



# The GSChronicles

May 2008

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## Upcoming Events

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## Announcements

▪ GSC Meeting:  
The next GSC meeting will be held on Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5PM in the Grad Student Lounge, Building 10 Rm 6S235.

▪ Partnership Reps:  
At the May GSC meeting, the new partnership representatives were installed and are now active members of the council. They will be involved in decision-making with the GSC and will speak for their constituencies during planning and voting at the GSC meetings. All graduate students are still invited to attend and participate in GSC meetings, but you are also now represented by a student in your partnership. The following students are representatives for 2008 in the GSC:

Institutional Partnerships: Kate Szarama (*Karolinska*); Shau-Ming Wei (*Brown*); Ashley Owen (*Georgetown*); Gayani Weerasinghe (*JHU*); Sariah Khormae (*Cambridge*); Lydia Durant (*Oxford*); Andre Pilon (*GWU*);

Shawna Graves (*Agreement Group 1: Boston University, University of Montana, and NYU*); Ashley Hardin (*Agreement Group 2: University of Maryland Biophysics and Neuroscience*); Anthony Blount (*Agreement Group 3: UNC and U Penn*); and Emma Kurnat-Thoma (*Agreement Group 4: DNV/PhD and Nursing/PhD*).

International Partnerships: Julien Debbache, Guillaume Leboucher, Lisa Mielke, Kai-Markus Mueller, and Pamela Ng.

US Individual Partnerships: Irene Avila, Sandra Dillahunt, Muslima Ali, Amanda Higley, Christina Saikus, and Khalisa Herman.

### ▪ GSC "Activity Pass"

Typically, each event the GSC hosts (including the Halloween Party, Holiday Party, and retreat activities) costs participating students between \$5 and \$15 at the event. As an alternative, the GSC is 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 prove much cheaper than paying for each event separately. The pass can be purchased at any GSC meeting. *Thank you to the many students who have already purchased GSC Activity Passes!* Contact a co-chair or Stephanie Guzik ([guziks@nhlbi.nih.gov](mailto:guziks@nhlbi.nih.gov)) for more information or to purchase a pass.

### ▪ Graduate Student Retreat:

Each year, the GPP hosts the graduate students for an off-campus retreat to focus on science, networking and career development. This year's retreat is scheduled for July 17-18<sup>th</sup> at Rocky Gap Resort in Cumberland, MD. Look for more emails soon from the GPP and the Retreat Planning Committee about the schedule and registration for this year's event!

▪ GPP Travel Awards:

The GPP is offering a competition for travel awards this month. The winners can use their awards to fly back to their home institutions. Preference will be for international partnership students, but all students are being encouraged to apply. The deadline for the application is May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9AM. Visit [gpp.nih.gov/Activities/2008-05-21-Grads-Travel.htm](http://gpp.nih.gov/Activities/2008-05-21-Grads-Travel.htm) for more information.

▪ Upcoming Social Activities:

Every week on Friday at 5:30PM, a group of graduate students and postdocs meets for Ultimate Frisbee on the south end of campus (near lot 41B) outside the perimeter fence. Feel free to join them, or contact Megan Cleland for more information. In addition, look for emails about hiking trips and other social events planned for this summer. The weather will be beautiful, so get out of the lab and enjoy some of our GSC activities!

▪ Volunteering with Clinical Center Patients:

The Clinical Center on campus just started the Patient Ambassador program. Volunteers for the program will be placed in a variety of positions, including taking patients to radiology, surgery, or handling medical records. Volunteers are asked to commit to 200 total hours of service – 4 hours a week for one year. If you're interested in learning more or applying to become a volunteer, visit [www.cc.nih.gov/about/ambassadors/](http://www.cc.nih.gov/about/ambassadors/).

▪ Campus Area Listservs:

The GSC has started listservs that will link students in various parts of campus. These listservs will be used to schedule group lunches, outings, and post questions to people on your area of the main campus. The buildings on campus have been split up by their general location in the East, West or Middle regions. These listservs have been set up to be **optional** and if you would like to be informed of grad student activities on your part of campus, you should sign up at [gpp.nih.gov/Current/GraduateStudentCouncil/GSCListSrvs/](http://gpp.nih.gov/Current/GraduateStudentCouncil/GSCListSrvs/).

▪ Pathways:

The Pathways committee is looking for volunteers to help plan and organize monthly events. Please contact a co-chair for more information. The next Pathways will be held June 19<sup>th</sup> regarding "Giving Job Talks."

▪ GS3:

The **Graduate Student Seminar Series (GS3)** needs new speakers for 2008. **These meetings are great practice for talks, conferences, retreats, dissertation defense, etc.** Students meet on the third Thursday of the month at lunchtime with two speakers, each giving 20-minute talks. 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.

▪ 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 ([berberichm@mail.nih.gov](mailto:berberichm@mail.nih.gov)).

▪ 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.

- Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure: On Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Race for the Cure will occur around the mall. This annual 5K walk/run supports breast cancer research. The Clinical Center on campus will host "Team NIH," and fellows are invited to participate. If you would like to walk or run with the group, please contact Peter Kelly ([PKelly@cc.nih.gov](mailto:PKelly@cc.nih.gov)), Pat Piringer ([ppiringer@nih.gov](mailto:ppiringer@nih.gov)), or Jenny Haliskit ([haliskij@cc.nih.gov](mailto:haliskij@cc.nih.gov)).

## Graduate Student Spotlight:



*Roseanne Zhao*

Roseanne Zhao, a first year graduate student in the University of Cambridge Partnership Program, is this month's Spotlight. She spent most of her childhood years on the south side of Chicago (which, she reminds us, is the home of the Chicago-style pizza), and later she lived in Naperville, a western suburb of Chicago. She became fascinated with math and science at an early age, and she was fortunate to have parents and teachers who encouraged her interests. Growing up, she enjoyed participating in various math and science competitions. In high school, she successfully entered her research project on quantum mechanics in the Siemens-Westinghouse Competition, in which she was named a semi-finalist.

