# School of Mathematics and Sciences Newsletter Spring 2021

# **Updates on Faculty**

#### **Dr. Carol Lawrence is retiring**

The Mathematics Department and School of Mathematics and Sciences wish Dr. Carol Lawrence well as



she says goodbye to the college upon her retirement after the Spring 2021 semester. Dr. Lawrence joined the NCWC faculty in 1997 and during her 24 years of dedicated and faithful service embodied the ideals of the college. Dr. Lawrence held many leadership positions at NCWC throughout her career and those resulted in her being tapped for induction into NCWC's ODK Circle as a faculty member. She was the Chair of the School of Math and Science from 2001-2004 and during that time she worked with the science faculty to help secure funding and coordinate efforts to remodel the science labs. She served as the Chair of the Faculty in 2008-09 and was instrumental in working with Dr. Bill Yankosky to receive funding from members of the Board of Trustees for what is now the Taylor-Crocker Honors Program. She was also the first

Assistant Director of the college's Teaching and Learning Center.

While she accomplished many things during her time at NCWC, Dr. Lawrence truly shined in the classroom. She was an outstanding teacher who was always accessible to her students and willing to help them succeed in any way possible. It was quite common to walk by Dr. Lawrence's office shortly after 8 AM and see her explaining things to 2-3 students before they went to one of her math classes. She was always revising her courses and looking for new strategies and ideas to implement in the classroom in an effort to help reach more students no matter the class. Dr. Lawrence's commitment to excellence in the classroom resulted in her receiving NCWC's Exemplary Teacher Award and she is also a past recipient of the Jefferson Pilot Professorship, the highest award given to NCWC Faculty members. She was also recently honored by being awarded Professor Emerita of Mathematics status by the college in recognition of everything she has done at NCWC.

Dr. Lawrence has always been a wonderful colleague in the math department and her influence cannot be overstated. While she will be sorely missed, we are happy that Dr. Lawrence will be able to enjoy the perks of her well-deserved retirement and get to spend more time with her family.

#### Dr. Jeff Kuglitsch is retiring

Dr. Jeff Kuglitsch joined the Wesleyan faculty in 2006 following a stint practicing law in Wisconsin. Since



then, he presented students from every major with rotating choices in Physical, Marine and Planetary Geology and the rich associated hands-on laboratory experiences. For more than 20 years, he has pursued seminal research in micro-fossils. His published work on conodont biostratigraphy has allowed geology researchers to accurately date samples from around the Great Lakes basin. Several students had a unique opportunity to join him pickling dolomite in acetic acid and cataloging the tiny fossils released from the rocks. This work was facilitated by a sabbatical in 2017-18 and he was honored with the Jefferson-Pilot professorship in 2019-20. Although he is retiring from teaching, he will continue his research along with another

passion, running. Dr. Kuglitsch was recently honored by being awarded Associate Professor Emeritus of Earth Science status by the college in recognition of achievements at NCWC.

#### **Welcome Nikki Martin**

Nikki Martin is a 2004 graduate of NCWC with a BS in Biology. She was the very first Laboratory

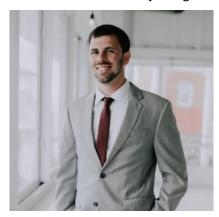


Supervisor, in 2008-2009, when it was a part time position created by Dr. Erica Kosal. She left for full time employment in the Pharmaceutical and Specialty Chemical industries, traveling around the world and working in laboratory, engineering and marketing roles. She is ably demonstrating those learned skill sets now in her current role as full time Laboratory Supervisor that began Fall 2020. Starting work during the pandemic has made for some interesting twists, which Nikki has navigated exceedingly well. She now coordinates the Biology 102 labs and assists with any upper level labs and/or projects as requested by the Biology and Chemistry faculty. She is organizing the facilities and beautifying the hallway areas. The School of Mathematics and Sciences is thrilled to have Nikki join our

team and looks forward to utilizing her talents for many years.

