

upstategrad update

transforming students from consumers of knowledge into producers of knowledge

april 2015

FROM THE DEAN

The recent downturn in National Institutes of Health funding has caused universities to struggle all over the country. Historically, we all remember these up and downturns and assume that this one will also head back up, but after nearly six years there appears to be no bottom. In addition, basic science study sections have been merged or eliminated with emphasis on clinically relevant and translational medicine.

At a school like ours, with a large research strength in the basic sciences, you would expect this situation to hit us hard. It has hit us, but not as bad as one would have predicted. Our faculty are adapting to change and learning how to modify a proposal to compete and score in that top 10% of grants that are funded. We have seen this through a new VP of Research who is pushing for basic science and clinical collaborations, a large increase in the number of grant submissions, new grant awards for faculty, and most recently an increase in faculty wanting to take PhD students into their research labs.

I see this as the start of the upturn on this roller coaster ride. The credit for this goes to many places. The institution for supporting research; the VPR for pushing new programs and keeping our spirits high; the faculty for persevering and never giving up, despite repeated rejection after hard work; and the students for continuing to be the drivers in the lab, generating the new findings that make our grants shine.

We have a lot to be proud of at Upstate. Keep up the good work.

look mom, we've been published!

CONGRATULATIONS AUTHORS!

Check out some of the publications from the College of Graduate Studies in the last month:

Breen MS, Maihofer AX, Glatt SJ, **Tylee DS**, Chandler SD, Tsuang MT, Risbrough VB, Baker DG, O'Connor DT, Nievergelt CM, Woelk CH. Gene networks specific for innate immunity define post-traumatic stress disorder. *Mol Psychiatry*. 2015 Mar 10;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25754082?dopt=Abstract>

Cojohari O, Burrer CM, **Peppenelli MA**, Abulwerdi FA, Nikolovska-Coleska Z, Chan GC. BH3 Profiling Reveals Selectivity by Herpesviruses for Specific Bcl-2 Proteins to Mediate Survival of Latently Infected Cells. *J Virol*. 2015.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25740993?dopt=Abstract>

Dwyer CA, Katoh T, Tiemeyer M, Matthews RT. Neurons and glia modify RPTPZ/ phosphacan with cell-specific O-mannosyl glycans in the developing brain. *J Biol Chem*. 2015 [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25737452?dopt=Abstract>

Huang W, Wang X, Shi C, **Guo D**, Xu G, Wang L, Bodman A, Luo J. Fine-Tuning Vitamin E-Containing Telodendrimers for Efficient Delivery of Gambogic Acid in Colon Cancer Treatment. *Mol Pharm*. 2015 Mar 2;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25692376?dopt=Abstract>

Najafi M, Calvert PD. Measurements of rhodopsin diffusion within signaling membrane microcompartments in live photoreceptors. *Methods Mol Biol*. 2015;1271:309-23.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25697532?dopt=Abstract>

Watson NB, **Schneider KM**, Massa PT. SHP-1-Dependent Macrophage Differentiation Exacerbates Virus-Induced Myositis. *J Immunol*. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25681345>

Wong KA, Trembley M, Abd Wahab S, Viczian AS. Efficient retina formation requires suppression of both Activin and BMP signaling pathways in pluripotent cells. *Biol Open*. 2015 Mar 6;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25750435?dopt=Abstract>



The above illustration from the Watson, et al article made the front cover of the March 15th issue of *The Journal of Immunology*.

honors, awards & accomplishments



Christian alongside his thesis advisor Dr. Richard Veenstra

CHRISTIAN CASSARA, a masters student in Pharmacology, successfully defended his thesis on March 27th. Christian's advisor is Dr. Richard Veenstra. Congratulations, Christian!



Ryan alongside his dissertation advisor Dr. Eric Olson

RYAN O'DELL, an MD/PhD student in Neuroscience, successfully defended his dissertation on March 9th. Ryan's dissertation advisor is Dr. Eric Olson. Ryan now returns to the College of Medicine to complete his MD degree. Keep up the great work!



SAM MACKENZIE, an MD/PhD student who completed his PhD in Neuroscience with Dr. Blair Calancie, is a recipient of the **2015 SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE**.

