

UPBM E-NEWSLETTER

Undergraduate Program in Biology and Medicine



Sunday, May 17th, 2015
Photos by Eugenia Zeng '16, BCD

Good Bye Class of 2015 Forever Part of the Hive...

Links

- ▶ [UR Commencement 2015](#)
- ▶ [Biology T-shirt Order Form](#)
- ▶ [Senior Slide Show 2015](#)
- ▶ [UPBM Alumni - Where are They Now?](#)
- ▶ [UPBM Home Page](#)
- ▶ [Meliora Weekend 2015](#)
- ▶ [Alumni Updates / Contact Us](#)

This year we are saying goodbye to a class of approximately 223 seniors who have completed majors in Biology, Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Microbiology, Molecular Genetics, and Neuroscience. Although it is a pleasure to get to know our students it is equally as hard to see them go.

The student speaker for the class of 2015 Mehr Kashyap '15 BCD suggested that he and his colleagues represent a much larger collective or in his words "the Hive". This is a beautiful and appropriate parting thought for this year's graduates as they go forth and conquer the universe.

Congratulations, may your lives be filled with numerous triumphs, and we look forward to learning of your future accomplishments in the years to come.

BTW - [The Senior Slide Show](#) has been posted on line. More pictures have been added so please be sure to check it out.

Meliora!



*"...we are not just one yellow jacket, we are the **HIVE**. Feel the sting of twenty-one **FIVE**..."*

Mehr Kashyap '15, BCD (more on page 17)

UR Commencement 2015

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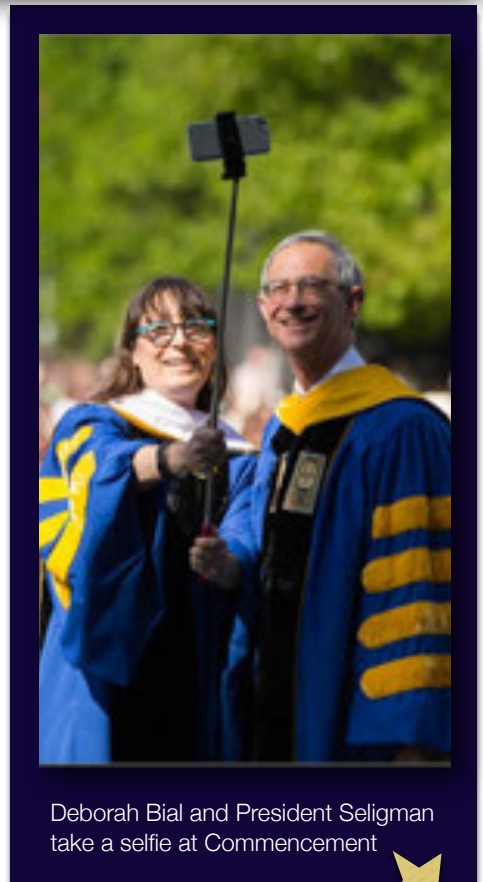
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Deborah Bial and President Seligman take a selfie at Commencement





Class of 2015

Senior List

Bachelor of Arts Biology (BA BIO)



Alexa Ball
 Branden Bartlett
 Jacob Cauvel
 Alice Chen
 Yoo Jeoung Chelsea Choi
 Roma Desai
 Ashley Dockham
 Amanda Forbes
 Yohanna Gaim
 Priyanka Garg
 Gregory Goldvug

William Hubbard
 Amy Ige
 Timothy Jeffers
 Phillip Kellogg
 Dongjun Lee
 Seung Ho Lee
 Nicole Lifson
 Chitavi Maulloo ^{ΦBK}
 Aissatou Ndiaye
 Rhett Partida
 Alap Patel ^{ΦBK}

Priyanka Patel
 Badal Pradhan
 Anna Saltman
 Kaitlin Sappio
 Michael Saulle
 Jesse Sharp
 Tiffany Sinclair
 Nicholas Sirotenko
 Tatsunari Tomiyama
 Deanna Vaneerde
 Brian Voelz

Katherine Wegman ^{ΦBK}
 Michelle Young
 Daniel Zucker



Bachelor of Science Biochemistry (BS BBC)

Sarah Bond
 Smon Cheewapansri
 Max Cheng
 Michael Dieringer
 Jennifer Goldreich
 Eric Herman
 Nicholas Hill ^{** ΦBK}

Cassandra Kappen
 Ali Khan ^{ΦBK}
 Amos Liou
 Kathryn Loveless
 Brandon Mariotti
 Nicholas Mastrosimone
 Austin Mottola

John Muroski
 Alexander Neary ^{ΦBK}
 Samantha Plummer
 John Reichert
 Robert Rietmeijer ^{ΦBK}
 Mikel Ruterbusch
 Akram Salam

Shannon Schmit ^{ΦBK}
 Lara Schoenebeck
 Raven Shah
 Christopher Tucker ^{**}
 Felix Yang
 Han Zhang
 Ruijia Zhu



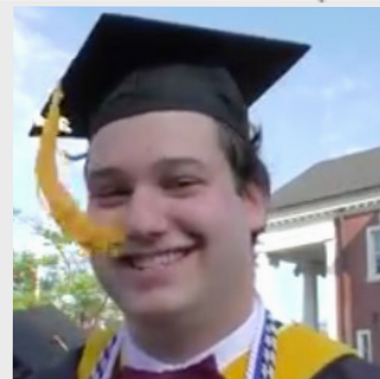
Phi Beta Kappa ^{ΦBK}
 Degree with Honors in Research ^{**}





Bachelor of Science Cell and Developmental Biology (BS BCD)

Rutul Amin	Balaji Jagdish ^{ΦBK}	Bridget Russo
Lillye Anderson ^{** ΦBK}	So-Yon Jang	Nischal Sodemba
Sara Benerofe ^{**}	Mehr Kashyap ^{ΦBK **}	Siqi Song
Samuel Benham	Sean Kelly	Michael Sumner
Elizabeth Brown ^{**}	Jesse Luna	Kelvin Tam
Isabelle Chu ^{ΦBK}	Niklas Malmstrom	Hannah Thomas
Janelle Delos Reyes	Jiyoon Park	Benjamin Wainblat
Morgan Feder	Alison Patrick	Harris Weber ^{ΦBK}
Elizabeth Gagen	Keith Provost	
Corey Garyn ^{ΦBK}	Alice Can Ran Qin ^{**}	
Nealansh Gupta	Tyler Raufeisen	



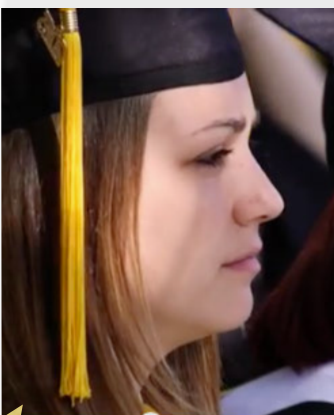
Bachelor of Science Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (BS BEB)

