

Biology Department Alumni News

Volume 33

Fall 2009 Edition

Fall 2009 News

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Progress on the New Science Hall Addition

The new 65,000 square foot addition to Science Hall is progressing. The renovation of the lecture halls in Science Hall (what used to be S200 A and B) has been completed. The old greenhouses were razed and are being replaced by a new, state-of-the-art greenhouse. The new addition is scheduled to be completed in May, 2010. At that point, we will move out of the 'old' Science Hall, which will be completely renovated. That project should be completed in 2011. The pictures on the right show stages of the completion of the addition. Photo Credits — J.W. Lee



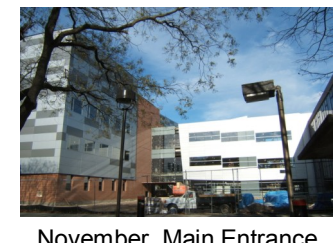
April 2009



June 2009



November 2009



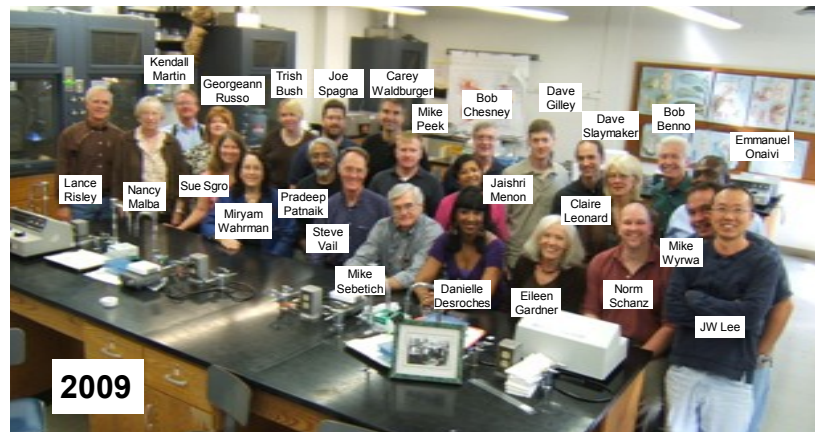
November, Main Entrance

Biology Faculty—Then and Now



1994

Front row (left to right): Edith Wallace, John Rosengren, Miryam Wahrman, Don Levine, Steve Vail, Danielle Desroches, Norm Schanz, Eileen Gardner
Middle row: Carol Wilderson, Sue Sgro, Gail Neufeld Horner, Kathy Hu, Marty Hahn, Al Isaacson, Jaishri Menon
Back Row: Lance Risley, Jean Werth, Sharon Hanks, Mike Sebetich, Bob Chesney, Dave Weisbrot, Jane Voos, Neil Grant, Ching Hu, Bob Benno



2009

Biology Majors' Awards

At our award ceremony on May 14, 2009, 6 students were inducted into Beta Beta Beta, the Biology honor society. Heike Droegmoeller received the Outstanding Senior Award. The C. Kent Warner award went to James VanGurp, Jr. The undergraduate research award went to Annazanita Yap. The Leona Emrich Award was given to Jennifer Borgia and the Monroe Spivak Award went to Marilyn Kitchell. Ennid Gonzalez received the PASS/

MAPS Award for Academic Excellence. We also gave an award to the student who did best overall on our assessment exam, Daniel Oquendo.

The Biology department also gives scholarships every year, funded by our C. Kent Warner Foundation. The awards for 2009-2010 went to Brian Harris, Matthew Snyder, John Urban, Edgar Valdivia and Yazan Vvich



Dr. Chesney with Beta Beta Beta Recipients Annabelle Beltran, Joyce Lau, Adam Long and John Urban May 14, 2009

Biology Majors' Research

The Biology majors at WPU have been busy over the past year. In the 2008-2009 year 15 students were supported by MAPS/PASS to conduct research and complete internships off campus. One student, John Urban, was sent by the department to Cambridge University in England to conduct research on African sleeping sickness.

Dr. Menon organized our third annual Undergraduate Research Day in April 2009. It was attended by 115 registrants (82 students and 33 professors) from 11 different institutions repre-

senting four states. Thirty two posters were presented.

