Lithia Springs High school visits UWG Biology department:

Students from Ms. Becky Parker’s 10th grade AP/Hons Biology class visited the microbiology teaching lab and virology research lab of Dr. Sara Molesworth-Kenyon on Dec 4th. Students spent a productive morning learning about the ubiquity of microbes, and how to culture bacteria while maintaining a safe working environment in the biohazard level I lab. Students also utilized “glow germ” technology to model disease transmission. They gathered data that demonstrated the ability of hand to hand contact to quickly spread disease from patient zero to the rest of their population. Finally, the students enjoyed a question and answer session about working in a Biohazard level II virology lab, and had the opportunity to try on the protective gear used in the research lab. This was the first year that students as young as 15 and 16 had been invited to have a hands on experience in the microbiology lab and feedback was extremely positive. Ms. Parker hopes to return next year with a new batch of students, and the Biology department at UWG will help to inspire their STEM potential.

10th grade students hard at work in the microbiology lab.

Results; fingerprinting the normal flora on their hands and Serratia marcescens streak plates.