WVU endorses five for nation's top scholarships

Friday, October 05, 2018

Five accomplished young women from the Honors College (https://www.honors.wvu.edu/) have been endorsed by West Virginia University (https://www.wvu.edu/) to compete for three prestigious awards: the Rhodes, Marshall and Mitchell scholarships.
“Watching these talented students flourish as scholars and citizens makes me optimistic about the future of our country,” said Ken Blemings (https://www.honors.wvu.edu/about/staff/dean), dean of the Honors College. “At WVU, they found their calling and I have no doubt that they will continue to impact their chosen fields.”

**Rhodes Scholarship**

Three seniors have been endorsed for the Rhodes Scholarship not only for their outstanding scholarly achievements, but for their character, commitment to others and to the common good. The Rhodes Trust provides full financial support to pursue a degree at the University of Oxford.

**Emma Harrison**, of Morgantown, has already made a name for herself as an advocate for education in prison. Earlier this year, she was awarded the prestigious Truman Scholarship for her work in West Virginia prisons. She is a double major in political science (https://politicalscience.wvu.edu/) and multidisciplinary studies in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences (https://eberly.wvu.edu/). If she is awarded the Rhodes Scholarship, she will study with one of the top international experts in the field of criminology.
“Working with the West Virginia Innocence Project (https://wvinnocenceproject.law.wvu.edu/) ignited my passion for this field,” Harrison said. “I’m not sure if my efforts in prison reform will be in the areas of research, policy or litigation but I enjoy working directly with this population so I will continue to do that.”

**Andrea Pettit** is the 21st person in her family to attend WVU and it is her love of this school and this state that propels her to use her education to address health disparities in West Virginia. This aspiring physician is deeply concerned about people’s lack of access to health care services and how it exacerbates chronic diseases among the state’s population. By studying at Oxford, she believes she will learn from the U.K.’s National Health Service and bring a new perspective to West Virginia’s health care needs. The Morgantown native is an immunology and medical microbiology (https://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/micro/) major in the School of Medicine (https://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/) who has been involved in research focusing on the differences between the sexes.

“Men and women have different immune responses and understanding those differences will expand the field of personalized medicine,” Pettit said. “The Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Cell Biology (https://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/micro/) has supported my research endeavors through an unparalleled two-year internship examining these issues.”
Virginia “Ginny” Thrasher is a biomedical engineering (https://cbe.statler.wvu.edu/undergraduate/biomedical-engineering) major in the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/) who developed a deep interest in the field of psychology through her experience with the WVU Rifle Team (https://wvusports.com/index.aspx?path=rifle). After winning a gold medal in the women’s 10 meter air rifle at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, she began contemplating how having a growth mindset—a belief that abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—can be expanded to other fields. A native of Springfield, Virginia, Thrasher is a nine-time All American and national champion in her sport. She credits the growth mindset philosophy to much of her success.

“I am interested in conducting research to see how a growth mindset can be taught on a larger scale and in other areas outside of athletics such as addiction and leadership studies,” Thrasher said. “It would be incredible to explore this topic at a university like Oxford.”

Marshall Scholarship

Charleston native Morgan King graduated with a degree in civil engineering (https://cee.statler.wvu.edu/) in May and is currently teaching English in Spain as a Fulbright Scholar. She will also be volunteering at a non-governmental organization focused on women’s empowerment. The Marshall Scholarship, which is funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom, would
enable her to pursue two master’s degree programs in environmental systems engineering and public administration in science, engineering and public policy at the University College London.

“There is vast opportunity between the United States and the United Kingdom to deploy scientific diplomacy as solutions for consensus building globally,” King said. “The University College London promotes the development of future scientists and policymakers which aligns with my goal to work in the field of environmental policy and leadership.”

**Mitchell Scholarship**

**Karen Laska** of Wheeling wants to explore issues surrounding immigration in a European context. The topic is not just academic but personal. Her mother is Irish and her father is Polish so she is interested in how Ireland has successfully integrated Polish citizens into Irish society. She plans to work on a master’s degree in Migration and Diaspora Studies at University College Cork. Currently, she is a senior majoring in [international studies](https://internationalstudies.wvu.edu/), [Slavic and Eastern European studies](https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/students/undergraduate-students/sees), and [world languages (French)](https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/students/undergraduate-students/french) in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. The Mitchell Scholarship was established by the U.S.-Ireland Alliance to connect Americans to Ireland and provides tuition, accommodation and a stipend for living expenses and travel.
"I have always been interested in immigration because of my family background but my experiences here at WVU also contributed to my interest," Laska said. "I have had the opportunity to meet people from all over the world who have shared their cultures and experiences with me and this reinforced my belief that the contributions of immigrants help America grow and develop."

These young women will learn in the coming months if they are named as finalists for these scholarships. The ASPIRE Office prepares students who want to compete for nationally competitive scholarships like these. Students who are interested in applying can email aspire@mail.wvu.edu (mailto:aspire@mail.wvu.edu) to set up an appointment.

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Andrea Pettit

Virginia "Ginny" Thrasher

Morgan King
WVU students to compete for the title of Mr. and Ms. Mountaineer

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

West Virginia University (http://wvu.edu/) students who have demonstrated exemplary academic performance and extracurricular involvement will compete in one of Mountaineer Week's oldest traditions—the title of Mr. and Ms. Mountaineer.
The group of 10 represents a wide range of disciplines, but shares impressive academic achievements and experiences. The students, from West Virginia, New York and India, are all members or former members of the WVU Honors College (https://www.honors.wvu.edu/).

“Since 1962, one high-achieving man and woman have won the title of Mr. and Ms. Mountaineer,” said Sonja Wilson, Mountaineer Week advisor. “This year’s winners will join a host of distinguished alumni who have earned the title over the past five decades.”

Distinguished alumni such as Lisa Costello, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and pediatrics at WVU; Emily Calandrelli, an Emmy-nominated science TV host; and W. Dean Baker, a 1964 alumnus who has held a variety of executive positions in the aerospace and defense industry, have held the title of Mr. or Ms. Mountaineer.

This year’s winners will be selected by a review panel and announced during halftime at the WVU football game against Baylor on Thursday, Oct. 25 at Milan Puskar Stadium.

Mr. Mountaineer finalists are:

**Andrew Jemiolo**, a physics (https://physics.wvu.edu/) major minoring in mathematics (https://www.math.wvu.edu/) from Orchard Park, New York, serves as a resident assistant for the Honors Hall and section leader for the WVU Drumline. Jemiolo also conducts undergraduate research in plasma physics and plans to work for the US Naval Research Laboratory over the next year designing new laser
diagnostics for plasma physics research. Jemiolo is a Jury Award co-
winner of Campus Movie Fest. He is sponsored by WVU Plasma Physics
(https://ulysses.phys.wvu.edu/plasma/).

Praveen Majjigapu, a doctoral student in civil engineering from
Hyderabad, India, serves as the president of Structural Engineering
Institute Graduate Student Chapter and is a Collegiate Inventors
Competition Bronze winner. He is the recipient of the Outstanding
Merit Fellowship for Continuing Doctoral Students and the Kenneth D
Gray Leadership Award. Majjigapu has also been honored with the
President’s Volunteer Service Award. He is sponsored by the Structural
Engineering Institute Graduate Student Chapter and Benjamin M.
Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.

Alexander Martin, a computer science and computer engineering
(https://lcsee.statler.wvu.edu/) major from Charleston, serves as vice
president of Upsilon Pi Epsilon, an international organization that
recognize academic excellence in the computing sciences, and the
American Collegiate Esports League. Martin also serves as the regional
business conference chair for the Central Atlantic Affiliate of College and
University Residence Halls and has been inducted into the WVU
Resident Assistant Hall of Fame. He is sponsored by the WVU
Residence Hall Association (https://rha.wvu.edu/).

Adam Roh, a civil and environmental engineering
(https://cee.statler.wvu.edu/) major from Morgantown, serves as the
president of the civil engineering honor society Chi Epsilon, an
ambassador for the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/) and emergency communication coordinator for the WVU Amateur Radio Club. Roh is also a member of and Engineers Without Borders. He is sponsored by Chi Epsilon.

**Stephen Scott**, a graduate student majoring in political science (https://politicalscience.wvu.edu/) and multidisciplinary studies (https://mds.wvu.edu/) from Shepherdstown, serves as president of the Student Bar Association, an executive notes editor for the West Virginia Law Review and secretary/treasurer of the West Virginia Fund for Law in the Public Interest. Scott has been honored with the prestigious [Order of Augusta](https://outstandingsenioraward.wvu.edu/) and endorsed by WVU for the Rhodes Scholarship. He is sponsored by [WVU College of Law](https://www.law.wvu.edu/) and the [ASPIRE Office](https://aspire.wvu.edu/).

Ms. Mountaineer finalists:

**Mia Antinone**, a [biochemistry](https://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/Biochemistry/) major from Weirton, serves as a student tour leader for the WVU Visitors Center and vice president for Mountaineer Guides. She has been on the President’s List and serves as an annual volunteer for the West Virginia Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Conference. Antinone is sponsored by the [WVU Visitors Center](https://visit.wvu.edu/).
Morgan Goff, a graduate student pursuing a master’s degree in business administration (https://business.wvu.edu/) from Weirton, serves as a graduate assistant for WVU University Relations (https://universityrelations.wvu.edu/marketing). She recently earned her bachelor’s degree in marketing from WVU and has been honored as a Foundation Outstanding Senior. She is a former vice president for the WVU Panhellenic Council of Recruitment and Philanthropy, senator for the Student Government Association (https://sga.wvu.edu/) and WVU Greek Woman of the Year. Goff is sponsored by the WVU MBA Program.

Emma Harrison, a political science and multidisciplinary studies major from Morgantown, is a 2018 Truman Scholar and a 2018-2019 Newman Fellow. She serves as an intern for the West Virginia Innocence Project and a volunteer teacher for prison education at the Federal Correctional Institution Morgantown, FCI Hazleton and United States Penitentiary Hazleton. Harrison also volunteers her time to the Appalachian Prison Book Project. She is sponsored by the WVU Honors College.

Karen Laska, an international studies (https://internationalstudies.wvu.edu/), Slavic and Eastern European studies (https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/home), and world languages French major, from Wheeling, serves as an ESL tutor with the Literacy Volunteers of Monongalia and Preston Counties and a volunteer with the WVU Intensive English Program Conversation Partners. Laska is a
recipient of the Boren Scholarship, has been endorsed by WVU for the Mitchell Scholarship and a three-time recipient of the Eberly Scholarship. She is also a member of WVU Mortar Board She is sponsored by the ASPIRE Office.

Virginia Thrasher, a member of the WVU Rifle Team (https://wvusports.com/index.aspx?path=rifle), is a biomedical (https://cbe.statler.wvu.edu/) engineering major from Springfield, Virginia. She won a gold medal in the women’s 10-meter air rifle at the 2016 Summer Olympics, and she is a four-time NCAA Champion Rifle team winner and nine-time All American champion. Thrasher has also been endorsed by WVU for the Rhodes Scholarship and was invited to be a speaker in the inaugural TEDxWVU event. She is sponsored by the Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

See the full schedule of Mountaineer Week events (https://mountaineerweek.wvu.edu/).

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Karen Laska
Virginia Thasher

Ms. Mountaineer Candidates
Let's go.
Around the world...
Mountaineer style

West Virginia University
Wang reveals new cell type in the human brain, plays crucial role in visual search

Every day, people are asked to find something—a familiar face in a crowd, a child in the park, a particular house on a street. While researchers have long since known that the ability to effectively search and detect goal-relevant targets is controlled by top-down signals from the brain’s frontal area, a researcher from West Virginia University has found evidence that the human medial temporal lobe—or MTL—also plays an essential role in this process.

In a report published in “Current Biology,” Shuo Wang, assistant professor of chemical and biomedical engineering, has found that the MTL contains a strikingly functional type of cell never described before in humans: target cells.

Wang and his collaborators—Ueli Rutishauser and Adam Mamelak from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Ralph Adolphs from California Institute of Technology—took the very rare opportunity to record single neurons from epilepsy patients, who were undergoing seizure monitoring at Cedars-Sinai. They performed concurrent recordings of eye movements and single neurons in the MTL and medial frontal cortex—or MFC—in human neurosurgical patients performing a memory-guided visual search task.

“During goal-directed visual search, these target cells signal whether the currently fixated item is the target of the current search,” Wang said. “This target signal was behaviorally relevant because it predicted whether a subject detected or missed a fixated target, i.e., failed to abort the search.”

Wang was surprised to find that these target cells were not visually tuned; they didn’t care about the content of the target but only whether an item is a target or not. Interestingly, their response to identical items could be different, depending on whether an item was the target of the search or not.

“This type of response is fundamentally different from that observed in upstream areas to the MTL, i.e., the inferior temporal cortex, where cells are visually
tuned and are only modulated by target presence or absence on top of this visual tuning," Wang said. "The discovery of this novel type of cell in the MTL, in humans, shows direct evidence for a specific top-down goal-relevance signal in the MTL."

The study also found that target cells in the MFC respond significantly earlier relative to target cells in the MTL.

"This latency difference was derived from simultaneously recorded target cells in both areas, which is a rare opportunity to directly investigate the flow of information of top-down signals," Wang said. "This finding suggests that the MFC may be one specific source of top-down signals that specify stimulus meaning in the MTL."

Wang and his collaborators are conducting further experiments and analysis on how different brain areas coordinate with each other to give rise to target detection.

"This is particularly important for people with autism, because they show impaired visual search, especially when they search for people and faces," Wang said. "One possibility is that there is pathology within neurons of the MTL itself. Another is that there is abnormal connectivity between the MTL and other brain areas. Our single-neuron recording experiment permits a temporal resolution that will help distinguish these possibilities."

This work was supported by the National Institute of Mental Health, the WVU Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute and The Dana Foundation.
Turton, Lima win inaugural R&D grant from AVEVA

The WVU team, led by Richard Turton, WVU Bolton Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, and Fernando Lima, assistant professor of chemical and biomedical engineering, will use AVEVA’s Unified Simulation Platform or SimCentral platform, a process simulation tool for designing and operating power plants.

“SimCentral is a new generation simulation platform that piggybacks on some of the work we have been doing at the AVESTAR Center,” Turton said. “This new platform allows for the simultaneous development of steady state, dynamic and fluid flow models, a feature that is currently lacking in other platforms. The platform is quite transparent and allows users to develop a wide variety of customized models within a simulation platform.”

The research team will focus on developing membrane separation models that can be applied to a variety of chemical processes, such as oxygen separation from air, alternative natural gas utilization and carbon capture from coal-fired power plants. These models will eventually be disseminated to both academic and nonacademic users of the software. They will also develop complete operator training simulators for teaching purposes in the academic community.

AVEVA chose SimCentral as the targeted product for its first university R&D program because it provides an ideal environment for academic institutions to develop additional functionality that can be demonstrated in the context of a practical simulator without the need to develop user interfaces, provide thermodynamic properties, or in some cases, without having to write computer code. This work will complement the operator training platform in the National Research Center for Coal and Energy’s AVESTAR Center, a state-of-the-art training simulator that provides realistic, hands-on experience for operating clean energy systems in the smart grid era.

“Deepening our relationships with the academic community enables research and development collaboration in key areas of our business, including machine learning, analytics, product speed and statistical confidence, among other attributes,” said Ravi Gopinath, chief operating officer at AVEVA. “As AVEVA continues to advance how industrial and infrastructure organizations embrace a digital twin strategy to model and optimize engineering processes, we are increasingly building partnerships with the academic community to invest in tomorrow’s problems today.”

WVU and the Technical University in Dortmund, Germany, were selected from an international pool of 20 submissions that were reviewed by a panel of experts. Other finalists included UCLA; University of California, Berkeley; National University of Singapore; and University of Texas at Austin. Selection was based on a number of factors, including how the research and development grant might drive future innovation across industrial operations, how it could be completed through the use of existing resources and how the output could be incorporated into future software offerings.
In my three years serving in Brigades, we have provided free medical and dental care to more than 5,650 patients.
The first day the group arrived in the Brigade's compound in Matagalpa, we organized more than $110,000 in medical and dental supplies that we had fundraised for throughout the year and brought along with us for the clinics. The group worked with 14 local medical professionals to provide healthcare clinics throughout the region. Students engaged with patients in various stations including triage, consultation, dental and pharmacy.

Students educated patients on hygiene and wholesome health habits through unique games using a tooth model and even employed a Spanish song on how to properly brush one's teeth. We recorded patients' vital signs and mental health and family history, and shadowed doctors, pharmacists and dentists to learn about the unique healthcare problems facing developing regions of the world and to dispense medications to the patients. In just four short days, we were able to serve nearly 2,700 patients.

For the next three days, we worked in the public health and water sectors to tackle the root cause of healthcare issues, rather than solely treating the symptoms. We constructed sanitation units for six different families. We also dug more than 200 yards of trenches as part of a clean water project aimed at providing hundreds of families access to this basic necessity.

Global Brigades has provided me with the most rewarding, incredible and humbling experiences. The experiences we have abroad are not solely defined by what we learn academically. By far, the most beneficial moments of my most recent trip came through interactions with the locals from our beloved translators, bus drivers, medical professionals and coordinators to families, who opened their homes to us, and the incredible friends we made while exploring on our last day in Managua. Talking to the locals is where I believe we can truly learn the most about the country and its problems. They have provided me with new and different perspectives on what it truly means to be privileged, on how fortunate we are here to have the opportunities we have. My experiences have opened my mind to always assume the best in people, because you really don't know what someone is going through.

Though physically and emotionally taxing, our trip to Nicaragua wasn't all work. Every evening we engaged in deep talks over nightly group reflections. We played soccer on an incredible field overlooking the city of Matagalpa. We visited El Chocoyero, a nature reserve with monkeys, birds and waterfalls. We also explored a beautiful boardwalk along Lake Managua, where we made friends with some amazing natives of the city.

Being part of Global Brigades has brought out the best in me and allowed me to grow so much as a person. In my three years serving in Brigades, we have provided free medical and dental care to more than 5,650 patients and clean water access for more than 400 families.
APPOINTED

Several faculty members were appointed to senior administrative positions, effective July 1.

Richard Turton, WVU Bolton Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, was named chair of the Department. A member of the faculty since 1986, Turton has conducted extensive research in the area of process simulation of power plants and power technology. He serves as the director of the National Research Center for Coal and Energy’s AVESTAR® Center, a state-of-the-art training simulator that provides realistic, hands-on experience for operating clean energy systems in the smart grid era. He was a member of a research team that won an R&D 100 Award — a national award known as the “Oscar of innovation” — for the development of a virtual reality-based software that provides the energy industry with an unprecedented high-tech look inside the operation of power plants.

