

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

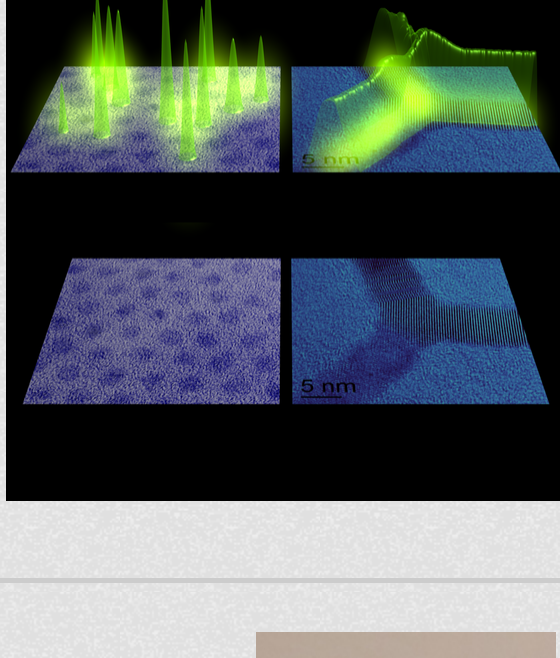
JUNE 2019

Greetings Alumni!

As the 2018-2019 academic year closes, we want to update you on the news of the department. We hope you will enjoy reading about the accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

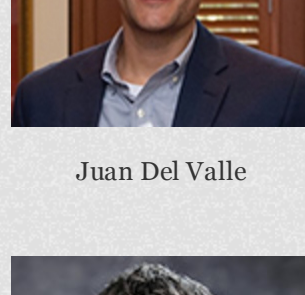
As always, thank you to all who have given to Notre Dame in the past. If you would like to include Notre Dame in your giving, undergraduate alumni can follow [this link](#), and graduate alumni can follow [this link](#). Thank you for supporting the efforts of the department and the University!

Lastly, if you would like additional information on the stories in this newsletter, please visit the departmental [website](#) or [Facebook page](#). And, if you have news or feedback, we would love [hear from you](#).



Faculty & Staff News

We are pleased to announce the addition of two new teaching & research faculty members to the department next fall. **Juan Del Valle**, William K. Warren Family Associate Professor, brings his experience using organic synthesis and chemical biology to address challenges in drug discovery and molecular recognition. **Matthew Champion**, Associate Professor, develops novel approaches to identify and characterize virulent microorganisms.



Juan Del Valle

Norm Dovichi is the recipient of the inaugural **College of Science Research Award** for his pioneering work in capillary electrophoresis for DNA sequencing.

Shahriar Mobashery, Navari Family Professor in Life Sciences, was awarded the **2019 Emil Thomas Kaiser Award** from The Protein Society. This prestigious award recognizes highly significant contributions to protein research.

Brian Baker received the **Innovation Award** from the American Cancer Society's local Coaches vs. Cancer Program for his work in cancer immunotherapy.

Mary Galvin, William K. Warren Foundation Dean and Professor Chemistry & Biochemistry, was elected as a **Fellow of the Materials Research Society**.



Matthew Champion

Jeff Peng was elected to the **Executive Committee** for the annual Experimental NMR Conference (ENC).

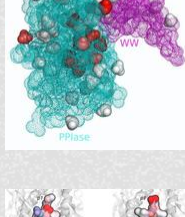
Steve Corcelli, Professor, and Jim Parise, Teaching Professor, received 2019 Rev. Edmund P. Joyce C.S.C. Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Congratulations to **Jon Camden** on his promotion to full professor, and **DeeAnne Goodenough-Lashua**, **Jim Parise**, and **Steve Wietstock** on their promotions to Teaching Professor.

We also congratulate Mariette Quinn, administrative assistant for graduate studies, on receiving the **2019 Graduate Administrative Staff Member Award** from the Graduate School.

The **life and career of Rev. Julius A. Nieuwland C.S.C.** was highlighted in an interesting article by the College of Science.

Research News



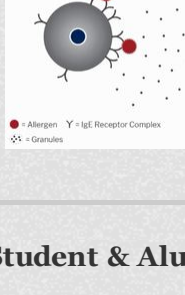
The Peng lab **demonstrated** how a minor mutation in a protein can have far-reaching effects, including influencing the onset of different diseases. Specifically, the study showed that a minor change in one amino acid on the surface of Pin1, a human enzyme involved in intracellular communication, had unexpected global effects on the protein.



