

upstategrad update

transforming students from consumers of knowledge into producers of knowledge

Summer 2017

HONESTY

A topic that continues to resurface lately is honesty. Honesty has many definitions, but in the context here, I mean telling the truth, and not withholding the truth, being completely transparent. This is such a crucial quality and attribute for scientists, that we have to adhere by it. Without it, we are not scientists, we are witchdoctors. Once we start going down that slippery slope of deceit, it is very difficult to get out.

Unfortunately, one of the biggest complaints I hear from faculty is that a student was not telling me the truth. This may be something as small as I was in my office when you were looking for me, when they may have been at home. Or I am really sick today and won't make it in, while they are really at the state fair. Worse yet, they fail to tell the mentor that the pipet tip was loose when I was loading the gel, so I lost half the sample, and that is why the levels are lower.

Faculty pick up on these small, little things quickly and often it leads to students being asked to leave. If a student is going to lie about coming to work, their results cannot be trusted. We are currently living in a world where we are being bombarded with lies from the media, our government, and certainly on the internet. We must apply a critical eye and continue to call out these lies, falsities and fabrications for what they are. Most importantly we should never allow ourselves to feel that they are ok, and that our own honesty is not important. Be true to yourselves and be the best scientist that you can be.

– Mark E. Schmitt, PhD

Dean, College of Graduate Studies

schmittm@upstate.edu

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Potential Sympatric Vectors And Mammalian Hosts Of Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis Virus In Southern Mexico.

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Neurodevelopmental Delay Diagnosis Rates Are Increased In A Region With Aerial Pesticide Application.

Front Pediatr. 2017;5:116.

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Structural Mechanism Of ATP-Independent Transcription Initiation By RNA Polymerase I.

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Interrogating Detergent Desolvation Of Nanopore-Forming Proteins By Fluorescence Polarization Spectroscopy.

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Laminin-Dependent Interaction Between Astrocytes And Microglia: A Role In Retinal Angiogenesis.

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Direct Interaction Of The Golgi V-ATPase α -Subunit Isoform With PI(4)P Drives Localization Of Golgi V-ATPases In Yeast.

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Heterogeneity Of p53 Dependent Genomic Responses Following Ethanol Exposure In A Developmental Mouse Model Of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

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Cauda Equina Repair In The Rat: Part 3. Axonal Regeneration Across Schwann Cell Seeded Collagen Foam.

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Contextual Modulation Revealed By Optical Imaging Exhibits Figural Asymmetry In Macaque V1 and V2.

Eye Brain. 2017;9:1-12.

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Neuroimage Clin. 2017;15:832-842.

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Analysis Of SHIP1 Expression And Activity In Crohn's Disease Patients.

PLoS One. 2017;12(8):e0182308.

presentations

SAPTARSHI BISWAS, DMITRI SERJANOV, JARED WATTERS, ROSE PASQUALE, & NYCOLE MAZA all PhD students in Neuroscience, presented at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Conference, May 7th through 11th, in Baltimore, MD.

ROSE PASQUALE was awarded the top prize in the Members In Training Poster competition at ARVO. Rose's presentation, "Cx36-independent rod pathways mediate visual contrast sensitivity to high temporal frequencies," on her work with Dr. **EDUARDO SOLESSIO** using genetic tools to dissect retinal circuits won the top prize in Visual Neurosciences. Rose's abstract was selected from approximately 6,000 abstracts submitted to the meeting this year. Of those, five submissions from each section were selected to compete for the award. The award is jury-based and determined by the quality of the work and the ability of the student to present their work.

Congratulations, Rose!



KEVIN KENDERES, a PhD student in Microbiology & Immunology, presented at the American Association of Immunology, held May 12th through 16th in Washington DC. **KEVIN** received an award from the AAI for his abstract on the behavior of IgM B cells. Kevin was selected to give a 15 minute oral presentation in addition to a 90 minute poster presentation. The award included a \$500 travel award to attend the conference.

Congratulations, Kevin!



