June 2017 Issue

PUBLICATIONS


AWARDS AND RECOGNITION
Scott Briggs received a 2017 Research Refresh (R²) Award from Purdue. The R² program is a competitive, campus-wide program sponsored by the Office of the Provost. R² is designed to provide protected time for tenured Associate Professors and Full Professors who would benefit from intense focus to advance their scholarship and reinvigorate their careers. The total amount of the award is $56,711. The project period is 05/01/2017 – 08/31/2018.

Barbara Golden was chosen as a Big Ten Academic Alliance Academic Leadership Program Fellow for 2017 – 2018. The Big Ten Academic Alliance Academic Leadership Program is designed to develop the leadership and managerial skills of faculty who have demonstrated exceptional ability and administrative promise. It is specifically oriented to prepare faculty members to meet the challenges of academic administration at major research universities in the 21st century. The Big Ten Academic Alliance is an academic consortium of Big Ten universities and the University of Chicago.

Andy Tao received an award from Tymora Analytical Operations for his project entitled “Multiplexed detection and imaging of protein phosphorylation based on soluble Nanopolymers” in the total amount of $300,000. The project period is 07/01/2015 – 06/30/2017.

Elizabeth Tran received an award from PHS-NIH National Institute of General Medical Science for her project entitled “The role of Dead-box Proteins in gene expression”. The total amount of the award is $1,270,293. The project period is 05/01/2017 – 04/30/2021.

NEW FACES
Carrie Honn started as an Account Clerk in the Biochemistry Business Office on May 1. Carrie previously worked at Purdue in Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) but left in 2007 to become a stay-at-home mom. Most recently, she was the HR Coordinator for Schilli Transportation in Remington. Carrie is from and currently resides in Fowler with her husband, Nic and their 4 children, age 17, 14, 10 and 7.
DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Biomolecular Galaxy Mini-Symposium
Samantha Lee (Golden lab) was the organizing committee chairperson for 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Biomolecular Galaxy' Symposium, held May 10 – 11 at Neil Armstrong Hall of Engineering. Also serving on the committee was Emma Lendy (first-year PULSe student, Mesecar lab and former Golden lab undergraduate researcher) and Kristina Kesely (post-doctoral scholar, Mesecar lab). Lee Stunkard (Lohman lab) presented a talk entitled "Investigating the Catalytic Molecular Details of Malonyl-thioester Decarboxylating Enzymes" and Allison Norvil (Gowher lab) presented a poster entitled "Dnmt3b Methyllates DNA by a Noncooperative Mechanism, and its Activity is Unaffected by Manipulations at the Predicted Dimer Interface". Austin Dixon (undergraduate researcher, Loman lab, Class of 2017) won the award for Best Undergraduate Presentation on his poster entitled "Structural Analysis of LigB from Plants to Determine the Mechanism of Substrate Specificity". Andy Mesecar gave a talk on "StructureBio Facilities at Purdue" and Jeremy Lohman served as an oral presentation judge. Also in attendance were Mark Hall, Aaron Benjamin (Lohman lab), Rui Gan (Golden lab), Nicole Hjortland (Mesecar lab), Nicole Klinkner (Mesecar lab), Chris Petell (Gowher lab), and Lama Alabdi (Gowher lab).

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

May Ph.D. and M.S. Graduates

Justine Arrington, Ph.D.
Next Stop: Postdoctoral Research Associate at Tymora Analytical, West Lafayette, IN

Whitney Dolan, Ph.D.
Next Stop: Seeking employment in the San Francisco, CA area

Bethany Manning, M.S.
Next Stop: Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary Education at Columbus State University
Congratulation to Jingqun Ma (Weake lab) who passed her defense on May 4. Pictured left to right: Vikki Weake and Jingqun Ma.

