Features:

**SCIENCE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS**
One workshop alumni recounts her experience

**SACKLER ALUMNI PROFILES**
Alumni describe their journeys

**SO, YOU'VE FINISHED LISTENING TO S-TOWN, NOW WHAT?**
Podcast recommendations from a fellow classmate
How did you make your first career decision post-PhD?

Naoko: In graduate school I became passionate about working with viruses and naturally wanted to continue my career in the same field. I asked my advisor and other faculty for suggestions on where to go for my postdoc training. I must admit I was naïve about the options but applied to a bunch of labs doing cutting-edge science, mainly on the west coast. I visited a series of labs in northern and southern California in a single trip. To my surprise the labs doing retrovirus research no longer appealed as much to me and made me realize that I did not want to keep doing the same kind of work I had done as a PhD student. In contrast, I found visits to labs studying transcription factors the most exhilarating. In the end I chose a lab at UC Berkeley. Many people warned me against joining this lab because the young PI had already earned a reputation as an extraordinarily demanding scientist, a fact that scared away most prospective trainees but served as a self-selection process for him. I found the lab an intellectual powerhouse hungry for discovery. The lab atmosphere was a decisive factor for my choosing this as my home for the next several years. The fact that the lab was located in the bay area didn’t hurt either. Leaving NYC in February for a sunny campus with gorgeous flowers was a shock to my system, but I got used to my new life. At Berkeley I became both a serious biochemist and a foodie; passions that have remained with me ever since. During the intense experience of that lab I established lifelong friendships with many outstanding scientists, drawn like me by the thrill of science in the fast lane.

Susanne: When preparing my thesis defense, I was torn between following the usual trajectory of continuing as a post-doc or diverting to explore a career in scientific editing, understanding that switching to the latter would likely end my career as a researcher. Being an editor has some of the perks of being a scientist — remaining up-to-date with new discoveries, having stimulating conversations with other scientists, networking at meetings, to name a few — but it lacks the freedom of regulating your own hours, the creative aspect of experimental design, the teamwork that organically happens in a laboratory, and most importantly, those aha moments of discovery. Unsure what to do, I applied for a few editorial positions, thinking if nothing panned out, then I’d go the post-doc route. I received a job offer pretty quickly, took that as a sign that I was on the right path, and left the bench...
life. While I certainly don’t regret the decision, I sometimes wonder what my life would have been like if I were now a scientist with my own lab. Would I mentor in the same way my PI did? He was pretty demanding, greeting me with a “good afternoon” if I ever arrived after 8am (any day of the week). As a doctoral student, it was easy to focus on the failures and the long hours, but looking back, I’m reminded of what a unique and special time it was – I will never forget the lessons learned from my PhD, from both my mentor and from the other people in the lab.

- Naoko & Susanne

THE SACKLER ADMINISTRATION

**Lisabeth Greene, MA**
Assistant Director, Graduate Student Services

**Valerie Newsome, PhD**
Program Manager, Diversity and Inclusion

**Jessica Dong, MA**
Project Manager, PhD Program

**Heather Petrucci, MSc**
Project Manager, Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP)

**Amanda Tufekcier**
Project Coordinator, SURP

**Melissa Mangar**
Program Coordinator, Master's Program in Biomedical Informatics

You can find Dr. Naoko Tanese (top left) in the Skirball 3rd Floor Administration area.

The rest of the Sackler Administration can be found in the Old Public Health Building (OPH, 341 E 25th St, corner of 1st Avenue), on the 2nd floor.
Hey Sackler!

Congratulations on completing another year of graduate school! For some of you, this was the year you sampled a few labs before finding that perfect fit. For others, this was the year that you successfully defended your hard work and are moving on to great things. For everyone else in between, we hope it was another riveting chapter in an ever-expanding novel. To those of you who graduated: Congratulations! We will certainly miss you and cannot wait to see the amazing things you will invent, or the places you’ll go, or the problems you’ll solve. We eagerly anticipate watching you grow as you apply everything you learned here at Sackler.