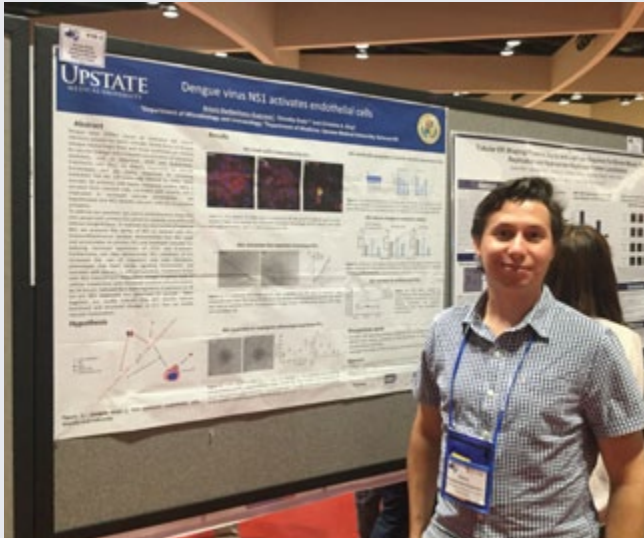
MICHAEL JASKOLKA, a PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, attended the Bioenergetics Gordon Research Conference, held June 4th through 9th in Andover, NH. Michael presented a poster titled "Glucose Sensitive Interactions of the Yeast RAVE Complex" and was also selected to give an oral presentation. Pictured above is a group of the V-ATPase researchers, including Michael (second from left) and Dr. Karlett Para (second from right), a former student of Michael's current advisor, Dr. Patricia Kane.

Congratulations, Michael!



DANDAN GUO, a PhD student in Pharmacology, presented at the Gordon Research Conference: Cancer Nanotechnology, held June 18th through 23rd at Mount Snow in West Dover, VT. Dandan's presentation was titled "Riboflavin-Containing Telodendrimer Nanocarriers for Doxorubicin Delivery: Ultra-High Loading Capacity, Reduced Burst Release, and Improved Anticancer Efficacy." Pictured above from left: **DANDAN GUO, DR. JUNTAO LUO, LILI WANG**, a postdoc with Dr. Luo, and Dr. Yan Yang.

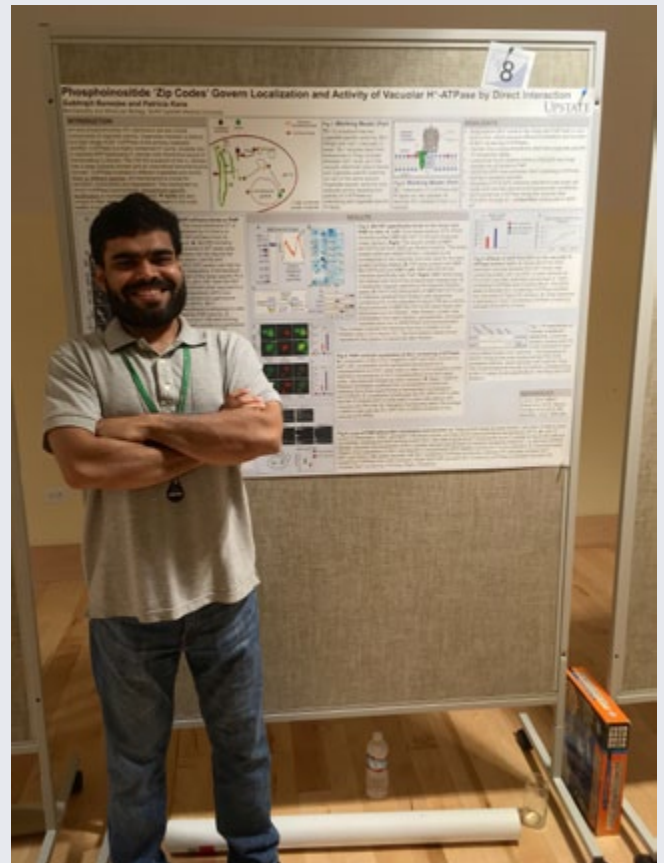
presentations



ARTURO BARBACHANO-GUERRERO, a PhD student in Microbiology & Immunology, presented at the American Society for Virology, held June 24th through 28th in Madison, WI. Arturo presented "Dengue virus NS1 activates endothelial cells."

