



# Seminar in Interdisciplinary Biology & Biomedical Science (SiBBs)

BIO 502/503/CS 591/PHYC 581/ANTH 560/STAT 579  
W 1500 to 1730 h  
Spring 2008

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## General Information

### Instructors:

Dr. Felisa A. Smith, Associate Professor, Biology  
(fasmith@unm.edu)

Dr. James H. Brown, Distinguished Professor, Biology  
(jhbrown@unm.edu)

Program Coordinator (questions about travel and logistics): Ms.  
Shannon McCoy-Hayes (shannon@unm.edu)

Office Hours: Th 1330-1530 h or by arrangement, Room 192 Casteretter  
Hall

**Course Description.** It is becoming increasingly clear that solving fundamental problems in biology and biomedical sciences requires the input of new ideas, methodologies, and investigative strategies from other disciplines, in particular the physical sciences, engineering, and mathematics. Yet few biologists are equipped to do this. This course provides the opportunity in a small group setting to meet with and hear from a series of highly interdisciplinary scientists at a variety of stages involved in cutting-edge biological research. Students are expected to take a leadership role in suggesting, hosting and interacting with visiting scientists. Note that SiBBs is one in a series of courses sponsored by the *Program in Interdisciplinary Biological and Biomedical Sciences* (PiBBs); courses are open to any interested graduate student. Because content varies each semester, courses can be repeated for credit.

**Student role.** Students are expected to host one or more scientists during their visits. This consists of extending the initial invitation, posting one or more papers suggested by the speaker, arranging dates and working with our program coordinator to get the travel scheduled, setting up the meeting schedule and hosting the visitor at one or more

meals, introducing the speaker at the seminar and sending a thank you note after the visit. Please note that although expenses related to the visit are paid for by SiBBs, students must adhere to guidelines for meals and other expenses. These guidelines and examples of letters/schedules can be found on the PiBBs website (<http://pibbs.unm.edu/>) under the course section.

**Grading.** In addition to hosting a speaker, students are expected to meet with most speakers, read the posted papers pertaining to the week's topic and to participate in class discussions. Grades will be based entirely on participation in these activities.