

Biochemistry Spring 2021 Awards

Graduate Student and Postdoc Awards

Outstanding TA - Rui (Gary) Gan (Golden Lab)

The Outstanding TA award is given annually to recognize a student's outstanding performance as a teaching assistant. This year's winner is Gary Gan in recognition of the work he did in BCHM 221 with Professor Gimble last fall. Gary has been a TA for BCHM 361, BCHM 221. He is currently a TA for Joe Ogas in BCHM 465. Congratulations Gary!



Ross-Lynn Research Scholar Awards (formerly PRF fellowships) - Juan (Jupa)

Jauregui is this year's recipient. The Ross-Lynn Research Scholar Fund supports the recruitment and retention of exceptional Ph.D. students and post-doctoral scholars. The Fund is made possible by the generous support of the David J. Ross and Charles J. Lynn gifts that created the XRXL endowment. The principle has grown substantially over the years, becoming one of the largest endowments in Purdue's portfolio. Because support for exceptional Ph.D. students and post-doctoral scholars is critical to maintaining top-ranked programs, the Ross-Lynn Research Scholar Fund is supplemented with support from the EVPRP to maintain a fixed minimum annual distribution despite fluctuations in the

endowment revenue.

Weiner Travel Award - This year's Weiner Travel Award recipient is **Luopin Wang** (Kazemian lab). This award was established in 2012 in memory of Dr. Henry A. Weiner, professor of biochemistry from 1966-2010. The \$1,000 award is given annually to help defray the costs of a graduate student or postdoc so they can attend a scientific meeting. Luopin will be attending the RECOMB 2021 meeting (a computational biology conference), in August 2021, Padova, Italy.

Poster: "Evaluating gene set enrichment analysis methods: from benchmark to best practices"



Henry A. Moses Award - **Luopin Wang** (Kazemian Lab) is this year's Henry A. Moses Award recipient. The Henry A. Moses Award was established in 2008 by Biochemistry alumnus Dr. Bradley Sheares and his wife Adrienne Simmons to honor his mentor and fellow alumnus Dr. Henry Moses for his contributions to research, education and service. This award is provided to recognize a graduate student for an early publication. Dr. Moses taught undergraduate biochemistry to Dr. Sheares at Fisk University and played an influential role in his decision to pursue his doctorate at Purdue. Luopin entered in 2018, has a first author publication in J. Virology (2020), two co-first author publications (2019 and 2020), two co-author papers 2019 and 2020.



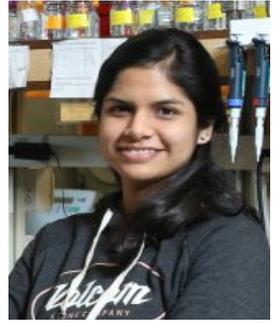
Beach Travel Award - **Youssef Hegazy** (Tran Lab) is this year's Beach Travel Award recipient.

This award was first given in 2006 through the Beach Family Lectureship in Biochemistry endowment. The \$1,000 award is given to help defray the costs of a graduate student so they can attend a scientific meeting. David and Doris Beach established this endowment in 1990. Their son Michael earned his PhD in Biochemistry in 1987. Inspired by their son's enthusiasm for science, David and Doris chose to share their good fortune by supporting our biochemistry graduate program. Youssef will be attending an RNA Society Meeting June 2021 (Online) Poster: "Identifying factors that promote R-loop formation in budding yeast"

AK Balls Award - Eliana Torres-Zelada (Weake lab) is this year's AK Balls Award recipient.

This award was established in 1969 to honor the memory of Professor A.K. Balls (1891-1966) whose scientific achievements and personal virtues have made biochemistry a richer discipline.

