

Research in Herpetology



MS student Eaqan Choudhry, with a snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*)



Watch your fingers Eaqan!



Spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*)



Mud turtle (*Kinosternon s. subrubrum*)

Photos courtesy of Eaqan Choudhry

Biology Alumni



Stephen Kelly finished a Bachelor's degree in Biology at Salisbury University in 2012, and completed SU's Master's degree program in Applied Biology in 2015. After graduation, he moved to New York City and became a Bioinformatics Programmer for NYU Langone Medical Center. While there, he has contributed to several research projects in genomics, specializing in the development of data analysis pipelines and programs for handling bioinformatics data. His recent projects have involved the development of analytical protocols for a new cancer diagnostic panel to be offered by the medical center, which is currently undergoing FDA approval.

"The help and support I received from the outstanding faculty of Salisbury University laid the foundation for my success today. I couldn't have done it without them!"



Biology Alumna **Mercedes Harris** recently graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a MS in Environmental Conservation. The title of her thesis was: *The Impact of Intraspecific Density on Garlic Mustard Sinigrin Concentration*.

New Graduate Students



Derek Coss with a caiman in Panama (Advisors: Ryan Taylor and Kim Hunter).



Sarah Cvach (Advisor: Christina Bradley)



Collin Dunam (right) with girlfriend Mande, and dog Bud (Advisor: Jessica Clark)

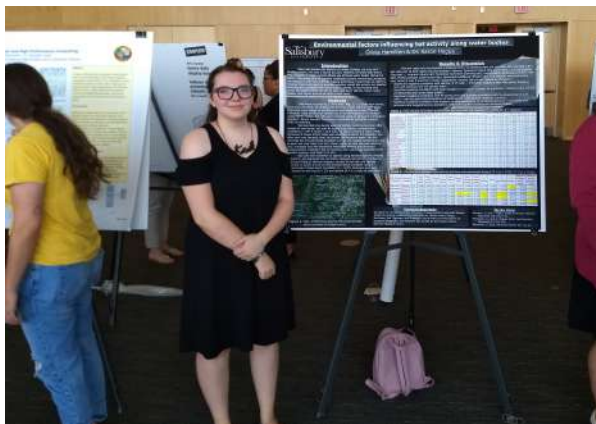


Anthony Labark (Advisors: Chris Briand and Samuel Geleta).

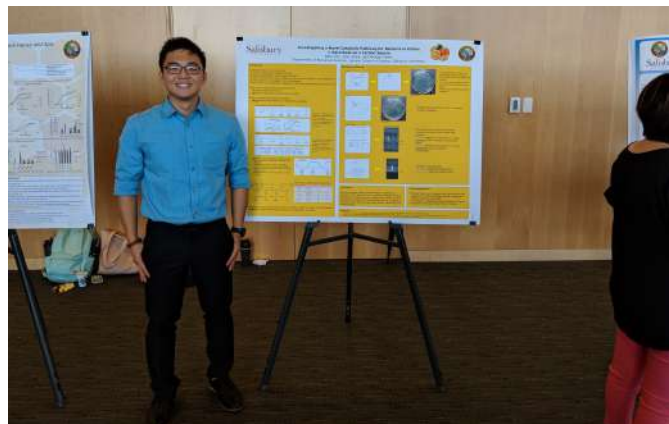


Chandini Narang (Advisor: Aaron Hogue)

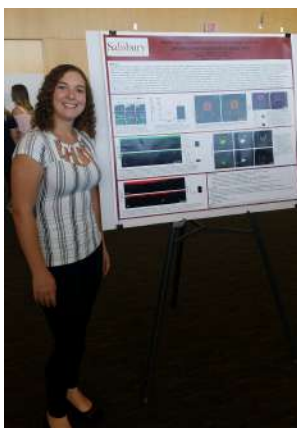
Guerrieri Research Conference, Salisbury University, August 3rd 2018



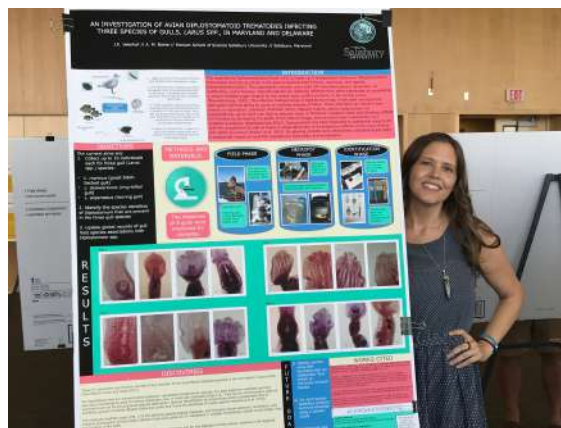
Olivia Hamilton (Advisor: Aaron Hogue)



