Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. Please send feedback to Kris Thomason: thomason@ohsu.edu.

**GRADUATES**

**Amanda Barkley-Levenson** successfully defended her PhD dissertation, “Behavioral and neurobiological correlates of genetic risk for binge-like alcohol drinking” on April 13, 2015. Amanda has accepted a postdoctoral position with Abraham Palmer at University of California San Diego.

**Emily Eastwood** successfully defended her PhD dissertation, “Opioid pathways in methamphetamine intake” on April 20, 2015. Emily will start a postdoctoral position at the Fred Hutchison Cancer Center in November 2015.

**Lauren Kruse** successfully defended her PhD dissertation, “A role for Mpdz in ethanol withdrawal but not binge-like ethanol drinking” on May 26, 2015. Lauren accepted a postdoctoral position in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington Seattle.

**Joshua Kaplan** successfully defended his PhD dissertation, “Cerebellar GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor contributions to alcohol intake and intoxication” on June 4, 2015. Josh accepted a postdoctoral position at the University of Washington Seattle.

**John Harkness** successfully defended his PhD dissertation, “Trace amine-associated receptor 1 regulation of methamphetamine intake and aversion” on Tuesday, September 1, 2015. John starts a postdoctoral fellowship with Barb Sorg at Washington State University in September. He will be studying the role of perineuronal nets on cellular plasticity and function following cocaine exposure.

**RECRUITMENT**

Many thanks to the members of the Admissions/Advisory Committee!

Four students matriculated in Summer/Fall 2014. They all completed rotations and decided on the following mentors: Brittany Alperin – Joel Nigg; Eileen Torres – Jacob Raber, Andre Walcott – Andrey Ryabinin, and Alfredo Zúñiga – Andrey Ryabinin.

Six students matriculated in Summer/Fall 2015. They are: Nadir Balba (MS, Psychology, SUNY at Buffalo, 2015); Erika Cuellar (MS, Biology, CSU Los Angeles, 2015); Samantha Friedrich (BS, Biology, UT Austin, 2012); Jordan Lueras (BA, Theology & Psychology, U of Portland, 2013); Carolynn Rafa Todd (BS, Biology & Psychology, U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2015); and Elina Thomas (MS, Physiology, North Carolina State U, 2013).
QUALIFYING EXAM

In our Summer 2014 newsletter we reported that graduate students Daicia Allen, Brett Dufour, Brian Mills, Nicholas Miner, Christie Pizzimenti, and Vanessa Jimenez were scheduled to take the qualifying exam in September. We are pleased to report that all six successfully completed the exam and were advanced to Ph.D. candidacy.

Our qualifying exam format changed this year. Instead of a single-date, written exam, students complete a written comprehensive exam at the end of their first year, submit a written research proposal, make an oral presentation, and complete an oral exam. As of this writing, Calla Goeke, Rebecca Hood, and Scott Jones have passed their qualifying exam and have advanced to Ph.D. candidacy. We anticipate that Bene Ramirez and Amy William will complete their exam within the next month.

CHANGES!

A common core curriculum was introduced in the 2014/15 academic year. The goals of the curriculum redesign are to ensure that all PhD graduate students receive broadly based training in the fundamental principles and practices of behavioral neuroscience research.

BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE STUDENT AWARDS 2014/15 ACADEMIC YEAR

American Psychology Association Dissertation Research Award (3): Gabriela Alarcón, Leah Hitchcock, and Melanie Pina
ARCS Foundation Scholar (1): Amy Williams
Ashworth Graduate Training Award (2): Megan McClintick and Monique Smith
Behavior, Biology, and Chemistry Travel Award (1): Christie Pizzimenti
Cold Springs Harbor Course Attendee – Cellular Biology of Addiction (1): Monique Smith
Individual NRSA (4): Gabriela Alarcón, Brett Dufour, Megan McClintick, and Monique Smith
International Association on the Study of Pain travel Award (1): Monique Smith
Japan Neuroscience Society Travel Award (1): Christie Pizzimenti
Keystone Scholarship (1): Leah Hitchcock
N.L. Tartar Trust Fellowship (4): Dominique Eghlidi, Megan McClintick, Melanie Pina, and Christie Pizzimenti
Neuroscience Scholars Program Associate, Society for Neuroscience (1): Gabriela Alarcón
NIDA/SfN Mini-Convention Travel and Poster Award (1): Leah Hitchcock

BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE STUDENT AWARDS 2014/15 ACADEMIC YEAR (CONTINUED)

OBI Neurobiology of Disease Fellowship (2): Melanie Pina and Monique Smith
OHSU Graduate Student Organization Travel Award (3): Gabriela Alarcón, Leah Hitchcock, and Monique Smith
OHSU Research Roadmap Scholarship (1) Christie Pizzimenti
OHSU Research Week awards (5): Gabriela Alarcón, Joshua Kaplan, Christie Pizzimenti, Bene Ramirez, and Daicia Allen
OMSI Genome Science Communication Fellowship (1): Morgan Wirthlin
Oregon Pain Awareness Investigation Network Excellence in Pain Research Award (1): Monique Smith
Oregon Society for Neuroscience, Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation (1): Dominique Eghlidi
PARC Outreach Graduate Student Travel Award (3): Christie Pizzimenti, Monique Smith, Morgan Wirthlin
Pavlovian Society Student Poster Award (1): Melanie Pina
Psi Chi Graduate Research Award (2): Megan McClintick and Melanie Pina
RSA Enoch Gordis Research Recognition Award Finalist (1): Melanie Pina
RSA John T. And Patricia A. O’Neill Addiction Science Education Award (1): John Harkness
RSA Student Merit Travel Award (6): Daicia Allen, Alexandre Colville, Vanessa Jimenez, Megan McClintick, Melanie Pina, and Monique Smith
Training Grant Appointments (16): Daicia Allen, Alexandre Colville, Leah Hitchcock, Rebecca Hood, Vanessa Jimenez, Scott Jones, Jordan Luera, Brian Mills, Nicholas Miner, Melanie Pina, Christie Pizzimenti, Bene Ramirez, Eileen Torres, Andre Walcott, Amy Williams, and Alfredo Zúñiga

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS


Wang P, Eshaq RS, Meshul CK, Moore C, Hood RL, Leidenheimer NJ. Neuronal gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) type A receptors undergo cognate ligand chaperoning in the endoplasmic reticulum by endogenous GABA. Front Cell Neurosci. 2015 May 18;9:188 PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4435044.

Joshua Kaplan (PhD 2015) was the graduate student speaker at the 2015 OHSU Commencement Ceremony on June 5, 2015. Josh is now working in Bill Catterall’s lab at the University of Washington.

Nathan Rustay (PhD 2004) and Janel Boyce-Rustay (PhD 2003) join daughters, Lorelei (7, green hair) and Delaney (4), at San Francisco Botanic Garden (Golden Gate State Park). The family is enjoying their move to California, especially so in the “winter”. The girls are fitting in well to the California scene, as evidenced by the changing hair color (last time it was very pink). Janel (at Genetech) and Nate (at Impax Laboratories) have both been able to stay somewhat neuroscience-focused and their OHSU training has proved invaluable.

Emily Eastwood (PhD 2015) graduated in April, then married Kevin Goodenough on August 8, 2015. At the event, some of our graduates got together for a reunion photo. Pictured are: Joshua Kaplan (PhD 2015), Megan Herting (PhD 2015), Anita Cservenka (PhD 2013), Travis Moschak (PhD 2014), Antony Abraham (PhD 2014), Lauren Kruse (PhD 2015), Marcia Ramaker (PhD 2014), Amanda Barkley-Levenson (PhD 2015), and Emily!

Brian Piper (Postdoc 2008-11) started a new position with the Neuroscience Program at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. He published a new paper – part science, part investigative journalism


Megan Tipps (Postdoc 2011-14) and Jon Raybuck (Postdoc 2009-14) are engaged and will be married in February 2016.
Joshua Morse’s (Administrative Manager, Psychiatry) dog, Ruby

Rebecca Hammond’s (PhD 2005) company, Sage Therapeutics, went public this year. They celebrated the IPO at the bell ringing ceremony at NASDAQ in Times Square. Rebecca also had another addition to the family. William Brennan Stark Kuzmickas was born November 4, 2014 and joins big sister, Freya.