#### Welcome to Dr. Alex Ehlert

Dr. Alex Ehlert will be joining the Exercise Science Department this upcoming fall after completing his



doctorate degree at Old Dominion University (ODU). The focus of his dissertation was on the role of psychological factors in the development and management of gastrointestinal symptoms during running. Prior to arriving at ODU, Alex, who is a former collegiate golfer, completed his undergraduate and master's degree at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). Alex brings with him a wealth of teaching experience in wide array of areas and research including exercise and thermoregulation, and exercise nutrition and supplementation. We are very excited to have Alex join the Exercise Science Department, the School and the College.

#### Welcome to Dr. Aaron Allen

Dr. Aaron Allen will be joining the Mathematics Department in Fall 2021. Dr. Allen received his B.A. in



Mathematics and Computer Science from Northwestern College in Iowa, his M.A. in Mathematics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and his Ph.D.in Applied Mathematics from Iowa State University in 2009. While his dissertation focused on partial differential equations, Dr. Allen's true passion lies in teaching. Dr. Allen has been an Associate Professor of Mathematics for the past 12 years at Milligan University in Tennessee and during that time he has taught a wide variety of math courses at all levels. He had a tremendous impact on the students he worked with at Milligan and we are excited to welcome him to NCWC in the fall.

#### Welcome to Dr. Dimitri Blondel

Dr. Dimitri Blondel earned his bachelor's degree from Duke University, and his master's and doctoral



degrees from the University of Florida in Gainesville. He specializes in animal behavior, both in the lab and the field, with a focus on behavioral ecology and behavioral endocrinology. Dr. Blondel's behavioral field research has taken him from the cloud forest mountains of Panama, to the plains of the American Midwest, to the red sand dunes of the Kalahari desert. He is strongly committed to science education and STEM education research, having earned an NSF teaching fellowship in graduate school and more recently receiving postdoctoral training at the Duke Center for Science Education. He also makes a mean pot of chili, although most of his spare tim Lesley Gillian e these days is spent gaining first-hand parental care experience courtesy of his three-year-old

daughter. He enjoys spending time outdoors with his family, exploring local woods and trails. Dr. Blondel is thrilled to join the faculty at NC Wesleyan College, and eagerly awaits Fall semester 2021!

#### Welcome Ms. Lesley Gillian

will be joining the School of Math and Science to teach in our RN to BSN and Health Promotions



programs this upcoming Summer. Ms. Gillian has been accepted into the UNC-CH School of Nursing's Doctoral program and she will start this coming Fall. Lesley brings a wealth of nursing education and experience from her role as a Regional Nurse Supervisor/Educator with UNC Physicians Network for central North Carolina, as well as, serving in a second level position as a nursing instructor teaching at Nash Community College in the Associates Degree Nursing Program. Her interests span development of nurse residency programs in the healthcare system setting to help facilitate new graduate nurses' transition to professional practice. We are very excited to bring Lesley on as a Visiting Instructor of Nursing.

#### **Departure of Dr. Daniel Henderson**

In Fall 2021, Assistant Professor of Exercise Science Dr. Daniel Henderson will take a new position at



Kennesaw State University (KSU) as a Lecturer of Physiology in the Department of Organismal Biology. During his tenure at NCWC, Dr. Henderson instructed a wide array of courses including EXS 100 (Fitness and Wellness), EXS 315 (Nutrition and Human Performance), EXS 318 (Kinesiology/Biomechanics) just to name a few. Additionally, Dr. Henderson served as the faculty representative to the Exercise Science Club and also served on several standing committees. The EXS Department would like to thank Dr. Henderson for his service and wish him good-luck in his new position at KSU.