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence honors students who have best demonstrated, and been recognized for, their integration of academic excellence with other aspects of their lives, which may include leadership, campus involvement, athletics, career achievement, community service or creative and performing arts.

Recipients of the award were honored at a reception in Albany on April 2, 2015 where they met with Chancellor Nancy Zimpher. Each recipient receives a framed certificate and medallion, traditionally worn at Commencement. Pictured above, Sam with Chancellor Zimpher and Interim President of Upstate, Gregory Eastwood.



OUR THREE GRADUATING MD/PHD'S WILL BE HEADED FOR:

ADESEYE ADEKEYE: General Surgery Residency at University of North Dakota

SAM MACKENZIE: Pediatric Neurology Residency at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

ERIC WOHLFORD: Pediatric Residency at University of California, San Francisco

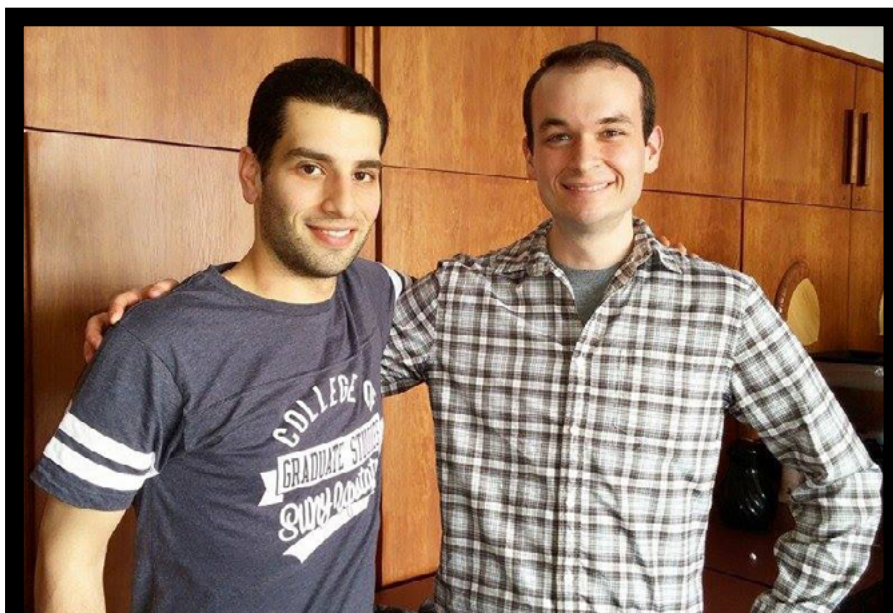
what we've been up to ...

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES' RECRUITMENT DAYS

On March 5th and 6th, we welcomed 14 accepted students to the Upstate campus! Students toured campus facilities, attended a poster session featuring our current students, met with faculty one-on-one, including an interactive speed dating session with representatives from each of the programs, and heard from various people like the President of the University, the Dean of the College, the Chair of the First Year Advisory Committee, the Vice President for Research and the Dean of Student Affairs. Each visiting student was matched with a current PhD student who served as their "Student Host" helping them get around campus and such. Each host sported a matching College of Graduate Studies t-shirt. Thanks to everyone who made the day a success!



Two of our student hosts Katie Smith and Ashis Sinha, both students in Neuroscience & Physiology, strike a pose rocking their t-shirts!



Russell Leveck, one of our incoming PhD students for the Fall 2015, with Scott Minchenberg, an MD/PhD student in Microbiology & Immunology and his student host for the visit.

MOST SCIENCE FAIR: DEAN'S AWARD IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

