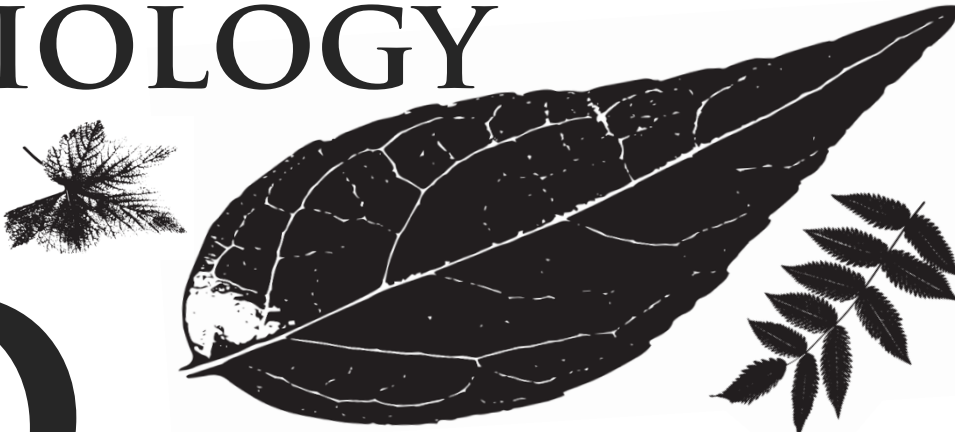
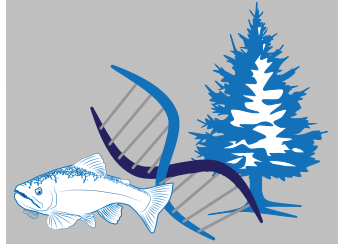


# BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT



2017

FALL  
NEWSLETTER

# WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY

## *Greetings from the Chair*

Dear Alumni, Friends, and Family of Westfield State Biology,

We began the year in sadness, mourning the death of our colleague, Dr. Buzz Hoagland. As a member of our department for more than twenty years, he is dearly missed by all. We pay tribute to Dr. Hoagland in this issue and will continue to honor his legacy by supporting undergraduate research. We started a new research award in his name and we hope to provide funding for students to conduct field research for years to come.

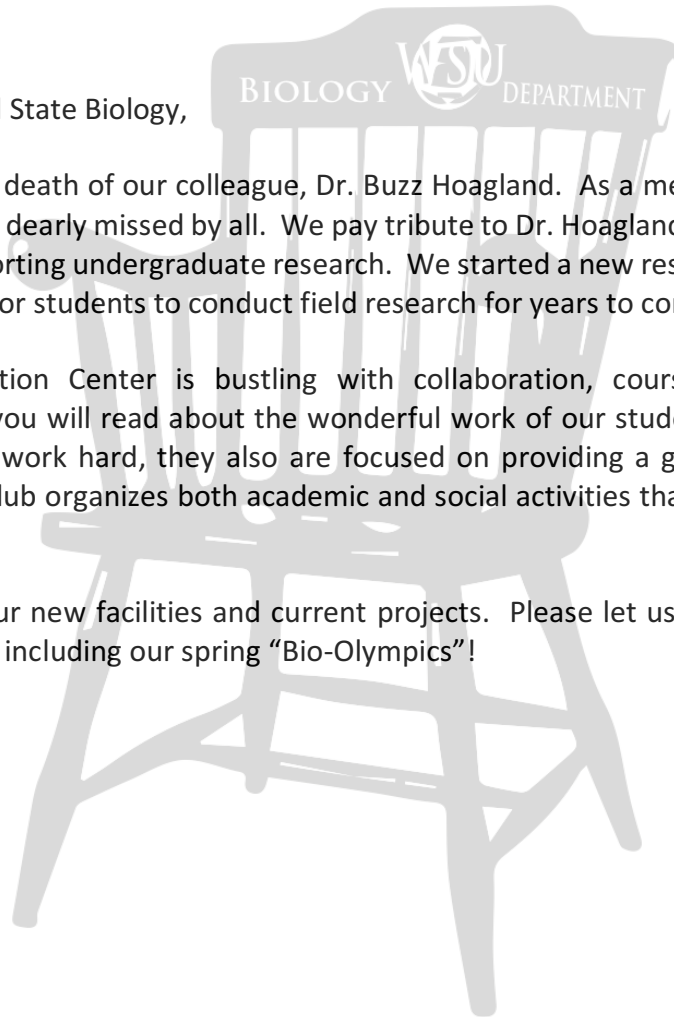
The Nettie M. Stevens Science & Innovation Center is bustling with collaboration, coursework, and undergraduate research. In this newsletter, you will read about the wonderful work of our students, faculty, and staff. Not only do our biology majors work hard, they also are focused on providing a great student experience for all. The student-led Biology Club organizes both academic and social activities that truly make the student experience a memorable one!

