Evening of Discovery students (from left): David Rushworth, Kshipra Gharpure, Stuart Red, Brittany Coughlin, Curtis Neveu and Natalie Sirisaengtaksin.

Benefactor News

The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) at Houston Advisory Council held its 5th Evening of Discovery on Wednesday, April 30. Council member Jesse Heath and wife Hetta opened their lovely home for this special occasion to over 50 members and friends to learn more about the graduate school. Six award-winning Discovery Fellowship Ph.D. students from GSBS shared their recent biomedical breakthroughs with the group to provide a fresh perspective on science research education. Here are some photos from the event. Read more Benefactor News on page 22.

GSBS Deans Michelle Barton, Ph.D., left, and Michael Blackburn, Ph.D., far right, pose with Evening of Discovery hosts Jesse and Hetta Heath.

GSBS faculty member and advisor Brian Davis, Ph.D., stands with his new graduate Tamara Laskowski, Ph.D., at Alice Pratt Brown Hall, Rice University. The school held its 2014 Commencement on May 10. Turn to page 4 to read the complete coverage of this event.
Summer is a good time to pause and consider the past academic year at GSBS. It is also a good time to think about what to accomplish in the future and plan how to do so. This list hits the highpoints from our perspective—we welcome your comments.

**Achieved:**
1. Established AMBR, Association of Minority Biomedical Researchers for students.
2. Developed a CAREER LUNCHEON SERIES for students and established the online TMC LEAD Calendar that announces Leadership, Education and Career Development events to benefit Texas Medical Center students, faculty and staff.
3. Celebrated GSBS 50th Anniversary with special events, a distinguished alumni symposium, reunion and the first GSBS TIME CAPSULE.
4. Created a video (*PlanetGSBS, The Film*) that will inform potential students, faculty and community friends about the graduate school.

**Ongoing:**
1. Focus on a PLAN that will carry the GSBS MESSAGE forcefully to Houston and beyond.
2. Refine RECRUITMENT processes to attain increasingly accomplished graduate school candidates.
3. Thank all alumni, students, faculty and friends for their generous support.

**In Progress:**
1. Kick off the CORE COURSE for all first-year students to instill an efficient, consistent, current, informational foundation upon which to base their future research.
2. Initiate a WHITE COAT CEREMONY to inspire second-year students upon choosing their programs, advisors and areas of research.
3. Finalize the NEW GSBS WEBSITE with its fresh appearance, important links and new information.
4. Renovate existing GSBS SPACE into much needed meeting rooms and personnel offices; install state of the art audio-visual equipment to enhance educational processes.

**To Do:**
Attract a transformational gift that will permanently support innovative research training and empower students to make discoveries which will benefit society for generations to come.

The ___________________ School.

(YOUR NAME HERE)
When the deans invited me to speak today, I had a twinge of anxiety about what the title and contents of my remarks might be. But after a little reflection, I decided to address two intertwined themes: one looking forward and one looking backward.

The forward looking theme is about team science. I don’t know who first used the phrase “science is a team sport,” but I believe it’s increasingly so. It’s not that ideas and discoveries from individuals are unimportant, but team science means that many of our contemporary problems are so complex that solutions require teams of people with multiple skills. There is a long list of such problems: food, security, global warming, air and water pollution, diseases like cancer, Alzheimer’s, heart disease and stroke; and the list goes on. These are the kinds of problems that today’s graduates will address whether in the academic world, private businesses or government, research laboratories or other settings.

An essential requirement to receive a graduate degree is an independent contribution to new knowledge, yet when students leave here they will often function as members of larger teams needed to solve daunting problems. So I thought it would be fitting to reflect on things that foster success in team settings.

And what better way to do this than to look backward at lessons learned from an organization that has been functioning very successfully as a team since its beginning 50 years ago—our very own Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Many things are important for the success of any team, so for my brief time today I arbitrarily picked four that I learned during my 42 years at GSBS—things I’ve learned both individually and collectively from its founders, leaders, faculty, students and staff, including many in the audience and on stage today.

**Teams work best if they actually work as teams**

For the past 50 years GSBS has operated with one overriding principle: everyone counts. Whenever major academic issues come up—things like the structure of the curriculum—every faculty member is invited to a faculty meeting. The issue is always discussed openly and anyone who wishes can speak, whether a first-year instructor or the dean. Eventually a vote is taken and everyone’s vote counts equally. The process takes time but in the long run it really works to make the best decisions.

In addition, this way of doing business has another important effect: inclusiveness makes people feel empowered and want to participate.

