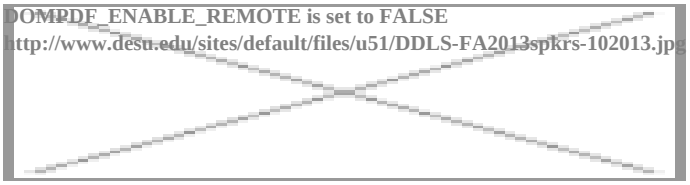
CMNST News

News

Fall 2013 Dean's Distinguished Lecturer Series speakers announced



October 20, 2013 - The Fall 2013 lineup of speakers for the CMNST Dean's Distinguished Lecturer Series has been announced by the Dean. Join us for provocative conversations, refreshments, and good company:

- **November 7 @ 11 a.m.**(technical lecture) **and 6 p.m.** (general public) - 2013 National Medal of Science awardee, **Dr. S. James Gates, Jr.**, theoretical physicist (Luna I. Mishoe Science Center South 223).
- **November 14 @ 11 a.m.**(technical lecture) - DuPont Chemical engineer, **Dr. Sergio Nanita** ?Improving Mass Spectrometry for Accurate Chemical Measurements in Physical, Environmental and Life Sciences? (Luna I. Mishoe Science Center South 223).
- **November 14 @ 6 p.m.**(general public) - State of Delaware Board of Education President and President of the Delaware STEM Council, **Dr. Teri Quinn Gray**, ?Imperative and Possibility?STEM Education for the 21st Century" (Luna I. Mishoe Science Center South 223).
- **November 19 @ 11 a.m.**(technical lecture) **and 6 p.m.** (general public) - Founder and National Director of the Calculus Project, **Dr. Adrian B. Mims**, "The African American and Latino Scholars' Calculus Project: Creating a Culture of high Academic Achievement in Mathematics" (Science Center N 139).

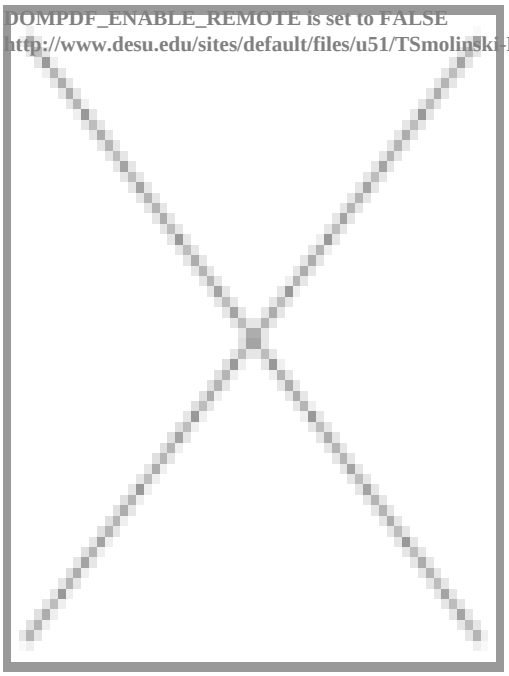
Click here for more information about the CMNST Dean's Distinguished Lecturer Series.[3]

DSU Dept of Physics and Engineering joins the APS Bridge Program

September 13, 2013 - DSU is now associated with the Amercian Physics Society Bridge Program. **The Department of Physics and Engineering** at DSU joins 36 other institutions in comprising a network committed to creating pipelines for underrepresented minorities into doctoral programs in physics and engineering. What this means for DSU Physics majors is access to a larger, connection network to provide a greater number of options to support those minority and underrepresented students seeking doctoral degrees in physics and engineering. Contact **Dr. Hacene Boukari**, Graduate Director for the Dept. of Physics and

Engineering, for more information: 302-857-6511 or hboukari@desu.edu [4]. More about the APS. [5]

CIS Faculty member and students present in Paris



September 6, 2013 - Between the 13th and 18th of July, 2013, two undergraduate students from the Department of Computer and Information Sciences at Delaware State University, **Mr. Atish Malik** and **Mr. Myles Johnson-Gray**, together with their academic advisor, **Dr. Tomasz Smolinski**, attended the 22nd Annual Computational Neuroscience Meeting (CNS*2013) in Paris, France. The CNS conference is the most prestigious meeting in the field of computational neuroscience, and every year, it gathers the greatest computational neuroscientists from all over the world. This year?s edition, which took place at the University Paris Descartes, attracted a record-breaking score of 787 attendees, and was one of the most interesting and impactful CNS meetings yet.

