

Dr. Rebecca Bullard-Dillard conducts Genomic Research



In 2002, Dr. Rebecca Bullard-Dillard, Chair of the department of biology and director of research development, served as co-investigator of a South Carolina Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network Contract (SC-BRIN) grant to increase genomic research development at Claflin University. The long term goal was to establish a genomics and DNA sequencing laboratory at Claflin University.

Under SC-BRIN, Dr. Bullard-Dillard and two Claflin students, Chantal Braithwaite and Hermes Exeter, conducted research in Dr. Mike Dewey's laboratory at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Dewey, professor of biology and director of the *Peromyscus* stock center, has the only *Peromyscus* stock (white footed deer mouse) center in the nation.

Ms. Braithwaite, a sophomore, is a Biotechnology major while Ms. Exeter, also a sophomore, is biology major. "Their research included mapping the genetic sequence of the white-footed deer mouse, a commonly used species in lab experiments with Lyme disease," Dr. Bullard-Dillard said.

Dr. Bullard-Dillard believes that the genomics skills practiced by the students over the summer will be an asset to the developing genomics laboratory at Claflin University. The research will continue at Claflin in the fully operational Genomics and Sequencing facility.