

7th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

Inside:

Awards Ceremony	2
Commencement 2013	2
Faculty News	3
Alumni Activities	4
Alumni Activities	5
Alumni Activities	6

Did you know?

- There are presently 739 Biology and Biotechnology majors at WPUNJ!
- This year undergraduate students from the Biology/Biotechnology department presented their research at conferences and meetings in San Francisco, New Orleans, Washington DC, Connecticut, Delaware, Baltimore, Kentucky, Rutgers, Kean University as well as at the WPUNJ Research and Scholarship Day and at the Undergraduate Research Symposium here in April.
- 36 Biology/Biotechnology undergraduates had paid internships last summer. Most were funded by various grants in the department and university.



Farnaz Ladha describing her research to President Waldron



Drs. Benno and Vail judge a poster at the Undergraduate Research Symposium

This year the College of Science and Health hosted the 7th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Biological and Chemical Sciences on April 14. The symposium provides a forum for undergraduates from the tri-state region to present their original scientific research in biochemistry, physiology, cell and molecular biology, genetics, ecology and evolution, nanochemistry, and general and material chemistry. This year, 87 students and 32 faculty members from 18 colleges and universities participated. The format of this year's meeting included morning and afternoon poster sessions. Participant abstracts were published in Symposium Proceedings. Many thanks to Dr. Jaishri Menon and all who help to organize this event every year.



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY



The Seventh Annual Biology Department Student Faculty Softball Game was held on 5/3/2013. The exciting and high-scoring game was won by the students, with a final score of 21 to 11. Dr. Peek organized the game and Dr. Sebetich was the referee.

Awards Ceremony 2013

Students Receiving the B.S. Degree in Biology or Biotechnology in 2013:

Onyedikachi Achilike	Catherine Lintag
AnneMarie Alberta	Walter Mager
Dalia Ali	Sarah Mansfield
Mohammad Ali	William Manzo
Lorato Anderson	Nicholas Margo
Hale Aydin	Omar Mayorga
Heather Baker	Thomas Mckinney
Ama Berko	Paul Meador
Nicholas Boyko	Mersiha Mehanovic
Veronica Cadavid	Cinthia Mejia
Nicole Carbone	Christine Melillo
Jessica Carbone	Marvin Mentor
Michael Cerswell	Jessica Mikhaiel
Deena Chadi	Zoe Nelson
Leanne Ciringione	Kaitlin Nix
Christina Demirjian	Monique Y. Obsharski
Chiyomi Devitre	Lorraine Ostrowski
Kristianne Dizon	Gerardo Paz
Daniel Dolcine	Khazyah Perry
Matthew Duffy	Jon Picariello
Raza Elias	Marc Pickard
Marco Emadzadeh	John Rankin
Ryan J. Fahey	Kaitlinn Rodriguez
Elias Feliz	Xavier Rodriguez
Diana Gallo	Jennifer Royce
Angel Gaspar	Annie Saez
Heather L. Gonzalez	Christopher Satch
Samantha Gracias	Andrew Scimeca
Rohit Guglani	Joseph Sewatsky
Hossam Hanna	Ravinder Singh
Gabriela Hrebikova	Danielle Sommerville
Travis Hubert	Andrew TiernanTessitore
Shamil Javed	Gabriella Tosto
Spero Kalyoussef	Andra Vladescu
Marta Kander	Alyx Weaver
Sana Khurshid	Joanna Wresilo
Samantha Koons	Eric Yuneman
Carolina Largo	Melissa Zolla

Students Receiving the M.S. Degree in Biology or Biotechnology in 2013:

Leigh Alzapiedi	Shalaka Paranjpe
Regina Borriello	Jigna Patel
Paola Chacon	Anastasia Plasket
Christina Chimento	Stephen Straub
Roy Feliciano	Edyta Swiackiewicz

Awards Ceremony 2013

On May 9, 2013 an Awards Ceremony was held for graduating seniors and students receiving awards.

The Outstanding Senior Award recipient was Ryan Fahey.