#### **Jefferson-Pilot Professorship Lecture**

On Tuesday September 29th, 2020 and after a semester delay due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Dr. Kuglitsch delivered the 2020-2021 Jefferson-Pilot Professorship Lecture entitled: "The Ancestor of Dragons: a Riddle Wrapped in a Mystery Inside an Enigma"

The Jefferson-Pilot Professorship is considered the College's highest honor for a member of the Faculty and is given in recognition of scholarship, teaching, and community service.

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#### **Exemplary Teacher Award**



The 2020-2021 the Exemplary Teacher Award went to Dr. Meir Magal. This award is given to a faculty member of the College for their dedication and commitment to their students and the College. Nominations are made by students. Every year the award is being presented during Commencement.

#### **Sabbaticals**

Dr. Temple named two primary objectives for his sabbatical. First, to complete the data sorting, statistical



analysis, and manuscript preparation for an ongoing research project using radio-telemetry to learn about thermoregulation in turtles on NC Wesleyan campus. Second, to broaden his understanding of local wildlife natural history through professional development experiences at regional field sites and participation in regional/national conferences. These two objectives are both broadly related to Dr. Temple's continued interest in teaching courses and directing research projects with a

biological focus on animal natural history in Eastern North Carolina. The focus of this sabbatical will greatly enhance his research program and teaching through the development of upper-level biology courses; will expand the research and internship opportunities for our students; and will provide new and relevant connections of our biology program to the broader biological community in North Carolina.

#### **Tenure and Promotion**

Congratulations to Dr. Shannon Crowley for achieving tenure and being promoted to the rank of an Associate Professor of Exercise Science.



#### **Faculty Development Awards**

Dr. Danielle Braxton was a recipient of 2020-2021 ZTLC Sorry You Can't Travel Professional Development



Award. The award was used to support Dr. Braxton conference registration fees for the 2021 national conference for the Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE) which was conducted virtually this year due to COVID restrictions. In the conference Dr. Braxton connected (albeit virtually) with other health education professors from across the country and to learn about the latest strategies for effectively preparing public health and health education/health promotion students for their future careers.

Dr. Daniel Elias was a recipient of 2020-2021 Fritz James Morrison Smith Professional Development



Award. The award will be used to purchase materials and supplies to study the synergistic effects of global climate change and pharmaceutical contaminated waters on freshwater fish.

#### **Fourth Monday Colloquia**

The faculty Fourth Monday Colloquium has been in existence at North Carolina Wesleyan College for over 30 years. During that time, the event has served as a valuable way for faculty to share their scholarship with colleagues from a variety of disciplines.

- Dr. George Whitwell was the presenter for the October 2020 Fourth Monday Colloquium. The title of his talk was "Data Modeling and Analysis My First Half Century"
  - Description: After an historical account of his early exposure to computers and programming, he reviewed more recent activities at Wesleyan. Applications included:
    - Density prediction for organic liquids and water
    - Atomic and molecular orbitals in teaching General Chemistry
    - Parametric equations
    - Publicly available financial data for non-profits
    - NCWC student demographics, majors and graduation
- Dr. Danielle Braxton was the presenter for the November 2020 Fourth Monday Colloquium. The title of his talk was "Size Does Matter: Understanding Weight Loss Challenges in Morbidly Obese Women."
  - O Description: The prevalence of severe obesity (BMI > 40 kg/m2) in African American women tripled between 2000 (6%) and 2010 (18%). Behavioral weight loss (BWL) programs offer many benefits, yet we know very little about how to design effective programs for African American women with BMIs > 40 kg/m2. This presentation outlines a research project designed to understand the weight loss barriers of this specific group of women (through focus groups and secondary data analysis) and then use this information to design and pilot-test a culturally tailored behavioral weight loss program.

#### **Faculty Members Publications**

Riebe, D. and **Magal, M.** Preexercise Evaluation. (2021). In: ACSM's Guidelines for Exercise Testing and Prescription. (11th ed). (G. Liguori, Y. Feito, B. Roy and C. J. Fountaine, Eds.) Lippincott, Williams, & Wilkins. Baltimore, MD.