It was a great experience for all the students involved and was also excellent for the reputation of the department and university. Two of our students won first prize in their categories, Brittany Knoll in Physiology & Behavior and John Urban for Genetics. They are eligible to receive travel money to go to the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Meetings next year in California.

On April 17, 2010 we will host the Fourth Annual Undergraduate Research Day.



2009 Winners of the Undergraduate Research Symposium Awards with Associate Dean Fuller-Stanley and Dean DeYoung



Some of our May 2009 Biology graduates at the 2009 Biology Year-End Ceremony

ISSBB Scholarships

24 Biology and Biotechnology majors received Success in Biology and Biotechnology) scholarships this year, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation. These scholarships are

meant to defray the cost of education for Science, Engineering and Math majors who are going into research or teaching careers, and can cover all expenses.

2009-2010 ISSBB Scholars



Biology Faculty - What we're doing now

Our faculty have been very productive over the past year, with 23 articles in refereed journals, 3 in review, 13 non-refereed publications, 2 book chapters, and 31 presentations at regional, national and international meetings. The faculty have also been very active in applying for outside funding, with over \$1,500,000 in active grants, and several pending.

Dr. Benno — is playing piano for the band "Moment's Notice" and is working with students studying autism using a mouse model.

Dr. Chesney—is still Graduate Coordinator and served as acting chair of the department this summer. His daughter received her PhD in Psychology this year.

Dr. Desroches—is the Academic Coordinator of the Garden-State Louis Stoke Alliance for Minority Participation in the Science, Northern Cluster (GS-LSAMP), and the PASS-MAPS coordinator. She also is the editor of "WPUNJ-Celebrating Student Research and Internships Activities".

Dr. Gardner — traveled to Brazil over the summer but is back to work above the equator now. She's still the Director for the ISSBB Scholarship

grant and is also directing the Noyce Scholarship grant.

Dr. Gilley - Dr. Gilley and his wife have welcomed the addition of a new daughter, Esme Sophie, born 11/11/09.

Dr. Leonard—won the prestigious WPUNJ "Award for Excellence in Teaching" at the annual Faculty Recognition Luncheon on May 19, 2009.

Dr. Menon— is continuing her research on amphibian metamorphosis and is planning our fourth annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Dr. Risley— is continuing his FAA funded research on bats near the Atlantic City airport, and is still the chair of the Biology department,

Dr. Patnaik— was promoted to full professor this year.

Dr. Sebetich— with Dr. Pardi was awarded a grant from USEPA to investigate the major watershed tributary to Greenwood Lake. They spent the spring and summer biologically and chemically monitoring the water quality of Belcher Creek and its tributaries. The overall objective was to assess the ecological effect of surface stream in-

flow on Greenwood Lake. Dr. Sebetich also went on a safari to South Africa last summer (see photo).

Dr. Slaymaker—Last summer, with two undergraduates, completed screening PCR primers for genetic diversity studies of American Beachgrass. They are now selecting the final primers. This project is a collaboration with Dr. Peek. The two labs will sample five NJ beachgrass populations to calculate the genotypic diversity and to determine if restored NJ beachgrass populations are increasing in diversity. The knowledge can be used to improve ecosystem management practices.

Dr. Spagna— is working with an undergraduate student on a project involving the sequestration of metal ions (Zn, Mn) in the jaws of trap-jaw ants.

Dr. Vail— is the co-owner of a 1946 Cessna 120, fulfillment of a lifelong obsession with flight. He is always looking for an excuse to fly, thus the bat tracking (see photo) He and Dr. Peek are planning an aerial survey of NJ beach/dune habitats.

Dr. Wahrman— experienced the Bay of Fundy tides by kayaking and hiking in New Brunswick, Canada, collected fossils

in Joggins, Nova Scotia, and has a new granddaughter named Ilana Sophia.

Dr. Waldburger was promoted to Associate Professor this year.



Dr. Vail (at controls) tracks bats with Dr. Patnaik in his Cessna 120



Dr. Claire Leonard receives award for Teaching Excellence



Dr. Mike Sebetich and friend in South Africa

Annual Faculty-Student Softball Game (May 2009)



Dr. Peek organized the third annual Faculty/Student Softball game on May 15, 2009. This year, for the first time, the students handily beat the faculty.

