

VOLUME 6 • MAY 2021

# Department of Biological Sciences Newsletter

FROM BIOMOLECULES TO THE BIOSPHERE

## IMPORTANT DATES

**ELIZABETH CANON  
GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP  
DEADLINE**  
MAY 3

**GRAD SUCCESS WEEK**  
MAY 4 - 6

**SCIENCE SLAM  
APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
MAY 13

**SPRING/SUMMER TUITION  
AND FEE PAYMENT  
DEADLINE**  
MAY 14

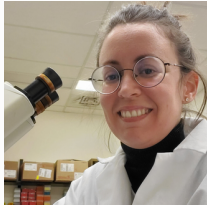
**LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR  
GRADUATION**  
MAY 14

**LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR  
OPT IN MOBILE APP  
UPASS**  
MAY 31

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:



**Devon Earl**, of the Reid and Norman labs, who successfully defended her MSc thesis titled "*Impacts of sulfur dioxide emissions on lodgepole pine growth in Alberta, Canada*" on April 19th, 2021!



**Isbel Lopetegui-Gonzalez**, of the Shemanko lab, who won a Delta Kappa Gamma World Fellowship!



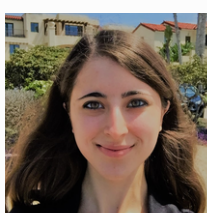
**Dan Zhang**, of the Hansen lab, who successfully defended his MSc thesis titled "*The Role of the RNA-Induced Silencing Complex (RISC) Component VIG-1 in Caenorhabditis elegans Germline Stem Cell Regulation*" on April 22, 2021!



**Emily Baumgartner**, of the Vamosi lab, who passed their candidacy exam on April 9, 2021!



**Affan Sidiq**, of the Buret lab, who won an ASIP 2021 Trainee Scholar Award!



**Elena Fekete**, of the Buret lab, who won an ASIP 2021 Trainee Scholar Award!

*If you or someone in your lab have something to celebrate, including successful defences and awards, please contact [biogsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:biogsa@ucalgary.ca) to have your accomplishment included in the next newsletter!*



**Colton Unger**, of the Rolian lab, for his first author publication in the journal eLife titled "*Selection for increased tibia length in mice alters skull shape through parallel changes in developmental mechanisms*"!



**Ji Huang**, of the Fraser lab, for his first author publication in the journal Acta Crystallographica titled "*Second distinct conformation of the phosphohistidine loop in succinyl-CoA synthetase*"!

## GRADUATE STUDENT AFFAIRS

### ***Ph.D. Candidacy Oral Examination - Candidacy Exams are Closed Exams.***

**Brenna Stanford** (Supervisor: Dr. S. Rogers) will be holding their PhD Candidacy Examination on May 13, 2021.

**Selina Robson** (Supervisor: Dr. J. Theodor) will be holding their PhD Candidacy Examination on May 28, 2021.

## BIOSCI IN THE NEWS

### ***Artists and scientists join forces to create dazzling window displays in downtown Calgary***

#### ***Photos provided by researchers and artists***

Dr. Maria Bautista Chavarriaga, PhD, Faculty of Science

Dr. Jessica Theodor, PhD, Faculty of Science

Dr. Mindi Summers, PhD, Faculty of Science

Dr. Robert Barclay, PhD, Faculty of Science

Host-Parasite Interactions Network

This February, the first ever Chinook Blast winter festival was held in downtown Calgary. The inaugural festival was designed to foster community spirit and pride, energize the core and bring Calgarians together in the midst of winter. A special feature of the festival was "The Art of Science Window Project", which brought together artists from the Alberta University of the Arts and scientists from the University of Calgary to "bring science to the streets". 18 artistic representations of scientific research were installed in multiple window panes of high rise buildings across the downtown core. Many researchers from the Department of Biological Sciences contributed to this beautiful and innovative project!