Vladislav Kecojevic has been named the Robert E. Murray Chair of the Department of Mining Engineering. Kecojevic, who had been serving as interim chair since August 2017, has been on the faculty in the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources since 2010. He has conducted research in the areas of surface mining, surface mine safety, information technology and environmental issues in surface mining. Kecojevic has been recognized internationally for his contributions to the mining industry. He was awarded the Erskine Ramsey Medal from the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers in 2017 for his contributions to the research, education and service in surface coal mining and for his international recognition as a researcher, teacher and academic leader.

Associate Dean for Research Pradeep Fulay and James Dean, director of mining and industrial extension, were reappointed to their positions. According to Gene Ciancio, interim Dean of the Statler College, Fulay has “been especially effective in helping new Statler College faculty hires to develop active research programs and to achieve major external funding, including awards such as National Science Foundation CAREER Awards.” He also noted that Dean was praised for working diligently to represent his Department to the professional communities it serves.

Department chairs are reviewed every five years by the College. Evaluations include input from faculty members, staff, students and other constituents.

CERTIFIED

Lauren MacDowell, an industrial hygiene graduate student from Satellite Beach, Florida, and Brice Deng Nsongue, a safety management graduate student from Douala, Cameroon, were recipients of the 2017 Graduate Safety Practitioner Scholarship. The scholarship is given to students interested in becoming Certified Safety Professionals, an accredited certification offered by the NSC, and comes with an award of $5,000 and a free application to take the CSP exam upon graduation. The designation is awarded to qualified individuals to mark their completion of an accredited academic program as well as establish their intention to obtain CSP certification, one of the highest credentials professionals in the safety field can achieve.
Students earn University Fellowships

Written by Brittany Furbée

Two Statler College students have received prestigious University Fellowships.

Morgantown native and doctoral student Hunter Snoderly was awarded a one-year University Provost Fellowship, while Neel Gupta was awarded WVU's Outstanding Merit Fellowship for Continuing Doctoral Students. The fellowships provide a University tuition waiver, College tuition scholarship, stipend and health insurance.

Snoderly is among the inaugural class of students enrolled in the College's new graduate program in biomedical engineering that launched this fall. He will be conducting research with Margaret Bennewitz, assistant professor of chemical and biomedical engineering, to examine breast cancer metastasis to the lungs. The pair will be collaborating with investigators at WVU's Health Sciences Center to analyze spontaneous mouse models that mimic human disease to visualize each step of breast cancer metastasis.

"Hunter will have the opportunity to use cutting-edge imaging modalities to study how the tumor microenvironment promotes breast cancer metastasis to the lungs," said Bennewitz. "Based on our findings, we will design targeted nanoparticle drug delivery vehicles to kill the primary breast cancer cells and prevent their migration to the lungs. Hunter's proposed project has the potential to greatly impact breast cancer patient care and save lives."

"I was elated to learn that I had received the prestigious Provost Fellowship," said Snoderly. "WVU afforded me many opportunities throughout my undergraduate career and the opportunity to work with Dr. Bennewitz adds to the ever-growing list of such occasions for which I am profoundly grateful."

Gupta, from Rajasthan, India, received his bachelor's and master's degree in mining engineering from the Indian School of Mines in Dhanbad, India, before relocating to WVU as a doctoral student in mining engineering.

Working with Brijes Mishra, Syd and Felicia Peng Professor of Mining Engineering, Gupta has been investigating the fundamental causes of roof collapses in underground coal mines in hopes of improving overall mine safety.

"Neel is investigating the time-dependent behavior of rocks at the microscopic level," said Mishra. "His research will help us understand the formation and development of cracks and fractures that propagate over time and cause failure in rocks. We have a thorough understanding at the macroscopic level, however understanding the microscopic level will aid us in improving our roof support capability."

Identifying the cause of roof failures at the microscopic level will allow Gupta to develop indicators that can be installed in underground mine entries to detect potential collapses, which will prevent mine fatalities and loss of coal mine production.

"I was overwhelmed with happiness and couldn't believe that I have been selected for this prestigious fellowship," said Gupta. "I feel honored that my research is getting recognized among my peers in college."

"I am extremely lucky to have outstanding graduate students like Gupta," said Mishra. "He works tirelessly to improve his research, collaborates with fellow graduate students and is not shy of either taking comments or suggesting ideas to fellow researchers. This award will further motivate him to pursue and publish his work, visit mines and overall improve mine safety through fundamental research."

Gupta was also the recipient of the 2017-2018 Syd S. and Felicia F. Peng Graduate Scholarship and Mining Engineering Faculty Graduate Award.
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

DISTINCTION IN MENTORING

Edward Sabolsky, associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, and Fernando Lima, assistant professor of chemical engineering, were awarded the 2018 Faculty Award for Distinction in Mentoring Undergraduates in Research. Sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research and the Honors College, the award recognizes, rewards and encourages faculty members who mentor undergraduate students in research and creative endeavors. The award applies rigorous criteria in identifying faculty who specifically mentor undergraduates in making an original intellectual or creative contribution to their discipline. Lima and Sabolsky each received a monetary award to be used toward their continued support of undergraduate research.

FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Andrew Nix, associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, has been named a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. A member of ASME for 24 years, Nix was selected for his contributions to the organization's International Gas Turbine Institute. As an executive member of GTI's Aircraft Engine Committee for more than 10 years, Nix has held various leadership positions including past chair, chairman, and most recently director. He is also a member of GTI's Heat Transfer Committee, where he currently serves as chairman of the honors and awards subcommittee and previously held the position of executive chair for Heat Transfer Institute for three years. ASME is a global engineering society comprised of more than 130,000 members in more than 151 countries. Less than 4,000 members have achieved ASME Fellow status.

RESEARCHERS OF THE YEAR

Stefanos Papanikolaou, assistant professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, was named the College's Researcher of the Year-Junior.

Antar Jutla, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, was named the College's Researcher of the Year-Senior.

NICHOLAS EVANS AWARD

John Zondo, professor of chemical and biomedical engineering, was awarded the Nicholas Evans Award for Excellence in Advising. Zondo advises nearly 100 students while serving as a faculty advisor for multiple department and College organizations. The annual award, established by the Office of the Provost, is given in honor of Nicholas Evans, a lifelong proponent of the importance of undergraduate advising at WVU. Recipients receive $1,250 in professional development support.
ORDER OF AUGUSTA

Tanner Filben and Anna Gilpin were awarded Order of Augusta, WVU's most prestigious student honor.

Filben, from Glen Dale, graduated with a degree in biomedical engineering and a minor in computer science. He was the assistant executive director of the Mountaineer Monarch, a member of the Biomedical Engineering Society and a former intern to the director for athletics of the Student Government Association. Also a biomedical engineer, Gilpin, from Martinsburg, was the vice president of the Biomedical Engineering Society, a member of the Society of Women Engineers, associate editor for the Mountaineer Undergraduate Research Review and former executive director for recruitment and retention for the Student Government Association. Megan Barthlemess, Cassidy Bland, Alyssa Diehl, Lindsay Elliot, Yacine Feliachi, Ahmed Hague, Nicole Hegale, Jason Horvath and Morgan King were among 41 students named Outstanding Seniors.

Gilpin was also named a Graduate Research Fellow by the National Science Foundation. Gilpin is pursuing a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering at Duke University, intending to work in the research and development of biomaterials for regenerative medicine applications.

ORDER OF VANDALIA

Industrial engineering alumnus George Bennett joined the likes of Sen. Jay Rockefeller, Sen. Robert C. Byrd, Hazel Ruby McQuain, Sen. Jennings Randolph, John Chambers, James "Buck" Harless and Jack Fleming when he was inducted into the Order of Vandalia, the highest honor for service to the University. Bennett is a successful entrepreneur who has shared his expertise with the federal government and supported organizations such as the National Youth Science Foundation and Urban Improv to give children a brighter future. He is a member of the Alumni Association's Academy of Distinguished Alumni and the West Virginia Business Hall of Fame. Bennett was recognized by the WVU Foundation with its Outstanding Philanthropist Award in 2015. He currently serves as the chairman and CEO of Good Measures, LLC, which provides personalized health and nutritional recommendations as well as diabetes prevention and management support programs to its clients.
Alumni Academies

ACADEMY OF AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

Warren Boord  
**CURRENT POSITION:** principal assistance program manager and director for threat and modeling and simulation engineering, Naval Sea Systems Command, Program Executive Office for Integrated Warfare Systems  
**EDUCATION:** BS, aerospace engineering, WVU; MS, mechanical engineering, Johns Hopkins University  
**PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** has more than 37 years of professional experience in the scientific and technical defense acquisition and intelligence communities; served as head of the missile section at the Office of Naval Intelligence from 2006-2013; spent six years as a United States Air Force officer and then 20 years in private industry; co-author of the book "Air and Missile Defense Systems Engineering," and the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics Journal of Guidance Control and Dynamics, titled "New Approach to Guidance Law Design."

Robert Kimble  
**CURRENT POSITION:** deputy program executive officer for unmanned aviation, Naval Air Systems Command  
**EDUCATION:** BS, aerospace engineering, WVU; MS, management, University of Maryland  
**PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** has held senior leadership positions in the Department of the Navy in areas related to program management, systems engineering, process improvement and resources and requirements; also includes serving on the staff of the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy and as principal deputy program manager for presidential helicopters. was appointed deputy program executive officer for strike weapons, program executive officer for unmanned aviation and strike weapons in 2013 and deputy program executive officer for unmanned aviation in 2016; recipient, Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

Shalin Shah  
**CURRENT POSITION:** co-founder and chief financial officer, Flat Rock Development  
**EDUCATION:** BS, chemical engineering, WVU; MBA, Vanderbilt University  
**PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** gained valuable experience in sales, operations, regulatory affairs, risk management, and finance working for Reliant Energy, a division of NRG Energy, and Direct Energy, a division of Centrica PLC; previous positions include serving as a process engineer with OSI Specialties and leading business development activities for a food company; serves on the board of directors for Southwest Schools, a charter school in southwest Houston that serves an economically disadvantaged K-12 student population.

Katherine S. Zieme  
**CURRENT POSITION:** vice provost and chief of staff for Undergraduate Education and Experiential Learning, professor of chemical engineering, Northeastern University  
**EDUCATION:** BS, chemical engineering, Virginia Tech; PhD, chemical engineering, WVU  
**PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** works to advance the research and practice of exaptation learning in all aspects of the student experience at Northeastern; her engineering research group studies fundamental mechanisms of growth and processing of thin films and microstructures, at the atomic scale, with the aim to create next-generation electronic devices based on multifunctional materials to address the challenges of renewable and sustainable energy, medical diagnostics and treatments, and environmental monitoring and production; worked as a chemical engineer at DuPont; past member, board of directors, American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

ACADEMY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

James Faller  
**CURRENT POSITION:** senior engineer and team leader, modeling and simulation (M&S) programs, U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center  
**EDUCATION:** BS, chemical engineering, WVU; MS, chemical engineering, PhD, applied science, University of Delaware  
**PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** named Pennsylvania Industrial Scientist of the Year for working as team leader at Boeing during the Vietnam War; was an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy; worked for the Army Ballistics Research Lab, the Naval Research Center and the ATR conducting self-directed research ranging from pulsed laser target interaction to dynamic modeling of material systems; was an advisor to a number of the United States Armed Services Committee on submarine materials and ship construction; served as a technical agent for composites and chairman of the pressure measurement committee of the Test and Evaluation Command at ATC; co-founded materials consulting company and co-developed a new additive manufacturing process for sale overseas.

Roger Adams  
**CURRENT POSITION:** acting director of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands  
**EDUCATION:** BS, civil engineering, WVU  
**PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** spent 32 years with the state of Pennsylvania's dam safety program, overseeing the operation and maintenance of 3,400 dams statewide and serving as chief of the Division of Dam Safety from 2010-2017; presented to several agencies, organizations and educational institutions on the subject of dam safety; serves as president-elect for the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, which supports the state dam safety programs and provides training, advocacy and awareness on dam safety matters for the state and federal dam safety programs as well as consulting engineers, dam owners and contractors in the wider dam safety community.
Three WVU students qualify as Rhodes Finalists

By MetroNews Staff | November 01, 2018 at 1:50PM

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Three students at West Virginia University have qualified as finalists for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.

Emma Harrison and Andrea Petit, both of Morgantown, and Ginny Thrasher of Springfield, Virginia will be representing WVU in the Rhodes District XI Committee of Selection interviews in Chicago November 16-17. It’s the first time in history the university has had three students advance to the final 15. After the interviews, two will be selected for the scholarship to study abroad at Oxford University in England. The Rhodes Scholarship provides all expenses for two to four years of study at the University of Oxford in England. All three women are students in the WVU Honors College.

“All three are exceptional young women in their own way, study in three different colleges at the university, and reveal the many different paths to success at WVU,” said Katherine Aasland, professor of history and faculty advisor for the Rhodes Scholarship in a release. “It is a pleasure to work with these remarkable young women and the ASPIRE office.”

Harrison is WVU’s 23rd Truman Scholar and a Newman Civic Fellow. She was named to those earlier this year for advocacy for prison education and reform. If she is awarded the scholarship, her goal is to earn a doctorate of philosophy in criminology. At WVU, she is majoring in political science and multidisciplinary studies.

Petit has a passion for rural medicine out of her concern for the lack of access to quality medical care in remote parts of West Virginia. She’s studying to be a physician, but has volunteered hundreds of hours in a local hospital.

She’s also a member of the cross country and track and field teams. At WVU she is majoring in immunology and medical microbiology in the School of Medicine. If she is awarded the scholarship, she plans to earn two master’s degrees in integrated immunology and primary healthcare. She also wants to learn more about the U.K.’s National Health Service to see how the U.S. can make structural improvements to improve access to care especially in rural areas.

Thrasher, who is best known for her prowess as member of the WVU Rifle Team, is earning a degree in bio medical engineering.
"A lot of really great candidates don’t make it to the finals. We’re all just really excited for this opportunity," said Thrasher who earned the first gold medal of the 2016 Olympics in Rio in Women’s 10m air rifle.

She plans to use the scholarship to advance her study of growth mindset concepts.

"I’d like to apply what I’ve learned in athletics which is growth mindset," she explained on Metronews Talkline. "It’s a mindset that say, I believe my level of ability and talent can change with effort."

Thrasher says it’s a much more complicated concept than most believe, but also one which mastered that can be extremely rewarding. She hopes to find ways to help more people achieve the rewards.

Regardless of whether she is selected for the Rhodes Scholarship or not, Thrasher said she still plans to continue to shoot and will work to make the 2020 U.S. Olympic shooting team.
Three outstanding young women at West Virginia University (https://www.wvu.edu/) have been named finalists for the Rhodes Scholarship, one of the oldest and most celebrated international awards in the world. This may be the first time that WVU has advanced this many finalists for this award.
“I am thrilled by the unprecedented good news that WVU has three finalists for the highly competitive Rhodes Scholarship,” said Katherine Aaslestad professor of history (https://history.wvu.edu/) and faculty advisor for the Rhodes Scholarship. “All three are exceptional young women in their own way, study in three different colleges at the university, and reveal the many different paths to success at WVU. It is a pleasure to work with these remarkable young women and the ASPIRE Office (https://aspire.wvu.edu/)”

Emma Harrison and Andrea Pettit, both from Morgantown and Virginia “Ginny” Thrasher of Springfield, Virginia, will interview with the Rhodes District XI Committee of Selection in Chicago Nov.16-17. The Rhodes Scholarship provides all expenses for two to four years of study at the University of Oxford in England. All three women are students in the WVU Honors College (https://www.honors.wvu.edu/).

Emma Harrison was named WVU’s 23rd Truman Scholar (https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/stories/2018/03/05/wvu-student-is-finalist-for-truman-scholarship) and a Newman Civic Fellow (https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/stories/2018/03/13/wvu-student-awarded-national-fellowship-to-work-with-imprisoned-populations) earlier this year for her advocacy for prison education and reform. She has been dedicated to this cause since her freshman year, independently seeking out professors to learn more about challenges associated with incarceration. In her sophomore year, she enrolled in the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, which provides students with the
opportunity to take college courses alongside imprisoned men. In her junior year, she became a teaching assistant for the class, and now she has embarked on research with the West Virginia Department of Education Office of Diversion and Transition to study the impact of educational and vocational programs on the rate of recidivism. If she is awarded the scholarship, her goal is to earn a doctorate of philosophy in criminology. At WVU, she is majoring in political science (https://politicalscience.wvu.edu/) and multidisciplinary studies (https://mds.wvu.edu/) (Africana (https://eberly.wvu.edu/students/majors/africana-studies), leadership (https://leadershipstudies.wvu.edu/home) and women and gender studies (https://womensgenderstudies.wvu.edu/)) in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. (https://eberly.wvu.edu/)

“This opportunity is incredible and I am so excited for the chance to continue my advocacy work with incarcerated people,” Harrison said. “The experiences and opportunities available at Oxford in the area of prison research are unparalleled, and I would be honored to continue my work there.”

Andrea Pettit’s passion for the field of rural medicine stems from her concern for the lack of access to medical care in West Virginia. To prepare for a future career as a physician, she has volunteered hundreds of hours in a local hospital as a family liaison for the Intensive Care and Post-Anesthesia Care units and as a neonatal “cuddler,” holding babies who are withdrawing from substance addiction. She created a program
called "Giving Back" to fill backpacks for the siblings of sick children with donations of toys, books and games from local community partners. She has also made her mark in the field of immunology as a research assistant on a project that will help medical professionals know more about how men and women react differently to various treatments for autoimmune disorders. She's also a member of the cross country and track and field teams. At WVU she is majoring in immunology and medical microbiology (https://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/micro/) in the School of Medicine (https://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/). If she is awarded the scholarship, she plans to earn two master's degrees in integrated immunology and primary healthcare. She also wants to learn more about the U.K.'s National Health Service to see how the U.S. can make structural improvements to improve access to care especially in rural areas.

"Being selected as a Rhodes finalist is a testament to years of dedication to academics, athletics, research, and volunteer work, but, even more importantly, I see it as an opportunity to have a positive impact on health care delivery in West Virginia," Pettit said. "The years of education I have ahead of me are not for personal gain, but will aid me in confronting health disparities in Appalachia. I am thankful that the Rhodes Committee recognizes the importance of this undertaking and has given me the opportunity to further explain my motivations behind my previous sacrifices and future endeavors."