Alyssa Arre	Shannon Keating ^{**}	Gouri Mahadwar ^{ΦBK}	Benjamin Smith
Rebecca Galasso	Madeleine Keefe	Rachel Milner ^{ΦBK}	Erik Van Roey
Alisa Johnson ^{**}	Sarah Lazarus	Alida Pollock	

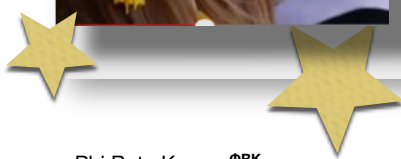
Bachelor of Science Microbiology (BS BMB)

Thomas Anderson	Adrian Farsai	Eun Hee Lee	Sydney Simpson
Alexandra Born	Elliot Ha	Zoe Netter	Alicia Spiegel
Michael Breen ^{**}	Laura Keenahan	Leti Nunez ^{** ΦBK}	Jamie Strampe ^{**}
Vanessa Cedarbaum ^{ΦBK}	Connie Koons ^{ΦBK}	Shiv Patel	Jonathan Tam ^{**}
Sheel Clerk	Hannah Kopin	Russell Pizzo	Rachel Taylor ^{ΦBK}
Phillip Cohen ^{**}	Harika Kunchala	Peter Schade	Daniel Van Twisk
Cameron Cummings	Mark Lawlor	Yongsoo Shin	Kailee Zornow ^{ΦBK}

Bachelor of Science Molecular Genetics (BS BMG)



Kristin Abramo	Ihuoma Igbokwe	Katelyn Steike ^{ΦBK}
Mohan Adhikari	Sarah Jaffe	Leah Twomey
Sarah Allen	Ryan Kelly	Rachel Vance
Parth Amin	Joung Heon Kim ^{ΦBK}	Juan Vazquez
Max Beyman	Michelle Landis	John Wilson ^{ΦBK}
Sophia Catalano	Barra Madden	Akira Neng Chun Wong
Lauren Cole	Morgan O'Brien	Kathryn Woodworth
Marcia Des Jardin	Anjali Patel	
Allison Eberhardt ^{**}	Brittany Porter	
Shari Gurusinghe ^{ΦBK}	Daniel Sharfarz	
Claire Hart	Jordan Snajczuk	
Blythe Hospelhorn	Danielle Sookiasian ^{**}	



Phi Beta Kappa ^{ΦBK}
Degree with Honors in Research ^{**}



Bachelor of Science Neuroscience (BS BNS)

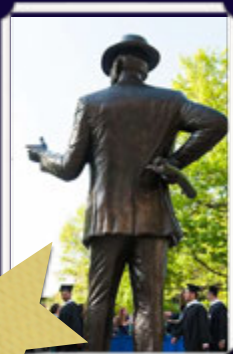
Rachael Abraham
Zachariah Adham **
Akinniyi Akinpelu
Naba Ali **ΦBK**
Rebecca Bergman
Brian Bernstein **ΦBK**
Andrew Bui
Nancy Bui
Albert Chen
Cody Civiletto
Jessica Cohen
Kyle Critelli
Patrick Davis
Robert Dowd **
Anna Gershteyn **
Anima Ghimire
Gregory Golembeski

Meghan Gray
John Douglas Haswell
Jaeim Jeong
Lily Kamalyan
David Keener
Megan Keil
Soibhan Kelley **ΦBK**
Morgan Kennedy
Sarah Kitts
Henry Klos
Zoe Kory
Benjamin Landwersiek **ΦBK**
Celia Lenarz-Geisen
Xiaoyi Li
Xavier Lopez
Ma. Lira Camille Manhit
Benjamin Meath **ΦBK**

Morgan Mehring
Nadia Mercado
Annah Moore
Michael Morreale
Matthew Mullen **
Alyssa Murillo
Christopher Nishimura **
Yan Nuzbrokh
Mary O'Hehir
Shane O'Neil
Teresa Oh
Kareem Panton
Krina Patel
Sally Patel
Halima Rafi **
William Retz **ΦBK**
Erik Roisland

Madelyn Rubenstein
Brandon Salzman
Srawasti Sarker
Jordana Schmierer **
Venkatesh Abhishek
Sharma
Humma Sheikh
Matthew Shinseki
Maxwell Sims
Christina Smiros
Greta Smith
Viola Spahiu
Melissa Thomas
Maria Tran
Kwanza Warren **
Ryan Wier
Jeong Yeon Yoo

Phi Beta Kappa **ΦBK**
Degree with Honors in Research **



Honors in Research

Twenty-Five Seniors Successfully Wrote and Defended a Thesis



The Undergraduate Program in Biology and Medicine (UPBM) provides majors in the B.S. or B.A. tracks the opportunity to graduate with honors in research. Students must achieve a minimum GPA of 2.7 and defend their written thesis at a meeting of their advisory committee.

Most students seeking a degree with honors in research have worked on a research project for a year or more and have achieved significant results. They then immerse themselves in the time-consuming process of writing the thesis.

Those who successfully complete their research and then push on to write the required paper are rewarded with the phrase "Honors in Research" added to their transcripts. This year's recipients are:

Zachariah Adham BNS

Dissertation: "The Notch and Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor Pathways in the Proliferation of Human Medulloblastoma Cells"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lisa Opanashuk
Environmental Medicine

Lillye Anderson BCD

Dissertation: "A Screen of Glucocorticoids Reveals Mifepristone as a Prion Clearing Compound"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sina Ghaemmaghani
Biology

Sara Benerofe BCD

Dissertation: "Chemokine Ligand 18 Expression and Localization in Infants with Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gloria Pryhuber
Pediatrics Neonatology

Michael Breen BMB

Dissertation: "Replication Competent Influenza A and B Viruses Expressing a Fluorescent "Timer" Protein"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Luis Martinez-Sobrido
Microbiology

Elizabeth Brown BCD

Dissertation: "Characterizing Nanoparticle Dosimetry In Vitro"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alson Elder
Environmental Medicine

Phillip Cohen BMB

Dissertation: "Immunological Consequences of Nanoparticle-Based Vaccination Against Human Immunodeficiency Virus - Type 1"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst
Microbiology

Robert Dowd BNS

Dissertation: "A Computational Model of the Mammalian Midbrain: Simulating Neural Responses to Amplitude Modulation"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Laurel Carney
Biomedical Engineering

Allison Eberhardt BMG

Dissertation: "Establishing Models of RUNX1-Mutated Acute Myeloid Leukemia"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jason Mendler
Hematology/Oncology

Anna Gershteyn BNS

Dissertation: "Adrenergic Regulation of Low Frequency Brain Artery Vasomotor Oscillations"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Maiken Nedergaard
Neurosurgery Center for Translational Neuromedicine

Nicholas Hill BBC

Dissertation: "Generation of Head-to-Tail Macrocyclic Peptides"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rudi Fasan
Chemistry

Alisa Johnson BEB

Dissertation: "An Investigation of the Role of Abnormal Laminin-332 Expression in ARPKD"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Soundarapandian Vijayakumar
Pediatric Nephrology