She stayed close to home in college, majoring in mathematics and chemistry at the University of Chicago. During her undergraduate years, she studied the function of the extracellular lipase genes in pollination in a plant biology lab. She also conducted a mathematical analysis of quantum dynamics with various applications to one- and multi-dimensional dynamics systems.

Roseanne has now steered her scientific interests in a biomedical direction. She conducts research under the mentorship of Dr. Pamela Schwartzberg in NHGRI and Prof. Gillian Griffiths at Cambridge. Her project involves the study of CD8+ cytotoxic T cells, which play a critical role in tumor suppression and defense against various intracellular pathogens, and the defects in cytolytic function associated with primary immunodeficiencies.

Outside of the lab, Roseanne enjoys being an active member of the GSC. Mostly notably, she took the position of GS3 Chair only a few months after arriving at the NIH. GS3, the Graduate Student Seminar Series, features presentations by two graduate students every month and provides



**Congratulations to:**  
**John Lefman, Brian Capell,**  
**Jodi Gilman and Gretchen**  
**Nelson** for successfully  
defending their theses last

month! John and Brian are graduate students in the NYU program, Jodi is a member of the Brown University partnership, and Gretchen is a student in the JHU program. We wish each of them luck as they start their new positions!

Happy Birthday to: Josh Currie (May 3<sup>rd</sup>), Arjun Prasad (May 5<sup>th</sup>), Ashley Hardin (May 19<sup>th</sup>), Amrita Ghosh (May 19<sup>th</sup>), and Kristi Norris (May 20<sup>th</sup>).

Upcoming Birthdays: Cathy Kolf (June 2<sup>nd</sup>) and Tony Barnitz (June 12<sup>th</sup>).

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

an opportunity for graduate students to present their work to their peers. Remember, GS3 always welcomes new speakers, so anyone interested in giving a talk should contact Roseanne at [zhaof@mail.nih.gov](mailto:zhaof@mail.nih.gov).

In addition to her lab and GSC responsibilities, Roseanne finds time to pursue a number of hobbies. These include reading, practicing WuShu/Chinese martial arts (mostly Northern styles), traveling, and doing various outdoor activities. She also enjoys perfecting her Chinese calligraphy. Her favorite books are *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien and *Journey to the West* (one of the four great classical novels of Chinese literature). In line with the theme of journeys and quests, her favorite movies are the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. And while she has no pets at the moment, she does think fondly of the goldfish and the teddy-bear and golden hamsters that are in the care of her brothers in Chicago.

When you meet Roseanne at the next GS3 meeting, perhaps you'd like to ask her how her favorite quotes have inspired her. These are "You will own the world with love; you will lose the world with hate" (unknown author), and Thomas Edison's wise adage, "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." Or, if you're not feeling that philosophical, maybe you can convince her to show off her a martial arts move! Like everything she does, it's bound to be exceptional.

### **Tip of the Month: NIH Videocasting**

Have you ever gotten an email about a really interesting talk being given at the NIH, but you realize you'll be busy that day? Or you look forward to a famous scientist's lecture all week, but a lab emergency pops up just as you're leaving? NIH Videocasting lets you watch hundreds of recorded lectures, as well as live ones as they happen, streamed straight to your computer. Just go to the website, <http://videocast.nih.gov/>, where you will find a list of the day's videocast events. You can search through the archived videos for the talk you missed (but your labmates keep raving about), and you can even download the files as podcasts. If you missed the Career Symposium, why not give your career outlook a boost by watching the plenary session? You can find it here: <http://videocast.nih.gov/Summary.asp?File=14419>.

## **GSC Meeting Overview**

- The Career Symposium Committee will meet soon to analyze feedback and make potential changes for next year's event. Feedback is overwhelmingly positive.
- Six t-shirt designs for this year's retreat have been posted in Survey Monkey. The winning design will be on the back of the shirt and the artist will receive a prize.
- Students interested in being on listservs for buildings should sign up at GSC website. Main campus was separated by buildings in East, West and Middle sections.
- Partnership Representatives have been elected and installed to the GSC. They will be in place until the end of the year. Elections for next year's representatives will occur in November.
- A course will be offered for summer students about how to read and discuss a scientific paper. Students have already volunteered to conduct this class.
- The FAES teaching course is being designed. Contact Marieke Mur if you would like to help plan or run the course this fall.
- Pathways has planned a session on May 14<sup>th</sup> and another on June 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have suggestions for career opportunities you would like to learn more about, contact Sally McMillin.
- The Interview Committee has a list of accepted students. Partnership reps were given the list. Contact your representative if you would like the names of new students in your program, and feel free to contact them before they arrive to campus.
- Send any postings for the website to Christina Saikus.
- Social committee mentioned a possible backpacking trip on Memorial Day Weekend. Ultimate Frisbee is going on every Friday at 5:30PM, organized by Megan Cleland, on the field at the south end of campus.
- If you would like to volunteer to help plan the Research Symposium, which will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup>, contact Kate Callahan or Dan Crooks.
- Retreat Committee has a tentative schedule of events for this year's graduate student retreat, which will be July 17-18 at Rocky Gap.

## Graduate Student Entertainment

Earlier this year, a researcher from the Czech Republic named Tomas Grim found a negative correlation between beer consumption and scientific performance. Does that mean we should stop socializing if we want more or better papers? Is it the other way around? Or is more data needed on this subject? See for yourself:  
<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.2008.0030-1299.16551.x> (link to the abstract, and the option to view full text or pdf).

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