



Happy December!

As we wrap up another semester we want to wish everyone happy holidays! We hope you take some time to rest and enjoy time with family and friends. As always, if you have any comments or concerns, please fill out our [anonymous Google form](#). Have a great month -- and stay warm!

- Lindsey and Kaitlyn

DEPARTMENT NEWS

- Join us for a **BSA social** at Kung Fu Saloon on Friday, Nov. 2nd from 5-7 pm! Food and drink tickets provided.
- The **Departmental Holiday Party** is **December 14th from 6-8pm** in the Student Life Center Ballroom. You won't want to miss this classy event with a delicious sit down dinner! We look forward to celebrating with all of you!
- **The Brown, Dewar, and York labs are leading in the Colloquium attendance challenge!** Remember that your lab gets points for trainee and PI attendance and for asking questions. As a reminder, it is an expectation of all members of the department to attend **Colloquium** and engage with speakers invited to give **Frontiers Lectures**

TRAINEE OF THE MONTH

Jenny Tran

What year are you? 3rd

Whose lab are you in? Dr. Breann Brown

What do you like best about the biochemistry department? Everyone is so supportive and helpful! The people in our department have wildly diverse skillsets but excel in inclusivity.

What advice do you have for other students? Communication is key. You're your own worst critic but also your own best advocate. Don't be afraid to stand up for what you need as a trainee.

What's your favorite experiment to run? Diffracting my protein crystals! I love the feeling of gratification when I see a good diffraction pattern after months of trial and error.

What's your favorite place to go or favorite thing to do in Nashville? Of course be in lab... But really, I love finding new places for photography. My recommendations for the most quintessential Nashville locations would have to be the Pedestrian Bridge or Bicentennial Mall.



[Click here to nominate a fellow grad student or post doc for Trainee of the Month!](#)

DEPARTMENT EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- **2nd** at 12pm in LH 214: Frontiers Lecture – Ori Avinoam Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel
- **9th** at noon in LH 214: Colloquium – Lindsey Guerin
- **14th** from 6 - 8 pm in the Student Life Center: Biochemistry Holiday Party

Congrats to...

- **Dr. Susu Zhang** for her paper "[PAX3-FOXO1 coordinates enhancer architecture, eRNA transcription, and RNA polymerase pause release at select gene targets](#)".
- **Dr. Steven Walker** (Olivares Lab, CPB) for defending his thesis!

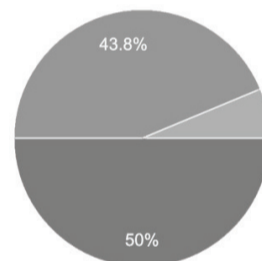
Which holiday beverage do you prefer (spiked or not)?



- A) Egg Nog
- B) Hot Chocolate
- C) Apple Cider

The results are in!

Why do our fellow department members enjoy the fall season? Apparently not because of the festive activities of pumpkin carving, apple picking, etc. as only 12% chose that option. A crisp fall morning narrowly beat out pumpkin bread with 50% of people choosing weather compared to 43.8% choosing the food.



IN OTHER NEWS

- The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is **soliciting feedback about student life** at Vanderbilt. [Complete the survey](#) and enter for a chance to win a Vanderbilt swag bag worth \$100! The GSC hopes to use the responses to inform future policy efforts both within the GSC and the University.
- The GSC is also hosting a **Winter Social** event on December 8th from 5 to 7 pm in Alumni Hall 202. Free food, music, and hangs!
- Save the Date for the **1st Annual Research Symposium - Life Sciences Edition presented by VIRAL** (Vanderbilt International Researchers Alliance)! It will be held on April 28th and registration opens January 9th. Keynote address by John Kuriyan, incoming Dean of Basic Sciences.

Your top song was **I Hate This** by **The Trainees**
You played it **365** times, with the most listens on **December 31st, 2022**

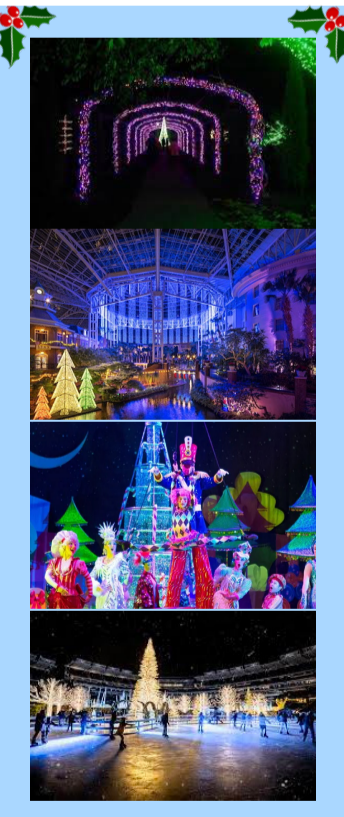
Your top songs:

- 1 I HATE THIS
- 2 NO NEW DATA THIS WEEK
- 3 NO COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE FREE
- 4 VANDY'S NEW LOGO
- 5 STILL SCREENING IN LIGHT HALL

Check it out!

As always, double check events for their COVID-19 hours and regulations.

- **Places to go:** The seasonal champion of Nashville (aka Cheekwood) will have their **Holiday LIGHTS Experience** options through January 8th. For more information and tickets, visit their website [here](#). As another christmas light option... the drive-through **Dancing Lights of Christmas** will be at the Wilson County Fairgrounds this year until January 2nd. Follow [this link](#) for details. **Opryland** is also decked out in Christmas lights this time of year! It's a great way to get in the holiday spirit for FREE. Pro tip: these events can get pretty crowded and busy, so it's best to plan ahead!
- **Things to do:** Holiday season is the best season so check out [Enchant Nashville](#) at the Sounds stadium in Germantown. There's amazing lights and even ice skating. We would also recommend you stop by Von Elrod's after and try their hot chocolate and smores soft pretzel if you want to make a night out of it!
- **People to see:** The holiday season is a great time to **experience the arts** in Nashville! There are tons of offerings this month in Music City including Pentatonix (Dec. 11), Trans-Siberian Orchestra (Dec. 14), Nashville Ballet's Nutcracker (various dates), Vince Gill and Amy Grant (Dec. 17) and [more!](#)



What's your occupation?

Occupation

Scientist

Please enter a valid occupation.

Submit

[Remind me next time](#)



Please reach out to lindsey.n.guerin@vanderbilt.edu or kaitlyn.r.browning@vanderbilt.edu if you have any feedback, questions, or student of the month nominations.