



Happy October!

The weather is finally cooling, football has started, and all the Halloween candy is out! Fall is finally here! As always, if you have any comments or concerns, please fill out our [anonymous Google form](#). Have a great month!

- Lindsey, Kaitlyn, and Emma

DEPARTMENT NEWS

- The department is on Twitter! Give us a follow @VandyBiochem for department announcements.
- We had our second social event at Sandbar last week! Thanks Social Committee for putting it together. As a reminder, these events are also open to faculty.
- IGP rotations are beginning this month. The first rotation will be from October 24th to November 18th.

Sign up for Colloquium!

TRAINEE OF THE MONTH

Matt Houpert



What year are you? I'm a third year
Whose lab are you in? Bruce Carter's lab.
What do you like best about the biochemistry department? I had little to no biochemistry background coming in so I really appreciate how welcoming and helpful everyone in the department has been. Also that 6th floor donut party a while ago that was nice.

What advice do you have for other students? My advice would be to celebrate every bit of progress, however small.

What's your favorite experiment to run? My advice would be to celebrate every bit of progress, however small.

What's your favorite place to go or favorite thing to do in Nashville? My favorite thing to do in Nashville is eat and drink so the whole Five Points area in East Nashville has yet to disappoint, great stretch of bars and restaurants.

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

DEPARTMENT EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- 5th at 11am, PRB 206 - Tata Kavashvili Dissertation Defense
- 7th at noon, LH 214 - Frontier's Seminar: Dr. Trudy Oliver
- 14th at noon, LH 214- BSA Colloquium: Emilio Rivera
- 25th at 4 pm, LH 202 - Taha Mohamed Dissertation Defense
- 28th at noon, LH 512 (note the room change)- BSA Colloquium: Ronan Bracken and Yelena Perevalova

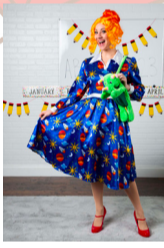
Congrats to...

- **Dr. Emilio Rivera**, who successfully defended his dissertation this past month.
- **Dr. Emily Hodges**, who was awarded the Stanley Cohen Innovation Fund award.
- **Esha Dalvie** and **Dr. Neil Osheroff**, for their recently published paper "[Recognition of DNA Supercoil Handedness during Catenation Catalyzed by Type II Topoisomerases](#)".



It's Halloween month-- I always struggle to come up with a good costume for Halloween so why not turn to what we know best... science!

Which of the following is your favorite science themed costume?



- A) Mrs. Frizzle
- B) Bill Nye
- C) Graduated Cylinder
- D) Mad Scientist

The results are in!

Well overachievers this was not a tough questions at all as 100% of you would rather have so many experiments you have no idea how you'll finish them all. Not a single person wanted to be so stumped you have no idea what to do next. I'll save the pie chart for next month. We all know what a circle looks like...

IN OTHER NEWS

- Flulapalooza has passed for this year, but you can still get your flu shot! They are available **for free** at [Student Health](#) (students) and [Occupational Health](#) (staff).
- COVID-19 bivalent boosters also became available these past few weeks, though the universities vaccination guidelines haven't changed. Information about availability at Vanderbilt locations can be found [here](#).
- [Nobel Prize](#) decisions will be released from October 3rd-10th. The prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to **Svante Pääbo** for "his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution".

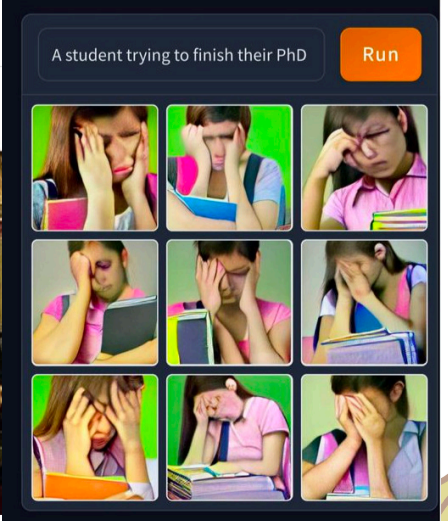
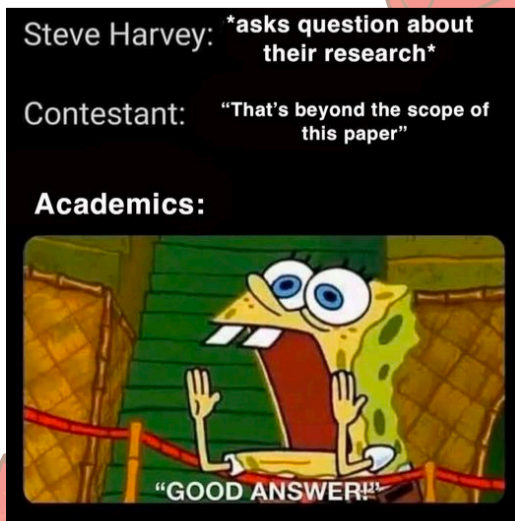


Check it out!

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

- **Places to go:** October means Nashville Oktoberfest! In Germantown from the 6th to the 9th, there will be food, live music, beer, and assorted other entertainment. Admission is free and you can find more information [here](#). S/o to Yelena for pointing out that the activities also include a dachshund race, so this is a can't miss event.
- **Things to do:** It's time for [Boo at the Zoo](#) at the Nashville Zoo! They also have the adult-only Halloween event, [BOOze at the Zoo](#) if that is more your speed. Some other fall festivities include the [Whiskey, Wine, and Cider Festival](#) to benefit the Tennessee Breast Cancer Coalition at The Bedford Nashville Event Venue. There is also the [Touch of Brews](#) event at Sevier Park which will feature Terrapin Beer, food trucks, and Grateful Dead-themed music.
- **People to see:** [The Head and The Heart](#) are coming to Ascend Amphitheater this month. While I enjoy their music it's also probably the best time to sit outside in Nashville without melting so check it out.

Meme Corner



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