Shelly Dickinson (PhD 1996) is starting her last year as chair of the Psych department at St. Olaf College (the honor is rotated). She is still loving her job and still trying to send students to OHSU for graduate school. Daughter, Jillian, will be in 5th grade. Lincoln is starting kindergarten. Begging for a dog has been a major activity, as they don’t think two cats, a dwarf hamster, a painted turtle, a hermit crab, and five fish are enough pets! Will mom & dad give in? Will the kids find out mom secretly has wanted a dog for many years and already has a name picked out? Stay tuned!

Former Fair lab member, Elizabeth Hawkey, is starting PhD graduate school at Washington University in St. Louis. She received a very prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation.

Assistant Professor, Miranda Lim, welcomed daughter, Kuzma, on September 14, 2014 (6 lbs 2oz, 19 in). She joins big brother, Leo (3).
**Trish Pruis** (PhD 2010) was promoted to Alliance Manager at OHSU’s Office of Technology Transfer & Business Development. She went to Argentina and Brazil last Fall with BEHN graduate student, **Monique Smith**. Trish and her boyfriend also hiked the entire Forest Park Wildwood Trail (30.25 miles) in one day in June 2015.

**Lance Johnson** (Postdoc, Raber lab) received a poster presentation award at the 2015 NeuroFutures Conference. Lance’s son, Walker (2), helped dad in the lab recently.

**Gwendolyn McGinnis** (Medical student, Raber lab) received an OHSU Faculty Senate award in July 2015. Wendy first joined the Raber lab as a Saturday Academy student about 8 years ago. She also received a Collin Medical Trust award ($30,000) from the OHSU Foundation.

**Scott Philibin** (Postdoc, Crabbe lab, 2006-09) became a Medical Science Liaison at Lundbeck in May 2015. Here he is in Colorado, somewhere between Durango and Ouray.

**Tunde Akinyeke** (Postdoc, Raber lab) received a 2015 NIDA Diversity Scholar Travel Award to participate in the Annual Society for Neuroscience meeting in Chicago, IL.
Abraham Palmer (Postdoc, Phillips lab, 1999-2002) was promoted to Professor in the Department of Human Genetics at University of Chicago (July 2015). Abe is moving to University of California San Diego in January 2016 where he will be Professor in the Department of Psychiatry. Recent BEHN graduate, Amanda Barkley-Levenson will be joining him at UCSD as a postdoc. His NIDA P50 center grant was funded from 2014-2019 (www.ratgenes.org). He hosted a meeting called “Rat genetics and genomics for psychiatric disorders and addiction” and is doing a study on impulsivity/delay discounting in collaboration with 23andMe. In July 2015, he went backpacking in the Three Sisters Wilderness with 6 year old daughter, Ariela.

Christina Gremel (PhD 2008), her husband Nicholas Oesch (OHSU NGP grad), and Hans (a lively 3 year old) welcomed kid #2 last August, a baby girl that they named Rhye. They have since moved the whole family cross country from DC to San Diego, after accepting positions at UC San Diego and are busy setting up their own laboratories in the Department of Psychology and the Neuroscience Graduate Program.

Allison Anacker (PhD 2012) started a new job as Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University in New York, NY. She also won the BEHN Graduate Student Paper of the Year award.

Skyla M. Herod (PhD 2009), associate professor at Azusa Pacific U in Los Angeles, CA, was recently named a Fulbright Scholar for the 2015-16 academic year. In January, she and her family will move to Budapest, Hungary for six months to teach at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) and to conduct research at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Skyla will be developing a neuroscience program of study in the graduate Cognitive Psychology department at ELTE, and will be analyzing the neuroendocrine profile in the hair of service animals. Working with one of the foremost experts in behavioral and physiological traits of service dogs, this research will provide novel Biobehavioral information to agencies worldwide that place service animals with those in need. Skyla and her husband, Benji, daughter Riley (9), and sons Finian (6) and Kaelan (3) invite you all to come visit them if you plan on attending the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society (IBNS) meeting in Budapest in June!
Great Dissertation Seminar Flyer? Or GreatEST Dissertation Seminar Flyer?

