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Did you know?

- Dr. Emmanuel Onaivi is the first WPU faculty ever to file for a patent. This patent would be for a strain of Cnr2 conditional genetically engineered mice.
- Biology faculty published 10 articles in peer-reviewed journals (with 3 in review), several book chapters and a book this year. They are PIs or Co-PIs on over \$1 million in grants. In addition, 3 grant proposals have been submitted.
- 55 biology students participated in research projects this year and 30 undergraduate and graduate students presented their research at local, regional, national, and international meetings.
- Over 30 biology/ biotechnology undergraduates had paid internships last summer. Most were funded by various grants in the department and University.
- The newly developed Biology Honors track is already attracting high-quality scholarship-supported students to the department.

9th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

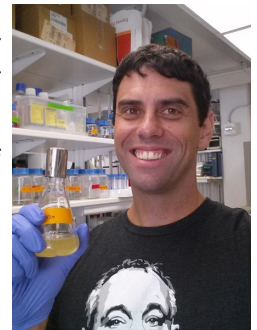


At the 9th Annual William Paterson University Research Symposium on April 11, 2015, 117 students presented their research achievements in the biological and chemical sciences. The turnout was huge, with 157 students and 39 faculty representing 30 institutions from five states and territories attending. There were morning and afternoon poster sessions, and all the abstracts were published in the Symposium Proceedings. This year the symposium featured a keynote lecture by Dr. Ilya Raskin of Rutgers University. Several WPU students received awards for their research at the awards ceremony. Our thanks, as always, to Dr. Jaishri Menon and all who help to organize this event every year.



New Faculty

After graduating from the University of Connecticut with a B.S. in Molecular and Cell Biology in 2003, **Dr. James T. Arnone** earned a Ph.D. in molecular biology and biochemistry from Wesleyan University in 2012. Since then he has been an IRTA Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and an adjunct professor of biology at the University of the District of Columbia. Dr. Arnone's research has focused on nuclear structure and aging, and he has brought this exciting program to WPU. This program promises to be very productive, will involve ongoing collaborations at NIH, and will be accessible to and involve our WPU students.



Dr. Sonya Bierbower received her B.S. in biology from the University of Georgia in 2001. She then spent three years in industry before earning a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Kentucky in 2010. Since then she has been a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Physiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center, with collaborations in the Department of Neurosurgery. She has 14 research-based publications with one additional manuscript recently submitted. Her teaching experience includes courses from General Biology to upper level Physiology. She has mentored research projects of 44 high school and undergraduate students. Dr. Bierbower's research on the pathophysiology of disease and injury, with a focus on stroke and traumatic brain injury models in mice is cutting edge, complements department strengths, and will be of high value to our students. She is particularly interested in developing behavioral models analogous to the behavioral deficits seen after brain injury in humans.





Some of the 2015 graduates at the awards ceremony on May 7, 2015

Biology/Biotechnology

BS Degrees 2015

Barbara Abboud	Amna Latif
Ahmad Abdelqader	Diane Leighton
Ian Acharya	Daniel Lupo
Joy Akpan	Kriste Marcus
Ammar Ali	Isimemen Ogboroge
Devon Atkinson	Frank Oliver
Christina Austin	Katelyn O'Shea
Mahirah Baker	Jazzmine Paz
Shefkate Bakiu	Kevin Penkoski
Alena Bitondo	Adrian Plummer
David Brunkhorst	Ramie Qasem
Christina Carosella	Nina Ramdedovic
Bryant Catano	Adonis Rivie
Burcu Celik	Janelle Schneider
Thomas Christensen	Salome Seidu
Stephanie Cole	John Sferruzza
Melanie Colon	Daaiyah Smith
Valentina Correa	Lisa Swarn
Ian Drake	Jessica Szczur
Mara Dukin	Heather Szendi
Rhadara Escolin	Sneha Tammareddy
Yasmine Farhan	Ndeah Terry
Angelina Gaspar	Kathryn Tomaszewski
Monique Gonzalez	Abbi Turner
Alyssa Grabinski	Jennifer Ulrich
Ryan Hughes	Paola Velandia
Sandy Huynh	Denisse Velez
Ligi John	Justin Wheelan
Neal Joshi	Jasmine Wood
Eystathios Kolokithas	Tiffany Yeh
Farnaz Ladha	Hilal Yumru

Awards Ceremony 2015

On May 7, 2015 an awards ceremony was held for graduating seniors and students receiving awards.

The Outstanding Senior Award recipients were Ryan Hughes and Jasmine Wood.



The Capstone Award (highest achievement on capstone exam) went to Jasmine Wood.

