Graduation 2018!

25 Biology
7 Neuroscience
3 BMB
1 ENV

More photos can be seen on our Facebook page, Serotonin Helix.
CSM Awards

CSM Awards were held in the Janet Ayers Academic Center on April 9, 2018. Dr. John Niedzwiecki and Dr. Robert Grammer, presented awards to ten deserving students, from freshmen to graduating seniors.

Back row: Bailey Bergmann; Caroline Glover, Rebecca Derby
Front row: Isria Jarrett; Nardeen Fayik; Bethany Wood

Freshman Achievement Award in Biology
Bethany Wood

Ronald M. Barrett Pre-Health Award
Marcelle Bulla

Donald R. Ramage Award for Service to the Learning Community in Biology
Isria Jarrett

Robert T. Grammer Research Award
Bailey Bergmann

Outstanding Student in Biology
Rebecca Derby

Biology Scholarship Award
Nardeen Fayik

David R. Hill Environmental Service Award
Caroline Glover

Freshman Achievement Award in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Joshua Archer

Outstanding Student in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Joseph LaMartina

Benjamin Walloch Endowed Scholarship for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Isria Jarrett

TAS Awards - Tennessee Academy of Science

Spring 2018 meeting winners
Tennessee Academy of Sciences Regional Meeting
Belmont University, April 21, 2018
Student Presentations

Cellular and Molecular Biology/Microbiology:

1st – AC Dowd
3rd – Brandi Duke
2nd – Dana Cornwell
Honorable Mention – Haley Hatfield

Health and Medical Sciences:

1st – Rebecca Derby
2nd – Elizabeth Sparks
3rd – Sargoel Rezanejad
Honorable Mention – Christian Candler

Zoology/Ecology/Environmental Sciences:

1st – Taryn Anderson
Honorable Mention – Terra’Lexus Roberts
3rd – Shaoyun Yang
Spring Semester Biology Speakers

This spring, students and faculty had opportunities to hear from numerous speakers, including:

Environmental Science Lecture Series
Speaker
Karen Seto Ph.D., Frederick C. Hixon Professor of Geography and Urbanization Science, Senior Associate Dean for Research and Director of Doctoral Studies at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.
“Urbanization Trends in China and India: Environmental Opportunities and Challenges”

BMB Series Speaker
Andreia Bates, Ph.D.
Professor of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, Department of Biochemistry
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
“Structures and functions of the Clostridium difficile toxins”

CSM Colloquium Series
Carla Hurt, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology, Department of Biology
Tennessee Tech University
“Genomic Tools for the Conservation and Management of Freshwater Biodiversity”

Biology Alumni Speakers
Sarah Updegraff (11) ENV alum shared her experiences working on the Great Barrier Reef.
“Coral Bleaching and the Great Barrier Reef”

Angel Brothers (16) is currently attending University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. Ms. Brothers came out to talk with students interested in pursuing a career in veterinary medicine.

Alumni: if you would be interested in talking with current students about your career path and experiences, please contact us.

ASB Conference

Three Biology faculty and 17 students in Biology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Environmental Science, and Neuroscience presented their research at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists in Myrtle Beach, SC on March 28-31, 2018.

Belmont Scholarship and Awards Day

The recipient of the John Williams Heart of Belmont Award is BMB major Hope Kramer. This award honors one third year or fourth year student who embodies Belmont’s values, including innovation, persistence, advocacy for change, community development and service.

Hope will be attending medical school at the University of Iowa in the fall. Kramer has participated in study abroad trips to Glasgow as well as real-life learning opportunities with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and Siloam Family Health Center. She chose Siloam Family Health Center as the community partner recipient of the accompanying scholarship.

The First Year Award, Leadership was awarded to Freshman BMB Major, Joshua Archer. The First Year Award recognizes an outstanding first-year student who has made early investments in and contributions to the Belmont community. The recipient’s emerging leadership, service, perseverance, scholarship, and faith show promise of maturing and of supporting even greater contributions in the future.
Congratulations to our seniors!!

