
*Celebrating
Graduate
Education*



12TH ANNUAL

**GDBBS
AWARDS
BANQUET**

Recognizing the Achievements of our Students and Faculty

October 6, 2022

Druid Hills Golf Club, 740 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA, 30307



EMORY

L A N E Y
GRADUATE
S C H O O L

Graduate Division of Biological
and Biomedical Sciences

PROGRAM | 7:00PM – 9:00PM

OPENING GREETINGS

Nicole Gerardo, PhD
GDBBS Director

ENDOWED RESEARCH AWARDS

Graduate Program in Biology Academic and Professional Achievement Award
Margaret and Thomas Lew Graduate Award in Biomedical Sciences in Biochemistry
Margaret and Thomas Lew Publication Award in Biomedical Sciences in Biochemistry
Margaret and Thomas Lew 1st Year Award in Biomedical Sciences in Biochemistry
William and Catherine Rice Endowed Research Award
Keith Wilkinson Graduate Service Award
John B. Lyon Memorial Scholarship Award

GDBBS AWARDS

Distinguished Alumnus Award
Graduate Career Award
Program Scholars of the Year
TATTO Teaching Award
Student Career Teaching Award
Student Leadership Award
Outreach/Community Service Award
Student Mentor Award
Faculty Mentor Award

RECOGNITION OF FELLOWSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

CLOSING REMARKS

Nicole Gerardo, PhD
GDBBS Director

EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION FROM THE GDBBS DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to all of you who took time out of your schedules to help us celebrate the achievements of students and faculty at this 12th GDBBS Awards Celebration.

During my first year as Director, I have had opportunity to see the commitment that our faculty, students and administrators make in order to support our students' development as scientists and as leaders. Indeed, this awards banquet could extend for days if we were to recognize all of them. My gratitude to the many student leaders of the Division Student Advisory Council and each of the programs within the Division for helping build community and for advocating for students. Thank you to the programs' faculty leaders and teachers, especially the program Directors and Directors of Graduate Studies, who foster excellence in training and who go to extraordinary lengths to support individual students facing challenges.

Over the course of the year, we have built more productive and supportive connections between the GDBBS and the Laney Graduate School (LGS) leadership. Thank you to the GDBBS team and to all in LGS for what they do.

Sincerely,



Nicole Gerardo
GDBBS Director

NIH NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD (NRSA T32)

Ashley Alexander (PBEE)
Olufisayo Aloba (NS)
Lauren Askew (BCDB)
Yasmine Bassil (NS)
Joseph Behnke (NS)
Maegan Brockman (MSP)
Carter Brzezinski (MSP)
Veronica Canarte (CB)
Amber Coats (MMG)
Natalie Correa (IMP)
William Crandall (MSP)
Rachel Done (MMG)
Tyshawn Ferrell (BCDB)
Levi Gifford (BCDB)
Saahj Gosrani (NS)
Hannah Hrcncir (BCDB)
Alexa Iannitelli (NS)
Abigail Janto (GMB)
Jarildy Javier (NS)
David Jimenez-Vallejo (PBEE)
Anuradha Korukonda (NS)
Cheyenne Lee (MMG)
Sarah Mansour (BCDB)
William McFadden (BCDB)
Thomas O'Haren (GMB)
Katelyn Oliver (NS)
Alejandro Oviedo (BCDB)
Rachel Pearson (IMP)
Mariko Peterson (PBEE)
Tana Pottorf (NS)
Lindsey Ramirez (MSP)
Dormarie Rivera Rodriguez (IMP)
Kelsey Robinson (GMB)
James Rose (GMB)
Debresha Shelton (GMB)
Benjamin Siciliano (MSP)
Brianna Silver (GMB)
Hannah Smith (MMG)
Alexa Snyder (BCDB)
Pooja Srinivas (MSP)
Emily Sullivan (MSP)
Linzie Taylor (NS)
Kedamawit Tilahun (GMB)
Heidi Ulrichs (BCDB)
Katherine Westover (GMB)
Alexandria White (NS)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Sandra Mendiola (PBEE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS IPA

Aimee Paulk Tierney (MMG)

GRADUATE DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

The Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences (GDBBS) within the Laney Graduate School (LGS) was established to foster interdisciplinary research. Our goal is for Emory to be known as a destination for receiving the highest quality doctoral training, successfully preparing a diverse student body for a wide range of careers related to biological and biomedical research.