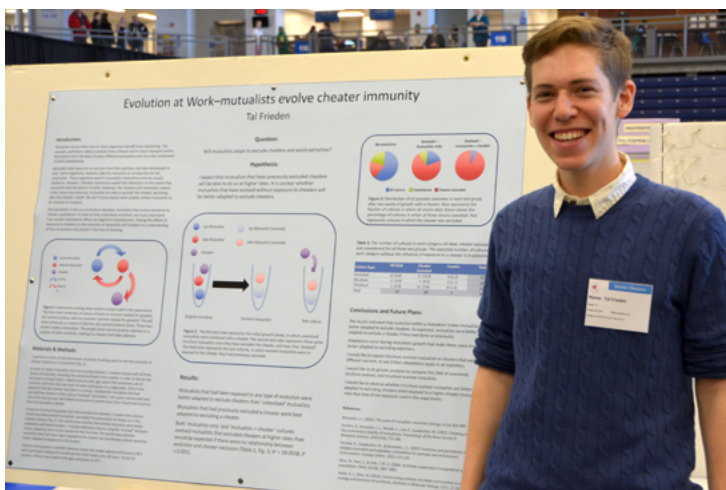


Photo Courtesy: Kari Segraves, PhD (Associate Professor of Biology at Syracuse University)

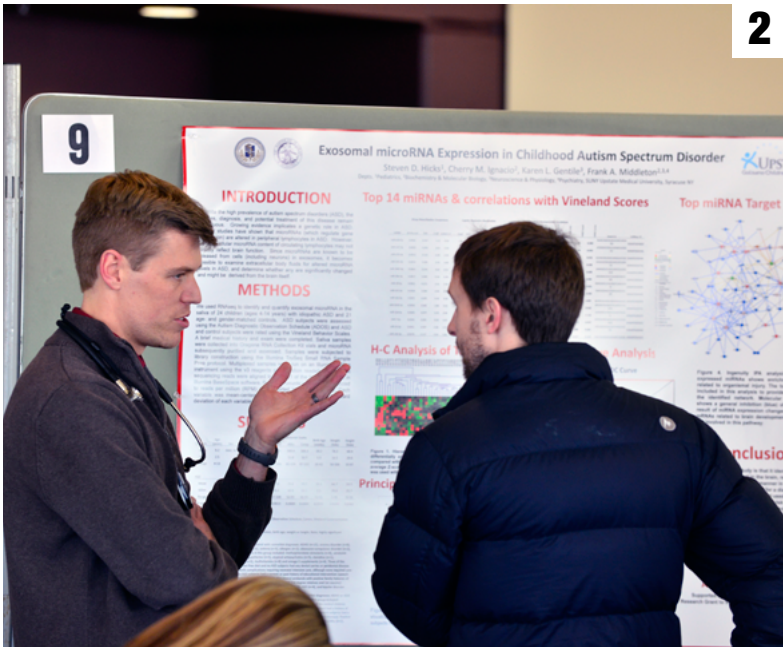
We, again, sponsored the Dean's Award in Biological Sciences at the 2015 Central New York Science & Engineering Fair, held at the SRC Arena on Sunday, March 22. This year's recipient, **TAL FRIEDEN**, is a senior at Jamesville-DeWitt High School. This award is given to an outstanding high school student whose project demonstrated creativity, innovation and scientific excellence in the biological sciences. The recipient must be interested in spending two months during the summer in the laboratory of an Upstate College of Graduate Studies' researcher to qualify for the award. Tal is currently working with Dr. Kari Segraves at Syracuse University. A special thank you to our judges for the event: **DR. MICHAEL COSGROVE** and **KEVIN NAMITZ**, a PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.

