

MPB GSA NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015

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

Molecular Physiology & Biophysics Graduate Student Association

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 15th: MPB Department Photo, Location TBD

Oct 16th: Relay Race

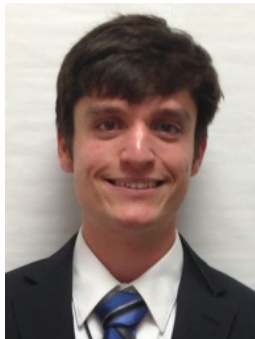
TBA Oct: Halloween Party and Costume Contest

Dec 3rd: MPB Retreat and Symposium, Student Life Center*

Dec 11th: 90th Anniversary Holiday Party, Rotunda at Wyatt Center Peabody Campus

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

New MPB Students



Ben Kesler, Neuert lab
Hometown: Pheonix, AZ
Undergrad: Arizona University
Fun fact: Running a half marathon in 8th grade made me realize that I didn't like running very much
Spirit animal: elephant



Bethany Dale, Madhur lab
Hometown: Coral Springs, FL
Undergrad: The Johns Hopkins University (BA and MS)
Fun fact: I am training for a half-marathon
Guilty pleasure: Vino...all of the vino.



Karin Bosma, O'Brien lab
Hometown: Walnut Creek, CA
Undergrad: Covenant College
Fun Fact: played offensive lineman for our winning intramural flag football team in college
Favorite food: chocolate or coffee, or both together



Allie Fuller, Mchaourab lab
Hometown: Asheville, NC
Undergrad: Emory University
Fun fact: I own an otamatone, which is a really strange instrument/toy
Favorite food: Either guacamole, eggplant parmesan, or Thai curry
Hobbies: singing, playing piano, and painting

Student Invited Speaker: Dr. Debbie Muoio

Leslie Roteta



On May 19th, the MPB GSA hosted the annual student invited speaker (SIS). This year the students voted to invite Dr. Debbie Muoio, Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology at Duke University. “Dr. Muoio was the perfect person to invite – as evidenced by the “standing room only” seminar” commented Director of Graduate studies, Dr. Alyssa Hasty. Muoio delivered her seminar entitled “*Nutrient-induced mitochondrial stress in obesity and diabetes*” where she discussed her research focusing on understanding how overnutrition affects metabolic pathways in the mitochondria of skeletal muscle, as well as mitochondrial biogenesis during exercise.

Following her seminar, Muoio met with MPB graduate students over lunch. In this setting, the students had an opportunity to discuss with Dr. Muoio aspects of their research, career development and graduate school challenges.

Dr. Muoio joins a list of very accomplished speakers to have been invited by the MPB students, including Dr. Roger Unger (2014), Dr. Antonio Convit (2013) and Dr. Jeffrey Zigman (2011). We look forward to the continued success of this program, and thank the students for their participation in nominating and voting for speakers.



New LinkedIn!

Danielle Walheim

The MPB GSA has developed a LinkedIn group specifically for current students and alumni of the MBP department. This group aims to serve the student body in connecting with previous members of our department. So if you're a current member of MPB seeking advice on the next steps of your career, or a graduating student looking to stay connected to the happenings of the department request to join our group by searching for Vanderbilt Molecular Physiology and Biophysics Department Trainees and Alumni or visiting <https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=6964233>.

Congratulations, MPB!

