

PRE-PROFESSIONAL NEWSLETTER

MSU

College of Natural Science

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Upcoming Events

- Summer Research Workshop 10/26/15
- Marathon of Majors 11/11/15
- Spartan Startup Career Fair 11/18/15
- Last Day of Classes 12/11/15
- Final Exams 12/14/15—12/18/15

WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

Western Michigan University's Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, (WMed), is one of the newest medical schools in the United States. The school is located in Kalamazoo, Michigan. It is home to a new facility designed specifically for medical student education. Students learn by doing in the WMed state-of-the-art simulation center, and can stay in shape in the on-site fitness center.

As in most new schools, class size is small, so students can easily receive individual attention and get to know the faculty and fellow students well. Teaching involves team-based, simulation-based, and case-based learning, as well as interactive lectures. This allows students to learn by application to real patients

with real health problems. As an added bonus, students can begin to explore career options with elective experiences beginning in their first year! The curriculum also provides first year students with three weeks during the first semester to ensure a successful transition into medical school. The program's curriculum is divided into two phases: Foundations of Medicine (years 1 & 2) and Clinical Applications (years 3 & 4).

For more information, please visit <http://www.med.wmich.edu/> or stop in to see your pre-professional advisor!

Meet Your Advisor: Kendra Pyle, BMB and Plant Biology

Q: Where did you attend college?

I completed my bachelor's degree in biology and anthropology at Western Michigan University, and my master's degree in biology, with an emphasis on animal behavior, at the University of Pennsylvania.

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Chris's Corner

Hi students! It is hard to believe that it is already October! Many of you participated in the multiple career fairs that took place on MSU's campus over the last few weeks, including the **Science, Agriculture, Food, Environment, and Health Career Fair**, at which over 120 companies recruited students like you for various internships and job opportunities. But if you were not able to attend those career fairs, or you are still hoping to connect with other companies over the next few months – have no fear – there will be other opportunities.

For students who are interested in start-ups, you can check out the **Spartan Startup Career Fair** on November 18th, from 11am – 2pm at the MSU Innovation Center (325 E. Grand River Avenue, East Lansing). Pizza will be provided. You should also save the dates for these two dynamic career events designed for MSU science students taking place next semester:

Science & Health Career Boot Camp – Saturday, February 20, 2016

This is an ideal event for freshmen and sophomores interested in meeting successful NatSci alumni and learning more about companies and possible career paths in science and health.

Science Blast! – Wednesday, March 16, 2016

This fun event provides an informal and relaxed setting for students in the sciences wishing to connect with local and regional companies to learn more about internships and career opportunities in their respective industries.

Should you have more specific questions about your internship search, don not forget you can schedule an appointment with me using the [Advisors Calendar system](#).

Cheers to a great fall semester!

Chris

Make an appointment with Chris, your pre-professional advisor, or your major advisor through the Advisor Appointment System :

<http://www.egr.msu.edu/adcalender/adviser/meetings.do>



Chris Sell, College of
Natural Science Internship
Coordinator

Meet Your Advisor: Kendra Pyle, BMB and Plant Biology (*continued*)**Q: What was your favorite experience in college?**

My two favorite college experiences were a summer archeology field school in Little Rock, Arkansas and studying vervet and patas monkeys during a month-long primatology field course at the Mpala Research Centre in Kenya.

Q: What was your proudest moment?

My proudest moment was presenting my honor's college thesis, "Getting to the Point: The Dart-Arrow Transition in Plum Bayou Culture" at the Southeastern Archeological Conference.

Q: What is your favorite part of being an academic advisor?

I enjoy meeting with students, learning about their interests and future plans, and helping them find opportunities, such as undergraduate research, internships, or study abroad programs, to further their academic experiences or career pursuits.

Meet The Faculty: Dr. Kirstin Parkin, Immunology

Dr. Parkin teaches Immunology out of the department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics.

Q: Where have you gone to school?

I received my BS in Biology from University of Michigan – 1995 & I received my PhD in Immunology from Loyola University Chicago - 2002

Q: What inspired you to study immunology?

I love the way the immune system integrates and communicates with every other system in the body. As I like to tell my students, the immune response is like a party. All the cells are communicating with each other and have different roles...and if there are too many or the "wrong" cells in a location (such as allergies), then there is unnecessary tissue damage (the house is a wreck!). On the other hand, if there are not enough "guests" at the party (such as an infection in an immunodeficient patient), then there is also a problem. It is also a young science and we still have so much to learn, especially about the communication between the gut microbiota and the mucosal associated leukocytes. There is growing evidence that the interaction between those two populations of cells affects tissues and organs far beyond the intestinal tract, including the brain.



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Meet The Faculty (*continued*)

Q: Think back to your favorite professor, what made them great?

That's easy...there was one professor who made undergrad worthwhile for me. I took a course in Holocaust literature from Dr. Ralph Williams. Before then, I studied to get good grades...but in his class and afterwards, I studied to learn. I had never met someone with so much passion for one subject. He drew from many different sources and used a variety of techniques (including opera singing!) to try his best and help us connect with the material. He reminded me of a great chef who created an amazing dish and just wanted everyone else to taste it and be able to recreate it themselves so they could continue to enjoy it beyond the meal they had in the restaurant. Like Dr. Williams, I want my students to continue enjoying the art of scientific think-

ing beyond the walls of my classroom.

Q: What was your favorite undergraduate class?

