

MPB GSA NEWSLETTER

Fall 2014

Molecular Physiology & Biophysics Graduate Student Association

The purpose of this newsletter is to serve as a resource for MPB students to get to know the department better.

In this issue of the Newsletter, the MPBGSA would like to take the time to highlight some of the many achievements of our students over the past year. We would also like to welcome the new second year students to MPB and wish our recent graduates "good luck!" «»

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 2nd: Annual Retreat in the Student Life Center from 8:30am - 3pm*

TBA Fall: Relay Race

TBA Oct: Halloween Party and Costume Contest

*All students are required to attend and to present a poster

New MPB Students



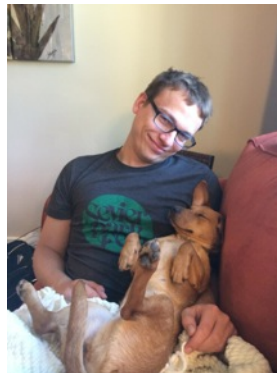
Caleigh Azumaya, Nakagawa lab
Hometown: Chadds Ford, PA
Undergrad: University of Virginia
Fun fact: She likes playing volleyball.



Sheridan Carrington, Cone and Mchaourab labs
Hometown: Barbados
Undergrad: University of the West Indies
Fun fact: He enjoys watching movies, reading, and traveling.



Rachana Haliyuk, MSTP student, Powers lab
Hometown: Chantilly, VA
Undergrad: University of Maryland Baltimore County
Fun fact: She loves traveling.



Nicolas Harris, MSTP student, Winder lab
Hometown: Waukesha, WI
Undergrad: University of Wisconsin - Madison
Fun fact: He enjoys cooking, beer, and playing with his dog.



Michael Litt, Cone lab
Hometown: Jacksonville, FL
Undergrad: Vanderbilt University
Fun fact: He does an excellent Bear Grylls impersonation.



Kim Montaniel, Harrison lab
Hometown: Meycauayan, Bulacan (Phillippines)
Undergrad: University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Fun fact: Kim is an exhibitor of British Shorthair Cats (pictured).



Tyler Perfitt, Colbran lab
Hometown: Evansville, IN
Undergrad: DePauw University
Fun fact: He enjoys bar trivia, swimming, and is fluent in Spanish.



Kristin Peterson, Hasty lab
Hometown: St. Clair Shores, MI
Undergrad: University of Richmond
Fun fact: She has a blog about her love of cooking and baking.



Diane Saunders, Powers lab
Hometown: Durham, NC
Undergrad: Bates College
Fun fact: She creates mix-media artwork.



Alexander Thiemicke, Neuert Lab
Hometown: Halle (Saale), Germany
Undergrad: Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena
Fun fact: He likes to travel, cook, and run.



Elijah Trefts, Wasserman lab
Hometown: Lisbon, ME
Undergrad: Northeastern University
Fun fact: He has never lived more than 20 minutes away from the ocean until now!



Danielle Walheim, Venters lab
Hometown: Havertown, PA
Undergrad: University of Pittsburgh
Fun fact: She enjoys running.



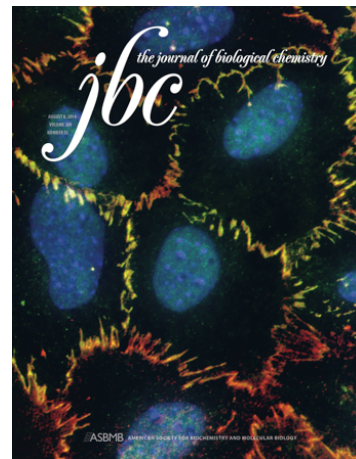
Ian Williams, Wasserman lab
Hometown: Petaluma, CA
Undergrad: UCLA
Fun fact: He is a fan of playing basketball, long walks, and electronic music.