With the support of the LGS, the GDBBS oversees and coordinates the training and mentoring of approximately 400 graduate students in eight interdisciplinary PhD Programs. There are currently approximately 400 world-renowned researchers amongst our training faculty. Our students continue to do amazing work, contributing to Emory's strengths in biomedical and biological research and developing as scientists and leaders. Students apply for and receive numerous fellowships, publish high quality research, teach in our classrooms, and lead outreach efforts to the Atlanta community. Clearly, GDBBS students and faculty, with the support of the GDBBS staff, are doing great things that make Emory proud.

The overarching mission of the GDBBS is to enable Programs and faculty to provide quality scientific research training and mentoring that will enable our students to do their best work and achieve their own career goals. Because the faculty mentors are in academic departments that stretch across Emory's campus and beyond, accomplishing this goal of top-quality scientific training requires strong partnerships with leaders across the University. The GDBBS plays a central role in accomplishing this partnership with academic leaders.

GDBBS AWARD RECIPIENT

ENDOWMENT RESEARCH AWARDS

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN BIOLOGY ACADEMIC
& PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Michael Martin (PBEE) — Advisor: Katia Koelle, PhD

MARGARET AND THOMAS LEW GRADUATE AWARD IN
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES IN BIOCHEMISTRY

Maria Cilento (BCDB) — Advisor: Stefanos Sarafianos, PhD

MARGARET AND THOMAS LEW PUBLICATION AWARD IN
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES IN BIOCHEMISTRY

Zane Laughlin (BCDB) — Advisor: Graeme Conn, PhD

MARGARET AND THOMAS LEW 1ST YEAR AWARD IN
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES IN BIOCHEMISTRY

Joey Buehler (BCDB) — Advisor: Dorothy Lerit, PhD

WILLIAM AND CATHERINE RICE ENDOWED RESEARCH AWARD

Alyssa Duffy (CB) — Advisor: Kavita Dhodapkar, MD

KEITH WILKINSON GRADUATE SERVICE AWARD

Jordan Lewis (PBEE) — Advisor: Levi Morran, PhD

JOHN B. LYON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Michael Lee Cato, Jr. (BCDB) — Advisor: Eric Ortlund, PhD

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

2021: Sharon Milgram, PhD (BCDB Graduate, 1991) — Advisor: Bryan Noe, PhD

2022: Rick Bright, PhD (IMP Graduate, 2002) — Advisor: Jacqueline Katz, PhD

(The Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented at the next Awards Celebration)

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Katherine Barnett (PBEE)

Lynda Bradley (PBEE)

Rachel Conn (NS)

Rachel Dreggors (BCDB)

Aiden Ford (NS)

Jacoby Robinson (PBEE)

Sarah Strassler (BCDB)

Julia Tanquary (BCDB)

Sophie Yount (MSP)

NIH NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD (NRSA FELLOWSHPS)

Brenda Antezana (MMG)

Nicholas Arce (BCDB)

Matthew Armstrong (GMB)

Brianna Bixler (GMB)

Christine Bowen (BCDB)

Nicole Bowen (MMG)

Katherine Bricker (IMP)

Chad Camp (MSP)

Anthony Cato (BCDB)

Maria Cilento (GMB)

Garrett Cooper (GMB)

Edwin Corgiat (BCDB)

Kathryn Crotty (MSP)

Gabrielle Delima (MMG)

Samuel Druzak (MSP)

Kristen Easley (BCDB)

Skylar Fisher (BCDB)

Amanda Gill (IMP)

Kristen Fowler (BCDB)

Sherod Haynes (NS)

Dominick Hellen (GMB)

