



## Happy August!

Hope everyone is having a great summer and is off to a great start of the new semester! As always, if you have any comments or concerns, please fill out our [anonymous Google form](#). Have a great month!

- Lily (your new BSA Communications Committee)



### NEWS

- Several new members have joined BSA, and we are featuring our new president in Trainee of the Month.
- [Armstrong Training Enhancement Award](#): Established in 2023, this annual award provides up to \$5,000 for a Biochemistry student or postdoctoral fellow to visit another laboratory anywhere in the world to enhance their training. Nominations open annually until December 1.
- Colloquium will be back!
- The Department Retreat will be held at The Chattanooga Hotel on 18th-19th August.
- Dental and vision insurance coverage will start August 12th with no waiting period. This information is coming through the GSC and they will be hosting a representative for the Health Plan to explain benefits. Yelena (our rep) will let us know when this will be happening.
- Registration for the 3 Minute Thesis Competition is open. You can sign up to get more information [here](#). The event will be November 10th in the SLC Ballroom.

### TRAINEE OF THE MONTH

#### Ronan Bracken

**Featuring our new President!**  
**What year are you?** I will be starting my 4th year in the PhD program in August

**Whose lab are you in?** I am in Dr. Jonathan Brown's lab

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

I love how close knit the department is and really enjoy hearing about amazing research that is ongoing in the department.

**What advice do you have for other students?** To celebrate positive results no matter how small they seem. I think it is important to try to keep a steady source of motivation going and to reflect on these moments when confronting negative results.

**What's your favorite experiment to run?** I really enjoy performing and analyzing ATAC-seq experiments. It is fascinating how much information is captured in one experiment.

**What's your favorite place to go or favorite thing to do in Nashville?** This summer I have really enjoyed going to Nashville SC soccer games, the atmosphere is fantastic.



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

### DEPARTMENT EVENTS IN AUGUST

- **August 11**, 1220 MRB III, Emily Hodges, Vanderbilt University: "Decoding the epigenome to reveal drivers of gene regulation in human development, disease, and evolution" (Followed by meet-and-greet luncheon in 618 LH).



### Congrats to...

- Juan Carvajal-García for his paper, "[Oxidative stress drives mutagenesis through transcription-coupled repair in bacteria](#)".
- Sarah Glass for her paper, "[3,4-Desaturation of retinoic acid by cytochrome P450 27C1 prevents P450-mediated catabolism](#)".
- Ankita Kotnala for her paper, "[Untargeted Lipidomic Profiling of Aged Human Retina With and Without Age-Related Macular Degeneration \(AMD\)](#)".
- David M. G. Anderson for his paper, "[High-Resolution Imaging Mass Spectrometry of Human Donor Eye: Photoreceptors Cells and Basal Lamina Deposit of Age-Related Macular Degeneration](#)".
- Jeffrey Jian for his paper, "[Telling Your Right Hand from Your Left: The Effects of DNA Supercoil Handedness on the Actions of Type II Topoisomerases](#)".

