



# The GSChronicles

## March 2008

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### Upcoming Events

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### Announcements

- GSC Meeting:  
The next GSC meeting will be held on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 5PM in the Grad Student Lounge, Building 10 Rm 6S235.
- GPP Deputy Director:  
Dr. Betsey Wade will be starting her new post as the Deputy Director of the GPP this month. A welcome party will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11AM in Building 2. All graduate students are invited, so please mark your calendars to help welcome her!
- Partnership Reps:  
The GSC Constitution, which went into effect this past January, calls for representation from students in both institutional and individual partnerships. We

have previously requested nominations for these representatives. The official election of the representatives from each constituency will be held after the April GSC meeting. Be sure to look for an email from your Trainee Advisory chair: Kate Callahan for Institutional Agreements, including the Oxford/Cambridge and Karolinska programs; Christina Saikus for US Individual Agreements; and Marieke Mur for International Individual Agreements. They will be organizing the voting process. Please refer to the Constitution on the GSC section of the GPP website for further information or contact one of our co-chairs (Athena at [klutza@nidk.nih.gov](mailto:klutza@nidk.nih.gov), or Megan at [clelandme@od.nih.gov](mailto:clelandme@od.nih.gov)).

- Career Symposium:

The First Annual NIH Career Symposium for Graduate Students and Postdocs will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 in the Natcher Conference Center. It is being hosted by OITE, FAES, Felcom and the GSC. This full-day symposium is devoted to the exploration of a myriad of interesting science-related career paths, and the skills required to excel in them. There will be panel discussions and lectures with over 50 speakers selected from around the country having confirmed their attendance! The day begins at 8:30AM with the opening and plenary session with Dr. Peter Fiske, includes a networking lunch, and concludes with a special social networking event in Bethesda starting at 6PM. Please visit <http://www.training.nih.gov/symposium/> for more information regarding the schedule and to register for this exciting event.

- GSC "Activity Pass"

The GSC has been accepting money for the student activity pass. Thank you to the many students who have already purchased them! This pass will help pay for some of our activities in advance and to help

ultimately save students money while attending each of the GSC events during the year. Typically, each event the GSC hosts (including the Halloween Party, Holiday Party, retreat activities...) costs participating students between \$5 and \$15 at the event. As an alternative, the GSC will be offering an "activity pass" for interested students to pay a once a year nominal fee of \$20 to attend all of these events throughout that year. The pass will not be required to attend events, but will ultimately save you money. Students who opt not to buy the pass will pay at the door as was done before. The pass can be purchased at any GSC meeting. Contact a co-chair or Stephanie Guzik ([guziks@nhlbi.nih.gov](mailto:guziks@nhlbi.nih.gov)) for more information or to purchase a pass.

▪ FARE Awards:

The fifteenth annual Fellows Award for Research Excellence (FARE) competition will once again provide recognition for outstanding scientific research performed by intramural fellows. FARE 2009 winners will each receive a \$1,000 travel award to use for attending and presenting their work at a scientific meeting. Twenty-five percent of the fellows who apply will win an award. FARE applicants must submit an abstract of their research, which will be evaluated anonymously on scientific merit, originality, experimental design and overall quality/presentation. The travel award must be used between Oct. 1, 2008 and Sept. 30, 2009. **Graduate students** performing their doctoral dissertation research at NIH are also eligible to compete! **Submit your application online, including abstract, from March 14 through April 14, 2008** via <http://felcom.od.nih.gov/subCommittee/fare.aspx>

▪ Suggestion Box:

There is now an anonymous suggestion box located in the Graduate Student Lounge. If you have a suggestion you would like to make for the GSC or for GPP, you can submit it to this box, which will be opened each month. You are always welcome to contact our co-chairs (Athena Klutz,

[klutza@nidk.nih.gov](mailto:klutza@nidk.nih.gov), or Megan Cleland, [clelandme@od.nih.gov](mailto:clelandme@od.nih.gov)) or the GPP staff if you would like to make a suggestion in person.

▪ Graduate Student Blood Drive:

The first Graduate Student Blood Drive was held on March 5<sup>th</sup>, organized by the GSC Community Service Committee. It was a great success! The Clinical Center Blood Bank was excited to have 17 new donors present; although only eleven could donate blood (we had some foreign travelers, some fevers, and even a fainter)! Alan Decot, the coordinator at the Blood Bank, was really impressed with our organization: he wrote, "I am proud of everyone involved, and look forward to another blood drive together this summer." Donors can give blood every 56 days, so we hope to plan another Blood Drive for May or June. Thanks to all the volunteers!