Mehr Kashyap BCD

Dissertation: "Regulation of LINE1 Retrotransposons in the Aging Organism: Suppression through the Longevity-Promoting Protein SIRT6"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vera Gorbunova
Biology

Shannon Keating BEB

Dissertation: "Effect of Geographical Barriers on the Evolution of Hispaniolian Green Anoles"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Richard Glor, Dr. Robert Minckley
Biology

Matthew Mullen BNS

Dissertation: "Differences in Neural Activation Between Undergraduates and STEM Field PhD Students on Magnitude Judgement"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jessica Cantlon
Brain and Cognitive Sciences

Continued on Next Page

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM IN BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE (UPBM) E-NEWS

Christopher Nishimura BNS

Dissertation: "Chronic Exposure to the HIV Virotoxin Tat Causes Rarefaction of Cortical Capillaries in a Mouse Model of HIV Neuroinflammation"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst
Microbiology

Leti Nunez BMB

Dissertation: "Interaction of Human Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia with the Microenvironment"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Craig Mullen
Pediatrics Hematology/Oncology

Alice Can Ran Qin BCD

Dissertation: "Comparison of Oncogenic Transformation Across Rodent Species"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vera Gorbunova
Biology

Halima Rafi BNS

Dissertation: "Perceptual Neurophysiology in Aging and Alzheimer's Disease: It's Better to be Young"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Charles Duffy
Neurology Memory Care

Jordana Schmierer BNS

Dissertation: "Mutation at Residue 237 of the PA segment of the Influenza A Virus Permits Escape from the Mx-Mediated Mammalian Interferon Response"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst
Microbiology

Danielle Sookiasian BMG

Dissertation: "Early Deletion of Sox2 Impairs Neurogenesis in the Mammalian Inner Ear"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amy Kiernan
Ophthalmology

Jamie Strampe BMB

Dissertation: "The Density and Orientation of HIV-1 ENG on a Nanoparticle Vehicle Influences the Magnitude and Quality of the Env-Specific Response Elicited Following Immunization in Mice"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst
Microbiology

Jonathan Tam BMB

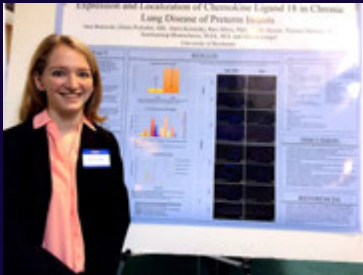
Dissertation: "p53: The Guardian Mechanism Against Genome Instability in Long-Lived Rodent Species"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vera Gorbunova
Biology

Christopher Tucker BBC

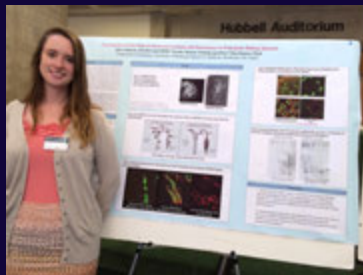
Dissertation: "Expression Changes in Caspofungin Resistant *Candida albicans* Mutants: A Genome Wide Study"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Elena Rustchenko / Bulgac
Biochemistry

Kwanza Warren BNS

Dissertation: "Mitochondrial Stress in Inner Hair Cells During Noise Damage and Recovery"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Patricia White
Neurobiology and Anatomy



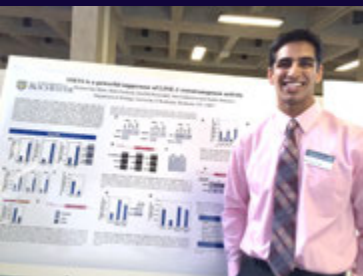
Sara Benerofe BCD



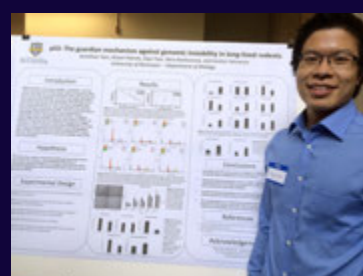
Aisa Johnson BEB



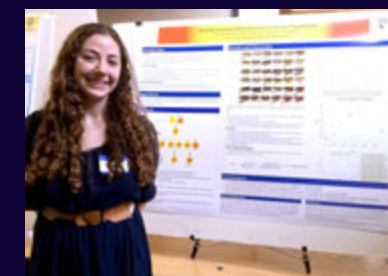
Nicholas Hill BBC



Mehr Kashyap BCD



Jonathan Tam BMB

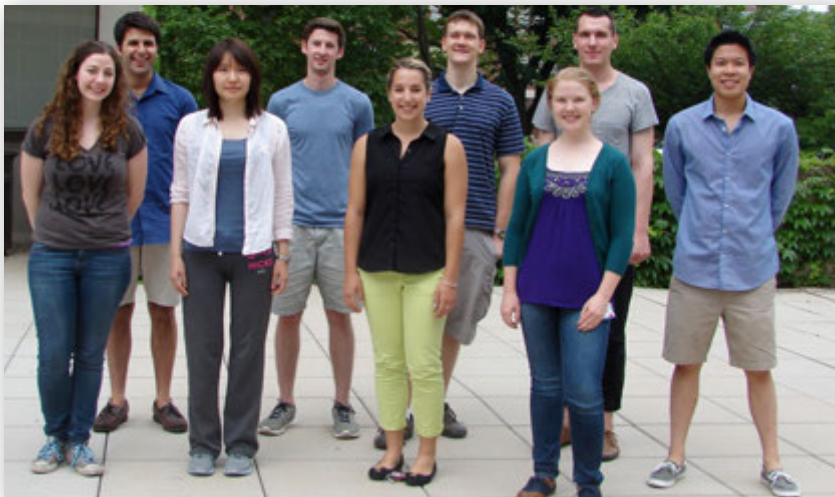


Shannon Keating BEB

Pictures from The UPBM Poster Session held Meliora Weekend 2014
Visit the [2014 UPBM Poster Slide Show](#) on-line to Relive the Magic!

deKiewiet Fellowship

UPBM Graduates Receive deKiewiet Fellowships for Summer 2014



The Undergraduate Program in Biology and Medicine (UPBM) has been awarding de Kiewiet Summer Research Fellowships since 1983 to UR students majoring in UPBM tracks.

The fellowship is designed to give University of Rochester students an opportunity to obtain substantial research experience in the laboratories of program faculty. Students in their junior year are invited to submit competitive applications.