For the last time, we will be addressing you as your Student Council. We have all had such an amazing time, and we’re tremendously grateful for the opportunity to lead this past year. We hope that you enjoyed attending our events as much as we enjoyed hosting them for you!

We started off in August by welcoming a new class of first years to Sackler and life in New York City. We held time-honored bonding events like the welcome BBQ and game night to give all graduate students an opportunity to get to know our new students and welcome them into our community. And of course, we took an extreme necessary (and only slightly stressful) trip to IKEA to stock up on all the essentials. In its inaugural year, the Big Sib/Lil Sib mentoring program was a huge success. Before even arriving in New York, incoming first years are now paired with an upper year with similar research interests to help facilitate the transition to the city and provide guidance for anything throughout their first year. Senior graduate students are a valuable resource for selecting which labs to rotate in and which classes to take, so we are incredibly excited to have an official program in place to provide this opportunity.

Throughout the year, we enjoyed seasonal events such as pumpkin carving in the fall, and social events like the Halloween and Holiday parties. Bimonthly happy hours hosted by various outstanding Sackler clubs gave students the opportunity to unwind and network with their classmates after a long week of work. The masquerade-themed Semi-Formal event at Proper West added an element of intrigue to our routines, featuring a well-lit photo booth with all the props for which one could ask. Now that the weather has turned nice, be on the lookout for our final events of the year before we turn the reins over to the next student council.

During interviews this year, we welcomed six groups of prospective students and highlighted what we love about Sackler. We gave them a taste, culminating in a delicious dinner at Banc, of what it would be like to be a part of our incredible community. With the addition of two new Sackler programs, we are excited to welcome 59 new students this August!

Once again, thank you for your support as Student Council this year. It has been incredibly memorable for us, and we were excited to spend time continuing to strengthen the community that has made all of us feel at home here at Sackler.

Respectfully,
Emily

Emily Radke, SSC

David Ichikawa
Caroline Amendola
Sophie Dyzenhaus
Alex Calderón
Gregory Brittingham
Emily Kawaler
SEEN AROUND TOWN

Highlights from this year's Sackler Masquerade Semi-Formal
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2017
Recognizing the importance of communication, several students from this year’s class have agreed to share excerpts from their narratives describing a moment in which they realized they wanted to be scientists:

“...During a seminar where the speaker presented a study focused on the genetics of twin babies and their susceptibility to cerebral malaria. Only one of the pair was diagnosed with cerebral malaria. They were interested in studying several genetic loci to explain the differential susceptibility. Someone in the audience asked if they would investigate the immune profiles of the twins. The speaker answered that they were not studying the immune profiles. And I thought, well why not? Then, I felt a lot of eyes on me, and I looked up to see the speaker staring directly at me, smiling wryly. "Because we don’t have the technology to properly address that question", he answered. Apparently, my thoughts had escaped the deep, warm comforts of my mind, traveled swiftly out of my mouth, and busted out as a firm audible question..."

-Mohammed Aiyebo
"...Trieste is known also for its scientific institutions and as the European city with the highest percentage of researchers. It hosts several international research centers, in biology, physics and math. Many centers have nice parks where my parents would bring me as a child for walks. While passing in front of these large buildings, my parents would tell me about what was happening inside. The one that fascinated me the most was the International Center for Theoretical Physics, where brainy people were uncovering the mysteries of the universe just by thinking. I was looking at scientists as the new wizards, looking at the most profound questions and building new inventions. I wanted to be like them..."

-Enrico Fonda

"I knew I wanted to be an astronomer when I attended my first night sky observation session. It was like falling in love with the cosmos at first sight. The stars seemed to have dictated my destiny and brought me to this exhilarating and momentous session. No, no, I should try keeping my imagination to a minimum here. I actually felt astronomical observations were an utter waste of time! The observation session was a part of a competition where we needed to learn by rote the names of over a hundred stars. Our guide wasn't at all interested in explaining why we bother to study the stars. Or interesting questions like – What are they made up of? How are they formed?..."

