COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

Alumni News

Biology Department

Fall 2014 William Paterson University Vol. 3

Inside:

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

Did you know?

- Biology faculty have almost two million dollars in active grants this academic year.
- Approximately 50 Biology students participated in research projects with our faculty this year and 20 undergraduate and graduate students conducted Independent Studies and Readings.
- 25 research presentations at national and regional meetings were authored or co-authored by our students.
- 35 Biology/Biotechnology undergraduates had paid internships last summer. Most were funded by various grants in the department and university.





Nobel Laureate Gives Keynote Address at 8th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium







Nobel Laureate Sir Harold Kroto was recruited by Dr. Chauhan to give the keynote address for the Undergraduate Research Symposium this year. Here he is seen with two of the award winners from WPUNJ. On the left is Dr. Kroto with Neal Joshi (1st place in Cell and Molecular Biology) and on the right Adonis Rivie (2nd place in Physiology) is congratulated by Dr. Kroto and Dean Kenneth Wolf.

On April 12th the College of Science and Health hosted the 8th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Biological and Chemical Sciences. The symposium provides a forum for undergraduates 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, the Symposium included 89 presentations from 27 institutions and 6 states. Undergraduates from institutions such as Yale University, Vassar and Sarah Lawrence competed. Students came from as far away as Alabama and Texas. 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.







Dr. Chesney Retires

Dr. Chesney retired this year, after almost 30 years at the university. He came to William Paterson in 1985. Through the years his teaching spanned from non-majors Human Biology to General Microbiology to graduate courses in Virology, Immunology and Seminar in Molecular Biology. He mentored many students in his laboratory, was the Beta Beta advisor, served as the Graduate Coordinator, and advised the Biotechnology majors for many years. He is settling into his new home in North Carolina and might start teaching courses at nearby colleges in the Spring.

Page 2 Volume 38

Biology/Biotechnology BS Degrees 2014

Keith Malinak. Rachel Abboud Albert Abrenilla Diana Manzueta Patrick Addo. Thomas McKinney, Paige Appleton, Maria Mero, Thomas Apruzzese, Katelyn Miele, Nelson Araujo, Rachel Montel, Matthew Asmar. Maria Morel Alvssa Beres. Heidi Morinvil, William Camarco, Brittany Mucha, Jessica Cerbone, Michael Mule, Erin Crehan, Alanna Nolan, Kingsley Dah, Monique Obsharski, Alexa Dashko, Heifa Odeh, Kristen De Wilde. Alexander Orton, Brenda DeLosSantos, Ekua Osei-Frimpong, Heather DenHeyer, Brittany Pakestein, Giancarlo Dimaano. Daniel Dolcine Jennifer Parente Marco Emadzadeh, Hetal Patel. Raphael Ezuduemoih. Neha Patel, Matthew Flaherty, Alfrida Pena, Sarah Flaherty, Michelle Pena, Traci-Lin Goddin, Khazyah Perry, Sindhuri Gollamudi, Celine Phan, Bo Blaine Gumalo, Alexander Puglionisi, Joany Guzman, Nicholas Puglisi, Esbahie Hamade, James Reilly, Melissa Happe, Xavier Rodriguez, Menalee Hapuaracchi, Jonreb Rue, Naeem Hashmi, Justin Rue, Sandy Huynh Jessika Santamaria, Muhammad Kahf, Emily Scully, Maria Kashnikow. Mansi Shah. Ana Kelly, Daaiyah Smith, Ryan Kelly, Heather Sulewski, Mark Kirk, Robert Sutherland, Eric Kneisler Brooke Thomas, Savira Kochhar, Lai Tran. George Kreal, Samantha VanSchaik Danielle LaBruna, Nicholas Walasek. Michael Lang, Matthew Weber, Eles Ledina Marinda Whitaker, Jaclyn Leider. Nicole Wondrack, Allison Liberato,

M.S. Degrees in Biology/Biotechnology 2014:

Sabina Mahmood,

Tiffany Yeh,

Wali Yunus

John Butryn, Jigna Patel,
Angelica Catalini, Henry Raab,
Melissa Gallo, Khushnuma Sabavala,
Sheida Hayati, Raahi Upadhyay,
Larissa Nkouami Pamen, Ilana Workman

Awards Ceremony 2014

On May 9, 2014 an Awards Ceremony was held for graduating seniors and students receiving awards.



Some of the 2014 Graduates at the Awards Ceremony in May

The Outstanding Senior Award recipient was Albert Abrenilla & Nelson Araujo.

The Capstone Award (highest achievement on capstone exam) went to Nelson Araujo.