STUTI SHARMA, a PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, presented at the Gordon Research Conference: Mechanisms of Membrane Transport, held June 25th through 30th in New London, NH. Stuti presented a poster titled "Assembly of the vacuolar H⁺ ATPase from autoinhibited V1 and V_o sectors." Stuti was recognized for the best poster presentation.

Congratulations, Stuti!



SUBHRAJIT BANERJEE, a PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, presented at the Gordon Research Conference "Molecular Membrane Biology: Regulation of Ways of Communication – From Molecules to Organisms" held July 15th through 21st in Dover, NH. Subhra was invited for a talk titled "Phosphoinositide 'zip codes' govern localization and activity of Vacuolar H⁺ ATPases through direct interaction" at the Gordon Research Seminar, and presented a poster with the same title at the Gordon Research Conference.

from our students



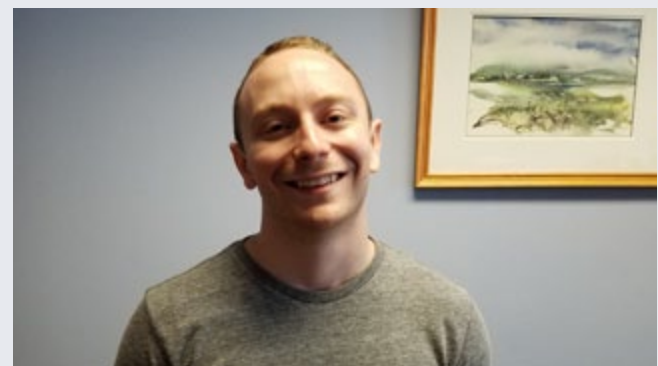
JONATHAN HESS, a PhD student in Neuroscience, successfully defended his dissertation in May. Jon's dissertation advisor is Dr. **STEPHEN GLATT**, both pictured above. Jon has accepted a postdoc position with Dr. **STEPHEN FARAONE** in the Psychiatry Department here at Upstate. **Congratulations, Jon!**



DIANA DUNN, a PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, successfully defended her dissertation in May. Diana's dissertation advisor is Dr. **MEHDI MOLLAPOUR**. Diana has accepted a postdoc position at the University of Rochester in the Department of Biophysics and Biochemistry. **Congratulations, Diana!**



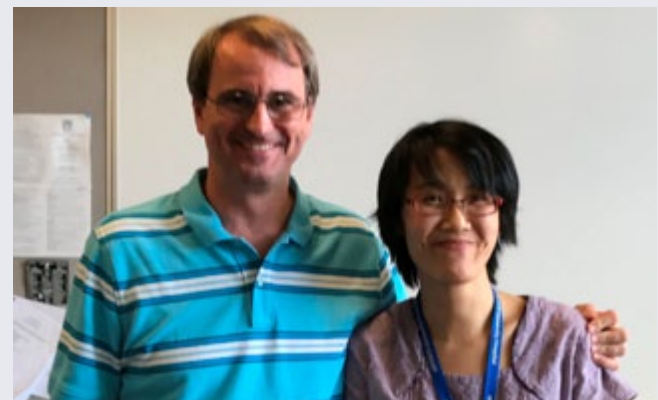
MATT STUVER, a MS student in Pharmacology, successfully defended his thesis in June. Matt's dissertation advisor is Dr. **GOLAM MOHI**. Matt will be starting medical school at the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine in the Fall. **Congratulations, Matt!**



ROBERT ZOLLO, II, a MS student in Pharmacology, successfully defended his thesis in June. Rob's dissertation advisor is Dr. **YING HUANG**. Robert will begin his doctoral program in the Roswell Park Graduate Division of the University at Buffalo. **Congratulations, Robert!**



ESTHER MUTONGI, a MS student in Microbiology, successfully defended her thesis in May. Esther's thesis advisor is Dr. **EDWARD SHILLITOE**. **Congratulations, Esther!**



RAY YUEH KU, a PhD student in Neuroscience, successfully defended her dissertation in June. Ray's dissertation advisor is Dr. **MICHAEL ZUBER**. **Congratulations, Ray!**

from our students



KIMBERLY WONG, a PhD student in Neuroscience, successfully defended her dissertation in July. Kim's dissertation advisor is Dr. **ANDREA VICZIAN**.