-Jay Wadkar

"I will never forget that special Christmas day when I was about nine years old and I got my first “Cheminova”. This fabulous science game allowed you to do with your own hands every experiment you read in books. Cheminova came with a small spoon, a funnel, long glass-tubes (test tubes as I later learn) and, for my happiness, countless powders. It was magic, I just had to mix a bit of this powder with water and it would turn green, add a pinch of white dust and it would turn red. Brilliant! I could do this forever, I thought.

I was just a little older when I discovered “Muy Interesante”. It was the best popular science magazine in Spain during the eighties and, probably, it remains so. I anxiously waited for the next issue to appear to avidly read it before waiting for another month. While I read all the fascinating stories, I remember how much I wished I was the one conducting the science, how much I wanted that a scientific reported would write about my work...

...Returning to my childhood dreams, my latest research was never mentioned in “Muy Interesante”, but NYU offered a press release and my article was featured in over fifty news stories in the US. I hope this is only the beginning and that one day my work will appear in the pages of my favorite science magazine.”

-Beatriz Aranda-Orgilés

The NYU Science Communication Workshops are currently open only to NYU Ph.D., M.D., or post-doctoral students in the following eligible subjects: Biology, Biomedical Engineering, Biomedical Science, Chemistry, Computer Sciences, Dentistry, Mathematics, Medicine, Neural Science, Nursing, Physical Anthropology, Physics and Psychology. Eligible NYU students who wish to sign up should keep an eye out for the enrollment notice that goes out via email to administrators and directors of graduate study in the relevant departments and schools during the first week of the fall and spring semesters.

Kaitlyn Scacalossi is a 4th year PhD candidate in Kathryn Moore's lab studying how noncoding RNAs control inflammation. When not in lab or at the gym, you can find her dancing Argentine tango and taking pictures of salad.
By Kristen D’Elia

When just starting the graduate school journey, the end is nowhere in sight. As I finish up my second year and prepare for qualifying exams, that sentiment remains. Even still, the thought of life post-graduation is often on our minds. What will our career prospects be like? Will we move on to a post-doc position or make the leap out of academia? Will we be prepared for the next step? It is becoming increasingly evident that students should start thinking of these questions as soon as possible during graduate school. We have ample resources at our fingertips to investigate the answers - one of them being alumni. This May, a number of new names were added to our list of resources as the class of 2017 took the stage to receive their doctorates.

One of those new alumni is my former roommate, Dr. Anjel Schulfer, who successfully defended her thesis this past March and transitioned directly into a job in medical communications. Anjel was also a writer for the Messenger throughout her time at Sackler. I asked her some questions to tap her wisdom in hopes of finding some guidance for the rest of us still on this journey.

K: Congratulations on defending your thesis! Could you tell us a bit about the research you did?

A: Thanks, I can’t believe it finally happened! I worked in the lab of Dr. Martin Blaser studying the impact of antibiotics on the normal bacterial communities in the gastrointestinal tract, known as the gut microbiota. One of my projects tested the ability of a gut microbiota that had been shaped by antibiotic exposure to contribute to disease development in a mouse model of IBD. We found that in this model, mice that had the antibiotic-shaped gut microbiota developed disease at an accelerated rate compared to mice with a normal gut microbiota.

K: Those are exciting results I hope to read more about when they are published! Maybe it’s a bit soon to get nostalgic just yet, but, reflecting on your time at Sackler, what will you miss?

A: I will miss so many things! I think what I will miss most is the constant access to learning about cutting-edge science from the top experts in the field. It is easy to forget when you are deep into your PhD what a rare and wonderful bubble that is! Being surrounded by like-minded peers and having the freedom and opportunity to learn all the time – both about science and different career paths – are lovely parts of being a grad student that I already miss.

K: That’s definitely something we are not always cognizant of as students burrowed in our research. Congratulations are also in order for your new job! Could you tell us about the position?

A: I am working in the medical communication field, which is huge and can mean a million different things. The company I work for specifically focuses on developing training strategies and materials for pharmaceutical and medical device companies. Practically that means I get to learn about a lot of new pharmaceutical products and figure out the best way to present the science behind them so that sales representatives can effectively discuss the products with health care providers. It is a great mix of science, creativity, and communication!