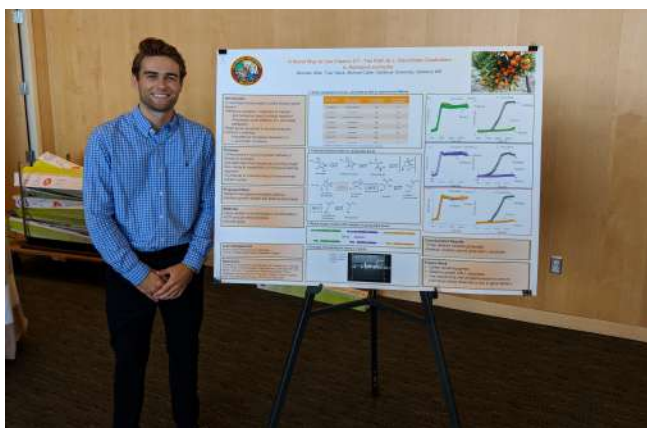
Peter Kim (Advisor: Michael Carter)



Amanda Rocker (Advisor: Jessica Clark)



Jennifer Veenhof (Advisor: Ann Barse)



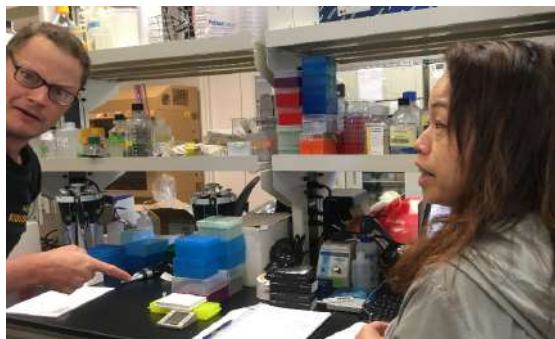
Brendan Wille (Advisor: Michael Carter)

J Craig Venter Institute

In May, SU students and faculty visited the JCVI in Rockville, MD, where Dr. Patti Erickson spent six months during her sabbatical, learning synthetic biology techniques in Dr. Sanjay Vashee's lab (<https://www.jcvi.org/gcid/outreach>). To see more pictures of the tour, visit the JCVI blog (<http://blogs.jcvi.org/2018/05/j-craig-venter-institute-education-program-fosters-learning-opportunities-with-salisbury-university-students-and-faculty/>)



JCVI Rockville selfie by Dr. Patti Erickson with Mariah Passwaters-Stamper, Myra Dickey, and Amanda Rocker in the front; Crystal Thompson, Jamie Barbarosa and Dr. Nyland in the middle; and Matt Zimmerman, Lauren DeLong, and Dr. Anderson in the back.



Dr. Anderson expresses shock that the tiny, USB-driven Minlon sequencers can generate up to 20 gigabases of DNA sequence per run.



Matt Zimmerman, Crystal Thompson, Mariah Passwaters-Stamper and Dr. Nyland learn about Minlon nanopore sequencing.



Lauren DeLong (left) and Jamie Barbarosa (right) learn about devices used to sample airplane microbiota.



Amanda Rocker waits her turn while Myra Dickey examines the mammalian cells that Dr. Suchi Chandran has prepared.

Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists



In June, **Dr. Ann Barse**, and Master of Science candidate **Marissa Moran**, traveled to Cancun, Mexico to the 93rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists. At the meeting, Marissa gave an oral presentation elucidating the life cycle of an echinostome trematode using morphology and DNA barcoding. Ann gave a poster presentation on schistosome and diplostome trematodes in gulls, summarizing work done with Chelsey Tull (May '18 graduate) and Jennifer Veenhof (expecting to graduate in Dec '18).

Our Faculty



Biology faculty at the Nanticoke River Center – August 23, 2018

Dr. Xuan Chen – Our New Wetland Biologist



My name is Xuan Chen, I am from Beijing, China. I lived in Louisiana for eight years before moving to Salisbury this summer. My research focuses on Ecology and Conservation Biology. I am interested in how creatures are organized in nature, and how natural and anthropogenic disturbances affect biodiversity and species composition. Insects are my model organisms because they play critical ecological functions and are good bioindicators. Please visit my website for more information (<https://chenxuan1128.wixsite.com/xuanchen>).

My top priority in teaching is to improve students' critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills. Discussion and Group Projects are important components in my classes. The overarching goal of my teaching is to ensure that students leave my class with skills that help them acquire knowledge and solve problems after college.

Cooking is my number one hobby. I used to only make Chinese food. Now I am trying to cook some Italian and French dishes, not easy (Gordon Ramsay's recipes help a lot). I also enjoy jogging, watching movies and anime, cleaning, and traveling. I am not a big fan of alcohol but do enjoy a little drink with friends (my English becomes better after a bottle of beer).



Collecting insects in a salt marsh in Louisiana.



Cooking Chinese food.

Ms. Jocelyn Koller – New Adjunct Faculty



Jocelyn is a summa cum laude graduate from Stevenson University earning a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She continued her education by earning a Master's of Science in Biology with an interest in molecular biology and forensics from Towson University.

She has taught science at the middle school, high school, and collegiate levels. She has also served as a Biology Program Manager for Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth and as the University of Maryland Extension 4-H STEM Senior Agent Associate for the lower eastern shore of Maryland.