The Undergraduate Research Award recipients were Traci-Lin Goddin.

The C. Kent Warner Award recipient was Paige Appleton.

The C. Kent Warner Scholarship recipients were Rebecca Atencio, Alison Caceres, Noor Eldabagh, Neal Joshi, & Sin Yeong Park.

The GS-LSAMP-MAPS High GPA Award (for the fall 2013 term) went to Albert Abrenilla, Nelson Araujo, Jasmine Wood, Adonis Rivie, Bryant Catano, Jean Mercedes, Neil Milord, Christopher Reyes, Daniel Lupo, Denisse Velez & Jennifer Parente.

GS-LSAMP-BIOLOGY High GPA Award (for Fall 2013) went to Rachel

Abboud, Ammar Ali, Paige Appleton, Shefkate Bakiu, Unnatiben Chauhan, Neal Joshi, Frank Oliver, Emily Scully, & Brittany Simon.

The GS-LSAMP Award for Best Summer 2013 Research Internship Presentation went to Adonis Rivie.

Inductees into the Beta Beta Biological Society CHI RHO Chapter were Rachel Abboud, Albert Abrenilla, Ammar Ali, Matthew Asmar, Shefkate Bakiu, David Brunkhorst, Heather DenHeyer, Matthew Flaherty, Steven Gross, Bo Blaine Gumalo, Menalee Hapuarachchi, Neal Joshi, Allison Liberato, Denise Liberty, Kriste Marcus, Alanna Nolan, Frank Oliver, & Sneha Tammareddy. Some of them are shown below.



Commencement 2014



Dr. Risley with some of the Biology and Biotechnology Graduates at the Commencement Ceremony at the Izod Center.

2014-2015 NSF/ISSBB Scholars

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

Row 1: Ammar Ali, Rebecca Atencio, Devon Atkinson, David Brunkhorst, Bryant Catano, Unnatiben Chauhan

Row 2: Erin Connor, Noor Eldabaugh, Yasmine Farhan, Steven Gross

Row 3: Virginia Hislop, Neal Joshi, Joyce June, Farnaz Ladha, Daniel Lupo, Kristie Marcus

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

Adrian Plummer

Row 5: Allison Podmajersky, Adonis Rivie, Gavin Taylor, Ndeah Taylor, Denisse Velez,

Sylvia Wasserman

Faculty/Staff News

Dr. Bob Benno wants you to know that he continues to run the mouse lab, and they are still doing stereotaxic surgery of the rat brain in the Neuroscience course. Here is this year's class in the surgical suite of the newly renovated animal facility with Dr. Benno and Dr. Lee.



Dr. Danielle Desroches spent a lot of her time teaching this year, but found time to develop and teach a Pre-Nursing A&P course with newly developed lab manual, develop a brochure on Forensic Anatomy and Physiology and teach in the AIM HIGH Program for HS students. She also obtained additional funding and supervised 25 students in research internship under the GS-LSAMP-MAPS program, revised and edited the 2014-2015 AP lab manuals and the Instructor versions, and mentored and advised the ISSBB scholars. She finally got some fun and rest by going to Las Vegas and enjoyed the Spa and fabulous cuisine at the Bellagio.

Dr. Eileen Gardner spent much of the summer writing a new NSF-STEM grant to fund the ISSBB Scholarships. She managed to sneak away to spend a week in the NC Outer Banks and in New Orleans.

Dr. David Gilley spent the summer working on the GC/MS, writing a USDA grant proposal as well as a paper which has been published by PLoS ONE on hydrocarbon emissions by waggle-dancing honey bees and the effect on foraging. He also spent some time with his two adorable kids, touring local attractions.

Nancy Malba (Biology Department Secretary) retired last spring. There was a festive going away party attended by many from the College of Science and Health as well as her family.



Dr. Emmanuel Onaivi is back from his Fulbright sabbatical at Addis Ababa Uni-

versity (AAU) in Ethiopia, where he taught molecular cell biology, molecular pharmacology and neuropharmacology. He initiated collaboration in the locally used psychostimulant "Khat". He was examiner

> for Masters students theses and





provided public lectures in drug abuse and mental health to faculty and students at AAU and Jimma University. He also visited other countries in the East and South Africa including the Giraffe Sanctuary in Kenya. He gave a presentation of his experiences to the university community (including President Waldron)when he returned.

Dr. Joe Spagna's lab worked this summer on the evolution of grass spiders from all over North America, including Mexican species for the first time. Adonis Rivie and Derrick Dorph worked with him on that project. Vinny Faso is working on a secondary-structure model for the 18S gene that can be applied to all spiders.