K: Sounds like an interesting career! How did you find out about this career path? Also, what or who helped you gain experience and knowledge about how to become employable?

A: I first learned about the medical communication field at a career panel held at the medical center two or three years ago. What really struck me about that first panel was that everyone seemed legitimately happy and satisfied with their career – something I had never seen in any other scientific career panel. I networked with those panel members, and continued to network with other people in the field at every opportunity I came across. In the end, that networking is what helped me get the job I have now.

K: It sounds like networking is key, but what other ways did you actively prepare for your new career? Do you think experience as a Messenger writer helped prepare you for your career transition?

A: I think my various communication experiences and every opportunity I took advantage of away from the bench helped me...
prepare for the transition. Being in lab is such a unique working experience that I think any non-academic job would be a big adjustment. So any experience, no matter how big or small, to get exposure to other styles of work is very helpful.

K: How has adjusting to work away from the bench been so far?

A: It hasn’t been very long, but so far it has been a huge adjustment! I think the hardest part has been going from a relatively independent and flexible position with a large amount of control over the work to “normal” office life. It is a struggle!

I want to personally thank Anjel for taking the time to give advice to us current students. I was an extremely lucky first year student to be placed with such a successful and wise roommate! You will be missed at Sackler & the Messenger. We wish you the best of luck in your career!

Kristen D’Elia is a 2nd year PhD student in the labs of Jeremy Dasen and David Schoppik studying neural circuit properties of vertebrate locomotion. Outside of the lab, she loves photo documenting her adventures around and outside NYC and is on an infinite quest to find the next best dessert.

SACKLER ALUMNI PROFILES

Artur Belov and Latasha Wright share their Sackler experiences

By Julia Derk and Cynthia Chen

Artur A. Belov, PhD
Operations Research Analyst
Presidential Management Fellow
Department of Treasury – IRS – RAAS
PhD advisor: Moosaa Mohammadi

Fun fact - I got married 1.5 weeks before my thesis defense and handed in my final thesis draft the day before the wedding (don’t do that unless you really love someone).

K: Any other advice for students who hope to be where you are now? (A doctor & employed!)

A: Every PhD student’s least favorite advice: network! Explore career options as early and as often as you can – it takes time to figure out what you really want to do in science. If you know, or suspect, you will not pursue an academic career, then try to gain experience away from the bench. Anything to show you have been proactively diversifying your skills will really go a long way to landing you an interview and convincing interviewers you are ready for that job!

Can you describe your experience at Sackler?

There is no short way to answer this. The core classes (Foundations I/II and training program-specific classes) provided a great “foundation”, however, I would highly recommend students explore information and training opportunities outside of the NYU classroom, especially online programming/bioinformatics resources, as well as courses available through the NYU consortium of colleges. I took courses at the NYU Washington Square campus and Columbia University, which not only expanded my knowledge, but my network as well. Aside from the educational component, the student body was very diverse (second-to-none compared to my friends’ PhD cohorts at other colleges I’ve visited), which truly reflected the diversity of NYC. The faculty was supportive, but a bit more support in the “post-PhD” job-hunting process would be nice, especially if your PI is not going to help you. For example, your PI may not know anyone in your desired industry or may be unwilling to write a letter of recommendation. A greater emphasis on connecting with alumni already in your sought-after career path would be very helpful, and is probably the least emphasized resource for students.

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you pass on to yourself: when you were just entering the program, during dark lab days and when you were getting close to finishing?

Critical to my development as a scientist were the “works-in-progress” presentations by students. Attend every one, and try to learn a language/method that you don’t understand. It will all come around to help you in the end, especially when reading seminal papers having to do with your field (especially when reading/referencing these papers for your papers and thesis)! As far as chronological
advice, in the beginning, talk to all of your classmates. The biggest asset to your training is sometimes not even your PI, but your willingness to learn from others. Your PI is just one person, but your PhD classmates are many! Ask them questions, share your concerns...constructively, of course!

