

Microbiology

2012 Department at a Glance

Points of Pride

- James Holden was the chief U.S. Scientist for a joint deep-sea expedition of scientists from the U.S. and Indonesia that explored terrain off the Sulawesi Island in Indonesia and discovered a huge undersea volcano, Kawai Barat.
- Derek Lovley's research team discovered a cooperative behavior in anaerobic bacteria known as interspecies electron transfer. This important finding was reported in *Science* and could help to further advance biofuels research.
- Wilmore Webley's group of researchers have developed an animal model that demonstrates how chlamydia infection of the respiratory tract in early childhood may lead to asthma later in life.
- Michele Klingbeil is funded by the National Institutes of Health to study nuclear and kinetoplastid DNA replication in trypanosomes.
- Tara Mahendrarajah '12 was named a Goldwater Scholar and Evan Haupt, '13 was awarded the National Security Education Program David L. Boren Scholarship.
- Caroline Harwood '82 PhD, Professor of Microbiology at the University of Washington Seattle, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, 2009.

Education

- Wilmore Webley (2008) and Katir Patel (2011) both received the University's Distinguished Teaching Award.
- Undergraduate curriculum offers a broad background in the sciences with focused training in Microbiology in a small classroom environment.
- Undergraduates receive personalized academic advising by college- and university-recognized chief undergraduate advisor, Shelley Thibodo.
- A Fifth-Year Master's Degree option is available to Microbiology majors.
- Popular general education courses for non-majors, Biology of Cancer, and AIDS and Medical Microbiology, enroll 1,000 undergraduates annually.
- Comprehensive graduate program prepares students for successful careers in academia, industry, and government.
- PhD students have been awarded national research fellowships from organizations including the National Science Foundation, the American Society for Microbiology and the Ford Foundation.
- PhD candidates have been recognized for presentations at national conferences such as the American Society for Microbiology and the International Conference on Soils, Sediments, and Water.

Leadership & Outreach

- Faculty members serve on grant review panels, review publications for leading scientific journals, and are members in professional organizations.
- Participates in the Northeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (NEAGAP), an NSF-funded project to promote graduate education to underrepresented groups.
- Received a team grant from the University's Mutual Mentoring Program, which supports early career and underrepresented faculty members.



© Kimberly Abruzzo

By the Numbers FY11

Tenure-Track Faculty	12
Postdoctoral Fellows	20
Undergraduate Majors	184
Graduate Students	35
Research Awards	\$6,448,000

Research Areas

- Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Genomics and Systems Biology
- Medical Microbiology
- Environmental Microbiology
- Bio-Fuels and Bio-Remediation