The Capstone Award (for highest achievement on the capstone exam) went to Alyx Weaver.

The Undergraduate Research Award recipients were William Manzo and Ama Berko.

The C. Kent Warner Award recipient was Nicholas Boyko.

The C. Kent Warner Scholarship recipients were Ammar Ali, Mohammad M. Ali, Rebecca Atencio, Paige Appleton and Shefkate Bakui.

The GS-LSAMP-MAPS High GPA Award (for the fall 2012 term) went to Albert Abrenilla, Lorato Anderson, Nelson Araujo, Daniel Lupo, Omar Mayorga, Jean Mercedes, Neil Milord, Milagros Morales, Christopher Reyes, Xavier Rodriguez and Adonis Rivie.

The GS-LSAMP-MAPS Graduating Senior/GS-LSAMP Contribution Award recipient was Omar Mayorga.

The GS-LSAMP Award for Best Summer 2012 Research Internship Presentation went to Ammar Ali.



The inductees into the Beta Beta Beta Biological Society - CHI RHO Chapter were Lorato Anderson, Paige Appleton, Thomas J. Apruzzese, Paulyne H. Bellen, Nicholas Boyko, Ryan J. Fahey, Heather L. Gonzalez and Monique Y. Obsharski.



Graduating Seniors at the Awards Ceremony

Commencement 2013

On May 15, 2013, William Paterson University's commencement ceremony was held at the Izod Center in East Rutherford, NJ. Both undergraduate and graduate degrees were conferred.



Dr. Risley with several of the graduating seniors



Drs. Chesney, Slaymaker, Gardner, Monroe, Martin and Patnaik at the commencement ceremony

NSF/ISSBB Scholars

26 Biology/Biotechnology majors received National Science Foundation ISSBB Scholarships this year.

Row 1: Ammar Ali, Mohammad Ali, Paige Appleton, Nelson Araujo, Devon Atkinson, Alyssa Beres

Row 2: David Brunkhorst, Unnatiben Chauhan, Yasmine Farhan, Steven Gross

Row 3: Virginia Hislop, Neal Joshi, Joyce June, Farnaz Ladha, Allison Liberato, Daniel Lupo

Row 4: Neil Milord, Michael Mule, Frank Oliver, Adrian Plummer

Row 5: Adonis Rivie, Emily Scully, Heather Szendi, Gavin Taylor, Silvia Wasserman, Alyx Weaver



Biology graduates and faculty after the ceremony

Faculty News

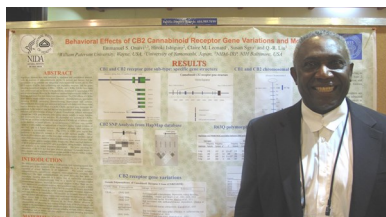
In late June, **Dr. Robert Benno** his wife Karen, and daughter Jia traveled throughout northern Spain and southern France. They were celebrating 65th, 60th and 21st birthdays respectively. According to Dr. Benno, "As retirement from WPU approaches I'm looking for a place to start the next phase of my life. Spain and France don't look too bad."

Dr. Robert Chesney is planning to retire at the end of June and will be moving to North Carolina.

Dr. Danielle Desroches participated in Crime Scene Investigation and Physiology summer workshops for the AIM HIGH program for HS students. She supervised and funded (through the GS-LSAMP grant) 23 students in research internships on campus or at Hackensack University Hospital. Ten of these students presented their research at the 5th Annual GS-LSAMP conference at Rutgers University and two (Neil Joshi and Shefkate Bakiu) won the top Prizes for their posters.

Dr. Jeung Woon Lee acquired a new digital camera, and subsequently became the unofficial photographer of the department chasing after the "perfect shot". On the side, Dr. Lee's lab continues the cell transplantation research in diabetes mellitus and spinal cord injury. Dr. Lee was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor this year.

Dr. Claire Leonard published two papers with Dr. Onaivi this year. She also continues to sing with the Classic Choral Society of Orange County and went to Paris last spring with Professor Mukherjee from the Language and Culture Department.