This year's graduates who were selected for the deKiewiet Fellowship in Summer 2014 are:

1st Row: Shannon Keating '15, BEB; Ruijia Zhu '15, BBC / MTH; Kristin Abramo '15, BMG / BSB; Jamie Strampe '15, BMB

2nd Row: Ali Khan '15, BBC / ENG; Maxwell Sims '15, BNS / BSB; Robert Rietmeijer '15, BBC; Mikel Ruterbusch '15, BBC; Jonathan Tam '15, BMB
(Not Pictured: Jiyoon (Junne) Park '15, BCD / HLP)



Kristin Abramo '15, BMG, BSB

Research Title: "Analysis of CD28 Ligand Binding and Co-Stimulation"

Mentor: Dr. James Miller



Shannon Keating '15, BEB

Research Title: "Genetic Basis of Anole Dewlap Diversity"

Mentor: Dr. Robert Minckley



Ali Khan '15, BBC, ENG

Research Title: "Regulation of DNA Damage Response of Yeast by the Fun30 Chromatin Remodeler"

Mentor: Dr. Xin Bi



Jiyoon (Junne) Park '15, BCD, HLP

Research Title: "Characterization the Functions of MDS1 and EVI1 complex locus (MECOM) Through Selective Knockouts in Mice"

Mentor: Dr. Archibald Perkins



Robert Rietmeijer '15, BBC

Research Title: "smFRET Measurement of RNA 5' to 3' Ends: Dynamic Distances"

Mentor: Dr. Dmitri Ermolenko



Mikel Ruterbusch '15, BBC

Research Title: "Translational Regulation of GATA-3 in the Context of Th2 Differentiation"

Mentor: Dr. James Miller



Jamie Strampe '15, BMB

Research Title: "Determining the B Cell Response to a Nanoparticle-Based HIV Vaccine Delivery System."

Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst



Jonathan Tam '15, BMB

Research Title: "p53 is the Gaurdian Mechanism Against Genomic Instability in Aging Rodent Species"

Mentor: Dr. Andre Seluanov



Ruijia Zhu '15, BBC, MTH

Research Title: "Multidirectional Peptides Self-Assembly"

Mentor: Dr. Bradley Nilsson



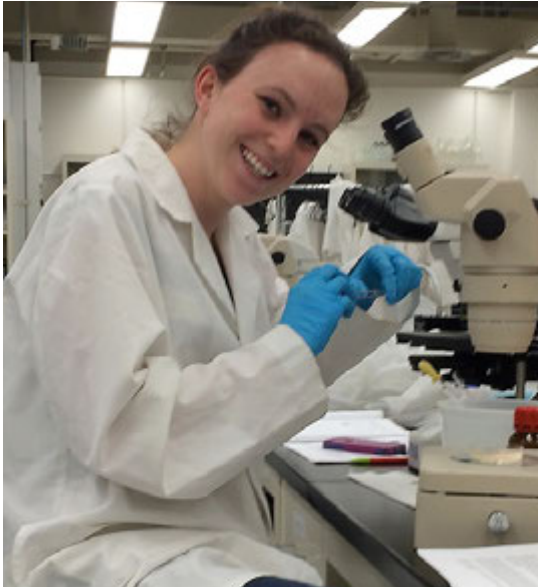
Max Sims '15, BNS, BSB

Research Title: "Regulation of Hypoxia Inducible Factor-1 α (HIF-1 α) Activity via Endoproteolytic Cleavage."

Mentor: Dr. Mark Halterman

Pushing the Bounds of Knowledge

Approximately Half of this year's Graduating Class take Research Courses



The Undergraduate Program in Biology and Medicine (UPBM) combines the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Medicine and Dentistry to provide undergraduate courses, seminars, and research experiences. The Program is made possible by the close proximity of the Medical Center and the River Campus and by the enthusiasm of the faculty for cooperative teaching aimed at providing the most up-to-date education in biomedical science.

One of the more popular aspects of the program is Independent Research. Independent Research courses allow students to gain scientific experience while gaining academic credit for their work in the laboratories of program faculty located on UR's River Campus or Medical Center.

Typically a student and faculty member agree to register a research project as a course. Although research courses are not typical lecture hall experiences they are still considered a course that requires defined objectives, learning outcomes, contact hours, and criteria for evaluation that is normally associated with regular credit-bearing courses.

Approximately half of this year's graduating UPBM majors have taken advantage of this opportunity.

The following UPBM majors registered one or more Independent Research course during their academic career and have contributed to furthering the boundaries of science:

Naba Ali BNS (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Suzanne Haber
Pharmacology & Physiology

Rutul Amin BCD (3)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Michael Welte (1), Dr. David Yule (2)
Biology, Pharmacology & Physiology

Lillye Anderson BCD (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sina Ghaemmaghani
Biology

Thomas Anderson BMB

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Steven Gill
Microbiology & Immunology

Sara Benerofe BCD (3)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gloria Pryhuber
Pediatrics / Neonatology

Max Beyman BMG (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dragony Fu
Biology

Sarah Bond BBC

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alan Smrcka
Pharmacology & Physiology

Alexandra Born BMB/CHM

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dunman Paul
Microbiology & Immunology

Michael Breen BMB (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Luis Martinez-Sobrido
Microbiology & Immunology

Elizabeth Brown BCD (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alison Elder
Environmental Medicine

Andrew Bui BNS (7)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lin Gan
Ophthalmology

Sophia Catalano BMG (3)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Mark Noble (1), Dr. Andrei Seluanov (2)
Biomedical Genetics, Biology

Vanessa Cedarbaum BMB

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Archibald Perkins
Pathology & Lab Medicine

Smon Cheewapansri BBC

Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Werren
Biology

Max Cheng BBC/MUS (4)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chawnshang Chang
Pathology

Isabelle Chu BCD (2)

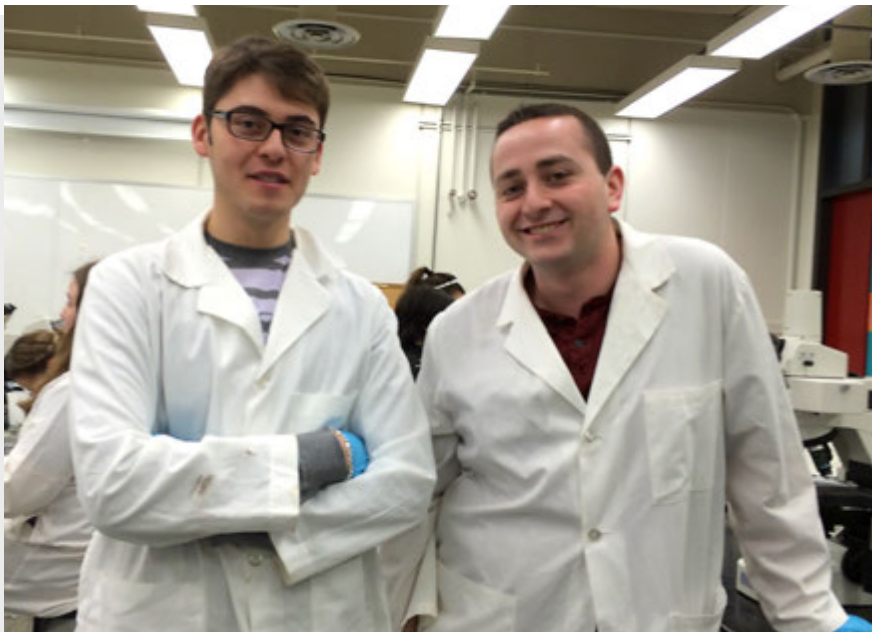
Faculty Mentor: Dr. David Goldfarb
Biology

