December 2012 Issue

Publications

Awards and Recognitions

Mark Hall and Laurie Parker (MCMP) received an award from AB SCIEX Young Investigators Grant Program Award in the amount of $525,000 to purchase a 5600+ Triple TOF LC-MS/MS proteomics system.

Jim Clemens was featured in Purdue Today for determining the function of a gene when mutated leads to a genetic variation of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig’s disease.

Three faculty members were honored with Seed for Success awards on November 14 at the Excellence in Research Awards dinner sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research. The Seed award recognizes the accomplishments of single investigators and teams of investigators for their efforts in obtaining a $1 million dollar or more research grant. Ann Kirchmaier received her award as Co-PI on the W.M. Keck Foundation project entitled, “Live Cell Epigenetic Profiling at Single Molecule Resolution”. Xiaoqi Liu, for his NIH project entitled, Initiation and Regulation of Chronic Autoimmune Prostate Inflammation”. And, Andy Tao as Co-PI on an NIH project entitled, “Identification of Protein-metabolite Interactome”.

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Senior Gabe Rangel has been selected to receive a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Gilliam Fellowship for Advanced Study. The Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study provide full support for up to four years of study toward a Ph.D. for outstanding students who are from groups underrepresented in the sciences or from disadvantaged backgrounds. Gilliam fellows attend the university of their choice and work alongside distinguished scientists. In 2012, only 9 students were selected for the Gilliam Fellowship nationwide.

**Staff Recognition/Holiday Party**

Our Staff Recognition/Holiday Party this year was celebrated with a Sports/Tailgating theme. As always, there was no shortage of departmental spirit, fun and prizes! The department recognized Ann Kirchmaier for 10 years of service to the department and Purdue. The highlights of the party included a basketball shoot-off, a competitive game of flip-cup, and a difficult rendition of Sports Jeopardy that left many department members stumped. Mark Hall won the best costume, emulating a true Pittsburgh Steelers fan.

We would like to thank the following vendors for their donations of prizes for the Holiday Party:

- Adler’s Planetarium
- Arni’s
- Best Western
- Bruno’s
- The Chicago Wolves
- Christo’s
- Comedy Sportz Theatre (Chicago)
- Purdue Convocations
- Purdue Athletic Department
- The Downtowner
- Gilmore Car Museum
- Henni’s Hairshop
- House of Chili
- Indianapolis Symphony
- La Scala
- Moe’s
- Noodle’s Company
- Puccini’s
- Shedd Aquarium
Texas Roadhouse
Von’s

Thank you to the Holiday Party Planning Committee for making the event such a success: Nicki Stone (chair), Brendan Powers, Tiffany Young and Aurelie Chuong.

Saying Goodbye
Donnie Rice (night custodian) will be retiring on December 31. He has serviced the BCHM building for nearly 12 years and he will be missed. The department celebrated Donnie’s retirement on December 20 with cake, punch, laughter and gifts. Congratulations, Donnie!
Zhenxia Du (Tao lab) left December 5. She returned to China to her home university, Beijing University of Chemical Technology.

Xianzeng Hou (Liu lab) will be leaving January 31. He will return to Shandong University in China where he plans to complete his Ph.D. in June 2013.

December Graduations

Ph.D. Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Michelle Drennan</th>
<th>Heather Hutchens</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living in Pensacola, FL</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shawn Liu</td>
<td>Paul South</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postdoc at Stanford University</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.S. Graduate</td>
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<tr>
<th>Ha Un Kim</th>
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<tr>
<td>Returning to Korea and planning to apply to graduate school</td>
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Graduate Student News

Michelle Drennan passed her Ph.D. defense on November 30.

Students who passed their preliminary examinations:

Whitney Dolan (on November 26)

Ben Carter (on November 28)

Yueping Zhang (on November 29)
3rd Rotations

Jingqun Ma - Weake lab
Sander Roy - Gimble lab
Rachel Stegeman - Golden lab
Ben Woodworth - Doudareva lab
Nate Wu - Tran lab

Undergraduate News

The Biochemistry Club held a bake sale on Wednesday, November 28, selling hot chocolate, sandwiches, and assorted baked goods. The club raised $225 and all of the proceeds will be donated to a worthy cause. Thank you for your support!

Alumni News

Biochemistry alumna Nicole Sigurdson (B.S. 2009) was a guest speaker in BCHM 390 Professional Development Seminar on December 6. Nicole graduated from Michigan State University College of Law in May 2012 and is currently an Intellectual Property Attorney at Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP in Cincinnati.

Going the Extra Mile

Clint Chapple travelled to Madison, WI, where he presented the keynote address at the Great Lake Bioenergy Research Center retreat entitled, “Manipulation of lignin biosynthesis in plants: low hanging fruit for biomass feedstock improvement” on November 30.

Nick Bonawitz travelled to Golden, CO, where he presented a talk at the 2012 BESC Biomass Characterization Workshop entitled, “Targeted disruption of the general transcription machinery rescues the stunted growth of a lignin biosynthesis mutant” on December 16.

Elizabeth Tran travelled to Cleveland, OH, where she presented a seminar at the RNA Center at Case Western Reserve University entitled, “The dynamic roles of DEAD-box proteins in gene expression” on November 27-28.

Xiaoqi Liu travelled to Miami, FL, where he attended the AACR meeting: tumor immunology on November 30.

Safety Corner by Karen Rodkey
** Please report temporary snowy and icy sidewalks to Karyn!!!*

Minimize the number of slip, trip, and fall occupational injuries at Purdue!

REPORT HAZARDOUS GROUND or FLOOR CONDITIONS

Call 49-43087 to report exact location inside or outside of any building on the Purdue campus that may cause a slip, trip, or fall.

Slips, trips, and falls are the leading cause of occupational injuries at Purdue University.

The average cost of Workers’ Compensation slip, trip, and fall injury claims for the last ten years was $3,198. That exceeded the average cost of other injuries by 41 percent.
Strictly Personals

Nina Serratore (Briggs lab) performed in two modern dance pieces in "Winter Works: A Purdue Contemporary Dance Concert" on December 7 and 8. Her first dance was '500 parts per billion' choreographed by Carol Cunningham and the second was 'Witness' choreographed by Rebecca Bryant. Nina also plans to dance in the spring concert in April.

Birthdays
Nick Anderson
Jim Forney
Don Fultz
Joe Levell
Zhiguo Li
Amjad Nasir
Emma Ohaeri
Howard Zalkin

Upcoming Events

December 17-January 6  Semester Break
December 24-25  University Holidays (offices closed)
January 15  Epigenetics and Chromatin Biology Cluster Hire Candidate Brendan Hunt
Georgia Institute of Technology
Deans Auditorium, 9:00AM
BCHM Seminar
Roy Parker
University of Colorado at Boulder
WSLR 116, 3:30PM

January 17
Biochemistry Faculty Candidate
Michael Harms
University of Oregon
WSLR 116, 10:30AM

January 23
Biochemistry Faculty Candidate
Jing-Ke Weng
The Salk Institute
WSLR 116, 11:30AM