beyond the doctorate research day

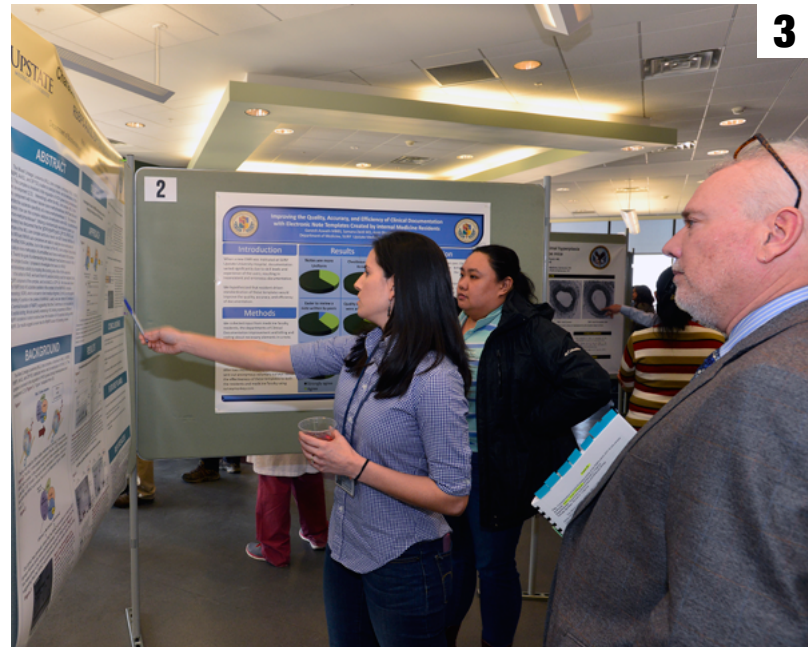
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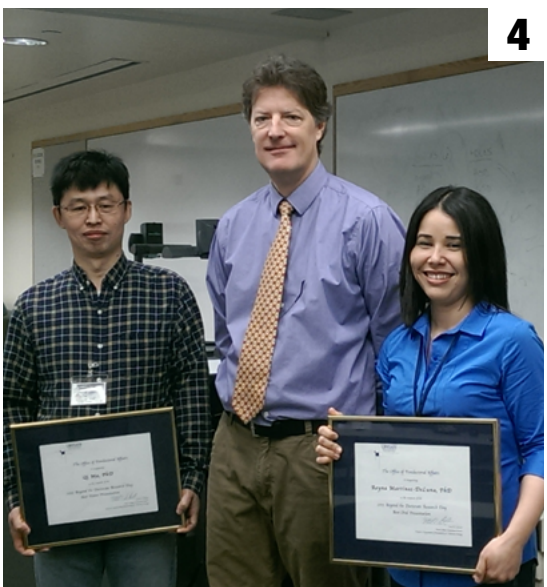
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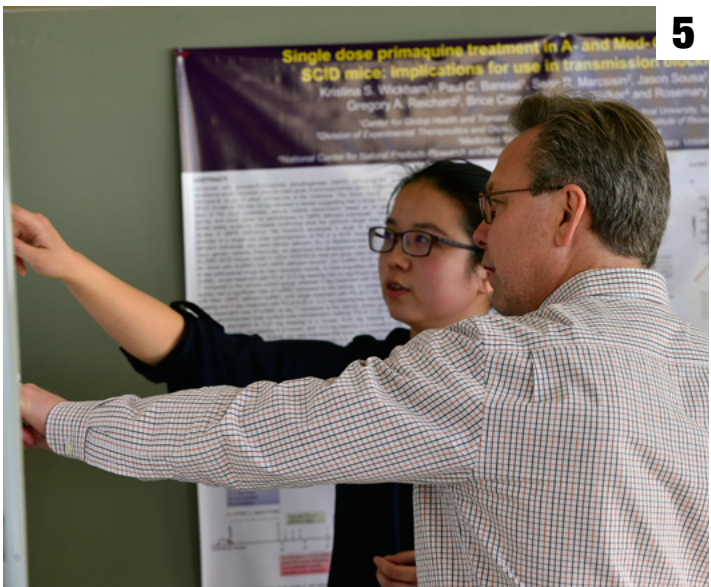
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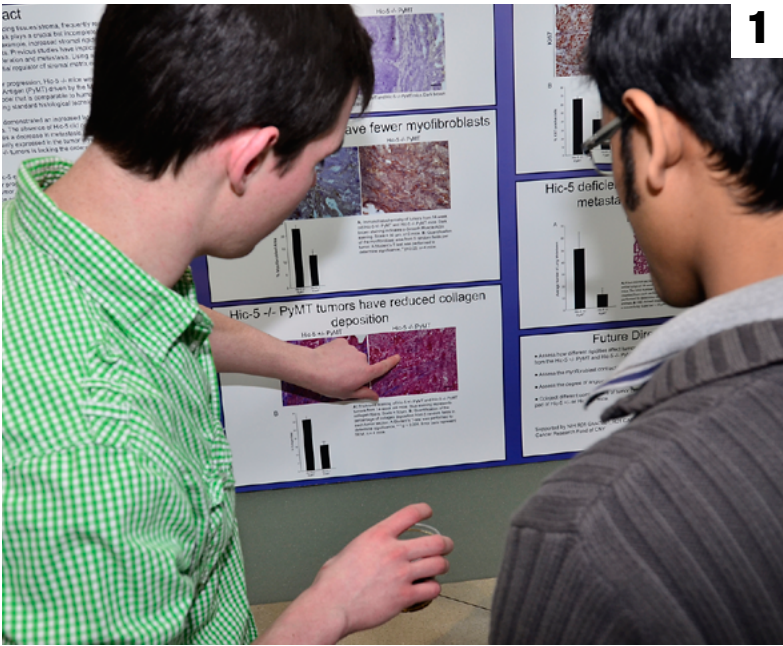