The Undergraduate Research Award recipient was Adonis Rivie.

The C. Kent Warner Award recipient was Neal Joshi.



The C. Kent Warner Scholarship recipients were Karen Abboud, Rebecca Atencio, Alison Caceres, Dorisa Ceko, Unnati Chauhan, and Julia Macdonald.

The GS-LSAMP-MAPS High GPA Award (for the fall 2014 term) went to Mercedes Aguirre, Alison Caceres, Bryant Catano, Yuliana Cruz Herrera, Irvin Gamarra, Daniel Lupo, Joel Marrero, Jean C. Mercedes, Sirai Ramirez,

Adonis T. Rivie, Amanda Stanley, Ndeah Terry, Denisse Velez, and Jasmine Wood.

GS-LSAMP-BIOLOGY High GPA Award (for fall 2014) went to Ammar Ali, Rebecca Atencio, Unnati Chauhan, Noor Eldabagh, and Brittany Simon.



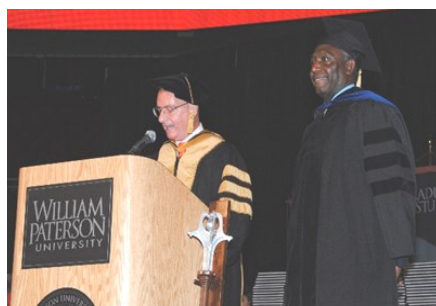
The GS-LSAMP Outstanding Graduating Senior Award went to Adonis T. Rivie.

The GS-LSAMP Award for Best Summer 2014 Research Internship Presentation went to Ammar Ali.

Inductees into the *Beta Beta Beta* Biological Society CHI RHO Chapter were Ahmad Abdelqader, Rebecca Atencio, Bryant Catano, Unnati Chauhan, Erin Connor, Stephanie Costa, Noor Eldabagh, Rhadara Escolin, Peter Habib, Ryan Hughes, Eystathios Kolokithas, Daniel Lupo, Jazzmine Paz, Adonis Rivie, Meriah Roche, Michael Salvado, Heather Szendi, Ndeah Terry, Paola Velandia, Denisse Velez, and Jasmine Wood.



COMMENCEMENT 2015



Dr. Emmanuel Onaivi was presented with the WPU Faculty Recognition Award for Outstanding Scholarship and Creative Expression by Provost Sandmann during the WPU Commencement Ceremony.



Drs. Monroe, Slaymaker and Waldburger at the May 13, 2015 Commencement at the Prudential Center

MS Degrees in

Biology/Biotechnology 2015:

Vincent Faso

Danielle Morris

Dr. Danielle Desroches published two peer reviewed articles on pedagogy with Donna Potacco. Her NSF sponsored GS-LSAMP grant monitored and supported 26 students in research on campus last summer. She also taught a one-week workshop for high school students with Dr. Lee on Exploration of Biomedical Careers using a CSI Scenario.

Dr. Eileen Gardner is co-PI on a new Noyce grant which will provide the university with over \$1 million for scholarships for training future STEM teachers. She also spent the summer writing a new NSF grant for scholarships aimed at Increasing Student Success in Biology/Biotechnology (ISSBB).

Two of **Dr. Jeung Woon Lee's** students received Outstanding Poster



Presentation Awards at the Rutgers STEM conference on October 9. Above are Stephanie Costa (Monroe Lab), Eugene Dennis (Onaivi Lab) and Erica Wu (Lee Lab). Not shown is Erin Connor from Dr. Lee's lab.

Dr. Emmanuel Onaivi and students working with him, Eugene Dennis, Monika Chung and Kevin Penkoski, presented their research at the Society for Neuroscience meeting in Chicago in October 2015. Dr. Onaivi was presented with a WPU Faculty Recognition Award for Outstanding Scholarship and Creative Expression in May 2015 at the WPU Graduation Ceremony and was also the mace bearer at the 2015 WPU Convocation ceremony (below).



Dr. Michael Peek contributed to a coastal dune restoration manual and presented it to the community in 4 separate seminars entitled 'Dune it Right'.

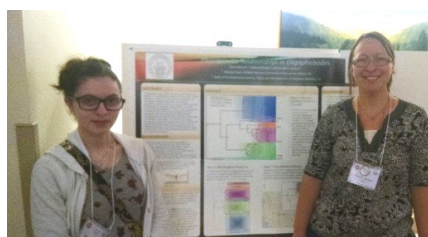


Dr. Lance Risley, Cindy Del Valle Rivas and Julia MacDonald were the 2015 FAA Bat Crew. Together with Bridget Vogtman (Env Sci major) they also assisted bat biologists from the NJ Endangered & Nongame Species Program, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the US Geological Survey in efforts to capture a federally threatened species, the northern long-eared bat in the northern part of the state. Cindy takes a selfie (below) with a big brown bat on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) property by the Atlantic City Airport.