Virginia “Ginny” Thrasher has achieved the highest success an athlete in her field can achieve. She was the first American to win a gold medal in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in the women’s 10-meter air rifle. She attributes much of her success to a “growth mindset,” a belief that abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work. She wants to explore the idea that what helped her become the top athlete in her sport can help others. Her goal is to be able to spread growth mindset to more people by researching a new way to facilitate the learning process. One potential application might include addiction. She has volunteered at the WVU Recovery Center (https://recovery.wvu.edu/), which supports students with substance abuse problems. Her Olympic success has made her a celebrity and she has used that platform to advocate for education. She travels the state encouraging young women to consider careers in science, technology, engineering or math. She is majoring in biomedical engineering (https://cbe.statler.wvu.edu/undergraduate/biomedical-engineering) in the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/). If she is selected for the Rhodes Scholarship, she will study cognitive and evolutionary anthropology and psychological research.

"Being selected as a Rhodes finalist is quite an honor for me, and I am so excited for the opportunity to interview," Thrasher said. “I will spend much of the next few weeks preparing through mock interviews and subject matter experts with the help of the ASPIRE office. I feel so lucky to be able to continue representing WVU in athletics and academics"
Rhodes Scholars are chosen on criteria set forth in the 1902 will of Cecil Rhodes, a British entrepreneur and politician. In addition to academic excellence, the candidates are evaluated on their personal energy to use their talents in full commitment to duty and public service, and ability to work with and lead others to achieve their goals.

The ASPIRE office prepares students like these three for highly competitive scholarships. Students who are interested in these scholarships can email aspire@mail.wvu.edu (mailto:aspire@mail.wvu.edu) to set up an appointment.

-WVU-

lr/11/01/18

CONTACT: Amy Cyphert, director of ASPIRE Office
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CONGRATULATIONS!!

Zachary Kilwein

1st Place
Computing, Simulation, and Process Control

and

recipient of
CAST Award
(overall first place presentation in Computing & Systems Technology Division)

AICHE Annual Meeting
Pittsburgh, PA
October 28, 2018

"Modeling and Techno-economic Analysis of a Modular Hydrogen Production Process"
CONGRATULATIONS!!

Dennis Loevlie

2nd Place
Computing and Process Control Division

AIChe Annual Meeting
Pittsburgh, PA
October 28, 2018

"Mathematical Modeling and Optimization of Ion Transport Membranes for Oxygen Separation From Air"

Dennis Johan Loevlie, Allyson M. Brezler and Fernando V. Lima
CONGRATULATIONS!!

Jasmine Grossman

3rd Place
Materials Engineering Category

AIChe Annual Meeting
Pittsburgh, PA
October 28, 2018

“Reducing PLGA Nanoparticles and MnO Core Size to Enhance MRI Breast Cancer Detection”

Jasmine Grossman, Celia Martinez De La Torre, Huy Pham, Cathy Li, Macy Carder, Hunter Snoderly, and Margaret Bennewitz
Anderson leaves WVU for NETL

By MetroNews Staff in News | November 12, 2018 at 4:18PM

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Dr. Brian J. Anderson, formerly of West Virginia University and director of the WVU Energy Institute, has left academia to become the director of the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

"Dr. Anderson's extensive experience and knowledge in engineering and science is extraordinary," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry. "As the only national laboratory that is fully owned and operated by the Department of Energy, I am confident the National Energy Technology Laboratory will continue to make strides in advancing coal, natural gas, oil, and other energy technologies under his leadership."

Shelley Moore Capito
@SenCapito

Congrats to @WestVirginiaU Dr. Brian Anderson on his new position as Director of @NETL_DOE. NETL is valuable partner in advancing WV's coal and natural gas industries, sustaining our state's energy future.

21 12:20 AM - Nov 9, 2018

20 people are talking about this

Anderson, long an advocate for an Appalachian Storage Hub and a major player in the China Energy Deal, began his career at WVU in 2006 as an assistant professor in the department of chemical and biomedical engineering. He founded and built the WVU Energy Institute, the largest collaborative research organization at the university focused on advancing technology through research, development, and demonstration within the energy industry, according to a DoE release.
WV MetroNews – Anderson leaves WVU for NETL.

“I am honored and humbled at the opportunity to serve as the director of the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL),” said Anderson in a NETL Press Release. “The work that is being conducted at NETL is critical to advancing technologies that will transform the use and production of our nation’s vast coal, natural gas, and oil resources to protect our environment and enhance our nation’s energy security. I look forward to working with the talented and dedicated team at NETL to continue the lab’s efforts as the gold standard in advancing energy research and development.”

NETL’s acting director Sean Pasyinski, Ph.D., began his new role Sunday as the lab’s deputy director and chief operating officer.

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WVMetroNews

We are West Virginia’s only news, talk and sports network providing you the ability to reach all of West Virginia through a single source.
Wood named WVU Energy Institute interim director as Anderson moves to NETL

Friday, November 09, 2018

James F. Wood (https://energy.wvu.edu/our-team/james-f-wood-director-us-china-energy-center) has been appointed interim director of the West Virginia University (http://www.wvu.edu/) Energy Institute (http://energy.wvu.edu/), replacing Brian Anderson (https://energy.wvu.edu/our-team/dr-brian-j-anderson-director), named Friday (Nov. 9) to lead the National Energy Technology Laboratory, the only federally-operated National Laboratory in the Department of Energy system.
Wood, a long-time energy executive and leader, currently is director of the WVU-managed U.S.-China Clean Energy Research Center, Advanced Coal Technology Consortium (http://www.us-china-cerc.org/who-we-are/), established between the U.S. and China in 2009 to focus on technologies for improving the energy efficiency of buildings, advanced coal and clean vehicles.

"As a leading energy expert, Jim brings excellent experience and wise judgment to the Energy Institute. He has contributed to the success of the Institute in his current role and we are excited and thankful that he is willing to lead as interim director," said Provost Joyce McConnell (https://provost.wvu.edu/profiles/joyce-mcconnell).

"Energy-related research has always been a key element of WVU, and that will not change," Wood said. "It is too important not only to West Virginia University, but to the state and nation. We will continue the Institute's momentum and support the current major faculty research initiatives."

A national search for the permanent director will be conducted; read more about the search (https://energy.wvu.edu/new-director-search).

Wood noted several major programs the Institute leads or supports:

- Activities related to the feasibility of deep, direct use of geothermal on the WVU campus lead by Nagasree Garapat (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/nagasree-garapat).

Also, the Energy Institute manages WVU obligations under the Cooperative Agreement with U.S. DOE related to the U.S.-China Clean Energy Research Center, Advanced Coal Technology Consortium, and will participate and manage various university obligations associated with several international memoranda of understanding, and continue to be a resource to federal and state agencies, and activities such as West Virginia Forward (http://wvforward.wvu.edu/), and the Tri-State Shale Coalition.

"We are fortunate to have a seasoned leader in Jim Wood," said Fred King, (https://research.wvu.edu/about/leadership/fred-king) WVU's vice president for research. "As someone with broad knowledge of the energy industry, the US Department of Energy, and our state, he is the ideal candidate to lead the Energy Institute until a permanent director can be identified. This Institute will be in good hands and it will not lose the momentum that has been building over the last few years."

The Energy Institute is a key piece of WVU’s West Virginia Forward initiative, a collaboration with the West Virginia Department of Commerce and Marshall University to help change the economic health of the state with new, collaborative approaches.
“Jim has been an important participant in helping move the Energy Institute to its place of leadership, both nationally and internationally, and I look forward to working with him in this expanded capacity,” WVU President Gordon Gee (http://presidentgee.wvu.edu/) said.

Wood came to WVU in 2014 from ThermoEnergy Corp., where he was chairman, president and CEO of the Massachusetts-based company focused on industrial wastewater treatment and power generation technologies.

Previously he was deputy assistant secretary of DOE’s Office of Clean Coal, responsible for a $4.5 billion program for research and demonstration projects related to carbon capture and storage, advanced power generation cycles, fuel cells and advanced integrated gas combined cycle processes.

Wood has 30 years of experience in the power industry. Between 1996 and 2001, he served as president and chief operating officer Babcock & Wilcox Co., and executive vice president of McDermott International Inc., its parent. Prior to that, he was president of WTI International, Inc. and senior vice president and general manager of Wheelabrator Environmental Systems Inc., both subsidiaries of Wheelabrator Technologies Inc.
His international experience includes periods of residency in Italy, India, Colombia, Belgium, and the Czech Republic. He represented the U.S. as a delegate to the 1995 Presidential Mission on Sustainable Energy and Trade to China.

He has accepted federal appointments to the National Coal Council, a Department of Energy senior advisory committee serving the U.S. secretary of energy and the U.S.-Egypt Presidents' Council, an advisory body to the U.S. vice president during the Clinton administration. He served 20 years as a trustee of Clarkson University, where he received a bachelor of chemistry degree, and is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Anderson has led the Energy Institute since its creation in 2014, pulling together related research from around the University.

“Brian has been one of our rock stars, so we’re disappointed to lose him to NETL,” Gee said. “However, it would be selfish not to share his skill and abilities with the nation in this key energy role. I am pleased to continue working with Brian in his new role, and am confident that West Virginia University and West Virginia will continue to be great partners with NETL.”

“As the leader of our Energy Institute, Brian has consistently demonstrated incredible vision and a deep understanding of the future of energy in our country. We are all tremendously grateful to him, not only for the work he did here at WVU, but for the work he will be
embarking on in this new phase of his career,” said McConnell, who added that a national search would be conducted for Anderson’s permanent successor.

“This is a great opportunity for Dr. Anderson and a perfect fit with his background both as a researcher and administrator,” King said. “The University is definitely going to miss his contributions as a thought leader in the area of energy, but his impact as the leader of NETL will positively effect West Virginia, the region and our country.”

Read NETL’s announcement of Anderson’s appointment. (https://www.energy.gov/articles/dr-brian-j-anderson-head-doe-s-national-energy-technology-laboratory)

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CONTACT: John A. Bolt; WVU Office of Communications 304.293.5520; jabolt@mail.wvu.edu (%22mailto:)

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Wood named WVU Energy Institute interim director as Anderson moves to NETL | WV...
3 students Rhodes finalists

WVU trio in last round of scholarship selection

BY JIM BISSETT
JBissett@DominionPost.com

Herewith, a trio of lessons on how to build a resume:

WVU students Virginia "Ginny" Thrasher, Andrea Pettit and Emma Harrison already amassed a world of experience— even as they are still completing their degrees.

Thrasher won an Olympic gold medal in rifle competition at the Rio Summer Games in 2016.

Pettit spends the bulk of her days doing research in immunology and microbiology.

Harrison faces inmates daily at the notorious Hazelton federal penitentiary.

Degrees are what this story is definitely about.

Thrasher, Pettit and Harrison are broadening their experiences (and pursuit of degrees) even more this weekend in Chicago, where all three are finalists for the Rhodes Scholarship.

The scholarship that's also a household name provides four years of study in Oxford, England, and the academic starpower that comes with it.

Rhodes scholars over the years included a diverse array of recipients from all intellectual walks—and all walks, period.

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton was a Rhodes. So was former WVU President David Hardesty.

Hardesty was named in 1967. WVU has turned out 25 such scholars, dating back to 1904. The last one to date representing West Virginia's flagship university was Carolyn Conner, in 1995.

This is the first time, however, in WVU's 151-year history, that three of its students advanced to the final 15 in the selection process.

The Rhodes committee will select two scholars from WVU.

SEE SCHOLARS, 8-A
after interviews wrap up Saturday.

**Aiming at (and missing) figure skating**

Thrasher, a biomedical engineering major from Springfield, Va., was an Olympic surprise in Rio de Janeiro two years ago. She was a stalwart of the WVU Rifle Team but wasn’t expected to do much in Rio.

That changed with one pull of the trigger. She had Olympic aspirations since middle school, but not in the sport that garnered gold for her. What she wanted to do first was figure skating.

She discovered during deer-hunting sojourns with her father and grandfather that her brain was wired more to the hand-eye precision of air rifle.

Today, she wants to research that mind-body connection between performance and achievement.

She still has aspirations for another Olympic gold in 2020. If she’s named a Rhodes scholar this weekend, though, she’ll be at Oxford then — will that change anything?

“It just means I’ll be training in England,” she said, laughing.

**Take me home (country roads)**

Andrea Pettit’s roots in West Virginia, and at WVU, run deeper than the seams in a coal mine.

She’s the 21st person in her family to attend the university in Morgantown. She grew up here and graduated from Morgantown High School.

After medical school, the immunology and microbiology major wants to practice medicine in rural West Virginia, focusing on the state’s traditional trends in chronic ill-health, including diabetes and heart disease.

Pettit would use her Rhodes scholarship studying the United Kingdom’s National Health Service, and how its practices and preventive measures could translate to care in West Virginia.

First, though, she said with a chuckle, she has to get through today. After her Rhodes interview, she’ll present her medical research at a conference across town.

“I’ll be just a little busy,” she said.

**Prisoner of policy?**

What’s the point, Emma Harrison asks, of paying your debt to society if you’re emotionally bankrupt when you get out?

Harrison, a Morgantown native with dual majors in political science and multidisciplinary studies, spends a lot of time thinking about the population of Americans currently living behind bars.

She makes eye contact with many of them every week at the Hazelton prison in Preston County, where she volunteers and teaches remedial classes.

Harrison has also worked with the WVU chapter of The Innocence Project, which uses DNA evidence and other forensic findings to free the wrongly convicted.

Prison reform is her professional goal, and she’ll work with experts in that pursuit in the United Kingdom if she gets the Rhodes scholarship.

She’s already picked up some insights at Hazelton, an often brutal place where inmates have died in fights with other inmates.

“I’ve learned a lot about empathy and the importance and power of tearing down assumptions,” she said.

“And I’ve never felt threatened at Hazelton.”

**Twitter** @DominionPostWV.
Debansu Bhattacharyya (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/debansu-bhattacharyya), a professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering (https://che.statler.wvu.edu/), has been named the GE Plastics Material Engineering Professor, effective January 1, 2019.

Bhattacharyya has conducted extensive research in the areas of advanced modeling and simulation of energy-generating systems, smart-grid, condition monitoring, fault diagnosis, uncertainty quantification, sensor placement, biomimetic control and advanced manufacturing.

In 2015, Bhattacharyya won an R&D 100 Award, known as the "Oscars of Innovation," for the development of a virtual reality-based software that provides the energy industry with an unprecedented high-tech look inside the operation of power plants. In 2016, he won a second R&D 100 Award for creating a toolset that aids in the development of carbon capture. He was selected as the Statler College’s (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/) Outstanding Researcher and Researcher of the Year in 2016 and New Outstanding Researcher of the Year in 2012.
"I am humbled and honored to be selected as the GE Plastics Professor. This endowed position will help me to be engaged at the College and University levels as well as at the national/international level for continued progress and contribution in the existing areas of my research and for development of new areas and collaboration both within and outside WVU," said Bhattacharyya. "The new position brings both challenges and opportunities that I look forward to embracing.

"Throughout my career, I have been privileged to work with outstanding research colleagues and graduate students, who bring me joy, inspiration and food for thought every day," Bhattacharyya added. "The support, care and help that I have received in the Department and in the Statler College are unprecedented."

Bhattacharyya earned his doctorate in chemical engineering from Clarkson University in 2008 and his bachelor's degree in the discipline from the National Institute of Technology in Durgapur India in 1993. He joined the faculty at WVU in 2012.

-WVU-

mcd/12/06/18

For more information on news and events in the West Virginia University
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Office of the Dean: 304-293-4157
Other College administrative and department offices: Administration
(http://www.statler.wvu.edu/about/administration)

HOME (http://www.statler.wvu.edu)
WVU maintains R1 status, ranking alongside most prestigious research universities

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

West Virginia University (https://www.wvu.edu/) continues to rank among the nation’s elite research institutions as reflected in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.
Carnegie released its every-three-year assessment this week, and WVU continues to be rated as an R1, or very high research activity, institution, the most elite category for research-focused schools, alongside such institutions as Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Johns Hopkins. Only 120 of the nation’s 4,500 colleges and universities attain this ranking.

“As most any coach will tell you, getting to the top is easier that staying there,” President Gordon Gee (https://presidentgee.wvu.edu/) said. “While it was an achievement to reach the R1 level in 2015, it is even more of an accomplishment to repeat the honor in 2018.

“We have a stellar team, and this ranking recognizes their continued efforts,” he said.

The classification “reflects our continued commitment to engaging in research at the highest level,” said Fred King (https://research.wvu.edu/about/leadership/fred-king), WVU’s vice president for research (https://research.wvu.edu/). “Ultimately this recognition is the outcome of doing the right thing – our goal should be to do great work, and classification as an R1 is an outcome of working toward that goal.”

To achieve R1 status, a university must award doctoral degrees in at least 20 different areas amass at least $43.8 million in total research expenditures, as reported through a National Science Foundation survey.
The difference between being deemed R1 or R2 – the next highest category – can come down to how much a university spends on research, the size of its dedicated research staff or the number of doctoral students it graduates.

“The classification is one that is very much holistic and is not heavily weighted towards one research correlate over another,” explained Chaun Stores, the assistant vice president for decision support and analysis in the WVU Office of the Provost (https://provost.wvu.edu/).

“A key difference this cycle compared to the past was the inclusion of professional doctorate degrees in the determination,” King said. “In the past, only research doctorate degrees were used. Certainly, this change helped reflect the more extensive nature of West Virginia University’s research and educational missions.”

King thinks the most talented faculty, postdoctoral fellows and students – both graduate and undergraduate – want to affiliate with R1 universities.

“As an R2, it is more difficult to be taken seriously in the research community,” he said. “I think that those who fund research, particularly private foundations, also see this like the ‘Good Housekeeping’ seal of approval for the ability of an institution to yield the highest return on their research investment.”
Provost Joyce McConnell (https://provost.wvu.edu/profiles/joyce-mcconnell) said the importance of academic research can’t be overstated.

“West Virginians benefit every day from the extraordinary research being done at West Virginia University,” McConnell said. “Our faculty, staff and students are actively engaged in improving treatments and finding a cure for Alzheimer’s, in addressing the nationwide opioid epidemic, in exploring our universe and in situating Appalachian arts and culture in the larger context of our nation’s history. Their work in all fields, from medicine to chemistry and psychology to philosophy, is positively impacting the lives of the people of our community, our state and our world.”

-WVU-

see/12/19/18

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EIGHTEEN INDUCTED INTO WVU TAU BETA PI ENGINEERING HONORARY

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. —

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, recently inducted 18 new members into the West Virginia University (https://www.wvu.edu/) chapter.

In order to be inducted, juniors must rank in the top eighth of their class, possess exemplary character and seniors must rank in the top fifth of their class. Graduate students who have completed at least 50 percent of their degree requirements and who rank in the top fifth of their class are also eligible to become candidates for membership. All initiates were required to complete five hours of community service this semester prior to initiation.