Cody Civiletto BNS

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Majewska Ania
Neurobiology & Anatomy



Continued on Next Page



Sheel Clerk BMB

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jacques Robert
Microbiology & Immunology

Phillip Cohen BMB (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst, Dr. Harris Gelbard
Microbiology & Immunology, Neurology

Lauren Cole BMG (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Margot Mayer-Proschel
Biomedical Genetics

Marcia Des Jardin BMG (3)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Michael Bulger (2), Dr. Joseph Miano
Pediatrics, Cardiovascular Research Institute

Michael Dieringer BBC (3)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Jian Zhu (2), Dr. Hongyu Miao (1)
Microbiology & Immunology, Biostatistics Computational Biology

Robert Dowd BNS (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Charles Duffy
Neurology

Allison Eberhardt BMG/PSY (3)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Helene McMurray (1), Dr. Jason Mendler (2)
Biomedical Genetics, Hematology & Oncology

Adrian Farsai BMB

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Minsoo Kim
Microbiology & Immunology

Priyanka Garg BIO

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Roman Eliseev
Orthopedics

Corey Garyn BCD/PHL (3)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. David Lambert (1), Dr. Xin Bi (2)
Biology

Anna Gershteyn BNS/SP (3)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Maiken Needergaard (1), Dr. Edward Vates (2)
Neurosurgery

Audra Gold BNS

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst
Microbiology & Immunology

Gregory Golembeski BNS (3)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Nina Schor (2), Dr. Julie Fudge (1)
Pediatrics, Neurobiology & Anatomy

Nealansh Gupta BCD

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Abdellatif Benraiss
Neurology

Shari Gurusinghe BMG

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Laurie Steiner
Pediatrics & Neonatology

Nicholas Hill BBC/CHM (5)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rudi Fasan
Chemistry

Balaji Jagdish BCD (3)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Emily Barrett (2), Dr. Sanjay Maggirwar (1)
Obstetrics & Gynecology, Microbiology & Immunology

So-yon Jang BBC

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Elizabeth Grayhack
Biochemistry & Biophysics

Alisa Johnson BEB (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Soundarapandian Vijayakumar
Pediatric Nephrology

Mehr Kashyap BCD (4)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Vera Gorbunova (2), Dr. Andrei Seluanov (2)
Biology

Shannon Keating BEB (3)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Richard Glor (2), Dr. Robert Minckley (1)
Biology

Laura Keenahan BMB (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst
Microbiology & Immunology

Phillip Kellogg BIO

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mark Dumont
Biochemistry & Biophysics

Sean Kelly BCD (4)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Vera Gorbunova (2), Dr. Andrei Seluanov (2)
Biology

Ali Khan BBC/ENG (3)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Xin Bi
Biology

Joung Heon Kim BMG (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrew Samuelson
Biomedical Genetics

Connie Koons BMB

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Paul Dunman
Microbiology & Immunology

Hannah Kopin BMB (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jacques Robert
Microbiology & Immunology

Alexander Kozlov BBC

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrei Seluanov
Biology

Harika Kunchala BMB (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Harold Smith
Biochemistry & Biophysics

Michelle Landis BMB

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Craig Jordan
Cancer Center

Eun hee Lee BMB

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen
Dewhurst
Microbiology & Immunology

Seung Ho Lee BIO

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Minsoo Kim
Microbiology & Immunology

Xiaoyi Li BNS

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Welte
Biology

Gouri Mahadwar BEB (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Jaenike
Biology

Niklas Malmstrom BCD/HIS

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Robert Quivey
Microbiology & Immunology

Brandon Mariotti BBC

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alan Smrcka
Pharmacology & Physiology

Chitavi Maulloo BIO/CHM

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Soo Ok Lee
Pathology

Benjamin Meath BNS (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bradley Nilsson
Chemistry

Nadia Mercado BNS

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Greg DeAngelis
Brain & Cognitive Sciences

Annah Moore BNS/CHM (4)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Gail Johnson-
Voll (1), Dr. Bradley Nilsson (3),
Anesthesiology, Chemistry

Michael Morreale BNS

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chawnshang
Chang
Pathology

Austin Mottola BBC (3)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Eric Phizicky
Biochemistry & Biophysics

Matthew Mullen BNS (3)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Jessica Cantlon
(2), Dr. Brad Mahon (1)
Brain and Cognitive Sciences

John Muroski BBC (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gloria Culver
Biology

Aissatou Ndiaye BIO/FR (2)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Elena Bulgac /
Dr. Jeff Hayes
Biochemistry & Biophysics

Alexander Neary BBC/PSY (2)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Vera Gorbunova,
Dr. Andrei Seluanov
Biology

Zoe Netter BMB

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joshua Munger
Biochemistry & Biophysics

Christopher Nishimura BNS (4)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Stephen
Dewhurst (3), Dr. Brian Ward (1)
Microbiology & Immunology

Leti Nunez BMB/CHM (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Craig Mullen
Pediatrics Hematology & Oncology

Yan Nuzbrokh BNS

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Nehrke Keith (2),
Dr. Gail Johnson-Voll (2)
Nephrology, Anesthesiology

Morgan O'Brien BMG

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrew
Samuelson
Biomedical Genetics

Teresa Oh BNS (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gail Johnson
Anesthesiology

Jiyeon Park BCD/HLP (4)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Archibald Perkins
Pathology

Alap Patel BIO/HBS

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brian Ward
Microbiology & Immunology

Krina Patel BNS (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ben Hayden
Brain & Cognitive Sciences

Priyanka Patel BIO

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Lata
Balakrishnan / Dr. Robert Bambara
Microbiology & Immunology

Shiv Patel BMB

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen
Dewhurst
Microbiology & Immunology



Alison Patrick BCD (4)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Vera Gorbunova (2), Dr. Andrei Seluanov (2)
Biology

Samantha Plummer BBC (2)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Eric Phizicky, Dr. Lei Xu
Biochemistry & Biophysics,
Biomedical Genetics

Brittany Porter BMG (2)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. David Dean, Dr. Paul Dunman
Pediatrics, Microbiology &
Immunology

Amelia Poulin BBC

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mahin Maines
Biochemistry & Biophysics

Alice Can Ran Qin BCD (5)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Chawnsiang Chang (1), Dr. Vera Gorbunova (2), Dr. Andrei Seluanov (2)
Pathology & Lab Medicine, Biology

John Reichert BBC

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Miller
Dermatology

Robert Rietmeijer BBC (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dmitri Ermolenko
Biochemistry & Biophysics

Bridget Russo BCD (2)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Benoit Biteau, Dr. Jane Sottile
Biomedical Genetics, Cardiovascular
Research Institute

Akram Salam BBC (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Miller
Biochemistry

Anna Saltman BIO/SA (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Elaine Sia
Biology

Srawasti Sarker BNS

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mark Noble
Biomedical Genetics

Jordana Schmierer BNS/IRL (3)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst (1), Dr. Maiken Nedergaard (1), Dr. Edward Vates (1)
Microbiology & Immunology,
Neurosurgery

