BMS PhD Newsletter

DISSERTATION DEFENSE

Join us in celebrating our most recent PhD’s:


ANNOUNCEMENTS

-First-year students can now register for either BMSP 7770 Systems Biology or BIMI 6200 Introduction to Data Science for Biomedical Informatics in the Spring semester. Contact the BMS office if you have any questions.

-The Counseling Center is open to all BMS students. They offer same-day appointments via telephone 504-314-2277, but students will need to call early in the day (before 9:00 am) if they want a same-day session. Right now, most sessions are via zoom. The Counseling Center has hired a new therapist, Brandy Alexis, for the Downtown Health Center and are on-boarding her now.

   Group counseling offered this Fall:
   -Understanding Self & Others (Tuesdays 2-3pm)
   -Stress & Anxiety Toolkit (Thursdays 11am – 12pm)
   -BREATHE - Mindfulness Strategies for Stress Reduction (Fridays 11am -12pm)
   -Women of Color (Thursdays 3:30-5pm)
   -International Student Support (Thursdays 5-6pm)

Counseling Center email: counseling@tulane.edu
Counseling Center website: campushealth.tulane.edu/counseling

-The Office of International Students and Scholars has re-established Downtown Office hours every Wednesday from 1-4 pm, starting October 20, 2021. These office hours will be in the Tidewater Building, Room 1225 (Career Services Office).

-Career Considerations for International Graduate Students and Postdocs A zoom meeting covering this topic will be presented November 15, by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Students and Postdocs can register through the OGPS website.

If you have any announcements, publications, awards, milestones, and presentations to share in the newsletter, please send them to lgoodwin@tulane.edu!

IMPpORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:
Spring Registration opens November 8, 2021
Last day of class: December 22, 2021
RECENT PUBLICATIONS


AWARDS

Alyssa Fears
James F. Kilroy Provost Crest Award,
Tulane University, 2021

MILESTONES

- Committee formed: **Marian Dribus**
- Admission to Candidacy: **Toni Bell**
- Prospectus: **Allison Smither**

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ferris T. Munyonho
Fulbright Scholar
1st year PhD BMS Student

Hometown: Mutare, Zimbabwe
Undergrad: BSc Honors Degree in Biochemistry - University of Zimbabwe, 2014
Masters: Chemical Engineering and Technique - Zhejiang University of Science and Technology, China, 2017
Hobbies: Traveling, sight seeing, fishing, swimming, and movies.

What was your Fulbright application process?
- The Fulbright program is considered the largest and most prestigious educational exchange program worldwide. It is undoubtedly one of the most competitive awards, only given to candidates with outstanding academic background, well-defined research plan and great personal leadership abilities. Application for this award is not for the faint hearted or for the weak-willed. The application process comprises of two extensive application cycles. The lucky few who are selected semifinalists will go through additional intense interviews to get into the finalist stage. In Zimbabwe, out of hundreds of applications received each year, only the best 3 are selected. It is truly an honor to be selected for such an amazing award.

What are your future goals?
- I am a committed biomedical scientist passionate about enhancing human health through research. I have an unwavering motivation to pursue a career in the field of cancer research, with a goal to develop novel immune-based cancer therapies. I am keen to explore Immuno-oncology (cancer immunotherapy) as it holds great potential to become more precise, more personalized, and more effective than the currently used cancer treatments in Africa. I hope to become an instrumental member of my home institution, using my youthful energy to bring about constructive change and create a path to sustainable local medical research programs in Zimbabwe.