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- 1) Keynote Speaker, Dr. Gerald Shadel from the Yale School of Medicine, with all of our oral presenters.
- 2) Steven Hicks, MD/PhD, was awarded the Best Poster by a Resident. Steve graduated from the MD/PhD Program in 2012.
- 3) Dr. Dave Amberg, Vice President for Research, looks on as Nilda Alicea Velazquez, a postdoc in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, presents her poster.
- 4) Qi Ma, PhD, and Reyna Martinez-Deluna, PhD with Dr. Mark Schmitt, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Qi was awarded the Best Poster by a Postdoc and Reyna was awarded the Best Oral Presentation by a Postdoc.
- 5) Dr. Shadel with postdoc Lili Wang.

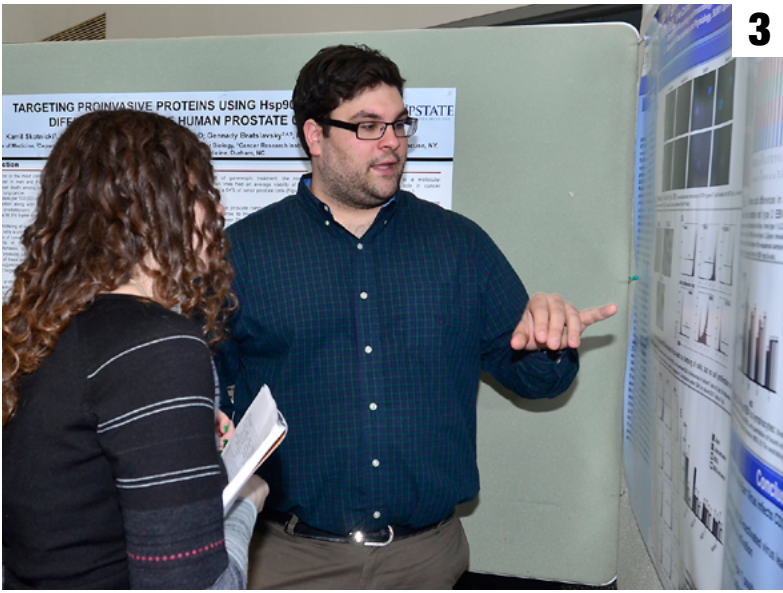
student research day

march 25, 2015

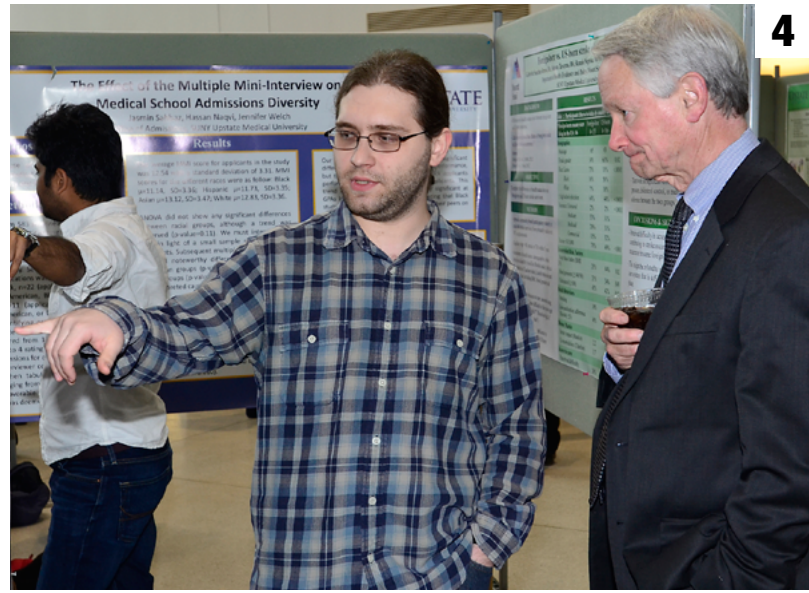


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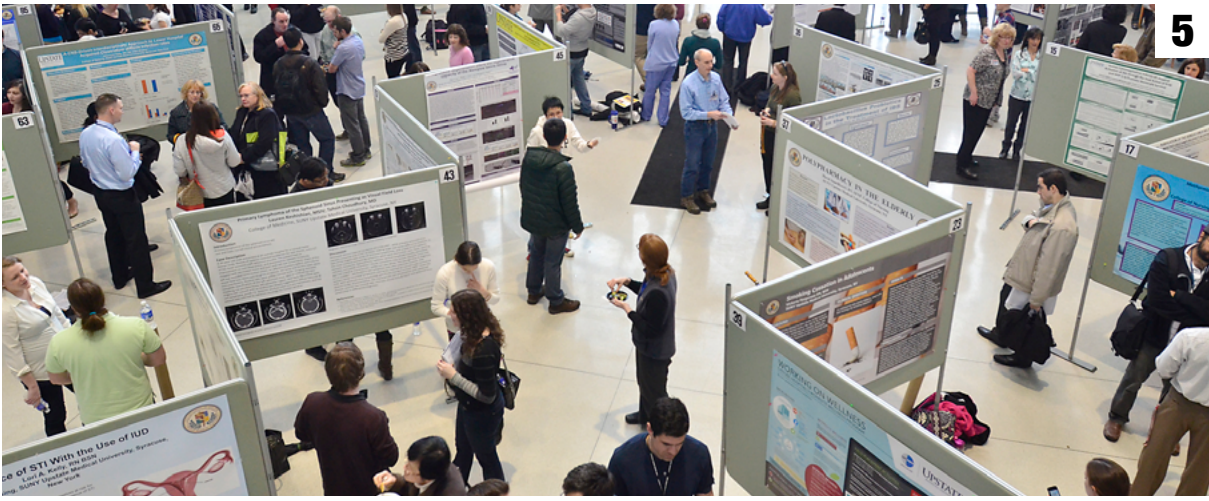
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- 1) PhD Candidate Mamunur Rashid with fellow PhD Candidate/poster presenter Greg Goreczny.
- 2) Dr. Mark Schmitt, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, and Postdoc Eve Geneva listen as PhD Candidate Robert Carroll explains his poster.
- 3) Grad Student Nick Smith presents his poster to PhD Candidate Neva Watson.
- 4) Our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Whitsett from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, with PhD Candidate Jeremiah Martino.