Please visit us soon – we love to show off our new facilities and current projects. Please let us know if you would like to participate in any of our events, including our spring “Bio-Olympics”!

All the best,

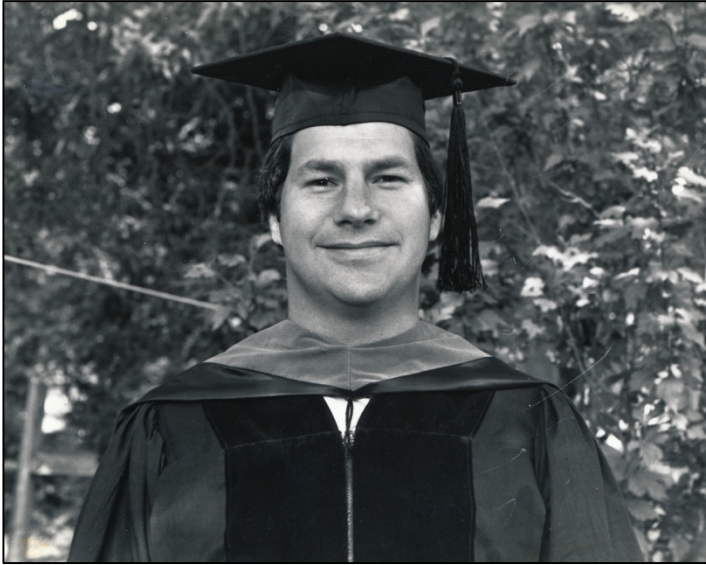
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*In Memorium*

## Donald “Buzz” Hoagland, Ph.D.



**Dr. Donald “Buzz” Hoagland** was born on March 10, 1955 in Adams, New York. Dr. Hoagland received his B.A. at the State University in N.Y. and went on to earn his Masters of Science at Northern Arizona University specializing in mammalian population biology and ecology. At the University of Vermont, he earned his Ph.D. in evolutionary genetics in 1988.



In 1994 Buzz joined the Biology Department at Westfield State University. He taught several introductory courses for non-biology majors such as Biology Today and Human Biology. He also taught Introduction to Cellular, Molecular, and Developmental Biology, Research Experience, and Genetics.



His enthusiasm for biology and learning was infectious to both his students and his peers. He was interested in the “Biology of Everything”, always ready to have a conversation with a student or a colleague. He served as a mentor to new faculty, always ready to help with new teaching methods or ideas. In addition to his role as teacher and mentor, he served the Biology Department as Chair from 2013-2016. He served on a number of committees such as the Biology Department Curriculum Committee (2004-2017), IACUC (2009-2015), AUC (2015-2016), as well as President of the Westfield MSCA (2012-2015).



Over the course of his career in the Biology Department, Buzz contributed not only to undergraduate coursework, but field research as well. His work in St. Croix contributed to the field of genetics and population biology of the Indian mongoose. On the island he was known as the “Mongoose Man”. His work was published in such journals as the Journal of Mammalogy. His enthusiasm for his research inspired others and he often took both students and faculty with him to learn new techniques and field work during his yearly trips to St. Croix.



Over the course of 23 years, Buzz was an integral part of both Biology Department and Westfield State University. He loved bicycling, basketball, cross-country skiing, hiking and backpacking, snorkeling, birding, and homebrewing. Always the consummate scientist, he kept notebooks on his homebrewing recipes.

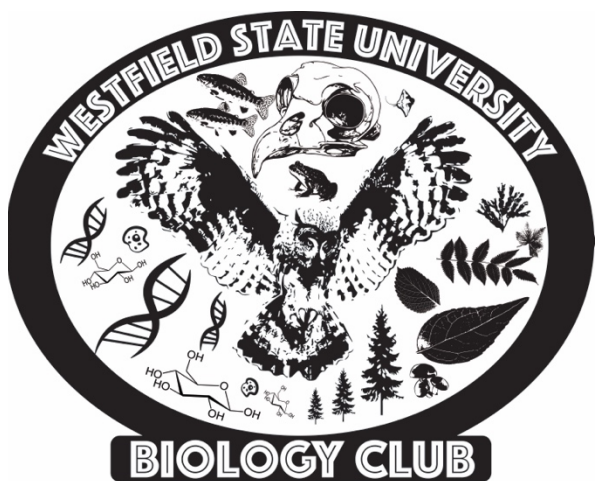
Always curious, always the teacher, always the scientist.