The MPBGSA would like to say congratulations for all of the achievements to our MPB students! We

- Megan Capozzi (Penn lab) was selected to attend the Lindau Nobel Laureate meeting in Lindau, Germany. The meeting will be focused on Physics, Physiology or Medicine, and Chemistry.
- Brian Palmisano received a poster award at the Kern Lipid Conference (Franz Simon Young Investigator Poster Award).
- Carrie Weise and Brian Palmisano received a poster award at the South East Lipid Research Conference (Outstanding Poster Presentations).
- Courtney Copeland won 1st place in the graduate student poster session at the 2nd Midwest Membrane Trafficking and Signaling Symposium.
- Liz Ferrick was awarded a dissertation enhancement grant
- Roxana Loperena is a recipient of the American Physiological Society Caroline tum Suden/Frances Hellebrandt Professional Opportunity Award.
- Bethany Carboneau received a visiting scientist research award from the Alberta Diabetes Institute Islet Core to spend four months in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada working on her thesis project.
- Five MPB students received pre-doctoral fellowships from the American Heart Association of only 24 total awards given in the Greater Southeast chapter! Congratulations to Leslie Roteta (Vickers lab) Christian Marks (Colbran lab), Kim Montaniel (Harrison lab), Allison Norlander (Harrison/Madhur lab), and Reid Bolus (Hasty lab)!

In addition to our students, Drs. Hasty and Kenworthy were endorsed for promotion to full Professor of MPB by the School of Medicine Faculty Appointments and Promotions Committee. Congratulations to them!

Student Spotlight: Recent MPB Graduates

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



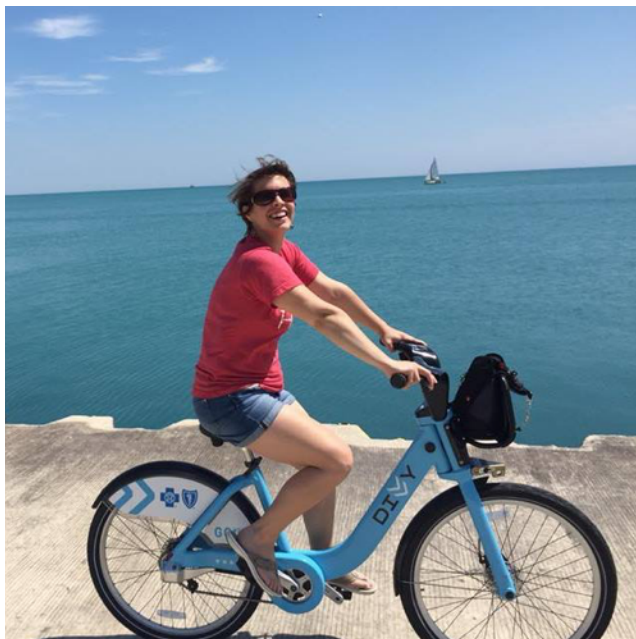
Jinlong Ding, Delpire lab, Associate Sales Manager in the laboratory equipment division of Thermo Fisher Scientific (so let him know when your lab need new toys!)

What are you looking most forward to in your next adventure? I look forward to playing a bigger role in the industry world with my scientific background and new business skill sets.

What advice would you give to younger graduate students? Work hard on your research project, keep your options open after graduation, make preparations early.

Aside from defending and graduating, what was a special memorable moment from your time in MPB? The moment my committee said "congratulations" to me on finishing my thesis.

How did your mentor most influence you? I sincerely thank Dr. Delpire for his understanding and support when I was looking for non-academic careers.



Tammy Barnes, McGuiness lab, Now a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan in the laboratory of Dr. Martin Myers.

What advice would you give to younger graduate students? Just keep swimming, swimming, swimming! There are going to be times in graduate school that are challenging, whether it is in the lab or not (after all, this is a time of growth and change for many of us). If you get overwhelmed, find someone to talk to. Take care of yourself. Oh, and allow yourself time for hobbies!

What was the best piece of advice that you received while you pursued your PhD? A career services event struck a cord for me. The advice: keep as many doors open as possible, and seek new opportunities by asking for more responsibility.

Favorite place or thing that you will miss most about Vanderbilt/Nashville? I miss so much about Nashville! The food (please, someone bring me some Pharmacy burgers?), the people who say “Hi, how are you?” rather than walking right by you, and so many of my friends and mentors along the way. Mostly the friends and mentors. I have to take the opportunity here to mention what an amazing support Alyssa Hasty was for me during the entire road along graduate school. She helped me during some really rough times, and she always had my back. If every department had an Alyssa Hasty, the world would be a better place.



