



NEWSLETTER

Happy May!

Congratulations on making it through another university giving day! 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

- It's time to start thinking about the **Department Retreat!** It will take place in Chattanooga again this year, from August 18-19. Registration and abstract submissions will be due on June 15th and can be submitted [here](#).
- The department has made a semi-private space available for students that may need to conduct an interview, zoom call, or quietly concentrate on writing. If you're interested in taking advantage of this check with Jen or Lisa.
- There has been a change in package delivery over the last month. If you are waiting on a package, particularly from FedEx and Staples, you may want to check the shipping and receiving area in the basement (B702).
- This month is the last **BSA Colloquium** for the year so be sure to check it out on the 26th!

TRAINEE OF THE MONTH

Juan Carvajal-García

What year are you? I'm a second-year postdoc

Whose lab are you in? Houra Merrikh

What do you like best about the biochemistry department? The variety of labs that we have. We have labs working with single molecules, whole animals, and everything in between. **What advice do you have for other students?** Take your time to appreciate how much you have improved as scientist.

What's your favorite experiment to run? Evolution assays. We can look at evolution in real time by measuring how fast bacteria evolve resistance to an antibiotic

What's your favorite place to go or favorite thing to do in Nashville? I really enjoy going to the Centennial dog park with my dog.



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

DEPARTMENT EVENTS IN MAY

- **5th** at 12pm in 214 LH - 2023 Department of Biochemistry Award Lectures: Dr. Alexandra Blee and Dr. Tyler Hansen (light refreshments will be served before)
- **8th** at 12:15pm in 1220 MRBIII - Apex Lecture: Jason Spence, University of Michigan Medical School
- **11th** at 4pm in 208 LH - Discover Lecture Series: Dr. Ruth Lehmann, Whitehead Institute
- **19th** at 11am in 214 LH - Frontiers Lecture: Dr. Jeannette Tenthorey, University of California at San Francisco
- **26th** at 12pm in 214 LH - BSA Colloquium: Lilia Merbouche

Congrats to...

- **Jeff Jian** (Osheroff Lab) for his paper "[Basis for the discrimination of supercoil handedness during DNA cleavage by human and bacterial type II topoisomerases](#)".
- **All the new students joining the department**, choosing a lab is a big decision and we're happy to have you!



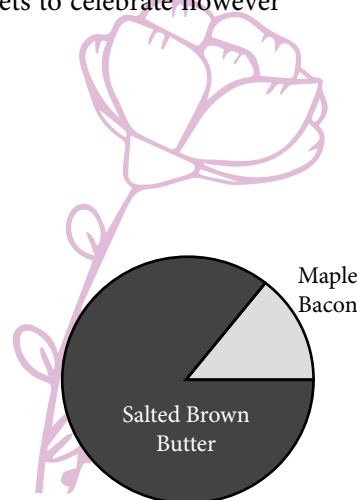
Cinco de Mayo is coming up... And it falls on a Friday! I hope everyone gets to celebrate however they would like.

What is your favorite side to order with tortilla chips?

- A) Queso
- B) Guacamole
- C) Salsa

The results are in!

I apparently need to make the faculty trivia more challenging, because we had another clear winner this month. 85.7% of you correctly voted that Breann's favorite donut flavor is Salted Brown Butter from East Park Donuts. The remaining 14.3% went to the Maple Bacon from Five Daughters.



IN OTHER NEWS

- It has been a difficult month for our state and, as always, we want to encourage civic engagement, particularly given this most recent tragedy. Keep in mind that the voter registration deadline for the TN House District 52 Special Primary Election (Justin Jones's Seat) is May 16th.
- Nominations for the 2023 Brighter Ventures Student Award close May 5th. If you are a female student, have completed the qualifying exam, and are interested in the application of artificial intelligence/machine learning in the biomedical research field you may be eligible.
- The Fall 2023 ASPIRE Path in Molecular Medicine (APMM) applications are due Monday, June 5, 2023. There are multiple virtual information sessions to attend this month if you plan to apply. More information can be found [here](#).
- The 2023 ASPIRE Annual Career Symposium is coming up quickly on June 2nd. You can register early [here](#).



Check it out!

- **Places to go:** The Kentucky Derby is this coming Saturday, May 6th. If you don't feel like making the trek to Kentucky, there are a bunch of Derby parties around Nashville. A couple are Talk Derby to Me at Von Elrods from noon to 10pm and Derby Daze at Assembly Food Hall from 3-9pm. A more complete list can be found [here](#).
- **Things to do:** The Mutt Strut 5K, benefitting Nashville Humane, is May 21st at 7:45am. Its \$20 to run and will take place at Shelby Bottoms Park. You can even bring your own pups! Register [here](#).
- **People to see:** Musicians Corner at Centennial Park is starting this month (May 19th) and will run through June 17th. Different artists will be featured every Friday and Saturday. You can see the full calendar [here](#).

Wellness

The UCC is offering a **Stem Support Group**. This group provides an opportunity to share, listen, and connect with other BRET/STEM students in a safe and private space. The group explores themes that include stress and coping, imposter syndrome, managing difficult relationships, identity, helping a friend, and gift. This is an open group and members are encouraged to join at any time throughout the semester. If interested, please contact aneesa.anderson@vanderbilt.edu or maya.m.williams@vanderbilt.edu.

me after watching chatgpt write code in 2 seconds that I spent 3 years learning how to do:



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.