This past summer, we had to say farewell to this amazing man. He was a teacher, scientist, father and, most importantly, friend to us all. He will be dearly missed, but will always be remembered and his legacy of teaching will live on.

To honor the memory of Dr. Hoagland’s exceptional contribution to student field research, a scholarship was designated in his memory: The Dr. Donald “Buzz” Hoagland Student Research Award was established by the Westfield State Foundation. Donations to the award can be made online by visiting [www.westfieldalumni.org/make-a-gift](http://www.westfieldalumni.org/make-a-gift) or sent to: Westfield State Foundation, PO BOX 1630, Westfield MA 01085



Photos provided by: Dr. Julian Fleron



**The Biology Club** at Westfield State University allows students to participate in fun-themed biology activities, interact with other students, and learn about exciting careers in the biology field.



Every fall, we are invited to the Springfield College Anatomy Laboratory (above), where we are allowed hand-on experience with dissected cadavers.

In addition to field trips, the Biology Club is heavily involved in on-campus activities. Last year, we volunteered to help with the second annual “*Fresh Check*”, a campus-wide event to promote mental health awareness, and “*Know at Your Limit*”, where students learn the importance of alcohol consumption. us and join the Biology Club today!

To support our activities, we organize several fundraisers that include movie nights, plant and bake sales. For those graduating, the Biology Club concludes their exciting year by hosting a Senior Brunch. If you want to become more involved in the community and have fun, contact the BioClub advisors and join!



In the spring, we go whale watching in the Boston Harbor, or visit the Botanical Gardens and Bronx Zoo in New York City (above).



In the spring, the Biology Club participates in Relay for Life, an event to raise money and awareness of cancer. This year, we are hosting our second annual Bio-Olympics, a fun competition to test our laboratory skills.

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**Join the Biology Club Today!**

# BIO-OLYMPICS

Are your scientific skills enough to bring home the gold?! Well then...you should enter the second annual Bio-Olympics held in the new Nettie Stevens Science and Innovation Building this upcoming Spring! Alumni teams are welcomed!

Highlights from the first annual Bio-Olympics include events that challenge both scientific knowledge and proper laboratory technique, such as...



The Pipetting Challenge



The Microscopy Challenge



The Anatomical Relay



The Lab Safety Gear Relay



The Optimal Foraging Challenge

Last year's Bio-Olympics was a great success! We need you to make this year's even better!

**Compete in the BIO-OLYMPICS!**



**The Nettie M. Stevens Science and Innovation Center**

Last year saw the opening of The Nettie M. Stevens Science and Innovation Center. It has been bustling with activity. Here are a few highlights.

