

UPDATE ON FORMER INTERNS: PHILIP ADAMS

Former WV-INBRE summer intern, Philip Adams, is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Central Florida, College of Medicine's Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences. He is working in the laboratory of Dr. Mollie Jewett. The broad research area of his lab is gene regulation and pathogenesis of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causative agent of Lyme disease. His thesis topic is understanding the role of RNA regulatory elements throughout the *B. burgdorferi* lifecycle. Philip most recently spent the summer working with collaborators at the University of Vienna in Vienna, Austria, where he trained in the prestigious laboratory of Dr. Renee Schroeder. This training will help in studying and measuring the amount of specific RNA molecules in the bacterial cell. "These techniques will allow Philip and my lab to ask and answer questions about those genes that are specifically required for *Borrelia burgdorferi* to cause disease," said Dr. Jewett. "There were students from Austria, Russia, Poland, Germany, Czech Republic, Croatia and Italy," said Adams who was impressed with the collaborative nature of his international learning experience. He also had an opportunity to present his research in a talk entitled "*Ticks to Humans: delineating gene regulation during Lyme disease*" in a seminar series at the University of Vienna. "It was a fantastic life experience for Philip. He returns to my lab with even greater confidence in himself and his science," said Dr. Jewett. Philip earned his undergraduate degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College.