Inductees from the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering (https://chbe.statler.wvu.edu/) include Jason Daniel Alexander (Monroeville, Pennsylvania), Daniel Paul Beahr (Windber, Pennsylvania), Chloe Danielle Corder (Blacksville), Arlie Britton Dolly (Romney), Lily Hand (Lockport, New York), Molly Louise Layne (Bridgeport) and Virginia Thrasher (Springfield, Virginia).

A pair of industrial engineering (https://imse.statler.wvu.edu/) majors – Austin Douglas Harper (Hurricane) and Jessica Paige Hartley – and a pair of civil engineering (https://ece.statler.wvu.edu/) majors – Zachary Thomas Dorminey (Morgantown) and Brady Robert Hillegas (Bridgeport) were also inducted along with Jonathan Andrew D'Alessio (Columbia, Maryland) and Riley Paul Mack (Mount Airy, Maryland) from the departments of mechanical and aerospace engineering (https://mae.statler.wvu.edu/) and petroleum and natural gas engineering (https://pnae.statler.wvu.edu/), respectively.
Rounding out the inductees were four students from the Lane Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering (https://lcee.statler.wvu.edu/): Samuel Warren Price (Wetzel), Morgan Andrew Szafranski (Charles Town), Samuel Andrew Talkington (Bridgeport) and John Tee Tanner (Morgantown).

Founded in 1885, Tau Beta Pi is the second oldest Greek-letter honor society in America. The society was founded when the nation’s oldest honor society, Phi Beta Kappa, sought to restrict its membership to students in the liberal arts.
Gupta was sponsored by the Buildings and Infrastructure division, of which he has been a board member since its inception in 2007. He served as chair of the division in 2011-2012 and currently serves as its treasurer. Sponsor letters were written by eight members, including five SPE fellows and two of Gupta’s former PhD students who are active in the Society.

“I am humbled by this honor,” said Gupta. “I am fortunate that I have had industrial colleagues who have introduced me to a series of practical problems and students who have helped me solve many of these.

Since coming to WVU, Gupta has focused his research on solving problems of societal interest. These include recycling of plastics from post-consumer applications, the development of environmentally safe flame retardants for styreic polymers, using nanotechnology to improve barrier properties of biodegradable plastics so that they can replace non-biodegradable plastics in food packaging applications and developing low-cost and effective solid-sorbents for carbon dioxide capture. He is also an active member of WVU’s Center for Integration of Composites in Infrastructure (https://cee.statler.wvu.edu/home/cfc/center-for-the-integration-of-composites-into-infrastructure), a National Science Foundation-supported industry-university cooperative research center housed in the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/).

Founded in 1942, SPE is a global society that has more than 22,500 members in 84 countries. The mission of the Society is to promote the scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics. Fewer than 350 members have been awarded this prestigious title since it was introduced in 1984. Gupta is the first person from WVU to be awarded the distinction.

-WVU-

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For more information on news and events in the West Virginia University Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources:

Email: EngineeringWV@mail.wvu.edu (mailto:engineeringwv@mail.wvu.edu)

Phone contacts:
College Relations office: 304-293-4086
Office of the Dean: 304-293-4157
Other College administrative and department offices: Administration (http://www.statler.wvu.edu/about/administration)

HOME (http://www.statler.wvu.edu)
CONGRATULATIONS!!

Prof. Rakesh Gupta

Elected to

FELLOW

of the
Society of Plastics Engineers

March 2018
CONGRATULATIONS!!

Prof. David Klinke

recipient of

The 2018 FEBS Journal Richard Perham Award
(best paper published during the previous year - selected by the editorial team and members of the editorial board)

"Exosomes Derived from B16F0 Melanoma Cells Alter the Transcriptome of Cytotoxic T Cells that Impacts Mitochondrial Respiration"

Authors:
Cassidy Bland, Christina Byrne-Hoffman, Audry Fernandez, Stephanie Rellick, Wentao Dong and David Klinke
CONGRATULATIONS!!

Ronald Alexander

recipient of

2019 Professional Promise Award

presented

March 20, 2019
AIChe Pittsburgh Chapter
Student Night
AIChe - Pittsburgh
Annual Student Night Dinner
Wed March 20, 2019 - 6:00 to 9:00 pm

6:00 - Registration & Networking
6:30 - Catered Dinner by Piada's
7:30 - Professional Promise Awards
8:00 - Panel "Your Career Options"

Register to Attend
Registration Fees

Members or Guests of AIChe - $25

Students - $10

Please Register and Pre-Pay by March 15, 2019

No Walk-ins

PPG Plant Tour

We have also arranged for our group to tour PPG's Springdale Facility on Wed March 27th.

We will send everyone an email once we have all the details finalized.
CONGRATULATIONS!!

Prof. Cerasela Dinu

recipient of

University Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award

Surprise visit to her classroom on April 1, 2019
CONGRATULATIONS!!
Prof. Robin Hissam
recipient of
Statler College
Outstanding Teacher of the Year
2018
Presented at the College's annual Honors Ceremony, Friday, April 5, 2019
Erickson Alumni Center
CONGRATULATIONS!!

Debangsu Bhattacharyya

recipient of

Statler College

Outstanding Researcher of the Year

2018

Presented at the College’s annual Honors Ceremony, Friday, April 5, 2019
Erickson Alumni Center
MORGANTOWN, W.Va.—

Gene Cilento (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/administration/eugene-cilento), Glen H. Hiner Dean of the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/) at West Virginia University (https://www.wvu.edu/), announced the winners of the College's outstanding teaching, research and advising awards for 2018-2019. The awards were handed out at the College's annual Honors Ceremony, which took place on April 5.
Robin Hissam (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/robin-hissam), teaching assistant professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering (https://cbe.statler.wvu.edu/), and Melissa Morris (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/melissa-morris), teaching associate professor in Fundamentals of Engineering (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/freshman), were named the College’s Teachers of the Year. Also recognized for outstanding teaching were Hailin Li (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/hailin-li) and Andrew Nix (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/andrew-nix) from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (https://mae.statler.wvu.edu/) and Jeremy Dawson (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/jeremy-dawson) from the Lane Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering (https://lcsee.statler.wvu.edu/).

Debangsu Bhattacharyya (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/debangsu-bhattacharyya), professor of chemical and biomedical engineering, and Nasser Nasrabadi (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/nasser-nasrabadi), professor of computer science and electrical engineering, were named Researchers of the Year/Senior. Xueyan Song (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/xueyan-song) from mechanical and aerospace engineering and Xin Li (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/xin-li) from the Lane Department were also recognized. Derek Johnson (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/derek-johnson), associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, was named Researcher of the Year/Junior.

Cindy Tanner (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/cindy-tanner), program coordinator in the Lane Department, and Michael Brewster (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/mike-brewster), teaching instructor in Fundamentals of Engineering, were named the College’s Advisors of the Year.
For more information on news and events in the West Virginia University Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources:

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HOME (http://www.statler.wvu.edu)
West Virginia’s best and brightest vie for the Foundation Scholarship

Friday, April 05, 2019

This year’s Bucklew Scholars (https://financialaid.wvu.edu/home/scholarships) are eager to embark on a new journey at West Virginia University (https://www.wvu.edu/) where they can fully immerse themselves in rigorous academics, multidisciplinary research, travel abroad and University tradition.
The Bucklew Scholarship is given to 20 high-achieving West Virginia students accepted to WVU and qualifies them to be considered for a Foundation Scholarship, the highest academic scholarship the University awards.

The high school students selected for the scholarship have distinguished themselves through their academic prowess and intellectual curiosity, but they also boast impressive feats beyond the classroom. They are talented athletes, dancers, musicians, volunteers, student legislators and citizen scientists.

Fueled by their passion for innovation and to serve others, they are the next generation of leaders focused on solving the increasingly complex challenges facing society.

Emma Swiger, an immunology and medical microbiology (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/schoolofmedicine/immmedmicro) major from Fairmont Senior High, and Piper Cook, a biology (https://biology.wvu.edu/) major with an emphasis in neurobiology from Scott High School, are beginning their journey to become pediatricians.

Swiger, who plans to specialize in oncology, wants to provide top-quality care to young cancer patients in West Virginia to alleviate the burden of traveling long distances for treatments.
Cook, who has witnessed a swath of destruction in her hometown due to the opioid crisis, made the decision in middle school to become a neurosurgeon, is excited to join the research on deep brain stimulation and its usefulness in opioid addiction.

Madelyn Lalama, from Bridgeport High School, Marleah Knights from Morgantown High School, Sahil Dave from George Washington High School believe a biology degree will provide a strong foundation for their future graduate-level studies and anticipated career goals.

Lalama, who watched her mother suffer from a progressive periodontal disease, plans to eventually attend dental school so that she can provide affordable oral care to low-income and uninsured populations.

Knights has dreamed of becoming a conservation ecologist since she was a child watching the slow extinction of the scarlet ibis in Trinidad and Tobago; she plans to minor in journalism.

Dave, whose leisure reading collection includes The Economist, The Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg, will double major in biology and economics. While he has been tossing around careers in management and finance, such as an investment banking or stock broker, he has not tossed out the idea of a career in medicine.

Both Ashley Linder and Melina McCabe, from Wheeling Park High School, will major in biomedical engineering.
Linder stumbled upon the ROMP Innovation Program in Ecuador that provides prosthetics and orthotic services to those living in poverty. She’s now inspired to conduct research to develop high-quality, low-cost prosthetics to make them accessible to a wider market of patients throughout the world.

McCabe was drawn to a career in medicine through her volunteer work at Wheeling Hospital and would like to focus on stem cell research. While she believes there have been many advancements in portable and accessible medical technology, she would like to work on closing the gap between the developed and undeveloped world when it comes to better health care technology.

**Giana Loretta** from **Lincoln High School** and **Elizabeth Sexton**, a **home school** student from Williamstown, aspire to attend the **WVU College of Law** (https://www.law.wvu.edu/).

Loretta fell in love with her communications course at WVU last semester and will major in **communication studies** (https://communicationstudies.wvu.edu/). She believes everything that we accomplish in society would not happen without communications, including her preparation for law school. Ultimately, she would like to serve as a judge and return to her alma mater as a law professor.
Sexton, who believes a business background will provide her with the knowledge she needs to start a nonprofit organization dedicated to the opioid epidemic and a small law firm in West Virginia, will major in accounting and finance.

**Michael DiBacco** from Elkins High School, **Erica Cottrill** from Bridgeport High School and **Lauren Volk** from Nitro High School, are curious about the human expression, both spoken and literary, and believe a degree in English (https://english.wvu.edu/) will be a stepping stone to their careers.

DiBacco, who has a passion for English and writing, but wants to “be there” for big breakthroughs in future genetic-engineering technology, is also majoring in biology. Inspired by CRISPR, he plans to bridge the two degrees by using his writing skills as a tool to spread innovation.

Cottrill, an acting (https://theatre.wvu.edu/) and English major, believes “telling stories through literature and theater is important to expand world views and show empathy.” She dreams about becoming a famous actress and/or author in a big city and returning home to educate young people about diversity and empathy toward others.

Volk, an English/secondary education (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/e) major, wants to become a teacher who will inspire and create the next
generation of leaders in West Virginia. She believes that too many teenagers have silent struggles and mental health issues that hinder progress. Her ultimate career goal is to become a principal.

**Lillian Bischof** from **Wheeling Park High School** and **Lian Dunlevy** from **Morgantown High School** will major in chemical engineering ([http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/collegeofengineeringandminerals](http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/collegeofengineeringandminerals)).

Bischof, who wants to tackle problems plaguing society such as food insecurity and accessibility to affordable health care through genetic modification, believes a double major in finance will make her more marketable.

Dunlevy thinks chemical engineering will reconcile his interests in chemistry and robotics; he would like to become a leader of a team of multidisciplinary engineers responsible for delivering renewable energy solutions – solutions that will keep the people of his home state employed.

**Teagan Kuzniar** from **Morgantown High School**, **Jacob Pennell** from **Magnolia High School** and **Daisy Levine** from **Jefferson High School** are passionate about the environment.

Kuzniar, an environmental science ([https://admissions.wvu.edu/academics/majors/environmental-soil-and-water-sciences](https://admissions.wvu.edu/academics/majors/environmental-soil-and-water-sciences)) major minoring in Spanish ([https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/students/undergraduate](https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/students/undergraduate))
students/spanish), who is following in her grandmother's footsteps with her love for environment, would like to devote her career to solving the common issue of water and environmental health.

Pennell, a wildlife and fisheries resources (https://forestry.wvu.edu/undergraduate/majors/wildlife-and-fisheries-resources) major, would like to have a career that will allow him to conserve the wildlife he has been fortunate to enjoy as a hunter and fisherman. His goal is to study stream health and develop policy and technology conserving habitat and wildlife.

Levine, a physics (https://physics.wvu.edu/) and mechanical engineering (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/collegeofengineeringandmineraln major, believes a mechanical engineering degree is “a jack of all trades.” She plans to focus on sustainable energy products that will lower the carbon footprint found in homes.

Rounding out the Bucklew Scholars are Kayley Brinegar from Berkeley Springs, Callyn Zeigler from George Washington High School and Tessla Muir from Musselman High School.

Brinegar, a biochemistry (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/b major is unsure of her career plans but is considering genetic engineering. She believes genetic engineering is the future cure for cancer, Alzheimer’s and Huntington’s disease.
Zeigler, a computer engineering (https://admissions.wvu.edu/academics/majors/computer-engineering) major with specialization in cybersecurity, wants to give back to her state by providing innovative technology to rural areas that do not have access to the internet and other digital resources, especially for school-aged children.

Muir, a mathematics (https://math.wvu.edu/) and psychology (https://psychology.wvu.edu/) major, would like to become a math professor, preferably at WVU. Also considering a career in psychology, she believes that “there is a human need to be heard and understood.” Muir has volunteered with 7Cups, an anonymous online emotional support service, since her freshman year of high school.

The Neil S. Bucklew Scholarship is named after WVU’s 20th president and is valued at $40,000, providing its recipients with $10,000 per year over four years to be used toward educational costs. All Bucklew Scholars have qualified for the Honors College (https://www.honors.wvu.edu/) at WVU, and the scholarship can be used in addition to the state’s PROMISE Scholarship.

The Foundation Scholarships, which will be announced May 7, are awarded to five Bucklew Scholars.
The scholarships are part of the University's comprehensive awards program and are supported, in part, by the WVU Foundation, (https://www.wvu.edu/) the private non-profit corporation that generates, receives and administers private gifts for the benefit of WVU.

-WVU-

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CONTACT: University Relations
304.293.6997

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Lillian Bischof
Wheeling, Ohio County
Wheeling Park High School
Parents: Lee and Deborah Bischof
Lian Dunlevy
Morgantown, Monongalia County
Morgantown High School
Parents: Robert and Jessica Dunlevy
Ashley Linder
Wheeling, Ohio County
Wheeling Park High School
Parents: Paul and Jennifer Linder
Melina McCabe
Wheeling, Ohio County
Wheeling Park High School
Parents: John and Kristen McCabe
Cilento to step down after 19 years leading WVU’s Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Gene Cilento (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/administration/eugene-cilento), the inaugural Glen H. Hiner Dean in the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources
Resources (https://www.statler.wvu.edu), will step down from the administrative position he has held at West Virginia University (https://www.wvu.edu/) for 19 years, effective June 30.

After a stint as interim dean, Cilento was appointed dean in July 2001. During his tenure, the College experienced nearly two decades of revitalization and renewal, which included new brick and mortar projects, research and laboratory enhancements, new curriculum development and significant growth in student enrollment and faculty hires.

College enrollment has more than doubled to nearly 5,000 students and 44 tenure-track faculty members have been hired since 2012. The College was also the recipient of WVU’s largest gift to date in 2012, from alumnus Benjamin M. Statler and his wife Jo. In recognition of the Statlers’ tremendous generosity, the College was renamed in Ben Statler’s honor (http://wvutoday-archive.wvu.edu/n/2012/01/12/wvu-names-engineering-and-mineral-resources-college-for-alumnus-ben-statler.html) that year.

“Gene’s contributions to this University are too numerous to recount,” President Gordon Gee (http://presidentgee.wvu.edu/) said. “He has built the college into one of our powerhouses, with programs – many of them nationally ranked – that help provide the technology to move the state forward. I am pleased he will still be here to provide wisdom and experience for the students still to come.”
Cilento came to WVU in 1979 as a faculty member in what was then known as the Department of Chemical Engineering (https://cbe.statler.wvu.edu/) and served as department chair from 1988-99. As chair, Cilento helped the department increase its research activity while maintaining strong academic programs, expanded scholarships and fellowships and evolved the Academy of Chemical Engineers (https://cbe.statler.wvu.edu/alumni-friends/academy-of-chemical-engineers) into a model of how to recognize and capitalize on the talents of distinguished alumni. He was also on the research faculty in the School of Medicine's Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology from 1978 until 2013.

After earning a Bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, Cilento earned his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Cincinnati. Cilento, who plans to return to the faculty in the Statler College, has conducted research in bioengineering, with special interests in microcirculatory transport phenomena; lung cell function and application of electro-optical and imaging techniques to study organs, tissues and cells in situ. Since 2009 he has been the project director for a multi-million-dollar NASA grant to develop robotics technology for repair of orbital assets.

“I look forward to getting back to focusing on some scholarship activities and interests that I have not been able to pursue after nearly 30 years in administration as a chair and dean,” Cilento said.
In announcing Cilento’s transition, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Joyce McConnell (https://provost.wvu.edu/profiles/joyce-mcconnell) described him as having been a “transformational leader” at WVU.

“The Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources draws students from all over West Virginia, across the nation and even from around the world, largely because of the strength of the academic programs that Gene has built,” McConnell said. “In recruiting world-class faculty and providing them with cutting-edge resources to support their teaching, research and service in their fields, he has created a College of which we are very proud. We are very grateful to him for his vision and his dedication and excited to have him continue as faculty in the College following his invaluable leadership as dean.”

Cilento has served on numerous committees for the University as well as for professional organizations and is currently a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Society for Engineering Education, Biomedical Engineering Society, Microcirculatory Society, Tau Beta Pi and Golden Key National Honor Society. He is an active member of the ASEE Engineering Deans Council, serving on both the Engineering Data and Diversity Committees, and was co-PI on a Sloan Foundation project awarded to ASEE to assess engineering retention to graduation nationally.
“It has been a distinct honor and privilege to lead this great college that continues to have a wonderful future,” Cilento said. “We have enjoyed great success and growth in our enrollment, graduation and research programs and in our national reputation among our peer group over the nearly two decades of this new millennium. I know the Statler College will continue to grow in stature and be an integral part of WVU’s next strategic plan.”