Dr. Emmanuel Onaivi was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture, conduct and supervise research at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia this year.

He organized a symposium and presented data from his cannabinoid research at the International Drug Abuse Research Society (IDARS) meeting in Mexico City. Joao Neto was awarded a fellowship to complete part of his PhD in Dr. Onaivi's lab researching molecular models of cannabinoid-induced behavior.

Dr. David Slaymaker spent the summer preparing a paper for publication. The paper was co-authored with Dr. Peek and three undergraduates students and was submitted to the Journal of Coastal Research. He also enjoyed time hiking, hanging out with friends in the city, and visiting family out west.

Dr. Lance Risley worked with graduate student Melissa Gallo this summer monitoring bats at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. They conducted acoustic surveys throughout the refuge's management area. Paired bat boxes were placed at 10 sites to evaluate as a potential conservation tool and supplemental population monitoring technique. Plans are to monitor the bat boxes to determine the effectiveness of these structures at attracting rare bats as well as their usefulness as a management tool.



Dr. Mike Sebetich was unanimously recommended for Emeritus Professor by both the department and the faculty senate.

Dr. Joe Spagna was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor this year.



Dr. Edith Wallace received the 2012 Rutgers Cooperative Extension Award of Excellence for her Volunteer work in the NJ Botanical Gardens. She is seen above in the Lilac Garden.



Dr. Jamie Weiss coordinated a successful summer research program for high school students with funding from the Roche Foundation.



Biology Professors **Gilley, Peek, Slaymaker and Waldburger** took their annual trip paddling down the Delaware River in October.



Students, staff and biology faculty in the mouse laboratory in Summer 2013



Dr. Onaivi and students went on a road trip to NIDA-NIH where Drs. Hall and Liu provided hands on genotyping for the students at their labs at NIDA-NIH in Baltimore. After a barbecue at the professor's home and a water taxi trip to inner harbor from Fell's point they returned to Wayne using the college van.

Biology Department Alumni News

1978

John Minichetti (BS '78) is currently the Director of the Center for Implants and Aesthetics at Englewood Dental and President-Elect of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry. He says he got the greatest education ever at WPU!

1987

Gerald Pellegrini (BS '87) received his MS at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (CESF), worked remediating hazardous waste sites in NY and NJ and re-enrolled at CESF, earning a PhD in 1995 in Applied Math. He now works for BAE SYSTEMS in NH. He recently completed a MS-Math (2010) at UMass Lowell. Although his career did not end up in ecology or conservation as originally intended, his enjoyment of biology continues. He often talks to his daughters about material learned from professors Hanks, Grant, Werth, Wahrman and Wallace. He has many fond memories of WPU.

1991

Hildegarde Vernet (BS '91/ MA '93) became a high school teacher after leaving WPU. She worked at Manchester Regional High School and Rosa Parks High School. She received an Educational Specialist degree from Seton Hall University, then went to Haiti in 2001 and taught biology, botany, and biochemistry in French at College Universitaire Caraibe. She obtained her Doctor of Education Degree in 2003 from Seton Hall and moved back to the US. She now teaches at Kean University, Union County College and Essex County College. She is the mother of two and a grandmother.

1994

Matt Samra (BS '94) is a Vascular/Thoracic Surgeon at the Deborah Heart and Lung Center. He was also featured on the Dr. Oz show this year as one of the "50 Most Eligible Doctors."

1998

Regina Wilson (BS BT '98) is a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the UMDNJ Department of Medicine Center for Emerging Pathogens. She gave a talk to students at WPUNJ last semester on research which she published in *Nature Chemical Biology*. She is also teaching at WPUNJ as an adjunct.

2002

Chris Hayden (BS '02) gave a talk at our Biology Department Career Day in the spring. He is Scientist I at Novartis Institutes of Biomedical Research, working in Electron Microscopy / Digital Imaging.

2006

Brianne Villano (MS BT '06) is now Customer Development Manager at Science Exchange in San Francisco.