Kim has accepted a postdoctoral position in the Neurobiology Center at Boston Children's Hospital, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School.

Congratulations, Kim!

On Tuesday, May 23rd, SUNY ESF hosted the Annual Environmental Challenge at the Carrier Dome on the Syracuse University campus. Several students from the College of Graduate Studies volunteered as poster judges for the event: **SARAH BARGER, DARIN DOLEZAL, JOSH ENCK, AND HEATHER NELSON.**

GOURAV CHOUDHARY, a PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, was awarded a Graduate Student Preceptorship from the Rheumatology Research Foundation of the American College of Rheumatology. The \$4,000 award includes funding for student and institution as well as complimentary registration and a travel award for Gourav to attend the ACR/ARHP Annual Meeting in San Diego, California in November. Congratulations, Gourav!

HANNAH PHILLIPS, a PhD student in Neuroscience, was selected to attend the highly competitive Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory "Ion Channels in Synaptic and Neural Circuit Physiology" course in June. During the one month period there, she received formal, intense, systematic and comprehensive training on ion channel and synapse and circuit electrophysiology.

from our md/phd students



KAREN CYNDARI, an MD/PhD student in Anatomy & Cell Biology, successfully defended her dissertation in May. Karen's dissertation advisor is Dr. **KENNETH MANN**. Karen is returning to the College of Medicine to complete her MD/PhD degree. **Congratulations, Karen!**



DAWN LAMMERT, an MD/PhD student in Neuroscience, successfully defended her dissertation in May. Dawn's dissertation advisor is Dr. **BRIAN HOWELL**. Dawn is returning to the College of Medicine to complete her MD/PhD degree. **Congratulations, Dawn!**



SCOTT MINCHENBERG, an MD/PhD student in Microbiology & Immunology, successfully defended his dissertation in May. Scott's dissertation advisor is Dr. **PAUL MASSA**. Scott is returning to the College of Medicine to complete his MD/PhD degree. **Congratulations, Scott!**

KYLE ALPHA, an MD/PhD student in Anatomy & Cell Biology, successfully passed his qualifying exam. Kyle's dissertation advisor is Dr. **CHRISTOPHER TURNER**. **Congratulations, Kyle!**

DANA GIANNANDREA, an MD/PhD student in Neuroscience, successfully passed his qualifying exam. Dana's dissertation advisor is Dr. **WEI DONG YAO**. **Congratulations, Dana!**

LIAM COYNE, an MD/PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, successfully passed his qualifying exam. Kyle's dissertation advisor is Dr. **STEWART LOH**. **Congratulations, Liam!**

NICK HUANG, an MD/PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, successfully passed his qualifying exam. Nick's dissertation advisor is Dr. **ANDRAS PERL**. **Congratulations, Nick!**



ZACH OAKS, an MD/PhD student in his third year of medical school, was featured in the "Student Rounds" section of the Spring 2017 issue of the Alumni Journal. Zach talks research, dual degrees, and what's next for him. Read his full article [here!](#)

from our alumni



We are saddened to share the news that Upstate College of Graduate Studies Alumnus **MATTHEW MILLER, PHD** passed away on July 4, 2017. Matt earned his PhD degree in Anatomy & Cell Biology in 2015; his dissertation advisor was Dr. **SCOTT BLYSTONE**. At the time of his death, Matt was working as a postdoctoral researcher at Cornell University's Weill Institute for Cell and Molecular Biology.

"An active member of our academic community, Matt was cherished by many students, staff, and faculty," explains Dr. Blystone. As a testament to Matt's impact on the Upstate Community a group of faculty, students and alumni of the College of Graduate Studies made the trip to Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania - Matt's hometown - to attend the memorial service and celebration of Matt's life on July 29, 2017. "Matt's enthusiasm for everything in life and his easy and loyal friendships are our lasting memories."

