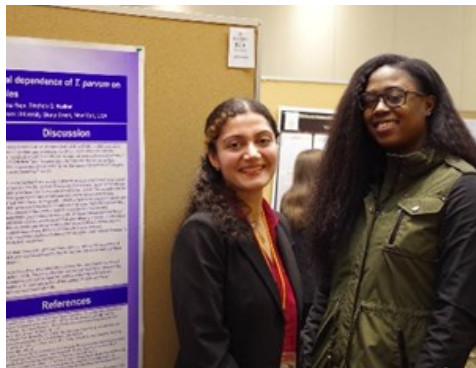


10th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

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The 10th Annual William Paterson University Research Symposium was held on April 9, 2016. This symposium showcases research conducted by students under the mentorship of faculty members to further their pursuit of careers in a diverse range of topics. It is fair to conclude that the symposium was a great success! Not only did we highlight the research being done by undergraduate students, but we also invited Alumni from Biology and Chemistry to participate in 10th anniversary celebration of the symposium.

On the evening of April 8th, six biology graduate students enrolled in thesis research (Bio. 7990) presented their work to Faculty, Dean, Associate Dean and alumni. This was followed by dinner organized in honor of our Alumni who interacted informally with our current students as well as faculty. It was obvious how passionate our alumni are about seeking and maintaining connections with their alma mater. At the end of second poster session, alumni panel discussion was held as a part of College of Science and Health effort to continue interaction between current and former students. A panel of 13 alumni volunteered for a discussion with our undergraduates. The most important impact of discussion between the undergraduates and the alumni was that the students gained an insight of a 'real world' perspective about Ph. D. program, medical school, industry jobs etc. by hearing the experiences and advice from these alumni. Alumni also expressed feelings of honor and pride to be able to give back and help our students in the career path they are pursuing.

At the April 9th Symposium students and faculty from about 34 colleges and universities from the tristate area participated. 134 students presented their research achievements in the biological and chemical sciences. There were morning and afternoon poster sessions, and all the abstracts were published in the Symposium Proceedings. The symposium featured a keynote lecture by Dr. Liz Nolan from the Chemistry Department of MIT.

Biology department alumni who spoke at the alumni panel discussion are shown below, to the left. Left to right: Traci Goddin (BS '14), Darci Shinn (BS '06), Juan Carlos Claros-Sorto (BS '08), Maria Bell (MS '08) and Neal Joshi (BS '15). Below on the right are some of the undergraduates who won awards at the symposium.



Biology/Biotechnology Degrees Awarded **2016**

B.S. Degree

January 2016

Rebecca Barretto Atencio
Jennifer Kathleen Ball
Chabelly Batista
Elias Maxwell Bisgeier
Corey Addison Buklad
Robin V. Castillo
Erin Marie Connor
Daniel Cynar

Cindy Valentina Del Valle Rivas
Michael Thomas Gordon
Peter Mokhtar Habib
Luis M. Hernandez
Christina Kohn
Cyrill Joseph Lagrazon
Mariel Joselin Mata
Elias Maxwell Bisgeier

Samanta Melo-Salazar
Deepal Hiteshkumar Patel
Claudia A. Reid
Meriah Jordan Roche
Virginia Raye Rock
Cortnee D. Utsey
Edwin Urena

B.S. Degree

May 2016

Sarah Ahn
Christiana Akerele
Nkosi Asphall
Renaë Barsbay
Yael Benji
Alison Caceres
Unnati Chauhan
Stephanie Costa
Brenda DeLosSantos
Carolina Dentone
David Diaz
Zoryana Dougan
Shermane Dowdy
Noor Eldabagh
Edwin Elias

Fernando Europa
Patrick Fardella
Estefania Gallo
Amanda Gannon
Andrew Gauker
Cynthia Gause
Steven Gross
David Hill
Christopher Icochea
Jaclyn Janus
Christopher Jiron
Joyce June
Joel Marrero
David Mendez
Dagmara Michna

