I hope this kickoff to summer Newsletter finds all of you well into a great start of your summer. In the Graduate School, we are just putting the finishing touches on the 2012-2013 academic year. I felt like the many activities we had building up to Commencement were all quite spectacular and allowed us ample opportunity to celebrate not only our graduates and faculty, but also the impressive accomplishments of all our current students. These events continue to grow in attendance and serve as great opportunities for all of us to get together and catch up. We have tried to capture some of this enthusiasm in this publication and I hope you enjoy it. By all the metrics we generally measure ourselves, it has been a year worthy of celebration. At Commencement we had students receive 20 Graduate Certificates, 48 Master of Science, and 26 Doctor of Philosophy degrees, representing a record number of new graduates. We had students attend conferences all over the country and around the world, with many collecting numerous awards along the way. We continue to have a record number of formal predoctoral training grants from extramural agencies such as NIH, SREB, and American Heart. We also awarded a record number of 5 MD/PhD graduates, which is actually more students than we had in the entire program in its first ten years of existence. We had well over 100 manuscripts published last year that included graduate students as authors. I had the unique pleasure of attending “7 Defenses in 7 Days”, where by coincidence we had seven doctoral dissertation defenses line up in seven consecutive weekdays in April. It was a humbling experience. The quality and level of the research effort of these students and mentors was outstanding. As impressive as the quality was, the scope of the work was even more so, spanning topics such as bone formation, neonatal care, antibody-based drug addiction therapy, central control of sleep/consciousness, cell cycle, and metastatic mechanisms of breast cancer. We can rest assured that we have a truly impressive lot of new graduates who will be out on the cutting edge representing our graduate school and “Flying Our Banner”. And they are going all over, such as Austria, Dartmouth, Stanford, Washington University, Southwestern, and many others. I would like to thank everyone, graduates, graduate faculty, current students, alumni and supporters for helping us make such a successful year. Have a great summer and I hope you make the effort to carve out some time to relax and enjoy your family and friends. Many thanks, Dr. McGehee
This year’s McGehee Distinguished Lectureship was held in conjunction with student research day on April 10th. Students and faculty gathered to hear the keynote speaker, Carole Cramer, Ph.D., professor at the Arkansas Biosciences Institute at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, director of the AR EPSCoR Center for Plant Powered Production and co-founder and chief scientific officer of BioStrategies LC.

Cramer is internationally renowned for her work in plant transgenics and biopharmaceutical production. During the lecture she explained the benefits of bioengineered plants for manufacturing human therapeutic proteins. She and her research team are known for the discovery that the normal gene for a human enzyme responsible for Gaucher’s disease could be transformed into plants to produce an enzyme replacement therapy.

Today, her therapy is FDA approved and is being marketed for use in humans.

The lectureship was made possible by a gift from the grandparents of a student mentored by McGehee. The couple, who asked to remain anonymous, appreciated McGehee’s support and influence as a mentor.

The gift will impact the education of students not only in the Graduate School, but also in the Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Health Professions and Public Health. The gift will be used to support an annual distinguished lecture by a renowned scholar and leader in biomedical research and education.
2013 Student Research Day

Graduate School students participated in Student Research Day held on April 10th in the I. Dodd Wilson building. Students interacted with faculty and visitors answering questions and talking about their research.

Awards were presented by 66 faculty judges. Graduate School award winners included Angela Odle, Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences Ph.D. student, winner in the best overall category.