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Bio William Paterson
PLEASE RESPOND TO OUR
ALUMNI SURVEY

Visit the Alumni link on the
Biology website:
<http://www.wpunj.edu/biology/>

Alumni Activities

Alumni News

Here is some news of what our alumni have been doing. Please let us know what you're up to. You may visit our facebook (Bio William Paterson) or you may email Dr. Eileen Gardner at gardnere@wpunj.edu.

1986

Kathleen Ullrich (Sayad) (BS1986, MS BT 1992) is teaching Biology and General Science at JFK High School in Paterson. She and Louis Sayad (BS1986, MS BT 1992) have three children.

1991

Daniel Kennedy (1991) just became a Flight Surgeon for the USAF. He graduated Des Moines University Osteopathic medical school in 1997. He did his Internship at St Josephs in Paterson, completing his Residency in Internal Medicine at Mountain-side Hosp in Montclair. He married his WP sweetheart Kerry Farrell and they have 3 children. He is now practicing as a hospitalist in Grand Rapids.

Christina Smith-Libbey (1991) is a teacher of Biology, Marine Science, and Environmental Science at Gulf Coast High School in Naples, FL. She has a daughter and a son (ages 9 and 5). She was one of the top 100 teachers of Collier County last year and is now at Edison State College working on obtaining an RN.

1997

Giovanni D'Alia (BS 1997, MS, 2005) spent eight years as a director of manufacturing development in NJ Biotech (Elusys therapeutics and Progenitor Cell therapies). He is now back in school full time pursuing a secondary Ed teachers certificate. He is also working as a Biology adjunct professor at WPUNJ.

1998

Regina Wilson (1998) received her PhD in Molecular Biology from Northwestern University in 2005 and now has a postdoctoral position at Johns Hopkins University.

2001

Jacqueline Terzano (BS 2001;MS 2004) has been employed with Schering-Plough Research Institute in Union, NJ for four years. She is responsible for all the Toxicology Purification Campaigns as well as the Viral Clearance of the products.

2002

Chiara Brandoni (MS 2002) got married in Italy in 2005, received her PhD in science education from Columbia in 2007, and has a son and a daughter. She has been teaching middle and high school Biology for eight years, teaches graduate students at Columbia, and conducts research on creativity and divergent thinking.

Dennis Daly (B.S. Env. Sci. 2002, M.S. Biology 2007) has joined the adjunct faculty at WPUNJ, teaching biology and environmental science, and is engaged to be married.

Crystal Frazier (2002) is a Physician's Assistant with an MS in Forensic Medicine. She is working in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Manhattan and is also working in Emergency Medicine at Montefiore in the Bronx.

Amna Kahn (2002, Communication) is at the American University of Antigua College of Medicine

William Fazzino - (2002 Biotech) has his PhD and is doing research at Department of Pathology, Keck School of Medicine, at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

2003

Anthony Natale (2003) is working at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia as Laboratory Preparator. This semester he will also teach one of the lab sections.

2004

Christine Johnson (B.S. Biology 2004, M.S. Biology 2006) has joined the full-time faculty of biology at the County College of Morris. Prior to joining CCM, Christine worked on cancer research at the Garden State Cancer Center in Belleville, NJ.

Derrick Rodriguez (2004), received his RN from Mountainside Hospital School of Nursing (Montclair, NJ). He is now working for Atlantic Health System's Overlook Hospital in the NeuroIntensive Care Unit. He took a medical mission trip this summer to Bangladesh.

Kirsten Weidele (Roer) (2004)– was accepted into the Carolinas College of Health Sciences Laboratory Scientist/Medical Technology Program in 2009

2005

Richmond Owusu (2005) attends Howard University College of Dentistry

Luis Posadas (2005) is in a Plant Breeding PhD program at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Roy Rozman (2005) is a Science Teacher at Orange High School

Crystal Sanchez (2005) is at the Preschool-Crossroads Early Learning Center

2006

Stephanie Chapelliquen (2006) is a Development Project Specialist at The Medicines Co.