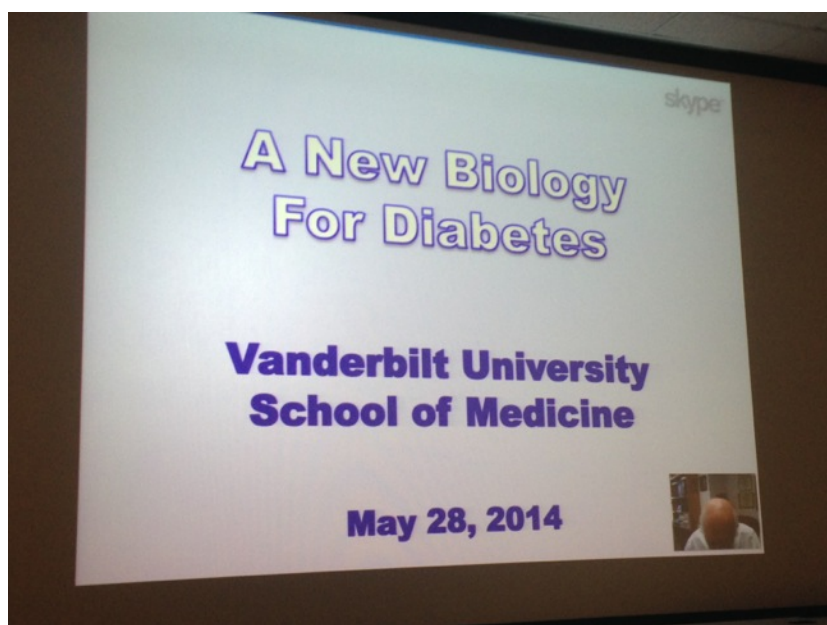
Congratulations, MPB!

The MPBGSA would like to say congratulations for all of the achievements to our MPB students! We have a very talented bunch, so we are taking a moment to highlight some of the accomplishments over the past year. We apologize to any students that we may have missed. «»

- Megan Capozzi (Penn lab) was named Member-In-Training Board of Trustee to the Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)
- Liz Ferrick (Emeson lab) received an NRSA from the NINDS, titled "Physiological roles of Kv1.1 RNA editing"
- Carrie Wiese (Vickers lab) received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, titled "Distribution and Impact of Inflammatory Cell-Originating HDL-microRNAs *in vivo*"
- Roxana Loperena (Harrison lab) received the Porter Fellowship from the American Physiological Society
- Lukasz Wylezinski's (Hawiger lab) work was featured on the cover of the August edition of *JBC*
- AJ Robison (formerly Colbran lab) received the Whitehall Foundation Grant (see http://cit.msu.edu/news/MSUCITUpdate_winter14.pdf)



Student Invited Speaker: Dr. Roger H. Unger



Student Spotlight: Recent MPB Graduates

See where some of our recent grads are heading and what exciting adventures they have in store!

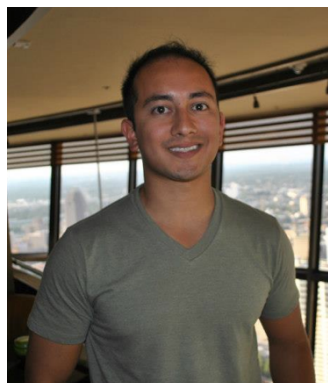


Liz Meredith, May lab, began a post-doctoral fellowship in Bill Banks' lab at the University of Washington in July.

What advice would you give to younger graduate students? Take advantage of how generous people are (not only in MPB but Vandy-wide) with their time or resources.

What are you looking most forward to in your next adventure? Science-wise, I'm looking forward to investigating a more neuroscience-focused disease, Alzheimer's. Life-wise, I'm looking forward to the backpacking and exploring in the Pacific Northwest. Oh, and getting married.

What was the best piece of advice that you received while you pursued your PhD? When an experiment turned out differently than expected or when a mouse experiment seemed to go wrong, I was told that it was not the end of the world. That day, maybe that week, it did seem like the end of the world. But, looking back, it was just a little bump that helped to guide me in a different direction.

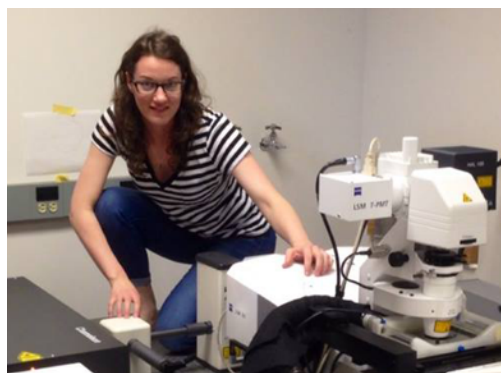


Brandon Panaro, Cone lab, will begin a post-doctoral fellowship with Daniel Drucker at the University of Toronto starting at the end of the summer.

