
*Celebrating
Graduate
Education*



11TH ANNUAL

**GDBBS
AWARDS
CELEBRATION**

Recognizing the Achievements of our Students and Faculty

October 21, 2021

Fernbank Museum, 767 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA, 30307



EMORY

LANEY
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

Graduate Division of Biological
and Biomedical Sciences

PROGRAM | 7:45PM – 8:45PM

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
Ray Dingleline Doctoral Award
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 11th GDBBS Awards Celebration. Being together means more than ever given the challenges that we have faced over the last year and a half during the global pandemic.

During the pandemic, we, like many communities, had to learn how to support each other as best as we could from afar. Thank you to each of you who found ways to maintain a sense of community in your labs, with your fellow students and in the programs. I particularly want to thank the many amazing GDBBS staff members, listed below, who have been central to our training mission and community during the pandemic.

I look forward to the next year as we build new connections and come back together on campus. I also look forward to getting to know you better. It is an honor to be able to be a part of this training program and to work alongside all of you to shape its future.

Sincerely,



Nicole Gerardo
GDBBS Director

Thank you to the amazing GDBBS team: K'La Albers, Rathan Kersey, Chanell Loiseau, Roberta Lynn, Emily Neutens, Sean Porter, Kathy Smith, Maureen Thomas and Tracey Wright.

NIH NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD (NRSA T32)

Ashley Alexander (PBEE)

Olufisayo Aloba (NS)

Yasmine Bassil (NS)

Carter Brzezinski (MSP)

Maegan Burns (MSP)

Amber Coats (MMG)

Garrett Cooper (GMB)

Anthony Downs (MSP)

William Crandal (MSP)

Amanda Engstrom (BCDB)

Rachel Done (MMG)

Levi Gifford (BCDB)

Saahj Gosrani (NS)

Dominick Hellen (GMB)

Hannah Hrcncir (BCDB)

Alexa Iannitelli (NS)

Abigail Janto (GMB)

Jarildy Javier (NS)

Anuradha Korukonda (NS)

Cheyenne Lee (MMG)

Ariel Ley (IMP)

Sarah Mansour (BCDB)

William McFadden (BCDB)

Thomas O'Haren (GMB)

Katelyn Oliver (NS)

Jordan Owyong (GMB)

Rachel Pearson (IMP)

Tana Pottorf (NS)

Lindsey Ramirez (MSP)

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)

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

Over 30 years ago, the Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences (GDBBS) within the Laney Graduate School (LGS) was established to foster interdisciplinary research. Since then, all new pre-doctoral graduate students in the biological sciences and biomedical sciences at Emory have been admitted through the GDBBS. Approximately 75 PhD students matriculate into the GDBBS Programs each year.

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 over 300 world-renowned researchers amongst our training faculty, a number that continues to grow. Our students continue to do amazing work, contributing to Emory's strengths in biomedical and biological research while also earning accolades of their own. 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 the best 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, 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, with the goal of Emory becoming known as the destination institution for the highest quality doctoral training, successfully preparing a diverse student body for a wide range of careers related to biological and biomedical research.

It is an exciting time for the GDBBS. The new Director, Dr. Nicole Gerardo, looks forward to partnering with the new LGS Dean, Dr. Kimberly Jacob Arriola, to build on the many strengths of the GDBBS training environment in order to further enhance the quality of recruitment, mentoring, training and student support.

GDBBS AWARD RECIPIENTS

ENDOWMENT RESEARCH AWARDS

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN BIOLOGY ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Sandra Mendiola (PBEE) — Advisors: Nicole Gerardo, PhD & David Civitello, PhD

MARGARET AND THOMAS LEW GRADUATE AWARD IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES IN BIOCHEMISTRY

Samantha Schwartz (GMB) — Advisor: Graeme Conn, PhD

MARGARET AND THOMAS LEW PUBLICATION AWARD IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES IN BIOCHEMISTRY

Samantha Schwartz (GMB) — Advisor: Graeme Conn, PhD

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

Will McFadden (BCDB) — Advisor: Stefanos Sarafianos, PhD

RAY DINGLEDINE DOCTORAL AWARD

Kirsten Cottrill (MSP) — Advisor: Nael McCarty, PhD

WILLIAM AND CATHERINE RICE ENDOWED RESEARCH AWARD

Austin Boese (CB) — Advisor: Sumin Kang, PhD

KEITH WILKINSON GRADUATE SERVICE AWARD

Luis Munoz (IMP) — Advisor: Periasamy Selvaraj, PhD

JOHN B. LYON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

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

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

2020: Wade Powell, PhD (BCDB Graduate, 1997) — Advisor: Daniel Reines, PhD

2021: Sharon Milgram, PhD (BCDB Graduate, 1991) — Advisor: Bryan Noe, 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 F31)

Nicholas Arce (BCDB)

Matthew Armstrong (GMB)

Brianna Bixler (GMB)

Austin Boese (CB)

Nicole Bowen (MMG)

Katherine Bricker (IMP)

Chad Camp (MSP)

Anthony Cato (BCDB)

Maria Cilento (GMB)

Edwin Corgiat (BCDB)

Gabrielle Delima (MMG)

Samuel Druzak (MSP)

Skylar Fisher (BCDB)

Kristen Fowler (BCDB)

Sherod Haynes (NS)

Jessica Hoffman (MSP)

Alisha Hunter (CB)

Logan Kavanaugh (MMG)

Michael Kelberman (NS)

Brik Kochoian (NS)

Emily Legan (BCDB)

Kelly Lehman (MMG)

Jenna Lobby (IMP)

Namrataa Mehta (NS)

April Ratliff (NS)

Juan Rodriguez (GMB)

Colby Schweibenz (BCDB)

Alyssa Scott (GMB)

