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

Message from Dean Palladino



Dear Friends of the School of Science:

Please enjoy our winter edition of *Science Buzz*. We look forward to congratulating the 40 expected graduates of the School who will receive their degrees at Commencement on January 16, 2015. We wish our new graduates great personal and professional success. As always I would be honored to hear from you directly (mpalladi@monmouth.edu, 732-571-3421). I look forward to seeing you soon at any of our upcoming events. Wishing you and yours a peaceful holiday season.

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

Michael Palladino
Dean, School of Science

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The Marine Science & Policy Initiative Challenge Grant Opportunity



Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute (UCI) has received a \$5 million challenge grant from an anonymous donor who has committed \$3 million to support a new Marine Science & Policy Initiative, if the University can secure commitments for an additional \$2 million by December 31, 2014. The challenge grant will bolster the university's efforts in the areas of coastal stewardship and conservation, storm recovery and resilience, and sustainable ocean use.

The donation marks the UCI's first challenge grant and one of the largest in the University's history.

Important Links



- [Department of Biology](#)
- [Department of Chemistry and Physics](#)

Annual Dean's Seminar



The 5th Annual School of Science Dean's Seminar "*The Science Denial Playbook: What We Can Learn from Debates on Evolution and Climate Change*," was presented by Ann Reid, Executive Director of the National Center for Science Education (NCSE) on October 24, 2014. The seminar prompted lively discussion at the event on the promotion of civil, but scientific discourse on topics that are socially controversial, but not divisive among scientists. To view the video of the lecture please see the [Dean's Seminar Website](#).

- [Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering](#)
- [Department of Mathematics](#)
- [Urban Coast Institute](#)

Science, Sustainability and Society Lecture Series



The Monmouth University School of Science and Urban Coast Institute will host the first Science, Sustainability and Society Series in 2014-2015. The series brings highly regarded experts to campus to engage students and the community in dialogue on critical aspects of sustainability. Upcoming speakers include former NJ Governor James J. Florio, award-winning author Paul Greenberg, and other distinguished speakers. Please see the [series website](#) for more information.

Past Issues of Science Buzz

- [July 2014](#)
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- [May 2013](#)
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- [October 2011](#)
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Alpha Epsilon Delta - Health Honor Society Officially Recognized



The Pre-Professional Health Advisory Committee (PPHAC) announced the installation of the New Jersey Delta Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED), the national health pre-professional honor society, at Monmouth University – New Jersey Delta Chapter on Friday, October 3, 2014, in Magill Commons. AED Advisor Dr. Dorothy Lobo, and Dr. Bernadette Dunphy, Co-Directors of PPHAC, congratulated the 30 installed members. The ceremony was also attended by Dr. Frank Dyer, National Counselor, and Dr. Nuran Kumbaraci, AED Regional Director, as well as family members and distinguished guests from the University. Dr. Sunaini Kaushal (Monmouth 2009) was a guest speaker. She attended Drexel University Medical College as a Monmouth Medical Scholar.

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 obtain this valuable data by filling out this short [e-form](#). We are especially interested in hearing from alumni who would like to interact with students either by speaking on campus or answering an occasional question via email. The first 20 people to complete the survey will receive a School of Science coffee tumbler.

Alumni Profiles

Featured Alumna



Emily Pumphrey Pearson, B.S. Mathematics, 2010

Emily is currently employed as a web analyst for a restaurant supply company. She says that her degree in Mathematics "was the culmination of 4 years spent constantly exercising the logical part of my brain. Looking at data and being able to see the next 10 steps in a problem helps me to analyze a wide range of situations and make real business decisions that affect my company on a daily basis."

Read [Emily's story](#).

Featured Alumnus



Robert Powoski, B.S. Chemistry & Secondary Education, 2008

Robert is currently employed as an analytical chemist at a large aerospace systems company. Chemistry experience at Monmouth University (MU) has been catalytic to Robert's career, serving as a bridge to multiple industrial and academic experiences across the country.

Read [Robert's story](#).