The Baker lab **discovered** that T-cell receptors can be much more cross-reactive than previously thought due to the surprising adaptability of the involved proteins. In T-cell immunotherapy, T-cells are altered to contain receptors to seek and destroy undesirable cells such as cancer cells. These findings offer better understanding for developing targeted immunotherapies.



The Warren Family Research Center for Drug Discovery and Development **partnered with** **Perlara**, a rare diseases drug discovery company, to create a new collaboration called PeriQuest. PeriQuest aims to screen and identify compounds that can be re-purposed to treat glycogen storage diseases such as Cori Disease and Pompe Disease.



The Bilgicer lab published a **new study** demonstrating the use of allergen-specific inhibitors for the treatment of peanut allergy. Allergic reactions occur when allergens bind with antibodies called immunoglobulin E (IgE) on the surface of immune cells. These new inhibitors selectively inhibit the binding of IgE and peanut allergen proteins, without targeting other IgE interactions which would lead to immune system suppression.

Student & Alumni News

Tianyuan (Abby) Cao, a Ph.D. student working with Prof. Paul Bohn, received a RISE Professional Scholarship from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), which will allow her to spend 10 weeks in Germany working with the biotech company New Diagnostics.

Veronica Hubble, a Ph.D. student in the Melander lab, received a 2019 American Chemical Society Women Chemists Committee (WCC)/Eli Lilly Travel Award.

Chen Dai, a Ph.D. student in the Littlepage lab, received first prize for his poster presentation at the 2018 Indiana University (IU) Simon Cancer Center's Cancer Research Day.

Dr. Esther Braselmann (Ph.D. '14) was awarded an NIH K99 Pathway to Independence Award. She is currently a postdoctoral associate at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Dr. Mary Mader (Ph.D. '90) was appointed Vice President of Chemistry of Relay Therapeutics.

Dr. Paul Hergenrother (B.S. '94) was appointed to the team of antibiotic discovery experts to collaborate with the Pew Charitable Trusts to help build its Shared Platform for Antibiotic Research and Knowledge (SPARK).

Dr. Kevin Minbiole (B.S. '96) was appointed Chair of the Department of Chemistry at Villanova University.

Patricia Clark (B.S. '92) is teaching high-school chemistry at Trinity Academy in Portland, OR.

Over the past year, we have added 29 Ph.D. graduates, 7 M.S. graduates, and 40 B.S. graduates to the ranks of our alumni. Congratulations to the following students:



Ph.D. Recipients

Chemistry

- Xiaosong Cao, Zuhai, China (Haifeng Gao)**
- Rusha Chatterjee, New Delhi, India (Masaru Kuno)**
- Tuphan Devkota, Salyan, Nepal (Greg Hartland)
- David Alan Dik, Clarkston, MI (Shahriar Mobashery)**
- Sergiu Draguta, Drochia, Moldova (Masaru Kuno)**
- Kaitlyn Elizabeth Eckert, Caldwell, ID (Brandon Ashfeld)
- Kaiyu Fu, Jingdezhen, China (Paul Bohn)**
- Jiayun (Jenny) Hu, Shanghai, China (Paul Bohn)**
- Tia Sherelle Jarvis, US Virgin Islands, (Brad Smith)
- Ju-Young Kim, Seoul, Korea (Paul Bohn)
- Jared Alan Lamp, Grand Rapids, MI (Norman Dovichi)*
- Weijing Liu, Nanjing, China (Merlin Bruening)**
- Jessica Kay Lukowski, Battle Creek, MI (Amanda Hummon)
- Bradley Michael Minrovic, Akron, OH (Christian Melander)
- Suzanne Marie Neidhart, Wichita, KS (Dan Gezelter)
- Anh Huu Hoang Nguyen, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam (Zachary Schultz)**
- Kevin Xavier Rodriguez, Mishawaka, IN (Brandon Ashfeld)
- Anthony Raymond Rosales, Great Falls, MT (Paul Helquist and Olaf Wiest)
- Enrico Speri, Verona, Italy (Mayland Chang and Shahriar Mobashery)
- Samuel Edward VandenHeuvel, Chandler, AZ (Slavi Sevov)*