Upstate Medical University and the Department of Cell & Developmental Biology has created an endowment as a tribute to Matt. The Matthew Miller, PhD, Memorial Travel Endowment is being created to provide money for the travel of graduate students to present their research at scientific meetings, something that Miller did while at Upstate, in addition to publishing several scientific papers. Donations to the endowment can be made online to the [Upstate Foundation](#) or by check made out to the Upstate Foundation with reference to the Matthew Miller, PhD, Memorial Travel Endowment (#68160) and mailed to the Upstate Foundation, 750 East Adams St., Campus Activities Building, Room 326, Syracuse, N.Y., 13210

happening on and around campus

ANDRAS PERL, MD/PHD was one of 21 faculty who were recently appointed to the SUNY Distinguished Faculty Rank - SUNY's highest academic rank, awarded solely by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

In a recent press release SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher explained, "SUNY faculty achieving the distinguished ranks provide an additional spark that inspires groundbreaking research, innovation, and discovery while also setting a higher standard for teaching and learning." According to the press release, in the past 54 years since its creation, SUNY has only appointed just over 1,000 faculty to the distinguished rank. "The Distinguished Professorship is conferred upon individuals who have achieved national or international prominence and a distinguished reputation within a chosen field. This distinction is attained through significant contributions to the research literature or through artistic performance or achievement in the case of the arts. The candidate's work must be of such character that the individual's presence will tend to elevate the standards of scholarship of colleagues both within and beyond these persons' academic fields."

The excerpt below highlights Dr. Perl's appointment and accomplishments:

Professor Andras Perl – Dr. Perl, a member of the Department of Medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University, is Chief of the Division of Rheumatology, Director of the Rheumatology Fellowship, and Co-Director of the M.D.-Ph.D. Training Program. Professor Perl has achieved national and international recognition for his research into the mechanisms of autoimmunity in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), as well as the translational applications of that research to treatment of patients with the condition. His major discoveries include the identification of HRES-1, the first protein-coding human endogenous retrovirus and its impact on T-cell activation and lupus pathogenesis; the discovery of mitochondrial and metabolic dysfunction and the activation of the mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) in lupus; the discovery of transaldolase and its role in metabolic control of apoptosis, inflammation, autoimmunity and progressive liver disease leading to cancer; and clinical research into effective treatment of lupus based on targets of molecular pathophysiology. Dr. Perl has been continuously funded for his research by NIH and other foundations, and has mentored dozens of graduate students, medical students, M.D.-Ph.D. students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty over his 30-year tenure at SUNY Upstate Medical University.



The annual **GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION PICNIC** was Friday, June 23rd at Green Lakes State Park.



STEWART LOH, PHD, speaks with Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) students in the Molecular Interaction and Drug Screening Core facility in Weiskotten Hall. Dr. Loh explained how the Octet Red system can screen for drugs that bind to their target molecules; the students are holding tiny, disposable sensor tips to which researchers attach the target molecules. The core facility was funded by Upstate as part of the Cancer Center, and is available for use by Upstate researchers for a very minimal cost. SURF students are undergrads who spend 10 weeks on campus under the mentorship of College of Graduate Studies faculty.

commencement - 05.21.2017



Above: Dean Mark Schmitt, pictured front left, with the graduating class of 2017.

Check out the "Four Colleges, One University" video created for commencement, featuring graduate students Ryan O'Dell (far left) & Olesea Cojohari (second from left)

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREE: MASTER OF SCIENCE

Kelly-Ann B. Gesuelli Dr. William Brunken Physiology	Esther Rufaro Mutongi Dr. Edward Shillitoe Microbiology	Matthew Stuver Dr. Golam Mohi Pharmacology
Arianna Hannah Laszlo Dr. David Pruyne Anatomy	Lindsey Michelle Ruggiero Dr. Jason Horton Anatomy	Robert Anthony Zollo Dr. Ying Huang Pharmacology
Matthew Joseph Welchons Dr. Jean Sanger & Dr. Joseph Sanger Anatomy		