Dr. Lance Risley is continuing his FAA funded bat project conducted by the Atlantic City Airport which started in 2001. He is working with Paola Velandia and Cindy Del Valle Rivas (in photo with bat) are measuring the concentrations of Hg in a proposed federally-endangered species from contaminated and noncontaminated areas. This bat species has declined significantly in the past few years because of the White Nose Syndrome fungus. They plan to expand the project to include putting radio transmitters on the bats to get more information about their ecological habits. Dr. Risley also worked with former MS Bio student and current US FWS employee, Marilyn

Kitchell, to relocate the federallyendangered Indiana bat roost trees at





the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Morris County.

Dr. David Slaymaker spent as much time as possible relaxing and having fun before becoming department chair in July. Before becoming chair he enjoyed the summer hiking in Vermont, windsurfing in Arkansas, and spending time with family and friends in NJ and NYC. After becoming chair he spent most of his time reading emails, responding to emails, reading responses to responded-to emails, and.... well, you get the picture.

Dr. Edith Wallace (Professor Emeritus) has been a Master Gardener for 15 years, contributing over 4,000 volunteer hours. She was recognized by Rutgers Coopera-



contributions the Rutgers Master Gardener program and exemplary service. The Master Gardener Association of Passaic County established the "Dr. Edith Wallace

Scholarship" for high school students planning to study horticulture in college. In addition the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey presented the 2013 Women & Wildlife Awards at the Trenton Country Club to five women including Dr. Wallace. She has also been honored by NJBG/Skylands as "Volunteer of the Year" and by the Bergen County Audubon Society with the Harold Feinberg Conservation Award.

7th Annual Biology Department Student **Faculty Softball Game**

The game was held on 5/9/14. This year the faculty won by forfeiture, but a friendly and lively game followed. Dr. Sebetich returned from retirement to referee. As usual, the game was arranged by Dr. Peek.



Biology Department Alumni News

1980

Maria J. Lavooy (BS 80) was an early member of the Biopsych Honors Program who worked in Dr. Hahn's mouse lab. She earned a PhD in Behavior Genetics at Miami University in Ohio. She is Associate Professor at Florida Institute of Technology and President of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology.

1986

Joe Salinas (BS 86 Bio/Psych) graduated with honors in Biopsychology. He received his MD from UMDNJ in 1990, completed a residency in LA and moved to Washington State. He is CEO of a medical group and Associate Professor/Chair of Medicine at Pacific Northwest University School of Medicine. Married since 1995, he has two children.

1992

Zenin (Panchal) Kurunthottical (BS 92) - Married Raju Kurunthottical. She obtained an MS degree in Computer Science in 2005 and is currently working at Luminex Corp., Austin, TX as an Oracle Analyst/Developer.

Raju Kurunthottical (BS 1992) Married Zenin Panchal. He obtained his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Des Moines College (D.O.) in 1996 and is currently working in Family Practice in Austin Texas at Seton Hospital.

1995

Michael DePalma President of M3 Health, cofounded The Human API, became partner in Whitespace Innovation Labs with David Kord Murray, and cofounded Brainfoodtv.com.

1998

Mike Sabia (BS 98) received his MD from New York Medical College. He is an Anesthesiologist and lecturer at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

Regina (Wilson) Herbert (BS BT '98)

is teaching in a one year position in the Biology Department at WPUNJ. Before that she was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the UMDNJ Department



of Medicine Center for Emerging Pathogens.

1999

Chris Podolsky (BS 99) has been involved in health and wellness for over 20 years. He is the president of Mythic Health, a company centered around Physical Therapy and Medical Supplies.

2000

Michelle Klukosky (BS 00) has been Human Resources & Publications Manager at Premier Manufacturing Company in Tualatin, OR for 14 years

2003

Rachel Salazar (BS 03, MS 12) has been a Biology teacher at Montville Township High School since 2003.

Mario Sampson, (BS 03) obtained a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree from The University of California, San Francisco in May 2011 He has now joined the Food and Drug Administration in Silver Spring, Maryland as a Clinical Pharmacology Reviewer.

2004

Krishna Tobon (BS 04) is a postdoctoral fellow at Rutgers Health Sciences University. She is funded by an NIH Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award.

2005

Charnsmorn (Lily) Hwang (BS 05) is



working on her PhD in Australia studying seagrass decline near Adelaide in a collaboration between National Cheng Kung University, the Australian

Water Quality Centre and Taiwan's National Applied Research Labs. To better understand seagrass loss, they are attempting to synchronize satellite, aerial and underwater imagery.

2006

Tiffany Greco (BS 06) received her PhD from the University of MD Baltimore and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at UCLA in the department of Neurosurgery. Her interests focus on understanding cellular metabolism and neuroendocrine disorders following traumatic brain injury.

