A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR...

I hope all of you had a good and productive summer. Congratulations to those of you who graduated this summer. We had 24 CMMB undergraduates, 3 Master’s and 7 Doctoral students at Commencement this past August. As the Department matures, more of our faculty are funded and we are able to mentor more graduate and undergraduate students in our labs. A number of faculty received new grants over the summer, including Drs. Kee, Lim, Nunes, Schmidt, Shaw, Stevens and Wunderlin. Also, Dr. Nanjundan received the USF Outstanding Research Award, while Dr. Shaw was awarded the USF Excellence in Innovation Award. CMMB welcomes Dr. Prahathees Eswara, a new assistant professor of Microbiology, Dr. Nikita Chavarria, a new microbiology instructor and Mrs. Colbi Gemmell, our new lower division teaching laboratory manager. Expect to see some improvements in our Microbiology course offerings and in our lower division labs this year. There is a lot of change and a lot of success in the air in the CMMB Department. Please join us for the CMMB football tailgate event and the Fall CMMB undergraduate awards ceremony. I wish you all well this academic year!

Dr. James R. Garey
WELCOME TO OUR NEW FACULTY AND STAFF HIRES

Nikita Chavarria, Ph.D.
Microbiology Instructor

Nikita Chavarria comes to us from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, where she completed her post-doctoral studies in the Cell Biology and Metabolism Program. Dr. Chavarria has a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Cell Science from the University of Florida.

Prahathees Eswara, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Bacterial Pathogenesis Group

Prahathees Eswara studies bacterial cell division using high resolution fluorescence microscopy in combination with other techniques. Dr. Eswara was a post-doctoral fellow at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and has a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Houston.

Colbi Gemmell, M.S.
Teaching Laboratory Manager

Colbi Gemmell comes to us with several years of experience as an Education Specialist and Training Program Coordinator at the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve in Port Aransas, Texas. Mrs. Gemmell has a M.S. in Marine Science from the University of Texas at Austin.
NEW FACULTY GRANTS

Younghoon Kee, Ph.D.
*National Institutes of Health, R15*
“Function and Regulation of the Fanconi Anemia Pathway in DNA Repair”

Daniel Lim, Ph.D.
*Intellisense Design, Inc.*
“Testing and Validation of Intellisense Design PMACS Unit”

Cecilia Nunes, Ph.D.
*Florida Strawberry Research Education Foundation*
“Quality & Postharvest Performance of New Strawberry Breeding Selections”

Kristina Schmidt, Ph.D.
*National Institutes of Health, R01*
“Role of the Bloom Syndrome DNA Helicase BLM in Chromosome Maintenance Mechanisms”

Lindsey Shaw, Ph.D.
*National Institutes of Health, R21 subcontract with the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies*
“Novel Cyclic Lipopeptides for Treating Gram Negative Bacterial Infections”

Stanley Stevens, Jr., Ph.D.
*National Institutes of Health, R03 subcontract with the University of Florida*
“Novel Proteomic Approaches for the Study of Alcohol Neuropathology”

Richard Wunderlin, Ph.D.
*Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation*
“Non-Native Species in the Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants Website Database”

Faculty Awards

Meera Nanjundan, Ph.D.
*USF Faculty Outstanding Research Achievement Award*

Lindsey Shaw, Ph.D.
*USF Excellence in Innovation Award*
WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING GRADUATE STUDENTS

Doctoral Students
Jessie Adams
Kirsten Antonen
Carly Harro

Thesis Master’s Students
Tiffany Agius
Robert Brzozowski
Jacob Class
Brandi Cook
Eui Ho Lee
Anthony Sanchez
Arielle Sharp
Catherine Spanoudis
Rahmy Tawfik

Non-Thesis Master’s Students
Jianming Wang
Pei Wang
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SUMMER 2015 GRADUATE STUDENTS

Whittney Burda, Neil Copes, Vedad Delic, Punashi Dutta, Clare Edwards, Jessica Kennedy and Christina Krute  
*Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology*

Valentina Caceres  
*M.S. in Biology, concentration in Cell and Molecular Biology*

Aqeela Erwin, Hien Nguyen and Tzu-Hsuan Yen  
*M.S. (Non-Thesis) in Biology, concentration in Cell and Molecular Biology*

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

Help Support CMMB

Help keep CMMB a high quality program through your generosity. We appreciate the support of generous benefactors to ensure that education and research at CMMB continue their strength now and into the future. Make an [online contribution](#) today.