The award is given annually to a graduate student in biochemistry approaching completion of their doctoral program who exhibits unusual potential for significant contributions to biochemical research. Eliana has a 1st author publication in Journal of Cell Science in 2019 and a second article in Biochem Biophys Acta (BBA) Gene Regulatory Mechanisms in 2020. PhD studies: *Mapping the role of Chiffon and a novel Gcn5 histone acetyltransferase complex in Drosophila*

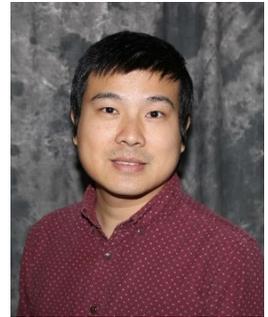


Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship - Trevor Boram (Lohman Lab) is the recipient of the Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship. The College of Agriculture in conjunction with the Graduate School provides Bilsland Dissertation Fellowships to assist graduate students who are within the final year of completing their Ph.D. degree. In addition to his thesis research on "Inhibition of Carboxylases and Ketosynthases by Malonyl-thioester Isosteres", Trevor served as a TA for four semesters and has mentored 14 undergraduate students on grad rotation research projects. The Bilsland Fellowship will support Trevor for 6 months

Don Carlson Award - Pan Liao (Dudareva lab) is the recipient of the Don Carlson Award. This award was established in 2011 and is made annually to a postdoctoral fellow, research associate or staff scientist who has recently made a significant contribution to a laboratory. Dr. Liao started as a postdoc in October 2018 and is 1st author on high impact publication in Nature Chemical Biology as the cover story in 2020.

"This study is a breakthrough for the elegant dissection of the cuticle's multiple roles in endogenous Volatile Organic Compound emission and raises several questions in areas ranging from molecular to ecological levels."

Dr. Liao also mentored two rotation students, one graduate student and two undergraduates.



Linda Siersema Staff Excellence Award - Joe Levell

This award was established in 2013 in recognition of Linda Siersema who worked in the department her entire 41-year career. Linda started in 1973 and retired in 2014. At the time of retirement, she was the supervisor of the BCHM storeroom. The award is given annually to a staff member who has demonstrated outstanding performance and service to the department.

Joe has been the Biochemistry Department Academic IT specialist since 2009.

College of Agriculture PK-12 Outreach and Engagement Award for Sustained Faculty Impact

Drs. Mark Hall, Joe Ogas and Stefan Paula are this year's recipients for the College of Agriculture PK-12 Outreach and Engagement Award for Sustained Faculty Impact. This group worked together to create the Summer Science Program (SSP) in Biochemistry, which was first offered at Purdue in 2016, and later at Indiana University, Bloomington. The Summer Science Program is one of the oldest pre-college science programs in the US. The original program, first offered in 1959, is in Astrophysics. The SSP in Biochemistry attracts high school students from across the country to the Purdue campus for a 6-week hands-on laboratory experience (online in 2020 and 2021).

College of Ag Outstanding Graduate Mentor and Teacher Award

This award is designed to recognize faculty who are exemplars of excellence in mentoring and teaching in the area of graduate education. Nominees must demonstrate sustained and significant contributions to graduate education through activities that demonstrated

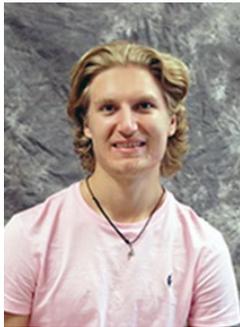
- a record of excellence in teaching, mentoring, coaching, and developing graduate students
- a commitment to the long-term professional development of graduate students
- evidence of innovation and creativity that enhances the graduate experience

This year's recipient is Andy Mesecar. Professor Mesecar's dedication to graduate student mentoring and success is deep-seated and powerful. His former students excel across a wide range of careers that reflect their strong fundamental training and passion for careers they find fulfilling. Preparing the next generation of scientists for a wide range of career options requires understanding, compassion and leadership. These are qualities Dr. Mesecar demonstrates in abundance. As one of his current students, Emma Lendy, states in her supporting letter "Looking back at who I was before I joined Andy's lab, I find myself in awe of how much I have grown as both a person and a scientist. Andy has undoubtedly been an integral part of this development....".