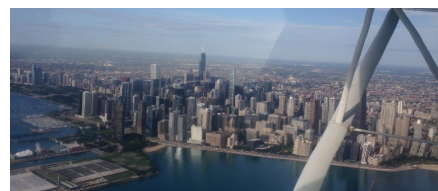
Dr. Slaymaker has been focusing on learning the ropes of being chairperson, but is hoping to get back in the lab with students this coming year. To keep sane this year he traveled to Vermont, Colorado, and Arizona with family and friends.

Dr. Joe Spagna's research student Derrick Dorph presented their research at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Meeting in January. His other student, Dana Weaver, presented her research at



the 15th International Trichoptera Symposium at Rutgers University. Her work has been invited for publication in a special issue of the journal *ZooSymposia*. Shown is a picture of Dana with her co-mentor, Dr. Patina Mendez of the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Stephen Vail taught BIO 5750 Population Biology online this summer, our first online graduate class. He flew his airplane to Oshkosh, WI and camped under the wing at the convention of the Experimental Aircraft Association in August. He took photos there and over the Chicago waterfront during a flyby on the way home.



Dr. Miryam Wahrman is author of *The Hand Book: Surviving in a Germ-Filled World*. This book is on the history and culture of hand hygiene, disease and death due to negligence in hand hygiene. It offers solutions to encourage and increase handwashing. A recently published study on hand hygiene in NYC food vendors Dr. Wahrman conducted in collaboration with Prof. Corey Basch garnered media attention from Fox News, *New York Daily News*, CBS NewsRadio, and New Jersey Network News. They found that in street vendor transactions, one-third of the food workers wore no gloves at all when handling food and money. These projects confirm the importance of learning how microbes interact with environmental surfaces, and how we can improve health through hand hygiene.

Biology Department Alumni News

1987

William Ellgren Jr. (BS '87) is working as an industrial hygienist for the U.S. Navy at Naval Air Station Jacksonville in Florida. He is married with a wonderful 9 year-old daughter. He gives special thanks to Dr. Sebetich for getting him started in his career.

1992

Scott Hofsess (BS '92) is the senior director, U.S. Clinical Development and Medical Affairs at Novartis. He spoke to the department in March for Biology/Biotechnology Career Day.



2001

Robin Roberts (BS 01/MS 03) is head of Global Trial Budget Management at Novartis Pharmaceuticals and is working towards his CORE in business administration and management at Harvard Business School.

2004

Alex Perchuk (BS '04) received his MD from West Virginia University. He is now at Wexner Medical Center (Ohio State University College of Medicine) in the Department of Neurology.

2005

Marie Sondey (MS BT '05) is a scientist at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (NIBR) in Cambridge, MA.

2006

Thomas M. Bednarz (BS BT '06) is a bioreactor scientist in cell culture at Immunomedics, Inc.

Maria Bell (BS '06/MS '08) moved departments at Atlantic from Newton to Morristown. She is running oncology trials working with all the regulatory aspects of the trials as well as the clinical end, and is working on her MS in tech management at Stevens Institute of Technology.

Paul Meozzi ('06) gave a lecture to Dr. Onaivi's Neural Basis of Behavior class (below).



Darci Shinn (Gresko) (BS '06) got master's degrees in both social work and more recently in human sexuality from Widener University. She has three children and is a counselor for children in Camden.

2007

Ruchi Sharma (MS BT '07) is senior business analyst for Sanofi Pharmaceuticals.

2008

Dimitrios Doris (MS '08) is a chiropractor at A-1 Doris Chiropractic Center.

Maja Drozd (BS '08) graduated Tufts University Cummings School of Vet Med in MA in 2012. She completed her small animal internship at ASPCA in NYC in 2013, then moved to the San Francisco Bay area and has worked at Lafayette Animal Hospital since. She is loving the hiking in Tahoe, wine country in Napa and Sonoma, and San Francisco with her boyfriend and 2 dogs.

Kelle Trabucco (BS '08) has been teaching for 6 years at North Bergen High School. She teaches biology, A&P and environmental science.

Badi Valdivia (BS BT '08) is a biochemist at Siemens DX, Tarrytown NY. He is also in the biotechnology master's program at WPU.

2009

Czrina Cortez (BS '09) is a research technician at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Ennid Gonzalez (BS '09) received her MD from Rutgers Medical School and is a pediatric resident at Albert Einstein/Jacobi Medical Center.