**Magal, M.** and Neric, F. B. American College of Sports Medicine Certifications. (2021). In: ACSM's Guidelines for Exercise Testing and Prescription. (11th ed). (G. Liguori, Y. Feito, B. Roy and C. J. Fountaine, Eds.) Lippincott, Williams, & Wilkins. Baltimore, MD.

Youngstedt, S. D., Kline, C. E., Reynolds, A. M., **Crowley, S. K.**, Burch, J. B., Khan, N., & Han, S. (2021). Bright Light Treatment of Combat-related PTSD: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Military Medicine*.

Rine, M. J., McLaughlin, P. I., Bancroft, A. M., Harrison III, W. B., **Kuglitsch, J.**, Caruthers, A. H., & Emsbo, P. (2020). Linked Silurian carbon cycle perturbations, bursts of pinnacle reef growth, extreme sea-level

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oscillations, and evaporite deposition (Michigan Basin, USA). *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, 554, 109806.

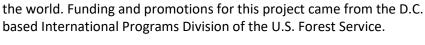
#### Other Faculty Accomplishment including Scholarly and Professional Activities





During the fall semester, Drs. Brent Dozier and Bill Yankosky received the NSLS (National Society of Leadership and Success) Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. Ami Thompson completed the Spanish translation of the educational curriculum she wrote, the Dragonfly Curriculum Guide. The curriculum guide is now being distributed for free to educators around





Dr. Crowley served on the UNC Charlotte Kinesiology Research Symposium Steering Committee and also served as a scientific abstract reviewer for the 2021 UNC Charlotte Kinesiology Research Symposium, Lastly, she presented a talk for "Tea Talk with Trina," a monthly seminar series organized by Dr. Katrina Sweet which focuses on maintaining emotional health during COVID-19.

Typically and over the summer, the exercise physiologists attend the annual meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine which this year (2020) was supposed to be in San Francisco. Due to COVID-19, the conference was conducted virtually:

- Dr. Magal, with colleagues from Colorado and Montana presented a tutorial titled:
   "Designing the Future of the Exercise and Fitness Professions: The Relationship between Education, Certification and Employment".
- Dr. Crowley presented a poster titled: "Sitting Time Predicts Cortisol Levels in Women, Independent of Cardiorespiratory Fitness Level. Drs. Braxton, Henderson and Magal served as co-authors on the poster.
- A few colleagues from Norfolk State University presented a poster titled: "Does Lower Extremity FMS Performance Predict Vertical Jump Height in Female NCAA Division III Footballers." The data was collected on campus last year as part of an ongoing Honor's Thesis project and Drs. Magal and Crowley served as co-authors on the poster.

#### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Initiatives

Operation Santa Claus at Long Leaf Neuro-Medical Treatment Center in Wilson, NC. Gifts were provided on behalf of faculty and staff in support of efforts towards providing the



residents with a simple gift at Christmas, as family and friends had not been allowed to visit due to COVID-19. Thanks for supporting our Healthcare Workers Initiative to make a residents Christmas "BRIGHTER".

#### **Students/Faculty Collaboration**

Dr. Crowley, with Psychology and Healthcare Administration Honor's student, Ms. Madison Gill,





conducted a research study to investigate physical activity behavior during and after the COVID-19 restrictions in North Carolina. Madison presented her scientific abstract titled, "Physical Activity and Depressive Symptoms During the Covid-19 Stay at Home Order in North Carolina," as a top 8 undergraduate student award finalist at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Southeast Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (held virtually), where she won 2nd place in the undergraduate student award competition.

Under the mentorship of Dr. Daniel Elias, Alyssa Brookhart has been selected as one of the recipients of this year's North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU) Undergraduate Research Program awards. The research project examines pharmaceutical pollution and how it affects aquatic organism.