The first, second, and third place winners in the Graduate School category were:

1st place – Amber Prins  M.S. student
“Impact of Menu Labeling on Food Choices of Southern Undergraduate Students”
Reza Hakkak, Ph.D.  Sponsor, CHP, Dietetics & Nutrition

2nd place – Caylin G. Winchell  Ph.D. student
“Type IV Secretion-Mediated Recruitment of Autophagosomes to the Coxiella burnetii Replication Vacuole”
Dan Voth, Ph.D.  Sponsor, COM Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology

3rd place – Shubeena Chib  Ph.D. student
“Biochemical Characterization of Yeast Helicase Pif1”
Kevin Raney, PhD Sponsor, COM, Dept. of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Best Overall

Angela Katherine Odle  Ph.D. student
“Pituitary Leptin Contributes to the Postnatal Leptin Surge and the Maintenance of Growth Hormone Cells”
Gwen Childs, PhD, Sponsor, COM, Dept. of Neurobiology & Developmental Sciences
2013 Student Research Day Photos

Laura MacDonald, Microbiology & Immunology Ph.D. student listens as Danielle Atwood, Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences MD/PhD student explains her poster.

Interdisciplinary Toxicology Ph.D. student Akira Marine explains her research to Dr. Jon Blevins.

Rosa Abbott, Nursing Science Ph.D. student and faculty member Dr. Cheryl Schmidt.

Rachel Hendrix and Angela Odle Neurobiology & Developmental Sciences Ph.D. students.

Genetic Counseling student Angela Jackson discusses her research.

Klressa Barnes displays her poster. She is a Ph.D. candidate in the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences program.
New Epidemiology Ph.D. Program

Epidemiology is the study of how frequently different diseases and other health outcomes occur in human populations, and how they are distributed in various groups within the population. It is also the study of the causes of diseases and other health outcomes in humans, and of factors that influence their occurrence. Some examples of epidemiologic investigations include: a study of whether a disease occurs more frequently in a particular population or subgroup, a study to measure disease burden and how best to intervene to reduce or prevent it from occurring in the population, studies of whether cell phone use or breast implants are associated with adverse health outcomes such as cancer, studies to measure risk from environmental pollution, and studies to ensure the efficacy and safety of prescription drugs.

The PhD in Epidemiology is for applicants interested in conducting advanced research in epidemiology or teaching epidemiology at higher institutions of learning. This is a 3-5 year program.

The first two years known as residency is dedicated to completing the required coursework of 90-92 semester credit hours and practice in research, on campus. An additional 1-3 years is usually expected for completing the dissertation research. The actual coursework for the PhD program consists of 50 credit hours of instruction. The remaining 40-42 credit hours constitute prerequisites that will be credited towards meeting the Epidemiology MPH requirements.

The program aims to provide effective, high-quality training guided by rigorous curriculum that incorporates the latest up-to-date theories, methodologies, and knowledge in the discipline of epidemiology, and to educate high-caliber graduates who will be able to compete nationally and internationally in diverse research specialties. The key areas of the curriculum (theory, methods, practice, emphasis areas, and teaching) make it one of the most unique and comprehensive programs.
Spring Student & Faculty Awards

Outstanding Achievement Awards

Adam Corken
IBS
Received an American Heart Association predoctoral fellowship

Laura MacDonald
Microbiology & Immunology
Organized Graduate Student Teachers of Central Arkansas

Mentor of the Year

Jerry Ware, Ph.D.

Faculty Member of the Year

Morris Cranmer, Ph.D.
with Dr. Joan Cranmer and Dr. Jay Gandy
Student Awards

Michael Preston, Health Systems Research
Received a 2013 Public Health Services and Systems Research (PHSSR) Junior Investigator award

Diane Robinson, Health Systems Research
Received a Public Health Law Research dissertation grant award

Orwa Aboud, Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences
Travel award, Curing the Epilepsies 2013: Pathways Forward Conference

Danielle Atwood, Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences
Travel Award, 2013 Translational Science Meeting

April Bostian (IBS)
ASBMB Graduate Student Travel Award, 2013 Experimental Biology Meeting

Melissa Heard (PHYO)
Endocrine Society Travel Award, ENDO 2013 Early Career Forum

Chenell Loudermill (CSPHD)
Paula J. Gober Public School Award from the Arkansas Speech Language & Hearing Association

