

DEANotes

C O L L E G E O F S C I E N C E A N D T E C H N O L O G Y

W O N G N O T E S

Student & Faculty Notable Achievements Summer and Early Fall 2015

Celebrating our Dean's List Students

On October 28, the College of Science and Technology and the College of Liberal Arts hosted a joint reception to recognize the two college's Dean's Lists (for the spring and summer terms) students. To "put our money where our mouth is," Interim Dean Wheeler (CLA) and Interim Dean Wong (CST) each contributed \$500 so that a lucky honoree, whose name was pulled out of a fishbowl, would win a \$1,000 scholarship. The lucky winner was a CST student! We are exceptionally proud of the 240 who earned a spot on the Dean's List in spring, and the 58 who earned this honor in the summer. The Dean's List students worked very hard to earn a GPA of 3.6 or higher in some very challenging courses. See the insert for the complete list of CST Dean's List students listed by major.

Upsilon Pi Epsilon Award

Upsilon Pi Epsilon, a national honor society for Computer Science majors, aims to "promote the computing and information disciplines and to encourage their contribution to the enhancement of knowledge." Michael F. Bernard, an Armstrong CS major, won the UPE Honorable Mention Award, which includes a monetary prize.

Lewis Family Scholarship Awardees

Ha Huynh, Biology
Jessica Johnson, Psychology (BS)
Jessye Kirkham, Biology
Shellie Ruff, Mathematics with Teacher Certification

Kappa Delta Pi Award

Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society for Education majors has been synonymous with scholarship, innovation, and excellence in the field of education. The privilege of membership in this society is earned through scholastic excellence, potential or demonstrated educational leadership, and exemplification of worthy educational ideals. Our own Cynthia L. Graves, a Special Education major, was inducted into the society on Tuesday, October 13, 2015.

Summary of our Survey on Student-Faculty Research Collaborations for 2014-2015

69 faculty responded to the census

Faculty reported:

50 faculty collaborated with 225 student researchers
107 student presentations with 111 student contributors
26 faculty presentations with 46 student contributors
59 publications; 30 with student co-authors
38 applications for external grants

Department	Percent	Count
Biology	26.1%	18
C & P	26.1%	18
CS/IT	10.1%	7
Engineering	5.8%	4
Mathematics	20.3%	14
Psychology	11.6%	8

NSF Grants

Brent Feske was awarded two NSF grants last month as a coPI! NSF-CBET—Generating new protein function: family of amine dehydrogenases—\$446,345 (Armstrong subaward ~\$75,000). NSF-I/UCRC—Center for Pharmaceutical Development—\$1,250,000 (subawards available through the center). Congratulations to Brent and the coPIs.

**NEW FACULTY PROFILE: DR. NATHANIEL SHANK,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY**

Dr. Nathaniel Shank joined the Department of Chemistry and Physics this fall. Nathaniel earned his BS in chemistry at Eastern Mennonite University followed by a PhD in chemistry from Carnegie Mellon in 2012. He then spent the next three years as a post doc at the NIH. Dr. Shank was brought to Armstrong primarily to support the departments offering in organic chemistry, but he hopes to bring new special topic courses to the department such as bioorganic chemistry and chemo- and bio-sensors. He is currently very excited about his key-personnel role on the NSF-IUSE grant that plans to incorporate polymer chemistry throughout the chemistry curriculum.

Dr. Shank's research is inspired by nature to develop new chemical tools that can be used for biological applications. This specific area of nanotechnology uses synthetic mimics of DNA and RNA for generating new probes that expand the molecular toolbox available to researchers. "The synthetic mimics are programmable and versatile, which makes them particularly beneficial to the field of medicinal chemistry", Shank says.

When he is not in the lab or working on organic chemistry lectures he likes to garden and brew his own beer. He also likes to fish, and he hopes someone can show him the elusive productive fishing holes here in Savannah.

ARMSTRONG**D A T E S A N D D E A D L I N E S**

- November 4th – Undergraduate Research Expo
- November 5th – Deadline to notify college of NSF-MRI proposal
- November 11th – Science on Tap (Savannah Coffee Roasters)
- December 12th - Graduation
- December 14th – 9 AM Final grades due
- December 14th – CST Year-End Lunch
- January 11th – First day of class



NOTES FROM ABROAD - BY: EILEEN SNYDER**K R I S T I N B O G G S I R E L A N D , S U M M E R 2 0 1 5**
"AMAZING TO BE ENGULFED IN A CULTURE"

Kirsten will graduate this December with a Bachelor's degree in Biology and she will leave Armstrong having experienced sultry Irish landscapes, new friendships and the knowledge that slow growth personally and in fungi is a beautiful thing.

Kirsten listened patiently as I told her about my limited knowledge of fungi after reading Elizabeth Gilbert's book, "The Signature of All Things." She on the other hand, traveled across an ocean to the Emerald Isle with Dr. Sara Gremillion and other fungi aficionados to study the science of Mycology.

"It was my first experience out of the country and although I was intimidated, doing it with a group of people that I knew made it comforting."

Kirsten discovered that Ireland is a country of lush green hills, narrow roads and stone walls that she reminded me were built to keep people in designated sections to prevent the spread of disease.

The main focus of the trip was the history and science behind the Irish Potato Famine, the consequences of which were so profound that it has shaped the culture of Ireland in ways that are still evident today. Kirsten remarked on feeling great emotion when she visited the Famine Memorial in Dublin, a commemorative work that is a tribute to the Irish that were forced to emigrate in the 19th century. It is a stark and moving depiction of emaciated citizens with gathered belongings leaving their homeland.

Beyond Dublin, Kirsten's favorite places were [Galway, Waterford and Kilkenny](#), especially the street performers and touring the Guinness plant and acquiring a taste for the unlikely pairing [of Coca Cola and Guinness](#) at a local pub. There were daytrips to castles with spectacular scenic views while hiking the Copper Coast with its jagged and unforgiving ridge of rock overlooking the sea. Of course, there was the science of Mycology with the collection of airborne spores and seeking out samples of mushrooms and other fungi for lab analysis at the Waterford Institute of Technology.

"The people of Ireland are very welcoming, and it was amazing to be engulfed in a culture where everyone isn't on the phone."

On her last night in Ireland Kirsten enjoyed a hardy dinner of Irish cuisine in which her favorite Guinness beef stew was served up with local Irish folk lore of mythical faeries. It was the perfect ending to a perfect trip of personal and scientific discovery.

After graduation Kirsten will continue on to South University to begin her pharmacy program. She is already planning her next excursion to Austria with her significant other. "Now, I feel I can go anywhere in the world and know what to expect."