At the conference, Atish and Myles presented their work performed under the tutelage of Dr. Smolinski in the form of posters titled ?Multi-objective evolutionary algorithms for analysis of conductance correlations involved in recovery of bursting after neuromodulator deprivation in lobster stomatogastric neuron models? and ?Hybridization of multi-objective evolutionary algorithms and fuzzy control for automated construction, tuning, and analysis of neuronal models,? respectively. The posters were also accompanied by abstracts published in the BMC Neuroscience journal (impact factor: 3).

Myles and Atish have been working as undergraduate researchers in Dr. Smolinski?s Computational Intelligence and Bio(logical)informatics Laboratory (CIBiL) for 18 and 8 months, respectively. They are now both considering pursuing careers in science and applying to graduate school after obtaining their B.S. degrees from DSU. They both admit that the opportunity to attend the CNS meeting had a significant impact on their careers plans, as the chance to present and discuss their work with some of the greatest minds of today?s neuroscience research was a truly eye-opening and life-changing experience.

Atish and Myles have been supported by the following grants: NIH NCRR 5P20RR016472-12 and NIGMS 8P20GM103446-12, NIH NIGMS RISE R25GM089669, and NSF EPSCoR 0814251. The other students from Dr. Smolinski?s laboratory who worked on the projects presented at the CNS meeting include: Ainiah Floyd, Emlyne Forren, Parth Patel, and Kenneth Shim. (Submitted by Dr. T. Smolinski)

Dept of Energy award goes to Chemistry faculty member

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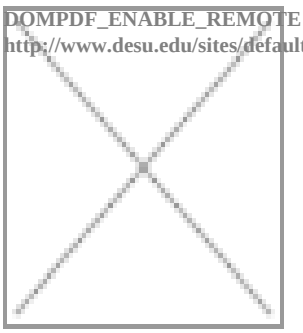

September 24,2013 - **Dr. Daniela Radu**, assistant professor in the **Department of Chemistry,** and a member of the Renewable Energy Research and Education Center, was recently awarded a grant in the amount of $326,129 by the U.S. Department of Energy. Dr. Radu's project, entitled, "High-efficiency Ultra-Thin-film Solar Cells Prepared from Low-Cost Fe-based Solution Precursors," aims to take initial steps to begin a solar research program at DSU. In addition to research, the project will also involve the development of a solar-related course to prepare students with an interest in industrial and research-related solar applications for future employment in the field.

Neuroscience Center receives grant to research spinal motor neuron diseases

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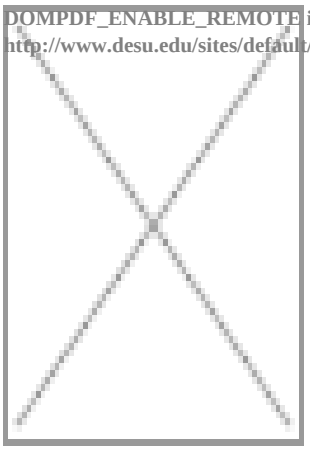


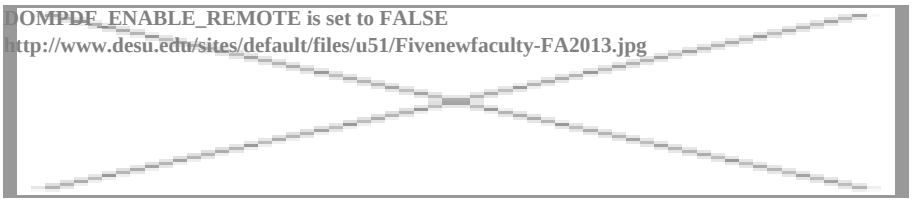
September 9, 2013 - Dr. Melissa Harrington, professor of Biological Sciences, recently was awarded a 3-year $433,645 grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to conduct research on the development of spinal motor neurons as it relates to neurodegenerative diseases such as muscular dystrophy. Read full article. [6]

