



# NEWSLETTER

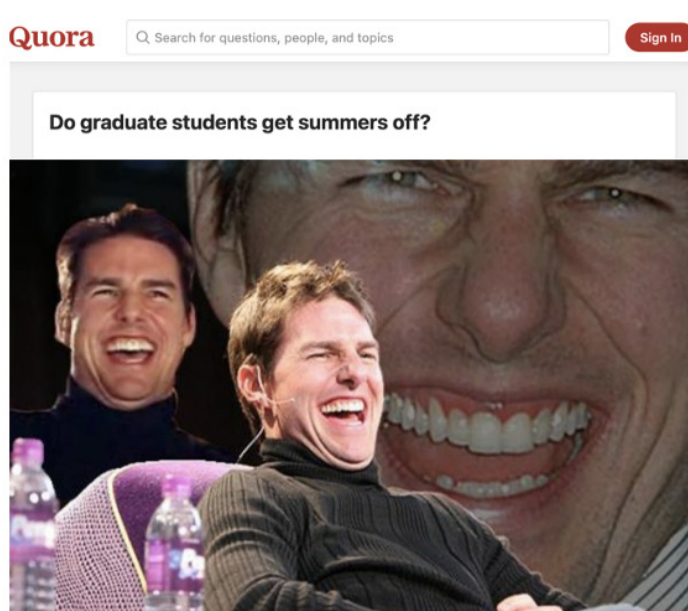
Happy June!

Welcome to Summer! 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

- Both **Colloquium and the Frontiers Seminar Series have concluded for the academic year**. We're sorry that there isn't any more free pizza, but enjoy **spending** that extra hour on your experiments (or not, we aren't here to judge)!
- The BSA is looking for **volunteers to serve on next year's leadership team!** There are multiple positions available for trainees with all kinds of talent. Email Sam Lisy ([samantha.m.lisy@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:samantha.m.lisy@vanderbilt.edu)) for more information or to sign up!
- **ICYMI: Our department ranked first** among the nation's top NIH-funded biochemistry programs.
- While we may not get the summers off, regardless of what our parents and grandparents think, summer is a great season to get out and about in the good weather. We've expanded the "check it out!" section this month to give you some ideas!



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

## DEPARTMENT EVENTS IN JUNE

- **1st at 10:30am (LH 514) – Susu Zhang (Hiebert lab) Dissertation Defense**

*Congrats to...*

- **Sabrina Van Ravenstein** (Dewar lab), **Kavi Mehta** (Cortez lab), and **Tata Kavlashvili** (Dewar lab) for their paper [Topoisomerase II poisons inhibit vertebrate DNA replication through distinct mechanisms](#)
- **Jenny Tran** (Brown lab) for her review [Structural Basis for Allostery in PLP-dependent Enzymes](#)
- **Pratibha Ghodke** (Guengerich lab) for her paper [Nucleophilic Thiol Proteins Bind Covalently to Abasic Sites in DNA](#)
- **Dr. Mac Castro** (Sanders lab) and **Tyson Rietz** (Fesik lab) for successfully defending last month!
- **Kavi Mehta**, who won the VUMC Cancer Postdoctoral Scholar of the Year Award



*It's boat season...* I have always found renting a pontoon at Percy Priest Lake to be one of the best summer activities but sometimes you're in a rush and forget to pack the essentials on your way out.

**Would you rather be on a boat without...**

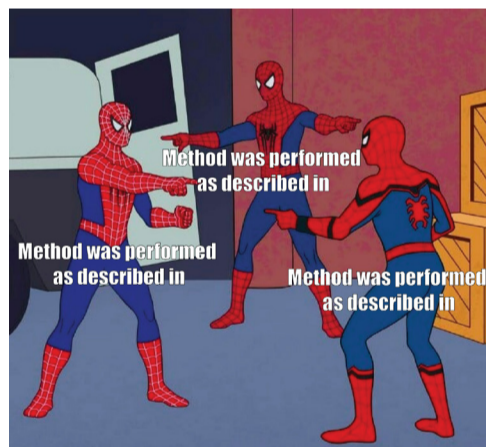
- A) sunglasses
- or
- B) sunscreen

**The results are in!**

Slightly over half of you (53.8%) agree that allergies have been terrible this year. 30.8% of you all are living my dream life and have never been afflicted with the sneezing, itchy eyes, etc. of seasonal allergies. Finally, the remaining 15.4% of you are not sure what the big deal is because it seems like every other year.

