Fall 2013 marked the formation of CMMB’s first Undergraduate Executive Council, composed of students Allison Distler, Elaina Graham, Harmony Folse, Nicholas Hernandez, Tiffany Miller, and Mira Salaimeh. This group of exceptional undergraduate students has worked hard in the past semester to organize outreach and community service activities, including the CMMB Holiday Food Drive, representing CMMB at the USF Bull Market in front of the Marshall Student Center on Wednesdays (pictured below), and volunteering with Metropolitan Ministries through their newly formed USF CMMB Club. In addition to all of their community and student outreach, they have also planned a departmental picnic for all to attend at Riverfront Park Pavilion on Saturday, March 22nd, 2014 from 11am-2pm and will be holding meetings the last Wednesday of every month beginning January 29th in BSF 102, so be on the lookout for more information! Be sure to like them on Facebook!

Top: CMMB Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Students in front of ISA.
A note from THE CHAIR...

I hope you all had a great winter break and are getting settled in to the Spring semester! CMMB students, faculty and staff continue to make strides in teaching, research and outreach excellence. We had a very successful CMMB Awards ceremony in December and over 200 CMMB students graduated in the Fall 2013 Commencement. Our own Dr. El-Rady received a USF Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award and Dr. Lim was elected a Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science this year. Dr. Shaw is the focus of the Faculty Spotlight in this newsletter. He gave the 2013 Super Bull Homecoming Lecture concerning the crisis of antibiotic resistance in disease causing bacteria. The CMMB Undergraduate Executive Council has taken a leadership role to involve CMMB majors with the Department and is organizing the first annual CMMB Picnic to take place on March 22nd at Riverfront Park. A group of CMMB students and I had the wonderful opportunity to have lunch with the family of Henrietta Lacks. Our faculty and students have been traveling to conferences in far off places. This semester we hired a new visiting instructor, Dr. Beth Jones-Mason, and we are sad to announce that Dr. Peter Vandenbergh is retiring at the end of the Spring semester. Dr. Vandenbergh brought industrial microbiology experience to CMMB and has mentored many Microbiology majors over the years. Lastly, I would like to mention that this semester will be the first organizational meeting of the developing CMMB Alumni Group.

I hope you have a successful semester and I hope to see many of you at our Spring CMMB Awards ceremony and at Spring Commencement!

When you graduate, or if you have already graduated, be sure to register with CMMB at http://biology.usf.edu/cmmb/about/alumni.aspx.

- Dr. James R. Garey

CMMB Faculty Member Elected 2013 AAAS Fellow

Dr. Daniel Lim, a distinguished CMMB faculty member, was recently named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Dr. Lim was one of six faculty members at USF to receive this honor, which recognizes AAAS members for their efforts to advance science or its applications. Dr. Lim will receive an official certificate and rosette pin at the 2014 AAAS Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL in February.
New CMMB Faculty Grants Awarded

Meera Nanjundan, Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health

Valerie Carson, M.S.
Science Undergraduate Research Grant (SURG)

CMMB Faculty Member Receives 2012/2013 Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award

Dr. Johnny El-Rady receives, for the second time, the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award for the 2012/2013 academic year. This award is a USF-wide honor, and Dr. El-Rady was recognized for his innovative teaching style and his ability to engage his students both in and out of the classroom.

CMMB Welcomes New Visiting Instructor

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Jones-Mason received her Ph.D. from Duke University and is a visiting instructor beginning Spring 2014 with CMMB. Dr. Jones-Mason is teaching Biology I, General Genetics, and Molecular Biology of the Cell this semester.

Scientist Spotlight

Cecilia Nunes, Ph.D.
CMMB Assistant Professor Cecilia Nunes and her collaborator are featured in The Tampa Tribune–Highlands Today edition where Dr. Nunes’ research on investigating reduced use of pesticides and fungicides on post-harvest Florida strawberry crops is discussed.

Brant Burkhardt, Ph.D.
CMMB Assistant Professor Brant Burkhardt along with Dr. Claudia Cooperman, CMMB Director of Health Sciences and Dr. Stanley Stevens Jr., CMMB Assistant Professor, and members of their labs published their research findings in the Journal of Endocrinology (JOE).

Younghoon Kee, Ph.D.
CMMB Assistant Professor Younghoon Kee and graduate students David Polito and Scott Cukras publish their research findings in the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

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!
Dr. Lindsey Shaw, CMMB Associate Professor and the CMMB Director of Graduate Studies, focuses research in his lab on Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and its highly successful molecular mechanism of disease causation. Additionally, Dr. Shaw’s research lab works, in collaboration with chemical research groups, to discover novel drugs and antimicrobial agents that target the ESKAPE pathogens, a group of bacterial species that causes more than two-thirds of all hospital-associated infections in the US, as estimated by the CDC.

Recently, Dr. Shaw participated in USF’s 2013 Homecoming Week festivities where he gave a talk entitled “Bad Bugs, No Drugs: The Problem of Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria” in the Marshall Student Center Oval Theater. His talk outlined the epidemic crisis of antibiotic-resistant bacteria across the globe and the very real possibility of a post-antibiotic era in healthcare. Most notably, the graduate students and Postdoctoral Scholar in Dr. Shaw’s research laboratory were featured during his talk (pictured right), as each were able to present their individual research projects to the audience.