McConnell said that an interim dean of the College will be announced this spring.

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Four WVU faculty honored with newly-expanded award for undergraduate research mentoring

West Virginia University's Office of the Provost has announced the recipients of the 2019 Faculty Award for Distinction in Mentoring Undergraduates in Research, expanded this year to honor faculty members in four categories: behavioral and social sciences, biosciences and health sciences, humanities and the arts, and physical sciences and technology.

This year's recipients are:

- Sadie Bergeon, assistant professor of biology in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
- Cerasela Dinu, associate professor and associate chair of chemical and biomedical engineering in the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources
- Cheryl McNeill, professor of psychology in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
- Geah Pressgrove, assistant professor of advertising and public relations in the Reed College of Media

related

WVU Stroke Center receives three performance awards for work in national clinical trial

Maxon named recipient of WVU's inaugural outstanding graduate research mentorship award

Lunch & Learn Series - Davis College - Intro NSF I-Corps Program

Immunology and Medical Microbiology student wins first place at Van Liere Research Conference

All invited to the Third Annual Undergraduate Spring Symposium
Four WVU faculty honored with newly-expanded award for undergraduate research ment...

Partially sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research (https://undergraduateresearch.wvu.edu/) and the Honors College (https://www.honors.wvu.edu/), the award serves to recognize, reward and encourage faculty members who mentor undergraduate students in research and creative endeavors. The award applies rigorous criteria to identify faculty who specifically mentor undergraduates in making an original intellectual or creative contribution to their discipline.

“Each of this year’s award recipients has demonstrated their ability to pass on their knowledge while guiding, supporting, and encouraging our undergraduates to do exceptional research work in every discipline,” said Michelle Richards-Baeb, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. “Their commitment to their students both in and out of the classroom demonstrates that no matter the discipline, exceptional undergraduate research mentoring plays a pivotal role in our students’ success.”

Over the past three years, Sadie Bergeron has mentored 24 undergraduate students in her research lab (http://www.bergeronlab.org/), from which her students have gone on to earn NASA WV Space Grants (https://research.wvu.edu/researchers/funding/internal-grants/nasa) and Fulbright Scholarships (https://aspire.wvu.edu/wvu-scholars/fulbright-scholarship) in addition to other honors and funding. Her students have won six best poster presentation awards at internal and external scientific meetings and conferences, and many have served as co-authors on peer-reviewed research publications.

Since joining the WVU faculty in 2009, Cerasela Dinu has supervised more than 50 undergraduates in a wide range of disciplines; 25 of her mentees have been female students in chemistry (https://www.chemistry.wvu.edu/), molecular biology (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/ebberylecollegeofartsandsciences/biology/biology-bs/#apetext), or material science (https://www.stater.wvu.edu/graduate/materialscienceeng). Many of her students have won national and international recognition, including five best poster presentations from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

With her team of graduate and undergraduate trainees, Cheryl McNeill conducts some of the most highly regarded community-based psychology research at WVU. Over the past five years alone, she has mentored six McNair Scholars (https://mcnair.wvu.edu/) into PhD programs, and has supervised theses for 10 honors students, all of whom have been accepted to or enrolled in graduate study. McNeill also presents eight to 10 papers at professional conferences with her undergraduate students each year.

Geah Pressgrove has served as coordinator of a formalized Undergraduate Research Academy to support the Reed College's Public Interest Communication Research Lab (https://mediainnovation.wvu.edu/programs/pic). After receiving two separate research-based grants from the West Virginia Department of Education, she also trained undergraduate students to be her research assistants, allowing them to actively participate in research that led to a published research manuscript and specific recommendations for the WVDE.
"As an R1 Institution, we value the critical role undergraduate research experiences play in giving our students the skills they need to go on to productive academic and professional careers," said Provost Joyce McConnell (https://provost.wvu.edu/profiles/joyce-mcconnell). "That's why we were excited to expand the award this year to honor mentors in more categories where research can shape our students' futures."

The recipients of the 2019 Faculty Awards for Distinction in Mentoring Undergraduates in Research will each receive a monetary award to be used toward their continued support of their student researchers. They will also be recognized by Provost McConnell and President E. Gordon Gee (https://presidentgee.wvu.edu/) at the faculty and staff awards dinner at Blaine House later this month. The Office of Undergraduate Research connects students and faculty to provide opportunities for students to engage in scholarly inquiry and creative endeavors. Students who are interested in research can visit the website or email undergradresearch@mail.wvu.edu (mailto:undergradresearch@mail.wvu.edu).
Maryanne Reed named provost at West Virginia University
Maryanne Reed, who transformed West Virginia University's journalism school into an exemplar of modern media training as the Reed College of Media, was named vice president for academic affairs and provost of the University on Wednesday (April 17).

Reed, who became dean of the then-named P.I. Reed School of Journalism in 2004, succeeds Joyce McConnell, recently named president of Colorado State University.

"Maryanne has demonstrated throughout her career, first as an award-winning documentarian then as a visionary academic leader, that she is always looking ahead and is willing to take the necessary steps to lead into the future – even if there is some risk involved," President Gordon Gee said in announcing her appointment. "I am confident her ability to see trends, ask the hard questions and move quickly to innovate will be of great benefit to this University as we move forward."

Reed, who is not related to P.I. Reed, joined the faculty in 1993 after a career as a broadcast reporter and producer, with several award-winning documentaries and long-form stories for regional and national television to her credit. In her 15 years as dean, the college has experienced record enrollment in its graduate and undergraduate programs, including its master's degree program in Integrated Marketing Communications, the nation's first online IMC graduate program.

Reed is a nationally recognized academic leader, having served as president of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication in 2016-17. She also was the national 2016 "Scripps
Howard Administrator of the Year.” She was named a “West Virginia Wonder Woman” in 2016 by WV Living Magazine, and is a recipient of the West Virginia Associated Press Broadcasters Association’s “Significant Achievement in Service to the State” award. She was also named one of the top 20 innovators in journalism education by the future-of-media blog, MediaShift.

Reed was tapped to lead WVU’s largest college, the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, as interim dean from 2015-2016.

Under her leadership, the Reed College has become a national leader in educating the next generation of digital journalists, schooled in using the latest in technology to perform the critical job of reporting the news. It has also broadened its public relations and general communications programs in recognition of the important role those skills play in the workplace. As part of that emphasis, the school opened the Media Innovation Center in 2016, a state-of-the-art media lab.

To reflect that transition, the P.I. Reed School of Journalism became the Reed College of Media in 2014.

“I am thrilled to be asked to serve as provost,” Reed said. “In my 15 years as dean, I’ve had the good fortune of working with several excellent provosts who have been leadership role models, including Joyce McConnell. I have a lot to live up to, but I’m up for the challenge.”

“I’m also excited to work with President Gee and to help implement his vision to transform the University and make it one of the most exciting
land-grant universities in the country — one that is vital to its students and to the citizens of the state. I look forward to working with faculty, students and the entire administrative team to chart the best way forward."

Noting that several top academic positions are currently held by interims, Reed said her top priority would be solidifying academic leadership.

Her appointment is effective July 1.
Morgantown, W.Va.—

Michelle Poland

(https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/michelle-poland) has been named director of West Virginia University (https://www.wvu.edu/)’s Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/) Advising Center, a position she has held on an interim basis since August 2018.
In announcing her appointment, Gene Cilento (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/administration/eugene-cilento), Glen H. Hiner Dean of the Statler College, said that Poland’s extensive knowledge and enthusiasm made her an ideal candidate for the position.

“Michelle brings a great deal of experience to the position after having served as academic success program coordinator for our Fundamentals of Engineering Program,” Cilento said. “She has been recognized at the local and regional levels for advising excellence and will bring a wealth of experience to the Center as it continues to grow and expand.”

The Advising Center will ultimately serve as the advising home for sophomores, juniors and seniors in the Statler College. Based in room 151 of the Engineering Sciences Building, Poland and her team are currently advising students from the Lane Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

“We look forward to growing the Center and currently plan to add two additional team members to fulfill the roles of senior academic advisors,” said Poland. “I’m really excited about the opportunity to get to know each of my students from sophomore year all the way to successful graduation. It will be an incredibly rewarding opportunity.”

A two-time graduate of the Statler College with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in industrial engineering (https://imse.statler.wvu.edu/) in 2006 and 2008, respectively, Poland actively led the advising development efforts for the Fundamentals of Engineering Program (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/freshman) and spearheaded the Statler College’s New Student Orientation efforts. She was a member of the WVU Advising Development Collaborative and was a participant in the iPASS Excellence in Advising series.

The incoming co-chair of WVU’s Academic Advising Council (https://academicadvising.wvu.edu/) for the 2019-2020 academic year, Poland was selected as the National Academic Advising Association’s Outstanding New Advisor for the state of West Virginia (Region III) in 2014, and as an Outstanding Advisor for the Statler College in 2015. She was selected to receive WVU’s 2017 Nicholas Evans Excellence in Advising Award (https://academicadvising.wvu.edu/nicholas-evans-award) and was named the 2017 Statler College Outstanding Advisor of the Year.
"The Advising Center is new to the Statler College and is the logical next step in helping our students. It will handle many of the academic advising needs that must be done in a timely fashion," Cilento said. "This will allow department faculty to be more active and focus on career and professional advising and mentorships of the students in their majors. Their guidance in these areas is crucial for long-term student professional success."

-WVU-

mod/04/26/19

For more information on news and events in the West Virginia University Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources:

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HOME (http://www.statler.wvu.edu)
WVU maintains R1 status, ranking alongside most prestigious research universities

WRITTEN BY STACY ELZA

West Virginia University continues to rank among the nation’s elite research institutions as reflected in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Carnegie released its every-three-year assessment in December, and WVU continues to be rated as an R1, or very high research activity institution, the most elite category for research-focused schools, alongside such institutions as Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Johns Hopkins. Only 130 of the nation’s 4,500 colleges and universities attain this ranking.

“As most any coach will tell you, getting to the top is easier than staying there,” President E. Gordon Gee said. “While it was an achievement to reach the R1 level in 2015, it is even more of an accomplishment to repeat the honor in 2018.

“We have a stellar team, and this ranking recognizes their continued efforts,” he said.

The classification “reflects our continued commitment to engaging in research at the highest level,” said Fred King, WVU’s vice president for research. “Ultimately this recognition is the outcome of doing the right thing – our goal should be to do great work, and classification as an R1 is an outcome of working toward that goal.”

To achieve R1 status, a university must award doctoral degrees in at least 20 different areas and amass at least $43.8 million in total research expenditures, as reported through a National Science Foundation survey.

The difference between being deemed R1 or R2 – the next highest category – can come down to how much a university spends on research, the size of its dedicated research staff or the number of doctoral students it graduates.

“The classification is one that is very much holistic and is not heavily weighted toward one research correlate over another,” explained Chaun Stores, assistant vice president for decision support and analysis in the WVU Office of the Provost.

“A key difference this cycle compared to the past was the inclusion of professional doctoral degrees in the determination,” King said. “In the past, only research doctoral degrees were used. Certainly, this change helped reflect the more extensive nature of West Virginia University’s research and educational missions.”

King thinks the most talented faculty, postdoctoral fellows and students – both graduate and undergraduate – want to affiliate with R1 universities.

“As an R2, it is more difficult to be taken seriously in the research community,” he said. “I think that those who fund research, particularly private foundations, also see this like the ‘Good Housekeeping’ seal of approval for the ability of an institution to yield the highest return on their research investment.”

Provost Joyce McConnell said the importance of academic research can’t be overstated.

“West Virginians benefit every day from the extraordinary research being done at West Virginia University,” McConnell said. “Our faculty, staff and students are actively engaged in improving treatments and finding a cure for Alzheimer’s, in addressing the nationwide opioid epidemic, in exploring our universe and in situating Appalachian arts and culture in the larger context of our nation’s history. Their work in all fields, from medicine to chemistry and psychology to philosophy, is positively impacting the lives of the people of our community, our state and our world.”
Weirton native Montana Mascio came to WVU knowing she wanted to major in engineering but wasn't sure which major she would ultimately choose.

"I loved science but didn't want to become a doctor or teacher," said Mascio. "Engineering provided the perfect mix of theoretical science and practical application. I also wasn't entirely sure what job I wanted to have after graduation, but I liked biology and chemistry."

Mascio ultimately decided to major in chemical engineering, with a certificate in biomedical engineering.

"I felt that this particular combination would give me the best foundation for pursuing a wide variety of careers in chemical and biomedical industries. I also wanted to diversify my understanding of these industries in the bigger picture - as businesses - and to lay the groundwork for performing in managerial roles. This led to my choice to minor in business administration and strategic social media."

"Engineering provided the perfect mix of theoretical science and practical application." — Montana Mascio

Mascio, a senior and member of the Honors College, has taken advantage of virtually every opportunity presented to her. She has conducted two technical internships at Covestro, one in industrial coatings and one in polycarbonates, which exposed her to a side of chemical engineering outside of the academic world while providing hands-on experience in areas ranging from cosmetics formulation to injection molding to 3D printing. She credits her minors with helping her build and pitch a business case for increasing sustainable food practices to company leadership.
Mascio is currently working on a yearlong project that simulates an open-ended design problem in a chemical company, a requirement for all graduating seniors in the program.

"I am involved in this project as a group member where we are responsible for some of the core technical design elements," Mascio said. "Other responsibilities I've had in my time at WVU include working as a teaching assistant for a companion animal science class, and I am currently working as a grader for a sophomore-level chemical engineering course."

Small classes and the opportunity to register early were pluses offered through the Honors College, and membership in the Society of Women Engineers provided Mascio with resources for career and leadership guidance and the opportunity to interact and work with other women engineering majors.

"The engineering curriculum at WVU is often comprised of many types of assignments, projects and exams, all taking place concurrently," Mascio said. "However, keeping track of the deadlines for each individual responsibility has been crucial to

"Due to the writing-heavy nature of many of my strategic social media classes, they were well suited to online completion." —Montana Mascio

allocating time correctly. Working ahead, when a particular day or week allows for it, helps to build in a time cushion for when things may not go quite as planned or take longer than expected.

"Completing three minors definitely added to my total course load, so online and summer options have been crucial," she continued. "In fact, I completed my business administration minor entirely during summer sessions. Also, due to the writing-heavy nature of many of my strategic social media classes, they were well suited to online completion. This helped to keep my schedule manageable each semester."

A "huge animal lover" who describes her dream position as one that allows her to work on a biomedical process for veterinary applications, Mascio will be working as a commercial associate engineer at Braskem in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
APPOINTED

Debargya Bhattacharyya, a professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, has been named the GE Plastics Material Engineering Professor.

Bhattacharyya has conducted extensive research in the areas of advanced modeling and simulation of energy-generating systems, smart-grid condition monitoring, fault diagnosis, uncertainty quantification, sensor placement, biomimetic control and advanced manufacturing.

In 2015, Bhattacharyya won an R&D 100 Award, known as the “Oscars of Innovation,” for the development of a virtual reality-based software that provides the energy industry with an unprecedented high-tech look inside the operation of power plants. In 2016, he won a second R&D 100 Award for creating a toolset that aids in the development of carbon capture.

GOING GREEN

Hasan Ul Banna, an electrical engineering doctoral student from Lahore, Pakistan, won first place along with teammates from Jordan, India and Costa Rica, at the 2018 Green Entrepreneurs Competition for their proposal to create a startup company that would use wheat straw, mushrooms and beans to produce natural gas.

Their innovative method was designed to extract natural gas without producing harmful by-products and allow for local production that would eliminate the difficult task of transporting natural gas in developing countries. Additionally, the by-products created during production could be utilized as fertilizer making their company both environmentally friendly and sustainable.

The event was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in August, in conjunction with the third annual Student Congress, an international seminar hosted by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and Power and Energy Society.

AWARDED

Qingqing Huang, assistant professor of mining engineering, was recognized with two prestigious awards by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration.

For the second time, Huang was selected as a distinguished speaker for SME’s Henry Krumb Lecture Series. The program is offered to SME sections to enhance their appreciation and understanding of important new methods and technologies by bringing outstanding speakers to local sections. Lecturers are selected from the professionals who present technical papers at the SME Annual Conference and Expo. Only 10 are selected for the honor annually out of more than 800 professionals.

Huang was also selected as the 2018 recipient of SME’s Mineral and Metallurgical Processing Division Outstanding Young Engineer Award. The award, which recognizes significant contributions of a young individual within the Mineral Processing and Extractive Metallurgy discipline, will be given to her in recognition of her “creative use of mineral processing and mining engineering technology to minimize respirable dust and underground coal dust explosions.”

DECEMBER

GRAD LANDS RACING ENGINEER POSITION

When the cars from Roush Fenway Racing hit the tracks in the NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Series this year, they will have at least one Mountaineer to thank for their success.

Mark Ziegler, who graduated with a degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering in December, officially joined the team at Roush Fenway Racing in January, working as an aerodynamics design engineer. Ziegler conducts design work focused on a car’s aerodynamics and will spend some time at the wind tunnel, trying to find ways to better use some of the areas of the car that are more aerodynamically sensitive.

A seasoned team member of WVU’s Formula SAE team, Ziegler completed internships at Arena Racing USA in 2014 and Chip Ganassi Racing in 2017. He spent most of 2016 as a racing intern with Rooster Tail Racing, participating in six touring car races in the 2016 Pirelli World Challenge Series. Thanks to a gift from WVU alumni Dan and Betty Brown, RTR, which is owned by their son, Todd, and his wife, Michelle, were able to offer two internships to WVU students while also supporting the SAE team.
profile by sanford
resident business beat - morgantown

Fueled by her long-time desire to be a business owner and her passion for health and wellness, Shelly Montelone opened Profile by Sanford in Morgantown’s Suncrest Towne Centre in October 2018. The Cheat Lake resident is committed to helping others start and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Shelly originally hails from Clarksburg, but she has considered Morgantown home since 1988 when she began attending WVU. After graduating with bachelor’s degrees in chemical engineering and chemistry, Shelly went on to the WVU College of Law. She is a patent lawyer by trade.

“I’ve always wanted to own my own business,” Shelly said. “I had been researching, and when I found Profile, it made sense.”

Developed by physicians, nutritionists, and scientists at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Profile is a comprehensive health and wellness program that pairs members with certified profile coaches. The program has three areas of focus for lasting weight management: nutrition, activity, and lifestyle.

“Once we work with people and help them lose weight by altering their food choices, we then encourage them to get moving,” Shelly said. “We help them find something they enjoy, whether it’s yoga, cycling or weight lifting.” At the end of a member’s journey with Profile, a person has made a lifestyle change, whether he or she saw it coming or not.