2007

Nancy Abdallat (BS BT '07/MS BT '10) is Molecular Assistant Manager at siParadigm Diagnostic Informatics.

Issam Khairullah (BS BT '07) is a Senior Quality Control Manufacturing Technician at Life Technologies.

Marilyn Kitchell (MS, '07) is a Refugee biologist at the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the Shawangunk Grasslands, Wallkill River and Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuges.

2008

Stephany Caraballo (BS '08) is a Program Assistant at Texas A&M University in Houston Texas.

Ken Clune (BS '08) works for a Swiss flavor/fragrance company, Firmenich Inc., applying robotics to cell line engineering to develop cell lines that express human odorant receptors. They are working on deciphering the olfactory code.

Jeremiah Lacsina (BS '08) is a Biology Teacher at the Community Charter School of Paterson.

Frank Sagato (BS '08) works as a Laboratory Technician at Stryker. He spoke about his work at the Biology Department Annual Career Day.

Shweta Topiwala (BS BT '08) is a Regulatory Affairs Specialist - Caribbean at Boehringer Ingelheim in Ontario, Canada.

2009

Phu Dinh (BS BT '09) works at RLB Food Distributors in Inside Sale/ Customer Service.

Ceyhan Elipenahli (BS '09) gave a talk at the Biology Department Research Day in the spring. She works as a Technician in melanoma research at Weill Cornell Medical Center, establishing human melanoma cell lines from human tumor samples. She spoke about her research at the Biology Department Annual Career Day.

Lauren McMahan (BS '09) graduated in 2011 from UMDNJ with a Doctor of Physical Therapy. She is currently living in Los Angeles, CA and working as a Pediatric Physical Therapist with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Jim Sackerman (BS '09) is currently teaching Environmental Science at Kearny High School.

Shounak "Shaun" Shah, (BS '09) graduated in May of 2012 with a degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy from UMDNJ-SHRP/Rutgers Graduate School-Camden. He is currently a Licensed Physical Therapist in NJ. He works at the St. Peter's University Hospital Outpatient Sports Therapy Department.

2010

Leigh Alzapiedi (BS BT '10 / MS '12) is working at LifeCell in Branchburg, NJ as a production operator.

2010 (continued)

Diane Asmar (BS '10) was accepted into Rutgers's School of Dental Medicine in Newark.

Brian Harris (BS '10) was accepted into the Optometry Program at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Michael Siniscalchi (MS '10) was accepted into the Biological and Biomedical Sciences PhD Program at Yale University.

Peter Tlatelpa (BS '10) graduated with dual bachelor's degrees in Chemistry and Biology. He is working towards his PhD (Chemistry, class of 2016) at New Jersey Institute of Technology. He is an adjunct for the Chemistry department here at WPUNJ. He also works part time at Lundbeck Pharmaceutical as a Pre-Clinical Business Development Associate where he is currently being trained for a scientific liaison position to facilitate communications between R&D and the corporate team.

2011

Lindell Evans (MS BT '11) is a Quality Control Technologist at International Technidyne Corporation.

Zach Cogavin (BS '11) was accepted into the UMDNJ Doctorate in Physical Therapy program.

Anthony Lombardo (BS '11) graduated with a BS in Education and Biology. He's currently a 3rd and 8th grade science teacher in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Abosede Odeyemi (BS '11) is attending Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in the MS Biomedical Sciences Program.

Matt Snyder (BS '11) was accepted into the MS program in Biomedical Science at Rutgers University.

2012

Marilania DeJesus (BS '12) is currently enrolled in the Nova Southeastern University doctoral program in Optometry in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Kiran Herapara (BS BT '12) is a Molecular Laboratory Technologist at BioReference Laboratories extracting DNA and performing analysis on it using robotics.

Ashley Miranda (BS '12) is a Library Clerk at the Perth Amboy Public Library and is attending Rutgers in their Masters in Library Science program.

Henry Raab (BS '12) is in the MS program in Biology here at WPUNJ.