Innovation Grant awards go to CMNST faculty

August 31, 2013 - Four of a total of five award recipients of the University's first-ever Innovation grants are faculty members of the College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences & Technology: Drs. Hacene Boukari

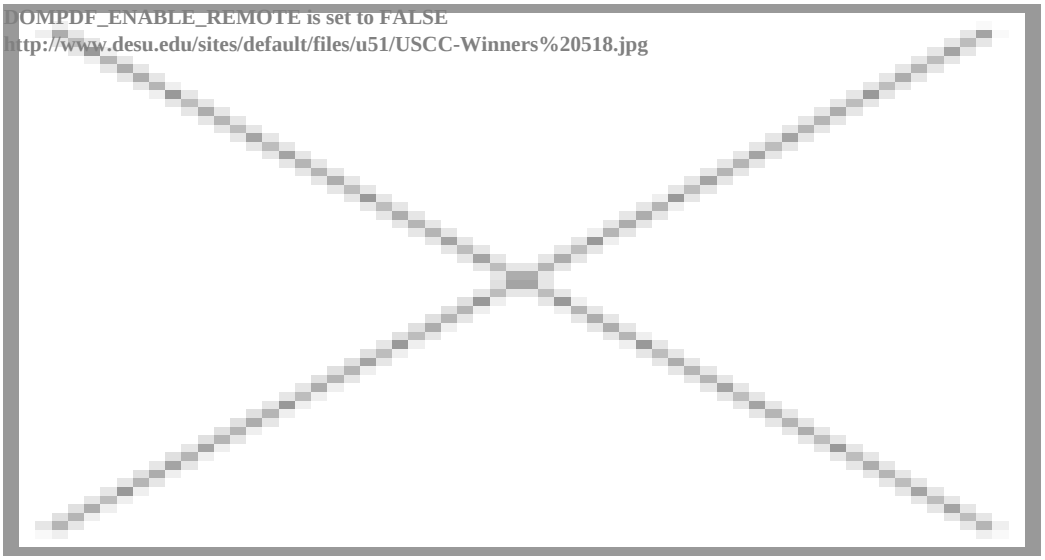
(Physics & Engineering Dept); Gary Holness (Computer & Information Sciences Dept); Mohammad Khan (Physics & Engineering Dept); and Daniela Radu (Chemistry Dept) are principal investigators of winning proposals. The Innovation Grant award is part of the PRIDE 2020 campaign launched by the Administration, awarding seed grants of $20,000 each for initiatives focusing on strategic priorities and in alignment with University goals. Read more here. [7]

CMNST announces new faculty



August 31, 2013 - This fall the CMNST is please to announce the addition of five (5) new faculty members to its roll: *Drs. Michael Gitcho (Biological Sciences Dept); Hakeem Lawal (Biological Sciences Dept); Sokratis Makrogiannis (Mathematical Sciences Dept); Deborah Santamore (Physics & Engineering Dept); and Matthew Tanzy (Mathematical Sciences)*. Collectively, these individuals provide a breadth of knowledge and expertise in their respective disciplines that will further enhance the teaching and research experiences afforded our STEM students. *Read all about them here. [8]*

DSU students part of winning Cyber Challenge Competition team



L-to-R: Dr. Hongxin Hu, advisor, Trevor Newell, Ainiah Floyd, Emlyne Forren, Priscilla Wilson, Andrew Hobbs, and Dr. Marwan Rasamny, Dept Chair, CIS)

July 12, 2013 - Five DSU computer and information science majors helped bring home a 1st place win for the University at this year's Delaware Cyber Camp (part of the U.S. Cyber Challenge summer camp, held at the Wilmington University site of the Delaware Cyber Security Boot Camp, July 8-12, 2013). Priscilla Wilson, Ainiah Floyd, Andrew Hobbs, Trevor Newell, and Emlyne Forren comprised the winning team in an online challenge to exhibit skills in combating cracked passwords, server penetrations, hijacked servers and data acquisition. This event was invitation-only and consisted of the top 47 students representing the "best and brightest in Delaware's universities and colleges, selected from hundreds of applicants, said