The Profile plan is based on annual membership, which provides the following:
- Weekly one-on-one coaching sessions, either in person or virtually
- Smart Body Scale, which sends results directly to coaches and helps members keep track of weight, BMI, body fat, hydration, and other metrics
- Discounts on Profile foods
- Online tools, such as blogs, social media sites, and recipes

In addition, members have access to special promotions, including those for free products and prizes. The food consists of standards like bars and shakes, but protein pastas, sauces, pizza shells, soups, entrees, dressings, breakfast items, and desserts are popular choices, too. There are also monthly events on topics like exercise, tailgating, and recipes.

Shelly employs a highly motivated team consisting of a sales and marketing specialist and three certified profile coaches. One coach has an additional specialization in working with
teenagers. "He educates them and gets them to a healthy, happy place," Shelly noted. "The lessons teens learn now will help them for the rest of their lives." Another coach specializes in partnering with moms. She assists pregnant women with healthy weight gain and then helps them lose that weight safely, especially if they are nursing.

In addition, the Profile team is highly qualified to help people with various health conditions, such as diabetes and heart problems. They also know how to serve athletes who are trying to get to the next level. "Our performance products are FDA-approved and Informed-Sport certified," Shelly added. "We have a lot of things to offer, not just weight loss."

Finally, Profile is a health and wellness solution for employers as well as a resource for healthcare providers — all at no cost to employers and providers. A partnership with Profile results in special pricing for employees and patients not otherwise available to the public.

When she's not busy with her business, Shelly enjoys spending time with her family. She and her husband, Scott Chervenick, have two children. Their son, Alex, is a freshman at WVU, while their daughter, Olivia, is in ninth grade at University High School.

"My family loves to boat on Cheat Lake in the summer," Shelly shared. "I'm usually on the docks with the dog, and I like to take walks on the trail. I'm an avid exerciser, and I've always had an interest in health, wellness, and fitness."

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West Virginia University announces new leadership at Reed, Statler colleges

Wednesday, May 01, 2019

Diana Martinelli (https://mediacollege.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/diana-knott-martinelli), who has played a critical role in adapting and expanding curriculum at West Virginia University's (http://www.wvu.edu/) Reed College of Media (http://reedcollegeofmedia.wvu.edu/), was named dean of the school today (May 1).
Martinelli, who has served as associate dean since 2012, succeeds Maryanne Reed (https://reedcollegeofmedia.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/maryanne-reed), recently named (https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/stories/2019/04/17/maryanne-reed-named-provost-at-west-virginia-university) WVU’s next provost and vice president for academic affairs. (http://provost.wvu.edu/)

Also, Earl Scime (https://physics.wvu.edu/faculty-and-staff/faculty/earl-scime) was appointed interim dean of the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/), following the decision by current dean Gene Cilento (https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/stories/2019/04/10/cilento-to-step-down-after-19-years-leading-wvu-s-benjamin-m-statler-college-of-engineering-and-mineral-resources) to return to the faculty.

Both appointments by current Provost Joyce McConnell (https://provost.wvu.edu/profiles/joyce-mcconnell) are effective July 1.

“Diana is the natural next leader of the Reed College,” McConnell said. “She is a productive scholar, beloved teacher and skilled administrator who has earned the respect of her colleagues these past seven-plus years.

“I am confident she’ll work with our faculty, staff and students to build on the college’s current success and continue to grow its national reputation as a leader in modern media education,” said McConnell,
who has been named president (https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/stories/2019/03/29/joyce-mcconnell-hired-as-next-csu-president) of Colorado State University.

Martinelli joined the former P.I. Reed School of Journalism in 2005 as the first Widmeyer Professor in Public Relations. In addition to serving as associate dean, she was acting dean of the College of Media from 2015-2016 when Reed was tapped to lead the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences (https://eberly.wvu.edu/).

Under Martinelli’s leadership, the College of Media received full reaccreditation from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and recently earned the Certification for Education in Public Relations, making it one of only 39 certified programs internationally and the only one in West Virginia.

She helped facilitate the development of new interdisciplinary majors and has received university-wide teaching awards at both WVU and at Ohio University, where she was previously on faculty. In 2013, she was selected to be one of 17 participants in the Scripps Howard Academic Leadership Academy at Louisiana State University, and in 2017, she represented WVU as a Big 12 Faculty Fellow at the University of Oklahoma.
“I’m honored to take on this role and continue to work among incredibly talented colleagues and students,” Martinelli said. “As an alumna of the school and a long-time faculty member, the opportunity to now serve as its dean is particularly rewarding.”

Scime, currently the chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy (https://physics.wvu.edu/), has been on WVU’s faculty since 1995. He has also served in numerous leadership positions, including as interim associate vice president for research from 2013-2015 when he returned to lead Physics.

McConnell acknowledged Scime is “an unconventional choice, but also an exciting one,” noting that he has worked with engineering colleagues on interdisciplinary research for many years.

He is also a member of the College’s award-winning robotics (https://robotics.wvu.edu/team) team, a natural extension of his own service as the founder and leader of Mountaineer Area Robotics, an internationally recognized high school robotics team whose mission is to inspire youth throughout the state and the world.

“Earl is a visionary leader and a world-class scientist who truly understands both the value and the caliber of the work being done in Statler,” McConnell said. “He will guide the faculty, students and staff through the upcoming transition period with tremendous wisdom and expertise.”
A first-generation college graduate (https://eberly.wvu.edu/news-events/eberly-news/2017/08/16/first-generation-faculty-earl-scime), Scime has received the Benedum Award for Distinguished Scholarship (https://faculty.wvu.edu/home/internal-awards-fellowships-and-grants/benedum-award-recipients), the University’s highest research award; the WVU Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award (https://faculty.wvu.edu/home/internal-awards-fellowships-and-grants/wvuf-outstanding-teaching-award-recipients), the highest for teaching; and the Heebink Award for Distinguished Extended Service (https://faculty.wvu.edu/home/internal-awards-fellowships-and-grants/heebink-award-recipients); the highest service award, as well as teaching and research awards from the Eberly College. He has also been recognized nationally for his research and for his mentoring of students of all ages.

“This is an exciting and humbling opportunity,” Scime said. “I look forward to serving the exceptional students and faculty of the Statler College.”

The Eberly College anticipates naming an interim chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the next few weeks. The Office of the Provost will launch a national search for a permanent dean of the Statler College during the 2019-2020 academic year.

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el-ac/05/01/19
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WVU names 2019 Foundation Scholars
Thursday, May 02, 2019

WVU'S FULL-RIDE SURPRISE! 😊😊😊

Five of the state’s best and brightest senior high school students who had their choice of some of the nation’s most esteemed colleges have chosen to attend West Virginia University (https://www.wvu.edu/) as 2019 Foundation Scholars (https://www.wvuf.org/), the highest academic scholarship the University awards.
These students believe Yale, Harvard, Davidson and Johns Hopkins cannot compete with the “kinship and never-ending Mountaineer pride” that they believe stem from attentive faculty, an abundance of multidisciplinary research and academic achievement, as well as travel abroad opportunities.

“This is a group of ‘all-stars.’ Any college in the country would be thrilled to have them,” President Gordon Gee (https://presidentgee.wvu.edu/bio) said. “Like many of our other top students, they have found a great academic program and the sense of community at WVU. They will get real opportunities to change the world as future leaders and innovators.”

The scholars will matriculate this fall, but first they will be celebrated May 7 at a luncheon hosted by Gee at Blaney House.

Lillian Bischof, a Wheeling native, who discovered her love for science in sixth grade through the Regional Environment Action Program at Oglebay Park, is anxious to research the role of genetic modification for food security and accessible health care. She will major in chemical engineering (https://cbe.statler.wvu.edu/) and finance (https://business.wvu.edu/majors/finance) and join the Society of Women Engineers (https://swe.orgs.wvu.edu/) and other student organizations that empower women in STEM. She is a four-year member of Wheeling Park High School cross country team, former member of the swim team and as the president of Key Club, she
spearheaded a winter weather fundraiser for local homeless youth. She also serves as a docent at the Oglebay Good Zoo. She is the daughter of Deborah and Lee Bischof, a WVU alumnus.

**Piper Cook**, who will major in biology (https://biology.wvu.edu/) with an emphasis in neurobiology, made the decision in middle school to become a pediatric neurosurgeon while serving as a volunteer at St. Francis Hospital. After witnessing a swath of destruction from the opioid crises in her hometown of Danville, she is excited to immerse herself in research on deep brain stimulation for the treatment of addiction. She will volunteer her time to **WVU Camp Kesem** (https://campkesem.org/wvu/) and the Monongalia County Child Advocacy Center. Cook will use her stipend to expand her research on safe non-pharmaceutical alternatives to opioids. She attends Scott High School and is the daughter of Roger and Lisa Cook, who named her after a fictional character from the television series “Charmed.” She is a first-generation college student.

**Michael DiBacco**, who has a passion for English and writing but wants to “be there” for big breakthroughs in future genetic-engineering technology, will major in English (https://english.wvu.edu/) and biology. Inspired by CRISPR, he plans to bridge the two degrees by using his writing skills as a tool to spread innovation. He has considered other universities but could not pass up the sense of community and connection he feels at WVU. He is an avid outdoorsman from Elkins who is looking forward to attending football games and joining the
Men's Ultimate Frisbee team. DiBacco is a three-year member of Elkins High School varsity soccer team and an Eagle Scout who has been participating in the scouting program since kindergarten. He will use his stipend to study abroad in South Africa or India to study postcolonial literature. His parents, John and Erin DiBacco, are both graduates of WVU.

**Marleah Knights**, the daughter of Marlon and Doolarie Singh-Knights of Morgantown, is a senior at Morgantown High School. She has dreamed of becoming a conservation ecologist since she was a child witnessing the impact of climate change in her parents’ native country of Trinidad and Tobago. She will major in biology and minor in **journalism** (https://mediacollege.wvu.edu/), and has been recognized for her keen interest in creating sustainable systems to address food insecurity. In 2018, she won the West Virginia Governors School of Entrepreneurship pitch competition for her vertical SkyFarms idea; and recently, she won the high school pitch competition at the West Virginia Collegiate and High School Business Plan Competition for her idea of WV2U, a farm-to-work meal kit service. Ultimately, she would like to bring vertical farming to abandoned buildings in West Virginia.

**Daisy Levine** of Shepherdstown and daughter of David and Monica Levine, believes that degrees in **physics** (https://physics.wvu.edu/) and **mechanical engineering** (https://mae.statler.wvu.edu/) will provide a strong foundation for her career as a research scientist focused on sustainable energy products.
Her long-time goal to move out of state came to a halt after visiting several Ivy League schools, where unlike WVU, she did not feel like a priority. She plans to use her stipend for study abroad in Barcelona, Spain, where she can master the Spanish language and improve her intercultural skills. She is the captain of the Jefferson High School varsity soccer team, an avid snowboarder and a pianist. As the president of her school’s Key Club, she coordinated outreach programs in all local Title 1 schools as part of the governor’s project to improve literacy rates in West Virginia.

To qualify for the Foundation Scholarship, students must meet a rigorous set of criteria, including holding West Virginia residency, possessing a minimum GPA of 3.8 and achieving a minimum composite score of 31 on the ACT or the equivalent SAT score. Nearly 170 high school students initially applied for the scholarship, and of those, 20 were invited to campus for interviews. The value of the Foundation Scholarship, when paired with the PROMISE Scholarship, is more than $90,000 over four years.

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WVU's 2019 Foundation Scholars Daisy Levine, Lillian Bischof, Marleah Knights, Michael DiBacco and Piper Cook

Lillian Bischof
Wheeling Park High School
Michael DiBacco
Elkins High School
WVU's top seniors named, eight honored with 2019 Order of Augusta

Monday, April 29, 2019

An Olympic gold medalist, a retired master sergeant of the U.S. Air Force, a musician, a humanitarian and a legacy who has carried on the Mountaineer spirit as the 21st family member to attend West Virginia University (https://www.wvu.edu/) are among those who will receive WVU's highest student honor, the Order of Augusta.
"We are so proud to recognize some of our extraordinarily talented graduates with the Outstanding Senior award and the Order of Augusta each year," said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Joyce McConnell (https://provost.wvu.edu/profiles/joyce-meconnell). "Not only have they already made a tremendous positive impact on our campus and in our community, they are poised to head out into the world and truly make it a better place, today and tomorrow."

A majority of the 2019 Order of Augusta scholars are members of the Honors College (https://www.honors.wvu.edu/).

"This year's outstanding seniors have demonstrated a breadth of intellectual achievement and a deep commitment to making our community, state and world better," said Dean of Students Corey Farris (https://studentlife.wvu.edu/deanofstudents). "Representing the University's best and brightest minds, opportunities for success abound far beyond our doors for these graduating seniors.

These eight students, who are among 41 students named WVU Foundation's (https://www.wvuf.org/) Outstanding Seniors, will be honored at a ceremony Thursday (May 9) at 10 a.m. at the Erickson Alumni Center.

Michael Amato, a member of the Honors College from Rochester, Massachusetts, will graduate with a degree in political science (https://politicalscience.wvu.edu/) with an emphasis in pre-law and legal studies (https://politicalscience.wvu.edu/undergraduate/pre-law-
and-legal-studies); world languages, literatures, and linguistics
(https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/) with an emphasis in Spanish
(https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/students/undergraduate-
students/minors/spanish), and history (https://history.wvu.edu/); and
a minor in Native American studies (https://nas.wvu.edu/).

Read more about Amato.
(https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/resources/order-of-augusta-2019/michael-
amato)

Elizabeth Blemings, a member of the Honors College from
Morgantown, will graduate with degrees in finance
(https://business.wvu.edu/majors/finance) and economics
(http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/e
She is the founder of the WVU Chapter of Amnesty International, a
former vice president for professional activities for Delta Sigma Pi,
former member of the WVU Equestrian Club and has served as the
captain of the intramural softball and basketball teams.

Read more about Blemings.
(https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/resources/order-of-augusta-
2019/elizabeth-blemings)

Jacob Bumgarner, from Charleston, will graduate with a bachelor of
music in piano performance
(http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/collegeofcreativearts/divisionofm
He has performed as a pianist in the WVU Steinway Campaign Concert, WVU Jazz Combos and WVU Symphony Orchestra (https://symphony.wvu.edu/), among several other performances.

**Read more about Bumgarner.**
(https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/resources/order-of-augusta-2019/jacob-bumgarner)

**Rodney Elliott,** a non-traditional student and retired master sergeant of the Air Force from Bogota, Texas, will graduate with degrees in physics (https://physics.wvu.edu/) and Russian studies. (https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/students/undergraduate-students/russian-studies) He served as a Russian linguist in the military, president of the WVU Astronomy Club, serves as a teaching assistant in the Physics and Astronomy Department (https://physics.wvu.edu/) and telescope operator for the WVU Planetarium & Observatory (https://plan).

**Read more about Elliot.**

**Emma Harrison,** a member of the Honors College from Morgantown, will graduate with a degree in political science and multidisciplinary studies (https://mds.wvu.edu/) (Africana (https://eberly.wvu.edu/students/majors/africana-studies), leadership (https://leadershipstudies.wvu.edu/home), and
WVU’s top seniors named, eight honored with 2019 Order of Augusta | WVU Today | W... Page 5 of 14

(https://leadershipstudies.wvu.edu/home)
(https://womensgenderstudies.wvu.edu/)women’s and gender
(https://leadershipstudies.wvu.edu/home) studies). She an ambassador
for the Honors College and a former member of the Student
Government Association and Model United Nations, and a two-time
competitor in the Dancing with Our Mountaineer Stars.

Read more about Harrison.
(https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/resources/order-of-augusta-2019/emma-
harrison)

Karen Laska, a member of the Honors College from Wheeling, will
graduate with degrees in international studies
(https://internationalstudies.wvu.edu/), Slavic and East European
studies.
(http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/sl
and world languages (French)
(https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/students/undergraduate-
students/french) and a minor in history. She is a member of Pi Delta
Phi, WVU UNICEF Club, WVU Oxfam and WVU Russian and Eastern
European Club.

Read more about Laska.
(https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/resources/order-of-augusta-2019/karen-
laska)
Andrea Pettit, a member of the Honors College from Morgantown, will graduate with degree in immunology and medical microbiology (https://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/micro/). She is a member of the WVU Cross County and Track & Field (https://wvusports.com/) teams, community service chair of the WVU Student Athlete Advisory Committee, treasurer of Alpha Epsilon Delta and co-founder of the WVU Cross Country Ski club.

Read more about Pettit. (https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/resources/order-of-augusta-2019/andrea-pettit)

Virginia Thrasher, a member of the Honors College from Springfield, Virginia, will graduate with a degree in biomedical engineering (https://cbe.statler.wvu.edu/). She is a member of the WVU rifle team, WVU Student Athlete Advisory Council, WVU Biomedical Engineering Club, Mountain Honorary and U.S. National Rifle Team.

Read more about Thrasher. (https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/resources/order-of-augusta-2019/virginia-thrasher)

Established in 1995 to signify the 40th anniversary of the WVU Foundation, the Outstanding Seniors award recognizes students for their contributions and achievements in scholarship, leadership and service.
The Order of Augusta further recognizes the students’ superior scholarship, demonstrated leadership and record of community and public service. The award is named for its historical significance in the state. Augusta was among the original names considered by Legislature when the state seceded from Virginia in 1863.

The remaining 33 WVU Outstanding Seniors are:

- Mia Antinone; Weirton
- Marissa Bailey; Clarksburg
- Graeson Baker; Paden City (Honors College)
- Erin Bradley; Thornton (Honors College)
- Seth Burk; Sunbury, Pennsylvania
- Jillian Clemente; Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania (Honors College)
- Killian Coyne; Wheeling (Honors College)
- Haley Craig; Shady Spring (Honors College)
- Cristin Dolan; Morgantown (Honors College)
- Brian Donaldson; Morgantown (Honors College)
- Nicole Fama; Daniels (Honors College)
- Haleigh Fields; Berkeley Springs (Honors College)
- Jessica Francis; Bridgeville, Pennsylvania (Honors College)
- Paula Goetz; Rottenburg
- Lauren Griffin; Franklin, Tennessee (Honors College)
- Andrew Jemiolo; Orchard Park, New York
- Timofei Kharisov; Hinton
- Soofia Lateef; Bridgeport (Honors College)
- Alexander Martin; Charleston (Honors College)
- John McLaughlin; Wheeling
- WVU -

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Jacob Bumgarner
Emma Harrison

Karen Laska
Virginia Thrasher
CONGRATULATIONS!!

