

May 2nd
10:00-10:50 am
URSCA in the Natural Sciences
Carnegie Hall 105
Hannah Fischer '18, Chemistry (Mentor Ryan Van Horn)
Megan Arnold '19, Biochemistry (Mentors Lisa Whitenack and Anthony Hessel)

Description of the panel:

Students in this session will present research in the natural sciences. The first project by Hannah Fischer is entitled *Time-Dependent Release of Methylene Blue from Polymer Films for the Prevention of Anaphylaxis*. The second project by Megan Arnold is entitled *Investigating the Molecular Mechanisms of Muscle Contraction Using Electron Microscopy*. The audience will have the opportunity to talk with the students about how they got involved in this work and what advice they have for others who may be interested in developing similar projects. Read more about the topic of these papers here.

Additional Information about the Projects:

Hannah Fischer, *Time-Dependent Release of Methylene Blue from Polymer Films for the Prevention of Anaphylaxis*: I have been working in Dr. Van Horn's lab since the summer of 2016. My project involves working with various polymer (plastic) films and incorporating a dye called methylene blue into them. I study the release of the dye from the film when it is submerged in water, and the rate at which the dye is released is my main focus of study. The application of my work is biomedical; the polymers I use are biodegradable, so the human body is able to break them down. The dye that I use has anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) preventative and treating properties. Most people know somebody who is affected by anaphylaxis, so I believe that my work would interest them and potentially even inspire some to try research.

Megan Arnold, *Investigating the Molecular Mechanisms of Muscle Contraction Using Electron Microscopy*: I used electron microscopy to examine the role of a molecule called titin in muscle contraction and force development. This better understanding of muscle contraction will lead to the development of more efficient and accurate prosthetics for patients. I was able to spend last summer working with Anthony because of funding in the gateway. I was also able to set up my own independent study at Allegheny to finish collecting data for my project. My experience highlights multiple aspects of the research opportunities available at Allegheny: collaboration among multiple fields of study (biology, physics, chemistry and computer science), opportunities to create your own independent study, and incredible support and guidance from faculty, the URSCA office, and the gateway, among other offices on campus.

Panel D *Community Efforts to Increase Food Security in Meadville*
Carnegie Hall 110 Students: Hannah Blinn, Darby Anderson, Sarah Nathan, Madeleine
Zimmermann; Mentors: Kerstin Martin, Taylor Hinton, David Washousky,
Brittany Davis, Andrew Bloeser

Under the Community Wellness Initiative (CWI), students have been able to participate in community-based work addressing food insecurity in Meadville. Three major projects have been conducted where student participation has been integral. Students working with the MARC Community Garden have interviewed community members on their experiences in the garden. We have documented positive social, economic, environmental, and health benefits of this

project from these interviews. Student interns and senior compers have also been involved at the middle school, writing, teaching, and sharing garden-based education lessons to promote the Farm-to-School movement in local school districts. The French Creek Food Hub project has allowed students to survey local residents on food access, involve computer science and communication arts students in web design and branding, and student researchers have helped design a mobile food market that will be visiting Meadville neighborhoods this spring delivering locally grown foods.

Panel E
Carnegie 112 The New York Arts Program: A Study Away Semester in New York City
Students: Jonathan Yee, Elizabeth Person, and Jeremy Loewer;
Facilitators: Allegheny Study Away Office and the New York Arts Program

The NYAP provided us with the opportunity for hands on experience in the fine arts field while also allowing us to experience life in New York City. We would like to increase awareness in the Allegheny Community about this unique program for Arts students by sharing our experiences and answering questions for students who may want to participate in the future.

11:00-11:50 **Gateway Spotlight Session** (possible spaces below)

Panel A
CC 206 Student Service Leader Corps
Civic Engagement, Bethany Cocchi facilitator

Civic Engagement at Allegheny College is driven by student service leaders. This year we have over 70 service leaders who partner with local agencies and mobilize other students to make an impact in the community beyond campus. This corps of leaders comprises Allegheny Volunteer Service Leaders, Bonner Service Leaders, and Davies Service Leaders. A representative from each of these groups will share their experiences and what they have learned.

Panel B
CC 301 Study Away Experiences
International Education, Lenee McCandless facilitator

Interested in exploring another area of the world and experiencing a new culture? Come hear about the experiences of Allegheny students who studied away in Belgium, China, Morocco, and Germany. Learn about what they did on a daily basis, how their language skills improved, academic credit they earned while abroad, where they lived, and new friendships they made both in and outside of the classroom. Students will also share about the benefits of study abroad, advice for the application process, explain how they funded their experiences, and how they imagine it will impact their future plans.

Panel C
CC 302 Global Citizen Scholars program
Civic Engagement, Dave Roncolato and Laura Reeck facilitators

The Global Citizen Scholars program is a selective curricular and co-

curricular three-year educational program of the Gateway that integrates civic engagement, diversity and global learning. The panel will consist of volunteers from our first cohort. Come to learn about this new program and how to connect with this Gateway initiative. You will be inspired!"

Panel D
CC 303

The IDEAS Center History Project
IDEAS Center, Darnell Eps facilitator

Want to learn more about Allegheny College's history of underrepresented students and faculty? If so, join Christopher David Miller, IDEAS Center Historian Intern, for an informative presentation highlighting some of Allegheny's very own hidden figures. He will answer questions such as, "Who were the first students of color to enroll and graduate from Allegheny and what did they do afterward?" and "What is the history of diversity organizations here on campus?" Miller will also present some of his own thoughts regarding Allegheny's commitment to diversity both historically and at the present moment.

Panel E
Pelletier Collaboratory

"Alumni Stories: Foreign Language Study Took Me Places"
Professor Barbara Riess, Chair, Department of Modern and Classical Languages
Jim Fitch, Career Education facilitators

Dynamic Allegheny alumni return to share how their language study informs and contributes to their career development. This session caters to students pursuing languages or International Studies as well as international and bi-lingual students at Allegheny who may be pondering life beyond graduation. [Students must register to attend.](#)

Unused spaces: Carn 101, Carn 110, Carn 101, Carn 112, Carn 105

12:00-1:00

LUNCH--no programming

12:00*

Student poster presenters set-up

1:00-2:15

Celebration Day Keynotes, Tillotson Room in Tippie Center
URSCA Address, Senior Presentations, and Library Research Awards

2:15-3:45

Senior Poster Session, Pelletier Library/Gateway

4:00

Honors Convocation, Ford Chapel

5:00

Celebration Day Reception, Pelletier Library/Gateway