Shannon Schmit BBC (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Beth Grayhack
Biochemistry & Biophysics

Lara Schoenebeck BBC (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chris Proschel
Biomedical Genetics

Raven Shah BBC

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jack Werren
Biology

Jesse Sharp BIO

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Seth Perry
Biomedical Engineering

Matthew Shinseki BNS

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Maiken Nedergaard
Center for Translational
Neuromedicine

Sydney Simpson BMB (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jian Zhu
Microbiology & Immunology

Benjamin Smith BEB

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tirumalai Rangasamy
Pulmonary/Critical Care Unit

Jordan Snajczuk BMG

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Laurie Steiner
Pediatrics & Neonatology

Nischal Sodemba BCD (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mark Noble
Biomedical Genetics

Danielle Sookiasian BMG (3)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amy Kiernan
Ophthalmology

Alicia Spiegel BMB

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Paul Dunman (2) Dr. Sanjay Maggirwar (1)
Microbiology & Immunology

Jamie Strampe BMB (3)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst
Microbiology & Immunology

Michael Sumner BCD

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dave Cohen
Endocrinology & Metabolism

Jonathan Tam BMB (4)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Vera Gorbunova (2), Dr. Andrei Seluanov (2)
Biology

Melissa Thomas BNS

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anna Majewska
Neurobiology & Anatomy

Christopher Tucker BBC (2)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Jeffrey Hayes, Dr. Julie Fudge
Biochemistry & Biophysics,
Neurobiology & Anatomy

Daniel Van Twisk BMB/CSC

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jian Zhu
Microbiology & Immunology

Rachel Vance BMG (3)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Thomas Mariani
Pediatrics

Juan Vazquez BMG (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrei Seluanov
Biology

Harris Weber BCD/BSB (2)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Maiken Nedergaard / Dr. Jeffrey Liff
Translational Neuromedicine

Akira Neng Chun Wong BMG

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Benoit Biteau
Biomedical Genetics

Felix Yang BBC

Faculty Mentor: Dr. David Goldfarb
Biology

Han Zhang BBC

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Robert Bambara
Microbiology & Immunology

Ruijia Zhu BBC/MTH (2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bradley Nilsson
Chemistry



Biotechnology Certificates

Completed by Thirteen 2015 Graduates



The Certificate Program in Biotechnology is designed to give students the background needed for entry into biotechnology and for advanced study, and it gives recognition for specialization in the field.

The graduates who have met the requirements for the Biotechnology Certificate for 2015 are:

Sheel Clerk BMB

Connie Koons BMB

Harika Kunchala BMB

Eun Hee Lee BMB

Xavier Lopez BNS

Leti Nunez BMB

Shiv Patel BMB

Sydney Simpson BMB

Jamie Strampe BMB

Jonathan Tam BMB

Daniel Van Twisk BMB

Deanna Vaneerde BIO

Akira Wong BMG

Honors Societies Awards & Accomplishments

UPBM Majors / Biology Graduate Students Recognized

All-American Honors

The [UAA](#) Presidents Council established a program of All-Academic Recognition in 1998. Qualifying student-athletes are recognized at the completion of the fall, winter, and spring seasons each year. The honor is intended to recognize the high level of academic achievement demonstrated by student-athletes who effectively balance their significant commitment of time, effort, and energy in athletic endeavor with their highly challenging academic responsibilities... More info available on [UAA website](#).

★ Tomotaka Endo '18, BMG (Squash)

Amgen Scholars

“Made possible through a 12-year, \$50 million commitment from the Amgen Foundation, Amgen Scholars allows undergraduates from across the globe to participate in cutting-edge research opportunities at world-class institutions. 17 leading institutions across the U.S., Europe and Japan currently host the summer program.

Undergraduate participants benefit from undertaking a research project under top faculty, being part of a cohort-based experience of seminars and networking events, and taking part in a symposium in their respective region (U.S., Europe or Japan) where they meet their peers, learn about biotechnology, and hear from leading scientists.” For more information on the Amgen Scholars Program visit <http://www.amgenscholars.com/>

★ Peggy Chien '17, BCD - Tokyo (Summer 2015)

Ayman Amin-Salem Memorial Award

The Ayman Amin-Salem Memorial is a college-wide award which is to be presented each year at Commencement to that member of the senior class who best evidences the quality of good character and good citizenship, such as decency, reliability, responsibility, and congeniality. Preference may be given to students who also have an interest in biology or the biological sciences, music, art, writing, or athletics.

★ Michael Breen '15, BMB

★ Phillip Cohen '14/15, BMB

★ Mark Lawlor '15, BMB

Catherine Block Memorial Fund Prize

Annual prize awarded by the University to a woman in the junior class in recognition of her outstanding ability and achievement in the field of science. Selection is based on recommendations by the respective departments, which are evaluated by a committee appointed by the Dean of the College.

★ Chitavi Mauloo '15, BMG/CHM (2014)

★ Anna Parker '16, BEB (2015)

★ Christine Ziegler '16, BMG/CHM (2015)

Davis Projects for Peace Fellowship

The Projects for Peace program was launched by author, philanthropist, and scholar Kathryn Wasserman Davis in 2007 to commemorate her 100th birthday. Since its founding,

Projects for Peace has funded more than 700 projects in over 100 countries. Davis passed away on April 23, 2013, at the age of 106.

- ★ Fatima Bawany '15, BIO
- ★ Katherine Wegman '15, BIO/ANT

Wendy Jill Fread Prize

The Wendy Jill Fread Prize is a College-Wide award that was established in memory of Wendy Jill Fread (Class of 1975) and is presented to the member of the senior class (preferably a woman) who, during four years as a student, has given the greatest service and shown the greatest concern for fellow students;

- ★ Lillye Anderson '15, BCD

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

The Fulbright Scholarship competition is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State designed to promote mutual understanding and peace between the United States and other nations through educational and cultural exchange. It offers opportunities for career-launching study, teaching, and research abroad. Scholars pursuing study or research design their own programs and arrange institutional affiliations in the host countries.

- ★ Benjamin E. Landwersiek '15, BNS

German Academic Exchange Service Research Internships in Science & Engineering

RISE is a summer internship program for undergraduate students from the United States, Canada and the UK in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences and engineering. It offers unique opportunities for undergraduate students to work with research groups at universities and top research institutions across Germany for a period of 2 to 3 months during the summer.

- ★ Kristin Abramo '15, BMG
- ★ Corey Garyn '15, BCD/PHL
- ★ Alexandra Born '15, BMB/CHM
- ★ Austin Mottola '15, BBC
- ★ Robert Rietmeijer '15, BBC
- ★ Jamie Strampe '15, BMB

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

The scholarship, which provides financial assistance to students who are enrolled in study abroad programs worldwide, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and the Institute of International Education. "Rochester students have studied in 26 different countries through the scholarship," said Jacqueline Levine, director of Rochester's Center for Study Abroad and Interdepartmental Programs.