Ginny Thrasher (BMEG)

One of eight WVU seniors honored with 2019 Order of Augusta

Outstanding seniors to be honored at a ceremony Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 10 a.m. Erickson Alumni Center
CONGRATULATIONS!!

Kilian Coyne (BMEG)
Cristin Dolan (ChE)
Brian Donaldson (ChE)
Soofia Lateef (ChE)
John McLaughlin
(BMEG)
Ginny Thrasher (BMEG)

WVU 2019
Outstanding Seniors

Outstanding seniors to be honored at a ceremony
Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 10 a.m.
Erickson Alumni Center
THRASHER TO RECEIVE ORDER OF AUGUSTA

MORGANTOWN, W.Va.—

Virginia Thrasher, a member of the Honors College from Springfield, Virginia, is one of eight students selected to receive WVU's highest student honor, the Order of Augusta.

"We are so proud to recognize some of our extraordinarily talented graduates with the Outstanding Senior award and the Order of Augusta each year," said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Joyce McConnell.
(https://provost.wvu.edu/profiles/joyce-mcconnell). “Not only have they already made a tremendous positive impact on our campus and in our community, they are poised to head out into the world and truly make it a better place, today and tomorrow.”

Thrasher will graduate with a degree in biomedical engineering (https://cbe.statler.wvu.edu/). She is a member of the WVU rifle team, WVU Student Athlete Advisory Council, WVU Biomedical Engineering Club, Mountain Honorary and U.S. National Rifle Team.

Winner of the gold medal in the women’s 10-meter air rifle event at the 2016 Summer Olympic in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and a finalist for the 2019 Rhodes Scholarship, Thrasher is a powerhouse in and out of the classroom.

During her time at the University, she has developed a deep interest in the field of psychology and human performance through her experience on the rifle team and a passion for public speaking and travel.

“A convergence of passions,” she is the human subject in her growth mindset theory research with the WVU Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute (https://wvumedicine.org/rni/), a belief that abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work. Although her study is specific to athletic performance, she looks forward to expanding her research findings to a larger arena to include addiction and leadership studies.

Thrasher was a featured speaker at the inaugural 2018 TedxWVU series entitled “Winning the Olympics – A State of Mind.” She also travels the country as an advocate for student-athletes in STEM education.

She is also grateful for her extensive travel abroad opportunities, visiting 14 countries for national team trainings and competitions she has enjoyed learning about the host countries and their cultures. She has visited Azerbaijan, India, South Korea and South Africa, among several other countries.
She has set the Olympic record in the women’s air rifle event, was named to the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association All-American Team in recognition of her GPA among college rifle athletes across the nation and is the recipient of the Engineering Excellence Scholarships.

She is overwhelmed with the pride that WVU, Morgantown and the entire state has taken in supporting her academic and athletic achievements, instilling a sense of pride in her that she will carry into future endeavors. Although she is a native of Virginia, she is very proud to be adopted member of West Virginia, a state she says take incredible pride in their heritage and successes.

It is her hope that as a member of the community she has been able to make a positive and lasting impact during her four years of college.

After graduation, she will move to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs to pursue life as a professional athlete.

Thrasher, who is among 41 students named WVU Foundation's Outstanding Seniors (https://www.wvuf.org/) Outstanding Seniors (https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/stories/2019/04/29/wvu-s-top-seniors-named-eight-honored-with-2019-order-of-augusta?utm_source=MOUNTAINEER+ENEWS&utm_campaign=46796928dd-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_02ac3f7274-46796928dd-136445249), will be honored at a ceremony Thursday (May 9) at 10 a.m. at the Erickson Alumni Center.

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For more information on news and events in the West Virginia University
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Other College administrative and department offices: Administration
(http://www.statler.wvu.edu/about/administration)

HOME (http://www.statler.wvu.edu)
Earl Scime has been named interim dean of the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, the Office of the Provost announced today. Scime will move into the role on July 1.

Currently the chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Scime has been a member of the WVU faculty since 1995 and has held a series of named chair positions since 2007. He has also served in numerous leadership positions at the university, first as chair of Physics in 2002. He served as interim associate vice president for research, a university-level position in the Research Office, from 2013-2015. He left that role to return as Physics chair.

Provost Joyce McConnell, who announced the appointment, acknowledged Scime is “an unconventional choice, but also an exciting one,” noting that he has worked with engineering colleagues on interdisciplinary research for many years.
He is also a member of the College's award-winning robotics (https://robotics.wvu.edu/team) team, a natural extension of his own service as the founder and leader of Mountaineer Area Robotics, an internationally recognized high school robotics team whose mission is to inspire youth throughout the state and the world.

"Earl is a visionary leader and a world-class scientist who truly understands both the value and the caliber of the work being done in Statler," McConnell said. "He will guide the faculty, students and staff through the upcoming transition period with tremendous wisdom and expertise."

A first-generation college graduate (https://eberly.wvu.edu/news-events/eberly-news/2017/08/16/first-generation-faculty-earl-scime), Scime has received WVU's highest awards for research (the Benedum Award for Distinguished Scholarship (https://faculnty.wvu.edu/home/internal-awards-fellowships-and-grants/benedum-award-recipients)), teaching (WVU Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award (https://faculty.wvu.edu/home/internal-awards-fellowships-and-grants/wvuf-outstanding-teaching-award-recipients)) and service (the Heebink Award for Distinguished Extended Service (https://faculty.wvu.edu/home/internal-awards-fellowships-and-grants/heebink-award-recipients)) as well as teaching and research awards from the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences (https://eberly.wvu.edu/). He has also been recognized nationally for his research and for his mentoring of students of all ages.

The Statler College is home to nearly 5,000 students and 140 tenure-track faculty. Offering 13 undergraduate majors in seven academic departments, the College educates the engineering professionals of tomorrow and supports students at all levels with such comprehensive resources as a Fundamentals of Engineering (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/freshman) program for all freshmen, study-abroad opportunities, internships and discipline-specific career placement assistance. Scime steps in as interim leader of the College following the decision by current dean Gene Cilento (https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/stories/2019/04/10/cilento-to-step-down-after-19-years-leading-wvu-s-benjamin-m-statler-college-of-engineering-and-mineral-resources) to return to the faculty.

"This is an exciting and humbling opportunity," Scime said. "I look forward to serving the exceptional students and faculty of the Statler College."

The Eberly College anticipates naming an interim chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the next few weeks. The Office of the Provost will launch a national search for a permanent dean of the Statler College during the 2019-2020 academic year.
Award-winning researcher Earl Scime named interim dean of WVU’s Statler College | St...

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For more information on news and events in the West Virginia University Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources:

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(http://www.statler.wvu.edu/about/administration)

HOME (http://www.statler.wvu.edu)
Four WVU students awarded prestigious NSF summer research fellowships

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Four West Virginia University (https://www.wvu.edu/) students will spend their summer researching thermodynamic models, new material for aircraft under impact, glass in crime scene evidence and the dynamics of how proteins change.
Daniel Baker, Chad Hite, Oriana Ovide and Katrina Rupert will spend 11 weeks contributing to ongoing research at National Institute of Standards and Technology sites in Boulder, Colorado and Gaithersburg, Maryland.

"Their experience as undergraduate researchers with WVU faculty members was crucial in their competitive selection to NIST SURF," Michelle Richards-Babb, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research (https://undergraduateresearch.wvu.edu/), said. "The NIST experience will aid these students after graduating, as they apply to competitive graduate schools and establish themselves as experts in the field. We are very proud that our undergraduate students are being recognized for their skills in research."

Rupert, Hite and Ovide will work in Gaithersburg.

This summer is Rupert's second at NIST-SURF. The recently-graduated Honors College (C:sers\%C\Users\%C\App\Data%5C\Local%5C\Microsoft\%5C\Windows\%5C\CINetCache\%5C\Content\Outlook%5C\6W9EMOYA%5C\Honors.wvu.edu) senior earned a bachelor's of science in forensic and investigative science (https://forensics.wvu.edu/) with double minors in history (https://history.wvu.edu/) and biology (https://biol). Her research will focus on better understanding how proteins change from one stable conformation to another. Studying the dynamics of proteins has wide implications, from better understanding how the body responds to drugs, to developing treatments for disease, or even determining side
effects and unintended consequences using the gene-editing tool CRISPR. Rupert, of Stafford, Virginia, will pursue a master’s of science degree in forensic and investigative science this fall at WVU.

“It’s definitely positively influenced my life and given me a new perspective on forensic science and the scientific community as a whole,” Rupert said. “Without doing undergraduate research, I wouldn’t be going to grad school because I wouldn’t have been exposed to any of the intriguing aspects that go into conducting scientific research.”

Hite, who is from Harpers Ferry, is a senior double-majoring in mechanical engineering (https://mae.statler.wvu.edu/) and aerospace engineering in the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/). He’ll assist in testing new material for aircraft, helmets or body armor under impact. Although his first interest was in artificial intelligence in robotics, his classroom and research experience helped him find a passion for materials science; Hite plans to pursue a master’s degree in that field.

“It seems boring to a lot of people, but it has just drawn me in,” Hite said.

Ovide, a senior Honors College student double majoring in chemistry (https://www.chemistry.wvu.edu/) and forensic & investigative science (https://forensics.wvu.edu/) at the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences (https://eberly.wvu.edu/), got started in research with the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience
(https://undergraduateresearch.wvu.edu/research-opportunities/wvu-opportunities/summer-undergraduate-research-experience-sure) with the Office of Undergraduate Research (https://undergraduateresearch.wvu.edu/home) in summer 2018. In the SURE program, students receive a stipend to research full-time for eight weeks under the direction of a WVU faculty research mentor and a graduate or post-doctoral mentor. This experience helped Ovide, who is from Columbia, Maryland, discover her love of research. She plans to pursue a master’s in chemistry or forensic science, later finding work as a drug chemist for a local crime lab, working her way up to someday working with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

“I did not expect to like research that much,” Ovide said. “I know a lot of it is the same thing every day, but when you get to do something that’s never been done before—it’s a really cool feeling to be a part of that.”

Baker, of Glen Dale, will be stationed in Boulder. A senior majoring in chemical engineering (https://cbe.statler.wvu.edu/) in the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, he participated in WVU’s Research Apprenticeship Program (https://undergraduateresearch.wvu.edu/research-opportunities/wvu-opportunities/research-apprenticeship-programs) in spring and fall 2018, and presented his research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in April. His research will focus on validating
current thermodynamic models using the stability and oxidation properties of materials. Baker plans to pursue his Ph.D. in chemical engineering before pursuing employment researching with NIST.

“It’s a huge step forward,” Baker said. “NIST is renowned for rehiring their applicants if you do a good job, so this is kind of like the first step on hopefully the rest of my life.”

NIST is a federal agency that develops technology, metrics and standards that are the basis for innovation and industrial competitiveness.

The Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship seeks to inspire undergraduate students to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers through research experience.

Students interested in participating can apply directly to the program. Students can learn more about opportunities for research both on and off campus by making an appointment with WVU’s Office for Undergraduate Research. These fellowships are one of many research opportunities available to undergraduate students.

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Daniel Baker
WVU ranked among 'best employers by state' by Forbes

WVU has been named to the inaugural list of "America's Best Employers by State" by Forbes magazine.

WVU is the top-ranked West Virginia-based employer in the state and ranks number two overall among employers that operate in West Virginia and employ at least 500 people in their U.S. operations.

The rankings are based on responses to an independent survey from a sample of more than 80,000 employees across the U.S.

Forbes partnered with market research company Statista to conduct the study. Employees were asked to rate their willingness to recommend their current employers to friends and family and to evaluate other employers in their respective industries.

Further, survey participants were asked 35 work-related questions about their current employer, such as working conditions, potential for development and company/organization image.

The surveys were administered in a series of anonymous online panels and provide a representative sample of the U.S. workforce.

"It is an honor to be recognized by Forbes as one of the best employers in West Virginia," said Cris DeBord, vice president of Talent and Culture. "Throughout the past several years, we have maintained a strong focus on improving our culture and making West Virginia University a great place to work for our faculty and staff. After all, when you have a great culture, it transcends everything you do and ultimately creates a better overall experience for our students."

View the complete list of "America's Best Employers by State".

https://www.forbes.com/best-employers-by-state/72f11943487a

Area of Interest 1: Sensors, Diagnostics and Controls to Improve Prediction, Performance and Reliability

Subtopic 1A: High-fidelity field testing of technologies

1. Test and Validate Distributed Coaxial Cable Sensors for in situ Condition Monitoring of Coal-Fired Boiler Tubes — Clemson University (Clemson, SC) will test and validate (through the planned field tests in an industrial-scale test facility and an operational utility plant) novel low-cost distributed high-temperature stainless-steel/ceramic coaxial cable sensors, installation methods, instrumentation and data analytics for in situ monitoring of the health status of boiler tubes in existing coal-fired power plants.

**DOE Funding:** $3,000,000; **Non-DOE Funding:** $750,000; **Total Value:** $3,750,000

2. Demonstration of Multi-Gamma Based Sensor Technology for As-Fired Coal Property Measurement — Microbeam Technologies (Grand Forks, ND) will demonstrate a
smart sensor that measures coal properties at the point of injection into burners at a full-scale power plant. Accurate and precise coal property information at the burner provides the opportunity to adjust burner parameters to better follow changing load conditions, optimize flame stability and decrease nitrogen oxide formation at each burner.

**DOE Funding:** $1,226,094; **Non-DOE Funding:** $339,586; **Total Value:** $1,565,680

3. **Deployment of Dynamic Neural Network Optimization to Minimize Heat Rate during Ramping for Coal Power Plants** — **University of Utah** (Salt Lake City, UT) will develop and deploy dynamic neural network optimization (D-NNO) technology to minimize heat rate for coal power plants. The project goal is to improve cumulative heat rate by at least 5 percent relative to unoptimized operation and to produce a commercial D-NNO product that can be readily applied.

**DOE Funding:** $2,992,781; **Non-DOE Funding:** $792,000; **Total Value:** $3,784,781

Subtopic 1B: Relevant environment testing of technologies

4. **Transient Efficiency, Flexibility, and Reliability Optimization of Coal-Fired Power Plants** — **General Electric Company, GE Research** (Niskayuna, NY) aims to estimate then optimize heat rate for improved efficiency at part load, base load, and during transients; increase the ramp rates from part load to base load for supporting the power grid against ever-increasing intermittent energy sources; and determine the health of the major components of coal-fired power plants for improved reliability. General Electric (GE) will achieve these goals via utilization of their coal-fired power plant model library, developing controllers that predict equipment response as a function of both operating point and transient loading.

**DOE Funding:** $1,999,060; **Non-DOE Funding:** $499,765; **Total Value:** $2,498,825

**Area of Interest 2: Power Plant Component Improvement**

Subtopic 2A: High-fidelity field testing of technologies
5. Elimination of Steam Side Scaling On Grade 91 Steel, Improving Efficiency, Reliability, and Flexibility of Existing Fossil Fired Power Plants — Applied Thermal Coatings (Chattanooga, TN) aims to significantly improve the reliability and efficiency of existing coal-fired power plants under flexible operating conditions by deploying a technology to modify the surface chemistry of creep-strength-enhanced steel tubing to substantially improve its steam-side oxidation resistance at a cost and scale that enables its ready acceptance for use by the power generation industry.

DOE Funding: $2,116,507; Non-DOE Funding: $533,000; Total Value: $2,649,507

6. Mitigation of Aerosol Impacts on Ash Deposition and Emissions from Coal Combustion — Barr Engineering Company (Minneapolis, MN) will demonstrate the effectiveness of tailored sorbents in mitigating fouling and slagging; develop a benchmark/screening tool for identifying low-cost sorbents; and conduct a techno-economic assessment of the sorbent technology, including a pathway to commercialization.

DOE Funding: $3,996,998; Non-DOE Funding: $999,412; Total Value: $4,996,410

7. Concrete Thermal Energy Storage Enabling Flexible Operation Without Coal Plant Cycling — Electric Power Research Institute (Charlotte, NC) will design, construct, and test a pilot-scale concrete thermal energy storage system (CTES) to demonstrate the energy storage potential of the technology when applied to coal-fired power units. The project aims to demonstrate that a CTES system can be integrated with a coal power plant to enable low-cost energy storage that will eliminate the need for excessive operational flexibility and ultimately improve the profitability of the plant.

DOE Funding: $3,910,720; Non-DOE Funding: $977,680; Total Value: $4,888,400

8. Plasma Ignition and Combustion Stabilization Technology to Improve Flexible Operation, Reliability and Economics of An Existing Coal-Fired Boiler — GE Steam Power (Windsor, CT) aims to demonstrate improved power plant reliability,
flexibility and economics at PacifiCorp Hunter in a field demonstration of the advanced new high-efficiency alternating-current plasma technology. The objective of this program is to advance the plasma ignition technology to be a fully integrated and a field proven system, so it can then be made commercially available for other coal-fired power plants.

**DOE Funding:** $3,615,340; **Non-DOE Funding:** $903,835; **Total Value:** $4,519,175

Subtopic 2B: Relevant environment testing of technologies

9. **Investigations of Technologies to Improve Condenser Heat Transfer and Performance in a Relevant Coal-Fired Power Plant Environment** — **Electric Power Research Institute** (Palo Alto, CA) will study and demonstrate the effectiveness of modifications that may enhance the performance of heat exchanger tubes for coal-fired power plant applications. Improvements in heat transfer effectiveness could result in power plant condensers having increased efficiency, reliability, and flexibility.

**DOE Funding:** $2,000,000; **Non-DOE Funding:** $500,000; **Total Value:** $2,500,000

10. **Flexible Coal Power Plant Operation with Thermal Energy Storage Utilizing Thermosiphons and Cementitious Materials** — **Lehigh University** (Bethlehem, PA) will develop an optimized prototype of a solid media thermal energy storage concept for thermal management applications in coal-fired power plants. The project will involve design, engineering, optimization, and testing of the concept at laboratory- and at prototype-scale at a coal-fired power plant.

**DOE Funding:** $2,000,000; **Non-DOE Funding:** $508,039; **Total Value:** $2,508,039

11. **Anti-Biofouling Surface Treatments for Improved Condenser Performance for Coal-Based Power Plants** — **Research Triangle Institute** (Research Triangle Park, NC) will design and engineer novel surface treatments and secondarily applied remediation components to mitigate biofilm growth on condenser tube surfaces used in coal-fueled power plants. Such modified surfaces can
potentially disrupt the landscape for emerging anti-biofouling technologies through the creation of surface environments that interfere with abilities of bacteria to sense and respond to their environment, thereby inhibiting biofilm production and surface attachment.