Since an early age, Jocelyn has been interested in science, but it wasn't until her magnet high school for science, computer science, and mathematics that she found the skills and confidence needed to pursue an education and career in the sciences. Specifically, she was fascinated with the hands-on labs and investigations presented during her high school forensics course taught by a former state police officer. Similar to her forensics teacher, Jocelyn was a crime scene investigator prior to becoming an educator. She has incorporated her CSI knowledge into her teaching, including instructing the Laboratory Detective course at Brown University's SPARK program.

Jocelyn is honored to be a part of the Biology Department at Salisbury University. She is excited to teach the undergraduate biology labs with the hope of inspiring future generations of caring and compassionate scientists and leaders!

National Science Foundation Awards \$150K to SU for PROMISE Academy Support



Drs. **Jessica Clark (Biology)**, Michael Scott (Interim Dean, Henson School of Science), Karen Olmstead (Interim Provost) and Chrys Egan (Communication Arts) were recipients of a National Science Foundation grant. The PROMISE Academy will recruit scientists from traditionally underrepresented groups who have recently completed their doctorates into faculty positions in the sciences. For more information, go to: <http://www.salisbury.edu/news/article/2018-9-12-NSF-Awards-150K-to-SU-for-PROMISE-Academy-Support>

Dinner with a Dear Friend and Colleague



Dr. **Patti Erickson** had a chance to enjoy dinner at Sally's Fish House and Bar, San Diego, with former adjunct instructor, **Loren Moriarty** (right).

Audubon Camp in Maine



Audubon Camp, Hog Island,
Bremen ME



Sunset from Hog Island



Puffins for Desert!

In July Biology Instructor **Mary Gunther** headed to Maine to volunteer at the *Arts and Birding* and *Raptor Rapture* camps on Hog Island. These camps are part of a summer series of camps that are run under the auspices of Project Puffin for National Audubon. There have been Audubon Camps on Hog for almost 100 years. While there Mary did a lot of dishes and food prep but was also able to attend the lectures. She was also able to spend the day out on a boat with the campers and got to go see her beloved puffins on Eastern Egg Rock.

New 105 Topics in Biology Course



Mary Gunther has a new course being offered for the first time in Spring 2019. *The History of Spice* will look at the development of the spice trade, the environmental impact of this industry, focus on two case study flavorings (vanilla and pepper), and look at current practices involving these plants. Spread the word to your students looking for a unique Gen ED!

Publications

Briand CH, **Geleta SB** and Kratochvil RJ. 2018. Sweet sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* [L.] Moench) a potential biofuel feedstock: Analysis of cultivar performance in the Mid-Atlantic. Renewable Energy 129.
DOI: 10.1016/j.renene.2018.06.004

Mann HR**, Rowe E*, Selfridge J* and **Price DL**. 2018. Leaf Litter and Arboreal Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in a Mid-Atlantic Forest. Northeastern Naturalist 25: 341–354.

Munasinghe KA and Schwarz JG. 2017. Rooster collagen extracts from rooster by-products. Journal of Nutritional Health & Food Engineering 7 (3): 00239

Simons P*, Molina M*, Hagadorn MA** and **Price DL**. 2018. Monitoring of Dung Beetle (Scarabaeidae and Geotrupidae) Activity Along Maryland's Coastal Plain. Northeastern Naturalist 25: 87–100.

Ryan MJ, Page RA, **Hunter KL** and **Taylor RC**. 2018. ‘Crazy love’: nonlinearity and irrationality in mate choice, Animal Behaviour. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2018.04.004> (Invited Article for Special Issue: Cognitive Ecology)

*denotes undergraduate co-author

** denotes graduate student co-author

Dr. Ellen Lawler, Professor Emeritus



A new show for me this year is the **Bethany Beach Artisans Festival**, which is held at the **Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company** on **Sat., Oct. 6 from 9-3**. I've never even attended the show, but have heard from others that it is a good show. I plan to exhibit "Stop and Smell the Roses" along with other recent work there.

In November, I'll again be showing my work at the **Waterfowl Festival** in **Easton**, which runs **Friday through Sunday, Nov. 9-11**. Like last year, **my booth will be in the Artisans Gifts and Workshop in the Easton Middle School**. There are many activities at the Waterfowl Festival; in addition to artists, carvers and photographers, there are goose calling and dock dog competitions, raptor, retriever and fly-fishing demos, and a great variety of music and food vendors scattered throughout the town. The weekend's events raise money which is used for a variety of conservation projects here on the Eastern Shore. For more info, check out their web site at <http://www.waterfowlfestival.org/>. Among the works I'll have on display is "Smooth Swimming" depicting a pair of hooded mergansers I observed last winter on Schumaker Pond in Salisbury.

Alumni Connection



SU BIOLOGY ALUMNI

Stay Connected !

We want to hear from you! Please let us know where you are living and what you are doing! We would love to hear from you. In the future we plan to have an Alumni Connection section in our newsletter.

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Featured Charity



<https://www.internationalanimalrescue.org>