

BIOCHEMISTRY STUDENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Happy February!

The sun is staying out longer and spring is on its way! Fingers crossed that the groundhog doesn't see its shadow! We hope this month of love extends to your science. As always, if you have any comments or concerns, please fill out our [anonymous Google form](#). Have a great month!

- Lindsey and Kaitlyn

DEPARTMENT NEWS

- There are many **faculty candidate seminars** coming up this month, which are outlined in the events section below. We encourage all members of the department to make an effort to attend!
- **IGP and QCB rotations will continue this month.** We welcome all rotating students to the department!
- Given the continuing surge of Covid-19 cases, **colloquium will be on Zoom for the remainder of the semester.** Attendees will continue to be entered to win prizes for each question asked during these talks.
- **Thank you Carter Lab** for the cover image for this issue of the newsletter! We are still looking for more to feature in the coming months! Please email either Kaitlyn (kaitlyn.r.browning@vanderbilt.edu) or Lindsey (lindsey.n.guerin@vanderbilt.edu) with your submissions!

TRAINEE OF THE MONTH Alexandria Oviatt

What year are you? Hopefully my last!
Whose lab are you in? The Osheroff lab
What do you like best about the department? I appreciate the environment that this department fosters - one in which trainees can take ownership of their projects, create inter-lab collaborations, and get the help they need.
What advice do you have for other students? Apply. Even if you don't meet every requirement. Even if you aren't sure how to fit it in. If you are interested in an opportunity, don't let your imposter syndrome get in the way of you at least putting yourself out there. Then it is in someone else's hands to decide if you are qualified (and you almost certainly are).
What's your favorite experiment to run? 2D gels are incredibly satisfying to run, particularly when looking at a DNA supercoiling time course. I also have a deeply abiding love for DNA precipitation.
What's your favorite place to go or favorite thing to do in Nashville? How do I pick one? I love trying new restaurants. In particular, Jessica Collins and I are on the hunt for the best biscuit/coffee/tea in Nashville. If you haven't already, follow us @over.doughsed. When I am not exploring the Nashville food scene, I am often baking up my own creations for the pop-up bakery I started last year. If you want to follow along with that whirlwind adventure, take a look @the.dough.lab.



[Click here to nominate a fellow grad student or post doc for Trainee of the Month!](#)

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

- **2nd** at 11 am, LH 208 - Biochemistry Faculty Candidate Seminar
- **4th** at 12 pm **NOTE:** the Frontiers Lecture has been **postponed**
- **8th** at 11 am, Zoom - Biochemistry Faculty Candidate Seminar
- **10th** at 1 pm, LH 202 - Biochemistry Faculty Candidate Seminar
- **11th** at 12 pm, Zoom - BSA Colloquium: Susu Zhang
- **14th** at 1 pm, LH 214 - Biochemistry Faculty Candidate Seminar
- **17th** at 2:30 pm, Zoom (Registration Required) - ASBMB Unconscious Bias Seminar
- **18th** at 12 pm, LH 202 - Frontiers Seminar: John Svaren, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison
- **25th** at 12 pm, Zoom - BSA Colloquium: Samika Joshi

Sign up for Colloquium!

Congrats to...

- **Ivette Perez** (Iverson Lab) for her publication, "[A Model for the Signal Initiation Complex Between Arrestin-3 and the Src Family Kinase Fgr](#)." **Mac Castro** (Sanders Lab) was also on this paper.
- **Jessica Taylor** (Brown Lab) for her review, "[Structural basis for dysregulation of aminolevulinic acid synthase in human disease](#)."
- **Areetha D'Souza** and **Alexandra Blee** (Chazin Lab) for their publication, "[Mechanism of action of nucleotide excision repair machinery](#)."

CARDS FOR SCIENTISTS FROM THEIR NON-SCIENTIST RELATIONS



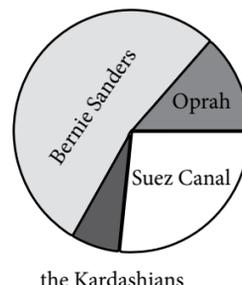
Another Covid wave means acquiring more inside hobbies. Maybe you've run out of puzzles, sourdough, trash TV to binge, etc. and are looking for new ideas. Maybe you're an expert and have multiple afghans of your own making. Either way...

Would you rather...

- A) crochet
- B) knit
- C) neither, yarn is not my jam

The results are in!

The clear winner for your favorite 2021 event was the flurry of Bernie Sanders memes ft. his mittens following Biden's inauguration at 53.3%. In second place with 26.7% was the ship getting stuck in the Suez Canal. Following that was the Oprah interview with Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. In last place, suprising no one, was the airing of the final Keeping Up with the Kardashians season.



IN OTHER NEWS

- The libraries are opening back up following the Commodore Care period for those of you who would like to utilize them.
- The Cell and Developmental Biology Program is also recruiting new faculty. They are hosting candidates on Jan. 31st, Feb. 14th, 21st, and 28th. Times are variable, but most sessions start at 12:15 pm. All will be held in-person in MRB3 1220. Additional information, including talk titles can be found [here](#).
- Stressed about taxes? The BRET office is hosting a virtual, self-paced workshop on filing taxes specifically geared towards graduate students on February 28th. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Check it out!



- **Places to go:** There are two fun brewery events this month at Black Abbey and Tailgate. Black Abbey will be kicking off their 8 More Beers of Winter event on Feb. 2nd. This event continues every Wednesday for the following 7 weeks at their Sidco Dr. taproom. More info can be found on their Instagram page (@blackabbeybrew). Additionally, Tailgate is celebrating their 7th anniversary Feb. 4th - 6th at their Charlotte Pike location. The event is free and open to the public, but tickets for bottomless beer can be purchased [here](#). Both locations have outdoor seating and to-go options to be utilized based on your comfort level.
- **Things to do:** It's also [Hot Chicken Week](#) in Nashville! Put on by Nashville Scene, Hot Chicken Week runs from Jan 31st to Feb 6th with \$7 specials at participating restaurants all week long. If hot chicken is not your thing, there are multiple virtual events for the readers in the department at [Parnassus Books](#) -- a great independent bookstore. See the full calendar [here](#). There are also multiple free, Zoom yoga classes through the Nashville Public Library this month. Registration is required but depends on the class. A full schedule of events can be found [here](#).
- **People to see:** For those of you looking for a laugh, there's a ton of stand-up specials on Netflix. A compilation of some top hits can be found [here](#) for you to check out.

Wellness

Mental Wellness: If you want to explore counseling, UCC's BRET Satellite Clinic will be offering telehealth (Zoom) services for all BRET-affiliated students. If you are interested in an assessment of your mental health needs to start mental health services, please access the UCC Student Portal and schedule a "BRET TH NEW" appointment. [More information here](#).

Physical Wellness: Spring is right around the corner, and you can get in some light exercise by walking around campus. VUMC has some suggested [walking routes](#) (both outdoor AND indoor-helpful for those extra cold days!) that you and a friend can try during your next coffee break.



Please reach out to lindsey.n.guerin@vanderbilt.edu or kaitlyn.r.browning@vanderbilt.edu if you have any feedback, questions, or trainee of the month nominations.