**DOE Funding:** $1,350,537; **Non-DOE Funding:** $337,635; **Total Value:** $1,688,172

12. Environmental Validation of Materials and Design Concepts to Enable Operational Flexibility of Existing Coal Power Plants — **Siemens Corporation, Corporate Technology** (Charlotte, NC) will develop a holistic approach for demonstration of multiple operational methodologies and improved materials capability versus baseline to improve efficiency, reliability and flexibility of existing coal-based power plants. The proposed technical approach is focused on performance of improved materials/plant operations on small-scale pilot plant facilities at Cranfield University for power plant component improvements.

**DOE Funding:** $1,999,998; **Non-DOE Funding:** $500,000; **Total Value:** $2,499,998

13. Ash Fouling Free Regenerative Air Preheater for Deep Cyclic Operation — **University of Kentucky** (Lexington, KY) aims to develop a self-cleaning, ash fouling free air preheater to increase the capacity of a coal-fired power plant for load following. Increased use of alternative energy sources presents a challenge to control thermal efficiency. The proposed unit offers a solution to this, especially during deep cyclic operation and is transformative from the state-of-art regenerative heater with either hot-air recycling or a hot water recirculation system.

**DOE Funding:** $1,999,864; **Non-DOE Funding:** $500,618; **Total Value:** $2,500,482

**Area of Interest 3: Data Analytics Driven Controls**

**Subtopic 3A:** Adaptive data-driven approaches featuring physics-based attributes for improved flexibility, reliability and performance (referred to as ADAPT)

14. Hybrid Analytics Solution to Improve Coal Power Plant Operations — **Expert Microsystem, Inc.** (Orangevale, CA) will develop, demonstrate, and
commercialize a novel approach to improve coal-fired power plants' ability to follow loads and handle transient behavior by integrating two proven real-time monitoring techniques. The hybrid analytics approach integrates into a single, integrated solution, an established, advanced data-driven analytics solution that includes artificial intelligence, advanced pattern recognition, and machine-learning techniques and a well-proven, first-principle thermal heat balance model solution.

**DOE Funding:** $791,693; **Non-DOE Funding:** $197,923; **Total Value:** $989,616

15. *Generation Plant Cost of Operations and Cycle Optimization Model — National Rural Electric Cooperative Association* (Arlington, VA) will develop a tool to estimate the costs of cycling boilers in large coal plants so that coal generators can be fairly considered and efficiently operated as part of a generation and dispatch strategy. The Generation Plant Cost of Operations and Cycle Optimization Model will be refined and integrated with one or more dispatch and generation planning models through an application programming interface.

**DOE Funding:** $2,000,000; **Non-DOE Funding:** $500,000; **Total Value:** $2,500,000

16. *Boiler Health Monitoring Using a Hybrid First Principles-Artificial Intelligence Model — West Virginia University Research Corporation* (Morgantown, WV) seeks to develop methodologies and algorithms to accomplish a hybrid first-principles-AI model of the PC boiler; a physics-based approach to material damage informed by ex-service component evaluation; an online health-monitoring framework that synergistically leverages the hybrid models and plant measurements to provide the spatial and temporal profile of key transport variables and characteristic measures for plant health; and a field implementation and demonstration at Southern Company's Plant Barry.

**DOE Funding:** $1,984,135; **Non-DOE Funding:** $524,881; **Total Value:** $2,509,016

Subtopic 3b: *Artificial intelligence for enhanced data analytics and control of coal-based power plants*

DOE Funding: $1,999,853; Non-DOE Funding: $499,963; Total Value: $2,499,816
Budget & Performance
Directives, Delegations & Requirements
FOIA
Inspector General
Privacy Program
Small Business
Staff & Contractor Resources

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The White House
USA.gov

Web Policies  Privacy  No Fear Act  Whistleblower Protection  Information Quality  
Open Gov  Accessibility
Duo Nominees for NCAA Woman of the Year

By Shannon Wolfgang
June 26, 2019 03:35 PM

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – Bianca St. Georges (women’s soccer) and Ginny Thrasher (rifle) are West Virginia University’s nominees for the 2019 NCAA Woman of the Year award.

A native of St. Felix de Valois, Quebec, St. Georges was a 2018 Missouri Athletic Club (MAC) Hermann Trophy candidate and named to the Senior CLASS Award All-America First Team and the United Soccer Coaches All-America Second Team. She also earned the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year honor and was named to the All-Big 12 First Team and the Big 12 Championship All-Tournament Team.

Postseason, she was named the Mountaineers’ Team MVP for the second consecutive year and was selected 20th overall by the Chicago Red Stars at the 2019 National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL) College Draft.

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Shane Lyons Press Conference

Mar 9 - WVUsports

A two-time team captain, St. Georges was named the Google Cloud Academic All-America of the Year for Division I women's soccer and earned United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division I Women's Scholar All-America First Team accolades. She also was a member of the President's and Dean's Lists, the Academic All-Big 12 First Team, the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll and the Garrett Ford Academic Honor Roll. St. Georges graduated in May with a degree in exercise physiology.

In 2018, St. Georges anchored a Mountaineer defense which posted 12 shutouts and allowed just 13 opponent goals. She helped the WVU backline hold its Big 12 opponents to just five goals in the regular season. The Mountaineers denied three consecutive opponents a goal en route to the 2018 Big 12 Soccer Championship title.

A starter in 80-of-81 career matches, St. Georges finished second on the team in goals (7) and points (14), both career single-season bests. She was a perfect five-for-five from the penalty line, the best mark nationally.

WVU finished the year at 15-4-4 (7-2) and ranked No. 14 nationally. The Mountaineers qualified for their 19th consecutive NCAA Tournament.

Thrasher, a native of Springfield, Virginia, capped a brilliant four-year Mountaineer career with three All-America first team honors, bringing her career All-America count to 12. The 2019 Great America Rifle Conference (GARC) Shooter of the Year and Outstanding Senior, she won the air rifle title at the 2019 GARC Championships, her third consecutive win and fifth conference title. She also finished fifth in smallbore at the 2019 NCAA Rifle Championships.

Thrasher graduated in May with a degree in biomedical engineering. A 2018 Rhodes Scholarship finalist, she was named to the 2019 WVU Order of Augusta and was tabbed a 2019 WVU Outstanding Senior. She received the 2019 Dr. Gerald Lage Academic Achievement Award and was named to the Academic All-Big 12 At-Large First Team and the CRCA All-Academic Team. Thrasher, a 2016 Olympic Gold medalist (women's air rifle), also was a member of the President's and Dean's Lists, as well as the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll and the Garrett Ford Academic Honor Roll.

In 2018-19, Thrasher led the Mountaineers to a runner-up finish at the NCAA Rifle Championships. WVU won its 10th consecutive GARC Championships title and sixth consecutive conference regular-season title. The Mountaineers finished the year at 13-0 (8-0 GARC) and ranked No. 2 nationally.

St. Georges and Thrasher are two of SBS nominees for the 2019 NCAA Woman of the Year honor.
Established in 1991, the NCAA Woman of the Year award recognizes graduating female college athletes who have exhausted their eligibility and distinguished themselves in academics, athletics, service and leadership throughout their collegiate careers.

The NCAA encourages member schools to honor their top graduating female student-athletes each year by submitting their names for consideration for the Woman of the Year award.

The nominees competed in 23 different sports across all three NCAA divisions, including 262 from Division I, 131 from Division II and 192 from Division III. Multi-sport student-athletes account for 144 of the nominees.

Next, conferences will select up to two nominees each from the pool of school nominees. Then, the Woman of the Year selection committee, made up of representatives from the NCAA membership, will choose the Top 30 honorees — 10 from each division.

The selection committee will determine the top three honorees from each division from the Top 30 and announce the nine finalists in September. From those nine finalists, the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics then will choose the 2019 NCAA Woman of the Year.

The Top 30 honorees will be celebrated and the 2019 NCAA Woman of the Year will be named at the annual award ceremony Oct. 20 in Indianapolis.
West Virginia University  Grad Schools ▼

Ranked in 9 programs and 10+ specialties

WVU's Graduate School Rankings

- #1 in Best Education Schools
- #473 in Best Business Schools
- #118 in Best Engineering Schools (tie): QS ranked
  - #18 in Aerospace / Aeronautical / Astronautical Engineering (tie): QS ranked
  - #99 in Chemical Engineering (tie): QS ranked
  - #89 in Civil Engineering (tie): QS ranked
  - #91 in Computer Engineering (tie): QS ranked
  - #132 in Electrical / Electromagnetic / Communications Engineering (tie): QS ranked
  - #60 in Industrial / Manufacturing / Systems Engineering (tie): QS ranked
  - #99 in Materials Engineering (tie): QS ranked
  - #104 in Mechanical Engineering (tie): QS ranked
  - #12 in Petroleum Engineering (tie): QS ranked
- #100 in Best Law Schools (tie)
- #112 in Clinical Training (tie)
- #74 in Environmental Law (tie)
- #19 in Medical School (tie)

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The GRE® Tests: Get the Facts

The GRE® General Test measures your aptitude for success in graduate programs. Whether you're in the arts or science, you can receive a score that will help you stand out to schools.
Folks,

I paid for a subscription to US News & World Report to get the rankings of our graduate programs, to maybe include them in the forms for Sarah.

A screenshot is attached (annotated to show the total number of schools ranked for each program).

At your service,

Ever J. Barbero, Ph.D., F.ASME, F.SAMPE
New! https://youtu.be/Q7bBKIhIrPs

On Fri, Jul 5, 2019 at 10:41 AM Sarah Lowery <sarah.lowery@mail.wvu.edu> wrote:

Good Morning All,

Admissions has asked each college to answer some questions about their graduate programs so they can updated the online database [on their website]. They are asking for some keywords and to describe the program in sentence format. [Please try to have the master's and doctoral program description be a little bit different].

This is extremely important for your recruitment efforts, as this may be a page that students find when searching online for degree options. The key words will be used to optimize search engine results. Remember that a large portion of your applicants find us through online searches.
I've started each program with whatever information I could find on your website/catalog. Please update the attached word documents by July 26 and email them to me and Ryan.

If you have any questions, please let me or Ryan know.

Thanks,

Sarah

// Sarah Lowery
Office of Student Services
West Virginia University | Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering & Mineral Resources
PO Box 6101 | 141 Engineering Sciences Building | 1306 Evansdale Drive

Morgantown, WV 26506-6101
304.293.4344 (T) | 304.293.5024 (F)
Email: Sarah.Lowery@mail.wvu.edu

http://statler.wvu.edu/statler-student-services
CONGRATULATIONS!!

Carlie Ramsayer

awarded runner-up

Engineering Category
2019 Summer
Undergraduate Research
Symposium

July 22, 2019

"Quantifying United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Using GREENSCOPE Indicators"

Carlie B. Ramsayer, Selorme Agbleze, Gerardo J. Ruiz-Mercado and Fernando Lima
Linda Rogers

From: Fernando Lima
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2019 3:03 PM
To: Linda Rogers; Monica Cebulak
Cc: Richard Turton; Carlie Ramsayer; Selorme Agbleze
Subject: SURE Poster Award - Carlie Ramsayer

Linda and Monica,

Carlie Ramsayer, our ChE rising senior, was just awarded runner up in the Engineering category at the 2019 Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium.
Here are the poster details if you like to put together an internal announcement of the award:

Poster title: Quantifying United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Using GREENSCOPE Indicators
Authors: Carlie B. Ramsayer, Selorme Agbleze, Gerardo J. Ruiz-Mercado and Fernando V. Lima

Congratulations to Carlie!

Thanks,

FVL.

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Fernando V. Lima, Ph.D.
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Email: Fernando.Lima@mail.wvu.edu
https://fernandolima.faculty.wvu.edu/
All welcome to attend the 2019 Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium

The WVU community is encouraged to attend the 11th Annual Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium from noon to 3 p.m. July 25 at the Erickson Alumni Center. The Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium is a university-wide poster symposium that showcases students' summer research and creative endeavors. Students will present their research in one of several offered categories with posters visual and presentations to be judged. This event is open to the WVU community in the afternoon and all (administrators, faculty, students, parents) are invited to attend to help us celebrate the achievements of our undergraduates. For more information, contact Michelle Richards-Babb, Director for the Office of Undergraduate Research, at 304.293.9354.

NOTE: Faculty and staff with permits are encouraged to park in Area 81 and walk to the Alumni Center, as last year parking was at a premium at the Alumni Center during the symposium event.
West Virginia University Athletics

Thrasher Remains in Contention for NCAA Woman of the Year Award

From an original group of 585 school nominees, conferences and an independent selection committee chose 148 student-athletes to continue their candidacy for the award, which recognizes graduating female college athletes who have exhausted their eligibility and distinguished themselves in academics, athletics, service and leadership throughout their collegiate careers.

Thrasher, a native of Springfield, Virginia, is one of 64 student-athletes to have competed at the Division I level and is the only rifle athlete among the 148 nominees.

Thrasher joins Annie Pankowski (Wisconsin women's ice hockey), Stephanie Relova (San Jose State gymnastics) and Franziska Wiedner (Hawaii swimming and diving) as the four nominees to advance in the selection process not sponsored by their school's core conference.

The 148 nominees competed in 20 different sports across all three NCAA divisions, including 64 from Division I, 33 from Division II and 51 from Division III.
Thrasher capped a brilliant four-year Mountaineer career with three All-America first team honors in 2018-19, bringing her career All-America count to 12. The 2019 Great America Rifle Conference (GARC) Shooter of the Year and Outstanding Senior, she won the air rifle title at the 2019 GARC Championships, her third consecutive win and fifth conference title. She also finished fifth in smallbore at the 2019 NCAA Rifle Championships.

Thrasher graduated in May with a degree in biomedical engineering. A 2018 Rhodes Scholarship finalist, she was named to the 2019 WVU Order of Augusta and was tabbed a 2019 WVU Outstanding Senior. She received the 2019 Dr. Gerald Lage Academic Achievement Award and was named to the Academic All-Big 12 At-Large First Team and the CRCA All-Academic Team. Thrasher, a 2016 Olympic Gold medalist (women’s air rifle), also was a member of the President’s and Dean’s Lists, as well as the Big 12 Commissioner’s Honor Roll and the Garrett Ford Academic Honor Roll.

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Next, the Woman of the Year selection committee, made up of representatives from the NCAA membership, will choose the top 30 honorees in September — 10 from each division. Then, the selection committee will determine the top three honorees from each division from the top 30 and announce the nine finalists in October. From those nine finalists, the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics will choose the 2019 NCAA Woman of the Year.

The top 30 honorees will be celebrated, and the 2019 NCAA Woman of the Year will be named at the annual award ceremony Oct. 20 in Indianapolis.

For more information on the Mountaineers, visit WVUsports.com and follow WVURifle on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

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WVU receives $181M in funding

Money will support continuing research efforts, sets record

External funding for research and other sponsored programs at West Virginia University totaled $181.4 million this past fiscal year, a university record that bucks a downward trend seen higher ed grappling with dwindling resources.

"Our record-breaking numbers reflect the commitment of our faculty, staff and partners to continue elevating the research profile of West Virginia University," Vice President for Research Fred King said when announcing the latest numbers.

"The ability of the university community to attract such a volume of research dollars is one definitive reason why government and industry view us as a leader. It is a virtuous cycle in which such recognition, in turn, generates more investment in the university."

In December 2018, the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education ranked WVU an R1, or very high research activity, institution. Only 131 of the nation's 4,500 colleges and universities attain this ranking, and it places WVU in the same class as the nation's elite research universities, such as Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Johns Hopkins.
obtained through a competitive process, in which projects are evaluated for quality and impact before monies are allocated. Competitions are run by government, corporations and foundations.

Of the various sources, funding from the federal government level dwarfed others with $256.5 million for the fiscal year ended June 30. State funding followed at $39 million and industry/other at $34.3 million.

The top three funding federal agencies included the National Institutes of Health, $27.7 million; Department of Energy, $12.2 million; and the Department of Health and Human Services (excluding NIH), $10.2 million.

The uptick in funding is a likely result of an increase in the number and competitiveness of proposals submitted to potential sponsors for the work.

In FY 19, WVU faculty submitted 1,065 proposals while 488 were approved.

“We have some really amazing faculty,” King said. “The credit for this accomplishment is all theirs.”

“In recent years, we’ve invested in programs to support and help faculty strengthen their proposals. As the faculty gain experience in the grant-seeking process, I think we’re going to see them achieve even greater success.”

It’s been a good fiscal year all around at WVU. In early August, the WVU Foundation announced that alumni and friends gave $177 million to the University, making it the second highest year of giving that supports scholarships and other programs at the university.
A West Virginia University (https://www.wvu.edu/) Honors College (https://www.honors.wvu.edu/) student who wants to pursue bridging the gap between the technical world and the healthcare sector has been awarded a Gilman Scholarship to study in Denmark.
Hana Ulman, a senior biomedical engineering (https://cbe.statler.wvu.edu/) major from Martinsburg, plans to pursue a doctoral degree in collaboration with the Rockefeller Neuroscience Center (https://wvumedicine.org/rni/) to study the use of computer programming to create predictive models for disease manifestation and treatment.

“Throughout my time at WVU, I have been given countless opportunities to expand my love for science and medicine at the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources (https://www.statler.wvu.edu/),” Ulman said. “The ASPIRE (https://aspire.wvu.edu/) staff helped me perfect my application for the Gilman Scholarship and provided the guidance and encouragement needed to believe in myself and, now, I have the opportunity of a lifetime to study in a top, internationally-ranked biomedical engineering program.”

Ulman will continue her studies this fall at Aarhus University in Denmark, taking classes in neuroanatomy, neurotransmission and brain disease, statistical analysis of neuroimaging data and data science bioinformatics.

“Travel can be a transformative experience and the Gilman Scholarship creates opportunities for students who may not have otherwise had an opportunity,” said Amy Cyphert, director of the ASPIRE Office. “Hana is a young scholar who will bring this experience back home to West Virginia with a goal of making this a better place.”

The U.S. Department of State’s Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship enables undergraduate students to gain skills that are critical to the country’s national security and economic prosperity while gaining an enriching cultural and career-building experience. Applicants for the Gilman Scholarship are

Students who are interested applying for this or other nationally competitive scholarships can email aspire@mail.wvu.edu (mailto:aspire@mail.wvu.edu) for an appointment.

-WVU-

lr/09/03/19

Contact: Amy Cyphert
ASPIRE Director
304.293.4836; amy.cyphert@mail.wvu.edu (mailto:amy.cyphert@mail.wvu.edu)

Call 1.855.WVU.NEWS for the latest West Virginia University news and information from WVUToday

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