# **Around Campus**

#### Nursing - RN to BSN

Western North Carolina Wesleyan College Happy #WearRedDay! Today, many of our students, faculty and staff wore red in support of

National Wear Red Day on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. The first Friday each February, American Heart Month, the nation comes together, igniting a wave of red from coast to coast. From landmarks to news anchors, neighborhoods to online communities; this annual groundswell unites millions of people for a common goal: the eradication of heart disease and stroke-AHA.



NCWC is a proud partner with the DAISY Foundation.



The DAISY Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, by members of his family. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. (DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System.) The care Patrick and his family received from Nurses while he was ill inspired the creation of The DAISY Award for

Extraordinary Nurses, an evidenced-based means of providing Nurse recognition and thanking Nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

In addition to The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nursing Faculty and The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Students, the Foundation expresses gratitude to the nursing profession internationally in over 3,600 healthcare facilities and schools of nursing with recognition of direct care Nurses, Nurse-led Teams, Nurse Leaders, Lifetime Achievement in Nursing, and through the J. Patrick Barnes Grants for Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Projects. More information is available at DAISYfoundation.org.

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nursing Students honors nursing students for providing extraordinary care to patients and their families. Nursing Students may be nominated by colleagues, peers, patients, families, or alumni. The award recipients are chosen by a committee at NC Wesleyan College to receive The DAISY Award which is presented once year at NC Wesleyan College's Rocky Mount Campus.

The award recognizes student nurses for:

- Caring: Demonstrating extraordinary compassionate care of patients and their families.
- **Advocating:** Going above and beyond and serving as a voice for the patient's needs or wants.
- Leading: Being an extraordinary team member, demonstrating professionalism and outstanding clinical skills. Working with peers to improve the nursing profession and patient care.

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Stephanie Promish, a student in our RN to BSN program, was honored this week with The DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nursing Students. Ms. Promish, is a Registered Nurse at Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro.



She is the first recipient at NC Wesleyan since the inception of the College's new partnership with The DAISY Foundation.

To learn more visit: https://ncwc.edu/academics/majors-minors/rn-to-bsn/the-daisy-foundation/

#### **NCWC Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR)**

Dr. Crowley launched the NCWC Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) this year (website forthcoming). The OUR serve as a "one stop shop" for all things undergraduate research including: highlighting undergraduate research accomplishments, providing research and IRB guides, providing presentation, and publication tips, providing a research matching service, hosting undergraduate research workshops for students and faculty, publishing an annual OUR newsletter, providing an annual faculty-student research award, and more!

#### **Indoor Sports & Education Facility (ISEF)**

After a year in the working, the Indoor Sports & Education Facility (ISEF) will be open soon and host EXS and HLP classes starting fall 2021. The facility includes two 30 student classrooms, state of the art laboratory and office space for the EXS and HLP faculty members.





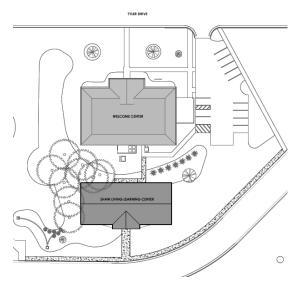




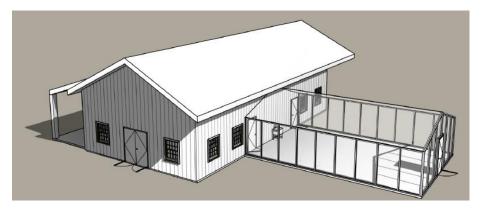


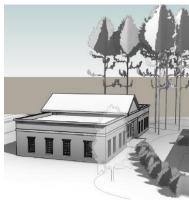
# **Dr. Nancy Shaw Trust**

NC Wesleyan has recently received \$2,500,000 from the trust, which will allow the College to establish its



first endowed Professorship to advise and oversee its Pre-Vet major. This professor may also develop additional coursework or concentrations in animal and cat care. The College will also be establishing a highly-selective endowed scholarship for a Pre-Vet major to pay the majority of their educational expenses at Wesleyan. Part of the funds will be placed into a restricted account to develop additional living and learning space for Wesleyan's science majors. A portion of the money will also be used to upgrade equipment in the College's Biology, Biomedical, Environmental Science and Chemistry programs that support Pre-Vet majors.

