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West Texas A&M University
Alumni Association eNewsletter
September 2016



WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION *e*NEWSLETTER

let's catch up.
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Ones to Watch

She's overwhelmed and humbled by the generosity of so many at West Texas A&M University, but Laura Schulze definitely deserves some credit. She landed a summer internship with the Biomedical Research Immersion and Diversity for Graduate Education (BRIDGE) program at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Schulze, a junior biology and pre-medicine major from Hereford served as the BRIDGE program's first intern. She's also an undergraduate selected to participate in a program designed for graduate students. And it's no wonder that Texas A&M faculty members interviewing her for the internship were impressed with the premise of her research. Her focus during the two-month summer internship was her own research project: Genomic Effects of Bovine Respiratory Diseases on Cattle Myocardium.



“I’m just an undergraduate, so for them to take my research into their lab is remarkable, exciting, and scary at the same time,” Schulze said. “It was a wonderful opportunity with such a wonderful school. Working with Dr. (David) Threadgill and having help from other amazing professors was quite remarkable.”

It’s a pretty hefty topic for an undergraduate, but the idea for her research began two years ago while working as a medical intern at the Amarillo Heart Group. Heart surgery, heart catheters, and electrophysiology studies kindled her interest, and a genetics course and molecular cytogenetic class at WTAMU later confirmed her idea for research on myocardium, the muscular substance of the heart. Schulze contacted WTAMU’s Department of Agriculture to see if she could start dissecting cattle hearts left over from harvests, and that’s when her research began in earnest.

“There is not a corner of this university that hasn’t stepped up to help me,” Schulze said. “I found my village again—right here at WTAMU.”

When Schulze shared her idea for the research with Dr. Dean Hawkins, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences, he encouraged her to apply for the BRIDGE internship. She then began working with eight WTAMU professors on the project to analyze the interatrial septum and the lung tissues to find the correlation and/or cause of bovine respiratory diseases in relation to bovine sudden cardiac death.

“Laura is a force of nature,” said Dr. Rocky Ward, associate professor of biology and co-chair of Schulze’s research project. “Once she decided on a line of research, she has followed every lead and hunted down every possible resource. She will succeed—watch out world.”

Schulze just completed the eight-week research-intensive program in a state-of-the-art lab in College Station. The opportunity allowed her to expand her research on the myocardial samples to look at the genetic impact of infection rates related to bovine sudden cardiac death. She now has plans to continue her research at Texas A&M in the spring as a graduate student, and she hopes her research will one day benefit human lives as well.

Schulze’s experience is evidence of the exceptional partnership between universities within The Texas A&M University System and is an example of how the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) is reaching out to serve every Texan every day.

“I think this partnership is great,” Threadgill said. “It’s exactly what we need right now. Although there is interest in expanding the CVM DVM program, the pipeline for that growth is at the undergraduate level. I think Laura is a perfect example of someone who, as a very skilled undergraduate, can grow and learn new skills that will hopefully help her in her profession for years to come.”

Buff-toberfest—Homecoming 2016 at WT

Buff-toberfest

Mark your calendars for Oct. 1-8 for a stein-raising, oom-pah-pah good time at Buff-toberfest—Homecoming 2016 at West Texas A&M University. A week of activities will kick off Oct. 1 and culminate in a 5 p.m. homecoming game Oct. 8 between the WTAMU Buffs and Kingsville Javelinas. There will be plenty on tap—Pigskin Revue, a Maroon Block Party and fireworks, Buff-tober Festival, on-campus parade, reunions, tailgates and much more. Check out the **schedule** and plan to join the fun at Buff-toberfest at WT.

Celebrating Kimbrough



Do you have photos of Kimbrough Memorial Stadium? The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum is looking for photos of the WT stadium for a PPHM exhibit during Homecoming Week Oct. 1-8. The photos can be of the stadium itself or ones taken at the venue of sporting events, band camp, concerts, etc. The photos should be no smaller than 4x6 and no larger than 8x10 and labeled with full name, phone number,

email address and classification and major if a WT student. Photos will not be returned.

*Submissions will be accepted beginning Sept. 10 through Sept. 25 via email at **sbiffle@pphm.wtamu.edu** or mailed to Samantha Biffle, PPHM, 2503 Fourth Ave., WTAMU Box 60967, Canyon, Texas 79016.*

A Message Regarding NCAA Football Probation

West Texas A&M University athletics is informing the university community that the football program has undergone an NCAA investigation into violations committed in 2012, 2013 and 2014 by coaches who are no longer employed by WTAMU.

