A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR...

I hope your Summer Semester is going well! The CMMB Spring Awards ceremony recognized a number of outstanding CMMB seniors, allowing them to wear a cord at graduation. CMMB is proud of our 102 students who received their BS degree, five who received their MS degree, and a special congratulations to Salahuddin Syed who completed his PhD degree. Research by Dr. Nunes and Dr. Shaw was featured on local news stories. We began a new tradition this year, awarding cash scholarships to three very deserving continuing students. There were several new grants awarded to CMMB faculty members so far this summer, most notably a $1 million dollar NIH R01 grant to Dr. Gary Daughdrill. CMMB had our annual departmental retreat at St. Pete Beach in the week after Spring graduation. Nearly all of our faculty and graduate students were in attendance with the focus on interdisciplinary research and building relationships among the students and faculty in our different research laboratories. The CMMB Club and the Department hosted the annual Spring Picnic at Riverfront Park on Fletcher Avenue in March. Many thanks to our CMMB Student Executive Council for being the primary organizers of this event. We had the largest turnout yet, attended by undergraduates, graduate students, staff and faculty with a lot of volleyball, Bocce Ball, canoeing, and food. Alligators were seen, but stayed their distance! I hope to see those of you graduating this summer at Commencement.

- Dr. James R. Garey
WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER

Jodie Nunez, M.S.
Graduate Program Specialist

Jodie was an outstanding student in CMMB’s Accelerated B.S. to M.S. program. She earned both a Bachelor’s degree as well as a Master’s degree in Microbiology in less than 5 years. Jodie comes to us with combined experience in research, teaching, and customer service. As a recent graduate, she has first-hand experience with our graduate programs, and will be a great asset to the team!

CMMB SPRING EVENTS

Spring Picnic
The CMMB Department and Student Executive Council hosted the 3rd Annual CMMB Picnic at the USF Riverfront Park.

Grad Student Appreciation Week
We also held a pizza party to recognize and thank our graduate students for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year.
Andy Weiss has been selected by a faculty committee to receive the 2016 Chih Foundation Research and Publication Award. This $2500 award is made possible through the generosity of the Chih Foundation, which seeks to support exceptional third- or fourth-year Science, Engineering or Medicine PhD; PharmD; or MD students who are conducting transformative research that positively impacts the research community and society. In addition, this research has resulted in a significant number of technical publications in his field.

Andy was honored, and awarded, by Dr. Chih at a reception held in the Grace Allen room at the USF Library. As part of the ceremony, Andy gave a 20 minute talk covering his current research.

Additionally, Andy was recently selected as a winner for Best Poster at the USF 8th Annual Graduate Research Symposium. He received a $500 travel award to present his work at a scientific meeting of his choice. Andy is a doctoral student studying in the laboratory of Dr. Lindsey Shaw.
ANNUAL CMMB RESEARCH RETREAT

Our 3rd Annual Departmental Research Retreat was held at the Post Card Inn on St. Pete Beach. We’d like to thank everyone who presented, and helped make this event a success!

NEW FACULTY AWARDS AND GRANTS

Gary Daughdrill, Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health (NIH) - R01 Grant
“Intrinsic Disorder Controls the Function of p53 and Other Cancer Related IDPs”

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<td>Dr. Meera Nanjundan</td>
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<td>Dr. Gary Daughdrill</td>
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CAS Equipment Award

Dr. Brant Burkhardt
CMMB Faculty in the News

Dr. Lindsey Shaw was recently interviewed by FOX 13 and Bay News 9 to discuss his research, which is receiving national acclaim. A compound extracted from a species of sea sponge located in the Antarctic region, has shown to be very effective at destroying the biofilm in MRSA infections.

In 2011, USF Chemistry professor, Bill Baker brought back a sponge called Dendrilla membranosa. Dr. Shaw and his team created an extract from the sponge. They tested it against the methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteria in two ways.

In the first test, they looked at the bacteria's response to the extract. Dr. Bill Baker says those results were disappointing. They later found it showed promise not against the MRSA bacteria, but instead against something called a biofilm.

Dr. Cecilia Nunes was recently interviewed by WTSP 10 News, and gave some inside scientific tips on searching for the freshest fruits and vegetables.

Tip #1: Temperature Matters
Tip #2: Buy Produce Labeled Florida Fresh
Tip #3: Look for Use by and Buy By Dates
Tip #4: Buy Smaller Amounts

Nunes says less than 10% of Americans meet the recommended daily guidelines for consumption of fruits and vegetables, and sadly up to 30% of the fresh produce purchased is thrown away by consumers. She says, in France, tossing out food is against the law. Fruits and vegetables there are repurposed- used in smoothies and soups, donated to charity or used in compost.
CMMB Undergraduate Awards Ceremony Spring 2016 Recipients

Stephanie Morris
*Outstanding CMMB Student Award*

Ashley Ubaldini
*CMMB Student of Excellence Award*

Amber Hodge & Kelsey Johnson
*Cell & Molecular Biology Student of Excellence Award*

Rachel Fanti
*Microbiology Student of Excellence Award*

Abigail Cunningham
*Special Award: Perseverance*

Amanda Fernandez
*Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award*

Jose Yegres
*CMMB Student Service Award*

Kathryn Harms
*Outstanding Accelerated B.S. to M.S. Award*

Jessica Brunquell & Renee Fleeman
*Outstanding Graduate TA Award*
Dr. David Karlen is the Chief Environmental Scientist at the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County in the Environmental Monitoring Section of EPC’s Water Management Division. His primary responsibility is to analyze water quality and benthic monitoring data. “What I love, about my job, is knowing that I work for an agency that has truly made a difference in the environmental recovery of Tampa Bay.”

Dr. Karlen credits his dissertation research, in Dr. James Garey’s lab, for expanding his skill set and knowledge base, particularly in molecular biology and in applying molecular techniques to marine ecology. His research also afforded him the opportunity to travel to Papua New Guinea to collect samples, which he says, “was the experience of a lifetime.”

When asked for any words of advice, Dr. Karlen urged undergrad students to, “take advantage of opportunities to do undergraduate research. Whether you plan to attend graduate school, or go straight into a career, having the hands-on experience is invaluable.”
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPRING GRADUATES!

Salahuddin Syed
Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology

Marvin Abountiolas
M.S. in Biology, concentration in Cell and Molecular Biology

Kathryn Harms, Christopher Malka, Jianming Wang and Pei Wang
M.S. (Non-Thesis) in Biology,
Concentration in Cell and Molecular Biology

Marianne Dean
M.S. (Non-Thesis) in Microbiology

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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.

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Keep in Touch!

We love to hear from you!
Please send career updates to:
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