



# FRIPS: Freshman Research in Plant Sciences

A Broader Impact Activity at the University of Missouri

## What is FRIPS?

FRIPS is a program designed to expose new college students to the vital and exciting research being done with plants and to encourage them to consider a research career in plant biology.

## Sample Weekly Meeting Topics

- Greenhouse training
- Why we study plants
- Responsible conduct of research
- Lab safety
- Lab notebooks
- Faculty & student perspectives on research
- Tour MU research core facilities
- Math for making solutions
- Attending seminars & poster sessions

## FRIPS Numbers

**27** freshmen served

**16** faculty mentors

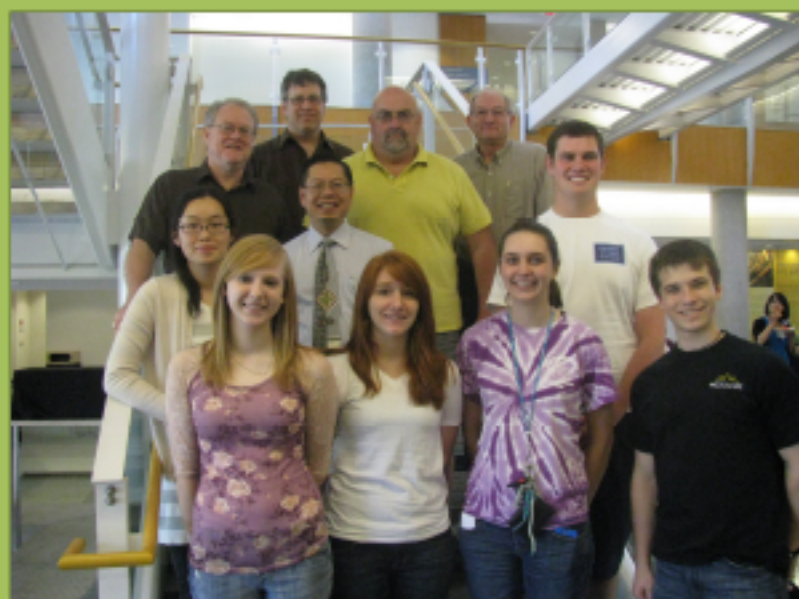
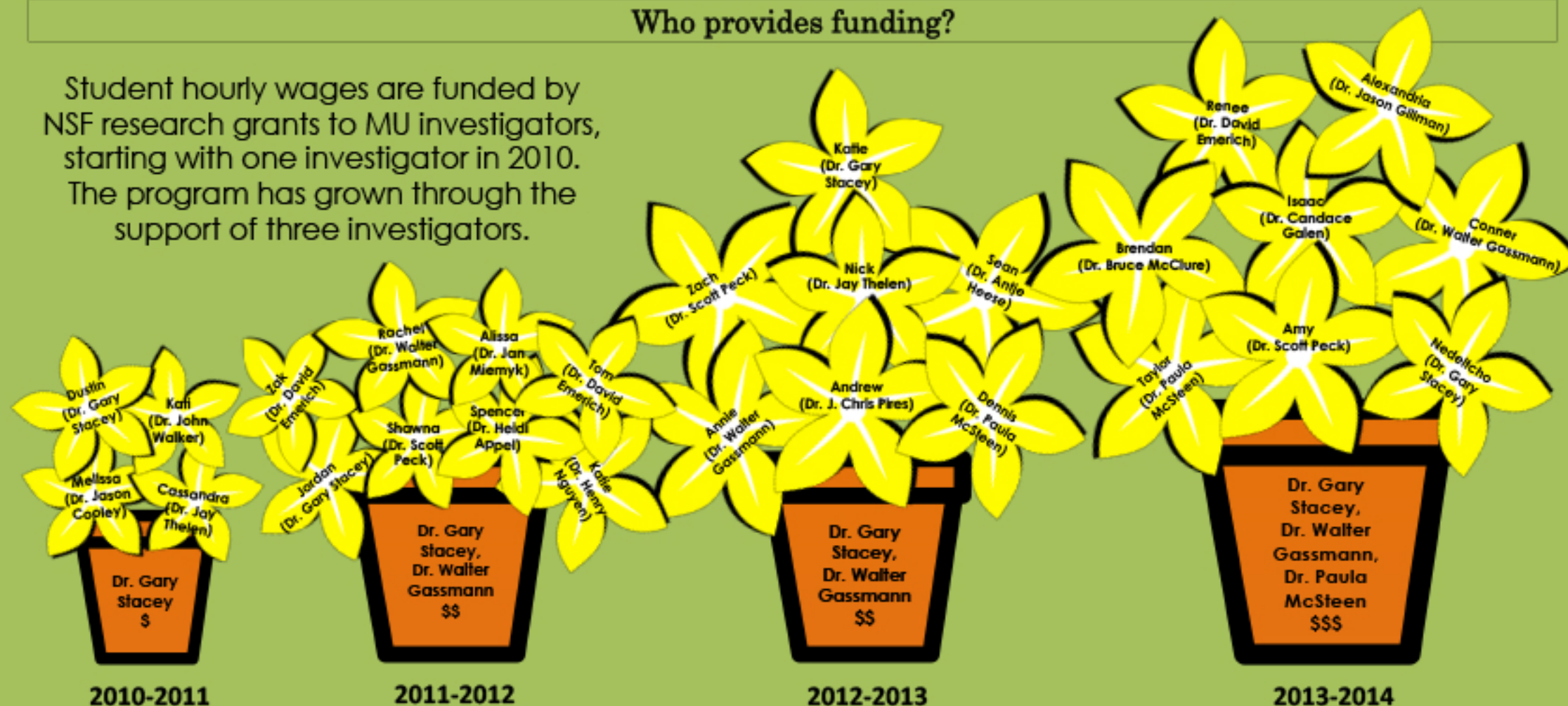


## Who is eligible to participate?

- First year undergraduate student at MU
- Majoring in biochemistry, biological sciences, computer sciences, or plant sciences
- Math or science ACT score of at least a 28 or a high school GPA of at least a 3.3
- Interest in plant biology research
- U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
- NOT participating in other freshman research programs at MU

## Who provides funding?

Student hourly wages are funded by NSF research grants to MU investigators, starting with one investigator in 2010. The program has grown through the support of three investigators.



## What do FRIPS students do?

- Work with a faculty mentor in a plant biology research lab on campus
- Receive an hourly wage (10 hrs/wk) for their work
- Learn valuable laboratory skills
- Participate in FRIPS weekly meetings led by a graduate student
- Meet other freshmen interested in plant biology research
- Receive individual mentoring from faculty and lab members, resources for science majors, professional development opportunities and more
- Become part of the research community at MU

## Services Provided by the MU Office of Undergraduate Research

- Student recruitment
- Application review & student interviews
- Soliciting potential faculty mentors
- Assisting students in finding labs
- Hiring & student payroll
- Setting up week student meetings
- Hiring graduate assistant (2 hrs/wk)
- Program evaluation
- End-of-year Reception



## What have students done after FRIPS?

- Summer internship at Monsanto
- Summer research program at the University of Missouri
- Alcohol research summer research program at Washington University
- Studied sharks in South Africa
- Summer internship with USDA Forest Service
- Amgen Scholars Program at Washington University
- Internship with Disney College Program
- Hughes Research Fellowship at the University of Missouri
- Summer internship at Springfield Conservation Nature Center
- NSF REU program at Danforth Plant Science Center
- Undergraduate Research Ambassador at MU

## For more information about FRIPS, contact

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