On March 23, 2016, the NCAA Division II Committee on Infractions (COI) released its report on the WTAMU football program. The COI determined that the former WTAMU head football coach provided impermissible benefits to two student-athletes. He subsequently engaged in unethical conduct and failed to promote an atmosphere for compliance when he provided false information during the investigation and also asked student-athletes to provide false information regarding the benefits he had provided them. The COI also determined that a former WTAMU assistant coach (AC1) provided impermissible benefits to student-athletes and engaged in unethical conduct when he gave false information during the investigation. Additionally, the COI cited another former WTAMU assistant coach (AC2) who did not report academic misconduct when he learned that a football student-athlete completed coursework for a teammate.

The investigative process began in December 2012 when the WTAMU athletics department received information of possible impermissible benefits violations committed by AC1 and began an in-house investigation with the assistance of the Lone Star Conference. AC1 resigned his position with the University in January 2013 to take a head coaching position with another NCAA member school. Upon the conclusion of the initial investigation in May 2013, WTAMU reported major and secondary infractions to the NCAA and self-imposed penalties on the football program, including a one-year off-campus recruiting ban for the former head football coach, forfeiture of performance incentives by the 2012-13 football staff and a reduction of two football scholarships for the 2013-14 season. Subsequently, additional major infractions were committed by the former head football coach in July 2013 and August 2013. As a result, the former head football coach was relieved of his coaching duties in August 2013 and the new infractions were reported to the NCAA in September 2013.

For these violations, the former head coach and AC1 each received two-year show

cause orders from the NCAA. Further, the former head coach was suspended indefinitely from all off-campus recruiting and AC1 will be limited in his current duties as head coach, including an NCAA-mandated suspension.

In June 2014, two student-athletes engaged in academic fraud when one completed coursework for another. AC2 learned of the misconduct during the summer of 2014 and failed to report it to the athletics department, which learned of the fraud in October 2014 and immediately reported to the NCAA and suspended the two student-athletes. WTAMU also nullified all games and vacated wins in which the academically ineligible student-athlete participated. For this violation, AC2 received a two-year show cause order from the NCAA.

In addition to the self-imposed penalties enacted by WTAMU, the COI placed the football program on three years of probation that will end on March 22, 2019. The program will also have a reduction of 3.51 scholarships for the 2016 season only.

WTAMU continues to be eligible to participate in the NCAA Division II football playoffs each year and remains steadfastly committed to athletic and academic excellence in each of its 17 varsity sports.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this information you may contact Michael McBroom, Director of Athletics at 806-651-4402 or Paul Sweetgall, Associate Athletics Director for Compliance at 806-651-4437. The NCAA Public Report can be found by clicking "NCAA Infractions Report" at GoBuffsGo.com.



The fall semester got off to a great start with the arrival of the University's 11th president, Dr. Walter Wendler, and his wife Mary. They arrived on campus and immediately went to work, welcoming students on move-in day, participating in Buff Branding activities and meeting faculty and staff members. We are happy to have Dr. Wendler and Mary here and welcome them to the WT family.

From the Director

Dear Buff Family,

The fall semester is upon us. Students have moved in, our newest Buffs are getting settled and classes have begun. Whether it's anticipating the on-campus opening of Sharky's Burritos or the new Ag Complex groundbreaking, there is something to be excited about everywhere you turn.



We invite you to get in on the fun. Send a Buff Box to a new student living in your old dorm. That's right – it's your chance to be nostalgic and pay it forward at the same time.

Each box is filled with treats for those late nights of studying, plenty of WT swag—and of course WT's famous buffalo cookies. Buff Boxes will be delivered in late September. The best part—you can include a note to our newest Buffs. Offer a word of encouragement, share a memory or wish them well at WT. Visit buffalum.com/buffbox to learn more and welcome our newest Buffs to campus.

Becky Stogner
Executive Director

Upcoming Events

Sept. 10
Ag Day

Sept. 15
President's Circle Kick-Off Event

Sept. 22

Old Main Society Induction and Dinner

Sept. 24

Bufs vs. Tarleton alumni tailgate and football game, Kimbrough Stadium

Oct. 7

Golden and Diamond Buff Reunion, honoring the Classes of 1956 and 1966, 4-6 p.m. reception, 6-8 p.m. dinner. All alumni from 1954 to 1968 are welcome to attend and celebrate. For more information, call 806-651-2312.

Oct. 8

WT Homecoming, **Buff-toberfest**, festival, vendors, parade, Alumni Open House, football and more.

Visit the **University calendar** for a complete schedule of campus events.

Visit **GoBufsGo** for complete schedule of WT athletic events.



WTAMU Alumni Association 102 N 25th Street, Canyon TX 79016
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