

Biochemistry Student Association Newsletter

Upcoming BSA Events

BSA will be hosting **trivia** on the last Friday of the month, **March 26th**, from **4-5pm** - don't forget to sign up!

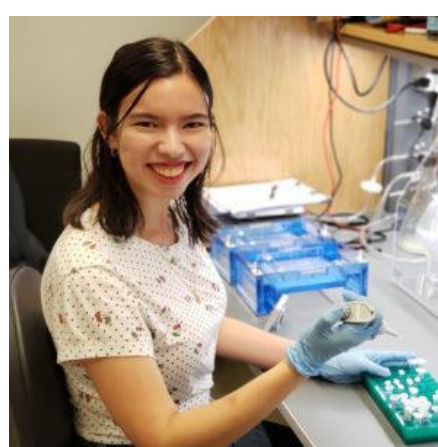
On **March 9th**, Emilio Rivera and Anna Eitel, and **March 23rd**, Sabrina Van Ravenstein and Beth Stivison, will present on their research for the **BSA Colloquium** from **4-5pm**. Come out and support your fellow Biochemists!

Save the date for the rescheduled **Biochemistry/BSA Retreat, April 22-23, 2022** in Chattanooga, TN!

The BSA has partnered with other on-campus groups to host a food drive **March 1-April 1** in support of Second Harvest Food Bank. Collection boxes are located at **6th floor LH lobbies and 5th floor MRBIII lobby**.

Student of the Month

Congratulations to Sabrina Van Ravenstein for being Biochemistry's Student of the Month!



What year are you in and whose lab do you work in?

I'm a third-year student in James Dewar's lab. I study how topoisomerase II chemotherapeutics affect DNA replication, particularly termination, using the *Xenopus laevis* frog egg extract system.

What do you like best about the Biochemistry department?

What I like the best about the Biochemistry department is the open dialogue between faculty and students. I think people really make an effort to talk and get to know one another, and that opens the door for positive change within the department.

What piece of advice would you give to other students?

The sooner you can let go of the concept of "good students" versus "bad students", the better. We're all just "students" going through our own personal journeys. In a similar vein, I think I wasted a lot of time and energy in my first year trying to be a fifth-year student, so letting go of comparing myself to older students was a huge step for me. Embrace being a trainee!

What is your favorite place to go in Nashville?

My favorite place in Nashville is Game Point in East Nashville. It's a little cafe with free games, so you can just go and spend an afternoon with some coffee or tea and Catan. I highly recommend it for pretty much anyone.

Nominate a Biochemistry student that's doing cool science!
Email nicole.d.kendrick@vanderbilt.edu

Recent Student Publications

Thada, V., and Cortez, D. (2021) ATR activation is regulated by dimerization of ATR activating proteins. *J Biol Chem*, 100455

Guarnaccia, A. D., Rose, K. L., Wang, J., Zhao, B., Popay, T. M., Wang, C. E., Guerrazzi, K., Hill, S., Woodley, C. M., **Hansen, T. J.**, Lorey, S. L., Shaw, J. G., Payne, W. G., Weissmiller, A. M., Olejniczak, E. T., Fesik, S. W., Liu, Q., and Tansey, W. P. (2021) Impact of WIN site inhibitor on the WDR5 interactome. *Cell Reports* 34, 108636.

Student Invited Speaker Interest Form

The BSA would like to put effort this coming year into a student driven speaker series. We hope these speakers will be diverse and representative of the variety of research we have ongoing as a department. If there are any specific speakers you have in mind, or a topic you would like to hear about [please let us know!](#)

Mental Health Committee

Mental Wellness: Love podcasts? The VUMC Health and Wellness offers short 10 minute "wellcasts," perfect for listening to during a centrifuge spin or a coffee break! Here's a link to one of the wellcasts, ["Finding Joy in Hard Times."](#)

Physical Wellness: Reservations for the David Williams II Recreation and Wellness Center can now be made online [here](#). There is space available in the Aux Gym Cardio/Weight Machines or Free Weight Room (dumbbells only). To reserve a spot, read the guidelines and click on "Register Here".

COVID-19 and Reopening News

Graduate students, make sure you use the [VandySafe App](#) for COVID-19 Self-Monitoring daily before coming to campus. VU is still in Phase 2+. For more information, check out Vanderbilt's [Return to Campus page](#).

Biochemistry Twitter

For updates on events and departmental news, follow the Biochemistry Department twitter [@VandyBiochem](#)

Questions? Concerns?

If you have anything that you would like to be addressed by the department, you can submit it anonymously [here](#). This survey is regularly monitored by the BSA.