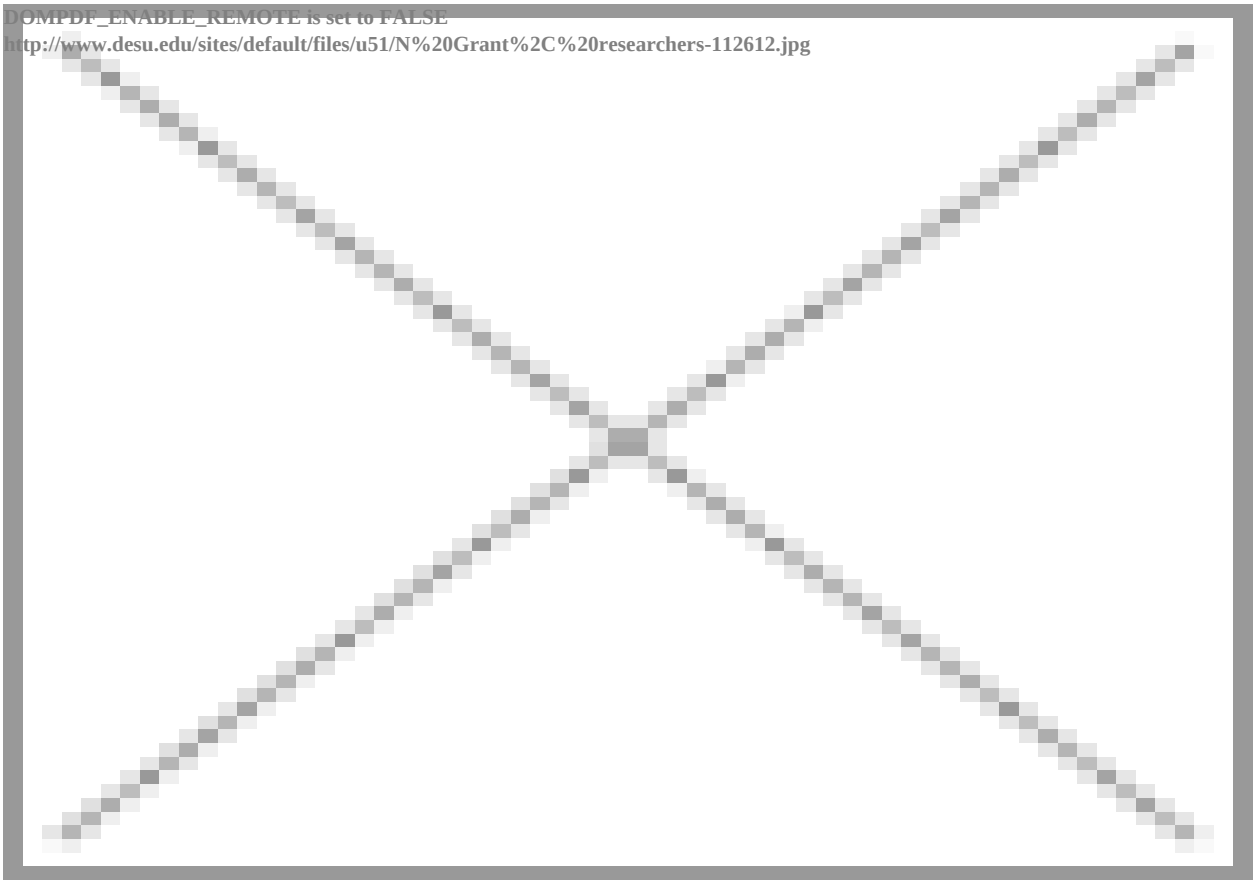
Delaware Chief Information Officer Jim Sills. Read article. [9]

CIS Dept courseware obtains National Security Agency Certification

March 15, 2013 - The Department of Computer and Information Sciences (Dr. Marwan Rasamny, Chair) recently received notification of approval of all courseware being offered through its department related to the following programs: Information Systems Security (INFOSEC) Professionals, NSTISSI 4011; and System Administrators (SA), CNSSI 4013 Entry Level.