Carl Gothman (BS BT '09) is quality assurance manager at Caputo Cheese in Illinois.

Jennifer Johnson (BS '09) is pursuing a PhD at Brown. Jennifer and John Urban (BS '10) were married on August 28, 2015. Their WPUNJ research mentors, Dr. Menon and Dr. Patnaik, attended the wedding in Rhode Island.



Shweta Mehta-Topiwala (BS BT '09) is a regulatory affairs associate for the Caribbean region at Boehringer Ingelheim in Ontario Canada.

Shounak Shah (BS '09) received his DPT from University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ and is currently a doctor of physical therapy at St. Peter's University Hospital.

Chad Socha (BS '09) is an environmental chemist/analyst at Siegfried (USA)

James Van Gorp (BS '09/MS '10) is an anatomical and clinical pathology (AP/CP) resident physician at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

2010

Ana Alvarez-Elejalde (BS'10) is currently working at Pfizer in the vaccines R&D Flow Cytometry Group. She loves her job and is looking forward to doing oncology phenotyping. She has been married for almost 10 years and has a beautiful 4 year-old girl named Ayla.

Diane Asmar (BS '10) is currently in her third year of dental school at Rutgers School of Dental Medicine and is seeing patients.

Michael Siniscalchi (ND BT '10) is in the PhD program in neuroscience at Yale University and is presently a graduate research fellow at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He uses electrophysiological methods to study organization and activity dynamics of the neural network that coordinates feeding behavior in the marine slug, *Aplysia californica*.

Peter Tlatelpa (BS '10) is set to defend his doctoral thesis at NJIT this spring. His dissertation title is: "Synthesis and Design of Modified Triplex DNA Receptors for Host-guest Binding". He is a candidate for two post-doctoral fellowships at Harvard and Northeastern.

John Urban (BS '10) is on the verge of finishing his Ph.D. at Brown University. John and Jennifer Johnson (BS '09) were

married on August 28, 2015. Their WPU research mentors, Dr. Menon and Dr. Patnaik, attended the wedding in Rhode Island.



2011

Annabel Beltran (BS '11) has been majoring in television production at Montclair State University. She's been working on the school's televised news program "Carpe Diem", fellow student films, and recently completed a student internship at an independent company working on an animated cartoon that airs on TV on Cartoon Network.

Evadney Brown (BS '11) is now a science teacher for Paterson Public Schools.

Tara Halpern (BS '11) is a physician assistant student at Stony Brook School of Medicine.

Souhad Nakouzi (MS BT '11) is a scientist I at Johnson and Johnson in Morris Plains.

2012

Deena Sharon Chadi (BS '12) received her master's degree in environmental ecology from the University of New Haven this year and is a field ecologist and environmental educator.

Peter Hanna ('12) is a Pharm D. candidate at Thomas Jefferson University.

Kiran Herapara (BS BT '12) is a laboratory technician at Bio-Reference Laboratories.

Jessica Mikael (BS '12) is a pharmacy technician at Hackensack University Medical Center.

Vivin Mohan (BS '12) works in clinical trials at University of Miami - Sylvester comprehensive cancer center as their data manager for oncology clinical trials working with doctors on patient assessment. He is now working more directly with doctors on patient assessment, having already worked in the clinical trial design side of things.

Henry Raab (BS '12/MS '14) is attending a PhD program at East Carolina University. His program name is Coastal Resources Management, a mixture of marine science and coastal policy. He is studying the gut microbiome of the Menhaden fish to see if it is related to fish kills. He is also teaching microbiology labs.

Atit Raval (BS BT '12) is a molecular laboratory technician at Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory, Inc.

2013

Mohammad Ali (BS BT '13/MS BT '15) is continuing his work at the Laboratory Corporation of America.

Angel Gasper (BS '13) is presently attending NY Chiropractic College.

Mary Ising (BT '13) is associate clinical trial lead at Novartis Pharmaceuticals in Florham Park, NJ

Faith Kalucki (MS BT '13) is a scientist/engineer II at the University of Washington working on the Cell Processing Team on the development of scalable manufacturing process for hESC derived cardiomyocytes.

Jose Lopez (PB '13) was at Fort Campbell Kentucky Army Base working as a research associate for NYU Langone Medical Center Dept. of Psychiatry in research to find biomarkers on post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and depression. He worked on base for a week and enrolled a little over 700 soldiers into the study. He is



shown here with his colleagues.