Apeksha Rao (MS '12) is currently working at Columbia University Medical Center as a Research Technician, studying the role of the Trib3 gene in Parkinson's Disease.

Heidi Rogers (BS '12) is attending the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Virginia (VCOM).

John Sabat (BS '12) is attending Rutgers's School of Dental Medicine in Newark.

Joon Seo (BS '12) is in the Master's program in Biomedical Science at Rutgers School of Health Related Professions.

Edyta Swiackiewicz (MS BT '12) is working in Medical Technology at Hackensack University Medical Center.

2013

Mohammed Ali (BS '13) is in the Biotechnology graduate program at WPUNJ and is currently working at Laboratory Corporation of America as a technologist doing various microbiology tests. He says that Dr. Chesney's microbiology course was a huge help in the work—nearly everything is done in almost exactly the same way in the professional world.

Lorato Anderson (BS '13) is attending St. Georges Medical School in Grenada.

Paulynne Bellen ('13) is attending Ohio State University's School of Veterinary Medicine.

Ama Berko (BS '13) is in the PharmD program at Fairleigh Dickinson University. She looks forward to doing research with one of her professors whose lab is in Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals. She is also going to be doing rotations in retail and hospital pharmacy.

Nicholas Boyko (BS '13) is presently in the graduate program at WPUNJ. He is also a Clinical Information Manager at Emergency Medical Associates and is Vice President of the West Paterson First Aid Squad.

Deena Chadi (BS '13) is a graduate student in the Biological and Environmental Sciences department at the University of New Haven. She is also a Research Assistant, sorting and processing benthic samples for the LISMARC (Long Island Sound Mapping and Research Collaborative) study and does research on the benthic coastal ecology of the Long Island Sound.

Rebecca Flim ('13) was accepted into the Physician's Assistant program at Seton Hall University.

Sheida Hayati (MS BT '13) is teaching as an adjunct here in the WPUNJ Biology program.

William Manzo (BS '13) is in the graduate program in Biology at WPUNJ and teaching in the Biology program as an adjunct professor.

Nick Margo (BS '13) is attending a Ph.D. program at Rutgers through NJIT in Urban Ecology.

Jessica Mikael (BS '13) is a Pharmacy Technician at Hackensack University Medical Center.

Alumni News, continued

Shalaka Paranjpe (MS '13) is working as a lab technician in the Biological Sciences Department at Rutgers University Newark. She is working in the Developmental Biology laboratory of Dr. Gregory Weber studying cell migration and interactions in the early embryonic stages of the African clawed frog.

Marc Pickard (BS '13) was accepted into the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program at Touro College in NYC.

Chris Satch (BS '13) is in a PhD program in Plant Biology at Rutgers University. He is also working there as a Teaching Assistant and will be doing research. He spoke at the Biology Department Annual Career Day.

Danielle Sommerville (BS '13) is teaching Biology at Westwood Regional Jr./Sr. High School in Westwood NJ.

Gaby Tosto (BS '13) is working at the Kessler Foundation in the Neuroscience and Neuropsychology Lab, as a full time Research Assistant. She's hoping to go into a doctoral program after obtaining experience in a clinical research environment.

Alyx Weaver (BS '13) is currently in the WPUNJ Biology graduate program and is an adjunct for the department.

Donate to WPUNJ online at:
<http://www.wpunj.edu/giving/>

You Haven't Been Mentioned In An Alumni Newsletter Yet?

Email Dr. Gardner at: gardnere@wpunj.edu and let us know what you're doing! Include your name, your year of graduation, and any personal and/or professional information you would like us to print. We'd love to hear from you! You can also visit us on Facebook at BioWilliamPaterson. This newsletter and old newsletters can be viewed on the alumni link on our website at www.wpunj.edu/biology/

2013 Biology Department Career Day



Alumni Chris Satch, Roy Feliciano, Melissa Zolla, Frank Sagato, Ceyhan Elipenahil, Guest Dr. Ueli Gubler and alumnus Chris Hayden spoke about career options at the 2013 Biology/Biotechnology Career Day on 4/9/2013.