Jessica Hoffman (MSP)

Jasmine Hope (NS)

Alisha Hunter (CB)

Lauren Jeffers (BCDB)

Nourine Kamili (IMP)

Logan Kavanaugh (MMG)

Michael Kelberman (NS)

Brik Kochoian (NS)

Emily Legan (BCDB)

Kelly Lehman (MMG)

Dan Li (NS)

Jenna Lobby (IMP)

Michael Martin (PBEE)

Namrataa Mehta (NS)

April Ratliff (NS)

Juan Rodriguez (GMB)

Alyssa Roeckner (NS)

Bejan Saeedi (BCDB)

Colby Schweibenz (BCDB)

Alyssa Scott (GMB)

Michelle Sequeira (NS)

Kelsey Shaw (PBEE)

Maria Sterrett (BCDB)

Sydney Sunna (NS)

Izabela Suster (BCDB)

Ian Tamargo (MSP)

Douglas Terry (GMB)

German Vargas (MMG)

Darian Williams (MSP)

Meghan Wynne (NS)

Paul Zakutansky (BCDB)

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, DIVISION OF MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

Steven Kell (MSP)

ASH MINORITY HEMATOLOGY GRADUATE AWARD

Jamie Hamilton (CB)

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) IPA

Poulami Basu Thakur (MMG)

DEAN'S TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

Donna McDermott (PBEE)

FORD FOUNDATION

Yemko Pryor (GMB)

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

Juan Ahumada Duran (PBEE)

GRADUATE EDUCATION FOR MINORITIES FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Dejah Blake (CB)

Ashley Townsel (CB)

Tyshawn Ferrell (BCDB)

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE (HHMI) GILLIAM FELLOWSHIPS FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Kimberly Diaz Perez (GMB)

INITIATIVE TO MAXIMIZE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT FELLOWS (IMSD)

Veronica Canarte (CB)

Dormarie Rivera Rodriguez (IMP)

Natalie Correa (IMP)

Linzie Taylor (NS)

Tyshawn Ferrell (BCDB)

Edu Usoro (MSP)

David Jimenez-Vallejo (PBEE)

Kory Wells (CB)

Alejandro Oviedo (BCDB)

PROGRAM SCHOLARS OF THE YEAR

Sarah Strassler (BCDB) — Advisor: Graeme Conn, PhD

Gianna Branella (CB) — Advisor: H. Trent Spencer, PhD

Kimberly Diaz Perez (GMB) — Advisor: Elizabeth Leslie, PhD

Nataliya Prokhnevskaya (IMP) — Advisor: Haydn Kissick, PhD

Ana Enriquez (MMG) — Advisor: Jyothi Rengarajan, PhD

Jessica Hoffman (MSP) — Advisor: Michael Davis, PhD

Elizabeth Heaton (NS) — Advisor: Shannon Gourley, PhD

Jordan Lewis (PBEE) — Advisor: Levi Morran, PhD

GRADUATE CAREER AWARD

Michelle Sequeira (NS) — Advisor: Shannon Gourley, PhD

TATTO TEACHING AWARD

Sophie Yount (MSP) — Advisor: Shannon Gourley, PhD

STUDENT CAREER TEACHING AWARD

Lauren Hodkinson (GMB) — Advisor: Leila Rieder, PhD

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Logan Kavanaugh (MMG) — Advisor: Graeme Conn, PhD

STUDENT MENTOR AWARD

Christina Hartigan (IMP) — Advisor: Mandy Ford, PhD

Lauren Hodkinson (GMB) — Advisor: Leila Rieder, PhD

FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

Stefan Sarafianos, PhD (BCDB, MMG & MSP)

OUTREACH/COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Gabrielle Delima (MMG) — Advisors: Anice Lowen, PhD & John Steel, PhD

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH AWARDS

(AS OF SEPTEMBER 2021 – AUGUST 2022, EXCLUDING ANY SUMMER AWARDS)