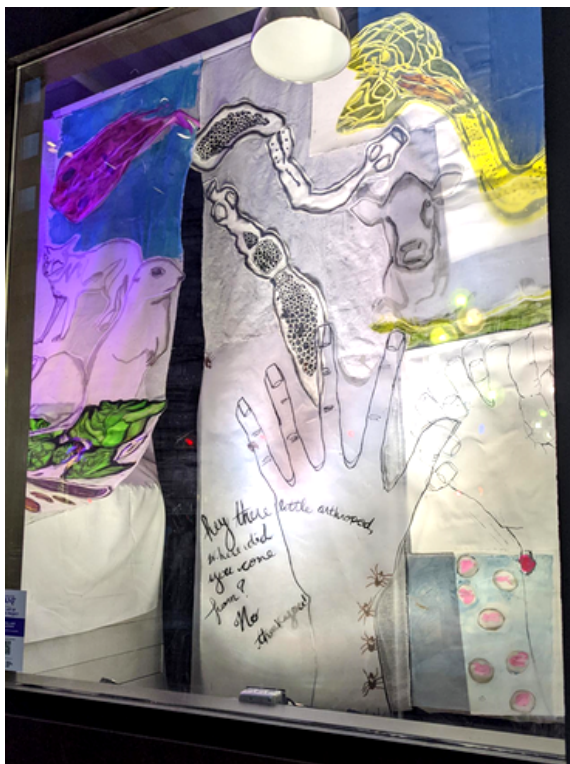
In their installation "Nothing Goes to Waste", Dr. Maria Bautista Chavarriaga and artist Natalie Melara portrayed the collaboration between scientists, doctors and wastewater experts to learn where there may be high concentrations of the COVID-19 virus across the City of Calgary.



Meanwhile, Dr. Jessica Theodor and artist Quinn Mazurkewich produced a piece on extinct mammals, body size evolution and camels. The art installation brought to life Camelops, an extinct genus of camel, in the habitat of grasses and mountains it once roamed, here in Alberta. The display “Parasites, Hosts, Interactions” brought to life by artist Jennifer Danvers portrayed the relationship of the Host-Parasite-Interactions Group with parasites, illustrating natural curiosity, zoonotic relationships and the importance of hand washing. Dr. Mindi Summers and artist Mike Hooves wanted to promote better understanding of bee diversity. The researchers and undergraduate students in Zoology 435 – Entomology have been documenting native bees that occupy the City of Calgary and their research will inform restoration and conservation efforts, with a goal of creating biodiverse neighborhoods and communities. Mike Hooves created an installation that accurately portrayed where three different genera of native bees can be found in the winter and the native flowers they pollinate in the summer. The “Bats, conservation and ecology” installation by Isabelle Porteous portrayed Dr. Robert Barclay and his teams’ research into 9 bat species in Alberta. This art installation encouraged viewers to consider that there is more to bats that meets the eye as they are extremely important members of Alberta’s wilderness and play roles in pest control in agriculture and forestry.

Dr. Constance Finney, lead for community outreach activities within the Host-Parasite Interactions Network, says, “Science outreach is extremely rewarding. You get to encourage others to learn new things or see things differently. And there are so many different aspects to it: for Chinook Blast, we interacted with an artist, but we also give presentations in schools, provide hands on activities at the Public Library/Science centre, make all our own outreach props/games, film mock documentaries, and the list goes on. If anyone is interested in science outreach and/or parasites, we are always looking for volunteers!”

Congratulations to all the researchers and trainees from the Department of Biological Sciences who participated in this science outreach initiative!



The Chem Grad Student Association presents:

# Science Communication Month

## -June 2021-

Join the CGSA for a month of SciComm awareness! We have invited several interesting speakers who will share their experiences and teach you to be an effective science communicator! Click on the links below for more information about speakers.

[SciLine](#): June 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 12-1 pm



[Jay Ingram](#): June 9<sup>th</sup> @ 12-1 pm



[Brian Malow](#): June 10<sup>th</sup> 1-2:30 pm

[Dr. Shupey Yuan](#): June 16<sup>th</sup> @ 12-1pm

[Dr. Korie Grayson](#): June 22<sup>nd</sup> @1-2:30 pm



[Farah Kaiser](#): June 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 12-1 pm



[Dr. Bryan Dewsbury](#): June 30<sup>th</sup> @ 12-1 pm

Door prizes will be drawn at the end of each talk!

All are welcome to attend any number of talks and workshops!  
Registration will be opening soon – look out for an email from the CGSA in the coming weeks



Door Prizes Funded by:





## Are you ready to start feeling better now?

If you struggle with depression, anxiety, or stress - you are not alone! Millions of Canadians face those same mental health challenges every day.<sup>1</sup>

### SilverCloud can help.

SilverCloud is a digital mental health platform that uses proven tools to help you think and feel better. Accessible any time on your computer, tablet, or phone, SilverCloud is 100% confidential so you can be honest and true to yourself.



Get Started: [silvercloud.morewaystobenefit.ca](https://silvercloud.morewaystobenefit.ca)  
Access Code: UCalgary GSA