Here is just a partial list of places our seniors are headed after graduation. Watch our Facebook page as we update graduating seniors information this summer!

Ryan Fox (BIO) “I will be attending medical school at LMU Debusk college of osteopathic medicine (DO) after graduation.”
Sherif Helmey (BIO) “I will be attending the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine.”
Caroline Glover (ENV) “I will be work/volunteering as a part of World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) at Still Seeking Farm LLC. in Gilmanton, NH.”
Priyanka Kumar (BIO) Will be attending the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine this fall.
Hope Kramer (BMB) “I’m going to medical school at the University of Iowa.”
Elizabeth Sparks (BIO) “recently accepted a position to work with Sarah Cannon’s Research Institute as their Data Coordinator for their work on clinical trials. This will start the week after graduation and I am very excited!”
McKenzie Roberts (BIO) “I will be attending Trevecca's Physician Assistant Program right after graduation in May!”
Alexandra Dowd (BIO) “After graduation, I will be attending Belmont University’s School of Physical Therapy.”
Jordan Patrick (BMB) Accepted to Meharry Medical College's School of Medicine
Taryn Anderson (BIO) Attending UT Chattanooga for the OTD program for Occupational Therapy in August.
Christien Jackson (BIO) Attending DePaul University in Chicago for Masters in Migration Studies and Global Health.
Bailey Bergmann (BIO) Medical scribe.
Christian Candler (Neuro) Intern Ramirez Lab, Boston University, Boston, MA
Kara Garrett (Neuro) Attending School of Medicine at UT Memphis.
Brooke Pugsley (BIO) Waitlisted for several medical schools. Attending the Medical Horizons Program at Quillen School of Medicine at ETSU in June.
McKenzie Roberts (BIO) Attending PA School at Travecca.
Joe LaMartina (BMB) ALSAC Fundraising St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis, TN
Kylie Lawrence (BIO) Practice Manager—Banfield Pet Hospital, Nashville, TN
Cody Rasner (BIO) Chief Scribe position—Premier Scribes, Nashville, TN
Cady Sliger (BIO) Moving to Monterey Bay, CA to work at a Marine Laboratory. She will be a marine educator for middle school and high school students focusing on ocean conservation.
Catherine Isaac (BIO) Plans to apply to perfusion school at Vanderbilt – a 22 month program focusing on how to operate a bypass machine.
Sargoel Rezanejad (BIO) Biomolecular science graduate program at Lipscomb. Applying to medical school for entry in fall of 2019
Yasmin Telwar (Neuro) Post-Bac in San Diego.
Terralexus Robert (BIO) Plan to apply to OT school next year.
Hannah Forgani (BIO) Commercial Lines Account Manager—Assured Partners, Bowling Green, KY.

Tri-Beta Plant Sale

This year’s Tri-Beta plant sale raised about $500 to support students programming including field trips and projects. Tri-Beta is a society for students dedicated to improving the understanding and appreciation of biology. The Mu Theta Chapter of Tri-Beta at Belmont University was established April 9, 1988. Since then, membership has promoted the study of biology through various activities such as presentations, field trips, trips to scientific meetings and social events for students. Tri-Beta provides leadership opportunities for students, informs them about current developments in biology and helps them prepare for employment. Dr. Steve Murphree serves as the faculty advisor for this organization.
Alumni Corner

Jordan Murray (12) “I hope all of the Belmont Biology department is doing well! Just wanted to give y’all an update that I recently matched into Diagnostic Radiology at Michigan State’s McLaren-Oakland campus. I couldn’t have made it this far without my experience with the Biology staff at Belmont. So I just wanted to thank you all!”

Anna Margaret McDonnel (17) “Excited and honored to announce that I have chosen University of Mississippi School of Medicine to be my home for the next four years. It’s been a long journey and I couldn’t have done it without the support of my friends and family. Looking forward to all that the Lord has in store for this next chapter in Jackson!”

Morgan Wilters (14) “Excited to announce that I have accepted a position as an associate veterinarian at Kingston Springs Animal Hospital!!! Finally moving back to Nashville!! I’m so excited to start this new chapter of my life!”