As far as the instructor was concerned... Holocaust Literature. But for content...it was immunology without a doubt. Love at first cytokine...

Q: What is your favorite thing about Michigan State?

That's easy...the students. They are so diverse in their motivation, their past experiences, their communication skills, their future goals, etc... Each day I learn something new about how they think about life and the world around them, and I love it! If I won the lottery tomorrow, nothing would change as far as my teaching is concerned...but I would finally book our family trip to

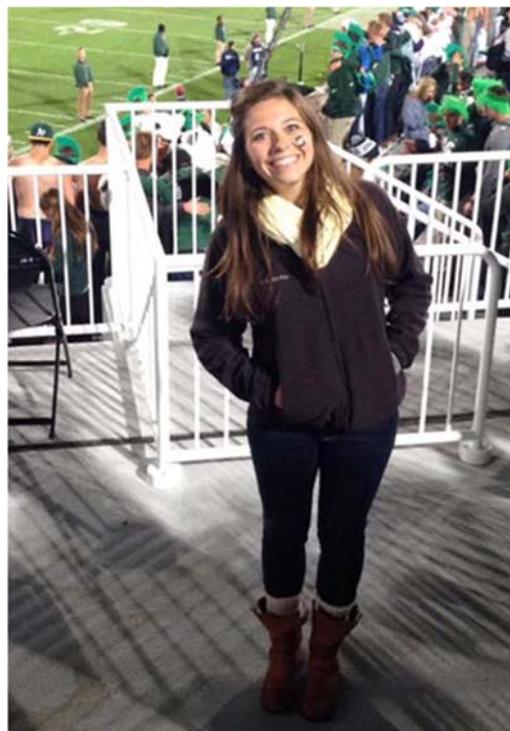
Student Spotlight: Taylor Papp

Taylor is a senior majoring in Human Biology with a minor in Psychology! Continue reading to learn more about her co-curricular activities and future plans!

Q: Which type of professional school are you pursuing?

I am looking to go to PA school after graduation. I love the PA profession because you have a lot of similar duties compared to a doctor, but more flexibility within the job, and you also get to spend more time with your patients.

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Student Spotlight (*continued*)

Q: What has been your favorite experience at MSU?

So far, my favorite experience at MSU was the MSU victory over U of M back in 2013 when U of M had -48 rushing yards and lost to us 26-9.

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time I love to run and binge-watch fictional crime TV shows on Netflix (Bones and Criminal Minds are my favorites).

Q: Why did you choose to attend MSU?

I chose to come to MSU because I love the big college feel. I love how big game days are and the passion that the students, faculty, and alumni have for this school. When I'm on vacation or back in my hometown and wearing MSU gear, I always get a "Go Green!" MSU is a great school with fantastic opportunities for every student, and I'm so glad I am able to be a part of this amazing community.

Q: What are some tips you could share with other preprofessional students?

Get familiar with the area of work you want to do. If you know you want to work at a hospital (as a doctor, PA, NP, etc.) make sure you find ways to volunteer or work in a hospital. It will not only be helpful when choosing a medical profession, but it will also give you a first-hand look at what to expect and you can build some great relationships with other medical professionals in the process.

Student Poll

Where is your favorite study spot for fall midterms?

- A. Main Library
- B. MSU Union
- C. Home
- D. On-Campus Cafeteria
- E. Study Lounge in Residence Hall

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/33BYMBN>



Best Study Spots

Everybody has their own favorite study spots, but with midterms coming up, maybe you are looking to mix it up. Study locations are usually preference based, but rather than trial and error, hopefully this article will give you a little insight into the benefits of different spots on campus. If you are looking for an ultra-quiet place to study, a little known great place is the east side of the Main Library. The entire east side is a quiet study area, so while it will not work for group study, it is awesome for powering through material on your own. There are even bathrooms close by, and plenty of drinking fountains. It is a bit of a hike to Sparty's, but well worth the silence. If silent studying is not your thing, the Union is a great atmosphere. Bigby is nearby, and there is plenty of food in the Union Square food court. Unfortunately, the Union closes at 2, so if you are a night owl this is perhaps not the place for you. If you are living off campus it is sometimes easy to forget about the residential halls, but they can also be a great place to study. One of my favorites was Holmes because they have giant whiteboards in the basement, but McDonel and some other halls also have some neat study areas. This is a great option for between classes, since most of the halls are open to even off campus students. One of the biggest issues I need to combat while I am studying is staying off my phone, so if this is you I would suggest the basement of the Business Library. For the most part, the cell service down there is spotty at best, which makes it easier to just power off and focus. Good luck with midterms, Spartans!

Check Us Out on the Web!

Facebook, Twitter and Blogs:

NatSci4U Blog

<https://natsci.msu.edu/students/blog/>

MSU PreHealth Facebook

<http://facebook.com/MSUPreHealth>

NatSci Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MSUCNS>

Twitter for MSU Preprofessional Students

http://twitter.com/msu_preprof

Twitter for NatSci Students

http://twitter.com/msu_preprof

Additional Resources:

Preprofessional Student Website

<https://natsci.msu.edu/students/preprofessional/>

Undergraduate Student Resources

<https://natsci.msu.edu/academics/undergraduate/degree-programs/>

Career Exploration

<https://natsci.msu.edu/students/career/>

Study Abroad

<https://natsci.msu.edu/academics/undergraduate/study-abroad/>