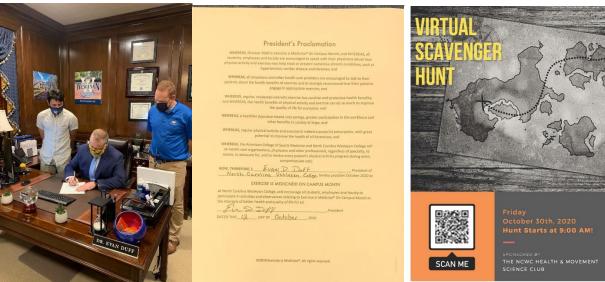




# Student Organizations, Group Accomplishments, and School Events

### **Health and Movement Science Club**

In September 2020, the Presidential Proclamation was signed by Dr. Duff, declaring October to be the official Exercise Is Medicine Month on Campus (EIM-OC) Month at Wesleyan. This past year the activity of the Health and Movement Science Club was the Fall Scavenger Hunt Fundraiser which took place on October 30<sup>th</sup>.



On the left NCWC student Kierra Speaker and faculty member Dr. Daniel Henderson and on the right, Karlee Bjurstrom, Emily Sullivan and Izzi Neal attend the BLM festivities on the NCWC campus on Friday, October 2nd.





NCWC's Exercise is Medicine on Campus Mascot Challenge video

ExeRcise is Medicine







submission, featuring Wes, was selected by the American College of Sports Medicine as the judges pick for first place in the Exercise is Medicine on Campus Mascot Challenge video contest! As the first-place winner, the NCWC EIM-OC team will be receiving a \$1,000 grant to host physical activity programming on campus...and of course...bragging rights for the year!

# Congrats 2020 Mascot Challenge Winners

The Exercise is Medicine® On Campus (EIM-OC) Committee is thrilled to announce this year's Mascot Challenge winners, Judges selected North Carolina Wesleyan University, as the first place winner, and fans crowned Rutgers University with the Fan Favorite title with more than 700 likes on YouTube.



NCWC received the Exercise is Medicine on Campus (EIM-OC) Silver distinction for the second year in a row. NCWC also received the EIM-OC COVID Conqueror badge, a new honor given to campuses that demonstrated creative adaptations to physical activity programming during the COVID-19 pandemic. EIM-OC efforts were led by Dr. Shannon Crowley (EIM-OC

advisor), the EIM-OC leadership team (Dr. Danielle Braxton, Dr. Meir Magal, Ms. Jessica Brys-Wilson), and the Health and Movement Science Club.



#### **Science Club**

In recent elections, new officers were chosen for the Science Club. Daria Lewis was elected President, Sarai Bartolo elected Vice President, Philly Burungi elected Treasurer and Michelle Chalmers elected Secretary.

#### Kappa Mu Epsilon (KME)



This year the Kappa Mu Epsilon National Mathematics Honors Society inductees were: Latrell McDougald, Eugene Okoko and Summer Phillips.

# **Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK)**

Alyssa Brookhart

# **Individual Student Accomplishments**

#### **Honor Student Projects from our School**

The following division majors or minors worked on year-long research projects with faculty serving as their directors.