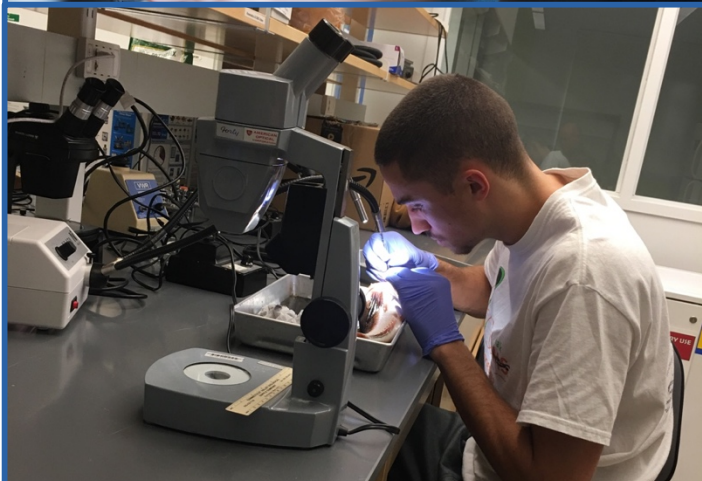


**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**



**Pathways to Excellence Event**

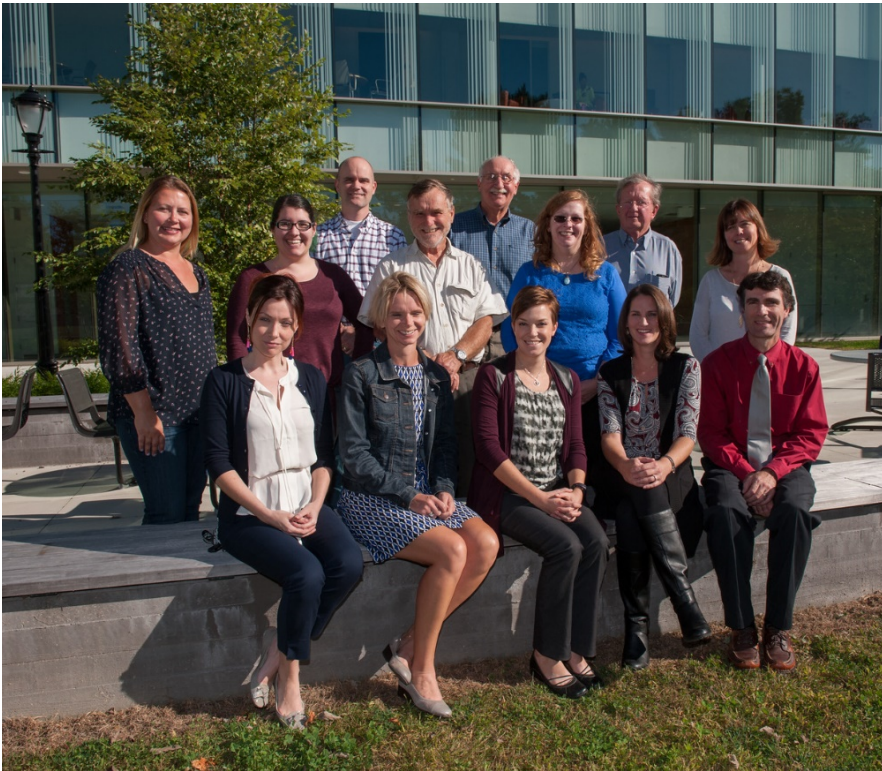
The many teaching classrooms and research laboratories have opened the doors for new and innovative courses and provided new areas for student research.



Not to mention it is also a nice place to just hang out!



# Biology Department Faculty and Staff



*The Biology Department consists of thirteen full-time faculty and several parttime faculty and adjuncts.*

*Top row: C. Kowalski, S. Tomas, Dr. Christensen, Dr. Lovejoy, Dr. Doe, Dr. Darling, R. Thompson, Dr. Hanselman (Chair of the Biology Department).*

*Bottom Row: Dr. Porter, Dr. McKeown, Dr. White, Dr. Pouliot, and Dr. Grobe.*

**Full-time faculty and staff absent from photo: \*Dr. Ramsay,**

**●Dr. Parshall, M. Masse.**

*\*Can be seen on page 5*

*●Can be seen on page 6*

## Where are they now?

Here is a snapshot of some careers our recent biology alumni are currently pursuing:

### **Robert Brodeur**

Biology Teacher (Cathedral High School)

### **Eric Frary**

Biology and Environmental Science Teacher

### **Kristen Fuller**

Optometry Program at Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Science (MCPHS)

### **Katie Hebert**

Biology Teacher (Paulo Friere School for Social Justice)

### **Lenny Holmes**

Professor of Biochemistry at UNC Pembroke

### **Kayla King**

Masters Program, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

### **John Liptak**

Environmental Assessment (NH)

### **Chris Patenaude**

Physician Assistant Program

### **James Scripter**

National Institute of Health



## What is in Nettie's Net!

So....you know all there is about the living things around you, HUH! Well then, can you guess what type of animal is caught in Nettie Stevens' net?

*Here are your clues:*

I am a member of the gnathostomes. I am also a vertebrate, tetrapod and an amniote. I can be found in marine, aquatic and terrestrial environments. My anatomy is very strange, because my shoulder-blades are inside my ribcage! I also cannot move my ribs when I breath. I have no teeth. Instead, my jaws are covered with the same material that your fingernails are made of. If I swim I either use quadrupedal rowing or forelimb oscillation.

**What am I?**



# Fall Events



## Life Sciences Professional Networking Night

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

5:30-7:30pm in Scanlon Banquet Hall

**Come meet professionals working in their field!**

*List of attendees: Wildlife Biologist, Chiropractor, Toxicologist, Pharmacist, Environmental Police, Nutritional Biochemist, Biology Teacher, Research Scientists, Physician Assistant, Veterinarian, Entomologist, Geneticist, Regional Planner, Medical Technician, and Lab Manager.*

### Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (CURCA) Fall Celebration

Friday, December 1, 2017 1:30-4pm in the Nettie M. Stevens Science and Innovation Center

**Come see all the exciting research our Biology students are doing!**

### Are you a Teacher?

Check out professional development opportunities at:

[www.westfield.ma.edu/stemoutreach](http://www.westfield.ma.edu/stemoutreach)

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### Upcoming Spring Events

Center for Undergraduate Research  
and Creative Activities (CURCA) Spring  
Celebration, May 2018