- ★ Nathalia Botero '16, BMG

- ★ Eric Chen '16, BMG
- ★ Anjali Patel '15, BMG

Golden Key International Honour Society

- ★ Sarah Allen '15, BMG
- ★ Brian Bernstein '15, BNS/PSY
- ★ Michael Breen '15, BMB
- ★ Gregory Golembeski '15, BNS
- ★ Balaji Jagdish '15, BCD
- ★ Michelle Landis '15, BMG
- ★ Benjamin Meath '15, BNS
- ★ Leti Nunez '15, BMB/CHM
- ★ Sally Patel '15, BNS/PSY
- ★ William Retz '15, BNS
- ★ John Wilson '15, BMG/PSY
- ★ Kailee Zornow '15, BMB

Janet Howell Clark Prize

Is awarded annually to a, "senior woman" who has shown the greatest promise in creative work in one of the following fields— Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Astronomy—and has shown outstanding versatility in the mastery of allied fields."

- ★ Chitavi Maulloo '15, BIO/CHM (2015)

Kauffman Entrepreneurial Year (KEY) Program

The University of Rochester defines entrepreneurship as "transforming an idea into an enterprise that generates value," implying that the enterprise outlives the creator and that it positively affects others. Qualified students may propose to devote as much as an entire academic year to internships, special projects, relevant coursework, business plan development, research into various facets of entrepreneurship, or analysis of how culture and public policy influence entrepreneurial activity.

- ★ Brian Bernstein '15/16, BNS/PSY
- ★ Andrew Bui '15/16, BNS
- ★ Cody Civileto '15/16, BNS
- ★ Alisa Johnson '14/15, BEB
- ★ Halima Rafi '14/15, BNS
- ★ Brandon Salzman '14/15, BNS
- ★ Venkatesh Abhishek '14/15, BNS/MUS/PSY
- ★ Benjamin Wainblat '14/15, BCD/PSY
- ★ Akira Neng Chun Wong '14/15, BMG

Kearns Scholar

The Kearns Scholars program currently supports over 110 undergraduate students, first-year through seniors. Students who are in the program are retained in STEM at substantially higher rates than nonparticipants, and three-quarters enroll in graduate study. Kearns Scholars also earn higher grades in their first and second year science courses, and withdraw from those courses less frequently, than is historically true of similar students. For more information on the program visit: (<http://>

www.rochester.edu/college/kearnscenter/CollegePrograms/KearnsScholars.html

- ★ Andrew Bui '15, BNS
- ★ Nadia Mercado '15, BNS

McNair Scholar

The goal of the McNair Program is to increase the numbers of low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented minority students who pursue the doctoral degree, with the long-term goal of helping to diversify the nation's college and university faculty and researchers. The program provides intensive advising and academic support, as well as a mentored research opportunity, the opportunity to travel to research conferences, and a myriad of other supports that help students achieve their academic potential. McNair scholars also participate in a seminar, three credit bearing lecture classes, and a two month research program. For more information about the program visit: <http://www.rochester.edu/college/kearnscenter/CollegePrograms/McNair.html>

- ★ Andrew Bui '15, BNS

Grace McCormack Fund for Biology Prize

This award is given annually to worthy students, who, in the judgment of the Department, have great potential and have demonstrated excellence in academics, teaching, service to the department, or scientific research.

- ★ Sarah Allen '15, BMG
- ★ Lillye Anderson '15, BCD
- ★ Max Beyman '15, BMG
- ★ Corey Garyn '15, BCD/PHL
- ★ Mehr Kashyap '15, BCD
- ★ Sarah Lazarus '15, BEB
- ★ Gouri Mahadwar '15, BEB
- ★ Jiyeon Park '15, BCD/HLP
- ★ Alison Patrick '15, BCD
- ★ Benjamin Wainblat '15, BCD/PSY
- ★ Harris Weber '15, BCD/BSB
- ★ Katherine Wegman '15, BIO/ANT

National Society of Collegiate Scholars

- ★ Naba Ali '15, BNS
- ★ Rutul Amin '15, BNS
- ★ Marcia DesJardin '15/16 BMG
- ★ Priyanka Garg '15, BIO
- ★ Claire Hart '15, BMG
- ★ Balaji Jagdish '15, BCD
- ★ Amos Liou '15, BBC
- ★ Chitavi Maulloo '15, BIO/CHM
- ★ Benjamin Meath '15, BNS
- ★ Christopher Nishimura '15, BNS
- ★ William Retz '15, BNS
- ★ Shannon Schmit '15, BBC
- ★ Nicholas Sirotenko '15, BIO

Edward Peck Curtis Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student

Awarded for teaching excellence in schools with undergraduate programs, the E.P. Curtis Award recognizes a record of distinguished teaching, typically developed over at least eight years.

- ★ Matthew Johnson, Doctoral Student, Biology

Student Life Awards

The annual University Student Life Awards recognize those undergraduate students who—through service to others, investment of talent and time, and pursuit of excellence—have significantly and positively impacted the University of Rochester and/or surrounding community.

- ★ Freshman Leadership: Katherine Wegman '15, BMG/ANT
- ★ Outstanding Fraternity and Sorority Leadership: Alap Patel '15, BIO/HBS
- ★ Presidential Award for Community Service: Rutul Amin '15, BCD

Susan B. Anthony Center / Women's Leadership Awards

There are six University Women's Leadership Awards which are presented annually to women of the University community who have distinguished themselves through their achievements, service and contributions to the common good. This year three UPBM majors took home the following:

- ★ Fannie Bigelow Prize-Fatima Bawany '16, BIO/RLS (2014)
- ★ Fannie Bigelow Prize-Allison Eberhardt '15, BMG (2015)
- ★ Susan B. Anthony Scholarship-Oluwatobi Abubakare '16, BNS (2015)
- ★ Susan B. Anthony Scholarship-Katherine Wegman '15, BIO/ANT (2015)

Take Five Scholars Program

A unique program to the University of Rochester, provides an additional semester or year, tuition-free. It offers the chance to pursue a demanding major and still enjoy the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the broad-based, intellectual enrichment of a liberal arts education. Since its inception in 1986, over 1,100 students have become Take Five Scholars. The number of students enrolled in the program varies each year, with new Scholars accepted each semester.