Subjectively Bad
Mechanisms Mediating Mouse Meth Malaise

A Dissertation Defense by John H Harkness
September 1, 2015
1:30 pm, Vollum M1441

Or was is it this one?

CHOICE

THESIS SEMINAR:
EXTINCTION OF ETHANOL-SEEKING BEHAVIOR
Peter Groblewski, Behavioral Neuroscience
Wednesday 6.1.11, 1:30 pm, Vollum M1441
OHSU Students Engage The Community: Teaching, Collaborating, and Learning through nwnoggin.org…

Behavioral Neuroscience students happily left the hill to bring their skills and talents, and extensive knowledge of the brain and behavior to undergraduates, K-12 students, and members of the public throughout the past year.

Christie Pizzimenti, Vanessa Jimenez, and Brian Mills developed and delivered their own month-long mini-courses for undergraduates at Portland State University and Washington State University by enrolling in BEHN 650, a teaching practicum class. They acquired useful college course planning and teaching experience, while their undergraduates benefited tremendously by working directly with graduates pursuing cutting edge, federally funded research on learning and memory, imaging, alcohol, and stress.
Still more graduate students, including John Harkness and Alfredo Zúñiga, joined additional students from WSUV, PSU, and the Pacific Northwest College of Art for outreach work at many local schools and venues, including Jefferson High School, McCoy Academy, Skyview High School, OHSU, the Portland Art Museum, and Portland’s downtown Newmark Theater.

In addition, Monique Smith, Emily Eastwood, Sam Carpenter (from Damien Fair’s lab), Christie Pizzimenti, and Amanda Barkley-Levenson entertained and informed large crowds with art-infused collaborative presentations they developed along with art students from PNCA at Velo Cult, a popular bike shop/event space/pub in Northeast Portland! The public learned about exciting work underway at OHSU Behavioral Neuroscience on everything from pain relief and memory, to imaging techniques and the abuse of methamphetamine...
And this summer our graduates collaborated with fellow students from multiple area institutions to design and deliver three week arts-integrated programs for academic priority K-12 students in Portland and Vancouver! Christie Pizzimenti, Vanessa Jimenez, Brian Mills and Sam Carpenter helped mentor undergraduates and teach young people in our community about their brains. Several of their accomplished undergraduate collaborators, including Michael Miller, Lindsay Miller, Allie Clark, Alex Voigt, Elizabeth Olson and Rosalie Lee, are now also working in labs at OHSU...

Come join us! There are exciting opportunities this year for public education and outreach. Improve your teaching and community engagement skills, and have great fun doing it, too. Learn more at: http://nwnoggin.org/get-involved/oregon-health-science-university/
It was with great sadness that we learned Alexandre “Alex” Colville died on August 5, 2015. Alex was a doctoral candidate in Robert Hitzemann’s lab. He was 28 years old. He is survived by his mother, Brenda McCabe; father, Warren T. Colville; brothers Dan, Warren, and James; and sisters Caryn, Waverly, and Porscha.

Faculty members, students, staff, and friends joined to celebrate Alex’s life at a gathering on August 27th. Alex’s mother, Brenda, was in attendance and we all had the distinct pleasure of meeting her and listening to her beautiful words about her brilliant, creative, and incredible son.

To further memorialize Alex’s contributions to biomedical research, Behavioral Neuroscience will host a seminar highlighting Alex’s research later this year. His dissertation project explored the effect of ethanol preference selection on gene and neuronal network structure.

Alex joined Behavioral Neuroscience in 2010 and was getting ready to graduate later this year. He had five publications and was working on more which will be published by the Hitzemann lab later this year. He received several travel awards from the Research Society on Alcoholism and the National Institute of General Medicine Sciences. Alex loved computers, Phish, and butterflies. He was looking forward to a post-graduation position in data analytics.

Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Dominique Eghlidi and Alex’s family.