▪ Interviews:

Thanks to all of the current students who participated in the events during this year's recruitment! This year's new student orientation will be held in the summer, so be looking for emails to participate in orientation activities to welcome our newest students to campus.

▪ Pathways:

The Pathways committee is looking for volunteers to help plan and organize monthly events. Please contact a co-chair or Nick McBride ([mcbriden@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:mcbriden@niaid.nih.gov)) for more information.

▪ GS3:

The **Graduate Student Seminar Series (GS3)** needs new speakers for 2008. If you would like to present your research to your fellow grad students and get feedback on your presentation, please email Roseanne Zhao ([zhaof@mail.nih.gov](mailto:zhaof@mail.nih.gov)) to schedule a date. There are still open slots for the April meeting. **These meetings are great practice for talks, conferences, retreats, etc.** Students meet on the third Thursday of the month at lunchtime with two speakers,

each giving 20-minute talks. The **next meeting will be on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 12-1** where **Megan Cleland and Michael Gates will be presenting their research.**

▪ Biophysics and Structural Biology Group: **The Biophysics and Structural Biology Graduate Student Interest Group** has been meeting bimonthly. The first meeting of the month focuses on learning a new laboratory technique, whereas the second meeting of the month is used to discuss a paper that uses the technique. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, contact Matt Berberich at [berberichm@mail.nih.gov](mailto:berberichm@mail.nih.gov). The current topic being discussed is MRI. Please look for emails regarding the upcoming schedule.

▪ SNIG: **The Systems Neuroscience Interest Group for Graduate Students** is a group of students interested in systems/ cognitive/ clinical neuroscience. The group meets once a month to discuss the latest topics of systems neuroscience and listen to a talk from a member of the group. Often these talks are rehearsals of thesis proposals, defenses, conference posters, etc. Sometimes they have someone give a tutorial. An informational email is sent out once a week. From time to time there will be lunches with renowned outside speakers from the NIH Neuroscience series. SNIG will have two new organizers for this year, Lei Qin ([qinl@ninds.nih.gov](mailto:qinl@ninds.nih.gov)) for the first half of the year and Kara Lindstrom ([lindstrk@mail.nih.gov](mailto:lindstrk@mail.nih.gov)) for the second half. Please contact them if you would like to join the group.

Please **send your publications, awards, graduation and birthday announcements** to Stephanie Guzik [guziks@nhlbi.nih.gov](mailto:guziks@nhlbi.nih.gov) or Cynthia Chang [changcy@mail.nih.gov](mailto:changcy@mail.nih.gov) for recognition. Also send your **requests for nominations** for students to be included in the **Graduate Student Spotlight.**



### **Congratulations to:**

**Courtney Granville** on successfully defending her dissertation last month! She has been a graduate student

in the GW program and will officially graduate on May 18<sup>th</sup>. She has been living in Ohio and will start in a postdoc position at Ohio State University this summer. We wish her the best in all of her future endeavors!

Happy Birthday to: Marieke Mur (Mar 18<sup>th</sup>), Ethan Buch (Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>), Yoonhee Kim (Mar 26<sup>th</sup>), Stephanie Fliedner (Mar 30<sup>th</sup>), and Kristina Buac (Mar 27<sup>th</sup>).

Upcoming Birthdays: Brenna Hill (Apr 4<sup>th</sup>), Catherine Schwartz (Apr 19<sup>th</sup>), and Julia James (Apr 17<sup>th</sup>).

### **Graduate Student Spotlight:**



***Kate Callahan***

This month's graduate student Spotlight is on Kate Callahan, a third year biochemistry PhD student in the Georgetown program. She works in NIDDK under the mentorship of Dr. Anthony Furano, studying a unique protein required for the replication of LINE-1, a retrotransposable element. LINE-1 has generated about 40% of mammalian genomes, but we have a very limited understanding of its replication mechanism. Kate is interested in how the biochemistry of the protein essential for LINE-1 replication is related to its evolutionary success.

Kate's interest in biology began at an early age. She was born in Chicago, but moved to San Francisco when she was a year old. Her mother used to take her to see the elephant seals in Ano Nuevo, which sparked and fed her appreciation of science. At the age of ten, Kate's family moved to Pittsburgh, (which, she would like to remind us, is the home of the Steelers). There she cultivated additional interests; in high school, she was a tri-athlete playing lacrosse, field hockey, and crew (rowing in the light-weight four). She started her undergraduate studies for two years at McGill University in Montreal, and then transferred to Claremont McKenna College in sunny California, where she continued to play lacrosse.