Brenda Gannon (INTX)
Travel Award, 2013 Behavior, Biology, and Chemistry (BBC) Meeting
Student Awards (continued)

Sarah Eddy (IBS)
ASBMB Graduate Student Travel Award, 2013 Experimental Biology Meeting

Aleksandra Markovets (BINFO)
1st Place in the Computational Poster Presentation Track at the NSF Bioinformatics Workshop to Foster Collaborative Research

Faith McDaniel (IBS)
ASBMB Travel Award, 2013 Experimental Biology Meeting

Nisha Nanaware (PCOL)
ASPET Travel Award, 2013 Experimental Biology Meeting
For Serving as Chair and Organizer of the symposium “Emerging Technologies for Delivery of Neurotherapeutics Across the Blood Brain Barrier” at the 2013 Experimental Biology Meeting

Asif Pathan (PCOL)
ASPET Graduate Student Travel Award, 2013 Experimental Biology Meeting
For Being Accepted as a Finalist for the ASPET Cardiovascular Pharmacology Graduate Student Competition, 2013 Experimental Biology Meeting

Aaron Storey (BIOC)
UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center Travel Award to attend the 20th Annual Southeastern Yeast Meeting

Shraddha Thakkar (BINFO)
For being appointed Vice President of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
2013 Spring Reception

Diane Robinson, Sharla Smith, and Dr. Mick Tilford

Dr. Patty Wight, Tristan Fowler, and Dr. Sue Griffin

Josh Eichhorn, Brent Molden, Anisha Rathi, Nandini Sakurikar, & Steven Smith

Dr. Larry Suva, Anna Mazur, and Dr. Timothy Chambers

Dr. McGehee presents the annual Dean’s Wishbone Award

Dr. Alesia Ferguson and Dr. Morris Cranmer
A warm spring evening set the tone for the annual Graduate School event honoring doctoral, master of science, and certificate graduates. The event was held at the Clinton Presidential Library restaurant, “42” on April 29th. This year’s event was a break from the traditional brunch held on the morning of Commencement. As many as 150 faculty and students enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and drinks on the deck adjacent to the restaurant.

The Commencement ceremony on May 12th was held at Verizon Arena. Of the 94 Graduate School graduates, 26 received doctoral degrees and 48 received master of science degrees. In addition, 20 students received certificates.
2013 Graduate Reception Photos

Josh Eichhorn, MD/Phd grad, Dean McGehee, & Nandini Sakurikar, Ph.D. grad

Will Atchley, Endrit Ziu, Jennifer Atchison, Josh Eichhorn, Kevin Kim, & Cody Cook—MD/PhD grads

Angela Jackson, Genetic Counseling graduate with Bruce Haas and Beverly Williams

Graduate School faculty members Dr. Helen Benes, Dr. Randy HaunDr. Kevin Raney, Dr. Larry Suva, and Dr. Dana Gaddy

Communication Sciences & Disorders master of science grads

Regulatory Science graduates with Dr. Jay Gandy
2013 Commencement Photos

Ph.D. Grads

MD/Ph.D. Grads – Cody Cook, Kevin Kim, Will Atchley, Jennifer Atchison, and Endrit Ziu

Communication Sciences M.S. Grads

M.S. Grads JoAnna Hamlin, Emily Hearnsberger, Arpit Kashyap, Pravinkumar Patil, and Doshi Pratik

Ph.D. Grads Lisa Brents, Krishna Chimalakonda, Amanda Elton, and Tristan Fowler

M.S. Grads behind the scenes
# Upcoming Dates & Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First day of class for Summer Semester</td>
<td>May 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day to submit thesis or dissertation to Library</td>
<td>July 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day of class for Summer Semester</td>
<td>July 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Registration</td>
<td>July 25– August 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Student Orientation</td>
<td>August 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>First day of class for Fall Semester</td>
<td>August 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Induction Ceremony</td>
<td>September 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career Day</td>
<td>October 17</td>
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