



What's Happening in the Department of Biology & Environmental Science at West Virginia Wesleyan

Spring 2018



Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) recipients **Michael Winters** (center) and **Annika Naylor** (right) worked with mentor **Dr. Jodge LaFantasie** (not pictured) and collaborator **Dr. Melissa Thomas-VanGundy** (US Forest Service, left) on American Chestnut research during the summer of 2017. Annika and Michael presented their research for the Society of American Foresters WV Chapter in September 2017 and plan to present for

the WV Academy of Sciences in April 2018. Their presentations are entitled "Is Hypo-Virulent Chestnut Blight Present at the St. George Research Site; What are the Possible Factors Affecting Infection Rates?" and "Differences among Chestnut Hybrids and Their Litter Fauna."

Eight WVWC Science students presented their summer research at the West Virginia Idea Network for Biomedical Research Excellence Symposium at Marshall University this past July. Each student worked with research mentors at either WV Wesleyan, West Virginia University, or Marshall University for 8 weeks this past summer as part of a National Institutes of Health Program supporting undergraduate research. Front row: **Kyra Lasko, Grace Montgomery, and Taylor Barnett**. Back row: **Dr. Luke Huggins, Jacobo Rendon, Garrett Wilkins, Catherine Bandak, Josiah Bosly, and Michael Mueller**.



The genetics class helps WVWC break in the new high-technology classroom in Christopher Hall of Science. This 39-seat smart classroom includes dual projectors, a document camera, wireless internet, and sound system.



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Alumni News!

Please join us in congratulating **Dr. Jordan Beckett** and **Dr. Ben Kordusky**.



Jordan has been honored by American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians as the 2017 Osteopathic Resident of the Year in Pediatrics. Jordan is completing her residency at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH. She will be returning to Palestine, WV in May to begin her pediatric practice. For more information on Jordan, see <https://aof.org/news-events/aof-stories/2017-outstanding-resident-year-award-pediatrics>.



Ben has received the top award for Outstanding Clinical Competency and Professionalism by the West Virginia University School of Dentistry Alumni Association. The West Virginia University School of Dentistry Alumni Association presents this award each year to the top graduating senior in the dental program. This is the second time in the last 7 years that a Wesleyan graduate has received this honor. Dr. Dusty Getz was also honored in 2012. For more information on Ben and this award, see <http://dentistry.hsc.wvu.edu/alumni/awards/student-award-for-clinical-competency-and-professionalism/>

Other News

Dr. Philip Adams has completed his PhD, and is now working for the National Institutes of Health.

Jessica Harvey is finishing her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at St Georges University. Jessica is returning to practice in Elkins, WV.

Hope Lima will receive her PhD from the University of North Carolina in May and is beginning postdoctoral research at the University of Oregon.

Dr. Missy Hicks is working as postdoctoral researcher at Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Dana Tiberio Louder has joined a pediatric medicine practice in Weirton, WV.

Dr. Vivian Minkemeyer is a radiology resident at Duke University.

Dr. Phil Thomas is now a family practice resident at the South Carolina Osteopathic School of Medicine.

Dr. Dustin Getz has opened a new dental practice in Nutter Fort, WV.

Dr. Josh Henzler has opened his dental practice.

Dr. Garret Heck has opened his dental practice.

Kayla Bartlett is a physician assistant in the Harrison County School System.

Sara Petitto is attending the College of Law at West Virginia University.

Sarah Phillips is attending Mississippi State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Becca Honce has entered the PhD program at the University of Tennessee.

Zach Longeran is currently working on his PhD at Vanderbilt University.

Chelsea Gunderson has entered the PhD program at the University of Georgia.

Jacqui Omichinski is completing the Masters of Physiotherapy at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Brittany Clark is working on her Physician Assistant degree at Chatham University.

Sarah Cameron is working on her Doctor of Physical Therapy at Marshall University.



Medical Students

Samantha Smith, Jeniece Reese, Amber Stewart, and Luke Finley are attending the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University

Monique Oye, Michelle Oye, Melissa Oye, Caleb Judy, Haven Clay, Langley Salyers, Carly Heatherly, and Ali Johnson are attending the WV College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Becca Davis and Patrick Milkowski are attending the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Lindsey Paden Pruden is attending the Philadelphia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Kelly Machuca is attending St. Georges Medical School in Granada.

