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2020 to 2021,
Issue 3

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Department of Biological Sciences & Pre-Health Professions Programs

Undergraduate Program Newsletter

Chairperson's Corner (Dr. Joyce Ache Gana)



Welcome to the 2020-2021 academic year. We are living in unprecedented times. The COVID-19 pandemic threw a curveball in the way we operate on campus. Together, the CSU community pivoted instruction to the e-learning environment after spring break and completed both the 2020 Spring and Summer Semesters remotely.

Our community encountered many challenges in the past few months on top of the COVID-19 pandemic. The department recognizes the stress and trauma many are facing in the wake of police killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and countless others. We are all affected by these events. Social justice is important for effective learning. We take a stand that "BLACK LIVES MATTER." I would like you to take comfort in knowing that the department provides a safe and inclusive environment for all to pursue their academic and career goals. Despite the challenges, a lot of good happened for the department.

In October 2019, six undergraduates and two graduate students won the competitive merit-based Scheinbuchs Scholarship sponsored by the late Dr. Julian Scheinbuchs, who upon his death in 2010, gifted one million dollars to the University (page 2). Three incoming transfer students for the fall 2020 term won the Scheinbuchs Endowment Book Scholarship. In February 2020, several students presented their research at the IL-AMP STEM Conference in Lisle, IL and two students won awards. One of our alumni, Dr. Lawal Labaran (CSU B.S. 2013), began his orthopedic surgery residency in 2020 at the University of Virginia. Our recent alumna, Lenedra Dawson who graduated in 2020 Spring found employment testing drugs to ensure that they are safe for clinical trials. The department graduated 18 undergraduate students with B.S. and two M.S. in Biology this past academic year (page 2). Our dedicated staff and faculty work diligently to ensure student success.

Together, let's make this new academic year more pleasurable and memorable for all.

Announcements

Graduation application deadline is **September 25th, 2020**

Apply to Scheinbuchs Scholarship. The deadline is **October 01, 2020** 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 for further information.

Redesigned Program for Becoming a High School Science Teacher

The biology teaching option is available to all undergraduate biology majors. This option has been recently redesigned and allows students to apply for state licensure to teach biology and other sciences at the high school level along with obtaining their B.S. in Biology. Teaching science is a terrific career and in great need. Consider making BIOT your option. Note that a new **14-month Master of Arts in Teaching degree (MAT)** has also been approved for recent biology graduates who wish to become licensed to teach.

- ◆ Follow the department on social media : Twitter (@ChicagoStateBio), Instagram ([chicagostatebio](https://www.instagram.com/chicagostatebio))



Awards

Dr. Julian Scheinbuks Scholarship



Dr. Julian Scheinbuks was a part of the Department of Biological Sciences faculty at CSU from 1989-2003. His great love was teaching and working with students. He taught various biology courses for 13 years. In 2003, he was appointed the Director of Distance Learning. Under his leadership, a small and developing operation was transformed into a successful department within the Library and Instruction Services. Upon Dr. Scheinbuks passing, he donated \$1 million dollars towards student scholarships for the department. As a memorial to Julian, the campus community has planted a native burr oak tree. A leaf from that tree is the symbol of the Scholars program. Every year, the department gives scholarships to students through an application process, applicants are awarded based on academics and service.

Scheinbuks Scholarship Recipients 2019-2020

(Pictured below from Left to Right) Ashraf Ali, Godson Tebid, Sabina Turbiarz, Ebunoluwa Olapo, President Scott, Bailey Holifield, Lenedra Dawson, Aide Alvarado, Khadija Dwarica



Scholarship recipients posing with CSU president Z. Scott

Congratulations 2019 to 2020 Graduates

December 2019

1. Gle'Shay Currie
2. Brian Jefferies
3. Erica Golden
4. Amanda Wise
5. Kaylah Mensah

May 2020

6. Lenedra Dawson
7. Eric Lopez
8. William Mbua
9. Lauren Vermeulen
10. Ingrid Alamo
11. Angel Tidwell
12. Anthony Leedle
13. Bailey Holifield (honors)
14. Gerald Thomas
15. Yusuf Balba (honors)
16. Christen Williams
17. Khadija Dwarica
18. Christopher Spencer (MS)
19. Osondi Ozoani-Lohrer (MS)

Summer 2020

20. Raad Hejazin



Student-Centered Happenings

Biology Town Hall gathering Fall 2019



Lunch for the Biology town hall event was sponsored by one of our alumni; Dr. Omosede Ighile, MD. Internal Medicine, Hospitalist, @Rhode Island Hospital and Clinical Professor @ Brown University.

