

The St. Norbert College
Office of Faculty Development
invites you to attend

Spotlight On Scholarship

A Sabbatical Report

Throughout the year we will host a series of presentations to recognize professional achievement in scholarship and to celebrate the rich diversity and talents of our colleagues.

This Spotlight on Scholarship features

Russ Feirer
Associate Professor of Biology

“Studies on the Effects of Plant-Derived Compounds on Cancer Cells”

Over 500,000 people will die of cancer in the United States this year. Approximately one out of two men and one out of three women will develop cancer during their lifetimes. Work studying the basic biology of cancer cells has led to the development of new classes of anti-cancer drugs, with rational drug design being employed more frequently. In spite of this, over 60% of currently prescribed anti-cancer drugs originated as natural products isolated from plants, microbes or marine organisms (Cragg & Newman, 2006). Compounds obtained from plants that have recently shown promise as anticancer agents include resveratrol, present in grapes, peanuts and other plants. Resveratrol was first reported to act as a cancer preventative in mice in 1997. Those early reports were confirmed and more recently extended to many human cancer cell lines and mouse tumorigenesis models by several groups, including the research lab of Dr. Arthur Polans of the University of Wisconsin Medical School and Carbone Cancer Center. Russ was fortunate enough to have spent a sabbatical leave in the Polans lab, and will describe the work that was conducted there and continues here at SNC. The discussion will highlight the unexpected twists and turns encountered in a scientific career and the benefits of having a broad scientific background.



Friday, November 19, 2010
12:20 – 1:10 p.m.
Union Shield Room



The Office of Faculty Development will provide light refreshments.