Ashley Williams, Wasserman lab, Postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Deborah Muoio at the Duke Molecular Physiology Institute (DMPI)

What advice would you give younger graduate students? Take risks and do things even when others say it cannot be done. It is amazing how many advances arise in the laboratory or in your career when you take risks. Also, don't underestimate the time it will take to find a good postdoctoral position or job after the PhD. Start looking one year before your anticipated defense date.

What was the best piece of advice that you received while you pursued your PhD? If every hypothesis were true, then the work wouldn't be worth doing in the first place. A good hypothesis will often be revised several times throughout the course of a study depending on the outcome of each experiment. If you are not constantly revising your hypothesis, then you are either extremely lucky or not working hard enough.

How did your mentor most influence you? There are many ways in which Dave has had such a great, positive influence on my career. Working with him as a PhD student taught me many important lessons that I will carry forward into the next phase of my career. First, he taught me to follow the science and/or phenotype. In science, you often start out with a good hypothesis and in the process of testing that hypothesis, your results may lead you in a completely different direction. This is okay and it is important to remain open minded. Negative results are important and they can add to the story just as much as positive results. Interpret each result within the framework of the current study. Second, he taught me the value in seeing the humor in everything and to not take things so seriously. It can be hard to not get discouraged sometimes and it helps to laugh and have a good sense of humor along the way.

Favorite place or thing you will miss most about Vanderbilt/Nashville? The thing(s) I miss the most are my friends and colleagues at Vanderbilt. I met so many amazing people during my time as a PhD student and I will always be grateful for the positive influence they had, and continue to have, on my personal and professional life.

Good luck to all of our recent and future
MPB grads in their future endeavors!

MPB Student Selected Speaker Series:

Peter Kropp

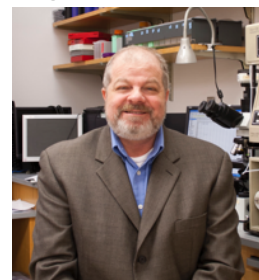
We see each other in the halls and at seminars, share questions and reagents, discuss science and non-science issues alike, but rarely do we know the full scope of what a lab studies and how it developed to that point. For that reason, the MPBGSA has started a process to facilitate presentations by MPB faculty meant to share not only the current and exciting data produced in their labs, but also the story of their careers. A student poll is used to determine who will be invited to present to the department each semester. The new Student-Selected Speaker series provides a means to get to know the entire faculty around us and develop into an even more cohesive department. We hope to

increase awareness of what is happening right down the hall and get to know the faculty at a deeper level.

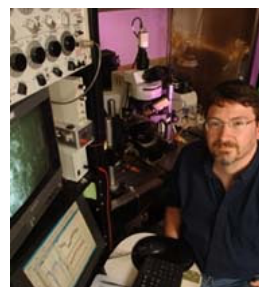
This spring the GSA launched the Student-Selected Speaker series with three very successful seminars attended by a multitude of trainees and faculty alike. Jackie Corbin, Anne Kenworthy, and James Sutcliff all delivered excellent seminars and set a high bar for the coming fall semester. We look forward to continuing seminars and are happy to announce the speakers and dates for the Fall semester. Please join us to hear a presentation from Drs. Roger Cone on Oct. 14th, David Wasserman on Nov. 11th and Danny Winder Dec. 9th. We hope to see you there!



Roger Cone – Oct 14



David Wasserman – Nov 11



Danny Winder – Dec 9



Welcome to the world! New MPB baby!

Holly (Stein lab) and Travis Cyphert (McGuinness lab), welcomed baby boy Miles Jason Cyphert to their family in March 2015.

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.



MPBGSA@vanderbilt.edu



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



Remember to join the new Vanderbilt Molecular Physiology and Biophysics Department Trainees and Alumni LinkedIn!