We hosted the 43rd Biology Merit Exam with 275 participating middle and high school students. This annual event celebrates student excellence in the biological sciences. The exam covers a range of topics from cell biology to ecosystems, testing students' understanding and application of biological principles.

Professor Matt Koski's research group, directed by Zhicheng Dou, an M.S. candidate in biological sciences, and his Something Very Fishy outreach project were at Greenville's Artisphere. Their work focuses on the biodiversity of fish species, particularly in ecosystems facing environmental challenges. Matt Koski's work is supported by the College of Science Catalyst Competition, where college students compete to showcase innovative projects. Matt's research group has enjoyed visiting the 15 posters, four of which won awards, demonstrating their dedication to public engagement and dissemination of scientific findings.

Student Brandie Smith is focused on developing new techniques for improving the immune system. Her research has received national recognition, earning a major grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue her studies. Brandie's innovation and problem-solving skills are an integral part of her research efforts, achieving big dreams through her scientific endeavors.

The Department of Biological Sciences has a strong tradition of mentorship and innovative research. Our M.S. candidate in biological sciences, Kea Payton, has been recognized for her leadership and academic excellence. Kea's dedication to her studies and passion for biological sciences is evident in her mentoring of students and in her commitment to her own academic development.

We are proud to announce the recipients of the Spring 2022 Department of Biological Sciences - Graduate Student Awards. This year's recipients include Distinguished Lectureship Awards: Distinguished Graduate Student Award, moniker of Lauren Stoczynski, senior lecturer in BioSci), Chris Parkinson (advisor of Rhett Rautsaw, professor of biological sciences), and Leadership Award, Antonio Baeza (chair of College of Science Scholarship & Awards Committee; associate professor in BioSci), Graduate in Learning, Kat Terwelp (Science Student Advisory Board Outstanding Member Award), Kori Hays (Blue Key Academic & Leadership Award), and Rhett Rautsaw (Outstanding Graduate in Discovery). For more information on the recipients and their accomplishments, please visit our website.