February 2015 News

Publications


Awards & Recognition

In January, the department implemented a new semi-annual fellowship opportunity for graduate students through the Bird Stair endowment. The following students received funding support for the period 1/1/2015 – 6/30/2015.

Hunter Balduf (Kirchmaier)  Li Pan (Tao)  Nina Serratore (Briggs)
Ben Carter (Ogas)  Chris Petell (Gowher)  Chen Shao (Liu)
Kit Ma (Tran)  Brendan Powers (Hall)  Erin Sorlien (Ogas)
Michael Melesse (Hall)  Liang Qin (Hall)  Cindy Xing (Tran)
Luyen Nguyen (Briggs)  Faeze Saatchi (Kirchmaier)  Tiffany Young (Kirchmaier)
New Faces

Feng Wang joined the Tao lab on February 18 as a visiting scholar. Feng grew up in Shandong Province, China and she received her M.S. and Ph.D. from the College of Forestry Resources & Environment at Nanjing Forestry University. She is currently a senior engineer with Jiangsu Institute for Food and Drug Control (JSFDA) in Nanjing, China. She will visit the Tao lab through July and her focus will be to utilize the technologies based on the state-of-the-art liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (LC-MS) for food and drug analyses. Feng is joined by her 5-year old daughter Yuejia Gu.

Rachel Weaver joined the department as the administrative assistant (replacing Kristi Trimble) on February 23. Rachel has worked at Purdue since 2010 and most recently served as the secretary for the College of Liberal Arts undergraduate student recruitment office. Originally from Michigan, Rachel has a B.A. from Purdue in communications. She began her undergraduate career studying physics for three years to become a teacher before deciding to switch to the communications major. She comes to us with a very diverse career background. Prior to her years at Purdue she served as an executive secretary, public relations specialist, communications & events administrator, elementary school paraprofessional, and an office assistant for the mayor of West Lafayette. She and her husband, Chris, have two children (Matthew - senior at Purdue, Sarah - senior at Harrison High School).

Graduate News

Being able to effectively explain their research findings to the general public and to other scientists has become an increasingly important skill for our students to master. The Purdue University Life Sciences (PULSe) graduate program hosted a “Five” Minute Thesis Competition as part of their graduate interview welcome reception. Here, students had only five minutes to let the audience know about their research and to excite them about the impact of their work. In addition, the event provided an overview to the applicants of the breadth of research projects that are currently going on at Purdue. Biochemistry student Rachel Stegeman (Weake lab), who was representing the PULSe Chromatin & Regulation of Gene Expression training group, presented a talk entitled, “Spliceosomal Components within SAGA Promote Proper Transcription and Splicing”. Associate professor Fred Gimble participated as one of three judges for the event.

Undergraduate News

Biochemistry Seniors Kyle Robinson and Ryan Louer have been inducted into Chi Omega Lambda, the ASBMB (American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) Honor Society. The honor society recognizes exceptional undergraduate juniors and seniors pursuing a degree in the molecular life sciences at a college or university that is a member of the Undergraduate Affiliate Network (UAN). Students are recognized for their scholarly achievement, research accomplishments and outreach activities in the molecular life sciences. These students will be recognized during the ASBMB Exemplary Contributions to Education Award lecture at the ASBMB Annual Meeting in Boston on March 29.
Alumni News

Anindya Chatterjee (Ph.D. 2010, Rossie) returned to campus to participate in a College of Agriculture Graduate Alumni Careers Experience Panel on Friday February 6. Anindya is currently a postdoctoral fellow with the American Cancer Society at IU School of Medicine in Indianapolis. He was thrilled to be asked to return to campus and commented, “The panel was very insightful and I enjoyed every moment of it and I am sure the participants liked it too. It was time well spent being able share my experiences (in and outside the lab) at Purdue with both graduate as well as undergraduate students.”

BCHM Renovation Projects

The third floor lab renovation has been approved by the Board of Trustees. That renovation is supposed to be completed by the start of the fall 2015 semester.

The Venturi Vacuum now has all new diaphragm pumps have been installed and training is done. The old House Vacuum system was shut down permanently on February 23. Demolition of the old vacuum lines have started and will be completed next week.

The BCHM 112 and 113 renovation project is now underway. Dr. Rossie has moved to BCHM 315 and the contractors started work on February 16. The room is scheduled to be finished by the end of May.

The first floor air handler that services the 1st floor offices and conference rooms (111, 110, 110a, 109, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 121a) is installed, but is still awaiting control wiring to be finalized.

The plan to replace all of the windows in the BCHM building this summer is still underway.

IT Corner by Joe Levell

Password management can be a painful chore and sometimes it’s very tempting to use the same password over and over. Complex passwords are difficult to remember and can be difficult to enter on a device like a cell phone. Take advantage of tools to make password management easier.

Recommended Password Management Tools:

- LastPass - [https://lastpass.com/](https://lastpass.com/)
- 1Password - [https://agilebits.com/onepassword](https://agilebits.com/onepassword)
- Dashlane - [https://www.dashlane.com/](https://www.dashlane.com/)

Why do I recommend these?
They work on most computing platforms (Mac, PC, Android, iOS) as well as being very user friendly and intuitive to use. They fulfill their promise of making password management easier.

How do they make password management easier?
You only have to remember one password. The master password to your account. The software does all the rest. In the case of LastPass, it will even allow you to perform security audits so you can see problems or duplicates with all your passwords/accounts.

These cost money, can't I do this for free?
There are free services, but they may not work as well.
Isn't this built into my web browser?
Password management is built into many modern web browsers, and even included in the latest version of Mac OS. They are not as secure as they should be and should something happen to your computer, you would lose access to a majority of your passwords. It is always better to compartmentalize potential failure.

"I'm good at managing my passwords."

Going the Extra Mile
Clint Chapple traveled to University of Missouri and presented a seminar in the Department of Biochemistry entitled, “Transcriptional regulatory mechanisms that impact metabolism in Arabidopsis”

Joe Ogas traveled to Washington, DC, to participate in an NSF panel meeting.

Barb Golden travelled to Bethesda, MD, to serve on the NIH MSFB grant review panel.

Birthdays
Justine Arrington  Kalyani Josyula  Sandra Rossie
Madia Bickett  Jeong Im Kim  Ronald Somerville
Clint Chapple  Yu-Hsuan (Karen) Lai  Kristi Trimble
Mark Hall  Fabiola Mura Villanueva
Anton Iliuk  Stefan Paula

Upcoming Events
March 3  BCHM Seminar
Susan Baserga  3:30PM, WSLR 116

March 9  BCHM Department Head Candidate Seminar
Barbara Golden  9:00AM, PFEN 241

March 11  BCHM Department Head Candidate Seminar
David Arnosti  9:00AM, PFEN 241

March 16-20  Spring Break

March 24  AXELROD LECTURES
Craig Peterson  3:30PM, PFEN 241

March 25  AXELROD LECTURES
Craig Peterson  3:30PM, PFEN 241

March 31  BCHM Seminar
Nicholas Noinaj  3:30PM, WSLR 116