Some in the audience might not know it, but the GSBS faculty doesn’t get paid by the school. They get paid by one of the other health science center schools, MD Anderson, or in a few cases, by Texas A&M. While their department chairs may expect them to participate in graduate education, they certainly don’t get paid extra for doing so, yet they do it enthusiastically and energetically. The passion and energy they put into their teaching is not only because they feel it is important, but because each one feels a sense of shared ownership in the school and each one knows that their opinion counts.

John Gardner, past secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, once said, “democracy is measured not by its leaders doing extraordinary things but by its citizens doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.” I believe the same applies to the success of GSBS and teams of scientists in general, especially those that will be needed in the future to solve many of the very complex problems society must address.

**Never abuse the power of the podium**

This was a lesson I learned first as an assistant professor, from a wonderful faculty member named Thomas Burks, Ph.D., and subsequently saw practiced by many leaders, faculty and staff of GSBS.

Like most new professors I was pretty nervous about giving my first lectures so I went to see Tom for advice. He gave me lots of advice but, some the most important advice he gave me was “never abuse the power of the podium.”

He went on to explain that one should: never use sarcasm when responding to a question or comment.
from a student; never use a position of authority to intimidate students; and never use an answer to a student to show the class how clever you are. These are the surest ways to ensure that students will stop asking questions and participating, and that’s the worst impact you can have on their growth and development.

Now, Tom was speaking explicitly about classroom teaching, but I found through the years that this advice applies equally well to creating productive group dynamics in all settings, especially for team leaders.

**Build relationships among memberships**

Team members are selected to bring specific skills and knowledge a group needs for success, but teams function best when members develop relationships that let each one know the others care about them as individuals, not just content experts. I’d like the graduates to pause for a moment and recall your first day at GSBS on the morning of Orientation in the Onstead Auditorium. Do you remember the very first thing we did?

I asked each one of you to stand up and tell us two things: “What is your research interest?” and “Tell us something personal you’d like to share with the group.”

Why did we ask your research interest? We knew it six months ago from your applications. So why ask? On a personal level, the staff and I were of course interested in learning about you and that was a good ice breaker to get people comfortable, but over and above that we wanted to send two important messages.

First, we asked about your interest because we wanted to welcome you as a member of our student body, and let you know that as such you were an intellectual resource for the other members of the class and vice versa.

Second, we asked you about yourself to send another message: you were important to us, not just as a member of our student body.

Paul Darlington, who was our Associate Dean for 25 years and many in the audience know, suggested this was how to start Orientation when I first became dean. He was a master at making people feel they were important as individuals not just students or faculty members. I repeatedly saw the importance of relationships reinforced on a daily basis by watching Paul, the GSBS staff and faculty members who made our students feel important as individuals, not just another student ID number.

Those kinds of relationships enhance team performance, make participation more enjoyable and satisfying, and develop trust and camaraderie.

**Communication skills**

We’ve all been to those seminars that tell us how to speak effectively in those settings. Speak clearly and slowly, define uncommon terms, don’t use too many acronyms, and so forth. But there are several important things I never heard in those talks, things about the other half of communication skills—listening! And one of the most important things about listening, is to try to understand what people mean, not just what they say, as the two may be quite different.

I first became consciously aware of listening from my wife who’s a preschool teacher. Now you might be thinking to yourself, what could a preschool teacher possibly have to teach a dean about how to communicate with graduate students and faculty members? Well, that would be a very long talk that we don’t have time for today.

But the thing that really struck me about the difference between what people say and what they mean happened at Disney World when our kids were very little. When you first enter the park, there is a store that sells all the Disney paraphernalia and our sons immediately ran into the store. Well, I didn’t want to be lugging stuffed animals around all day so I told the boys we’d come back when we left and they could each get one thing they wanted.

So we left the store, but soon, our five-year old, Michael, comes up to me with a pained look on his face and says, “Daddy, I’m sick.” Naturally I was concerned so I said to my wife, “Michael seems pretty sick maybe I should take him back to the hotel while you stay here with Greg,” our other son. Well, she looked at me and sort of chuckled and said, “There’s nothing at all wrong with Michael, he just wants a Mickey Mouse toy and you told him you’d buy it when we went home!” For some reason that hit me in a way I had never thought about before, and has always helped remind me that someone may say one thing, but mean something very different.

So, I hope you’ll remember this point since it is especially important in light of another absolute truism I’ve learned that applies to every single scientist I’ve ever met—ALL SCIENTISTS ARE PEOPLE. They have families, they pay bills, their cars break down, they get sick, and they may come from cultural and social backgrounds that express things differently than you do. So when someone says something that sounds really odd or extremely unreasonable, just being argumentative, maybe even belligerent or inflammatory for no apparent reason, don’t just instinctively react negatively or harshly. Be a little patient and listen a bit longer.

