



# CMMB NEWS

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR...



Greetings to all of you! This has been a busy summer for the CMMB Department. Over 200 CAM and Micro majors graduated with a B.S. degree from CMMB in the 2016-2017 academic year, along with 23 M.S. and 10 Ph.D. students. CMMB held its annual Departmental Retreat at St. Pete Beach at the beginning of the summer with most of our faculty and graduate students attending. We had our Spring Awards Ceremony with numerous awards going to graduating seniors. Sylvia Emly received an outstanding research award from the Office of Undergraduate Research. In addition, Natalie Soyster, a CMMB student who graduated with a B.S. degree, was awarded the USF Outstanding Undergraduate Award at the Spring Commencement. Phil Furman, a USF Microbiology Alumnus, was awarded an honorary Doctorate at Spring Commencement for his lifetime work developing antiviral compounds used to fight AIDS and Hepatitis C. We have had a number of graduate students win awards at local and state events (Andy Weiss, Renee Fleeman, and Haider Manzer). Over the summer, some notable Ph.D. students received their degrees that you can read about in this newsletter. The biggest news is that CMMB has hired a new Chairperson, Dr. Charles Chalfant, who will begin on September 25<sup>th</sup>. He is currently Associate Chair of the Department of Biochemistry at Virginia Commonwealth University. This will be my last newsletter as CMMB Chair, but I will remain on the CMMB faculty for many years to come and will continue my teaching and research programs. Thank you all for your hard work making CMMB such a great place to work and to be a student!

*- Dr. James R. Garey*

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# WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER



**Brandon Lemanski, CRA-USF**  
*Unit Research Administrator*

Brandon comes to CMMB with a diverse background in Finance and Information Technology. Additionally, he has served in the United States Air Force, and has spent several years as a high school teacher and football coach. Brandon received his undergraduate degree from USF, and is looking forward to helping our faculty with their research needs. We're excited to have him on our team!

# ANNUAL RESEARCH RETREAT

Our 4th Annual Departmental Research Retreat was held at the Postcard Inn on St. Pete Beach. We'd like to thank everyone for their time and participation. The event was a huge success!





## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



CMMB undergraduate, Vickie Frazier, was awarded a \$6,000 Fellowship from the Cave Conservancy Foundation for her research on limestone dissolution in the Double Keyhole Cave System. It will fund an 18-month project, in the lab of Dr. Jim Garey, that will determine the role microbes play in the enlargement of underwater cave conduits. Limestone dissolution leads to sinkhole formation and changes in well water quality.

The USF Office of Undergraduate Research has recently recognized and awarded Sylvia Emly with an Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award for her research on investigations into histone dynamics during the DNA damage response. Sylvia is part of Dr. Younghoon Kee's laboratory in CMMB.



# Outstanding CMMB Alumni

Dr. Phil Furman, USF Alumnus (Microbiology, 1971) was awarded an honorary doctorate at the Spring 2017 Commencement for his lifetime work in developing antiviral medications used to treat AIDS, Hepatitis B & C, and Herpes infections.



Dr. Matthew Grisham was CMMB's Outstanding Alumnus Award Recipient for Spring 2017. He is currently a Professor and Chair of the Department of Immunology and Molecular Microbiology as well as the Vernon and Elizabeth Haggerton Chair in Gastroenterology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Grisham's research has focused on defining the molecular, cellular and immunological mechanisms responsible for the chronic inflammatory tissue injury observed in animal models of the



# New Faculty Grants

**My-Lien Dao, Ph.D.**

Hepco Medical, LLC.

*“Testing and Certification of Hepco’s Footwear Sanitizing Device”*

**Younghoon Kee, Ph.D.**

National Institutes of Health, R01 Grant

*“Role of UBR5 in the PRC1—mediated transcriptional repression at damaged chromatin ”*

**Richard Pollenz, Ph.D.**

Hughes (Howard) Medical Institute

*“An Integrated Evidence-Based Introductory Level Biology Curriculum to Inspire the Success & Persistence of Future STEM Scientists”*

**Stanley Stevens, Ph.D.**

National Institutes of Health, R21 Grant

*“Role of Methylation in Ethanol-induced microglial activation”*





# CMMB UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS CEREMONY SPRING 2017 RECIPIENTS



Pictured Above: Natalie Soyster

**Natalie Soyster**

*Outstanding CMMB Student Award*

**Abdulah Barakat, Shane Clark**

**Alexandra Durand, Barbara Durden**

**James Thomas Hubbell, Dristin Hughes**

*CMMB Student of Excellence Award*

**Victoria Hendricks**

*Cell & Molecular Biology*

*Student of Excellence Award*

**Alejandro Bolivar**

*Microbiology*

*Student of Excellence Award*

**Jessica Diaz & Christopher (Sage) Norrie**

*Leadership Award*

**Mark Noble**

*Outstanding Undergraduate*

*Research Award*

**John Major**

*Special Award: First Time in College*

**Dawn Moody**

*Outstanding NTMS Student Award*

**Min-Hsuan Wang**

*Outstanding Former INTO Student  
Award*



Pictured Above: Mark Noble

**Nalvi Duro & Anusha Poosapati**

*Outstanding Graduate TA Award*

# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDING DEPARTMENT CHAIR



The CMMB Faculty & Staff would like to recognize Dr. James Garey for his outstanding leadership and service over the past 11 years as Department Chair. We truly appreciate his guidance and dedication. Dr. Garey was integral in our growth, and has set a great foundation for success in the future.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPRING GRADUATES!

**Jessica Brunquell & Andy Weiss**

*Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology*

**Rahmy Tawfik**

*M.S. in Microbiology*

**Malvi Golwala, Han Jiang, Yuanqing Jiang,  
Yadang Li, Dawn Moody, Sirin Saranyutanon,  
Min-Hsuan Wang, Xiaolin Zhang**

*M.S. (Non-Thesis) in Biology,  
Concentration in Cell and Molecular Biology*

**Sameeksha Alva, Anthony Carr, Jingyi Xu**

*M.S. (Non-Thesis) in Microbiology*

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