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## Bio/Bio News

**September 2015**

### **RYLAND YOUNG, III, RECIPIENT OF DEAN'S OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Dr. Ryland F. Young, professor with the Department Biochemistry and Biophysics, and Director of the Center for Phage Technology, was selected to receive a 2015 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean's Outstanding Achievement Student Award for Faculty Mentoring.



The Dean's Outstanding Achievement Awards are the highest awards in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences presented to faculty, staff and students. The award was presented to Dr. Young during the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, Sept 16 at 3:00 pm in the AgriLife Center, located on the West Campus of Texas A&M University. A reception honoring the recipients was held following the presentation. The Dean's Outstanding Achievement Awards, established in 2012, recognize, reward and encourage excellence in the work of faculty, staff and students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Spanning 16 diverse categories, the awards are given to 16-18 recipients each year.

### **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY'S BIOCHEMISTRY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM RECEIVES ACCREDITATION**

The B.S. degree in Biochemistry offered by the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics recently became one of 38 such degrees in the United States to be accredited by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB).



The program was recognized for its outstanding faculty, its requirement for undergraduate research, and the variety and rigor of its courses.

"Accreditation will add value to the degree our students earn, and it will provide access to a nationally administered exam

that could become a valuable assessment tool for our program," commented Dr. David Peterson, Associate Department Head for Undergraduate Programs.

ASBMB awarded the degree program a full 7-year accreditation. "When I saw I had an email from the ASBMB, I was afraid that they had discovered our application was missing some essential part," Dr. Peterson said. "I was relieved and very happy to read that our application had been approved."

This accreditation will also allow students the opportunity to have their degrees certified by ASBMB if they attain a satisfactory score on a national ASBMB-administered exam.

### **FORMER BIOCHEMISTRY GRAD OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT**

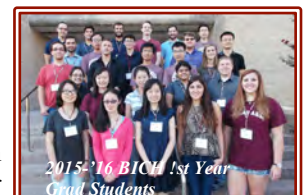


Dr. Thomas G. Bernhardt '01, Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School in the Department of Microbiology and Immunobiology, who received his Ph.D. while working in the laboratory of Dr. Ryland Young from 1996 – 2001, has been named the recipient of the 2015 College of Agriculture and Life Science's prestigious Outstanding Early Career Alumni Award.

Established in 2012, the Outstanding Early Career Alumni Award recognizes and honors graduates who are 15 years or less post-graduation of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for outstanding leadership and significant contributions in career, public service and/or volunteer activities.

### **STUDENTS ARRIVE FOR 2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR**

The Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics welcomes 25 new 1<sup>st</sup> Year Graduate students to the program. Students arrived in the department on August 24, and began their



orientation as new grad students. The students began their first lab rotation on September 7.

Dr. David Peterson, Associate Head for Undergraduate Programs with the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics and Ms. Trina Gregory, Academic Advisor for the Undergraduate Programs Office have announced that the Department of Biochemistry has enrolled 158 new Freshman Biochemistry and Genetics majors for the 2015-2016, bringing the total to 400+ Biochemistry and Genetics majors at Texas A&M University.

### DR BRYK NEW ASSOCIATE HEAD FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Dr. Mary Bryk, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Genetics, has assumed the position as Associate Department Head for the Biochemistry Graduate Programs Office.



Dr. W D. (Bill) Park has served as Associate Department Head for the Program for the past nine years. Our thanks to Dr. Park for his years of dedicated service to the BICH Graduate Programs Office.

Dr. Bryk joined the Texas A&M's Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics in 2002. She earned her PhD from Albany Medical College and completed postdoctoral studies at the New York State Department of Health and Harvard Medical School.

### 2015 DEPARTMENTAL FALL EXTRAVAGANZA PLANS ARE UNDERWAY

Each year for the month October, the Administrative Staff of the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics hosts a Fall Extravaganza within the department, to raise funds for the Departmental Flower Fund.

Thus far the fund-raisers have been very successful at accomplishing of acquiring funds for the flower fund. In past years activities such as Hula Hoop Contests, Door Decorating, Costume Contests, Hair Painting and Kiss the Pig in which "votes" for the winners of the contest have been contributions into the contestant's decorated coffee cans. The contestant(s) with the most "votes" (money) have been the "willing" participants in the contest. There is always a lot of enthusiasm and fun to be enjoyed by all during the fund raising events.

The funds collected throughout the month will be used for throughout the year to purchase flowers (and/or fruit baskets) for our faculty, staff and students who may experience a hospitalization, birth, adoption or loss of a family member.

The activities will begin on Thursday October 1, at 11:30AM, with a **Baked Potato Luncheon** in the foyer of the Bio/Bio building. **Every Tuesday** during the month of October the staff will host a **Pancake Breakfast** at 8:30AM in the foyer; Monday October 19 a **Bake Sale** will be held in the foyer – time TBA. On Monday October 26 the staff will be serving up their famous Departmental Specialty – **Taco Soup Luncheon**, beginning at 11:30AM in room 106A. Everyone

is invited to participate with the staff toward the success of our fund-raising this October. Sign up sheets will be provided for each activity in room 103 if you would like to help out.

Date/Time	Event	Location
Thurs. Oct 1 12 Noon	Baked Potato Luncheon	Bio/Bio Foyer
Tues. Oct 6 - 8 AM	Pancake Breakfast	Bio/Bio Foyer
Tues. Oct 13 - 8 AM	Pancake Breakfast	Bio/Bio Foyer
Mon. Oct 19 - TBA	Bake Sale	Bio/Bio Foyer
Tues. Oct 20 - 8 AM	Pancake Breakfast	Bio/Bio Foyer
Mon. Oct 26 11:30-1:00	Taco Soup Luncheon	Bio/Bio 106A

And the best part of all the activities will be the part that YOU play in the activities. Instead of door decorating, we will have pumpkin painting. This year we are bringing back the hair painting event. We would like for all labs to have 1 or more painted pumpkins that will be displayed outside your lab door. These will be judged and awarded a prize if your lab wins.

We also need faculty to volunteer to have their hair painted this year, as we collect money from everyone as "votes" for the professor they want to see have their hair painted. This year, a lab member, of the faculty who has the most "votes" will have the privilege of picking the color!

Thank you in advance for the many hands that will help us raise money again this year for our Departmental Flower Fund! We couldn't do it without YOU!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN BIO/BIO	
Faculty Meeting, N127, 3:30PM	Sept 28
COALS Tailgate	Oct. 17
Faculty Meeting, N127, 3:30PM	October 26
Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov. 26-27

