



With a \$230,000 National Science Foundation grant, Biology Department Chairman David Sever uses the university's electron microscope to study the reproductive anatomy of reptiles.

PROGRAMS

Majors in the Biological Sciences can concentrate their studies on organismal and integrative biology, microbiology/molecular biology, and ecology/environmental/evolutionary biology. Through pre-professional programs, biology majors can also pursue careers in medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, optometry or pharmacy. Degrees in science education and horticulture are available. The department also offers a Master of Science degree that has both a thesis and non-thesis option.

The department is housed in two buildings, including a new \$12 million addition with state-of-art teaching and research laboratories, an animal care facility that meets National Institutes of Health codes for housing animals, and a 2,100-square-foot roof-top greenhouse.



FACULTY

The Department of Biological Sciences has been cited by an external review team as among the top such departments in Louisiana. Among its nationally recognized faculty are National Institutes of Health Research Fellows, a Fulbright Research Fellow, editors of national and international science journals, recipients of national research awards, recipients of teaching awards, and a recipient of a career research grant from the National Science Foundation. Faculty have averaged more than 45 publications annually in national and international science journals and have been awarded an annual average of more than \$3 million in research grants and contracts from a variety of federal and state funding agencies, including the National Science Foundation and the Environmental Protection Agency.

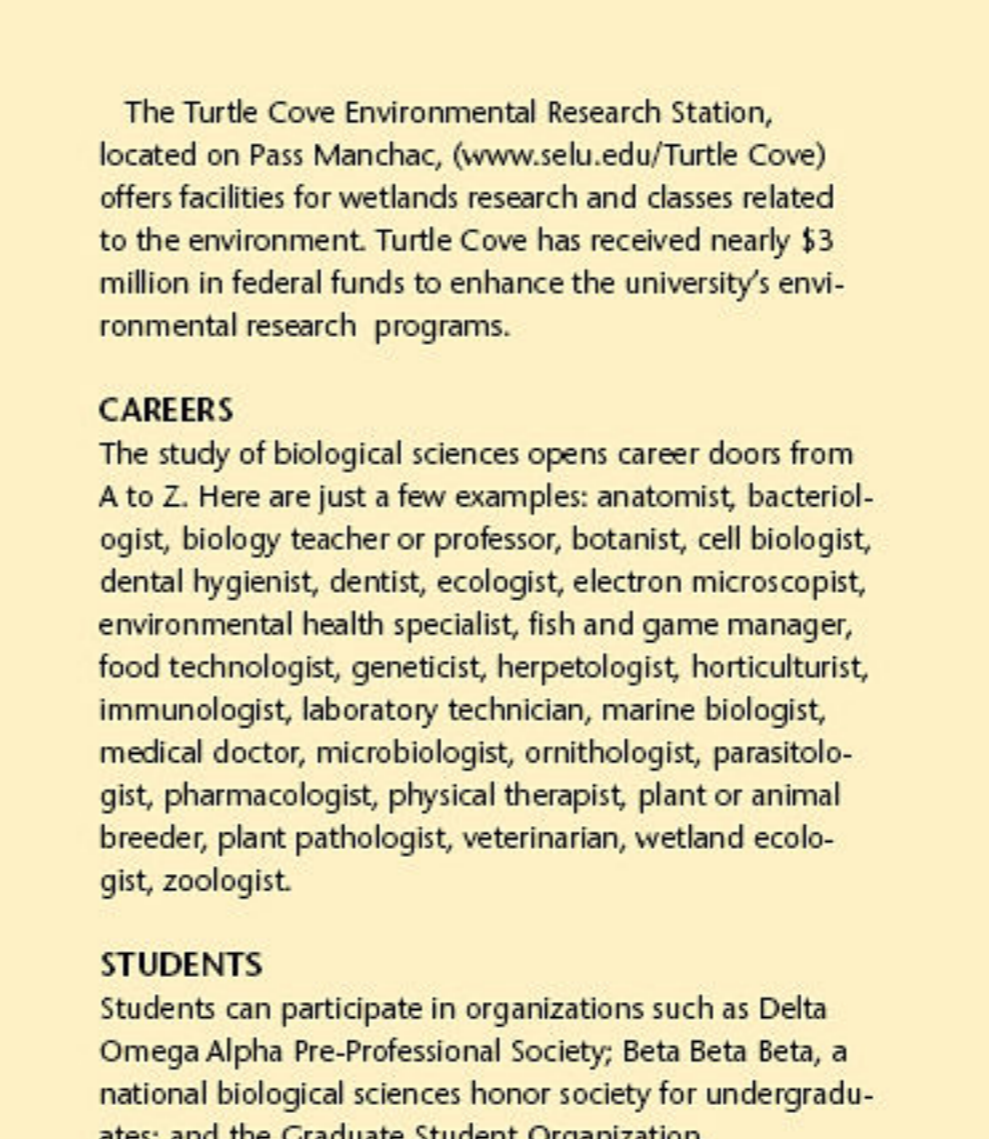
Students have the opportunity to work with faculty on research projects that include avian ecology, cell