What about during the dark days?

During the dark days, remember why you joined the program: to be trained! Students need not get down on themselves when they think they are “under-performing.” On the contrary, the dark days in lab are what you signed up for; to learn from mistakes and design a more thorough/comprehensive attempt at answering a complicated question next time around. If your PI/others forget this point, stand up for yourself and ask for help: attend a conference/training course away from the lab during hard times, as you'll feel more refreshed and flush with new ideas.

Towards the end, try to speak openly about your career goals with your advisor, committee, department head, students — anyone/everyone that can help shape your goals. At the same time, take your job search seriously. You are responsible for your career. Don't place that burden on anyone else.

Where did you go after your PhD? How did you make that decision? How did you get your next position (interviewing/networking, etc)?

I received a Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF) and am working for the federal government in the Department of Treasury - RAAS (Research, Applied Analytics, Statistics) division. Although the subject matter is very different than my PhD training, I essentially took it as an opportunity to develop my quantitative skills (computer programming and statistics). I asked myself, "What was my training lacking?" and then applied to jobs that could develop my weaker areas. Unfortunately, I applied online with no connections to "people on the inside" so I can't recommend any shortcuts, but can happily testify that applying on a whim can work. There was an online application and three interviews (an in-person general interview, a "job fair" to meet hiring agencies, and then a virtual conference for my specific agency). I believe they have cut it down to just an online application and a virtual job fair now. All hiring is done on an annual cycle set by OPM (Office of Personnel Management), so time your application wisely if you choose to pursue this fellowship.

Can you describe your current day-to-day? What's the greatest difference between working for the federal government and academia? Pros/cons?

Learning new statistical methods for analyzing meta-data, meeting with senior analysts and managers to set research priorities, and brainstorming with colleagues regarding areas of improvement in our research methods. The PhD process is admittedly more "isolating" than anything I think you'll experience in the federal workforce, unless you already happen to be in a highly collaborative lab/department. The biggest difference between academia and federal government would have to be the constant shuffle to new priorities set by leadership. After all, there are new leaders (senators, representatives, presidents, etc.) voted on every four to six years, so keep that in mind when thinking about budgets, strategic planning — everything! The only con of the federal workforce is the work schedule. I was used to working ~10-12 hours a day at NYU, but my current manager doesn't allow "overtime" work unless you can justify it. That may sound fine to most people wanting greater work/life balance, but when you work in research, sometimes you need that extra hour or two to wrap up/summarize your new findings for a presentation or congressional data request.

What's your favorite memory of your time at Sackler?

I was running an assay all night, and at 4am in the morning, I found out it failed (this was my 4th attempt at this particular experiment). After literally collapsing and shedding a few tears from exhaustion, I realized that wet-lab research was probably not in my future. Admitting this to myself that morning put a lot of things in perspective, especially life and career priorities. I can honestly say that everyone around me (well, except for my PI!) benefited from my lighter mood and more optimistic perspective about pursuing a career outside of academia and the bench. Moral of the story? Be honest to yourself early on about your career goals, your strengths, and especially weaknesses, and you'll probably have a more enjoyable training experience, although I can't promise it'll be any easier.

Cynthia Chen is a 4th year PhD candidate in the lab of Dr. Susan Schwab. Her research focuses on understanding the role of homing receptors in T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. In her increasingly limited free time, you can find her at the dog park with her dog, Beau, or hanging out at dive bars around town.
What years did graduate from Sackler?
I graduated in 2005.

What laboratory were you in and what was your thesis project?
Mark Phillips. My project was on the topology of mammalian isoprenylcysteine carboxyl methyltransferase determined in live cells with a fluorescent probe.