- ★ Zachariah Adham '14/15, BNS
- ★ Alice Chen '15/16, BIO/ANT
- ★ Smon Cheewapansri '14/15, BBC
- ★ Phillip Cohen '14/15, BMB
- ★ Marcia Des Jardin '15/16, BMG
- ★ Rebecca Galasso '14/15, BEB/CSC
- ★ Ihuoma Igbokwe '15/16, BMG
- ★ Amy Ige '14/15, BIO/HBS
- ★ Ali Khan '15/16, BBC/ENG
- ★ Michelle Landis '15/16, BMG
- ★ Morgan Mehring '15/16, BNS/DMS

- ★ Nadia Mercado '14/15, BNS
- ★ Annah Moore '14/15, BNS/CHM
- ★ Matthew Mullen '14/15, BNS
- ★ Alyssa Murillo '14/15, BNS
- ★ Christopher Nishimura '14/15, BNS
- ★ Yan Nuzbrokh '14/15, BNS
- ★ Mary O'Hehir '14/15, BNS
- ★ Shane O'Neil '15/16, BNS/CHM
- ★ Teresa Oh '14/15, BNS
- ★ Kareem Panton '14/15, BNS
- ★ Krina Patel '14/15, BNS
- ★ Sally Patel '14/15, BNS/PSY
- ★ William Retz '14/15, BNS
- ★ Erik Roisland '14/15, BNS
- ★ Daniel Sharfarz '15/16, BMG
- ★ Alicia Spiegel '15/16, BMB

- ★ Kelvin Tam '14/15, BCD
- ★ Felix Yang '15/16, BBC

UR Undergraduate Writing Colloquium Contest

The College Writing Program holds an annual undergraduate writing contest to recognize and celebrate outstanding student writing and to share that writing with the University of Rochester community. Each spring the College Writing Program accepts submissions from students in four categories: Humanities, Social sciences, Natural and applied sciences. Prizes are awarded for the best paper in each of the four categories.

- ★ Zachary Adham '14/15, BNS (Natural Sci. Division)

National Conference of UG Research

NCUR is an annual conference (the only one of its kind, with a national scope) for primary research and artistic performance by undergraduate students, encompassing the natural and social sciences, the humanities, the arts, and engineering. Since its beginnings the conference has enjoyed the active support of major American colleges and universities. The UR Office of Undergraduate Research began sending students to NCUR in 1991. Student investigators may present their work at NCUR as an oral presentation or in a poster format. NCUR participants are also eligible to submit texts of their presentations to be considered for publication in the annual NCUR Proceedings, a juried publication.

April 2013, La Crosse, Wisconsin

- ★ Harris Weber '15, BCD

- ★ Chelsea Choi '15, BIO/PSY
- ★ Paige Haas '16, BMB
- ★ John Wilson '15, BMG/PSY

- ★ Anna Gershteyn '15, BNS/SP
- ★ Nicholas Hill '15, BBC/CHM
- ★ Morgan Kath '16, BBC

April 2014, Lexington, Kentucky

- ★ Zachary Adham '14/15, BNS
- ★ Max Cheng '15, BBC/MUS
- ★ Joshua Cho '16, BMG

April 2015, Cheney, Washington

- ★ Morgan Albert '16, BCD
- ★ Michael Breen '15, BMB
- ★ Elizabeth Brown '15, BCD

- ★ Ali Khan '16, BBC/ENG
- ★ Chitavi Mauloo, BIO/CHM
- ★ Maxwell (Max) Sims '15, BNS/BSB
- ★ Natalie Tjota '16, BMG
- ★ John Wilson '15, BMG/PSY

UR Undergraduate Research Exposition

The Undergraduate Research Exposition is a College-wide event in which UR students at all levels and in all areas of study are invited to present their investigative and creative work. The Expo reflects the passion for learning that enlivens the University, professors and students alike, and that finds expression in varied forms, in every area of study.

2013 UPBM Participants

- ★ Alisa Johnson BIO, '15, BEB
- ★ Annah Moore '15, BNS/CHM
- ★ Junne Park '15, BCD/HLP
- ★ Harris Weber '15, BCD/BSB

2014 UPBM Participants

- ★ Naba Ali '15, BBC
- ★ Max Cheng '15, BBC/MUS
- ★ Paige Haas '16, BMB
- ★ Raven Shah '15, BNS
- ★ John Wilson '15, BMG/PSY - Professor's Choice Award Winner for Social Sciences Division

Senior Class Speaker for 2015

Mehr Kashyap '15, BCD, Speech from Sunday, May 17th, 2015

" Thank you for that introduction, Dr. Gorbunova. And thank you to both you and Dr. Seluanov for mentoring me for these past four years.

Just a warning -- I haven't prepared anything special for this ceremony. I was told that I could just use the same speech from earlier today.

I'm not kidding! Dr. Lambert actually suggested that at my senior thesis defense a few weeks ago. And I really want to get an A on this speech, so I should probably listen to him.

I want to begin by thanking everyone that's helped us make it to this diploma ceremony. So, thank you to all of our professors for going way beyond just teaching us Biology, and advising us both academically and personally.

And thank you for curving 50% to a B average. We would not be here today if it weren't for that.

Thank you to our amazing course coordinator, Jenn Baylark! Especially for dealing with some of our highly questionable regrade requests. We promise you, our entire future -- whether we made it here today or not -- really did hinge on getting that one point back.

And thank you to Marianne Arcoraci! For making sure that we completed our majors, had information about research and scholarship opportunities, and much more.

We're sorry for turning more than a few of our forms in a little late. And by 'we're sorry,' I mean I'm sorry.

And thank you to all other UPBM administrators who've had a hand in helping us receive our degrees today.

To our families -- we owe you so much for supporting us throughout these four years -- academically, financially, and emotionally. It couldn't have been easy to deal with us as we were

stressed out studying for our classes. We might not always tell you, but you really are our pillars of support.

And finally, thank you to all of the graduates here today. There is no one I would rather study all night with, or go to workshop with, or skip lecture with -- [turn to faculty] I mean, attend lecture with -- than with you. There is no one that I would rather graduate with, than with you.



So, if there is one thing that I'll miss the most after we leave today, it's all of you.

For a lot of us, the next chapter of our lives is filled with uncertainty. And so, we're bound to face obstacles from time to time. But, honestly, we are so ready.

Remember this. We're here today, because all of us made it through orgo. Right? We can face anything.

Sure, the degrees we're about to get in a few minutes symbolize all of the biology we've spent mastering over the last four years. But what we've gained is so much more than that.

Over these past four years, we've become more confident, analytical thinkers. We've transitioned from simply learning to actively contributing

and creating knowledge.

We've also become more patient over the years. If you've done research in a lab at all in the past four years, you're probably just one more experiment away from publishing! You thought. Two years ago.

But perhaps most importantly, we've been humbled by the vastness of knowledge both around us now, and yet to be discovered. And that's cultivated this very curious nature that's evident through our interest in biology, but also in other facets of our lives.

We instinctively seek to question, make hypotheses, and evaluate results. And when our results don't match our expectations, we just

Continued on Next Page

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM IN BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE (UPBM) E-NEWS

go back, change the hypothesis and then we're always proven right!

Whether the next phase of your life is med school, or grad school, a job, or you're still unsure, just know that these past four years have prepared you for whatever comes next.

Our task from here on out is to continue growing, to stay confident and curious, and then go change the world.

So, 2015. Let's walk this stage, let's get our degrees, and then it's time to face whatever lies ahead.

I have no doubt that we'll be among the future movers, shakers and healers of the world.

Good luck and congratulations! "

- Mehr Kashyap '15, BCD

Picture Pages

2015 Bio Department Diploma Ceremony







Keep in Touch

Check in with the Hive from Time to Time



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