

## *UNM Biology Department News (September 24, 2014):*

### ***Current Publications:***

*Sandy Oas, Anton Bryantsev, and Richard Cripps are being featured in the Journal of Cell Biology for their paper entitled “Arrest is a regulator of fiber-specific alternative splicing in the indirect flight muscles of Drosophila” released on-line September 22, 2014. The paper is accompanied by a commentary in the In Focus section of the journal and one of the paper’s images will be used for the cover. A link will soon be available on the Biology webpage to [the UNM Newsroom coverage of this publication](#).*

### ***New Grants:***

*Christopher Johnston (sole P.I.) was recently awarded \$1,422,000 for five years by The National Institutes of Health for his grant entitled “Cytoskeletal-mediated regulation of spindle orientation” to investigate the mechanisms that control the orientation of cell divisions within complex tissues during development and understand their role in human disease.*

### ***The Bemp Program:***

*The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP), a partnership between the UNM Department of Biology and Bosque School, received a \$60,000 grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to monitor the health of the river, ditches and ground water in the Albuquerque area for the next two years. BEMP interns (UNM students enrolled in Biol 408L/508L) along with K-12 students will collect field parameters and nutrients; BEMP staff will collect data on PCBs, *E. coli*, pesticides, and pharmaceuticals and personal care products using EPA-approved procedures. Data will be used to inform pueblos, irrigators, land and water managers, stakeholders, and the public about the health of the water. (This announcement was provided by Jennifer Schuetz, Science Coordinator for the BEMP program.)*