Faculty Spotlight

Please join us in welcoming new faculty to the School of Science



Left to right, S. Crenshaw, M. Hicks, E. Kelsey, C. Kubera, J. Weisburg, Kai Xu, and S. Zak

The School of Science is proud to welcome new faculty to our school.

[Dr. Shirley Crenshaw](#) joins us as Instructor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics. Shirley most recently was as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

[Dr. Martin Hicks](#) joins us as Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology. Martin earned a B.A. in Psychology/Biology and Spanish Literature from San Diego State University and a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of California - Irvine. Martin most recently served as an Instructor at Weill Medical College of Cornell University. Martin's research focuses on applications of gene therapy for cancer treatment.

[Dr. Edward Kelsey](#) joins us as Instructor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics. Ed has been a member of our adjunct faculty since 2002 and served as an Instructor during the fall 2011 term; following a career in industry that included positions at AT&T Bell Laboratories and Lucent Technologies.

[Dr. Cathryn Kubera](#) joins us as Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology. Cathryn has served in faculty positions at Lafayette College and the County College of Morris. Cathryn's research focuses on aspects of cell signaling during cell development, proliferation and migration.

[Dr. Jeffrey Weisburg](#) joins us as Specialist Professor in the Department of Biology. Most recently Jeffrey served on the faculty at Yeshiva University/Stern College for Women. Jeffrey has been a member of our adjunct faculty since 2012.

Dr. Kai Xu joins the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering as a Visiting International Scholar for this semester. Kai is a Lecturer in the School of Computer Science and Technology at Xi'an University of Science and Technology (XUST), one of our MOU partner institutions in Xi'an, China. Kai's research expertise is in remote sensing and GIS applications and he will be working with Professor Wang and colleagues in CSSE on workflow modeling for non-point source pollution tracking.

[Dr. Sandra Zak](#) joins us as Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics. Sandra has previously served on the faculty at the University of Hartford, Georgian Court University and the College of Saint Elizabeth.

Please check the website of each faculty member for more information.

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.

[Click here to make your gift.](#)

Did you know? Associate Professor Susan H. Marshall wins two awards



Dr. Susan H. Marshall and Associate Professor of Management and Decision Sciences Donald R. Smith were awarded a Carl B. Allendoerfer Award by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) for their article, "Feedback, Control, and the Distribution of Prime Numbers," at MAA's annual summer meeting in Portland, Oregon on August 7, 2014 (photo shown). The award is given for

articles of expository excellence published in Mathematics Magazine. In the article, Marshall and Smith describe an unusual application of the feedback and control technique from mathematical modeling to a classical mystery of number theory, the distribution of prime numbers.

In addition, Marshall received a Halmos-Ford Award for her paper, co-authored by Alexander Perlis (LSU), "Heronian Tetrahedra Are Lattice Tetrahedra," published in American Mathematical Monthly in February 2013. In the paper, Marshall and Perlis extend a result about Heronian triangles into three dimensions. For more information see our [website](#).

Upcoming Events

- Graduating students are invited to our annual post-graduation reception in the Edison Science Building foyer immediately following the January Commencement Ceremony (approximately 3 pm) on **January 16, 2015**. Check our [highlights page](#) for updates.
- The 5th annual [Career Choices Round Table](#) will be held on **February 10, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.** in the Club of Magill Commons. Alumni and friends are cordially invited to attend. Please contact Mrs. Margaret Cate, mcate@monmouth.edu if you plan on joining us.
- **March 5, 2015:** Paul Greenberg, award-winning author of the New York Times bestseller *Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food*. "*America's Catch: The Fight for our Local Seafood*" 4:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M., Wilson Auditorium
- **April 20, 2015:** Dr. Douglass Tallamy, Professor & Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology "Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants" 6:00 P.M., Wilson Auditorium
- Student Research Conference, **April 24, 2015, 2:30-5:00 P.M.**, Wilson Hall and later Erlanger Gardens, weather permitting. Alumni and friends are cordially invited. Please check [our website](#) for more information as the date nears.

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