- Angela Bird (Biomedical Science major, directed by Dr. Mary Whitwell) "An Examination of Malaria, African Trypanosomiasis, and American Trypanosomiasis: Blood-borne Parasitic Infections Spread through Vector Transmission"
- Christian Gardner (Biology Major, directed by Dr. Daniel Elias) "Effects of water quality on spatial distribution of Lampetra aepyptera"
- Madison Gill (Psychology and Organizational Administration-Healthcare double major, directed by Dr. Shannon Crowley) – ""Physical Activity and Depressive Symptoms during the COVID-19 Stay at Home Order in North Carolina"
- Rebecca Solis-Wanous (Biology and Communications double major, directed by Dr. Jason Buel) "Growing a Small Business Through Social Media; A Creative Case Study of New Wave Fashion"
- Julia Trimmer (Chemistry and Mathematics double major, directed by Dr. Brent Dozier) "An Exploration of Singular Values and the Singular Value Decomposition of Matrices"
- Rolando Valladarez (Exercise Science major, directed by Dr. Meir Magal) "Seasonal Changes in Physical Performance–Related Variables in Female NCAA Division III Soccer Players"

#### **Honors Convocation Recognitions**

This year's Honors Convocation was held on March 31, 2021. The purpose of this event was to recognize students for their academic excellence and academic service. This year and in addition to recognizing the biology, exercise science, environmental science, mathematics and chemistry award recipients, we also recognized the internship and ROTC hooah award recipients that were given to students at our school.

#### Biology Award

This year's Biology Award went to Enrique Chang and Maria Padron.

Enrique is a co-recipient of the Biology award for the 2020-2021 academic year. Enrique has excelled



academically during his time as a student at Wesleyan and the Honor's Program. His performance in the Biomedical Science major has been exceptional. He has been a great classmate and mentor as an SI leader for BIO101 multiple times. Students seek after his guidance not only in BIO 101 but also in upper-level Biology and Chemistry courses. In our classes, he is knowledgeable, diligent, responsible, and possesses a deep critical thinking that shines throughout the different assignments. As professors, we have had great interactions with him, as he is thoughtful and thorough on his class work, and responsible with submissions. Additionally, this student's drive is not

limited to academics, he is a hard-working athlete too.

Maria is a co-recipient of the Biology award for the 2020-2021 academic year. Maria has been an



exceptional student during her time as a student at NC Wesleyan. As a Biomedical Science major, she has excelled in all aspects of our program. She has performed exceptionally well in her courses, and has also contributed to our program through her excellent participation as an SI leader for BIO 231 and 232 and also as a science tutor. In her courses, she is consistently one of the highest performers. Not only does she perform well on exams, lab reports, and other exercises, but (perhaps most importantly) she strives to fully understand the details and relevance of topics covered in all of her courses — at times asking questions about and sharing

her insight into interesting examples or applications of the course topics. As an SI leader and tutor, she has been most helpful to our students with her knowledge, positive personality, and willingness to help her peers. It is her drive to fully pursue her interests and to share that with others that is so impressive. She has been described among the biologists as knowledgeable, diligent, and caring which summarizes her attributes well.

#### Exercise Science Award

This year's Exercise Science Awards went to Emily Ketchum. Emily is a bright and cheerful person who



interacts easily with students, staff and faculty alike. She excels in the classroom with near perfect performance and strong analytical, and problem-solving skills. Out of the classroom, she serves as an officer on the Health and Movement Science Club. Recently and part of the executive team of the club, she played a critical role in the creation of the Exercise is Medicine® On Campus (EIM-OC) Mascot Challenge video in which North Carolina Wesleyan College was selected by the American College of Sports Medicine as the judges' pick for first place. In addition to being an exemplary student and serving on the Health and Movement Science Club, she has been active in sports as a player on the NCWC women's soccer team. In closing, she is mature, responsible and committed to a career in the field of health and human performance.

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#### **Environmental Science Award**



This year's Environmental Science Award went to Alyssa Brookhart. Alyssa has been a great addition to the Environmental Science Program. She is not only an Environmental Science major but also active in sports as a player on the NCWC women's soccer team, part of the Honors Program, and a Biomedical major. She is an excellent student who is pro-active, responsible, thorough, and interacts really well with her classmates and faculty. As a well-rounded student, she is a great caring peer. Classmates look to for

her mentorship in many classes. In addition to her high performance in a wide range of courses, she has a true interest in research. She has assessed ecotoxicological effects of pharmaceuticals on aquatic gastropods and has worked calculating nitrogen flow at Wesleyan.