Michelle Sequeira (NS)

Kelsey Shaw (PBEE)

Maria Sterrett (BCDB)

Sydney Sunna (NS)

Izabela Suster (BCDB)

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)

Linzie Taylor (NS)

Natalie Correa (IMP)

Dariana Torres Rivera (BCDB)

David Jimenez-Vallejo (PBEE)

Edu Usoro (MSP)

Alejandro Oviedo (BCDB)

Kory Wells (CB)

Dormarie Rivera (IMP)

PROGRAM SCHOLARS OF THE YEAR

Maria Sterrett (BCDB) — Advisor: Anita Corbett, PhD

Austin Boese (CB) — Advisor: Sumin Kang, PhD

Jasmine Moody (GMB) — Advisor: Guy Benian, MD

Abigail Vanderheiden (IMP) — Advisor: Mehul Suthar, PhD

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

Daniel Lustberg (MSP) — Advisor: David Weinschenker, PhD

Stephanie Prince (NS) — Advisor: Annabelle Singer, PhD

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

GRADUATE CAREER AWARD

Rachel Turn (BCDB) — Advisor: Richard Kahn, PhD

TATTO TEACHING AWARD

Michael Mortillo (GMB) — Advisor: Carmen Marsit, PhD

STUDENT CAREER TEACHING AWARD

Ognenka Avramovska (GMB) — Advisor: Meleah Hickman, PhD

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Samantha Lanjewar (GMB) — Advisor: Steven Sloan, MD, PhD

STUDENT MENTOR AWARD

Carey Jansen (CB) — Advisor: Haydn Kissick, PhD

FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

Sarah Shultz, PhD (NS)

OUTREACH/COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Juan Rodriguez (GMB) — Advisor: David Katz, PhD

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH AWARDS

CENTENNIAL SCHOLARS

Carmen Alvarez (PBEE) Sarah Mansour (BCDB)
Vanessa Avalos (CB) Marcos Monteiro (MMG)
Melissa Berrio (IMP) Lenore Monterroza (CB)
Dejah Blake (CB) Xorla Ocloo (PBEE)
Veronica Canarte (CB) Yemko Pryor (GMB)
Jose Castro (BCDB) Maxine Robinette (NS)
Natalie Correa (IMP) Jacoby Robinson (PBEE)
Kimberly Diaz Perez (GMB) Mariana Rocha (NS)
Marissa Duckett (PBEE) Emilio Rodriguez (MMG)
Christopher Edwards (IMP) Naomi Rodriguez Marino (MMG)
Tyshawn Ferrell (BCDB) Debresha Shelton (GMB)
Yesenia Garcia (NS) Dariana Torres Rivera (BCDB)
Lydia Gutema (BCDB) Ashley Townsel (CB)
Taylor Hailstock (BCDB) Edu Usoro (MSP)
Kenya Hodge (GMB) Viviana Valentin Valentin (NS)
Jarildy Javier (NS) Nahara Vargas (IMP)
David Jimenez-Vallejo (PBEE) Kory Wells (CB)
Cheyenne Lee (MMG) Lauren Worley (BCDB)

EMORY UNIVERSITY WOODRUFF FELLOWS

Hymavathy Balasubramanian (NS) Sarah Mansour (BCDB)
Lynda Bradley (PBEE) Marcos Monteiro (MMG)
Jose Castro (BCDB) Alexander Nazzari (IMP)
Rachel Conn (NS) Leila Pascual (NS)
Aiden Ford (NS) Mariana Rocha (NS)
Stephanie Guerra (MMG) Arvin Sarkissian (NS)
Lydia Gutema (BCDB) Rachel Sutton (IMP)
Kenya Hodge (GMB) Felipe Takaesu (BCDB)
Jessica Hoffman (MSP) Douglas Terry (GMB)
Alicia Lane (NS)

EMORY GRADUATE DIVERSITY FELLOWS (EGDF)

Brenda Antezana (MMG) Julian Hurtado (MSP)
Ezana Assefa (GMB) Alejandro Lopez (NS)

LANEY GRADUATE SCHOOL FELLOWS (LGSF)

Ashley Alexander (PBEE) Daniel McManus (IMP)
Benjamin Babcock (CB) Namrataa Mehta (NS)
Brianna Bixler (GMB) Erica Modeste (MSP)
Lisa Blackmer-Raynolds (NS) Karla Navarrete (IMP)
Kevin Chen (CB) Christina Niavi (IMP)
Anna Cole (CB) Jonathan Owen (MMG)
Gabrielle Delima (MMG) Jordan Owyong (GMB)
Devon Eddins (IMP) Yeongseon Park (PBEE)
Ana Enriquez (MMG) Claire Pillsbury (CB)
Skylar Fisher (BCDB) Vedhika Raghunathan (MMG)
Anne Goettemoeller (NS) Vishnu Raghuram (MMG)
Adam Hamilton (NS) Caitlin Risener (MSP)
Elizabeth Heaton (NS) Juan Rodriguez (GMB)
Emily Hill (GMB) Michelle Sequeira (NS)
Katie Holmes (MMG) Meher Sethi (MMG)
David Jimenez-Vallejo (PBEE) Taylor Shue (MMG)
Anuradha Korukonda (NS) Brianna Silver (GMB)
Jordan Lewis (PBEE) Kayla Stoy (PBEE)
Daniel Lustberg (MSP) German Vargas (BCDB)
Michael Martin (PBEE) Darian Williams (MSP)
Jacob Mattingly (BCDB) Sung Bo Yoon (CB)
Michelle McCauley (PBEE)

ARCS STANDARD SCHOLARS

Logan Kavanaugh (MMG) Julia Tanquary (BCDB)
Alicia Lane (NS) Sophie Yount (MSP)
Cameron Mattingly (IMP)