biology, endocrinology, herpetology, ichthyology, microbiology, microbial ecology, molecular evolution, molecular genetics, molecular immunology, neurophysiology, parasitology, phylogenetics, physiological ecology, and wetland ecology.

FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

Students in the biological sciences have access to:

- more than \$4 million in teaching and research equipment
- comprehensive Electron Microscopy Center
- molecular biology laboratories
- mesocosm wetlands facility
- fully automated classrooms
- funding to support undergraduate research
- teaching/research greenhouse
- million-dollar endowed chair devoted to environmental studies



CREST Scholar Aine Johnson and biologist Gary Childers collect samples in the Maurepas Swamp.

The Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station, located on Pass Manchac, (www.selu.edu/TurtleCove) offers facilities for wetlands research and classes related to the environment. Turtle Cove has received nearly \$3 million in federal funds to enhance the university's environmental research programs.

CAREERS

The study of biological sciences opens career doors from A to Z. Here are just a few examples: anatomist, bacteriologist, biology teacher or professor, botanist, cell biologist, dental hygienist, dentist, ecologist, electron microscopist, environmental health specialist, fish and game manager, food technologist, geneticist, herpetologist, horticulturist, immunologist, laboratory technician, marine biologist, medical doctor, microbiologist, ornithologist, parasitologist, pharmacologist, physical therapist, plant or animal breeder, plant pathologist, veterinarian, wetland ecologist, zoologist.

STUDENTS

Students can participate in organizations such as Delta Omega Alpha Pre-Professional Society; Beta Beta Beta, a national biological sciences honor society for undergraduates; and the Graduate Student Organization.



GRADUATE FACULTY RESEARCH INTERESTS

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| Dr. Janice Bossart | Insect Evolutionary Ecology |
| Dr. Gary Childers | Environmental Microbiology |
| Dr. Brian Crother | Phylogenetic Systematics and Herpetology |
| Dr. William Font | Ecological Parasitology |
| Dr. Cliff Fontenot | Herpetology |
| Dr. Gary Howard | Environmental Microbiology |
| Dr. Rick Miller | Plant Evolutionary Biology |
| Dr. Nick Norton | Cell Biology |
| Dr. John O'Reilly | Neurophysiology |
| Dr. Kyle Piller | Ichthyology |
| Dr. David Sever | Herpetology and Reproductive Anatomy |
| Dr. Gary Shaffer | Wetlands Science and Statistical Ecology |
| Dr. Penny Shockett | Molecular and Developmental Immunology |
| Dr. Volker Stiller | Plant Ecophysiology |
| Dr. Roldan Valverde | Vertebrate Physiology |
| Dr. Erin Watson | Forensic Entomology |
| Dr. Mary White | Molecular Systematics and Evolution of Development |



Graduate students Lauren Smith & Diana Solis (Costa Rica) perform steroid and protein assays on freshwater sea turtle plasma in a Southeastern biology lab. Their work focuses on gaining greater understanding of the reproductive endocrinology of turtles.

BIOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENTS

As an international graduate student, Diana Solis feels very grateful to be studying in the United States:

"It's a completely different kind of education compared to that in my country," she says. "Southeastern's campus is beautiful and the Biology Department is well equipped to conduct cutting-edge research. At Southeastern, the professors treat graduate students as colleagues, while encouraging us to find our niche as scientists. The graduate classes are small, so you get a personalized education full of discussions and one-on-one interactions with professors and other graduate students."

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