It may be difficult for them to say what they really mean, they may not know how to express something, they may be nervous in front of the group, or it may be that broken car, sick child, or other problem that’s really doing the talking.

Let me leave my comments about science as a team sport by paraphrasing John Gardner, who I previously mentioned: your careers pose a series of great opportunities often disguised as insoluble problems. I believe your generation is going to have to work in teams to solve the major, most complex problems we face in the future, and I am sure you’ve learned a lot about team interactions from your faculty mentors and student colleagues during your time at GSBS.

Thank you and best wishes for whatever success and fulfillment you dream about today and in the future.
What does your degree actually mean?

Your training enables you to answer any question in the biomedical sciences. You have developed critical thinking skills that allow you to distinguish between what has been proven and what has not been proven. You have been forced outside your comfort zone so that you will have the fearlessness required to tackle any problem you wish to. You have freed your creativity from being confined by what was done before. And you have learned the satisfaction that comes from working very hard to achieve a goal that you are passionate about. I personally hope that many of you will continue to train either as Ph.D. students or postdocs. In other words, you are not Jedi Knights yet.

And if you do, I hope that you will continue to push yourselves outside of your comfort zones. Choose a project and a mentor outside of your current field of expertise.

You know that you face some obstacles as you go forward into your careers. Publishing is tougher; getting grants is tougher; and finally academic positions are scarce. But you will also benefit from unprecedented opportunities as technologies provide us with new insights into basic disease processes.

If you use the same skill set that brought you here, namely critical thinking, out-of-the-box creativity, fearlessness, hard work, and most importantly passion, you will succeed.

I congratulate you and hope that you will take a little time to bask in the glory of your accomplishments, but then get right back to your world-changing work.

2013-2014 John P. McGovern Award for Outstanding Teaching Recipient: Scott Lane, Ph.D.

Lane is a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at UTHealth Medical School; professor and vice chair for Research, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences; and laboratory director for the Center for Neurobehavioral Research on Addictions (CNRA) at UTHealth.

- Affiliated with GSBS Program in Neuroscience
- GSBS faculty member since 2003
- Funded continuously by The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and/or the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) since 1997
- He is an active mentor of post-doctoral fellows and GSBS graduate students, and teaches courses in psychopharmacology, cognitive neuroscience and experimental methodology
Fernando Andrade
Heidi Kaplan, Ph.D.

Andrea Bordt
Magnus Höök, Ph.D.

George Britton
Emil Martin, Ph.D.

Amanda Bruegl
Russell Broadus, M.D., Ph.D.

Olivia Dawood
Geoffrey Ibbott, Ph.D.

Katherine Dextraze
Richard Bouchard, Ph.D.

George Edwards
Claudio Soto, Ph.D.

Rajshi Gandhi
Russell Broadus, M.D., Ph.D.

Amanda Hanson
Claire Singletary, M.S.

Reshma Jaseja
Faye Johnson, M.D., Ph.D.

Zachary Jones
Nachum Dafny, Ph.D.

Devin Jones
Vicki Huff, Ph.D.

Brittany Kleb
Ana Aparicio, M.D.

Andrea Lewis
Miguel Rodriguez-Bigas, M.D.

Erminia Massarelli
Jonathan Kurie, M.D.

Michael McCarthy
Alemayehu Gorfe, Ph.D.

Elizabeth McKenzie
Stephen Kry, Ph.D.

Jacqueline Mersch
Jennifer Litton, M.D.

John Moore
Dean Tang, M.D., Ph.D.

Shannon Mulligan
S. Shahrukh Hashmi, M.D., Ph.D.

Ali Naji
Melvin Klegerman, Ph.D.

James Neihart
David Followill, Ph.D.

Sepideh Nouri
Eric Boerwinkle, Ph.D.

Emily Parham
Louise Strong, M.D.

Christopher Pham
David Followill, Ph.D.

Nandini Rambahal
Alemayehu Gorfe, Ph.D.

Aarti Ramdaney
Jennifer Czerwinski, M.S.

Ye Sun
Mien-Chie Hung, Ph.D.

Stephanie Thompson
Andrea Harbison, M.S.

Roy Voice
Leslie Krushel, Ph.D.

John Wait
S. Cheenu Kappadath, Ph.D.

Behrouz Zand
Anil Sood, M.D.

Javier Figueroa
Frederick Lang, M.D.

Thanh-Thuy Thi Le
Michael Blackburn, Ph.D.
Jennifer Abrams  
Kevin Morano, Ph.D.

Sarah Baum  
Michael Beauchamp, Ph.D.