CENTENNIAL SCHOLARS

Carmen Alvarez (PBEE)
Vanessa Avalos (CB)
Melissa Berrio (IMP)
Dejah Blake (CB)
Veronica Canarte (CB)
Jose Castro (BCDB)
Natalie Correa (IMP)
Kimberly Diaz Perez (GMB)
Marissa Duckett (PBEE)
Christopher Edwards (IMP)
Tyshawn Ferrell (BCDB)
Yesenia Garcia (NS)
Lydia Gutema (BCDB)
Taylor Hailstock (BCDB)
Kenya Hodge (GMB)
Louis Hopkins (IMP)
Jarildy Javier (NS)
David Jimenez-Vallejo (PBEE)
Cheyenne Lee (MMG)

Sarah Mansour (BCDB)
Marcos Monteiro (MMG)
Lenore Monterroza (CB)
Xorla Ocloo (PBEE)
Yemko Pryor (GMB)
Maxine Robinette (NS)
Jacob Robinson (PBEE)
Mariana Rocha (NS)
Emilio Rodriguez (MMG)
Naomi Rodriguez Marino (MMG)
Debresha Shelton (GMB)
Dariana Torres Rivera (BCDB)
Ashley Townsel (CB)
Edu Usoro (MSP)
Viviana Valentin Valentin (NS)
Nahara Vargas (IMP)
Kory Wells (CB)
Lauren Worley (BCDB)

EMORY UNIVERSITY WOODRUFF FELLOWS

Hymavathy Balasubramanian (NS)
Lynda Bradley (PBEE)
Jose Castro (BCDB)
Rachel Conn (NS)
Aiden Ford (NS)
Stephanie Guerra (MMG)
Lydia Gutema (BCDB)
Kenya Hodge (GMB)
Jessica Hoffman (MSP)
Ashlyn Johnson (NS)

Alicia Lane (NS)
Sarah Mansour (BCDB)
Marcos Monteiro (MMG)
Alexander Nazzari (IMP)
Leila Pascual (NS)
Mariana Rocha (NS)
Justin Santos (NS)
Arvin Sarkissian (NS)
Rachel Sutton (IMP)
Felipe Takaesu (BCDB)

EMORY GRADUATE DIVERSITY FELLOWS (EGDF)

Brenda Antezana (MMG)
Ezana Assefa (GMB)

KHAREN FULTON DIVERSITY GRADUATE AWARD

Juan Rodrigues (GMB)

LANEY GRADUATE SCHOOL FELLOWS (LGSF)

Ashley Alexander (PBEE)
Benjamin Babcock (CB)
Brianna Bixler (GMB)
Lisa Blackmer-Raynolds (NS)
Kevin Chen (CB)
Anna Cole (CB)
Gabrielle Delima (MMG)
Skylar Fisher (BCDB)
Anne Goettemoeller (NS)
Adam Hamilton (NS)
Elizabeth Heaton (NS)
Emily Hill (GMB)
Katie Holmes (MMG)
David Jimenez-Vallejo (PBEE)
Anuradha Korukonda (NS)
Jordan Lewis (PBEE)
Daniel Lustberg (MSP)
Michael Martin (PBEE)
Catherine Mason (NS)
Jacob Mattingly (BCDB)
Michelle McCauley (PBEE)

Daniel McManus (IMP)
Namrataa Mehta (NS)
Erica Modeste (MSP)
Karla Navarrete (IMP)
Christina Niavi (IMP)
Jonathan Owen (MMG)
Jordan Owyong (GMB)
Yeongseon Park (PBEE)
Claire Pillsbury (CB)
Vedhika Raghunathan (MMG)
Vishnu Raghuram (MMG)
Caitlin Risener (MSP)
Michelle Sequeira (NS)
Meher Sethi (MMG)
Taylor Shue (MMG)
Brianna Silver (GMB)
Kayla Stoy (PBEE)
Viviana Valentin Valentin (NS)
German Vargas (BCDB)
Darian Williams (MSP)

ARCS STANDARD SCHOLARS

Anna Cole (CB)
Will McFadden (BCDB)