2008

Rosa Flores (BS 08) is a Registered Nurse in Intensive Care Unit at Hackensack University Medical Center.

Amanda Liggett (BS 08) received her MD in 2012 and is a resident physician in the Combined Internal/ Family Medicine Program at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia.

Visalam " Vis" Mahalingam (BS 08) graduated in 2011 from UMDNJ/Rutgers as a Doctor of Physical Therapy. She has been living in Los Angeles and works as a pediatric physical therapist in Beverly Hills, LA. As much as she enjoys the fabulous weather, she is planning on relocating back to the east coast in the near future.

2009

Aminat Ayinde (BS 09) is selfemployed, traveling the world and loving it. Here is the image from her cover editorial for BAKU Magazine.



Annazanita Yapp (BS 09) trained as a Clinical Medical Technician at Valley Hospital. She is now working as a medical laboratory scientist in the blood bank department of St. Barnabas Medical Center.

2010

Buket Hakanoglu (BS 10) works at a small animal hospital with only two veterinarians and two technical assistants on the entire staff.

Adam Long (BS 10) graduated from Des Moines University, College of Podiatric Medicine & Surgery in May 2014. He will be doing his residency at Western Reserve Health Education Hospital System in Youngstown, OH.

Vivin Mohan (BS 10) is finishing a Master's degree in Clinical Trials Science at Rutgers-Newark and working as a Cardiac Telemetry Technician at St. Barnabas Hospital.

Corey Stein (BS 10) got his MS in Biomedical Informatics from the University of Pittsburgh in 2013. He is now a Dental Medicine Student at Western University of Health Sciences Doctor of Dental Medicine, and expecting to graduate in 2018.

2011

Kim Dousek (MS 11) was hired at Histogenetics Inc. on February 2012.

Patrick Hamawi (Postbacc 11) is enrolled at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Steven Knezevic (BS 11) finished his



MS in Exercise Physiology at WPUNJ. He is Research Coordinator at James J. Peters VA Medical Center, Spinal Cord Injury Research

Center for the ReWalk Exoskeleton Pilot Study. He spoke to students about this exciting research at the Biology Department Career Day in March, 2014.

Kayode Oluyemi (MS BT 11) is involved in vaccine production at Merck Sharp & Dohme, West Point, PA.

Mushhood Sheikh (BS BT 11) has a Senior Tech Cell Line Development Position with the Cell Biology Team in a research project supported by the Bill Gates Foundation.

2012

Kyle D'Amico (BS 12) received his doctorate in Physical Therapy from Rutgers University.

Angelica Catalini (MS 12) is now a Quality Engineer at Beckton, Dickinson, & Company.

Jennifer (Fiorelli) Couret (BS BT 12)

is a PhD candidate at the Rutgers University Molecular Neurobiology program. She participated in Career Day 2014. In addition



she is the new mom of a 1 year old baby.

Kiran Herapara (BS BT 12) is a Molecular Laboratory Technologist at BioReference Laboratories

Jacqueline Kuzora (BS 12) was working as an animal control officer and an animal cruelty investigator when she learned of the Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship program at WPUNJ. In the Spring she was selected to be both a Woodrow Wilson and a Noyce Scholar, and entered the Masters in Teaching (MAT) program at WPUNJ.

Henry Raab (BS 12/MS 14) is enrolled in a Ph.D. program in Coastal Resource Management at Eastern Carolina University, with Fellowship support.

Atit Raval (BS BT 12) is attending Rutgers towards a Masters in Biomedical Sciences, and also working as a Molecular Technician at a clinical diagnostic lab with primary responsibilities in nucleic acid extractions, PCR, and DNA sequencing.

Daniel Rizzolo (MS 12) is a Field Sales and Marketing Representative at Femto Scientific.

John Sabat (12) is attending Rutgers School of Dental Medicine.

Joon Seo (B.S. 12) was accepted into a PhD program in Cell Biology and Neuroscience at Rutgers University.

Adela Selimaj (formerly Gazaferi) (BS 12) works as a microbiology lab technician for Omega-Biochem, testing cosmetic products for bacterial and fungal contamination.

Edgar Valdivia, (BS 12) is working as an LIS (Life sciences Information Systems) Analyst, at BioReference Laboratories, In Elmwood Park.

2013

Lorato Anderson (13) is attending St. George's University School of Medicine.

Regina Borriello (MS 13) has been a High School Biology Teacher at Clifton High School for ten years.