Amanda Bigness (15) “Recently passed my official Certification in Neurophysiological Intraoperative Monitoring Exam (aka CNIM)... my bio/psych background come together in a way I wouldn’t have imagined, working right in the operating room... as an Intraoperative Neurormonitoring Tech at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse New York! All thanks to my time at Belmont and all the wonderful professors!”

Melissa Wolf (16) “I’m excited to announce that I’ve been accepted into Vanderbilt’s Interdisciplinary Graduate program where I’ll pursue a PhD in biological research starting in August.”

Nelly Grigorian (16) “I’m writing to let you know that I will officially be starting medical school in the fall, as I have gotten accepted into ETSU as well as 2 other osteopathic medical schools, and am currently waiting to hear back from UT!”

Alaina Regan (09) has completed her Ph.D. defense and is now working on a post-Doc at Jackson Labs in Bar Harbour, Maine.

Morgan Turner (16) Will be graduating from the Masters of Genetic Counseling program at the University of Alabama Birmingham in April and has accepted a position as a Cancer Genetic Counselor with Inova Translational Medical Institute in Fairfax, VA which is outside of Washington D.C.

Lindsay Millward (16) Will be working as an Orise Small Mammal Research Fellow with USFS on the Oregon Coast.

Biology Faculty Update

Dr. Chris Barton and his research students were highlighted in Belmont’s online newsletter Belmont FYI. As a Molecular Biologist, Dr. Barton has worked with biology students during the school year and in the Summer Scholars program specifically in cancer molecular biology. The full article can be found here: http://news.belmont.edu/students-join-dr-chris-barton-in-cancer-cell-research/

Dr. Lori McGrew received the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Inspiration Award at the Belmont University Athletics 2018 Bruins' Choice Awards. She is pictured with Belmont student Dan Brown. Dan, who plays on the Belmont Soccer team is an Exercise Science major and Biology minor.

Dr. John Niedzwiecki and Dr. Carla Hurt at Tennessee Tech University have been awarded a grant of $19,668 from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. The grant, entitled “Conservation Genomics and Population Status of Streamside Salamanders (Ambystoma barbouri) in Tennessee.”, runs from January 2018 through June 2019. Streamside salamanders have been the subject of previous undergraduate research projects with Dr. Niedzwiecki and his biology students. Biology Honors students, Samantha Chu and Joanna Bellan, will be connected with this grant as they begin their research projects with these salamanders.
Biology Alumni Update

We want to hear from you! Please take a moment to fill out the information below and send to us.

Name________________________________________________Graduation Year_______________
Address___________________________________________________________________________
City_____________________________State_____________Zip Code________Phone____________
Email address_______________________________________________________________________
Employment____________________________________Title________________________________
Recent promotion, honor, award, family activity?_____________________________________________

Contact Us!

- Have any comments about the newsletter or the Department?
- An alum with an update on activities?
- Like further information about the Department, its offerings or activities?

Please contact us by one of the following e-mail addresses or by postal service.

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Check out our website: www.belmont.edu/biology

We're on Facebook at Serotonin Helix Follow us on Twitter @SerotoninHelix

Biology Department

Dr. Chris Barton, Assistant Professor
Dr. Robert T. Grammer, Professor and BMB Coordinator
Dr. Matthew Heard, Assistant Professor and Environmental Science Coordinator
Dr. Roger Jackson, Lecturer
Dr. Lori L. McGrew, Professor
Dr. C. Steven Murphree, Professor
Dr. John Niedzwiecki, Associate Professor, Gulf Coast Research Lab Coordinator and Chair
Dr. Darlene Panvini, Professor
Dr. D. Nicholas Ragsdale, Professor, Pre-Health Advisor and Associate Dean, CSM
Dr. Laura Stephan, Lecturer
Dr. Jennifer T. Thomas, Professor
Mr. Ray Seely, Laboratory Manager and Biological Safety Officer
Ms. Terri Templeman, Administrative Assistant