Mikolaj Mika
Sean Mulhern
Francisco Munoz
Shivangi Patel
Kyle Rayment
Nilu Rudani
Helena Schoppe
Branden Sanabria
Ramazan Sela
Brittany Simon
Kimberly Valdivia
Dana Weaver
Natasha Williams
May Anne Yap
Shanice Yelverton

B.S. Degree

Summer 2016

Marie-ellan Arlette
Brittney Cevallos
Aleksandra Momirovska
Ashley Newman
Sanserei Aiah Pilapil

Sahil Rana
Peter Rogers
Bianca Serrano Collazo
Kerowyn Smith

M.S. Degree

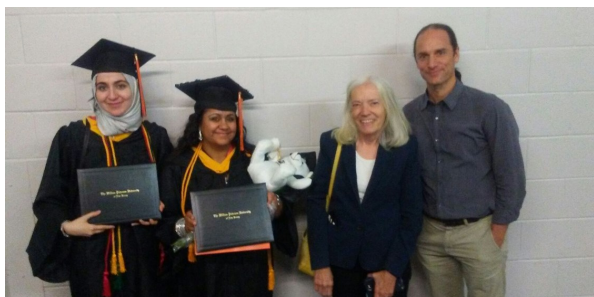
May 2016

Alicia Bartley

M.S. Degree

Summer 2016

Megan McAleavy



Awards Ceremony **2016**

On May 12, 2016 an awards ceremony was held for graduating seniors and students receiving awards.

The **Outstanding Senior Award** recipients were Unnati Chauhan and Stephanie Costa.

The **Capstone Award** (highest achievement on capstone exam) went to Peter Habib, Christopher Icochea.

The **Undergraduate Research Award** recipient was Rebecca Atencio, Erin Connor, Unnati Chauhan.

The **C. Kent Warner Award** recipient was Unnati Chauhan.

The **C. Kent Warner Scholarship** recipients were Dorisa Ceko, Reem Eldabagh, Christeena Kuriakose, Julia MacDonald, Sylvia Wasserman.

GS-LSAMP-BIOLOGY High GPA Award (for fall 2015) went to Karen Abboud, Unnati Chauhan, Stephanie Costa, Reem Eldabagh, Sylvia Wasserman.

Inductees into the **Beta Beta Beta Biological Society CHI RHO Chapter** were Daniela Artiga, Alison Caceres, Patrick Fardella, Joyce June, Julia MacDonald, Joel Marrero, Dagmara Michna, Rachel Murray, Sirai Ramirez, Franklin Roque, Helena Schoppe, Ramazan Sela, Sylvia Wasserman.

Dr. Benno is continuing his research on autistic behavior in mice. His presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience was in the 1% designated as a Neuroscience 2016 *Hot Topic*. When he's not doing science, Dr. Benno likes to hang out in New Orleans and listen to jazz. He and **Dr. Gardner** met there this summer at the Satchmo Fest in Jackson Square.



Dr. Desroches wrote new editions of the General A&PI 1 and II and Basic A&PI 1 and II lab manuals. She also was involved in a Summer Explorations in biomedical careers program for High School students. She supported 29 summer interns with money from the GS LSAMP grant and the provost, and edited the new (2016) edition of Research Publications.

Dr. Gardner managed to do some traveling last summer. She met up with the **Dr. Benno** and his family in New Orleans (above), then she and her husband traveled to Belize and Guatemala.



Dr. Gilley established the new Biology Department Student Apiary with a donation of honey bee colonies from the New Jersey Beekeepers Association. The apiary is an outdoor extension of the honey bee lab that will allow deep integration of honey bees and beekeeping into the Biology Department's student-faculty research and teaching. Nicole Miller and Trevor Courtright are shown working with bees for their honors research projects.



Dr. Martin purchased a new Biolog system that can identify culturable bacteria using 96 different metabolic tests in a multi-well, plate-culture system. His wife, Nan Perigo is now Research Facilities Manager for the New Jersey Center for Science, Technology and Mathematics at Kean. They traveled with their children to Disney World & Universal Studios over the summer.