Nicholas Boyko (BS 13) is a first year

Medical student at Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine and the First Year pre-SOMA Chair. He spoke to the Future Healthcare Professionals and performed



Osteopathic manual manipulation on Dr. Leonard.

Debra Cho (postbacc 13) just started training for Teach for America. She is planning to become a biology teacher.

Rebecca Flim (postbacc 13) is attending De Sales University in Pennsylvania.

Sheida Hayati (MS 13) is a PhD student at Rutgers Biomedcal and Health Sciences in Biomedical Informatics.

Omar Mayorga (BS 13) is attending Rutgers University School of Dentistry.

Jigna Patel (MS 13) got accepted into the New England College of Optometry.

Jon Piccariello (BS BT 13) - just finished his first year in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Rutgers. He came back to speak to the students at the April meeting of the Future Healthcare Professionals.

Marc Pickard (13) is attending Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Steven Straub (MS 13) is a Middle School Science Teacher at North Warren Regional High School (Blairstown, NJ).

Gabriella Tosto (BS 13), who is a Research Assistant in the Neuroscience and Neuropsychology Lab of the Kessler Foundation spoke at Career Day in March 2014.

Ilana Workman (MS 13) is now a Quality Control Technician at Progenitor Cell Therapies, Ringwood, NJ.

Eric Yuneman (BS 13) started the MD program at St. George's University School of Medicine and is still adjusting to the "Island Time". Eric says Grenada is beautiful, the water is crystal clear and the temperature this time of year is on average 82°. He says that he strongly recommends St. George's Medical School.

2014

Rachel Abboud (BS 14) is attending the College of Osteopathic Medicine at the New York Institute of Technology.

Albert Abrenilla (BS 14) is pursuing his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Rutgers University in Newark.

Paige Appleton (BS 14) has had two jobs since graduation. She did research at the USDA at Cornell, doing research on powdery mildew on grapes, then obtained a job at Church & Dwight, working on detergent quality control and other company experiments. She is still interested in attending graduate school.

Tom Apruzzese (BS 14) is at the College of Virginia in Lynchburg in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

Matthew Asmar (BS 14) is attending graduate school at Kings College in Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania to become a Physician's Assistant.

Alyssa Beres (BS 14) loves teaching Biology at Manchester Regional High School in

Haledon. She spoke about teaching at Career Day in March 2014. She also finds time to own a stable, and continues to ride in the rodeo as a barrel racer during the summers.



John Butryn (MS 14) is a high school Biology teacher in Plainfield, NJ.



Alumni News, continued

Phil Dilavore (Postbacc 14) is in the 3+3 Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Rutgers University in Newark.

Sindhuri Gollamudi (BS 14) is attending Saint George's University School of Medicine.

Mark Kirk (BS 14) is working towards his MD at the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine.

Michael Lang (BS 14) started a career in pre-clinical neuropharmacology, doing research in a professional industry setting at PsychoGenics Inc. He's working at the Montvale, NJ branch of the Tarrytown, NY company.

Allison Liberato (BS 14) has a Laboratory Technician position at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in Kenneth Chang's Lab using RNAi in cancer research. They perform screens for clients to see

which genes are best to target with shRNA to silence the gene, also making the vectors and testing them.

Katelyn Miele (BS 14) is working to-

wards her Doctorate of Physical Therapy at Rutgers University.

Monique Obsharski (BS 14) is attending Ross University Veterinary School. She is doing very well in her coursework, working hard and enjoying herself.

Jessika Santamaria (BS 14) is excited to be at the University of Hawaii at Manoa studying towards her Master's degree in Entomology.

Emily Scully (BS 14) is a Biological Intern at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Rob Sutherland (BS 14) is working at Collagen Matrix as a Senior Manufacturing Technician.

Alyx Weaver (MS 14) was accepted into the Kent State Neurosciences PhD program. She received an assistantship with a full waiver and stipend through the Neuroscience program.

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 http://www.wpunj.edu/cosh/departments/biology/alumni-news.dot

2014 Biology Department Career Day



Alumni and students who spoke at our Career Day 2014 (left to right): Jennifer (Fiorelli) Couret (BS 12), Steven Knezevic (BS 11), Vinnie Faso (present MS student at WPUNJ), Alyssa Beres (BS 14), and Gaby Tosto (BS 13).



Students at the April meeting of the Future Health Professionals who finished their undergraduate studies in 2014 and were accepted into professional schools (from left to right): Matt Asmar, Phil DiLavore, Rachael Abboud, Tom Apruzzese, Pat Hamawi, their favorite pre-professional advisor - Dr. Leonard, Mark Kirk, Jon Picariello (alumni of 2013 who came back to speak to the students), Monique Obsharski and Albert Abrenilla.