Congratulations to Siwen Wang (Tran lab) who passed her defense on May 9. Pictured left to right: Pete Pascuzzi, Siwen Wang and Beth Tran.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

May B.S. Graduates

Kaelan Brennan
Next Stop: Graduate School, University of California - Berkeley, Molecular and Cell Biology

Kelsey Bullens
Next Stop: Graduate School, IUPUI, Biology

Rochelle Camden
Next Stop: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Purdue University

Shelby Cummings
Next Stop: Lab Technician, Dr. Karen Plaut lab, Purdue University
Austin Dixon
Next Stop: Graduate School, Indiana University, Bloomington, Biochemistry

Andjela Djokovic
Next Stop: Applying to Medical School, University of Queensland

Rebecca Donnelly
Next Stop: Clinical Trial Development Program, AbbVie Inc.

Sarah Gutman
Next Stop: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Arryn Harris
Next Stop: Graduate School, Purdue University, PULSe

Charles Hawthorne
Next Stop: Seeking employment

Kristen Hendricks
Next Stop: Seeking employment

Adetoro Koleosho
Next Stop: Shift Supervisor Trainee, CVS Pharmacy

Sarah Meghan Kriger
Next Stop: Seeking employment

Chris Long
Next Stop: Seeking employment

Lauren Macadlo
Next Stop: Seeking employment

Stephen McCune
Next Stop: Lab Technician Roche Diagnostics
NOT SHOWN: Andrew Delks – Next Stop: Seeking employment

Congratulations to the Biochemistry Club for receiving a $500 award from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) for their project entitled “Improving outcomes in biochemistry outreach for elementary school children”. The project period is 01/01/2017 – 12/31/2017.

Gabrielle Buck (undergraduate, Dudareva lab) received the Martin Agricultural Research Fund Scholarship from Agricultural Research at Purdue to continue her research during 2017 – 2018 academic year.
Stephanie Price (Junior) was awarded first place from the Townsend Writing Excellence Competition for her submittal “The Seagull and the Sandwich: How Birds Adapt to Cities”. The award included a cash prize of $2,500 to be used toward her tuition.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Clint Chapple traveled to Cornell University to give a talk entitled “How do plants mediate crosstalk between biochemical pathways?” on April 28.

Natalia Dudareva traveled to West Virginia University to give a talk entitled “A journey through the plant metabolic pathways to volatile emission” at the Division of Plant and Soil Sciences seminar series on April 19 – 21. Natalia also traveled to the University of Maryland to give a talk entitled “Deciphering molecular mechanisms involved in plant volatile emission” at the 18th Annual Plant Biology Minisymposium on May 25.

Barb Golden traveled to Prague, Czech Republic to attend the Hallmarks of Cancer: Focus on RNA meeting from May 28 – 30 where she gave a talk entitled “137 building a ribozyme with tRNA synthetase activity”. Barb is an elected member of the Board of Directors of the RNA Society.

Humaira Gowher gave a talk at IUPUI, South Bend entitled “Biological consequences of the catalytic specialization of DNA methyltransferases” on May 8.

Beth Tran traveled to Prague, Czech Republic to attend the Hallmarks of Cancer: Focus on RNA meeting from May 28 – 30 where she presented a poster entitled “The DEAD-box helicase DDX5 is a bona fide helicase that plays a conserved role in glucose metabolism”. Beth also attended the 22nd Annual RNA Society Meeting from May 30 – June 3 in Prague and presented a poster entitled “Genome-wide identification of DEAD-box RNA helicase enzymatic targets reveals roles for secondary structure remodeling during pre-mRNA processing”. She also served on the Board of Directors at the RNA Society meeting.

Karen (Yu-Hsuan) Lai (Tran lab) traveled to Davis, California from May 8 – 12 to learn computational RNA structure prediction at UC Davis from the laboratory group of Dr. Sharon Aviran.

SAYING GOODBYE

Dr. Harry Charbonneau retired March 31st and was named Professor Emeritus after 26 years at Purdue. We wish him well in his retirement.
JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Ryan Benke  Natalia Dudareva  Elia Farah  Klaus Herrmann
Candy Mao  Kyle Mohler  Pete Pascuzzi  Erin Sorlien
Tiffany Young

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 9 – First 4-week summer module ends
June 12 – Second 8-week summer module begins and second 4-week summer module begins
July 4 – University Holiday (offices closed, no classes)