Celebrating Graduate Education

GDBBS AWARDS BANQUET

Recognizing the Achievements of our Students and Faculty

October 6, 2022
Druid Hills Golf Club, 740 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA, 30307
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)  
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)  
Aimee Paulk Tierney (MMG)  
Saahj Gosrani (NS)  
Hannah Hrncir (BCDB)  
Alexa Iannitelli (NS)  
Abigail Janto (GMB)  
Jarldy Javier (NS)  
David Jimenez-Vallejo (PBEE)  
Anuradha Korukonda (NS)  
Cheyenne Lee (MMG)  
Sarah Mansour (BCDB)  

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) — Jacoby Robinson (PBEE)
Lynda Bradley (PBEE) — Sarah Strassler (BCDB)
Rachel Conn (NS) — Julia Tanquary (BCDB)
Rachel Dreggors (BCDB) — Sophie Yount (MSP)

NIH NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD (NRSA FELLOWSHIPS)

Brenda Antezana (MMG) — Logan Kavaunagh (MMG)
Nicholas Arce (BCDB) — Michael Kelberman (NS)
Matthew Armstrong (GMB) — Brik Kochoian (NS)
Brianna Bixler (GMB) — Emily Legan (BCDB)
Christine Bowen (BCDB) — Kelly Lehman (MMG)
Nicole Bowen (MMG) — Dan Li (NS)
Katherine Bricker (IMP) — Jenna Lobby (IMP)
Chad Camp (MSP) — Michael Martin (PBEE)
Anthony Cato (BCDB) — Namrataa Mehta (NS)
Maria Cilento (GMB) — April Ratliff (NS)
Garrett Cooper (GMB) — Juan Rodriguez (GMB)
Edwin Corgiat (BCDB) — Alyssa Roeckner (NS)
Kathryn Crotty (MSP) — Bejan Saeedi (BCDB)
Gabrielle Delima (MMG) — Colby Schweibenz (BCDB)
Samuel Druzak (MSP) — Alyssa Scott (GMB)
Kristen Easley (BCDB) — Michelle Sequeira (NS)
Skylar Fisher (BCDB) — Kelsey Shaw (PBEE)
Amanda Gill (IMP) — Maria Sterrett (BCDB)
Kristen Fowler (BCDB) — Sydney Sunna (NS)
Sherod Haynes (NS) — Izabela Suster (BCDB)
Dominick Hellen (GMB) — Ian Tamargo (MSP)
Jessica Hoffman (MSP) — Douglas Terry (GMB)
Jasmine Hope (NS) — German Vargas (MMG)
Alisha Hunter (CB) — Darian Williams (MSP)
Lauren Jeffers (BCDB) — Meghan Wynne (NS)
Nourine Kamili (IMP) — 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)  
Natalie Correa (IMP)  
Tyshawn Ferrell (BCDB)  
David Jimenez-Vallejo (PBEE)  
Alejandro Oviedo (BCDB)  
Dormarie Rivera Rodriguez (IMP)  
Linzie Taylor (NS)  
Edu Usoro (MSP)  
Kory Wells (CB)

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 Prokhnevska (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)
- Kenyaita 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 Ocloc (PBEE)
- Veronica Canarte (CB)
- Yemko Pryor (GMB)
- Jose Castro (BCDB)
- Maxine Robinette (NS)
- Naomi Rodriguez Marino (MMG)
- Debrasha Shelton (GMB)
- Dariana Torres Rivera (BCDB)
- Ashley Townsend (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)
- Kenyaita Hodge (GMB)
- Jessica Hoffman (MSP)
- Ashlyn Johnson (NS)
- Alicia Lane (NS)
- Sarah Mansour (BCDB)
- Marcos Monteiro (MMG)
- Alexander Nazarri (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 Hall (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)

## ARCS Standard Scholars
- Anna Cole (CB)
- Will McFadden (BCDB)