Thank you to our donors!

Anonymous (2)  
Dr. Brant Burkhardt  
Dr. My Lien Dao  
Dr. James Garey  
Mr. Gustavo Galdo  
Dr. Beth Jones-Mason  
Dr. Cecilia Nunes  
Dr. Diane Te Strake  
Dr. Sameer Varma  
Dr. Sandy Westerheide
CMMB Alumni Update

Diana Contreras
B.S. in Microbiology (2012)
Current Doctoral Student at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Q: When you were an undergraduate, what profession did you want to pursue?
A: Before I started college at USF, I thought I wanted to become a physician. I’ve always had a passion for science and thought that was a logical career choice. However, once I started at USF and I saw how prevalent undergraduate research was on campus I wanted to get involved. Participating in research allowed me the opportunity to see other possible careers that I had not previously considered.

Q: Tell us about your undergraduate research experience and how it led to your current profession.
A: As a Microbiology student, bacteria has always been of interest to me. I found Dr. Harwood’s research to be very interesting and unique in that it focused in environment reservoirs for bacteria. During my time in her lab, I was able to complete a project for my honors college thesis. My research examined the effects of the agrochemical, atrazine, on fecal indicator bacteria and pathogenic bacteria. Working on this project helped me to realize that not only did I want to continue doing research, but that it would be the career choice that suits me most perfectly. I attribute my new career focus to having had a wonderful experience doing research in Dr. Harwood’s lab.
Q: What do you love about your current job?
A: I’m currently a PhD graduate student so I get to continue pursuing an education in science and research. My project is an intersection between my first passion, Microbiology, and my current passion, Immunology. I’m researching the immune response to *Helicobacter pylori* infection. Over 50% of the world’s population is infected with *H. pylori*, which causes persistent inflammation of the stomach, however only 1-2% of patients develop gastric cancer. My research will, I am hoping, provide insight into factors that may contribute to the development of cancer.

Q: How did your CMMB undergraduate experience help prepare you for your career?
A: Pursuing my undergraduate degree in the CMMB program created the foundation for my PhD coursework. In the first year of classes for graduate school, it was expected that the groundwork of science education was already learned in which advanced knowledge would be built. I was able to build on the knowledge gained in the CMMB program not only in my graduate course work, but to also apply it directly to the research I’ve been doing.

Q: What words of advice would you offer current undergraduate students?
A: You will never know where other roads may lead you so be open to integrate your passions into new experiences. Apart from doing undergraduate research, I was a Green and Gold tour guide on campus. I used my platform to tell prospective students about the different possible research opportunities on campus. I was also able to inform students, like me, who didn’t realize the potential research holds. I’m still very grateful for being a part of that organization and I value it as a way that I was able to share my passion for science and research.
# Department Seminar Schedule

All seminars are held on Fridays in CHE 103 at 3:00pm.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Speaker Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 28, 2015</td>
<td>Cecilia Nunes</td>
<td>USF CMMB</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 4, 2015</td>
<td>Lindsey Shaw</td>
<td>USF CMMB</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 11, 2015</td>
<td>Jiandong Chen</td>
<td>Moffitt Cancer Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 25, 2015</td>
<td>Clayton Caswell</td>
<td>Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University</td>
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<td>October 2, 2015</td>
<td>Trillitye Paullin</td>
<td>USF CMMB</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 9, 2015</td>
<td>Mark Athanason</td>
<td>USF CMMB</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 16, 2015</td>
<td>Woojin An</td>
<td>University of Southern California</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 23, 2015</td>
<td>Kyle Rohde</td>
<td>University of Central Florida College of Medicine</td>
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<td>October 30, 2015</td>
<td>Seth Walk</td>
<td>Montana State University</td>
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<td>November 6, 2015</td>
<td>Alya Limayem</td>
<td>USF CMMB</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 13, 2015</td>
<td>Edward Dudley</td>
<td>Pennsylvania State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 20, 2015</td>
<td>Jia Wang</td>
<td>Moffitt Cancer Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 4, 2015</td>
<td>Philippe Spiess</td>
<td>Moffitt Cancer Center</td>
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The Department of Cell Biology, Microbiology and Molecular Biology would like to thank to ResearchOne for supporting the CMMB department seminar series.