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Science Buzz: News from the MU School of Science April 2014

Message from Dean Palladino



Dear Friends of the School of Science: Please take a few minutes to enjoy our spring edition of *Science Buzz*. I am very happy to announce the expansion and renovation plans for our science building. Also, the School of Science is revising our information gathering about alumni employment and we would be especially grateful to hear from you via our new alumni survey. If you feel more comfortable contacting me personally, please do (mpalladi@monmouth.edu, 732-571-3421).

Best regards to all and thank you for your support of the School.

Michael Palladino
Dean, School of Science

In this issue

- [Message from the Dean](#)
- [Winter Commencement 2014](#)
- [Alumni Outcomes](#)
- [Student Research Conference](#)
- [Career Choices Roundtable](#)
- [Science Buildings Renovations](#)
- [Featured Alumna](#)
- [Featured Alumnus](#)
- [Faculty Spotlight](#)
- [Supporting the School of Science](#)
- [Did you know?](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

Winter Commencement 2014



We proudly graduated 35 undergraduate students and eight masters students at the winter commencement on January 17. The ceremony was followed by a congratulatory reception for students and their families. Please see our website for a photo gallery of the reception and graduation.

Important Links

Help Us Track Alumni Outcomes



Monmouth University and the School of Science have a shared initiative to better understand the career outcomes of our graduates. For this reason we have revamped our alumni survey. Please help us get this valuable data by filling out this short e-form. The first 20 people to complete the survey will receive a School of Science coffee mug.



Student Research Conference



The Thirteenth Annual Student Research Conference was held in Wilson Hall on April 16. Seventy-four students presented 30 different research projects. Four student projects were selected for the Dean's Award of Excellence in Undergraduate Research. For a photo gallery, the conference abstracts, and Dean's Award winners please see the [Student Research Conference Website](#).

- [Department of Biology](#)
- [Department of Chemistry, Medical Technology, and Physics](#)
- [Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering](#)
- [Department of Mathematics](#)
- [Urban Coast Institute](#)

Career Choices Roundtable



The School of Science Peer Mentor program organizes a large professional development event for students every February. The event features alumni, friends, and supporters speaking about their careers and offering advice to current students on how to plan for success in their fields. This year's event featured 21 individual speakers, six subject based panels, as well as interviewing and networking opportunities. For a program and to see a photo gallery and video summarizing the event, please visit the [Career Choices Webpage](#).

Expansion and Renovations of Science Buildings Planned



Renovation and expansion of the School of Science buildings is underway, with major upgrades that will open new opportunities for collaborative learning and research. A new façade and state-of-the-art interiors will showcase Monmouth's commitment to students and faculty engaged in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), while a new addition and creative new interior spaces will offer an inviting destination for the entire student body. Stay tuned to our website for further information.

Alumni Profiles

Featured Alumna



Sindia Sosdian, Chemistry 2002. Currently, Sindia is a post doctoral research associate working at Cardiff University in Wales on reconstructing records of sea surface temperature and atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations across the Middle Miocene Climate Transition. This epoch, about 16-11 million years ago, was a period of sharp drop in global temperatures and is relevant to climate change science.



Scott Mark, Mathematics 2002. Scott is currently working as an estimator and project manager for a concrete & masonry supply company in Beverly, NJ. His work is directed at purchasing forecasting of total quantities of steel reinforcement and wire mesh needed for commercial, industrial, and educational facilities.

Faculty Spotlight

Martin Luther King Unsung Hero Award to Chemistry Professor Tsanangurayi Tongesayi



Please join us in congratulating Associate Professor Tsanangurayi Tongesayi as one of this year's recipients of the Martin Luther King Unsung Hero Award. Dr. "TT" is shown above with Mrs. Evelyn Hampton who nominated him for the award.

Her nomination letter recognized Dr. Tongesayi for his " true passion to make the world a better place, and a healthier place for all people. Part of his research is focused on finding inexpensive ways for poorer countries to remove toxins from drinking water supplies." He also led a campaign to collect textbooks and school supplies for schools in Zimbabwe.

[Support the School of Science](#)



Make a tax-deductible donation to the School of Science today. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of current School of Science students.

Your gift can be designated to the area of your choice, including student scholarships, the Summer Research Program, and facilities improvements.

Did You Know?



Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute (UCI) and the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC) have hired a coastal community resilience project manager. The new position was established to help translate and apply the best available science and tools to assist communities in recovering from superstorm Sandy and take actions to become more resilient to future coastal hazards, the impacts of sea level rise, and changing climate.

We welcome Dr. Ryan Orgera to this position. Orgera received a PhD in environmental geography from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 2012, and his BA and MA in Romance Languages from the University of Southern Florida. For more information please see the [UCI news page](#).

Upcoming Events

- Summer Research Program: Opening Picnic, **May 22, 3:30PM - 5:30PM**
- Summer Research Program: Symposium, **August 14, 9:00AM - 11:00AM**
- For more information on events as they develop, please see our [highlights webpage](#).

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