Ryan Bosca  
R. Jason Stafford, Ph.D.

Brandon Brown  
Andrew Bean, Ph.D.

Jacquelin Bui  
Brian Davis, Ph.D.

Kimberly Busiek  
William Margolin, Ph.D.

Guoshuai Cai  
Shoudan Liang, Ph.D.

Hillary Caruso  
Laurence Cooper, M.D., Ph.D.

Joseph Caruso  
Khandan Keyomarsi, Ph.D.

Sarah Castillo  
Thomas Guerrero, M.D., Ph.D.

Jessica Chacon  
Laszlo Radvanyi, Ph.D.

Tiewei Cheng  
David McConkey, Ph.D.

Joey Cheung  
Laurence Court, Ph.D.

Yun-Chen Chiang  
Victor Krasnykh, Ph.D.

Jongmin Cho  
Geoffrey Ibbott, Ph.D.

Ping-Chieh Chou  
Mong-Hong Lee, Ph.D.

Jennifer Churchill  
Stephen Daiger, Ph.D.

Zeynep Coban Akdemir  
Michelle Barton, Ph.D.

Christopher Conner  
Nitin Tandon, M.D.

Drew Deniger  
Laurence Cooper, M.D., Ph.D.

Alessandra Di Lorenzo  
Mark Bedford, Ph.D.

Nadeeka Dias  
Scott Lane, Ph.D.

Sarah Eagleton  
Valentin Dragoi, Ph.D.

John Eley  
Rebecca Howell, Ph.D.

Ana Gonzalez-Angulo  
Gordon Mills, M.D., Ph.D.

Sergei Guma  
Eugenie Kleinerman, M.D.

Harrison Hocker  
Alemayehu Gorfe, Ph.D.

Kenneth Homann  
Wayne Newhauser, Ph.D.

Shaoyi Huang  
Xiangwei Wu, Ph.D.

Yaling Huang  
Lei Li, Ph.D.

Lenka Hurton  
Laurence Cooper, M.D., Ph.D.

Claudia Jimenez-Lopez  
Michael Lorenz, Ph.D.

Jung-Kang Jin  
Gary Gallick, Ph.D.

Eun Young Kim  
Robert Schwartz, Ph.D.

Sarah Klein  
Juan Fueyo, M.D.

Song Yi Ko  
Honami Naora, Ph.D.

Adam LaBaff  
Mien-Chie Hung, Ph.D.

Tamara Laskowska  
Brian Davis, Ph.D.
Ming Li  
Feng Wang-Johanning, M.D., Ph.D.

Qin Li  
Guillermina Lozano, Ph.D.

Changlu Liu  
Ralf Krahe, Ph.D.

Haiquan Lu  
Zhen Fan, M.D.

Jonathan Martinez  
David Gorenstein, Ph.D.

Jason Matney  
Radhe Mohan, Ph.D.

William Munoz  
Pierre McCrea, Ph.D.

Mark Nolte  
Richard Behringer, Ph.D.

Viralkumar Patel  
Varsha Gandhi, Ph.D.

Brian Pickering  
Dihua Yu, M.D., Ph.D.

Aaron Raymond  
Lalitha Nagarajan, Ph.D.

Sumaiyah Rehman  
Dihua Yu, M.D., Ph.D.

Natalia Rozas De O’Laughlin  
Pramod Dash, Ph.D.

Taylor Schoberle  
Gregory May, Ph.D.

I Hong Shih  
David Yang, Ph.D.

Ji-Hyun Shin  
Mong-Hong Lee, Ph.D.

Tracey Smith  
Renata Pasqualini, Ph.D.

Srimeenakshi Srinivasan  
David Gorenstein, Ph.D.

Zahra Timsah  
John Ladbury, Ph.D.

Borislava Tsanova  
Ambro van Hoof, Ph.D.

Guermarie Velazquez Torres  
Mong-Hong Lee, Ph.D.

Isaac Wun  
Marsha Frazier, Ph.D.

Wei-Lei Yang  
Hui-Kuan Lin, Ph.D.

Yan Yang  
Patrick Hwu, M.D.

Adam Yock  
Laurence Court, Ph.D.

Limin Zhu  
Dennis Hughes, M.D., Ph.D.

Take a little time to bask in the glory of your accomplishments, but then get right back to your world-changing work.

— David McConkey, Ph.D.  
2013-2014 GSBS Faculty President
Commencement 2014

See video at go.uth.edu/GSBSgradvideo
Eric Boerwinkle, Ph.D., received $3.8 million in NIH funding for Alzheimer’s research. He is affiliated with the Programs in Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Systems Biology; and Human and Molecular Genetics.