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREE: DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Sarah A. Arrington Dr. Matthew Allen Physiology	Andrew E. Jacob, With Distinction Dr. Jeffrey Amack & Dr. Christopher Turner Anatomy and Cell Biology	Megan Ann Peppenelli Dr. Gary Chan Microbiology and Immunology
Mansi Babbar Dr. M. Saeed Sheikh Pharmacology	Kevin J. Kenderes With Distinction Dr. Gary Winslow Microbiology and Immunology	Karin Mai Schneider Dr. Paul Massa Microbiology and Immunology
Olesea Cojohari Dr. Gary Chan Microbiology and Immunology	Ray Yueh Ku Dr. Michael Zuber Neuroscience	MD Shafuddin Dr. Mark Schmitt Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Sergio Javier Couoh-Cardel Dr. Stephan Wilkens Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Renyan Liu Dr. Ying Huang Pharmacology	Stuti Sharma Dr. Stephan Wilkens Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Agnik Dasgupta Dr. Jeffrey Amack Anatomy and Cell Biology	Megan Gribble Lloyd Dr. Jennifer Moffat Microbiology and Immunology	Nicholas John Stam Dr. Stephan Wilkens Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Qian Du Dr. Frank Middleton Neuroscience	Dipmoy Nath Dr. Golam Mohi Pharmacology	Patrick R. Sweeney, With Distinction Dr. Yunlei Yang Neuroscience
Diana Maureen Dunn With Distinction Dr. Mehdi Mollapour Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Amber Marie Papiillon Dr. Gary Winslow Microbiology and Immunology	Kimberly Anne Wong Dr. Andrea Viczian Neuroscience
Gregory James Goreczny Dr. Christopher Turner Anatomy and Cell Biology	Dakshesh Patel Dr. Richard Veenstra Pharmacology	Forrest A. Wright Dr. Richard Wojcikiewicz Pharmacology
Anna Hegsted Dr. David Pruyne Anatomy and Cell Biology	Jie Peng Dr. Wenyi Feng Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Yue Yang Dr. Golam Mohi Pharmacology
Jonathan L. Hess Dr. Stephen Glatt Neuroscience		

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREE: DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Darin Dolezal, With Distinction Dr. Francesca Pignoni Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Matthew Nelson Gumbleton, With Distinction Dr. William Kerr Microbiology and Immunology	Ryan Stephen O'Dell, With Distinction Dr. Eric Olson Neuroscience
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Missed Commencement? No problem, check out the recorded ceremony above!

in other news



ZACH OAKS, an MD/PhD student in his third year of medical school, and his wife Kristine welcomed twin girls, Elizabeth Claire and Emily Caroline, on May 11th, 2017. **Congratulations to the new parents!**



NYCOLE MAZA, a PhD student in Neuroscience, and her husband Kevin welcomed their first child - a baby girl named Violet. Violet was born on July 7, 2017, weighing 6lb 15 oz and was 21 inches long. **Congratulations Nycole and Kevin!**

upcoming events & save the dates

YOUR NEXT NIH F30 & F31 FELLOWSHIP DEADLINE IS:

April 8, 2017

August 8, 2017

December 8, 2017

Visit [here](#) for more information.



AFTERNOON TEA:

Every Wednesday at 3:00

First Wednesday of the month, tea is at the NRB 3708 (call 6-7753), all others in WH 3120.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES RETREAT - 09.07.17

The College of Graduate Studies is happy to announce that registration is now open for the 17th Annual Biomedical Sciences Retreat. The Retreat will once again be held at The Lodge at Welch Allyn Conference Center in Skaneateles Falls on Thursday, September 7th. The full day symposium features faculty presentations, guest speakers, an alumni presenter and a poster session. This is a great opportunity to catch up on the research happening around you at Upstate and to meet the new faculty and incoming graduate students. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Brennan in the College of Graduate Studies at brennanj@upstate.edu or 315-464-4543.

IS THERE SOMETHING WE MISSED??

Email Jennifer Brennan at brennanj@upstate.edu to get it included in the next issue!