During Kate's senior year at Claremont McKenna College, she did a mini project researching the effects of sulfate on early sea urchin development. She loved the project and decided that she wanted to continue doing basic science research. This led her to apply to the post-baccalaureate program at NIH.

Currently, Kate is not just a dedicated researcher; she is also very involved with the GSC. This year, she is a formal partnership representative to the Council. In 2007, she helped plan the Graduate Student Research Symposium with Phil Wang and Emmette Hutchinson. She enjoyed it so much that she will help again with this year's Symposium (November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008) with Marieke Mur, Phil Wang, and Dan Crooks. She is co-author of the Georgetown-NIH survival guide, an unofficial guide to the partnership. Two years ago, she helped plan the 2006 GPP student retreat.

Kate has non-NIH interests, too. She adores her puppy, Barkley. She loves to run and spends most mornings running along the national mall. Traveling is another hobby; she has visited most of Western Europe (Belgium, Austria, Germany, Italy, France, England, plus a few others). This summer,

she hopes to travel to Egypt. She also enjoys seeing friends for movies, dinner dates, or shopping adventures. Kate's many accomplishments and hobbies are perhaps inspired by her favorite quote, by John Muir: "The power of imagination makes us infinite."

Here's more information that may be handy some day. She loves 80's flicks, and her favorite movie is *Girls just want to have fun* starring Sarah Jessica Parker. Right now her favorite book is *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, which she describes as a must-read and a very moving tale of two women growing up in Afghanistan. Additionally, she is a huge Steelers fan and has a secret crush on Troy Polamalu. And finally, remember to say "hi" the next time you see her, because Kate confesses that she really enjoys interacting with other NIH graduate students!

### Tip of the Month: PhDs.org

PhDs.org (<http://www.phds.org/>) is a fascinating website for graduate students in science and engineering. It provides strategies for surviving and succeeding in grad school, addressing topics such as choosing a lab, writing, and developing essential skills. There is extensive information on how to get that coveted postdoc position, and how to land the even more coveted faculty position. The best part, however, is the focus on 'alternative' careers for PhDs, with a great search engine that finds tons of jobs in industry, non-profits, and quantitative finance. Despite the large amount of information on the website, everything is well organized and easy to navigate through. Happy reading!

### GSC Meeting Overview

- Treasurer: Activity passes were collected from three additional students
- GPP Notes: Caroline Duffy: a graduation celebration will be held with the Symposium in November; students will be visiting town for career symposium-

can anyone host them?; Food for activities needs to be planned better.

- GSC positions: still looking for people to participate in Pathways, Retreat, and Symposium committees.
- Listservs: putting together building listservs. Please update your Global listing to make this more efficient. Will be used this summer to organize building lunches when new students join us on campus.
- Holiday Party: GPP suggested inviting mentors to the GSC holiday party at the FAES house. GSC members in attendance agreed, GPP will help pay for food for event.
- GPP Deputy Director: Betsey Wade is starting on March 17. A welcome party will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11AM as an OITE Open House.
- Yearly Newsletter: Will be compiled with information about graduating students, their theses, and their plans after NIH.
- FAES Lab Techniques Class: may become a summer course or journal club, with other teaching opportunities for graduate students coming from Betsey Wade.
- Pathways: If students would like to have lunch with our Pathways speakers, contact Athena Klutz ([klutza@nidk.nih.gov](mailto:klutza@nidk.nih.gov)) to reserve a spot.
- GS3 – Roseanne Zhao: Contact Roseanne if you would like to schedule a talk during a GS3 meeting.
- Partnership Representatives- Trainee Advisory Committee: a vote will be held in April to have a special election of Partnership Reps; if approved the special election will be held at May GSC meeting.
- Interviews: They're over; thanks to everyone who helped.
- *The NIH Catalyst* Article: Vanessa McMains wrote an article for the March/April edition regarding the GSC, our Constitution and our goals for this year.
- Research Symposium – Dan Crooks: Committee is working to secure opening address and keynote speakers; if

possible, we will fly them in early to interact with graduate students.

- Suggestion box: now in the GSC lounge. Please put your anonymous suggestions to the co-chairs in it, which will be read monthly.

**Time: 1 hour**

## **Graduate Student Entertainment**

Whether you love or hate PCR, or know what it is, you'll love this music video.

<http://biorad.cnpq.com/lsca/videos/ScientistsForBetterPCR/>

*Disclaimer: The GSChronicles does not endorse any specific company's products or nerdy multimedia productions.*

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