

# Chicago State University

## Department of Biological Sciences & Pre-Health Professions Programs

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Department Chair

Dr. Joyce Ache Gana

[jgana@csu.edu](mailto:jgana@csu.edu)

Program Coordinator

Ms. Pamela Sims

[psims@csu.edu](mailto:psims@csu.edu)

Undergraduate Advisors

Dr. Melvin Daniels

[mdanie25@csu.edu](mailto:mdanie25@csu.edu)

Mrs. La'Shawna Anderson

[lcurtis@csu.edu](mailto:lcurtis@csu.edu)

Secondary Teaching Option

Dr. Karel Jacobs

[kjacobs@csu.edu](mailto:kjacobs@csu.edu)

Graduate Advisor

Dr. Mark Erhart

[merhart@csu.edu](mailto:merhart@csu.edu)

[www.csu.edu/  
bioprehealth/](http://www.csu.edu/bioprehealth/)



## Undergraduate Program Newsletter

### Announcements

Welcome to Fall Semester 2018. We are excited for this journey we will begin together with you during this academic year. We have many resources available in the department and the university to ensure your academic success this year.

- ◆ Graduation application deadline **September 14, 2018**.
- ◆ Scheinbuchs Scholarship application deadline is **September 14, 2018** at 4:00 pm. The requirements are a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0, completed one full semester at CSU, participant in university activities, and have not received the award more than once. For additional information, please contact Dr. Andrew Maselli, [amaselli@csu.edu](mailto:amaselli@csu.edu) for further information.
- ◆ Research opportunities with CSER Scholar Program. Please contact Dr. Christopher Botanga, [cbotanga@csu.edu](mailto:cbotanga@csu.edu) for further information regarding how to qualify to participate in this program.
- ◆ Research opportunities with Chicago Area Health & Medical Careers Program (C.A.H.M.C.P.s). Please contact Dr. Melvin Daniels, [mdanie25@csu.edu](mailto:mdanie25@csu.edu) for further information regarding how to qualify to participate in this program.
- ◆ Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Chanel Norphlet.
- ◆ Undergraduate students hangout room is SCI 206. We share this room with the Chemistry & Physics students.
- ◆ Biological Science Clubs: Alpha Epsilon Delta ( Pre- Health Honor Society) Biological Society, M.A.P.S, Tri-Beta (Honor Society).
- ◆ Become a Learning Assistant. Learn about modern, innovative instruction and then assist faculty in their courses to facilitate collaborative learning and help other CSU students develop deep understanding of the material and be compensated. To apply please visit <http://msscsu.wixsite.com/csu-la-program>. Contact Dr. Mel Sabella, [msabella@csu.edu](mailto:msabella@csu.edu).

**Department of Biological Sciences**  
**Undergraduate Program Newsletter**

**CONGRADULATIONS GRADUATES**



**Spring 2017**

**Undergraduate Students**

Amarachukwu Akujeze, Tochukwu Akujeze, Tanaya Barnes, Latoya Blanks,  
Abidemi Charles, Delnetta Friar, Alan Gomez, Damian Gonzalez, Nikko Henry,  
Brittanie McDonald, LaShaundra McNary, Viridiana Lopez Pedraza,  
Kandyce Wesley, Darnischa Wilson

**Fall 2017**

**Undergraduate Students**

Stephanie Daniels, Lucas Ebie, Korean Johnson, Eric Madu, Simone McKay,  
Gerardo Rodriguez, Dana Slaughter, Meghan Smith, Ysamar Villalpando

**Spring 2018**

**Undergraduate Students**

Tuiana Brown, Deevyone Boldon, Eva Delt, Enrico Gabino, Karen Garcia-  
Hernandez, Rakeya Hill, Tatera Hooks, Tramaine Lynch, Rebecca Morales, Nicole  
Oliviell, Joshua Perkins, Kiara Sharp, Lynette Turner, Chiamaka Uche, Brandy  
Wade

