December 2016 Issue

PUBLICATIONS

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Barb Golden for being elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Barb was elected for her numerous key and substantial contributions to the field of RNA structural biology and biochemistry. For more information on the award and other awardees click on the link: [http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2016/Q4/eight-purdue-professors-elected-fellows-of-the-american-association-for-the-advancement-of-science.html](http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2016/Q4/eight-purdue-professors-elected-fellows-of-the-american-association-for-the-advancement-of-science.html)

NEW FACES

Xiaofeng Wu is a graduate student from the Department of Chemistry who joined the Tao lab in October. He is originally from Tianjin, China and earned his Bachelor’s degree from Peking University. In his spare time, he enjoys many sports, especially snooker, and listening to his favorite Chinese musician, Li Jian. Welcome Xiaofeng.

Longzhen Song joined the Liu lab as a postdoctoral research assistant on October 24. She is from Anhui Province, China, and received her bachelor's degree in horticulture from Soochow University. She completed her Ph.D. in genetics at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences. She enjoys reading books, watching movies, and also likes sports such as swimming and running (but in moderation). She is also presently cooking for herself, and “it is really a wonderful thing when I cook successfully.” Welcome Longzhen.
DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Summer Science Program will be holding a 2017 Summer Science Program in Biochemistry at Purdue University. This program will consist of high school research curriculum and will involve 24 high school students from around the country, and possibly international as well, who will spend six weeks on campus conducting research projects and learning about biochemistry and the drug discovery process. Applications for all three campuses will open in December 15. The program is taught by Mark Hall and Stefan Paula. For more details hit the links below.

HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=L2HBOV-GN_W

SAYING GOODBYE

Madia Bickett was recently offered the position of Online Education Specialist in Purdue’s Digital Education office. Madia has been a valued member of the Biochemistry department since September 2012. Her last day will be Tuesday, December 13. Even though she is not going far, she will be missed.

Please congratulate Madia on her new position and wish her the best of luck in the future.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to Aamir Mir (Golden lab) on passing his Ph.D. defense on November 15.

Congratulations to Yueping Zhang (Briggs lab) on passing his Ph.D. defense on November 16.

Congratulations to Brendan Powers (Hall lab) on passing his Ph.D. defense on December 2.
Congratulations to Lee Stunkard (Lohman lab) on passing his preliminary exam on December 1.

Congratulations to Hunter Balduf (Kirchmaier lab) on passing his M.S. defense on November 16.

Congratulations to Xiangying (Candy) Mao (Chapple lab) for being awarded an honorable mention at this year’s Global Climate & Energy Project (GCEP) Research Symposium poster session held at Stanford University, November 2 – 3. The title of her poster was 'MED5 and CDK8 play a role in lignin-modification-induced dwarfing in Arabidopsis'.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Beth Tran traveled to Guangzhou, China on November 9 – 10 for the Canton Nucleic Acids Symposium where she chaired a session and also presented her most recent work on long non-coding RNAs. This meeting featured approximately 15 prominent scientists in the regulatory RNA field including Craig Mello (2006 Nobel Laureate and HHMI investigator), Ada Yonath (2009 Nobel Laureate), and Howard Chang (HHMI investigator).

Pictured above: Canton Tower formerly known as Guangzhou TV Astronomical and Sightseeing Tower and also known as Guangzhou Tower is a 595.7-metre (1,954 ft.) tall multi-purpose observation tower in the Haizhu District of Guangzhou (historically known as Canton or Kwangchow), Guangdong,
SAFETY CORNER
By Karyn Rodkey
All fire-rated doors need to be closed at all times unless they are equipped with an electronic or mechanical
device designed to release them to close automatically in case of fire. These doors should never be propped open
by any type of door stop. Propped open fire doors also negatively affect HVAC, fume hood, biological safety
cabinet, and laminar flow clean bench performance.

BIRTHDAYS
Lama Alabdi     Jim Forney     Humaira Gowher     Joe Levell
Zhiguo Li       Kay Wood       Howard Zalkin

UPCOMING EVENTS
December 9 – Department Holiday Lunch and Staff Recognition Party, 11:30 a.m., Whistler 116
December 10 – Classes End
December 12 – 17 - Final Exams Week
December 17 – Semester Ends
December 18 – COMMENCEMENT Division 2 – Sunday, 2:30 pm - Agriculture
December 22-January 2 – University Holiday/Winter Recess
January 9 – Classes resume

December Biochemistry Grad Student/Postdoc Seminar
(Every other Friday at 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in Whistler Hall, Rm. 116; ROTATION TALKS WILL BEGIN AT 12:00 P.M.)

December 2 – Zhiguo Li (Liu lab)
December 16 – ROTATION TALKS