It is a tradition for rotation students to receive a personalized lab coat once they have completed their rotations and are assigned a permanent lab. Here are the 2020-2021 students and their lab placements:



Marcus Clark
Mesecar Lab



Justin Gregor
Briggs/Hall Labs



Michelle Lihon
Tao Lab



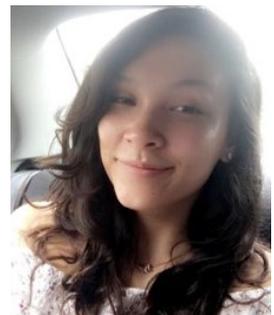
Sarah Stanhope
Weake Lab

Undergraduate Scholarships and Awards

The Bernard Axelrod Memorial Scholarship was established by BS/PhD alumnus David Schroeder, along with others from the Department of Biochemistry, to honor Dr. Axelrod, who served as Head of the Department from 1964 to 1975.

This year's recipient is:

Abigail Sipes, a junior from Honolulu, HI. Abby is active in Purdue University Dance Marathon, Purdue 360 Diversity and Inclusion, Biochemistry Club, Timmy Global Health, and LSAMP. She has been working in the Chapple lab since her first year at Purdue and does summer research at the University of Hawaii Cancer Center.





Another scholarship established by Dr. Schroeder is the **Ray W. Fuller Memorial Scholarship**. Dr. Fuller received his PhD in 1961 and had a successful career in the pharmaceutical industry with Eli Lilly.

This year's recipient is:

Emily Johnson, a junior from West Lafayette. Emily has been involved in the Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research, Medical Humanities Collective, and Food Finders. She has worked in the Ogas lab for 3 years, and is pursuing a double major with professional writing.

The **Dr. Stephen P. and Charlotte A. Coburn Scholarship** was established by the Coburns. Dr. Coburn received his M.S. in 1961 and Ph.D. in 1963 in Biochemistry from Purdue. He is Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne.

This year's recipients are:

Colin Hemme, a junior from Lafayette. Colin has been active in the Biochemistry Club as an officer and is serving as a TA for BCHM 309 this year. He has done research in the Ogas lab and the Lohman lab.



Mario Perez-Ahuatl, a freshman from Lafayette. Mario has served as a soccer referee and works at CVS. He has been doing research in the Boavida Lab in Botany since high school.



The **Patrick C. Matchette** Scholarship was established in 2000. Dr. Matchette received a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from Purdue in 1958 and a DVM in 1966. He was a research manager at Abbott Laboratories.

This year's recipient is:

Lauren Urban, a freshman from New Lenox, Illinois. Lauren is active in Stunt Club and will serve as a BGR Team Leader this summer.

The **Edwin T. Mertz Memorial Scholarship** was established by Biochemistry alumnus Ronald Chance and his wife Carolyn. Dr. Mertz was a professor of Biochemistry at Purdue from 1946-1976.

This year's recipients are:

Adam Schluttenhofer, a junior from Mulberry, Indiana. Adam works with INscribe, Indy Leadership project, volunteers at LUM Homeless Shelter, and tutors at Mayflower Mills elementary. He works in the Ogas lab.



Ogechukwu Ezenwa, a junior from Aba, Nigeria. Oge has been involved in Ag Ambassadors, Nigerian Student Assn, Civic Engagement and Leadership Development, PU Residences, Launch Campus ministry, BGR Team Leader, MLK day of service, Winterization volunteer, and Mortar Board leadership conference. She does research in the Ogas lab.

The **David and Mary Scheible Scholarship in Biochemistry** was established by David, who received his bachelor's degree in biochemistry and master's in industrial administration from Purdue.

This year's recipients are:

Clayton Hicks, a junior from Milford, IN. Clayton is active in the Purdue Foundation Student Board, COVID clinic volunteer, Lafayette Transitional Housing volunteer, TA for BCHM 100, Honors College Ambassador, Purdue Old Masters promotional officer, Ag Council member, Dean's Scholars peer mentor, AMSA peer mentor, Leadership Development Certificate, Purdue Global House peer mentor, College Mentors for Kids, and BGR Team Leader. He does research in the Kirchmaier lab and is pursuing a double major with Philosophy.