What does this mean for DSU students? All students who take the certified courses are eligible to receive NSA approved certificates, which are highly desirable to employers, especially those hiring into the federal government workforce. The Information Assurance Courseware Evaluation (IACE) program of the National Security Agency (NSA) assesses the degree to which courseware from commercial, government and academic sources align with the national standards set by the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS). *Visit the CIS website.[10]*

NIH award brings DE Center for Neuroscience Research to CMNST/DSU

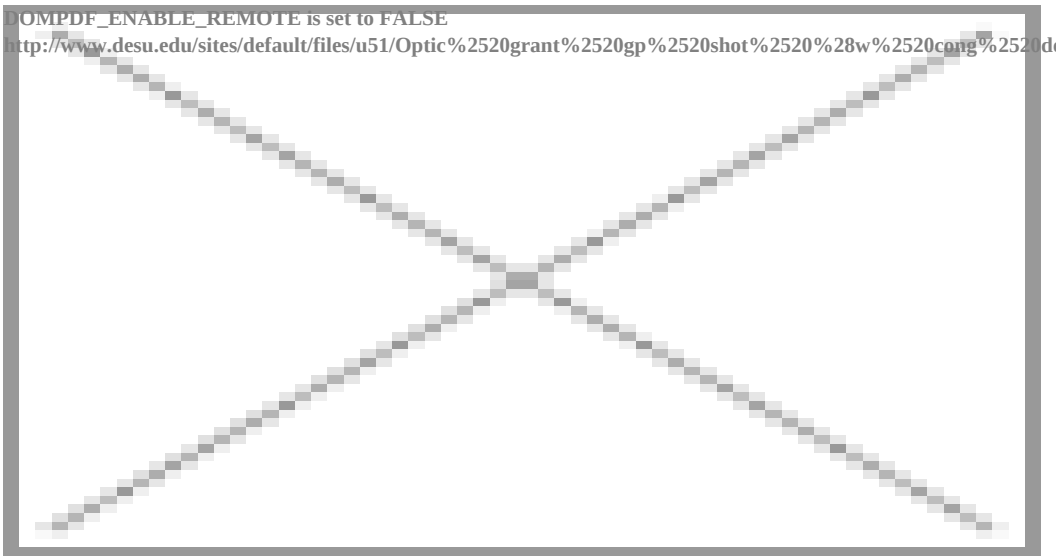


November 26, 2012 - Congratulations! **Dr. Melissa Harrington** (Biological Sciences Department) - *fifth from the left in the photo above* - is PI for a five-year grant which was recently awarded $10.5 million dollar through the National Institutes of Health to start the Delaware Center for Neuroscience Research at DSU.

This award is the most significant single-award the University has received to date and promises to further enhance studies in Delaware on neuroscience and brain injury research. This grant will facilitate more substantial collaborations between neuroscience researchers at DSU and the University of Delaware (collaborating institution).

Read more here.[11]

CREOSA grant renewed



September 28, 2012. The National Science Foundation, responsible for funding the creation of the Center for Research and Education in Optical Sciences (CREOSA), has renewed funding to continue support of DSU's growing Optics Program (one of only 25 optics doctoral programs in the country). Congratulations to Dr. Noureddine Melikechi, Principal Investigator, and his team of researchers and project staff. Dr. Melikechi was joined by Senators Tom Carper, Chris Coons and Representative John Carney at a press conference on Sept. 27th to celebrate the affair. Click here [12] to read about this momentous event.

CMNST announces new faculty additions

August 22, 2012. Dean Melikechi is pleased to announce the addition of the following new faculty members within the departments of the College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology: Dr. Anthea Aikins, Dr. Y. Hwan Kim, Dr. Karl Miletti, Dr. Murali Temburni, Dr. Mukti Hendi, Dr. Hongxin Hu, Dr. Delayne Y. Johnson, Dr. Yi Ling, Dr. Q. Lu, and Dr. Ana-Rita Mayol. Read all about them here [13].

DSU-CMNST-Sen. Coons' office host 1st ever Kent County Science Fair

May 2, 2012. The CMNST co-hosted the inaugural Kent County Science Fair, which will now become an annual affair, according to Senator Coons of DE. Dr. Noureddine Melikechi was keynote speaker for this event. View photos from the event, as well as links to news coverage of the event on the webpage: http://www.desu.edu/kentcountysciencefair [14].