What career skills did you acquire from your pre-doctoral training at NYU and which aspects of your skill set did you have to acquire extramurally or after graduation?
Graduate school is a long scientific journey that ultimately leads to self-discovery. I acquired invaluable tools that have contributed greatly to my success. Of course, I learned the standard scientific and research skills one learns in graduate school, i.e. running a gel with the proper controls. Beyond that, I enhanced my critical thinking skills; became a master at multitasking, prioritizing, networking, and time management; learned to think ahead and adapt; and most importantly, I became patient and resilient. I credit the guidance of various mentors both professional and within my peer group for giving me permission to find my own path. Especially, I credit Joel Oppenheim, for encouraging me to apply to Sackler and supporting me throughout graduate school and beyond. In addition, Dr. Sabatini was one of the early supporters of the BioBus and encouraged us to apply for funding through the Richard Lounsbury Foundation. They believed in our mission and provided seed money that allowed our operation to grow.

What was your favorite and least favorite part of Grad School?
My favorite parts of graduate school were recruiting future graduate students and mentoring youth in the community. My least favorite part was the uncertainty around my graduation date.

What was the trajectory of your career path from PhD graduation to your current work with the BioBus?
After completing my PhD at NYU, I became a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University in the laboratory of Ron Schnaar where I studied axonal regeneration. It was an amazing scientific experience, and Ron was an exceptional mentor. However, I missed New York. As a result, I returned to New York City as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Craig Basson at Weill Cornell Medical College where I studied embryonic cardiac development. During this postdoctoral fellowship, I met Ben Dubin-Thaler, the founder of the BioBus, a research-grade mobile science lab for K-12 and community education. I began to volunteer on the BioBus and fell immediately in love with the concept and implementation of the idea. After finishing my second postdoctoral fellowship, I became an intern in the development department at the Park Avenue Armory under the direction of the manager of institutional giving. Here, I honed my skills for writing foundation grants. After my internship was over, I became a full-time employee of the BioBus. Initially, my job at the BioBus was to teach and find external funding sources. I am now Chief Scientist at the BioBus.

Please briefly describe the BioBus and your roll within this initiative.
Founded in 2008, Cell Motion Laboratories (the umbrella organization of BioBus and BioBase programs) works towards a future in which all people have experienced the power and beauty of making a scientific discovery. We cultivate this vision by creating immersive laboratory environments in which scientists join students and the general public for hands-on scientific exploration, focusing on populations underrepresented in STEM. This new kind of laboratory space is accessible and not intimidating, facilitating scientific engagement even amongst populations historically underrepresented in science professions. Within this space, scientists share their expertise and knowledge through direct, hands-on experiences, allowing participants to reshape their view of science through participation in the discovery process. Through this work, we believe a future is possible in which every human being has experienced science in an exciting, authentic, hands-on setting.

Cell Motion Laboratories operates the BioBus, a mobile science laboratory housed in an upcycled 1974 transit bus, and the BioBase, a state-of-the-art community laboratory located on the Lower East Side. The BioBus and the BioBase are equipped with over $200,000 of research-grade microscopes and staffed by PhD scientists. The BioBus is field trip that comes to any school or community in New York City, reaching over 30,000 students during the 2014-2015 school year. The BioBus parks outside a school and students spend their science class on the bus, engaging in hands-on science while realizing that science is fun and they can be scientists. At the BioBase, students from all socioeconomic backgrounds have access to a research-grade microscopy facility for in-depth programs, including field trips, weekend and after school events, and summer camps. The BioBase after school programs are exclusively for girls and young women to find their scientific inspiration. All programs offer financial aid for Title I schools (schools with a significant portion of low-income students) and students in need.

As Chief Scientist at the BioBus, I am dedicated to bringing hands-on authentic laboratory experiences to underserved youth. The Chief Scientist role is primarily management of the BioBus and BioBase operations. This includes management of staff, curriculum development, strategic planning for the organization, fundraising, building and sustaining partnerships with community organizations and schools, and teaching aboard the BioBus and at the BioBase.
What does a typical work day/week look like for you?

There is no typical workday that is why I love it so much. Everyday is a new adventure including developing exciting new curriculum, teaching and guiding students through the scientific process, talking to city officials about the BioBus programs, attending seminars about science outreach, and taking apart and cleaning a microscope.

