Dat Vo, Will Lavery and Angela Boyd have successfully defended their PhD dissertations and were conferred their degrees on Friday, May 25th during the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Commencement ceremony.

Dr. Vo’s dissertation is entitled, “Regulation and Function of the Musashi RNA-Binding Protein”. Dr. Vo was mentored by Dr. Luiz Penalva, Cellular and Structural Biology.

Dr. Lavery’s dissertation is entitled, “Venous Pressure and Intraocular Pressure Homeostasis”. Dr. Lavery’s mentor was Dr. Jeff Kiel, Physiology.

Dr. Angela Boyd’s dissertation is entitled, “The Role of Aberrant Inflammation in the Enhanced Susceptibility of Aged Mice to Pneumococcal Pneumonia”. Her mentor was Dr. Carlos Orihuela, Microbiology & Immunology.

Please join us in congratulating these students!
Welcome to the Class Entering in 2012

We are excited to welcome the newest members of the MD/PhD Program who joined us in June for their first summer lab rotation prior to beginning the first year of Medical School in August.

The class is very strong with a median MCAT of 33, GPA of 3.50, and collectively more than 10 publications.

In addition to the four new students, we would also like to welcome Erin Foster, PhD, who will be participating in the enrichment activities of the program.

Dr. Foster was a MD/PhD student at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) where she completed her PhD in Immunology. She is currently doing a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Albert Einstein College of Medicine (NY) and will be re-starting medical school with the incoming MS-1 class.

Please join us in welcoming all of these students to the program!

Curtis Clark, MS
University of Texas—Tyler

Jeff Cooney, MS
Boston College

Erin Foster, PhD
(Pictured with her son Atticus)
Northwestern University

Brett Ipson, BS
Brigham Young University

Trevi Ramirez, MS
Wellesley College
Dr. Clark Honored

Dr. Bob Clark was recognized for his leadership and service to the MD/PhD Program at the May Bench to Bedside. Dr. Clark served as Co-Director of the program from 2009-2011 making significant contributions. He continues to serve on the Advisory Committee and newly formed Steering Committee.

Dr. Clark also serves as the Assistant Vice President for Clinical Research and Director of the Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science. He is the principal investigator for our NIH funded institutional Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA).

MD/PhD Students Honored at C&SB Retreat

Several MD/PhD students were recognized at the Cellular & Structural Biology Departmental annual retreat on May 17th.

The Barbara Bowman Student of the Year Award honors the memory of the late Dr. Barbara H. Bowman, former chairman of the Department of Cellular & Structural Biology.

The award is given annually to a graduate student, within the department, with the highest impact first author publication.

Dr. Dat Vo was selected for the 2012 award based upon two scientific articles published in the journal of RNA Biology and Molecular Cancer Research.

He was presented a plaque and honorarium and also gave a brief presentation describing his scientific work.

Danielle Victor, GS-2, was awarded the David Carillo Memorial Fellowship, which is presented in recognition of the student early in his/her career who demonstrates outstanding potential.

Danielle was presented a plaque and honorarium, in addition to giving a talk describing her work.

Diana Villarreal, GS-3, won 3rd place out of 50 PhD students during the poster session. Diana’s poster was entitled: “Genetics of microhomology-mediated recombination (mm-REC) in Saccharomyces cerevisiae”.

(L to R)
Dat Vo with Dr. Sacaguchi; Danielle Victor with Dr. Sacaguchi; Diana Villarreal with Dr. Rao
**Suzanna Maupin Wins Chrysalis Program Award**

Suzanna Maupin, GS-1, had the opportunity to attend special presentations for medical students who have done research in, and are interested in the field. Suzanna is mentored by Dr. Joel Baseman, Microbiology & Immunology.

**Barron and Wisely Attend APSA National Conference**

Daniel Barron (GS-1) and Lena Wisely (GS-1) attended the 8th Annual American Physician Scientist Association (APSA) Meeting on April 26-29, 2012.

The APSA meeting was combined with the Association of American Physicians (AAP) as well as the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) meetings, providing ample opportunities for exposure to diverse topics.

Daniel and Lena met fellow students from schools across the country and some of the top physician-scientists in the world.

Empowered by experiences from the conference Daniel and Lena along with Suzie Thibodeaux (MS-3), Danielle Callaway and Suzanna Maupin (GS-1) are currently collaborating with the School of Medicine to provide a series of workshops for medical students enrolled in the summer research program. The goal of this workshop series is to cover basic research skills such as literature searching and citation, data organization and presentation, and scientific writing.

The first workshop, held May 16th, was very well received!

(Contributed by: Daniel Barron & Lena Wisely)
**Hinchee Poster Presentations**

“Menadione-induced oxidative and nitrosative stress to C2C12 myotubes.”

Poster presented at the Experimental Biology meeting in San Diego, CA. in April. Authors: Priya Venkatakrishnan, Kathryn Hinchee, Satya Panda, Bettie Sue Masters, and Linda J. Roman

“Neuronal Nitric Oxide Synthase Is Inactivated By Serine1417 Phosphyroration in Response To Insulin Stimulation In C2C12 Cells.”

Poster to be presented at the Annual Biochemistry Department Retreat, June 8th. Authors: Kathryn Hinchee, Neha Garg, Martin Adamo, Bettie Sue Masters, and Linda Roman.

**Lavery Wins Travel Award**

Will Lavery, MS-3, won a travel award from the National Eye Institute to present research at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology in May.

**Recent Publications by Angela Rodriguez Boyd (MS-3)**

Angela Rodriguez Boyd continues wrapping up her PhD work. She now has more than twelve publications including the following:


Hinchee-Rodriguez Wedding

Katie Hinchee, GS-1, and Pavel Rodriguez were married March 10th at Middleton Place in Charleston, SC. Middleton Place is the nation’s oldest landscaped gardens and is located near Katie’s hometown of Summerville, SC. Congratulations, Katie & Pavel!

Additional Commencement Photos

Drs. Adamo, Orihuela, Boyd, & Cavazos

Drs. Adamo, Vo, & Cavazos

Drs. Adamo, Kiel, Lavery, & Cavazos