Click here for article [15].

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Awards & Honors

Faculty Awarded Grants, Honors, and Papers Published

October 5, 2013 - Commendations go to the following individuals on their recent accomplishments:

- **Dr. Hongxin Hu** *(Department of Computer & Information Sciences)* - co-authored published paper "On the Security of Picture Gesture Authentication. View article here. [17]
- **Dr. Pablo Suarez***(Department of Mathematical Sciences)* - awarded the NASA Astrobiology Minority Institution Research Support MIRS program this past summer with Rensselaer Polytechnic Insittute.
- **Dr. Eric Kmiec** *(Department of Chemistry)* - scheduled to be guest editor for ***Nucleic Acid Therapeutics***journal (April 2014 edition)

Faculty Awarded DSU CIBER-EPSCoR seed grants

February 28, 2013. Congratulations to **Dr. Aristides Marcano**, Chairperson, Department of Physics and Engineering, and **Dr. Gour S. Pati**, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Engineering, on their recent grant awards for the 2012-2013 DSU CIBER-EPSCoR seed grants competition!

Dr. Marcano's winning proposal was entitled, *"Developments of a Practical and Low Cost Photothermal Lens Spectrophotometer for Spectroscopic Characterization of Turbid Samples."*

Dr. Pati's winning proposal was entitled, *"Ultrasensitive Measurements of Denitrificaiton Process in Soil Samples using an Integrated Fiber-Optic Cavity-Enhanced Sensor."*

The Delaware EPSCoR RII-2-CIBER Seed Grant Program is sponsor of this multi-disciplinary competition. The Center for Integrated Biological and Environmental Research (CIBER) is located in the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences.

CMNST Faculty awarded grants, honors

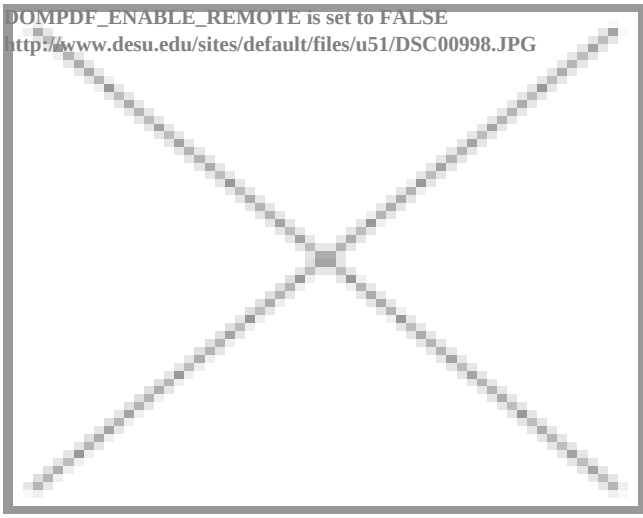
October 10, 2012. The College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences & Technology is pleased to congratulate the following grant recipients for their outstanding grantsmanship:

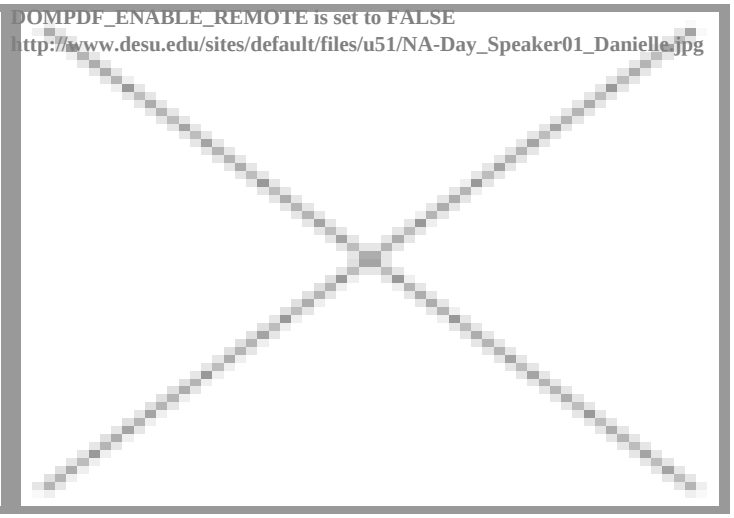
- **Dr. Melissa Harrington** *(Dept of Biological Sciences)* - Grant funded by National Institutes of Health (NIGMS): "COBRE: The Delaware Center for Neuroscience Research"
- **Dr. Noureddine Melikechi** *(Dean, CMNST/Dept of Physics & Pre-Engineering)* - Grant funded by National Science Foundation: Center for Research and Education in Optical Science Applications