Wendell DeGannes (2006) works at Bio-Reference Laboratories

Cheryl Dicks (2006) is in the Physical Therapy Doctoral program at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia

Sheri Distasi (2006) is at Walden University in Education

Betsy Huerta (BS, 2006) is currently in medical school at the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana, Cuba

Christopher Mulligan (2006) is a Research Technician at Bristol Myers Squibb

2007

Amit Bhojani (2007) is at UMDNJ College of Osteopathic Medicine

Jennifer Caglio (2007) is attending the UMDNJ Physical Therapy Doctoral program

Michael Celuch (2007) is currently working in the molecular department at BioReference Labs in Elmwood Park and going back for to school for an MBA degree in International Business.

Mike Fernicola (2007) is at University of San Francisco -Biomedical.

Brenda Kane (2007) is a 7th Grade Science Teacher.

Jeremiah Lacsina (2007) is a Research Technician at PsychoGenics

Petro Matsyshyn (2007) is in Dental

School at Columbia University

Olga Chomicova (2007) is a Research Assistant at Psychogenics

Stacie Plasket (2007) is a High School Teacher

Cynthia Roldan (2007) is in the Physical Therapy Doctoral program at UMDNJ

2008

Samantha Baver (2008) is a Clinical Indexer at Schering Plough.

Stephanie Caraballo (2008) is working and living in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming .

Leizl Chua (2008) is at the University of Harford in Orthotics Certification

Ken Clune (2008) is married and has a toddler son (Hudson). He is employed as a chemist at Firmenich and is a visiting scientist at Columbia University. His conducts research on olfactory receptors developing a high-throughput calcium imaging system to study activation.

Seth Eberhardt (2008) is at the Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine.

Keesha Frederic (2008) is a Unit Clerk at Hackensack University Medical Center

Anna Heller (2008) is in the Columbia University Physical Therapy Doctoral program

Katie Hutton (2008) is attending Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica

Nick Link (2008) is in the MAT program here at WPUNJ. He is the recipient of a Noyce Scholarship.

Vis Mahalingam (2008) is in the UMDNJ Physical Therapy Doctoral program

Christopher Mallery (2008) is at the University of North Texas in a Biology PhD program. He and Dr. Martin Becker from WPUNJ just published a paper in the Journal of Paleontology on fossil sharks from Utah. They also coauthored a paper for the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology.

Shweta Mehta-Topiwala (2008) works in Drug Safety at Bayer Phar-

maceuticals.

Keith Morrissey (2008) works in HazMat transport at AGL

David Perez (2008) is an Animal Care Specialist at Pet Goods

Mark Sauchelli (2008) is attending Brooklyn Law School

Mridula Shukla (Biotech 2008) Biotechnology Graduate Program of Georgetown University

Kaitlin Tilney (BS BT 2008) is in the Biotechnology MS program here at WPUNJ.

Johnathan Velardi (MS Biology 2008) is attending Howard University Dental School in Washington, DC .

2009

Hannah Ampofo (2009) is attending the Medical Science Preparatory program at Drexel University

Brianna Beckman- (2009) is attending the School of Dental Medicine at Tufts University.

Katherine Cano (2009) was accepted into the Physical Therapy Doctoral program at Long Island University. She was looking into volunteering in an elephant orphanage in Thailand last summer.

Harene Venghatakrishnan (MS, BT 2009) is working in research at the University of Massachusetts

Skyler DeBlasio (2009) is attending the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine PharmD program

Phu Dinh (2009) is working as a supervisor at Kohl's

Lauren McMahon (2009) is attending the UMDNJ Physical Therapy Doctoral program

Meher Patel (MS, BT, 2009) is in the Doctoral program in Molecular Pathology and Immunology at the Graduate school of Biomedical Sciences at UMDNJ.

Anthony Perrone (2009) is enrolled in the UMDNJ Physical Therapy Doctoral program

Shounak Shah (2009) is enrolled in the UMDNJ Physical Therapy Doctoral program

Want to be listed in the next Alumni Newsletter?

Email me at gardnere@wpunj.edu and let me know what you're doing! Include your name, your graduation date, and any personal and/or professional information you would like us to print. We'd love to hear from you!

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