William Margolin, Ph.D., (professor, Microbiology & Molecular Genetics) has been chosen as an American Society for Microbiology Distinguished Lecturer. The society annually selects a scientifically diverse group of distinguished lecturers to deliver lectures at ASM Branch meetings throughout the country.

Elizabeth Travis, Ph.D., was highlighted in Forbes’ Texas Women Business Leaders feature in June. Travis is affiliated with Programs in Experimental Therapeutics and Human and Molecular Genetics.

Eric Wagner, Ph.D., (assistant professor, Program in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology) was part of a group of researchers from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) and Baylor College of Medicine whose work, which identified a protein that can be used to slow down or speed up the growth of brain tumors in mice, was published in the Advance Online Publication of the journal Nature. The research team discovered that a protein called CFIm25 is critical to keeping messenger RNA long in healthy cells and that its reduction promotes tumor growth. The key research finding in this study was that restoring CFIm25 levels in brain tumors dramatically reduced their growth.

Outstanding Courses Recognition: Starting this year, the GSBS Curriculum Committee is recognizing outstanding courses for commendation from those that were subject to a major review over the last academic year. The committee unanimously selected Introduction to Medical Physics I: Basic Interactions to be the sole recipient of this year’s commendation. The course coordinator is George Starkschall, Ph.D., who is affiliated with the Program in Medical Physics. Congratulation to Starkschall and the faculty who participated in the course.
Jacy Crosby had her first-authored paper published in the New England Journal of Medicine on June 18. The paper investigated whether rare mutations found in the protein-coding regions of the human genome were associated with plasma triglyceride levels. She is affiliated with Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Systems Biology and her advisor is Eric Boerwinkle, Ph.D.

GSBS student Pushan Dasgupta and his work to cure glioblastoma were featured in a Houston Chronicle/Pearland News story. His advisor is Giulio Draetta, M.D., Ph.D., and he is affiliated with the M.D./Ph.D. and Genes & Development Programs.

Brittany Parker Kerrigan had her research featured on the cover of the July issue of The Journal of Pathology. Parker Kerrigan was part of the group that published the paper MiR-506 suppresses proliferation and induces senescence by directly targeting the CDK4/6–FOXM1 axis in ovarian cancer in the journal. She is affiliated with the Neuroscience Program and her advisor is Wei Zhang, Ph.D.

GSBS students Moon Sup Lee, Shu-Hong Lin, Rina Mbofung, Jeanne Pierzynski, Jacquelyn Reuther, Rajesha Rupaimoole, Zahra Timsah and Hima Vangapandu received honors at the Oral and Poster Competitions for MD Anderson Cancer Center’s Trainee Research Day 2014.

The Center for Clinical & Translational Sciences (CCTS) TL1 Predoctoral Training Program participated in the Translational Science 2014 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in April. The center, located at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, is directed by the GSBS deans and TL1 Program Manager Ashley Hood, Ph.D. Dean Blackburn and Hood accompanied eight TL1 trainees/GSBS students (Vida Chitsazzadeh, Samuel Fahrenholtz, Amanda Hanks, Amanda Hermann, Christopher MacLellan, Nicholas Parchim, Andrew Peters and David Savage) to the event.

GSBS held its inaugural Career Lunch on May 16. The event, organized by GSBS Associate Dean of Graduate Education Andy Bean, Ph.D., and Program Manager Marenda Wilson-Pham, Ph.D., gave 60 GSBS students the opportunity to get career advice from GSBS alumni who are working professionals in variety of biomedical fields. To learn more about career development events throughout the Texas Medical Center, visit go.uth.edu/TMCCareerCalendar.
2014 International Food Festival

On May 16, GSBS students competed for the best dish at the event sponsored by the Graduate Student Association. Top prizes were awarded to Team Puerto Rico (below, from left: GSBS students Angie Torres-Adorno, Alejandro Villar-Prados, Michelle Martinez-Rivera and Paloma Monroig; not pictured: Ramon Flores-Gonzalez), and Team Indian Fusion (GSBS student Prexy Shah and MD Anderson Diagnostic Radiology Research Intern Vrushali Datar).

Above is a photo of Team Indian Fusion’s entrée called Mumbai Biryani, a mixed rice dish containing spices such as ginger, garlic paste, white cumin powder, coriander and green chilies.

