

# STUDENT NEWSLETTER

## New Laboratory Aide

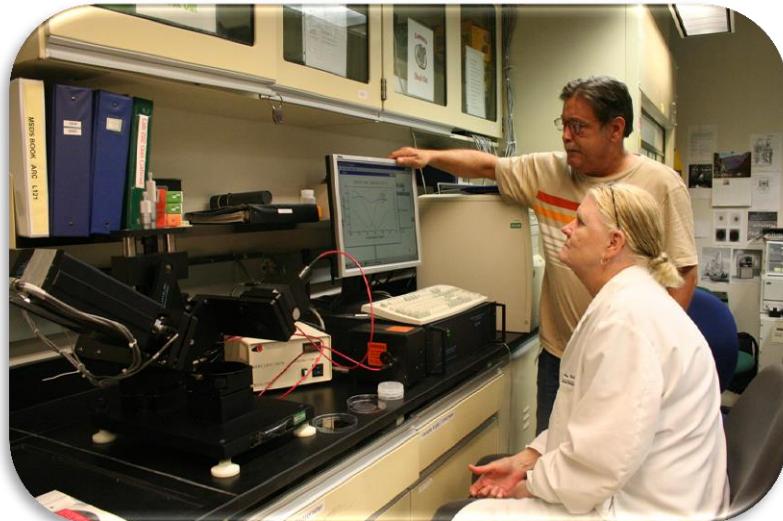


*Samson (left) and Nick M. (right) working on the Phenom (SEM).*

Samson Worrell is an upcoming freshman at Virginia Union University, majoring in Biology/Pre-Med. He is working in the lab for the next 3 weeks studying the Phenom Scanning Electron Microscope. Amy and Samson will then travel to The Boys and Girls Club of Suffolk to demonstrate the Phenom (SEM) using the remote access program.

## Ellipsometer

The Variable Angle Spectroscopic Ellipsometer (VASE) was experiencing mechanical and computational errors. Amy performed calibration and maintenance to return the VASE to normal working conditions.



*Amy and Brandt working on the VASE.*

## A Slithering Surprise

Wednesday morning began like most mornings at the ARC until Nick Moore discovered an uninvited slithering visitor. Lab personnel willingly evacuated Labs 123 and Lab 121 and Jefferson Lab Security was called. After viewing the snake, the Security representative called Facilities and Mike Llewellyn quickly arrived and assessed the situation. He immediately called Park Services and a Park Ranger from Deer Park in Newport News arrived within minutes.

The Park Ranger easily grabbed the snake, which was coiled up in a corner, using a long metal retrieving tool. The snake was then placed in a large plastic bucket and the lid was tightly secured. The snake was identified by the Park Ranger as a non-venomous juvenile rat snake. While the snake in our lab was only about 12 to 15 inches long, they can grow to over 6 feet in length. It is interesting to note that the rat snake can be found throughout Virginia and primarily eats rodents and birds, which are killed by constriction.



## Algae Project

This summer, David Specht, a rising junior at William and Mary, has been working on characterizing algae for the York River Algae project. In lab 208B, David has been cleaning algae diatoms with hydrogen peroxide to clean off the organic matter in order to sputter coat the algae with metals more effectively.

*David Specht,  
working in lab 208B.*

