As the academic year draws to a close, we can reflect on an eventful spring. Over 50 students presented their capstone projects at the annual University of Washington Tacoma Environmental Research Symposium (UWaTERS) on topics ranging from education to nanoparticles, from oceans to forests, and everything in between—a big thanks to Bonnie Becker for organizing this. Many of these students also presented at the UW Seattle Undergraduate Research Symposium, the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference, and other local and regional conferences. Congratulations to Julia Dolan, Rachel Struck, and Jessica West for their Mary Cline Environmental Undergraduate Research awards and congratulations to Sharon Hunter for her Chancellor's Medal and Chris Lower who was a finalist.

Bonnie Becker received a substantial grant to study Olympia oysters and John Finke received a Royalty Research Fund grant to study strategies for penetrating the blood-brain barrier. Congratulations to Aron Rigg for his promotion to Scientific Instructional Specialist 2 and to Alyssa Boettger who was hired into a temporary Professional Staff position. Finally, the news that Jess Asplund has accepted a position in IAS supervising scheduling and other tasks, while Lia Wetzstein has accepted a position as a research scientist at the UW Seattle LIFE center studying environmental education, has left us sad at their departure but proud that they are moving to demanding and fulfilling new positions. In this transition time, Aron will be coordinating lab needs for chemistry and physics while Alyssa will be covering biology and geology.

The new academic year will bring a number of changes: new faculty include Ali Moayed, part time lecturer in Physics, Tom Koontz, associate professor in Environmental Studies, Jeremy Davis, lecturer in biology, and a new freshwater scientist whose hiring is just being finalized; unfortunately, Dan Shugar, assistant professor in Geology, has had to defer his official start until the next year due to health issues. New classes include Remote Sensing, Animal Behavior, Ecosystem Services, Natural Resource Policy, Environmental Studies Experience (Giving Garden), and the slower, more in depth split sequence of Precalculus 1 and 2. New spaces include the newly remodeled Clean Water Innovation labs which should open for business shortly, the SCI 109 Science Software lab and the student breakout rooms SCI 110A & 110B, which are already being put to good use—thanks to Cheryl for overseeing these projects. As we breathe a sigh of relief and ease into the more relaxed rhythms of summer, let’s congratulate each other on the hard work and collegial spirit that has helped our faculty, staff and, above all, our students achieve great things this year.

GREETINGS QuESSSt FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS!

Congratulations to Mary Cline Research Awardees for 2014/2015!

Julia Dolan
Rachel Struck
Jessica West
Scan the QR code to view the program
Congratulations Graduates!
Congratulations On Your Achievements!

Publications


Grants


Julie Eaton: Association for Women in Mathematics travel grant and supplemental IAS funding to work at the Courant Institute at NYU last winter.

Awards/Recognitions

John Banks: Larsson Guest Researcher Award for the University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, Sweden to engage in agroecology research spring 2015.

Bonnie Becker: Accepted as a participant in the 2014 PKAL Summer Leadership Institute I, at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, Pennsylvania.

Linda Dawson: Granted sabbatical in 2014-15 to study Collaborative Learning. The first lecturer to be granted a sabbatical on the UWT campus!

Craig McBride: Nominated for a Student's Choice: Outstanding Faculty OSCAR

QuESSt in the News


Erica Cline was quoted in the Huffington Post, “12 Unfortunate Restaurant Truths that will Make You Think Twice about Eating Out.” http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/30/restaurant-ripoffs_n_5339702.html


Events

Ruth Vanderpool & Haley Skipper staffed an origami and math booth at S.T.E.M. night at Totem Middle School.
Events and accomplishments of Spring 2014

Presentations & Conferences

Bonnie Becker, “The Secret World of Geoduck Clam Larvae,” Washington Corrections Facility for Women, as part of the Sustainability in Prisons Project

Erica Cline, Jutta Heller, and EJ Rauschl*, “The Salmon Market Substitution DNA Sequencing Project,” Northwest Biology Instructor's Annual Meeting, Bellevue WA.

Jim Gawel, “Remobilization of legacy arsenic from lake sediments in the vicinity of the ASARCO smelter in Ruston, Washington, decades after closure,” Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting.


Peter Horak, “Modern Cryptography,” Grey-hat and IEEE students' clubs, UWT.


Craig McBride, “The Logic of Alternative Conceptions of Earth Science Conceptions” 2014 ASTE conference, Austin, TX

Erik Tou, “The Role of Geometry in Early Fluid Mechanics,” Columbia History of Science Group Conference, Friday Harbor, WA.

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference:

Ashely Clements*, Megan Hintz*, Mussel cultivation as a mitigation tool for eutrophic waters in Puget Sound, Washington

Bonnie Becker, “What Early Life History Tells us about Restoration Success in Olympia Oysters.”

Cheryl Greengrove, “Alexandrium Cyst Distribution and Germination in Puget Sound”

Jim Gawel, “Monitoring Metal Stress in Puget Sound using Metallothionein Production in Mussels in the Nearshore.”

Austin Kuhn* and Joyce Dinglasan-Panlilio, “Concentrations of Perfluorinated Compounds in Pacific Blue Mussels from the Greater Puget Sound.”

Julie Masura, Joel Baker, Susie Richards, Chris Burt, and Megan Addison, “Understanding Microplastic Marine Pollution with Citizen Science Partnerships by University of Washington Tacoma”

Michelle McCartha*, “Shifts in Energy Elucidate Responses to Changes in the Environment in Mytilus trossulus.” Received an honorable mention in the Undergraduate Poster category!

Lauren Reetz*, Julie Masura, and Joel Baker, “Characterizing Microplastics from Surface Waters of the Puget Sound, Washington.”


Congratulations to our Students & Alumni

The Chancellor’s Medalist:
Sharon Hunter
Finalist:
Chris Lower

Accepted Into Graduate Programs
Evergreen State College Masters in Environmental Studies: Kendra Baird
WSU College of Pharmacy: Kimberly Rothwell
UWT Education School: Miguel Stutz & Robin Stoyles
University of Gottingen (Germany) applied geology: Robert Taylor

Alumni News

Andrew Albaugh: After working for NOAA, moved to Bern, Switzerland and now is starting an online certificate program to teach science at the secondary level.

Jason Hall: Presented at the NOAA-WDFW seminar, “Patterns and relationships of lower trophic levels of Puget Sound’s pelagic food web.” He also presented at Salish Sea Conference.

Jane Gamble (class of 1999) is Desk Officer for Timor-Leste, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Wash DC.

Jeremy Peterson, a PPE alumnus and student in Theda Braddock’s Environmental Law class, has been accepted to Seattle University Law School.

Ashley Schascheck works for Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Max Tritt is a Fishery Biologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Maine.

Shantelle Reamer received the UW Bonderman Travel Award!

Congratulations on your new job!

Peter Gibson: Army Corp of Engineers
Michelle Knowlen: a technician NewFields Northwest LLC.
Brad McMillin: IT Tech doing GIS for the Department of Ecology, National Hydrography Dataset
Jamie (Gruber) Sloan: Staff Scientist for Landau Associates Consultants

Want to see your name in print? Submit your accomplishments or events to yay4avi@uw.edu