The Biology Society members on a Field Trip at the Field Museum



Botany 2050 Students at the CSU greenhouse engaging in experiential and civic learning



Immunology Students in class deep in focus. Fall 2019



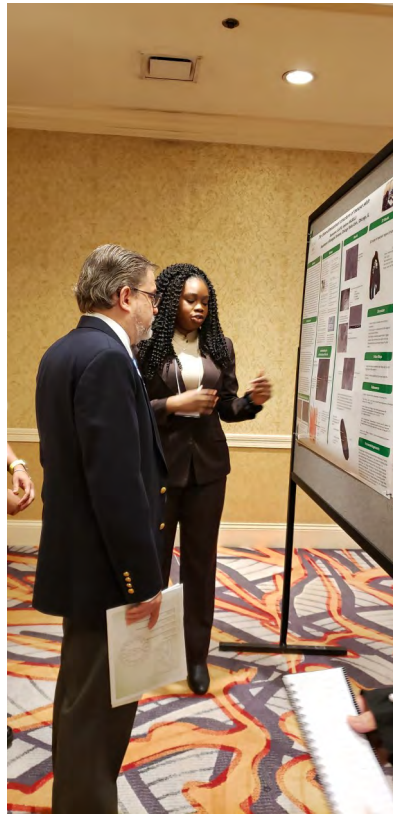
CSU Greenhouse Spring 2020



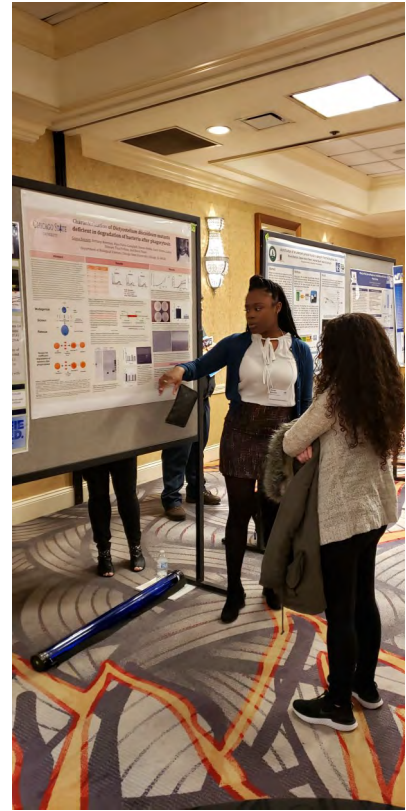
STEM Conference Student Presentation: February 2020



Uzoma Emeakoroha (G)



Ebunoluwa Olapo



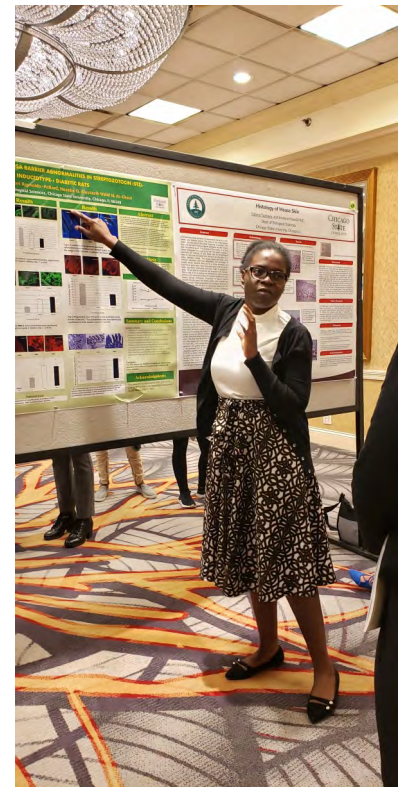
Geana Bennett



Sabina Turbiarz



Darcae Holmes



Ludivine Tchelibou (G)



Testimonials



Noah Oben, Pharmacists, Roseland Hospital, Chicago. **BS 2013, Chicago State University Biological Sciences.** PharmD 2018, Manchester University, Indiana.

“In 2010, I transferred from the University of St Francis in Joliet to Chicago State University. It was a big cultural difference and I had that feeling of belonging. I was enrolled in the Department of Biological Sciences and I really want to emphasize on the fact that the department was very invested in the student’s success. My success as a Doctor of Pharmacy today is thanks to the solid science foundation I had from CSU for, I was better equipped to face the challenges and difficulties in pharmacy school with much ease. I am extremely grateful for the training I received in the Department of Biological Sciences. The highly qualified faculty in this department prepared me to excel beyond CSU. I would not hesitate to give back in anyway possible when the opportunity arises. I am proud to be an alumnus of CSU”.



John FK Brown, Science Teacher, Lincoln Park High School, Chicago Public Schools. **BS 2015, Chicago State University Biological Sciences.**

“Chicago State University prepared me to be a highly effective science teacher from my first day on the job to today. I can directly relate my experience as a student in the biological sciences program at CSU to my daily practice as a science educator because of the complete and thorough program curriculum. The faculty and department were clearly dedicated to my mastery of Biology and the required Chemistry and Physics content, but the program also included interdisciplinary studies from Food Justice to Educational Philosophy which not only changed my life but also allowed me to more deeply impact the lives of my students. I am immensely grateful for the training I received from the CSU Biological Sciences Department, my advisor, and the highly qualified professors involved in the science teacher preparation program. I will always be very proud to be a CSU alumnus.”