Biochemistry

- Chen Dai, Beijing, China (Laurie Littlepage)
- Katelyn Ludwig, East Islip, NY (Amanda Hummon)
- Jaime L. Luther, Schererville, IN (Holly Goodson and Marya Lieberman)**
- Trung Thanh Nguyen, Mishawaka, IN (Mayland Chang and Shahriar Mobashery)**
- Heath Aaron Rose, Marion, IN (Jeff Peng)
- Monica Marie Schroll, Benicia, CA (Amanda Hummon)**
- Nishant Kumar Singh, Jamshepur, India (Brian Baker)**
- Ian Michael Walsh, Sammamish, WA (Patricia Clark)
- Meiling Zhang, Fujian, China (Jeff Peng)

M.S. Recipients

Chemistry

- Jacqueline Michelle Gianino, Ventnor City, NJ*
- Patrick Nelson Lichtenberger, Mishawaka, IN*
- Alexander J. Mazanek, Johnson City, NY
- Drake A. Neilands, Superior, CO
- Keith Andrew Schival, Spring City, PA

Biochemistry

- Jennifer Praner, Kalamazoo, MI
- Tiffany Marie Snow, Mount Morris, MI*

B.S. Recipients

Chemistry

- Andrew James Baublis, Westborough, MA
- David Barnes Carmack, Jr., Veazie, ME
- Anthony Peter Deziel, *cum laude*, Eagan, MN - Outstanding Chemist Award
- Andres del Castillo, *magna cum laude*, Newton, MA
- Robert Patrick Hlavin, *cum laude*, Elk Grove Village, IL
- Elisabeth Clara Kerns, West Chester, PA - Outstanding Chemistry Research Award
- Jamie Una Kim, Hoffman Estates, IL
- Jenna Rose Morgan, Painted Post, NY
- Bridget Anne Moroney, Bay Village, OH
- Michael Patrick Mulligan, Gainesville, FL
- Amanda Lauren Perugini, Mishawaka, IN
- Martina Mamdouh Rofaeil, *cum laude*, North Richland Hills, TX
- George Thomas Timmins, Old Bridge, NJ
- Darius Jordan Yohannan, San Jose, CA

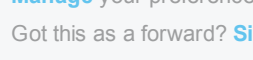
Biochemistry

- Margaret Elizabeth Berta, South Bend, IN
- Alexandra Bodnar, *cum laude*, Allentown, PA - Outstanding Biochemistry Research Award
- Trever Robert Carter, *magna cum laude*, Lindenhurst, IL - Outstanding Biochemist Award
- Elizabeth Zheyin Chen, *cum laude*, Fort Collins, CO
- Zane Alexander Colon, *magna cum laude*, Valparaiso, IN
- Patrick J. Cunniff, *magna cum laude*, Franklin, MA
- Laurer Michelle Davancaze, *magna cum laude*, Mountain View, CA - William R. Wischerath Outstanding Chemistry Major Award, Norbert L. Weich Award for Chemistry & Biochemistry
- Jessica Michelle Deutsch, Naperville, IL
- Emily Mary Franz, Johnstown, OH
- Matthew David Gartenhaus, Carmel, IN
- Rebecca Anne Georgiadis, *magna cum laude*, Gibsonia, PA - Outstanding Biochemist Award
- Rachel Elizabeth Haley, Murfreesboro, TN
- Daniela Ann Iezza, Westland Village, CA
- Melanie Editha Justice, Indianapolis, IN
- Matthew James Klauer, *magna cum laude*, Andover, MA
- Danielle Peymond Konan, Nashville, TN
- Brooke Lorien Kowalski, *cum laude*, Clarksville, TN
- Mackenzie Elizabeth Kraker, Westerville, OH
- Dong-Jin Joshua Lee, Boyds, MD
- Veronica Frances Neach, *cum laude*, Huntington Beach, CA
- William John Phillips, *summa cum laude*, Wayzata, MN - Outstanding Biochemist Award
- Camille Noelle Pierre, Toronto, Canada
- Kevin Rodrigo Ruiz, Ashburn, VA
- James Richard Shuttleworth, *magna cum laude*, Erie, PA, Chemistry & Biochemistry Leadership Award
- Kelly Lynn Volk, Tinley Park, IL*
- Jeffrey R. Ziolkowski, Palm Coast, FL**

*August 2018 graduate
** January 2019 graduate



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