Dr. Emmanuel Onaivi is presently hosting postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Ana Canseco in his laboratory. In March, Dr. Onaivi, Eugene Dennis and Norman Schanz presented their work at the Marijuana and cannabinoid neuroscience research summit in Bethesda.

Dr. Peek and Dr. Slaymaker continue to 'work' on the NJ beaches, collecting American Beachgrass leaves for genotyping and the presence of a fungal endophyte. The most recent outing was to 2-mile beach in the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, Wildwood Crest, NJ.



Dr. Lance Risley and his student, Julia MacDonald, were featured on the front page of the Bergen Record on October 17th in an article about their work with the threatened northern long-eared bat. The northern long-eared bat population has plummeted by about 99% white-nose syndrome fungus entered the area. Using acoustic equipment that detects high pitched bat sounds, they are able to study and track bats in the High Mountain Preserve. Once detected, bats were trapped, and tagged so they could be tracked to discover their roosting locations.



Dr. Sebetich (emeritus) is seen to the right showing off what he's doing now that he is retired.



When he was not busy with his chair duties and conducting his dune grass work with Dr. Peek, **Dr. Slaymaker** enjoyed hiking in the Rockies and he is already dreaming of getting back to the mountains next summer.

Dr. Spagna completed a sabbatical at University of California Davis, working on secondary structure of spider and arachnid ribosomal genes, and using that to re-analyze the deep evolutionary divergences in the Arachnida. His student, Dana Weaver presented her research on the evolution of Trichoptera to the 9/8 Board of Trustees meeting.

Dr. Vail had two GS-LSAMP students this summer (Cristina Rodriguez and Biannerys Pujols) working on ant eco-physiology. They presented a poster at the GS-LSAMP conference in October. He is currently taking a one-semester sabbatical dedicated to various aspects of ant biology. With Dr. Gilley he is preparing to team-teach a revised Parasitology course again in Spring 2017.

Dr. Miryam Wahrman published The Hand Book: Surviving in a Germ-Filled World (ForeEdge Press), which provides handy tips to reduce the risk of infectious disease. She was interviewed about The Hand Book on numerous radio programs, on TV and in newspaper articles. Dr. Wahrman also organized and ran a symposium: World Hand Hygiene Day Forum: Surviving in a Germ-Filled World in May. She was the recipient of the WPUNJ 2016 Faculty Award for Excellence in Research/Scholarship/Creative Expression in May 2016.

The Biology department's rare corpse flower plant, *Amorphophallus titanum*, bloomed for the first time this summer on July 2nd. The department obtained and planted the bulb in the greenhouse in 2012. *Amorphophallus titanum* is a plant that blooms briefly and infrequently, especially in cultivation. The bloom smells like rotting flesh, which is why it is known as the corpse flower. Photo Credit: Mike Wyrwa



Pictured above: The Biology Faculty at the annual retreat in May

Biology Department Alumni News

1987

William Ellgren (BS, '87) and his family met with **Dr. Sebetich** and his wife in St. Augustine. They had not seen or communicated with each other in about 31 years. Bill

originally planned to spend two years at WPU and then transfer, but was so impressed with WP that he decided to get his degree. Bill 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 and gives special thanks to Dr. Sebetich for getting him started in his career.

1989

Dave Vollenweider (BS '89) took Evolution from the late **John Rosengren**. Dr. Rosengren gave his students a list of places to visit during their life and told



them to tell him about it. Dave is saddened that he cannot tell Dr. Rosengren that he visited the Galapagos Islands off Ecuador. He says it was the most INCREDIBLE trip for any biologist/nature lover. They swam with Galapagos sea lions, snorkeled with giant Pacific sea turtles, and had finches eating off the plates in restaurants. They even visited the Charles Darwin Research Station. Dave is also still operating his fishing guide business, 'Live to Fish Guide Service', and has been teaching biology at Passaic High School for 20 years.

2000

Betzi Sevilla (BS '09) is a senior CTA at Quintiles.

Jeniffer Musyoki (BS '09) has come back to WPU and is now enrolled in the master's program in Biotechnology.

