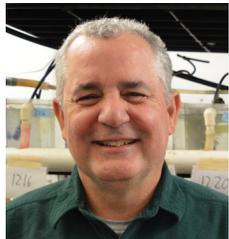


Message from the Director



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Amid the excitement of another busy and successful semester in the School of Biological Sciences, we want to share with you some highlights from the 2017-18 academic year, which was filled with accomplishments for the students, faculty, and staff of SBS. Our alumni are very important to us, and we want you to know about some of the ways your support had an impact on the education and research mission of the SBS Community.

Below are just a few examples of the outstanding work happening every day in SBS. You'll find additional highlights from the past year's accomplishments in this newsletter as well.

- Dr. Mechthild Tegeder received grant funding from USDA to study the role of ureide partitioning in the physiology and productivity of nitrogen-fixing soybeans.
- Dr. Stephanie Porter received funding from the National Science Foundation to study the genetic and ecological drivers of adaptation of microbes to high-nickel serpentine soils.
- Drs. Jesse Brunner and Erica Crespi received funding from the National Science Foundation to examine the linkage of environmental stressors to the likelihood and severity of epidemics.
- Dr. Paul Verrell received a Faculty Appreciation Award from the Associated Students of WSU for his use of open educational resources in his classes.

SBS and WSU are in the business of transforming families, one student at a time. The careers our students embark upon after completing their degrees have become increasingly complex and global. Our teaching and research efforts must follow suit, along with scholarship support, to ensure the success of our students. I deeply appreciate the alumni and friends who have donated to these efforts. Your generosity is crucial for achieving our mission. All of our alumni and friends are very important to the future of our students and program.

We hope you will visit us at sbs.wsu.edu, and whenever you plan to visit campus, please let us know by email to sbs@wsu.edu as we look forward to connecting with you.

Sincerely,

Patrick A. Carter, PhD
Professor and Director
School of Biological Sciences



Student Highlight: Marissa Chukwu

Marissa recently graduated with a degree in Zoology Pre-Medicine and earned *magna cum laude* honors. Marissa was born in New Jersey and, at a young age, moved to Nigeria with her mother. She graduated high school at the age of 15, was accepted into WSU at the age of 16, and began her freshman year at 17 years old.

She arrived from Nigeria on the first day of classes and immediately got to work pursuing her goals. Marissa was active in multiple student organizations and honors programs and also worked in a research lab. She is now interning at the Pullman Regional Hospital and wants eventually to become a general surgeon in underrepresented communities.

Sponsored Guest Speakers

Communication within the scientific community is of paramount importance. Scientists at all levels of experience must share their results with each other and the broader scientific community. SBS is fortunate to have several endowed funds that can be used to support bringing prominent scientists to campus to share their research results with our students and faculty.

This year we were able to host the following scientists at WSU and learn about their work:



Dr. **Arielle Cooley**, Whitman College, Howard E. Brewer Memorial Speaker: "From Simple to Complex: Evolution and Development of Color Pattern in Monkeyflowers"



Dr. **Aaron Liston**, Oregon State University, Howard E. Brewer Memorial Speaker: "Polyploidy and sex chromosome evolution in wild strawberry"



Dr. **Irene Pepperberg**, Harvard University, Robert Jonas Lecture in Biological Sciences: "Cognitive and Communicative Abilities of Grey Parrots"***



Dr. **Loren Rieseberg**, University of British Columbia, Howard E. Brewer Memorial Speaker: "The role of hybridization in the evolution of crops and weeds in the sunflower family"*



Dr. **Sarah Woodley**, Duquesne University, Leonard Kirschner Lectureship: "Sublethal Effects of Pesticides on Amphibian Brain Development"*

* Speaker chosen by SBS graduate students. ** Speaker chosen by SBS undergraduate students in the Zoology Club.

Undergraduate Scholarships and Research Awards

SBS awarded **42 undergraduate scholarships** in 2017-18. Students were selected from 250 very qualified and very deserving applicants across all SBS campuses. The total awarded was \$118,500 from the following funds:

- Betty K. Adams Endowed Health Sciences Scholarship
- Student Research Endowment in Biology
- Herbert L. Eastlick Scholarship
- Hugh Duncan Fraser Endowment
- Arnold and Julia Greenwell Memorial Scholarship
- Bernice I. Jordan Memorial Scholarship in Pre-Medicine
- John Allen Lewis Memorial Scholarship
- Edward R. Meyer Endowed Scholarship in Pre-Medicine
- Dr. Richard E. Morton Pre-Med Scholarship
- Thomas A. and Inez W. (Schroeder) Peacock Endowed Scholarship
- Elizabeth and Gerald Swan Endowment in Pre-Health
- J. Herman & Jean Kaye Swartz Memorial Scholarship
- Shauna R. and Charles M. Weatherby Endowed Scholarship
- George Van Vleet Endowment
- Claude H. Weitz Endowed Pre-Medical Scholarship
- Student Research Endowment in Zoology



Graduate Scholarships and Research Awards

SBS awarded \$103,590 in fellowships and **research awards to 56 SBS graduate students** on all SBS campuses during 2017-18; these awards were made from the following funds:

- The Aase Fellowship in Honor of Andrew and Bertine Aas
- SBS Abelson Fellowship
- Orlin and Susan Biddulph Endowment in Botany
- Howard E. Brewer Memorial Endowment in Botany
- Brislawn Graduate Fellowship in Biological Sciences
- Rexford Daubenmire Fund for Graduate Education
- Carl H. Elling Endowment in the School of Biological Sciences
- Betty W. Higinbotham Trust
- The Noe Higinbotham Endowment in Botany
- James R. King Memorial Endowment
- Charles W. and William C. McNeil Memorial Graduate Fellowship
- J. Herman and Jean Kaye Swartz Graduate Fellowship
- Student Research Endowment in Zoology



New Faces in the SBS Academic and Finance Offices



Brandon Fris
Academic Coordinator



Susan Schroeder
Academic Coordinator



Audrey Van Nuland
Academic Coordinator



Laura Coughenour
Fiscal Specialist

Promotions in the School of Biological Sciences



Dr. **Asaph Cousins** received promotion to Professor, Plant Physiology



Dr. **Joanna Kelly** received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, Genomics



Dr. **Lisa Carloye** received promotion to Associate Clinical Professor, Education



School of

Biological Sciences

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