

Star

cancer that is taking over my family member’s bodies?” Weaver said.

Originally, Weaver wanted to pursue the field of astronomy. Growing up in Marion, Weaver would ride her bike through town at night gazing at the stars. She was fascinated with their alignment in the sky, piquing her interest in the solar system and other galaxies.

After her sophomore year of high school, she attended an astronomy camp in Tucson, Ariz. She worked on a project involving the sombrero galaxy, and that singular experience developed within her an understanding of what it took to be a researcher.

Upon her graduation from Marion, she attended Arizona State University to study astronomy. However, she quickly realized that her true passion laid in the

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Dr. Leslie Weaver

field of molecular biology. After her freshman year, she transferred back to Indiana University to finish her undergraduate degree.

Weaver graduated with her Bachelor of Science in 2008 and was encouraged by fellow peers to complete her graduate studies at IU. She did so, graduating with her PhD in Molecular, Cel-



Dr. Leslie Weaver

lular, and Developmental biology in 2014.

On the heels of that accomplishment, Weaver completed her post-doctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins University. Now, she has returned to IU to begin the next step of her journey as a researcher and a professor.

At the onset of her tenure at IU, Weaver will conduct

research in several different areas, including research to determine how organs in the human body work in tangent in order to discover new theories and techniques for potential therapy.

“I would classify myself as a developmental biologist,” Weaver said. “What my lab will study is how organs communicate with each other. And then, what do they talk about? I use the fruit fly as a model. I look at how organs talk to the ovary, and then, how the ovary responds.

“We don’t live in a vacuum. We are exposed to toxins and temperatures and changes in our environment, and that alters how your organs receive those inputs. Then, they communicate to each other so that they can regulate your whole body.”

Additionally, Weaver

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will conduct research to discover how the immune system coordinates with reproduction.

Along with her array of impressive accomplishments and promising research, Weaver is an active mentor, working to recruit, retain, and support underrepresented minorities in STEM-related fields.

“It made me realize that there aren’t a lot of people who look like me in these spaces, and so, it was really important to try and get more black and brown faces in the STEM fields,” Weaver said. “If we have a better representation of the United States as a whole in these spaces, then we may have better science policies for the general public.”

Weaver is committed to

pursuing breakthroughs in the field of developmental biology alongside the important work of promoting STEM fields for people of color.

“It’s a very humbling position to be in,” Weaver said. “I just always believed in doing what I was supposed to do. For me, I just feel as though I have done what I was supposed to do for my research track. It’s very humbling, and I’m appreciative of the acknowledgement. For me, I am just living my life. I never sought out to gain recognition. I’m just very humbled to be a part of the Hall of Distinction with all of these other people who have done incredible stuff with their life.”

Council — continued from Page 1

had been given and how the money had been spent.

City Attorney Tom Hunt, who was one of the four under subpoena, said he would not disclose the identities of those who had contributed because they had been assured anonymity. He also said he could not disclose the amount of the donations “because we never handled that money. It was sent directly from the donors to the Ice Miller law firm in Indianapolis.”

Several council members expressed concern about additional legal expenses that may come if the City prevails in its appeal of the lawsuit to the Indiana Supreme Court.

last year when he found that the statute of limitations for filing the action had expired. He was sustained by the Indiana Court of Appeals. Thus, the final appeal to the state Supreme Court was sought.

“Was there a spending cap put in place on this?” council President Cain asked. The mayor told her that could not be done “because justice does not always come cheap. If the Supreme Court says ‘no,’ then it’s over and done.”

Left untouched through the two-and-a-half-hour meeting were all of the specific questions relating to accounts from which they money had been taken to pay the mounting costs. Martin Harker, newly hired lawyer for the council, had drafted questions using precise legal and accounting descriptions of information being sought.

There was little indication at the conclusion of the meeting that the council members are focused on pursuing that information.

Most seemed more intent on developing an improved relationship between the council and the mayor’s office.

Councilman Steve Henderson told Alumbaugh that “I hope this has brought an olive branch that we needed.”

Even Council President Cain, who has been most aggressive in pursuit of in-

formation from the mayor’s office, told Alumbaugh “we’re not picking on you. We’re just asking the hard questions.”

It was she who entertained the motion three weeks ago to take legal action – issuance of the subpoenas – to compel appearances by Alumbaugh, Hunt, Chief of Staff Mike Flynn and Controller Julie Flores.

“All you have to do is pick up the phone and call us,” Hunt told the council. “You don’t have to have the lawyer write a scorched earth letter such as I received from Mr. Harker at your direction on July 17.”

Most of the council members used their allotted questioning time to advance their own issues and agendas or deliver conciliatory comments to the mayor.

Comments without questions were delivered by Council members Brian Cowgill, Robin Fouce, Jim Brunner, Steve Henderson and Don Batchelor.

Council member Gary Fordyce yielded his time and made neither question nor comment.

Brad Luzadder, vice-president of the council, seemed to want to pursue questioning, but shifted to conciliatory comments.

The next encounter between council and administration will be in a series of budget planning and work sessions scheduled for later this month.

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