### Check it out!

- [The NTT INDYCAR SERIES](#) returns to Nashville with the Big Machine Music City Grand Prix. For three days, the streets of downtown come alive with the sounds of music, food, and racing, all spun into an experience you just have to be here to feel.
- Do you like art? Check out the new exhibitions in the First Art Museum:
  - [Beatrix Potter](#): Down to Nature. In The Tale of Peter Rabbit, first self-published in London in 1901, and twenty-two other children's books, Potter imagined an enchanting world of animals and gardens.
  - [Guitar Town](#): Picturing Performance Today features work by ten Nashville-based photographers who capture the energy of Nashville's diverse music scene through images of guitar players performing in venues across the city.
- [Tomato Art Fest](#) has been uniting fruits and vegetables since 2003/2004. The annual festival attracts people from all over with fun-themed art, local music, delicious food, and costumes, wacky contests, shopping, kids activities, & more. The essence of Tomato Art Fest can really be found in the array of wacky & hilarious contests, and the Push, Pull & Wear Parade kicking off tomato weekend, full of floats and costumes. True to our namesake, the ART gets a big part of the tomato spotlight, where The Tomato ART Show and Tomato Art PreView Party showcases over 300 tomato-inspired pieces throughout the weekend.
  - **Price**: Free to attend; some events require advance paid ticketing
  - **Time**: Friday August 11, 5PM - 10PM; Saturday August 12, 9AM - 7PM
  - **Location**: 1106 Woodland St, Nashville, TN 37206
- [Past, Present, & Afrofuturism](#), curated in partnership with Clarence Edwards, synthesizes themes from African cultures, Western culture and Afrofuturism to establish a new Black iconography. Historical symbolism is woven together with pop culture art techniques, making these paintings incredibly unique among present day artwork. Separated into three parts, Past, Present and Future, each series of paintings is meant to build upon the last like scenes in a play. The three parts together as one ask audiences to consider not only the accumulation of human achievements so far, but also the vast, unknown nature of the future ahead.
  - **Price**: Free
  - **Time**: Current – August 8, 2023, 10am-6pm
  - **Location**: OZ Arts Nashville, 6172 Cockrill Bend Cir, Nashville, TN 37209
- Love beer festivals but hate the heat? This one is perfect for you! The Nashville Predators will host their annual [Craft Beer Festival](#) at Bridgestone Arena with be craft beer tastings, games, food, and entertainment. Proceeds benefit the Preds Foundation. Ticket prices vary from \$50-\$160. The event is 21 and over only; photo ID is required.
  - **Price**: Tickets start at \$50
  - **Time**: Friday, August 11, 2023, from 6:30pm to 10:00pm.
  - **Location**: Bridgestone Arena, 501 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203
- [Wilson County Tennessee State Fair](#): Get ready for over 60 carnival rides, contests, fair food, vendors, and fun for the whole family. Events include over 11 stages for live entertainment, and is the 16h largest state fair in the United States. New this year includes a monster truck show on August 21st!
  - **Price**: Adult tickets start at \$12 at the gate; can be purchased online for \$10 (addtl. convenience fee)
  - **Time**: August 17 – 26th, 5pm – 10pm on weekdays and 10am-10pm on weekends
  - **Location**: Tennessee State Fair, 945 E Baddour Pkwy, Lebanon, TN 37087
- AUGUST 18th HEADLINER: Urban Heat / OPENER: Ashley and the Xs. [Nightfall Chattanooga](#) is a free concert series celebrating its 36th season in 2023, featuring Urban Heat, a three-piece American post-punk band from Austin, TX. They fuse dark 80's stylings with modern flourishes, punctuated by Jonathan Horstmann's throaty baritone vocals. Lawn games and family-friendly activities will be available, as well as curated artisan goods and entertainment.
  - **Price**: Free
  - **Time**: August 18th. Artisan goods stores open at 6pm, beverage and food truck sales at 6:30, concert at 7pm
  - **Location**: Outdoor plaza of Miller Plaza and Miller Park, Downtown Chattanooga (850 Market St Chattanooga, TN 37402)

**Nicholas Scott Baker**  
@renhistorian

Academia is googling your own department because it is faster than trying to navigate the university website.

7:46 PM · 2023-01-29 · 171K Views

Taylor Swift: Makes a speech and is given a PhD

PhD students who are up studying at 2 AM before work at 6 AM:

Panel 1: Lungs: "I BREATHE AIR FOR YOU."

Panel 2: Heart: "I PUMP BLOOD FOR YOU."

Panel 3: Liver: "I FILTER WASTE FOR YOU."

Panel 4: Brain: "I think you should do grad school."

Please reach out to [xiaoyu.yu@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:xiaoyu.yu@vanderbilt.edu) if you have any feedback, questions, or student of the month nominations.