

Volume 1, Issue 2

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Western Illinois University

Women In Science

Science · Technology · Engineering · Math

Our Mission

The mission of WIU Women in Science is to foster scientific research and scholarly activities, provide opportunities for women and to encourage the career advancement of women in the STEM disciplines.

Participating Departments:

- Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geography, Mathematics, and Physics

Up Coming Events:

We will not be having a meeting on November 23 as it falls during Thanksgiving Break. Our next meeting will be the 30th of November.

We are currently working on setting up an end of the semester social with Tri beta and Chemistry club to end the semester on a high note

- Mission Statement
- Pie competition
- Marie Curie Movie Night
- Volunteer –Corn Maze
- Feature Student– Nicole Szabo, Physics
- Thank you Dr. Sue Hum-Musser
- Soil Metagenomics Conference
- LSMCE Conference
- Illinois Mosquito and Vector Control Association Conference

For More Information

Wiu.edu/WIS

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Pie Competition!

Women in Science is participating in the 1st Annual BGSA (Biology Graduate Student Assoc.) Pie Competition. Eight clubs in the Biological Sciences Department will be selling tickets to raise funds for their organization. The top three clubs who sell the most tickets will get their Eboard members and possibly Advisor pied in the face. The Grand Prize is to pie Dr. Lydeard, the Biological Sciences Department chair, who has graciously donated his personage to help the event. A pie ceremony will be conducted the first week back in December where we will watch people get pied as we each wonderful pies donated by the clubs involved



Marie Curie Movie Night

To celebrate Marie Curie's birthday the women in science got together and threw a movie night. The night consisted of watching Osmosis Jones Friday November 6th. It was a great night to get to know one another and socialize with our peers. Thanks to all that attended as it was a great turn out

Can you believe the semester is already almost over!!

Its Crunch time ladies. Thanksgiving break is upon us and before we know it, it will be Finals week. Keep up with the good work and remember to study hard. You can do it :)

Don't forget to fill out the doodle poll for what time slots work best for our meetings next semester. Check your e-mails for the link. If you need a new link contact Rachel Hamilton.

Thanks to all that volunteered at the Haunted Corn Maze

On October 24th, Women in Science volunteered with Tri-Beta. Although it was cold, everyone had a great time sitting around the bonfire and eating s'mores. Thanks to all of those who volunteered!

Thank You

Dr. Sue Hum-Musser

Dr. Sue Hum-Musser presented at our last meeting and talked about herself and the challenges she faced as a women in science today. She taught us a lot of great lessons and life tips on how to be successful in the scientific world. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and experience.



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Feature Student: Nichole Szabo - Physics Undergraduate Student

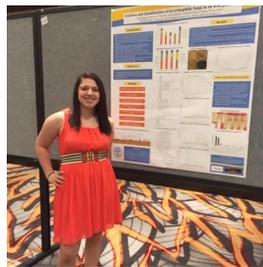
In my research I study the optical properties of different glass compositions. The optical properties of glasses are important in determining their applications in optical devices. We have studied the variation in the optical band gap of Bismuth Borate glasses that have been doped with either Mn or Ni. Which is very interesting because transition metals ions have an unfilled d-orbital. Now we are moving on to studying the effects of adding rare earth ions to the optical absorption and fluorescence of the different glasses.



Good Luck and Congratulations to our fellow Women in Science as they Present their Research

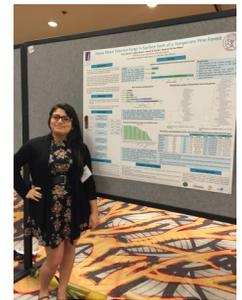
Soil Metagenomics Conference:

Three of our Women in Science students presented at the 7th Annual Argonne Soil Metagenomics Conference. Terry Torres Cruz presented a poster on heavy metal tolerant fungal community analysis from a temperate pine forest soil using Illumina sequencing. Terri Tobias presented a poster on the effects farming practices on fungal communities associated with Glycine max (soybeans) and Paris Hamm presented a study of seasonal variation of desert keratinophilic fungi. All three of these students are advised under our fungal molecular ecologist, Dr. Andrea Porras-Alfaro. Two of the three (Terry Torres Cruz and Paris Hamm) have also been awarded WIS Scholarships. The conference gave these Graduate students a chance to learn next-generation sequencing technology, understand the importance of soil community studies, and network with scientists from universities and national labs all over the country.



LSMCE Conference:

The Louis Stokes Midwest Center of Excellence (LSMCE) Annual Conference was held from October 23rd to 25th in Indianapolis. Alanna Griffin and Terry Torres Cruz,



Women in Science students from the biology department, attended the conference entitled Accelerating Diverse Talent Along the STEM Pipeline. Terry Torres Cruz also had the opportunity to present a poster on her heavy metal tolerant fungi research. The students had the opportunity to attend student professional development workshops, keynote presentations by successful minorities in STEM disciplines, discussion panels, and had the chance to network with students and faculty from other universities around the country.

Illinois Mosquito and Vector Control Association Conference at University of Illinois

Students from Dr. Miller-Hunts Vector Biology team will be attending the IMVCA conference November 19 to the 20th. Michele Rehbein and Sarah Warren are entered in the student competition and will give oral presentation on their current research. Michele and Sarah will each give a 10 min presentation on their current research. They will be competing against 4 student presenters from University of Illinois. This is a great opportunity to really let our Western pride show as two of our Women in Science members show off their exceptional work in Vector Biology. Michele works with mosquitoes and the abundance of West Nile Virus in rural counties. Sarah is currently working on the abundance of ticks and will be conducting studies of the presence of disease in three different species. We wish them the best of luck at this upcoming conference and know that they will do great.