Dissecting sharks and birds may sound like messy tasks, but to Jensen, the newest addition to the Biology Department, it is part of a life-long passion for a field predominantly full of males.

Jensen spent the past eight years as a faculty member at a community college in Arizona before she began teaching BYU this semester. “I anticipated the switch to a university setting at some point in the future, but I was waiting for my kids to be a little bit older.” Jensen said in an e-mail. “But, the Lord had other plans, so here I am. And, it is the best thing that has ever happened to me.”

Jensen teaches biology for freshmen and wishes this Gilcrease requirement, fulfilled through the College of Life Sciences, provided students the opportunity to learn hands-on about the world around us.

The goal for biology students is “to gain exposure to real-life issues — find a shoebox she kept in her bed-

room. The world around her always seemed intriguing, captivating and inspiring of a ‘clever creator,’ Jensen said.

Jensen tries to help her students — ages 2, 5 and 7 — feel inspired by the world around them by encouraging the curiosity of her sons. A bird recently flew into her window and, so she seized the opportunity and dissected the bird with her sons. She has also dissected a shark and egg with their father, the Biology Department’s faculty spouse.

The research that goes behind such teaching is focused on how the first-year biology education is special. Jensen said that her research will search for infor-

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Campbell, chair of the Biology Department.

Despite an obvious love of biology, Jensen’s transition into the professional world has not always been as easy as raising baby birds to health. Being a woman in the biology field, predominantly occupied by men, au-

tomatically throws her into the minority, she said. “I have come to realize … that as a woman, I have a unique perspective and set of skills to offer that seems, for the most part, to be appreci-

ated by my male colleagues.” Jensen said. She hopes to be an example to all women to fulfill their aca-

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Professor brings biology class to life

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