Did you always know you wanted to work on STEM outreach and education?

I have always loved sharing my knowledge with others. During college, I was a peer tutor. I found that I really loved helping other students understand difficult concepts. I found that by teaching, I gained a deeper understanding of the topic. As my career progressed, I continued to mentor students throughout graduate school. This desire to share my love of science persists. My job now is to unveil the awesomeness of science to students who have been jaded or who don’t realize the simple fact that science is fun.

What inspires you to do this work?

I often get the question, “You are a scientist?” Also, I often hear, “Science is awesome!” These two statements inspire me to go to work everyday. I represent a very small group of individuals who have obtained their PhD (African-American and female). My mere presence in the room can be life changing for some of the underrepresented minorities. I am a symbol that anyone can achieve their goals if they commit themselves and work hard. Also, the joy that I see on the faces of kids when they see their first image under a microscope makes me feel like I am Santa Claus bringing Christmas wherever I go.

If you could give a current PhD trainee or applicant your best advice, what would it be?

My best advice is to live a balanced life, continue to pursue your hobbies in graduate school. Most importantly, always believe in yourself and follow your passion.

[Image of Julia Derk]

Julia Derk is a 4th year PhD student in the lab of Ann Marie Schmidt studying microglia inflammation in Alzheimer’s disease. In addition, she co-founded Clear Direction Mentoring and Students Advocating for Science, Education, and Medicine (SASEM). Outside of lab, Julia enjoys yoga, citibiking, taco tuesday, adventures in nature, and hanging with her turtle.

2016 FASEB BioArt Award Winner

Through the BioArt competition, the Federation of American Societies For Experimental Biology (FASEB) aims to share the beauty and breadth of biological research with the public. Contestants include investigators, contractors, or trainees with current or past research funding from a US federal agency and members of FASEB constituent societies.


This skyline of New York City was created by “printing” nanodroplets containing yeast (Saccharomyces cerevisiae) onto a large agar plate. Each dot is a separate yeast colony. As the colonies grew, a picture emerged, creating yeast art. To generate the different colors, the yeast strains were genetically engineered to produce pigments naturally made by bacteria, fungi, and anemones. Using genes from other organisms to make biological compounds paves the way toward harnessing yeast in the production of other useful molecules, from food to fuels and drugs. The Boeke laboratory’s work on yeast, retrotransposons, and synthetic biology is supported by the National Science Foundation, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and NIH National Institute of General Medical Sciences.
SO, YOU'VE FINISHED LISTENING TO S-TOWN

By Jessica Douthit

Modern Love

This is the podcast version of the weekly New York Times column with the same name. Readers submit essays on their own experiences with love and relationships, ranging from heart-wrenching to overly-sweet, and from romantic love to love between a parent and child. In one episode, David Oyelowo chose to read the essay “Seeing the World Through My Wife’s Eye” about a blind man navigating through his marriage. The host then spoke to the author about why he decided to write the piece, reactions to it, and updates on how the author dealt with having a child. The editor also described why the essay was chosen for the column and what emotions and questions are brought up by the author’s words. The column can be highly addictive if you’ve never read it before – every essay is extraordinary and relatable at the same time.

Undiscovered

Science Friday just started a new podcast to tell the interesting stories behind scientific discoveries. As we all know, what gets published is never the entire story – there are ups and downs and fortuitous insights. Hosts Annie and Elah introduce us to the people behind the research and how they formed and tested their hypotheses. If you like Radiolab, you might also enjoy this podcast.

Comedy Bang! Bang!

I must admit that I am also a fan of nonsense podcasts in which people improv and just chat and talk about nothing. In this podcast, Scott Aukerman starts the show doing a (silly) interview with a celebrity guest. Other comedians join in as characters they invented. Aukerman does his best to test the limits of their character development and makes sure returning characters stick to previously established storylines. They have an entire database of characters, as the podcast has been going for eight years, and lots of inside jokes if you want to listen to the archives. If you like it, check out their TV show with the same name that aired for five seasons (available on Netflix).