Dr. Shaw also welcomed his newest graduate student in Spring 2014, Renee Fleeman (pictured left with Dr. Shaw), a Master’s student who works heavily in Dr. Shaw’s lab on the drug discovery aspect of developing new antimicrobial agents. Renee was recently awarded the CMMB Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award in Fall 2013 for the work she did as an undergraduate in Dr. Shaw’s lab and is beginning her graduate career as middle author on a journal publication and will be publishing her first author journal article in the near future.
FALL 2013 CMMB UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS CEREMONY RECIPIENTS

Guerdine Alcius, Iosif Barjuca, Caroline Northup
CMMB Student Excellence Award

Rachel Dupler, Dominika Zugaj
Health Sciences Student Excellence Award

Jose Ortiz
Microbiology Student Excellence Award

Renee Fleeman
CMMB Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Sandra Zivkovic
Special Award: First Generation

Elizabeth Kern
Health Sciences Outstanding Intern Award

Mariam Saifee
Outstanding CMMB student Award

Left: Friends and family gather to recognize all of the CMMB undergraduate award recipients for Fall 2013. Middle: Sandra Zivkovic receives the Special Award: First Generation for her achievements as an undergraduate. Right: Dr. Younghoon Kee along with Dr. Sandy Westerheide recognize Mariam Saifee, the Outstanding CMMB Student Award recipient.

WANT TO SUBMIT CONTENT TO THE NEWSLETTER?
Send news or ideas to: Shari Moak, CMMB Newsletter Editor, via email at slmoak@usf.edu. For CMMB Undergraduate Alumni, contact Shari for how to be featured in the Alumni Spotlight!
CMMB Graduate Students Attend Luncheon with the Family of Henrietta Lacks

3 of our own CMMB Graduate Students; Valentina Caceres, Alison Fertig, and Lillian Doerfler attended a USF-sponsored luncheon with Henrietta Lacks’ family. All three were able to participate in discussion of the book by Rebecca Skloot entitled “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” which outlines the life of Henrietta Lacks— a poor, black tobacco farmer whose cells (now referred to as HeLa cells) were utilized without her knowledge in 1951 and used to develop some of the most revolutionary advances in modern medicine. Two members of the Lacks family attended the luncheon and were able to contribute to the discussion with our CMMB graduate students along with USF’s College of Arts & Sciences Dean Eric Eisenberg in the Marshall Student Center Oval Theatre.

CMMB Happenings!

CMMB Faculty Member Retiring

Dr. Peter Vandenbergh, a CMMB Instructor, will be retiring at the end of the Spring 2014 semester. Dr. Vandenbergh has been with CMMB for almost 8 years and has taught a variety of courses including Biology 1, General Microbiology, Determinative Bacteriology, Virology, and Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology. Enjoy your retirement Dr. Vandenbergh!

CMMB Alumni Group Formation!

CMMB has started an Alumni Group! Sign up to be added to our mailing list and stay in the loop with what’s happening in CMMB! Keep an eye out for e-mail updates and information regarding our new Alumni Group, meetings, and events, including our first meeting for this March! The Alumni Group will contain former CMMB undergraduate and graduate student alumni.
Jacob Cohen, B.S. Microbiology 2012  
Former Undergraduate Research Assistant in Dr. Dao’s Lab  
Current Graduate Student at Harvard University—Organismal and Evolutionary Biology Department

Q: Tell us about your research experience and how it led to your current profession.
A: I was an undergraduate researcher in Dr. Dao's lab. I worked with her to identify collagenases in strains of oral streptococci. This helped me realize how much I love learning new things and doing research. It helped me make the decision to apply to Ph.D. programs and go to grad school.

Q: What do you love about your current job?
A: I love that I get to constantly learn new things. Beyond things that are new just to me, I get to discover new things that nobody else has known before. That, to me, is one of the best feelings in the world.

Q: When you were an undergraduate, what profession did you want to pursue?
A: During undergrad I wanted to become a dentist. That's actually why I started doing undergraduate research - to make my dental school application better. I found that I really loved the research, though, and during dental school interviews I decided that I would rather focus on that alone, so I decided to reapply for grad school the next year.

Q: What's the most influential experience you gained from CMMB?
A: I think my most influential experience was probably going to a few conferences to present the research that I did with Dr. Dao. I was even able to go to San Francisco to present a poster at the American Society for Microbiology general meeting. Being around so many scientists and seeing so much cool research was really eye opening and a lot of fun.

Q: How did your CMMB experience help prepare you for graduate school?
A: During my time working with Dr. Dao, she began to treat me more and more like I was already a grad student. She gave me a large degree of independence and allowed me to make my own decisions. I think that her trusting me to be responsible for my own work was a great preparation for grad school.

Q: What words of advice would you offer current undergrad students?
A: I would definitely advise anyone currently in undergrad to try and get involved in research while you can. You don't even have to continue on with it past undergrad, but I think it's an awesome experience that everyone should try to have. I would also tell current students not to be afraid to change their minds about what they want to do with their lives, even "late in the game." It's best to enjoy what you do, even if it means you have to turn away from something you've been set on for a long time.
# CMMB Spring Seminar Schedule

All seminars take place in CHE 103 at 3PM.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Speaker Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>Casey Miller</td>
<td>USF Department of Physics</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
<td>Wenlong Bai</td>
<td>USF College of Medicine</td>
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<td>January 24</td>
<td>Kyungjae Myung</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>Alya Limayem</td>
<td>CMMB</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>Huan-Xiang Zhou</td>
<td>Florida State University</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>Robert Buzzeo</td>
<td>CMMB</td>
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<td>February 21</td>
<td>Vedad Delic</td>
<td>CMMB Graduate Student</td>
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<td>February 28</td>
<td>Mya Breibert</td>
<td>USF College of Marine Sciences</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td>Minjung Kim</td>
<td>Moffitt Cancer Center</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>Andrew Wells</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>Yu Chen</td>
<td>USF College of Medicine</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>Clare Edwards</td>
<td>CMMB Graduate Student</td>
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<td>April 11</td>
<td>Tony Richardson</td>
<td>UNC– Chapel Hill</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
<td>Whitney Danse</td>
<td>CMMB Graduate Student</td>
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