

BiNews

Summer 2023

Summer in the Science Center

Check out a few of the Biology labs who have been doing research this summer in the Science Center!



THE CLOTFELTER LAB

Professor Ethan Clotfelter and Agustina Gonzalez.



THE KRISTENSEN LAB

Professor Thea Kristensen, Annika Baldwin, and Elise Farley.



THE MILLER LAB

Professor Jill Miller, Mia Bawendi, Dan Gonzalez-Kosasky, Evan MacArthur-Waltz, and Kathleen Harris.



THE PURDY LAB

Angie Lopez Aguilar, Nora Dockter, Alexa Martinez, Bridget Cassata, Leslie Lopez, Sarah Quiros, Karol Diaz, and Professor Alix Purdy.



THE TRAPANI LAB

Jasmine Grossman, Ahmad Ziada, Professor Josef Trapani, Stacey Beganny, and Caroline Towse.



THE WU ORR LAB

Professor Mona Wu Orr, Joanna Idrovo, Yeji Park, and Carl Soderstrom.

Welcome to the Department



This summer we welcomed a few new faces to the department. **Victoria Gallestegui '23** is the Biology Q Fellow for the 23-24 academic year. She is currently helping with the Summer Bridge program in Biology, and will be assisting with Bio 191. She graduated from Amherst in May as a Biology and Political Science major and is excited to continue to be a part of the college. Her desk is located in the Q-Center (first floor to the left of the main entrance), feel free to stop by!

Tommy Tashjian, Lecturer in Biology, arrived last week. Tommy will be teaching in BIOL-291 and BIOL-331 this fall. Stop by B212 and say hello!

Joanna Idrovo '23 (Wu Orr Lab) and **Leslie Lopez '23** (Purdy Lab) will be conducting research throughout the fall semester and **Isabella Wischik '23** is working in the Edwards Lab. **Ahmed Ali** arrived this summer as a postdoc in the Jeong Lab. Welcome all!

Boston Bacterial Meeting

Sarah Park '24E, **Joanna Idrovo '23**, and **Leslie Lopez '23** traveled with **Professor Purdy**, **Dr. Bowers**, and **Professor Wu Orr** to the Boston Bacterial Meeting in June. They met **Alexis Jaramillo '12** and many more microbiologists!



New Publication

Dr. Kristensen, **Elizabeth Zhang '24**, **Calista Hundley '24**, **Zachary Watson '24**, **Fariya Farah '24**, and **Sarah Bunnell** recently published an article about the importance of citizen science. [Check it out here!](#)

Lab Websites

Lab website in need of an update? Reach out to Megan Wancura for assistance!

Summer Research Poster Session

Save the date! Summer researchers will present their projects on Friday, September 8th from 3-5pm in the Science Center Living Room. To register, contact Jess Martin, Administrative Director of the Science Center.

Alumni Updates



The Wu Orr Lab's **Yvette Kiptoo '23** has recently gone from visiting her family in Kenya to starting her new role as a Communications & Advocacy Junior Associate at Global Health Strategies in New York City. Congrats Yvette!

Itai Muzhingi '18 from the Purdy Lab graduated with his PhD from Oxford University on his Rhodes Scholarship this summer, and will start his medical degree at Harvard Medical School in the fall!

The Wu Orr Lab's **Steven Yu '23** has just finished his first PhD summer rotation with Dr. Alfredo Hernandez at Tufts University (funded by the biology department's Oscar E. Schotte Award) and is now vacationing in Japan. Go Steven!



Sara Omer '23 from the Jeong Lab will be attending grad school at Rockefeller and **Ali Khoddam '23** from the Edwards Lab will be starting grad school at Northwestern. Best of luck to all!

If you have any updates for the next issue of BioNews, please send them to Ldavis@amherst.edu.