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Graduate Women in
Science: Nashville
Chapter

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The Nashville GWIS chapter is still active during COVID-19!

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

We are excited to offer some socially distant networking and socializing events to allow GWIS members to connect during this difficult time!

**Virtual Movie Night: *Radioactive* September 18th
7pm**

Join us for a virtual movie night via Amazon Watch Party! We'll be watching *Radioactive*, a biopic on Marie Curie starring Rosamund Pike. We'll use the Amazon Watch Party feature, available via Amazon Prime, to watch the movie together (link will be made available day of). If you are interested and do not have access to Amazon Prime – let us know! We will set up multiple viewing options!

We have sent out a survey to determine what remote events you would most like to see and participate in! Please fill out that survey so that we can provide exciting programming!

Searching for 3MT Judges!

The Vanderbilt Graduate Student Council (GSC) is planning this year's 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) event and need your help! The GSC is searching for non-student judges. Judges can be members of academia, industry research, non-profit organizations, schools, etc from Vanderbilt, Nashville, or around the world. The 3MT event is scheduled for March 4, 2021 and is likely to be held virtually. Do you know any exceptional women in STEM who may be interested in judging in the Vanderbilt 3MT event? Email Jessica Feller (jessica.feller.1@vanderbilt.edu)!

Want to nominate a woman in STEM who is doing awesome work, whether it be exciting new research, great scicomm, or outstanding mentorship? Reach out to us at nashville@gwis.org.



GWIS Feature Scientist

Katie Kapp, 3rd Year Chemistry Graduate Student:

Tell us a little bit about your research (or job, mentoring work, etc.): I am a trainee in the Vanderbilt Chemistry-Biology Interface training program. I use mass spectrometry to analyze proteins in blood plasma from sepsis patients. My goal is to better understand what molecular-level factors influence racial disparities in sepsis; for instance, why Black patients have higher rates of sepsis than white patients and are an average of ten years younger than white patients when diagnosed with sepsis. I am also working on automating my lab's sample preparation workflow so that we can easily and quickly analyze hundreds of

plasma samples. Outside of lab, I am a member of GWIS Nashville, Vanderbilt University Women in Science & Engineering (VU-WiSE), and the Chemical Biology Association of Students (CBAS).

What got you interested in STEM?: I was in gifted classes in grade school, and I skipped fourth grade. My classes never truly challenged me until I took chemistry in tenth grade. I had a wonderful teacher, Mrs. Kerriann Mizerak, who was honestly the first teacher who challenged me intellectually. I was also so intrigued at how chemistry could explain the world around me and be used to make the world a better place. I majored in chemistry at Gannon University for my undergraduate degree, where I was again fortunate to have several female chemistry professors who continued to challenge and inspire me to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry. I want to be a chemistry professor someday so that I can be for young women what these women were (and are) to me.

What is your involvement with GWIS? I am the event planner for the 2020-2021 year. I am excited to help build a community of women scientists here in Nashville! Hopefully we can have some fun virtual events, even if we can't meet in person!

What is your favorite thing to do around Nashville? Nashville is such a fun city; it's hard to pick one favorite! I enjoy shopping at Opry Mills, eating at Hattie B's, and finding good books and games at McKay's. I'm also a member of the White Rose Alumni Chapter of Gamma Sigma Sigma National Service Sorority here in Nashville, and I love volunteering with White Rose! One of our favorite organizations to support is The Little Pantry That Could.

Fun fact: I grew up on my family's beef farm in Pennsylvania where we raise Angus-Hereford cattle.