Jocelyn Sheets, a junior from Indianapolis, has been active as the Purdue Western Equestrian Team Horse Show manager/volunteer, biochemistry club volunteer, and 4-H Club volunteer. She does research in the Plaut lab in Animal Sciences. Jocelyn's oral presentation about her research recently won 3rd place in the undergraduate competition at the Midwest Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science.

Caden Tuinstra, a sophomore from West Lafayette, is active in Ag Council, a Pre-professional Ambassador, Biochemistry Club; coaches cross country and track at Lafayette Christian School; volunteers at IU Health Hospice, Food Finders Food Bank, and as a Lafayette Science fair judge. Caden works in the Chapple lab and for Dr. Vyn in Agronomy.





Kwok Yip Tso Scholarship was established by Dr. J. Yun Tso, a Ph.D. alumnus of Biochemistry, in honor of his father.

This year's recipient is:

Katelyn Macknyk, a sophomore from Schererville, Indiana. Katelyn is active in Biochemistry Club, Deans Scholars Peer Mentor, Space Day Executive Board, and as a blood drive volunteer. She works in the Ogas lab and the Karalunas lab in psychology, where she is pursuing a double major.

The **Donald and Rita Weeks Scholarship** was established by Dr. Weeks, who earned his B.S. in biochemistry from Purdue University in 1963.

This year's recipient is:

Micah Lehe, a junior from West Lafayette. Micah has been involved with Ag Ambassadors, Issues-360, Food Science Club, Purdue Cru, and served as a volunteer judge and coach for Agriscience FFA events. He has done research in the Kazemian lab and the Tao lab.



The **Zhao-Herrmann Scholarship in Biochemistry** was established by alumnus Dr. Jian-Min Zhao to honor retired Purdue Biochemistry professor Klauss Herrmann.

This year's recipient is:

Amirah Hawait, a freshman from Noblesville, Indiana. Amirah has served as a BGR Team Leader, Purdue Summer Peer Mentor, Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Justice Alliance for Momentum committee co-chair; and is involved in Biochemistry Club, MANRRS, Boiler Green Initiative, and Future Greek Leaders.

Several of our students have received special awards and honors this spring that we would like to take a moment to recognize here.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE RECIPIENT

The Department has a Graduate Certificate in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology whereby senior undergraduates can be recognized for excellence in research and earn the certificate by completing 10 credits of Biochemistry graduate coursework. This year we have one graduate certificate student:

Isabella Prislusky, from Westerville, Ohio. Isabella has done undergraduate research in the Das Lab in Chemistry for 3 years. Isabella will attend graduate school at Ohio State University



ASBMB HONOR SOCIETY

We're happy to announce that one of our students has been inducted this spring into the **Honor Society of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology:**

Kimaya Bakhle, a senior from Westlake, OH. Kimaya will graduate in May and work during a gap year at Purdue's College of Veterinary Medicine. She will be applying to vet school for fall 2022.

BIOCHEMISTRY OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Each year, the department selects one student as the outstanding student from each class on the basis of excellence in academics, research and service. These students are then nominated for the college-level awards. Our outstanding students this year are:

Freshman – **Amirah Hawait**, Sophomore – **Caden Tuinstra**, Junior – **Clayton Hicks** and Senior – **Ana-Pascual Garrigos**.



Ogechukwu Ezenwa is the recipient of the Charles O. McGaughey Leadership Award for her contributions to Purdue and within the College of Agriculture. The award is given to students who have made significant contributions through outstanding leadership



Office of Undergraduate Research: Spring 2021 Research Talks College of Agriculture Winners:

1st Place

Low-cost User-friendly Biosensors for Bovine Respiratory Disease Based on Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) by **Ana Pascual-Garrigos**

Ana-Pascual Garrigos, a senior from Fishers, IN, has been active in Honors College Global House, Global Network Connections, International Ambassadors, Purdue Symphony and Purdue Speech and Debate Team. After graduation, Ana plans to pursue an MBA in her other hometown, Madrid, Spain.

3rd Place

Investigation into the Structural and Functional Effects on Phage Proteins based on Cross-Genome Differences/Mutations by **William Hadjis**, Autumn Denny, and Julia Mollenhauer