2014 John P. McGovern Award for Presentation Skills Contest

Six GSBS students participated in The John P. McGovern Award for Presentation Skills Contest on May 23. The event is part of an oral presentation competition based on the students’ current research project. This year’s finalists were (from left to right): Deepna Devkar, Dhananjay Thakur, Iman Doostan, Felix Nwajei, Austin Faught and Jessica Nute. Competition winners were: 1st place: Deepna Devkar; 2nd place: Jessica Nute; and 3rd place and People’s Choice Awardee: Felix Nwajei.
Harry S. and Isabel C. Cameron Foundation Fellowship

Cameron Brand
Advisor: Carmen W. Dessauer, Ph.D.
This fellowship provides $20,000 for one year and is awarded to an exceptional post-candidacy student working in research fields related to Alzheimer’s or cardiovascular diseases.

Rosalie B. Hite Fellowships

In 1946 Houston citizen Rosalie B. Hite left her entire estate to establish a fellowship program for cancer research. This fund provides an annual award stipend of $31,400 to students who demonstrate excellence in research, have a commitment to a career in biomedical research, and make a professional contribution to the community. The 2013-2014 recipients are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Advisor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Julianna Bronk</td>
<td>George Calin, M.D., Ph.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawrence Bronk</td>
<td>David Grosshans, M.D., Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Nahir Cortes Santiago</td>
<td>Candelaria Gomez-Manzano, M.D.</td>
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<td>Jacquelyn Reuther</td>
<td>Ann Killary, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Howard Rosoff</td>
<td>Dean Lee, M.D., Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Kin Man Suen</td>
<td>John Ladbury, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Maitri Shah</td>
<td>George Calin, M.D., Ph.D</td>
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<td>Xian Zhang</td>
<td>Hui-Kuan Lin, Ph.D.</td>
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Barbara L. Kennedy Memorial Scholarship

Andrea Lewis
Advisor: Miguel A. Rodriguez-Bigas, M.D.
This $1,000 scholarship was established in 2002 for a student in the Specialized Masters Program in Genetic Counseling. The winner is selected by a review committee appointed by the WINGS Chapter of the American Business Women’s Association.

George M. Stancel, Ph.D., Fellowship in the Biomedical Sciences

Nicholas Parchim
Advisor: Yang Xia, M.D., Ph.D.
This $4,000 award of excellence honors former GSBS Dean George Stancel, Ph.D., (1999-2012) and was established by members of the school’s Advisory Council, 2010-2011.
Schissler Foundation Fellowships

These fellowships emphasize basic science projects with the greatest likelihood of translational application to human health, and require that all students receive a broad exposure to the biomedical sciences. These prestigious awards give significant help to research studies that will most likely make major contributions to the therapies and cures of common human disease through genetics. For 2013-2014, the Schissler Foundation provided $25,000 stipend funding for four Schissler Foundation Fellowships with at least one expressly designated for a student working on cancer research with faculty at MD Anderson.

Student                         Advisor
Atanu Paul                      Bin Wang, Ph.D.
Natoya Peart                    Eric Wagner, Ph.D.
Lindsey Minter                  Michelle Barton, Ph.D.
Germaine Agollah                Eva Sevick, Ph.D.

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Endowed Scholars, Professor and Fellow,
Cancer Answers/Sylvan Rodriguez Scholar,
Sylvan Rodriguez Foundation Scholarship honoring George M. Stancel, Ph.D.

These scholarships represent the culmination of more than 20 years of determined support and growth of the Cancer Answers charitable organization through two founding mothers, Joann Sowell and Marcia Huggins Jahncke, their families, cancer survivors and contributing foundations including the Vivian L. Smith Foundation, Sylvan Rodriguez Charities, and especially Bo and Amy Huggins. Since 1991 nearly 90 scholars and six sets of professor/fellow teams (renewable up to three years) have been honored with awards ranging from $3,000 scholarships up to $20,000 in stipend support.

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Endowed Scholars:
Student
Vida Chitsazzadeh
Ting-Hsiang (Richard) Huang
Joshua Niedzielski
Avinashnarayan Venkatanarayan
Advisor
Kenneth Tsai, M.D./Ph.D.
Jessica Tyler, Ph.D.
Laurence Court, Ph.D.
Elsa Flores, Ph.D.

Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Professor/Fellow team:
Mien-Chie Hung, Ph.D./Aarthi Goverdhan

The Cancer Answers/Sylvan Rodriguez Scholar:
Lindsey Minter                    Michelle Barton, Ph.D.

Sylvan Rodriguez Foundation Scholar honoring George M. Stancel, Ph.D.:
David Fried                      Laurence Court, Ph.D.

