that has been awarded to me for 2013-2014.
2. Mentor students in research – Kathryn Davis, Jacob Woods, Christina Lee, and Madeline Peterson
3. Direct students as they submit abstracts and prepare for presentations at the ACU Undergraduate Research Festival
4. Begin writing a manuscript over the role of the targeted genes in the natural transformation of *Aeromonas* species.

5. Co-author a presentation with Josh Brokaw to be given at The Evolution Conference 2013 on June 21-25, 2013, in Snowbird, Utah. Unfortunately, I will not be able to personally attend this conference due to a family commitment.

Reflections on Goals (completed by March 1 by faculty member)

Chair's Evaluation of Goal Completion (completed by April 1)

1. I did participate in the Pursuit Grant. Kathryn Davis and Christina Lee were paid with Pursuit stipends. The remaining funds were used for lab supplies and sequencing services.

Not met	Met	Met with Distinction
	X	
	X	
X		

2. I mentored Kathryn Davis, Jacob Woods, Christina Lee, and Madeline Peterson in research during the summer and the school year. I also mentored Sally Hays in the Spring semester. Jacob and Christina will be continuing research in my lab over the next year. The other three students are graduating.

3. All five of my research students presented at the ACU Undergraduate Research Festival. They wrote their own abstracts and prepared their own presentations. Kathryn Davis and Madeline Peterson gave a joint oral presentation over their combined research and the other three students presented posters. Christina Lee won one of three awards for Outstanding Poster Presentation in the STEM category.

4. Unfortunatley, I did not begin writing a manuscript over the role of the targeted genes in the natural transformation of *Aeromonas* species. The research has not progressed enough to be at the point of writing it up for publication.

5. I did co-author a presentation with Josh Brokaw to be given at The Evolution Conference 2013 on June 21-25, 2013, in Snowbird, Utah. I was not able to attend since I had a newborn at home.

Additional scholarly/creative activities not included in goals:

Not met	Met	Met with Distinction
	X	
	X	

1. I also took my five research students to New Braunfels, TX to present at the Texas Branch American Society for Microbiology spring meeting that is geared towards undergraduate researchers. They presented their posters. Kathryn and Madeline also presented their research as posters. They were judged and received feedback by microbiologists. They listened to the speakers in the special sessions and were excited when they could understand the science being presented. This was a very rich experience for them.

2. Jacob Woods also took his poster and presented it at the National Alpha Chi convention in Saint Louis, MO.

3. Although I was not able to start the intended *Aeromonas* manuscript because of lack of enough data at this time, I did write a review article for *Infection and Drug Resistance*. This was an invited review article entitled, "Horizontal gene transfer in human gastrointestinal tract: Potential spread of antibiotic resistance genes." It ties in closely with my research of natural transformation and horizontal gene transfer. The manuscript was accepted with minor revisions. I am waiting on a final decision from the editor. If accepted, it will be published in the summer of 2014.

3. Josh Brokaw also gave an oral presentation over the research that we worked on together at the Annual Meetings of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Austin, TX.

**Scholarship/Creativity
(Overall rating by chair)**

Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Effective	Excellent
		X	

Comments: This is a very impressive schedule of events that Dr. Huddleston has been to in her research effort. Moreover the research itself is very impressive.

Service

Service Goals for the Year (completed by June 1 by faculty member)

1. Serve on the Undergraduate Research Festival Committee (University/College)
2. Undergraduate Readmissions Committee (University/College)
3. Lead a STEM for Girls station in the Spring with Rebecca Hunter (Profession, Community/Church)
4. Adopt-a-college student through University Church of Christ—Katelyn Werner (Community/Church)
5. UCC Impressions committee – greeting people at the door four times per year (Community/Church)
6. Biology Research Club Sponsor (Department)
7. Biology Department Library Liason (Department)

Reflections on Goals (completed by March 1
by faculty member)

1. I did serve on the Undergraduate Research Festival Committee. I was on the judging subcommittee. I calculated point tallies from judging sheets all day and filled in for judges who did not show up. I judged oral presentations in Physics and Rhetorical Analysis! I also announced the winners at the URF dinner in the STEM category.

Not met	Met	Exceeded
	X	
	X	
	X	

2. I served on the Undergraduate Readmissions Committee and attended all meetings that did not conflict with my classes. This is an interesting committee in which we decide if students who have left the university because of academic probation or suspension can return to campus. It has been good for me to hear about students who are not as good and responsible as the ones I teach in the Biology department, and how ACU often accepts them back (with conditions).

3. Rebecca Hunter and I lead a STEM for Girls station in the Spring. It was entitled, "The Skeleton Inside You." We talked to the middle school girls about bones. We showed them the importance of calcium and strong bones and let them assemble bones into a skeleton. We also asked Tina Johnson and Lydia Brown to assist us so that the girls would be exposed to even more young women interested in science.

4. My husband and I adopt-a-college student, Katelyn Werner, through University Church of Christ. Sadly for us, she is graduating and is pursuing a Master's degree in Science professional writing at Texas A&M.

5. My family and I are active in the UCC Impressions committee – greeting people at the door four times per year. People who pass through the doors are particularly interested in our little boys.

6. I served as a Biology Research Club Sponsor, although I did not do much. (There is not much for a sponsor to do in this club.) I attended one of their movie nights.

7. I served as the Biology Department Library Liason and ordered books that other professors had requested. I am amazed at how many of the requested books the library was able to order for us with our budget.

Not met	Met	Exceeded

Additional service activities not included in goals:

	X	
	X	

1. My husband and I co-taught a series of Sunday morning Bible class lessons in the college class at UCC. The series was entitled, "Is the Church Anti-Science." We discussed human evolution and global stewardship. (Community/Church)

2.-

NOTE: Activities should reflect service in at least two of the following categories: Profession, University/College, Department, Community/Church.

Unsatisfactory Needs Improvement Effective Excellent

Service (Overall rating by chair)

		X	
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Comments: **Jennifer's contribution to service and the Abilene community and ACU is very significant.**

Summary Assessment by Department Chair

Written Comments:

1. Collegiality: **She is always a pleasure to work with.**
2. Progress toward tenure: **Proceeding well**
3. Progress toward promotion: **Proceeding well**

4. Constraints on performance: **None**

5. Comment on church membership: **She is member and teacher at University Church of Christ**

6. Other

Jennifer Huddleston
Faculty

4/29/2014
Date

Thomas E. Lee
Department Chair

28 April 2014
Date