- 5) An aerial view of the poster session, featuring nearly 100 student posters.

and in other news ...



A big thank you to **JACQUALYN SCHULMAN** and **LIZ SNYDER** for all their hard work as co-captains of the College of Graduate Studies team for the American Heart Walk on March 28th! They did a great job fundraising, campaigning and organizing our graduate students and faculty! And thanks to everyone who donated to help sponsor our team! Finally, a big thank you to everyone on our team who participated! **FROM LEFT:** Geoff Eill, Liz Snyder, Jacquelyn Schulman, Xian Zhang, Dr. Richard Veenstra, Weiye Xu, Dr. Xin Jie Chen, and Yaxin Liu.

YONGCHANG JI, a PhD candidate in Cell and Developmental Biology with Dr. Jeffrey Amack, presented a poster at the March 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Anatomists. Congratulations, Yongchang! Keep up the great work!

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

officers for the upcoming academic year:

MEGAN GRIBBLE, President

HEATHER NELSON, Vice President

SARAH BARGER, Secretary

DAKSHESH PATEL, Treasurer

STUDENT RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

officers for the upcoming academic year:

SARAH BARGER, President

SUBHRAJIT BANERJEE, Vice President

CAMERON MACQUARRIE, Secretary

AVIK DUTTA, Treasurer

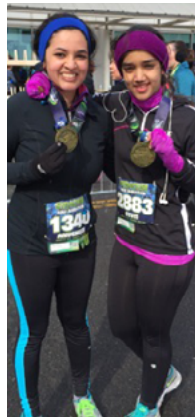
A special thank you to our outgoing officers:

KIMBERLY WONG (GSA President),

JING BI KARCHIN (GSA Secretary), and

CHRIS LUCCHESI (SRO President)

for their service over the past year.