Pictured above, from left to right, are the 2014 scholars: Avinashnarayan Venkatanarayan, Vida Chitsazzadeh, Ting-Hsiang (Richard) Huang, Aarthi Goverdhan, Joshua Niedzielski, Lindsey Minter and David Fried.
Project GRAD 2014: For two weeks of their summer break students with Houston’s Project GRAD program explored their interest in science by participating in the Biology Academy at GSBS. This academy for Project GRAD was started in 2007 and is part of the GSBS Outreach Program’s initiatives to serve Houston and Harris County. During the course, local high school students participated in experiments, toured labs and visited the Life Flight helicopter in the Texas Medical Center.

Above and beyond the classroom

Lawrence Bronk
Advisor: David Grosshans, M.D., Ph.D.

This $1,500 scholarship honors Dr. Thomas F. Burks, a distinguished research scientist who served The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston as its chief academic officer from 1991 to 2001. It was established on the recommendation of the Interfaculty Council (IFC) at UTHealth to provide scholarship support to students based on academic merit. The scholarship is to be awarded to a student who is matriculated and has established an academic record at one of the schools of UTHealth.

Student Awards from UT System
The artistic side of GSBS

These three award-winning pictures from the Graduate Student Association’s 4th annual photography contest held in June reflect a different side of GSBS’ creativity. The competition was open to students, postdocs and faculty members of UTHealth and MD Anderson. Prizes were awarded in three categories: nature, abstract and people. These artworks, along with all the winning art from previous contests, are on display at the graduate school.
Premiere: *PlanetGSBS, The Film*

On May 30, the school held the Opening Night event for the world premiere of *PlanetGSBS, The Film*. More than 125 attendees walked the red carpet to watch the film that chronicled the school's 50th anniversary year. The event concluded with the ceremonial closing of the GSBS time capsule by Deans Barton and Blackburn. Here are some highlights from the festivities.

**What’s inside the GSBS time capsule?**

A brick from the home of GSBS 1977 – 1999

Various class catalogues & faculty rosters

A selection of GSBS recruitment shirts from 1975-2014

Microscope donated by GSBS alumna BethLynn Maxwell, J.D., Ph.D.

Original glass pipettes donated by GSBS alumna Jacqueline Peltier Horn, Ph.D.

Dissertation donated by GSBS alumna and faculty member Christine Stellrecht, Ph.D.

GSBS development invitation and program for Evening of Discovery 2014

GSBS News newsletters from 2013-2014

TARDIS toy from Dr. Who donated by GSBS alumna Suzanne Fuqua, Ph.D.

GSBS HBU mini capsule signifying the school’s relationship with Houston Baptist University donated by GSBS alumna Hannah Wingate, Ph.D.

A copy of the 50th anniversary timeline

A copy of *PlanetGSBS, The Film*
Peter N. Gray, Ph.D.  
(1970/Saunders)

After a successful career in academic and industrial research, Gray, along with his wife Susan, recently made a legacy pledge that includes GSBS’ Investing in Student Futures Endowment in their estate plan. In addition to being generously philanthropic, Gray is an active sculptor whose work is included in numerous private and public collections and regularly exhibits in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and New York. This summer and fall his work may be seen at Gallery PINK in Oak Park, Illinois; The Art Center of Highland Park, Illinois; The Elks Nationals Memorial in Chicago; and Chicago State University, in addition to his large-scale public sculptures in various locations.

At his Metal-i-Genics Studio in Chicago, Gray captures the aesthetics of genetics, microbiology and physics in bronze and steel sculptures. His goal is to create something that has an aesthetic value as a sculpture and also leads to further questioning by the viewer. “In science, you should always keep in mind that what you’re observing has a true inherent beauty. I often felt provoked by the artistic qualities of the images I encountered,” said Gray. Artists, scientists and technologists look at structure and pattern in the universe, whether visible or invisible to the naked eye. His exhibitions explore how some of today’s scientific fields of systems science, chaos, fractals, genetics, molecular science, plus nature itself, are used to create two and three dimensional art of provocative and sumptuous patterns.

Gray’s artwork, which includes Rising Above It All (left) and Point Mutation (above) may be seen on his website metal-i-genics.com.

Robert Marc, Ph.D., (1975/Sperling) was honored for his wide array of achievements in the ophthalmology field by the International Society for Eye Research (ISER) in July. Marc received the Retina Research Foundation’s 2014 Paul Kayser International Award in Retina Research and delivered a lecture Mapping Retinal Cells and Networks. Marc was also named GSBS Distinguished Alumnus in 1981.

Sarah Noblin, S.M.S., C.G.C., (1999/Gritz) was named the incoming president of the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling, a specialized program accreditation board for educational training programs granting master’s degrees or higher in genetic counseling. Noblin is also a clinical assistant professor with the school’s Genetic Counseling Program.

