

# Biochemistry Student Association Newsletter

## Upcoming BSA Events

BSA will be hosting **trivia** on the last Friday of the month, **March 26th**, from **4-5pm** - don't forget to sign up!

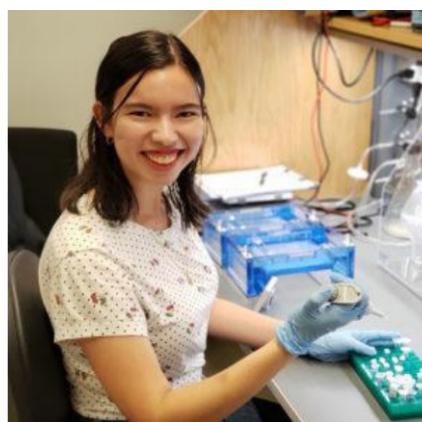
On **March 9th**, Emilio Rivera and Anna Eitel, and **March 23rd**, Sabrina Van Ravenstein and Beth Stivison, will present on their research for the **BSA Colloquium** from **4-5pm**. Come out and support your fellow Biochemists!

Save the date for the rescheduled **Biochemistry/BSA Retreat, April 22-23, 2022** in Chattanooga, TN!

The BSA has partnered with other on-campus groups to host a food drive **March 1-April 1** in support of Second Harvest Food Bank. Collection boxes are located at **6<sup>th</sup> floor LH lobbies and 5<sup>th</sup> floor MRBIII lobby**.

## Student of the Month

Congratulations to Sabrina Van Ravenstein for being Biochemistry's Student of the Month!



**What year are you in and whose lab do you work in?**

I'm a third-year student in James Dewar's lab. I study how topoisomerase II chemotherapeutics affect DNA replication, particularly termination, using the *Xenopus laevis* frog egg extract system.

**What do you like best about the Biochemistry department?**

What I like the best about the Biochemistry department is the open dialogue between faculty and students. I think people really make an effort to talk and get to know one another, and that opens the door for positive change within the department.

**What piece of advice would you give to other students?**

The sooner you can let go of the concept of "good students" versus "bad students", the better. We're all just "students" going through our own personal journeys. In a similar vein, I think I wasted a lot of time and energy in my first year trying to be a fifth-year student, so letting go of comparing myself to older students was a huge step for me. Embrace being a trainee!

**What is your favorite place to go in Nashville?**

My favorite place in Nashville is Game Point in East Nashville. It's a little cafe with free games, so you can just go and spend an afternoon with some coffee or tea and Catan. I highly recommend it for pretty much anyone.

Nominate a Biochemistry student that's doing cool science!  
Email [nicole.d.kendrick@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:nicole.d.kendrick@vanderbilt.edu)

## Recent Student Publications

**Thada, V.**, and Cortez, D. (2021) ATR activation is regulated by dimerization of ATR activating proteins. *J Biol Chem*, 100455

Guarnaccia, A. D., Rose, K. L., Wang, J., Zhao, B., Popay, T. M., Wang, C. E., Guerrazzi, K., Hill, S., Woodley, C. M., **Hansen, T. J.**, Lorey, S. L., Shaw, J. G., Payne, W. G., Weissmiller, A. M., Olejniczak, E. T., Fesik, S. W., Liu, Q., and Tansey, W. P. (2021) Impact of WIN site inhibitor on the WDR5 interactome. *Cell Reports* 34, 108636.

## Student Invited Speaker Interest Form

The BSA would like to put effort this coming year into a student driven speaker series. We hope these speakers will be diverse and representative of the variety of research we have ongoing as a department. If there are any specific speakers you have in mind, or a topic you would like to hear about [please let us know!](#)

## Mental Health Committee

**Mental Wellness:** Love podcasts? The VUMC Health and Wellness offers short 10 minute "wellcasts," perfect for listening to during a centrifuge spin or a coffee break! Here's a link to one of the wellcasts, ["Finding Joy in Hard Times."](#)

**Physical Wellness:** Reservations for the David Williams II Recreation and Wellness Center can now be made online [here](#). There is space available in the Aux Gym Cardio/Weight Machines or Free Weight Room (dumbbells only). To reserve a spot, read the guidelines and click on "Register Here".

## COVID-19 and Reopening News

Graduate students, make sure you use the [VandySafe App](#) for COVID-19 Self-Monitoring daily before coming to campus. VU is still in Phase 2+. For more information, check out Vanderbilt's [Return to Campus page](#).

## Biochemistry Twitter

For updates on events and departmental news, follow the Biochemistry Department twitter [@VandyBiochem](#)

## Questions? Concerns?

If you have anything that you would like to be addressed by the department, you can submit it anonymously [here](#). This survey is regularly monitored by the BSA.