

The Biology Flash

SCIENCE CENTER

Photograph by Justin Merry

Student News

- **Maura Belinda** ('14) is attending the Medical Laboratory Science Program at Altoona Regional Hospital.
- **Erika Bendick** ('12) is enrolled in the Master's program in Parks and Resource Management at Slippery Rock University.
- **Jesse Felts** ('13) is attending Penn State College of Medicine at Hershey.
- **Laura Husband** ('13) is attending Pennsylvania College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- **Lauren Maline** ('13) is working at the Southwest Florida Conservancy.
- **Dr. Ed McGinley** ('04) received his Ph.D. from West Virginia University and now on the faculty of Flagler College, St. Augustine, FL.
- **Thomas McWilliams** ('13) was accepted into Griffith University School of Medicine, Australia.
- **Dana Nelson** ('13) is attending Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University.
- **Emily Zagorski** ('12) was accepted into West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- **Amanda Zahumensky** ('13) was accepted into University of Queensland School of Medicine, Australia.

Biology Students Take Full Advantage of Summer Break

SFU Biology students engaged in a variety of activities over the summer that provided new experiences, perspectives, and training in their fields of interest.

After receiving a competitive NOAA scholarship this spring, **Abbe Blair** attended National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scholarship training in Washington D.C. in preparation for her research position next summer with NOAA.

Nathan Herdman did summer research with Dr. Justin Merry. He conducted a survey of damselfly larvae in an acid mine drainage remediation site. He also participated in a frog biodiversity survey with fellow biology major **Josh Ankeny** and Dr. Falso.

Amanda Johnson had a fel-

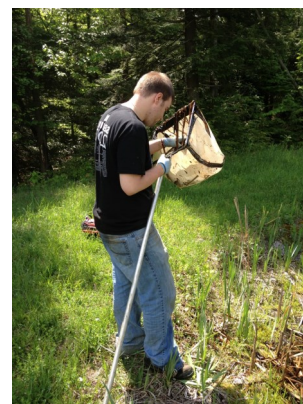
lowship at Emory University in the Public Health Department, where she worked in data entry for HIV cases.

Paige Mundy had a research internship at the University of Pittsburgh, UPMC Renal Electrolyte division. Her project was titled "Quercetin decreases NCC abundance in MDCK Cells."

Justin Skipper interned with the Clearfield Creek Watershed Association, where he researched acid mine drainage and water chemistry near Dean, PA.

Jocelin Teachout shadowed a pathologist and volunteered in a pathology lab at UPMC Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Derek Waskmunski took a course on Ichthyology at the Marine Science Consortium at Wallops Island.



Nathan Herdman collecting damselfly larvae at an acid mine drainage remediation site, July 2013

Matt Williams and **Travis Schofield** did summer research at SFU with Dr. Irene Wolf. They studied the effects of acid mine drainage on cattails and *Elodea*. They also presented at the regional Tri-Beta meetings.

What's New in the Biology Department?

- The Department moved into the new Science Center at the end of July, and, one month later, welcomed our first classes in the new building!
- The Biology Department welcomed **Dr. Gail Drus** to its faculty as Assistant Professor of Biology (see story, page 2).
- Eighteen students and one alumnus traveled with **Dr. Sue Morra** to the Galapagos as part of the Field Biology course (BIOL 322).
- **Dr. Sue Morra** along with students **Paige Mundy**, **Travis Schofield**, and **Matt Williams** presented posters at the national meeting of the Association of College and University Biology Educators (ACUBE). Paige Mundy received third place in the student poster competition.

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Alumni: do you have news to share? New job? Attending graduate school? Please contact us and let us know:
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Introducing Dr. Gail Drus

Dr. Gail Drus joins SFU this fall as Assistant Professor of Biology. Gail grew up in Lompoc, CA and received her B.S. and M.S. at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. As a person who long enjoyed outdoor activities, particularly gardening, hiking and birdwatching, she realized early in her life the connection between human disturbance and species composition. While a Master's student, Dr. Drus investigated the effect of fire disturbance on Coastal Sage bird community composition. In her Ph.D. work at University of California, Santa Barbara, she shifted her focus to the effects of species invasions on plant community structure and function. Specifically, she investigated the impacts of tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.), an invasive tree from Eurasia, on plant community composition and fire regimes in desert riparian systems throughout the Southwestern U.S.

Teaching was one of Dr. Drus' favorite components of her graduate education,



which she extended past the boundaries of the classroom by engaging students in fieldwork and undergraduate research projects. She is excited for the opportunity to teach at Saint Francis University and to continue her research interests in human disturbance and plant invasion. With the help of undergraduate researchers, Dr. Drus aims to enhance the collective understanding of ecological processes and to provide tools that land managers can apply to environmental issues.

Student Profile: Zachary Rozansky

Zachary Rozansky is a senior biology major with concentrations in environmental science and marine biology. In addition to his coursework, he has traveled, engaged in a variety of campus activities, and has contributed a great deal of time and energy in service to the biology department. This year, for example, he is actively involved in the maintenance and upkeep of Science Center's 1500 gallon aquarium system.

While at Saint Francis, Zack traveled to Crystal River, Florida, for a class on the ecology of manatees and the Central Floridian ecosystem. He has also been to Saint Lucia to study coral reef ecology and, most recently, to the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, for a natural history course.

This past spring, Zack secured a position in an NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program through Samford University in Homewood, Alabama. After traveling to the Galapagos in May, he spent the rest of his summer completing an independent research project on sediment impacts from mountain biking trails on stream macroinvertebrates within Alabama's largest state park, Oak Mountain.

At Saint Francis, Zack also worked with his advisor, Dr. Lane Loya, and biology major Amanda Johnson on a research project involving the effects of acid mine drainage on riparian arthropods because of changes in macroinvertebrate communities. This fall, the project is being built upon to learn more about the differences in the plant communities and predatory arthropods.



Biology majors Zachary Rozansky and Amanda Johnson while doing stream ecology research with Dr. Loya, 2012. Zack's summer 2013 REU opportunity in Alabama made use of the macroinvertebrate identification skills he learned with Dr. Loya.

Zack is treasurer of Scuba Club and is a member of Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society. After graduation, he is considering graduate school in an environmental sciences or marine biology program.