#### **Mathematics** Award

This year's Biology Award went to Julia Trimmer and Summer Phillips.

Julia has shown herself to be one of North Carolina Wesleyan College's most exemplary students. She is majoring in both mathematics and chemistry, two of the most technically difficult undergraduate fields of study. She has done this while maintaining incredibly high cumulative and program GPAs. She is conscientious as well as personable, always willing to talk about school work or her family and hobbies. She is also a member of the Taylor-Crocker Honors Program and is set to complete her project this spring. Julia has shown leadership through her participation in the Science Club and SGA as well as through her daily interactions with her peers. Her attitude of going above and beyond is noteworthy and is a model for all Wesleyan students. She is quite deserving of this award.

Summer has excelled inside and outside the classroom during her time at Wesleyan. She maintains a high cumulative GPA as well as an outstanding GPA in her major. She has worked in the math lab for many semesters and serves as a math tutor for the College. She works well with others in a variety of different settings and is always willing to offer help to anyone having difficulty in a mathematics class. She is creative when tackling problems and sees connections between different areas of mathematics. Summer has excellent leadership skills that she exhibits in the classroom and on the softball field where she is a member of the Wesleyan Softball team.

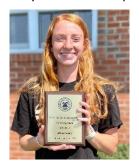
Her attitude towards mathematics serves as a great example for other students, both majors and non-majors. She is a very worthy recipient of this award.

#### **Chemistry Award**

This year's Chemistry Science Award went to Julia Trimmer. It was a joy to Julia in our chemistry classes. She always came to class prepared, and her assignments were very well-written. Many could easily be published in a peer-reviewed journal. She was also an excellent SI leader and tutor for our department. Multiple students benefitted from her ability to break down difficult concepts. She has a very bright future ahead of her. The chemistry department will certainly miss her, but we wish her well on her journey.

#### Internship Award

This year's Internship Award went to Alissa Avery who is an EXS major. Alissa completed a demanding



internship at Cora Physical Therapy in the Fall, while also maintaining an extremely high GPA. In addition, Alissa held high officer positions in several clubs and organizations at NCWC during this time (including holding the position of Vice President of the Health and Movement Science Club, and serving as a member of the NCWC Exercise is Medicine on Campus leadership team). Evaluations of Alissa's work at her internship site were exemplary; noting her extremely positive attitude, engaging approach to patient interactions, knowledge, and passion for the field of physical therapy. In general, Alissa is a dedicated, ambitious, collegial, and professional young

woman with a strong work ethic.

#### **ROTC Hooah Award**

This year's Internship Award went to Cadet Savion Young who is an EXS major. Savion is a MS3 (Junior)



ROTC Cadet in the Falcon Battalion. This Cadet quickly distinguished himself as a leader among his peers during the Ranger Challenge Competition hosted by 4<sup>th</sup> Senior ROTC Brigade held at Fort Pickett, VA. He also leads the way with the highest physical fitness score in the Battalion. He will attend advance camp this summer at Fort Knox, Kentucky followed by a Chaplin internship at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. This Cadet's tireless efforts to develop himself as a future Officer in the United States Army make him most deserving of this award.

Brooke Hanson, a senior health promotion student, has been awarded an Assistance League® of the Triangle Area scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year.

# **Alumni Accomplishments**

- Alissa Avery (2021) was accepted to the M.S. in Athletic Training Program at ECU.
- Jene' Black (2021) was accepted to the M.S. in Athletic Training Program at UNCW.
- Grace Preston (2021) was accepted to the PTA program at Keiser University (Lakeland Campus).
- Sarah Western (2020) was accepted to the DPT Program at Wingate University.

<sup>\*</sup> If you know an alumnus who isn't getting our newsletter, please email Wendy L. Brake with those email addresses to be added to our list serve (WLittle@NCWC.EDU)