

**BioNews – May 2022**  
**Commencement Edition**

*Congratulations  
Biology graduates!*



*Doug Appenzeller  
Yuen Azu '23E  
Peter Baird  
Talía Bloxham  
Nicole Case  
Luis de Pablo '23E  
Sophia Fernandes  
India Gaume  
Frances Gehrke  
Hannah Goldberg  
Nicholas Gulow*

*Zachary Jonas  
Justin Joo  
Noah Kim '23E  
Kathryn Lingen  
Ainsley Mackenzie  
Anna Madden  
Andrea Mirow  
Andrea Muñoz  
Ledo*

*Eva Nelson  
Aidan Park  
Seong Min Park  
Danica Peterson  
Stephen Popoola  
Alexandra Sala  
Samantha Tichelaar  
Yosen Wang  
Alexandra Williams  
Kelly Zheng  
Kimberly Zhou*

We are thrilled to participate in the 2020 and 2022 Commencement Ceremonies this year and to celebrate the many accomplishments of our majors in the Class of 2022 and 2023E. We look forward to hearing what comes next for everyone!

A special shout out to our senior thesis writers, who put in hundreds of hours of hard work on their projects and produced amazing works of scholarship.

## New faces in the Biology Department

**Gary Heussler** will join the department this summer as a visiting lecturer, and will teach courses such as Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry. Dr. Heussler is currently a post-doctoral researcher in the laboratory of Dr. Rachel Dutton at UCSD where he is investigating both the virome and horizontal gene transfer in the biofilm that develops on aged cheese!



**Anna Postnikova** has joined the **Ragkousi** laboratory as a research assistant. Anna is a recent graduate of Westfield State University, where she majored in Biology and minored in Biochemistry. Welcome Anna!

## Bio/Neuro labs make a splash at NEURON conference

Eleven students from the labs of Profs. **Sally Kim, John Roche** and **Joe Trapani** went to the NEURON (Northeast Undergraduate/Graduate Research Organization for Neuroscience) conference that supports undergraduate and graduate neuroscience education and research at Quinnipiac University in North Haven, CT. So proud that **Ana Varona Ortiz '24** won the Outstanding Poster Award, selected from more than 100 posters from 50 schools!



## Trapani lab members are co-authors on publication

Prof. **Joe Trapani** and former student **Matt Perkins '21** (Neuro) are co-authors – along with colleagues at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst – on [a new paper](#) that identifies the role of GABA<sub>A</sub>  $\alpha$  subunit genes in regulating swimming behavior in larval zebrafish. Congratulations to all the authors!

## News from this year's graduates

From the **Jeong** lab, **Kelly Zheng '22** (Biology) will start a research assistant position in the Barrett Lab at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Other Jeong lab seniors **Maja Johnson '22** (BCBP) and **Bella Han '22** (BCBP) will also start research assistant positions at (respectively) the Vander Horst Lab, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School and the Shukla Lab, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University.

From the **Ragkousi** lab, **Jin Jeon** '22 (BCBP) will join David Fidock's lab at Columbia University to work on malaria; **Sophia Fernandes** '22 (Biology) will move to Andrew Greenberg's lab in Tufts University to work on obesity and metabolism regulation; and **Nicole Case** '22 (Biology) is starting in **Daniel Dwyer's** ('06 Biology) lab at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, to work on mast cells and immune responses.

## Alumni News

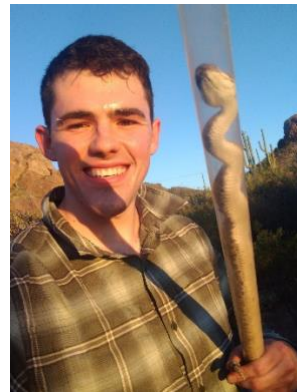
**Emily Isko** '18 was just awarded an NSF GRFP fellowship. She is a graduate student at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories in the labs of Arka Banerjee and Tony Zador. Dr. Banerjee works on singing mice and Dr. Zador works on developing DNA technology to trace individual neurons. She will be applying the techniques developed in the Zador lab to singing mice for her PhD project.

**Lindsey Call** '19 has received an NSF GRFP Fellowship and will be attending the University of Alaska, Fairbanks for graduate school to perform research on how glacial melt dynamics affect coho salmon growth rate and condition under Dr. Megan McPhee (UAF) and Dr. Jason Fellman (UA-SE) in Juneau, AK.

**Joely DeSimone** '16 recently defended her Ph.D. at the University of Montana. Her dissertation is entitled "Migration Physiology of the Nomadic Pine Siskin," several chapters of which have already been published. Dr. DeSimone is returning to the East Coast this month to start a postdoctoral fellowship with Emily Cohen at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, where she will use radar to study bird migration.



**Derek Benson** '21 reports having a blast in his first year as a Ph.D. student at Arizona State University, where he is studying rattlesnake environmental physiology. The research is not for everyone, but Derek is clearly enjoying it...



Congratulations to everyone!



If you have anything to share for the next BioNews, please send it to Ethan Clotfelter  
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