Sleepover

Host Sook-Yin Lee brings three strangers together in the hopes that they can help each other with a personal problem. Each sleepover is in three parts, with separate episodes focusing on one person at a time. In one episode, Canadian politician Jasmeet Singh is worried that his choice to wear stylish clothing and brightly colored turbans (he is Sikh) in order to be more approachable is distracting people from taking him seriously. The other two guests, a young boy and an older woman, along with Sook-Yin, offered advice based on their own experiences. Singh decides he should celebrate being unique and use the extra attention to shift focus to the ideas and policies he wants to discuss. The sleepover guests always seem very different in the beginning, but as they share stories, you begin to realize how similar three strangers can be. I love listening to this podcast and getting glimpses into how other people live. It’s very comfortable and easy to exist in our grad school bubble, but this show puts things in perspective.
Maev in America: Immigration IRL

Maev Higgins is a comedian from Ireland who shares stories from immigrants and children of immigrants in this compelling podcast. The show started just after the recent American election, so she often discusses current policy changes and what they mean for the featured guests. Obviously there is not a singular immigrant story, and Maev does an excellent job of including people from many different countries, with very diverse backgrounds and statuses. This show casts a wonderful spotlight on the challenges and accomplishments of people who come from all around the world to live in the U.S.

Reveal/Intercepted

The Center for Investigative Reporting produces Reveal, an award-winning podcast, featuring long-form investigation focused on three main topics: injustice, accountability and sustainability. They have covered everything from big headlines (like the border wall) to stories that do not get mainstream coverage like worker abuse and toxic exhaust surrounding public schools. Intercepted, from the news site The Intercept, is hosted by Jeremy Sc hall. This new show puts a spotlight on government and politics, analyzing the most pressing stories of each week. Sc hall recently spoke to Julian Assange, Wikileaks founder, about Trump, the CIA, and Wikileaks’ release of DNC emails.

Jessica Douthit is a 6th year MD/PhD candidate in Dr. Jessica Treisman’s lab studying mechanisms of axon guidance molecules in the fruit fly brain. When not in lab, you can find her eating ramen and chocolate banana pudding, and then working it all off in spin class.

Rules of Academic Etiquette

Adapted from Molly Wharton, Department of History, University of North Carolina

- When in doubt about how you should speak, write, or act, always err on the side of formality. You will never offend or annoy someone by being overly formal and polite.

  When addressing your professors in person:

- Always address them as “Professor Smith” or “Dr. Smith.” Do not call them by their first names or anything else unless they explicitly ask you to do so.

  When writing an email to your professor:

- Begin the email with “Dear Professor Smith,” “Dear Prof. Smith,” or “Dear Dr. Smith.” Do not begin the email “Hi” without addressing your professor by their title and surname.

- Be alert to the tone of your message. Any email to a professor or teaching assistant should sound like a formal letter, not a text message or a demand to a customer service representative. For example, you should write:

  Dear Professor Smith,
  I cannot come to your office hours this week. Are you available at any time on Monday instead?
  Sincerely,
  Jane
  Do NOT write
  Hi,
  I need to talk to you about the test. Can I come by Mon? Thx Jane

  Write in complete sentences with correct spelling, grammar and punctuation. Proofread your email before sending it.

Want to read more? A version of this op-ed appears in print on May 14, 2017, on Page SR1 of the New York edition with the headline: U Can’t Talk to Ur Professor Like This in The New York Times.


Rosenberg EC, Loujk J, Conway E, Devinsky O, Friedman D. Quality of Life of Childhood Epilepsy (QOLCE) in pediatric patients enrolled in a prospective, open-label clinical study with cannabidiol (CBD). Epilepsia. 2017.


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GRADUATION DEADLINES

September 2017 Deadlines
Register on Albert (home.nyu.edu) from: February 6, 2017 to June 16, 2017
Preliminary Thesis due: August 4, 2017
Final Thesis due: September 15, 2017

Resources for thesis preparation and the graduation checklist are available on our student community thesis defenses and graduation page, which you can access using your Kerberos ID.