(CREOSA)

- **Dr. Gary Holness** *(Dept of Computer & Information Sciences)* - Grant funded by National Science Foundation: "AUTHUOMACE: Adaptive Teaming for Heterogeneous UxV Operations with Mixed Autonomy in Complex Environments"
- **Dr. Eric Kmiec** *(Dept of Chemistry)* - Manuscript, "Proliferation of genetically modified human cells on electrospun nanofiber scaffolds," accepted for publication in *Molecular Therapy - Nucleic Acids*
- INBRE sub-project Principal Investigator award recipients: **Dr. Hacene Boukari** *(Dept of Physics & Pre-Engineering)*; **Dr. Mukti Rana** *(Dept of Physics & Pre-Engineering)*; **Dr. Tomasz Smolinski** *(Dept of Computer & Information Sciences)*
- INBRE State Funds Match mini-grant award recipients: **Dr. Thomas Planchon** *(Dept of Physics & Pre-Engineering)* and **Dr. Renu Tripathi** *(Dept of Physics & Pre-Engineering)*

Ms. Tiara Turner wins IPC poster session award





April 20, 2012. Congratulations to Ms. Tiara Turner, a graduate student in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, who attended the IPC (Infinite Possibilities Conference) and was a prize-winner this past March. Ms. Turner will receive a 1-year membership to the Association for Women in Mathematics. It is noteworthy that Ms. Turner has represented DSU well on numerous previous occasions.

For more information about the conference, click here [18].

Dr. Eric Kmiec receives award for Sickle Cell awareness, research

March 15, 2012 - Accolades go to Chemistry Chairperson **Dr. Eric Kmiec,** who has been selected as a ***2012 Unsung Hero Award*** recipient by the William E. Proudford Sickle Cell Fund, Inc. Dr. Kmiec is being recognized for his research work in biotechnology to treat and cure sickle cell anemia. Dr. Kmiec joined the College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences & Technology in October 2011 as Chair of the Chemistry Dept.

Recent Publications by Katugampola, Dhillon, Kmiec

February 26, 2012 - Congratulations to the following faculty who have recently received notification of publications:

- **Dr. Don Udita Katugampola** - *"A New Technique for Text Data Compression."* Accepted for presentation at the IEEE International Symposium on Computer, Consumer and Control 2012

(Taiwan, June 2012).

- **Dr. Harbinder S. Dhillon** - *"The Caenorhabditis elegans D2-like dopamine receptor DOP-2 physically interacts with GPA-14, a G-alpha-i subunit."* Accepted for publication in the ***Journal of Molecular Signaling***.
- **Dr. Eric B. Kmiec** - *"DNA Damage Response Pathway and Replication Fork Stress During Oligonucleotide Directed Gene Editing."* Accepted for publication in ***Molecular Therapy - Nucleic Acids***.

Notices

- ***Link to Internship & Fellowship info*[19]**

- **STARS returns to the DSU Campus! 10th-12th grade students have the opportunity to participate in summer classes, while residing on-campus for 4 weeks. Visit www.desu.edu/STARS [20].**

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***See more in ARCHIVES?*[21]**

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[3] http://www.desu.edu/mathematics-natural-sciences-and-technology/cmnst-deans-distinguished-lecturer-series
[4] mailto:hboukari@desu.edu
[5] http://www.apsbridgeprogram.org/about/
[6] http://www.desu.edu/news/dsu-neuroscience-program-receives-new-433645-research-grant
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[13] http://www.desu.edu/sites/default/files/u51/2012%20CMNST%20New%20Researchers%20Leaflet_0.pdf

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