601 is a campus-wide, heavily subscribed graduate course that brings leading research scientists in the area of Molecular and Cellular Genetics to UK each spring to present lectures and seminars to our graduate students and faculty. Research & Graduate Studies, the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Agriculture have each provided general support for 601 each year for over fifteen years. Other agencies on campus are welcome to join in support of 601, for example, the Gertrude P. Ribble fund and the Tobacco & Health Research Institute have assisted in the past.

601 offers students with a truly unique opportunity to interact with world renowned scientists in intimate settings. The key and unique aspects of 601 include:

1) **601 is a graduate school wide course integral to the training of our students.** Graduate students from multiple departments (Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology, Anatomy and Neurobiology, Physiology, Botany, Plant Pathology, Agronomy, Tobacco & Health Research Institute, Pharmacy) attend 601 each year. Participation in 601 is one of unifying events for students in the biological sciences within the Graduate School.

2) **Students interact directly with world leading scientists in an intimate setting.** Each 601 visitor gives a classroom lecture in the area of their expertise and meets with students over lunch. These two settings foster interactions between our students and the visiting scientists that rarely occur during standard departmental seminars, where faculty often hog the visitor's time. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of these meetings, engaging the visitors in conversations on the science and sociology of their research career. The spirits of our students are often bolstered by these interactions (they often tell me "...he/she was really interested in MY research..." or "...he/she is so famous yet easy to talk to..."). Interactions like this lead to opportunities for postdoctoral research appointments, enhancing the quality of our placement of graduate students after they finish their PhD work.
3) Visiting scientists come away from these visits impressed with the research and graduate training at UK. The visitors meet with many faculty members on campus during their visit as part of 601. One of the most rewarding things about 601 is that our visitors are consistently impressed by the quality of our research and graduate programs. In this respect, 601 is valuable for educating leading scientists elsewhere on the quality of research and graduate education at UK.