The Department of Biological Sciences was doubly proud and delighted to honor Corinne and Christina Basinger as the Outstanding Biology Graduates of 2014. The twins both graduated summa cum laude, and both excelled in the research lab as well. They are seen here at Commencement, presenting posters at the NKU Celebration of Student Research and Creativity, and enjoying the Biology Department’s First Senior Awards reception. Christina did undergraduate research on a Parkinson’s mouse mode with Dr. Patrick Schultheis while Corrine’s research in Chemistry focused on high-tech materials.

New Award Honors Environmental Scholar

James Brown received the inaugural Outstanding Environmental Science Graduate award, based in part on his undergraduate research on wetlands with Dr. Kristy Hopfensperger. Although he is shown here at two different field sites and a leader in the lab, Dr. Hopfensperger noted in her nomination letter that James was also an “exemplary student” who was heavily involved in environmental outreach and public service. On top of departmental honors, James received a $4,000 scholarship from the National Garden Club.
**Outstanding Service**

There were two winners of the Miriam Steinitz-Kannan Service Award: Tri-Beta President Trent Roberts (pictured above left with Department Chair Dr. Kristi Haik) and Martin Barker (shown helping participants in the new SPARK program).

Trent was a frequent volunteer at Tri-Beta events, but also assisted as a tutor in the English Language Learner’s Fun with Science camp, helped with river cleanups, and is a past president of BIOTA.

Martin was one of NKU’s first Norse Advising Peer Coaches, participated in service trips in Mexico, and was awarded a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship to support his future teaching career.

---

**John W. Thieret Award**

Julie Moses received the department’s award for excellence in research for work done both at NKU and on behalf of the Sierra Club. Julie was a leader in developing a water quality app with Drs. Miriam Kannan and Richard Durtsche under a U.S. EPA P3 grant, trained volunteers as citizen scientists, and studied the impact of traffic-generated air pollution on human health. She was also Vice-President of BIOTA.

---

**Clara Richards Award**

Johnathan Webster was honored with the 2014 Clara Richards Award which recognizes students with high academic achievement and strong commitment to the Department of Biological Sciences. Johnathan tutored in biology and chemistry, conducted research in chemistry, and volunteers at Evercare Hospice and Palliative Care.