Christine Melillo (BS '13) is an environmental scientist I for Pepco Holdings Inc. in Mays Landing NJ

Larissa Pamen (MS BT '13) got accepted into Stony Brook University School of Medicine.

2014

Paige Appleton (BS '14) is currently working in Princeton at Church & Dwight (company that produces Arm & Hammer) as a lab technician on liquid laundry detergents.

Raphael Ezuduemoih (BS '14) is attending Temple University College of Pharmacy.

Matthew Flaherty (BS BT '14) is working part-time as a dental assistant and studying for the DAT. He is also working towards an MS in biotechnology at WPU.

Menalee Hapuarachchi (BS '14) is a medical student at St. George's University in Grenada.

Mark Steven Kirk Jr. (BS '14) is currently attending La Universidad Autonoma De Guadalajara, located in Guadalajara, Mexico (UAG). The first semester he took biochemistry, anatomy, embryology, histology, and genetics as well as working in a clinic once every week for 5 hours. Classes are taught in English by doctors currently working in hospitals with a lot of experience. He would highly recommend this medical school to other students from William Paterson whom are having difficulties getting accepted, and are serious about medical school.

George Kreal (BS '14) Is currently in the MS program in biotechnology at William Paterson University He also works at the Oradell Animal Hospital as a veterinary technician specializing in radiography, MRI exams and anesthesia.

Allison Liberato (BS '14) is a laboratory technician at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory out on Long Island doing cancer research in gene silencing and loving it!

Rob Sutherland (BS '14) has moved into a laboratory position at G&W Laboratories in Sellersville, PA.

Lisa Swarn (BS '14) accepted a position at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Agency as an environmental services trainee.

2015

Devon Atkinson (BS BT '15) is in the graduate program and also has a graduate assistantship in the cellular and molecular biomedical science master's program at the University of Maryland.

Bryant Catano (BS '15) is now in the MS biology program at William Paterson University, doing research with Dr. Xing in the Chemistry department, and is a graduate assistant in the nursing department.

Ian Drake (BS '15) is working on his master's thesis in plant ecology at William Paterson University under the direction of Dr. Peek. He intends to pursue his education in a Ph.D. program.

Vinny Faso (MS '15) has a very cool job in client support at a genomic cancer testing/consulting firm called Foundation Medicine.

Neal Joshi (BS '15) is presently interning at Kessler Institute and working with MRI scans with patients that had stroke and

Alumni News, continued

spatial neglect. He also just got a lab position at Columbia University working on animal models and Parkinson's disease.

Daniel Lupo (BS '15) is starting as a graduate assistant at William Paterson and doing a thesis in the Biotech MS program.

Frank Oliver (BS '15) started attending Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine this fall.

Adrian Plummer (BS BT '15) received a student presentation award at the ASLO 2015 Aquatic Sciences Meet-

ing in Granada, Spain last spring. He is currently a laboratory technician for Meso Scale Diagnostics in Hyattsville, MD. Meso Scale creates ELISA assay kits for many diseases.

Adonis Rivie (BS '15) received the Outstanding Senior Award at William Paterson University. He is now in the MS biology program and an adjunct faculty member at WPU.



Keep in touch online!

You can visit us on Facebook at **BioWilliamPaterson**. This is the best way to find out what all of your former classmates and professors are doing.

Or you can email Dr. Gardner at: gardnere@wpunj.edu and let us know what you're up to! Include your name, year of graduation, and any personal and professional information you would like us to print. This newsletter and old newsletters can be viewed on the alumni link on our website.

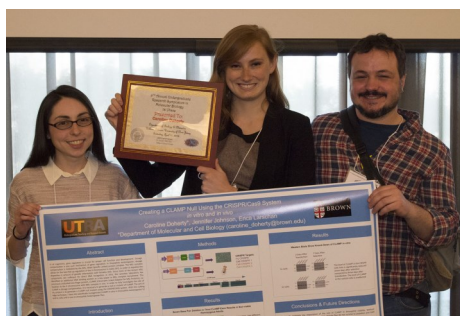
<http://www.wpunj.edu/cosh/departments/biology/alumni->

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2015 Biology Department Career Day



Alumni who spoke at our Career Day 2015 (left to right): Neal Joshi, Scott Hofsess, Alyssa Beres, and Bill Manzo.



Jennifer Johnson (BS '09) and John Urban (BS '10) who are both in doctoral programs at Brown University, brought their undergraduate research student to the Undergraduate Research Symposium at WPUNJ in April.



8th Annual Biology Department Student Faculty Softball Game

The game was held on May 8, 2015. After a very high scoring game, the faculty won with a score of 13 to 11. As usual, the game was arranged by Dr. Peek.