

Wooster High School Alumni Spotlight



Jared Baisden

Graduation Year: **2009**

Current Location:

- Jupiter, FL

Occupation:

- Postdoctoral research associate

Key Accomplishments:

- Finished his PhD degree in Biochemistry & Biophysics at UNC Chapel Hill last spring.
- Moved down to Jupiter, FL to work at Scripps Research under Dr. Matthew D. Disney to assist in the development of therapies and scientific tools that help fight cancer, rare genetic diseases (Huntington's Disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), etc.), Alzheimer's Disease and others.
- Recently had his PhD work published in a scientific journal (Nature Chemical Biology) which was featured in the January 2021 issue. He is also working on a new piece on the topic of ALS with Scripps Research.
- Secured a fellowship from the Huntington's Disease Society of America for his new position with Scripps Research.

How did your experience and education in the Wooster City School District help impact your career path or shape your future?

- "One of my favorite teachers, Melanie Vinion, inspired my love for science in high school when I took her AP biology class. She is a large part of the reason I decided to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry for undergrad. Also, my cross country and running coach, Doug Bennett, taught me the importance of persistence and determination in things I wanted to accomplish. This mindset served me well when completing my PhD."

What is your favorite Wooster memory?

- "My favorite memory is my sister, Natalyn, competing in the Wooster High School Talent Show. She was a freshman when I was a senior and performed an original stand-up comedy set that was hilarious. She hadn't practiced it at home, so when I saw it at the show it was the first time."

Once a General, Always a General.