Jennifer Johnson Urban (BS '09) is defending her PhD thesis at Brown University this December. She was one of the alumni who attended the Undergraduate Research Symposium this April.

2010

Peter Tlatelpa (BS '10) received his PhD in Chemistry from NJIT and been accepted as a postdoctoral fellow at NYU.

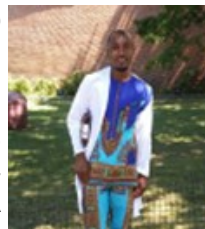
John Urban (BS '10) came to the Undergraduate Research Symposium in April. He will be defending his PhD thesis at Brown University this December.

2011

Asiel Benitez (BS, '11) received his PhD from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai this year and now is a postdoctoral fellow at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

2012

Chima Amadi ('12) graduated from Cornell University. He has now been accepted by the Stony Brook Medical School MD/MBA program, and started their medical program in August (photo on right).



Alban Biba (BS '12) has been teaching middle school and Biological Sciences at iLearn schools for the past three years. He is doing his Masters in Educational Leadership from Ramapo College in order to become a Science Supervisor. He has also been working at Montclair State University Gifted and Talented program focusing on STEM initiatives.

Meriam Karimi (BS BT '12) is currently an Aggregate Report Coordinator at Bayer Consumer Care in Whippany.

Ashley Miranda (BS '12) is now Laboratory Technician at Compass Group.

Vivin Mohan (BS '12) is now a Clinical Research Coordinator at the University of Miami - Miller School of Medicine. He received his M.S. as a Clinical Research Coordinator (Hematology/Oncology) from Rutgers Newark in 2014.

2013

Heather Baker (BS '13) works for a pharmaceutical company as an accountant and is married to Eles Ledina who also graduated from WPU with a BS in Biology (2014).

Debbie Cho (PB '13) is now Company Commander for the United States Army National Guard. She is also a Biology/Environmental Science Teacher.

Larissa Nkouami Pamen (MS BT '13) finished her first year of medical school at Stony Brook. She now is juggling her second year with a new baby boy Paul-Joseph!

Danielle Sommerville (BS '13) is in her third year teaching at Westwood High School and is now back at William Paterson working on her master's degree as a Teacher of Students with Disabilities.

2014

Matthew Asmar (BS '14) finished his Physician's Assistant training at King's College in Wilkes Barre, PA, passed his Boards on October 6th and is in the process of interviewing with Hackensack and St. Mary's hospital for a CCU and Hospitalist position, respectively.

Traci-Lin Goddin (BS '14) is a vision therapist at EyeCare Associates. She volunteers as an EMT and spoke on the alumni panel at our Undergraduate Research Symposium in April.

Eles Ledina (BS '14) is married to Heather Baker (BS '13) and is currently a Biology teacher at Elmwood Park High School.

Jenna Tosto (BS '14) is now a Graduate Student Researcher at Temple University

2015

Barbara Abboud (BS '15) is now attending Farleigh Dickenson School of Pharmacy. She came to speak to the College of Science & Health pre-professional club FHP (Future Healthcare Providers). Barbara brought with her the Pre-Admissions advisor, Mr. Peter Buchner. They were both incredibly helpful to our students in giving our students hints and suggestions.

Ammar Ali (BS '15) is now in the MS program in Biology here at WPUNJ. He is also teaching as an adjunct professor.

Daniel Arencibia ('15) is excited to be pursuing a degree in marine biology at the University of Hawaii. He is planning on working on the molecular ecology of different species of corals in monitoring their stress and responses to the invasive alga *G. salicornia*.

Devon Atkinson (BS BT '15) is currently working towards her master's degree at the School of Medicine, University of Maryland in Baltimore. She got scouted by a lab based on her research with **Dr. Benno**. She is considering entering their PhD program once she finishes her degree next year.

Neal Joshi (BS '15) was accepted into Rowan University's DO program, and will be part of the DO/PhD program there. He spoke on the alumni panel at our Undergraduate Research Symposium in April.

Giorgi Kardziani (BS '15) was accepted to St. George Medical School.