Leslie Roeder, D.D.S., S.M.S., (2003/Powers) retired from The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston in July. Roeder was an associate dean for Academic Affairs at The School of Dentistry as well as a professor in the Department of Diagnostic and Biomedical Sciences.
The Association of Minority Biomedical Researchers (AMBR) is a student organization open to all full-time GSBS students that focuses on enriching the academic experience by hosting seminars, workshops and social activities that aim to improve academic outcomes while building community. AMBR seeks to foster educational excellence, scholarship, and to provide a supportive environment for its student members while representing the ethnic and cultural diversity of contemporary society.

To learn more about AMBR sponsored events or about joining this group, please visit gsbs.uth.edu/ambr/.

In Memoriam

Arthur Newman, M.S., (1947-2014): GSBS alumnus who worked in sales and service in scientific instrumentation and the medical and laboratory supply business. He received his M.S. in Physiology from the school in 1974. His advisor was Max Hutchins, Ph.D.
Tomasz Skorski, M.D., Ph.D.; noted leukemia researcher, is the inaugural speaker. Skorski is professor of microbiology and immunology; Fels Institute; Temple University, School of Medicine; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Established by alumni Jacqueline Peltier Horn, Ph.D., John P. Kopchick, Ph.D., and Deidre Vedder, Ph.D., with many others contributing to honor their mentor, Dr. Arlinghaus came up with the idea of the Lecture Series to benefit faculty and students. All can be proud of the accomplishment—a great beginning for what is hoped will become an outstanding annual educational experience. Please join us: BSRB, Mitchell Building, S3.8371; Large Classroom; reception to follow.

Great News! Russell and Diana Hawkins Family Foundation Discovery Fellowships will continue through 2020. To date there are four Hawkins Family Foundation Discovery Fellows with four more promised in the future. The Hawkins’ strong belief in education, research and innovation, underwritten by significant support, has strengthened the graduate school and achieved powerful research. Previously their Discovery Fellows have made important breakthroughs in heart disease and cancer using biomarkers; currently their Fellows’ pioneer work is focused on neurodegenerative disease, specifically related to Parkinson’s. For the difference they’ve made in the life of the school, its students and their research: Thank you and hat’s off to Diana and Russell!

The First Ralph B. Arlinghaus Endowed Lecture is slated for 4p.m., Thursday, October 23: Tomasz Skorski, M.D., Ph.D.; noted leukemia researcher, is the inaugural speaker. Skorski is professor of microbiology and immunology; Fels Institute; Temple University, School of Medicine; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Established by alumni Jacqueline Peltier Horn, Ph.D., John P. Kopchick, Ph.D., and Deidre Vedder, Ph.D., with many others contributing to honor their mentor, Dr. Arlinghaus came up with the idea of the Lecture Series to benefit faculty and students. All can be proud of the accomplishment—a great beginning for what is hoped will become an outstanding annual educational experience. Please join us: BSRB, Mitchell Building, S3.8371; Large Classroom; reception to follow.
Special Thanks and Gratitude

April 16, 2014 - August 1, 2014

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Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world— Nelson Mandela

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Newsletter Editor: Linda Carter
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Greetings Alumni,

Hope you enjoyed a terrific summer and are ready to “roar” into fall with the September 26 Alumni Reunion night at the Houston Zoo—slated for the jaguar habitat.

We will be honoring our 18th Distinguished Alumni, Dolores (Dorrie) Lamb, Ph.D. (1980/Sanborn). Dr. Lamb is an international leader in the fields of urology, male and female reproduction, infertility steroid hormone action and growth regulatory mechanisms. She holds the Lester and Sue Smith Chair in Basic Urologic Research, and is the Vice-Chair for Research, Director of the Laboratory for Male Reproductive Research and Testing, and Professor in Departments of Urology and Molecular and Cellular Biology at Baylor College of Medicine.

It was a particularly competitive field this year—alumni are making more nominations and the achievements are growing. Thank you to the nominees for participating, and to their nominators—there’s always next year. Congratulations to Dr. Lamb!

GSBS Deans are instigating a special “white coat” ceremony for new 2nd year students as they select their programs and officially move into an advisor’s lab. Alumni are invited to attend the first one on Friday, September 12, 5p.m. (and help host next year). Also please note Thursday, 4 p.m. at GSBS, October 23 for the first Ralph B. Arlinghaus, Ph.D., Lecture made possible by an alumni-driven endowment—details inside on page 22.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank the Alumni Association Steering Committee for all their help this year through the 50th Anniversary events, the Graduation Celebration and much more. See you on Safari—alumni photo-safari that is—September 26!

Best regards,

Mollianne McGahren Murray, Ph.D. (2007/ Keyomarsi)
GSBS Alumni Association President
2013-2014