Aside from defending and graduating, what was a special memorable moment from your time in MPB? I really enjoyed having lunch with Nobel Laureate Roger Tsien. He had so many brilliant bits of advice and stories to tell.

How did your mentor most influence you? No matter how scary things got in graduate school, Roger always set a shining example by being unwaveringly positive and helpful, and I hope I can be the same way as a mentor.

What are you looking most forward to in your next adventure? I'm really excited to live in a big city for the first time in my life. It will be a really unique experience compared to where I have previously lived (Pittsburgh and Nashville).



Amy Elliot, Piston lab, accepted a post-doctoral at the NIH.

Aside from defending and graduating, what was a special memorable moment from your time in MPB? Passing my qualifying exam.

What was the best piece of advice that you received while you pursued your PhD? Sleep is for weenies.

What are you looking most forward to in your next adventure? The research.



Marquicia Pierce, May lab

Aside from defending and graduating, what was a special moment from your time in MPB? My most memorable moments have been interacting with the undergraduate students I had the privilege to mentor in the lab. They reminded me of why I initially chose research as an undergrad and it has been great to share with them the experiences that helped shape my training path.

Favorite place or thing that you will miss most about Vanderbilt/Nashville? I will definitely miss the Nashville music scene. I have been playing the piano since middle school and enjoy classic and big band jazz. Since living in Nashville, I have had a chance to play and perform with some amazing musicians in various genres.

What was the best piece of advice that you received while you pursued your PhD? "Pick up a few different languages." Learn how to talk about the impact of your work with the general public, other life science disciplines, engineers, medical professionals or venture capitalists. It's important to be able to convey a compelling message that resonates with them to be able to foster new collaborations or connections.



David Cappel, Stafford lab, is a new post-doctoral fellow in Shawn Burgess' lab at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX.

What advice would you give to younger graduate students? It's never too early to think about what the next steps might be. I was very lucky to get a position rather quickly, but I had not reached out to potential post-doctoral positions until I had almost graduated. Making contacts with professors at conferences and visiting speakers at Vanderbilt will make your search for a future position that much easier.

Favorite place or thing that you will miss most about Vanderbilt/Nashville? I will definitely miss Nashville hot chicken! I will also miss all of the friends that I have made over the years in Nashville.

How did your mentor most influence you? John taught me about what it takes to run a lab and especially the work that goes into starting a new lab. I was John's first student to graduate and came into the lab when he had just started. Getting to see first-hand the unique challenges presented to an early-career investigator has helped me to prepare for my own future career.



Rachel Lippert, Cone lab, recently began a post-doctoral fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for Neurological Sciences in the Jens Bruening lab in Cologne, Germany.

What are you looking most forward to in your next adventure? I'm excited to learn some new techniques in a really great lab. I'm also excited to travel around Europe and experience the culture and food that all the different countries have to offer. I really think my experience in Germany will be great both professionally and personally! If any students travel abroad, get in touch with me, I'll always enjoy a visitor or two!

What advice would you give to younger students? My biggest piece of advice is to focus on a healthy work-life balance. Roger would be the first to tell you of all the extracurricular things I've done as a student at Vanderbilt. I've certainly had my fair share of late nights/weekends in lab, but I think it's important to know that things outside of lab can stimulate and refresh your mind in different ways and can aid in making your work more efficient and productive.

Aside from defending and graduating, what was a special moment from your time in MPB? There are too many to list! All of the competitive banter between labs regarding the relay race or other challenges. The sudden spurt of babies born in my lab. I'll always remember all the students I've had the joy of participating in Intramural Sports with and spending happy hours with. We've certainly had a wonderful core of students in the department that have become friends outside of MPB and I hope that tradition continues.

Congratulations to Laura Buckman, Clint Hasenour, and Jinlong Ding who recently defended!

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF OUR RECENT AND FUTURE
MPB GRADS IN THEIR FUTURE ENDEAVORS**

We want to hear from you!

MPB students know how to get things done! Let us know of recent grants, awards and publications so we can feature it in the newsletter. Also, If you would like to contribute to the newsletter just let us know. You can submit articles to MPBGSA@vanderbilt.edu. It's a great way to improve your writing skills and would look great on your CV. Comments and suggestions are encouraged as well.



@Vanderbilt MPB Graduate Student Association
Join our Facebook group for updates!

MPBGSA@vanderbilt.edu