Several of our students participated in the **SYRACUSE HALF MARATHON** last month!

At left:

ANUSHREE GULVADY, a PhD Candidate in Cell and Developmental Biology, with **STUTI SHARMA**, a PhD Candidate in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

At right:

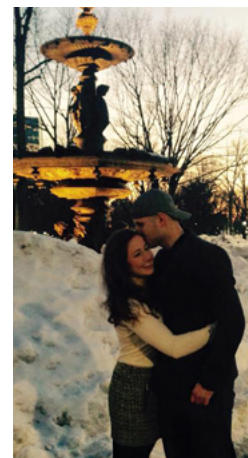
DAWN LAMMERT, an MD/PhD student in Neuroscience & Physiology, with her team-mates from the Syracuse Track Club.

Dawn will also be running the Boston Marathon.



CONGRATULATIONS, QIAN!

Qian Du, a PhD candidate in Neuroscience & Physiology, married Yan Xi, a postdoc at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute!



CONGRATULATIONS, HANNAH!

First-year student Hannah Phillips was recently engaged to US Navy Officer Boris Temkin!

upcoming events

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI LECTURE

Monday, April 20, 2015

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Weiskotten Hall, 2231

Karlett J. Parra, PhD

*Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Biochemistry
& Molecular Biology, University of New Mexico*

“ V-ATPase: Adapted Sensor of Cellular Stress”

Dr. Parra earned her PhD from the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Program in 1997. Her thesis sponsor was Dr. Patricia Kane.

Sponsored by the Graduate Student Association and the College of Graduate Studies.

NEURO RESEARCH DAY

Friday, April 17, 2015

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Weiskotten Hall, 2231

A day-long event featuring speakers from Upstate as well as two distinguished guest speakers: Bradley Greger, PhD, Associate Professor in the School of Biological and Health Systems Engineering at Arizona State University as well as Dimitris Placantonakis, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor and Director of the Neurosurgical Laboratory for Stem Cell Research at NYU.

Don't forget to join us EVERY WEDNESDAY at 3PM in the GRAD STUDIES CONFERENCE ROOM for AFTERNOON TEA & SOME SWEET TREATS!!

UPSTATE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

*Celebrating the
Graduating Class of 2015!*

PRE-COMMENCEMENT DESSERT RECEPTION

Saturday, May 16, 2015 • 8:00pm - 11:00pm

Tiffany Ballroom, Genesee Grande Hotel

Celebrate with family, friends and graduates – enjoy desserts, cash bar and live music.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Sunday, May 17, 2015

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

9:00am • Crouse Hinds Theater • John H. Mulroy Civic Center at OnCenter
Reception Immediately Following • Lobby, Campus Activities Building

COLLEGE OF NURSING

11:30am • Crouse Hinds Theater • John H. Mulroy Civic Center at OnCenter
Reception Immediately Following • Lobby, Campus Activities Building

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

1:45pm • Carrier Theater • John H. Mulroy Civic Center at OnCenter
A pre-ceremony brunch will be served at 11:00am in the 9th Floor Dining Room of Weiskotten Hall.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

3:00pm • Crouse Hinds Theater • John H. Mulroy Civic Center at OnCenter
Reception Immediately Following • Lobby, Campus Activities Building

Additional Information - www.upstate.edu/commencement

UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE COMMENCEMENT 2015 WEEKEND EVENTS

ART SHOW

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Upstate Health Sciences Library

Come out for the April Art Show and Gala! Exhibiting artists will be around to talk about their work and share their artistic vision and inspiration. Dessert and beverages will be served. All are welcome! Can't make it? Works by Upstate artists will be on display the entire month of April in the Library.

IS THERE SOMETHING WE MISSED??

If you have something that should be included in our next issue, let us know!

Email Jennifer Brennan at brennanj@upstate.edu