

MPB GSA NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015

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

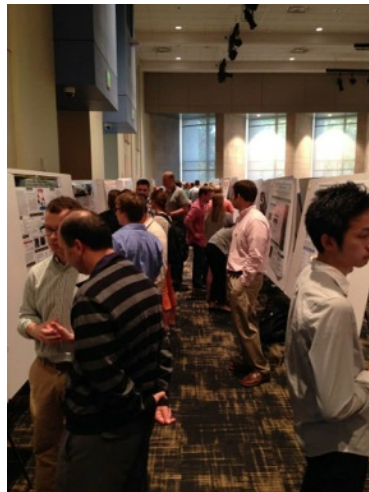
Molecular Physiology & Biophysics Graduate Student Association

MPB Retreat

By Merla Hubler & Danielle Walheim

On October 2, 2014 the MPB GSA sponsored the annual Departmental Retreat. MPB invited speakers included Dr. Gregor Neurt, Dr. Meena Madhur and Dr. Kasey Vickers. Each speaker brought a unique approach to their talk, as they presented ongoing research in the lab and their experiences as new faculty. To conclude the morning, students, post-docs and core labs presented posters that were graciously judged by faculty from the department. Peter Kropp (Gannon lab) won 1st place for his poster. Lukasz Wylezinski (Hawiger lab) and Kim Montaniel (Harrison lab) were awarded runner up. The entertainment highlight of the day was the rousing

game of intra-departmental jeopardy. Humorous departmental facts and pictures were shared by the host, Dr. Dave Piston, and the game ended in a heated round of Final Jeopardy. The afternoon concluded with the keynote speech given by Dr. James Crowe from the department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology. Dr. Crowe spoke on the timely topic of Ebola vaccine development in the context of his life-long interest in exploring patterns. If you didn't make it out for the retreat this October, we hope to see you at the next one! «»



Poster winners (left to right): Peter Kropp, 1st place, Lukasz Wylezinski, runner up, and Kim Montaniel, runner up.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CAMPUS NEWS:

January 30th: Coffee Hour with Colette Bosley - 9 am

Looking for volunteer and/or teaching experience? Join Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science (VSVS)!

- Groups of 4-5 volunteers in VSVS teach middle school children science lessons in metro Nashville
- VSVS requires a low time commitment - about 10 hours per semester
 - Four 1-hour lessons
 - Two short training sessions
- No grading involved
- More information can be found here: <http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsvs/>

Farewell, Dr. Piston!

By Christian Marks

After 22 years, Vanderbilt will be saying goodbye to Dr. David Piston, a Professor of the Departments of MPB, Physics, Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, and director of the Biophotonics Institute at Vanderbilt. Dr. Piston accepted a position as Chair of Cell Biology and Physiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Dr. Piston came to Vanderbilt after receiving his PhD from the University of Illinois in Physics and a post-doctoral fellowship at Cornell where he learned about modern digital microscopy. After coming to Vanderbilt, Dr. Piston was able to integrate his knowledge of physics, engineering, and biology to become an expert and innovator in the field of biophysics. His research has made major advances in the study of diabetes using high-resolution optical microscopy techniques. Piston's work has led to the development of innovative ways to study real-time analysis of different points along the glucose transduction pathway involved in glucose-induced insulin secretion from pancreatic beta cells. Dr. Piston has gained a reputation as an incredible teacher and mentor. In addition to his scientific success, Piston has graced the ears of Nashville as a member of the Nashville Symphony Chorus. As we say farewell to Dr. Piston, we realize that his presence at Vanderbilt will be greatly missed and we wish him all the best. «»



Halloween Party

By Merla Hubler

The MPB GSA Halloween party did not disappoint this year. As by annual tradition, brainy MPBers put their mental energy to good use conjuring up creative costumes. The festivities were accompanied by decorations, food, and spirits to brighten the 7th floor Light Hall atrium. As is nearly tradition, the Cone lab took home first prize in group costume for representing the Time Magazine cover of "What Americans are Most Afraid of in 2014." But first prize did not come easily, as they had to defeat the persuading "Greek Gods" costumes presented by the Wasserman lab. Individual costume was won by Maria Golson from the Gannon lab as "Maleficent". Ultimately, everyone enjoyed themselves as they consumed sweets and beverages, while watching other finagle drinks in awkward costumes (like a balloon-filled adipose tissue costume, but I won't name names!). Thanks to all who came out, and let's hope for equally brilliant costumes next year. «»



Maureen Gannon (left) with individual winner Maria Golson (right) as Maleficent.



The Cone Lab took the prize as team winners in the costume contest.

Welcome, MPB Babies!

Mingyu Li (Chen lab) and Liyuan Zhao (Cone lab), along with their son Zhaoyang, welcomed baby boy Zhaoning to their family in March 2014.



Johanna (Colbran lab) and Ray Pasek (Gannon lab) welcomed their first child, baby girl Katarina, to the world in October 2014.



Diabetes Day

By Bethany Carboneau

Many MPB students, post-docs, and faculty attended the annual Vanderbilt Diabetes Day, themed Molecules to People. Attendees enjoyed talks by keynote speakers Drs. Mark Atkinson and William Herman as well as short talks by winners of the Diabetes Scholar award, including Maria Golson from the Gannon lab (pictured on the right). It was a day filled with great scientific discussions and even pictures of Dr. Gannon with her favorite car: Ford Mustang. «»





Above: Relay Race participants and spectators. Below: Students and Chair Roger Cone after Field Day.



Top left: Wasserman lab as Greek Gods
Bottom left: Relay Race winners, Piston lab, with Dr. Cone
Above: The Hasty lab as Adipose Tissue

New Year, New MPB GSA Officers

The GSA would like to thank the prior officers for their contributions. We are looking forward to a great year of organizing events and outreach opportunities for the MPB department faculty, post docs, and students. One of our goals is to continue to increase student involvement and camaraderie this year. Please contact any of the officers with recommendations, critiques or ideas. «»

President: Kayla Boortz

Vice-President: Reid Bolus

Treasurer: Peter Kropp

Secretary: Kristen Syring

Webmaster: Danielle Walheim

Seminar Chair: Leslie Roteta

Communications Chair: Bethany Carboneau

New Members: Merla Hubler, Christian Marks, and Danielle Walheim

TOOLS YOU CAN USE!



Vanderbilt Toastmasters is a group of mostly Graduate level students and young professionals who get together to practice public speaking and leadership. It's great training for anyone who wants to improve their public speaking or want to get over their fear of talking in front of a crowd.



Papers (for Mac) is a great way to organize your research articles. It's like iTunes for PDFs!



My NCBI saves searches and results from multiple NCBI databases, and features an option to automatically update and e-mail search results from your saved searches. My NCBI users can save their citations (journal articles, books, meetings, patents and presentations) in My Bibliography. If you haven't already, sign up for your own account.

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 bethany.a.carboneau@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.



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