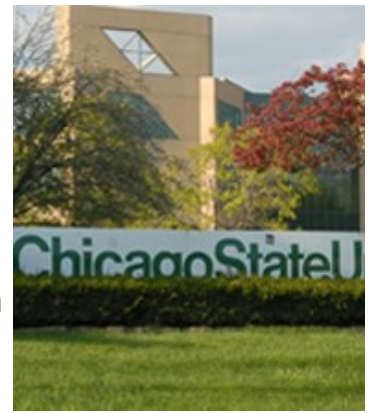
**Awards**

**Scheinbuks Scholarship Recipients Fall 2017**

Aide Alvarado, Lucas Ebie, Rakeya Hill, Brian C. Jeffries, Kayla A. Mensah,  
Kiara Sharp

# Department of Biological Sciences

## Undergraduate Program Newsletter



### Student Presentations at Scientific Meetings 2017-2018 (S.T.E.M.)

**Constructing fusion genes for fluorescent expression in *Dictyostelium discoideum***

**Presented by: Brittany Bowman, Kayla Mensah, and Dr. Kevin Swier**

**Exploring microbial association dynamics in black women who wear hair prosthetic**

**Presented by: Elease Powell, Tatera Hooks, Candace Young, Dr. Valerie Goss, Dr. Crystal Porter, and Jarrad Hampton-Marcell**

**Evaluation of cell wall biosynthetic genes in barley *Hordeum vulgare L.***

**Present by: Nicole Oliviel and Dr. Christopher Botanga**

**Building vectors to express activated actin binding protein fragments using red fluorescent protein tags in *Dictyostelium***

**Present by: Lenedra Dawson and Dr. Andrew Maselli**

**Investigation of a spontaneous mutation causing sparse fur in mice**

**Present by: Chiamaka Uche, Osondi Owendi Ozoani, and Dr. Mark Erhart**

### Testimonial

**Karen Garcia-Hernandez** graduated from CSU in May 2018 with a B.S. degree.

“Last Wednesday (July 20th) I interviewed at Boston Children’s Hospital for a Research Tech position in a translational immunology lab in the Division of Infectious Diseases. I was offered the job! I had also been offered the research tech position in a developmental neurobiology lab at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital the week prior. Out of all interviews, my top was St. Jude and BCH. It was a very tough decision but after making a list and speaking to my family I decided to accept the position at BCH!! I will be moving to position very soon. My start date is July 23rd. I want to thank you (Dr. Anser Azim) so much for all your help that you have offered me during this time and my time with you at CSU. I greatly appreciate you and your support.”

## Biological Society Club Activities



**Department of Biological Sciences**  
**Undergraduate Program**



**Arbor Day /Memorial Tree Planting 2018**



**Graduating Senior Appreciation Dinner  
2018**



**Scheinbuchs Recipients  
2017**



**Summer 2018 Research Program Tilt at CSU with Dr. Melvin Daniels, Dr. Mark Erhart, and Dr. Kevin Swier. Funded by C.A.H.M.C.P.s**



**Summer 2018 Research Program Tilt at Field Museum with Dr. Noè U. de la Sancha. Funded by C.A.H.M.C.P.s**



**International Undergraduate Research Symposium, Podgorica, Montenegro, May 2018 Dr. Christopher Botanga, Students, and Faculty**

### **What are some of our most recent graduates doing?**

Amarachukwu Akujjeze: Pharmacy School at CSU, Fall 2017

Kandyce Wesley: Masters in Biotechnology, Johns Hopkins University, Fall 2017

Chiamaka Uche: Medical School, Ohio State University, Fall 2018

Lucas Ebie: Pharmacy School at UIC, Fall 2018

Eva Delt: Pharmacy School at CSU, Fall 2018

Bettina Walker: Ph.D. Program, University of Tulsa, Fall 2018

Booker Davis: Earned his Ph.D. from Rush University Medical Center, Spring 2018