Daria Nowosielecki (G ND '15) was accepted into and is attending Rutgers University School of Nursing.

Frank Oliver (BS '15) is a DO Candidate (Class of 2019) at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine. He is the president of the Student Osteopathic Surgical Association. Last summer he went on a medical mission trip to Ghana, Africa through BlueMedAfrica. There he was able to volunteer at the local hospitals, provide care at remote villages and provide care and bandages at a cured leprosy village.

Jazzmine Paz (BS '15) is now a Professional 1 student in the Doctor of Pharmacy Program of Fairleigh Dickinson University at Florham Park, NJ. She works part time as a Pharmacy Technician at CVS Pharmacy at Garfield, NJ.

Heather Szendi (BS '15) started teaching at Immaculate Conception High School in Montclair, NJ. She will be teaching all Biology courses, including Honors. Additionally, she will be designing the SAT Math prep course and helping to write new district curriculum in Science for the 2017-2018 school year.

Sneha Tammareddy (BS '15) got accepted into Touro Dental School in Westchester NY.

Jasmine Wood (BS '15) started at the University of Rochester Medical School in August. She is doing well – likes the program, the curriculum and says that 'the city of Rochester is fantastic, it's cheap to live and there's so much culture and lots of things to do!'

2016

Jennifer Ball (BS '16) was accepted into and is now enrolled in the WPUNJ BS in Nursing program.

Nathan Carroll (BA '06/PB '16) is now attending Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine. He came and spoke to the College of Science & Health pre-professional club FHP (Future Healthcare Providers). This was very helpful to our students.

Eugene Dennis (BS '16) is now in the Masters program in Biology at WPUNJ, and also teaching here as an adjunct professor.

Steven Gross (BS '16) graduated Magna Cum Laude in May. He has been hired by Piscataway High School as a Resource Biology Teacher and has also been accepted by Rowan University into the online TOSD Graduate Endorsement program.

Joyce June (BS '16) has applied to dental schools and is waiting for results.

Elizabeth Los ('16) was accepted into the 3+3 Physical Therapy Program at Rutgers.

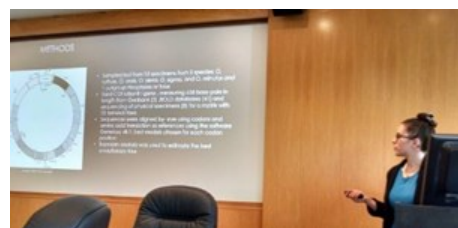
Samantha Morris ('16) was accepted into the 3+3 Physical Therapy Program at Rutgers.

Branden Sanabria (BS '16) is now continuing his education in the master's program in Biotechnology here at WPUNJ.

Jeovan Santos ('16) was accepted into the 3+3 Physical Therapy Program at Rutgers.

Helena Schoppe (BS '16) was accepted into a BS Nursing program.

Dana Weaver (BS '16) graduated Magna Cum Laude in May. She is now enrolled in the MS program at WP. A student of **Dr. Spagna's**, she made a very good impression when she presented her research on the evolution of



Trichoptera in the family *Oligophlebodes* to the Board of Trustees' Sept. 8th meeting. She is now continuing her studies in the masters program at WPUNJ.



Some Biology department alumni who came to the Undergraduate Research Symposium in April. Left to right: Maria Bell (MS '08), Darci Shinn (BS '06), Jennifer Johnson Urban (BS '09), Traci Goddin (BS '14), John Urban (BS '10), Anthony Riga (BS Chem '14) and Juan Carlos Claros-Sorto (BS '08).

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<http://www.wpunj.edu/giving/>

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Email Dr. Eileen Gardner at: gardnere@wpunj.edu and let us know what you're doing!

Include your name, year of graduation, and any personal and 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.
<http://www.wpunj.edu/cosh/departments/biology/alumni-news.dot>



9th Annual Biology Department Student Faculty Softball Game

The game was held on May 13th 2016. After an exciting game, the score was 12-12. Since a tie goes to the old people, once again, the faculty team prevailed. As usual, the game was arranged by Dr. Peek.