## IN OTHER NEWS

- The ASPIRE office is hosting their **annual career symposium** virtually on June 3rd: A Kaleidoscope of Biomedical Science Careers. They are running hour-long sessions all day highlighting an array of possible biomedical science careers. [Click here](#) to view the schedule and sign up for sessions!
- **Vanderbilt International Researchers Alliance (VIRAL) is hosting two information sessions** this month: June 2nd in 1220 MRBIII from 3-4pm with pizza and on June 8th in 419 LH from 10-11am with coffee and donuts. Come enjoy some free food and learn about who VIRAL is, what VIRAL does, and learn how you can be a part of VIRAL.
- The Academic Life Coaches are hosting summer sessions of their **Critical Conversations Series** that will meet on Tuesdays from 4-5pm. The sessions in June are geared toward students, and the sessions in July are geared toward post docs. Check out more and register [here!](#)
- The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is continuing to meet over the summer. Their next **general body meeting is Thursday, June 2nd** from 6-7 pm in Alumni Hall 201. It will also be available via zoom but the in person meeting will provide free pizza so choose your own adventure.



**Check it out!**

As always, double check events for their COVID hours and regulations.

**Things to do:**

- Listen to some live music at **Centennial's Music Corner** on [Thursday through Sunday nights](#). This event is free and you are welcome to bring a lawn chair or blanket. Food and drinks are also available for purchase.
- Elmgton Park is picking back up their Thursday night **Movies in the Park**. Kicking things off with *Ghostbusters: Afterlife* on the 2nd, [this series](#) goes through June 23rd.
- **The Night Market** at the [Nashville Farmers Market](#) gives you the opportunity to shop, eat, and drink after hours. They are open from 6-9pm on the fourth Friday of the month and feature other local artists and businesses.
- At yet another Nashville park, **Full Moon Pickin' Parties**, featuring local bluegrass music, will be at Percy Warner Park on Friday and/or Saturday nights from 6-11pm. This month will be on June 17th and [tickets](#) are \$25 with proceeds benefiting Warner Parks.
- Another beer festival will be at Bridgestone Arena. The **2022 Nashville Predators Craft Beer Festival** is on June 25th from 3-7pm. [Tickets](#) start at \$50 and are available now.

**Places to go:**

- The **Sip TN Wine Festival** is coming up this Saturday June 4th from 1-6pm at Amqui Station. There will be wine (obviously), food, art, and live music. Tickets are \$65 and you can get \$5 off using this [link](#).
  - If you have a competitive streak, we've heard great things about **Game Terminal**-- an arcade bar with a great patio and even some outdoor games like bags(/cornhole)!
  - If you want a more low-key option, **Cheekwood** has started its summer series Thursday Night Out. Every Thursday through the end of October they are open with walks through the gardens, lawn games, live music, food, and drinks. [Admission](#) is \$20 for non-members (\$16 for "college students" but give it a try?)
- People to see:** We've highlighted a few free music events above but if you're in the market for someone specific..
- [Chelsea Handler](#) will be at the Ryman June 10th, [Mandy Moore](#) will be there on June 25th.
  - [Lawrence and Mysterwives](#) will be at Marathon Music Works on June 9th.
  - Finally, though I've never heard of her, based on the name it may be worth checking out... [Mariah the Scientist](#) is at Basement East on June 20th.



## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

This month on the Biochemistry DEI blog, we heard from Dr. Manual Ascano and discussed parallels between impostor syndrome and issues of inclusion, how to engage in meaningful conversations with peers, and more! You can read the full blog post [here](#).

Please reach out to [lindsey.n.guerin@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lindsey.n.guerin@vanderbilt.edu) or [kaitlyn.r.browning@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kaitlyn.r.browning@vanderbilt.edu) if you have any feedback, questions, or student of the month nominations.