

## New Year, New Changes

### Jill Bordelon, Executive Committee Student Rep

The Executive Committee has been hard at work this year reviewing the new curriculum, updating recruitment, approving a Program Director, initiating changes for the DGS position, approving new faculty and listening to student progress and input.

After lively discussion, the Executive Committee approved the Curriculum Committee's recommendation for next year's course requirements. During Fall 2005, the incoming students will take the GDBBS Biochemistry course along with Systems/Neuroanatomy (also known as NS II—thanks to Dieter's keen eye, the name will be changed to NS I). In the Spring, they will take Cellular Neuroscience, which will be taught by Ron Calabrese.

The Executive Committee approved Yoland Smith as Program Director. Many thanks and congrats to Yoland for his hard work



Jill Bordelon

and dedication! The Selection Committee has nominated Larry Young and Ron Calabrese to share DGS duties. Because there will be 97 students in our program next year, the Executive Committee

felt at least two faculty were needed to meet all of the students' needs.

The Executive Committee is comprised of the following faculty: Shawn Hochman, David Weinschenker, Amy Lee, Mike Davis, Mike Mustari, Leonard Howell, Yoland Smith, Krish Sathian, Larry

Young, Lian Li, Marie Csete, Dieter Jaeger, Mike Kuhar, Xiao-Jiang Li, and Kerry Ressler. The newly elected members are Thomas Wichmann, Keqiang Ye and Ron Calabrese. Jill Bordelon and Dinesh Raju were your Ex-

ecutive Committee representative this year. Student rep Dinesh Raju has served his 2 year term, and



Todd Ahern

Todd Ahern will be taking his place. We have all been working hard to put together a great retreat for everyone. Finally, the Executive Committee would like to encourage everyone to attend the Frontiers Lectures to be held Thursdays at noon this semester!

Beginning a new tradition, the student representative on the NS Executive Committee will be using the Central Sulcus as a forum to fill everyone in on the changes approved by the committee. Jill Bordelon, one of our current reps has graciously started us out. Please contact Jill with any concerns or questions. [Jbordel@emory.edu](mailto:Jbordel@emory.edu)

## New Year, New Voices

At the end of May, the students held a formal GIN meeting to elect next year's officials. Thank you to everyone who showed support for our program by attending and congratulations and thank you to everyone who will be going beyond the call of duty next year by representing our program in one of the following positions:

GIN Co-Presidents: Rebecca Rosen, Eric Heuer  
 GIN Secretary: Mike Jutras  
 GIN Treasurer: Elyse Katz  
 Webmaster: Liz DeGoursac, Michael Wright  
 Frontiers Coordinator: Jim Bogenpohl, Michael Wright  
 Admissions Committee: Zoe Donaldson, Meag Ward  
 Executive Committee: Jill Bordelon, Todd Ahern  
 Curriculum Committee: Chris Rowland, Lizabeth Martin, Eric Heuer  
 GSC Representative: Elyse Katz, Michael Wright, Kristen Sager  
 DSAC Representative: Cliff Michaels  
 ACSFN Representative: Sara Dodson, Kim Maguschak

### Inside this issue:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Recruitment Wrap-up</i>                  | 2 |
| <i>Incoming Students</i>                    | 2 |
| <i>Student Accomplishments</i>              | 3 |
| <i>Neurobuddies</i>                         | 4 |
| <i>Faculty accomplishments</i>              | 4 |
| <i>Farewell from previous GIN president</i> | 5 |

### Things to look forward to...

- August 27: NS Retreat
- October 18th: SfN poster preview day.
- November 12 to 16: SfN 35th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.
- The new Atlanta Chapter SfN president is Anne Murphy (GSU) and the vice president is Kerry Ressler (Emory).

## Recruitment Wrap-up

Kristen Sager, Student Admissions Representative

As the student representatives to the Admissions committee, Zoe Donaldson and I would like to thank each and every one of you for making Recruiting 2005 a great success!

Through the active participation of a majority of the Neuroscience program, we were able to recruit an impressive incoming class that will be joining us in August. Representing a wide array of backgrounds and coming from all over the country, our new class is composed of 17 outstanding individuals, each of whom will bring something new to our program.

Every year, the student representatives look for new ways to highlight all the great things that our program has to offer, and this year was no exception. New events on the schedule this year included a cocktail reception that was co-sponsored by GIN, sit down dinners at local restaurants with select faculty members, and a private party at Gordon Biersch with the current students. Each of these events was very well received, showing off the great dynamics that exist between our faculty and staff. Clearly, we have a unique

environment here at Emory, something that was readily apparent all weekend.

In addition to the above mentioned social activities, we also had current students give Frontiers for the first time. During our first weekend,



Kristen and the recruiting robot?

Cary Zink and Dinesh Raju were under the spotlight, while Jasmeer Chhatwal and Liz Hammock presented their research the second weekend. They all went above and beyond. Indeed, these presentations were the source of much discussion among the Neuroscience community throughout the weekend, a great testament to these students.

One of the greatest successes of this past recruiting effort was that throughout the time our recruits were here, they were presented with a unified, organized program that cares about its students. Everyone stepped up, not just once but twice, something that did not go unnoticed. We had as many as 50 volunteers per weekend, working together in various capacities to demonstrate just how great our program can be. I couldn't imagine a recruiting weekend running any smoother, and Zoe and I were both continually

reminded of all the reasons we choose to come to Emory.

Once again, I want to thank all of you for making recruiting such a success this year, and I hope that you will all continue to be a part of bringing the best of the best to Emory in the future. In particular, I want to thank Sonia, Leonard and Yoland for their help behind the scenes and Cliff and Rebecca for generously helping throughout both weekends. Finally, I want to extend a personal thank you to Zoe for being a great partner in crime. I've been a part of the last four recruiting efforts in some capacity or another, and I'm sure that Zoe will continue to bring new ideas and a tremendous dedication to our recruiting events for next year. So thank you again to everyone who helped out, and be sure to introduce yourselves to our new students next fall!



Zoe thanks you all for hoppy recruiting!

## Speaking of which...

This fall will bring us 17 new students, a better than 50% acceptance rate of the offers we made. We hope that everyone will help us in welcoming these students. Please feel free to contact them as they begin their transition to Emory.

|                      |                         |                          |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sarah Cork           | Biological Anthropology | Duke University          |
| Stacey Dutton        | Biology                 | Univ. of MD              |
| Teresa Emerick       | Neuroscience            | Grinnell College         |
| Bret Fields          | Chemistry               | GA Tech                  |
| Meriem Gaval         | Biology/Psychology      | Florida State University |
| Michael Kelly        | Neuroscience            | University of Rochester  |
| Heather Malinowski   | Neurobiology/Psychology | MI State University      |
| Daniel Manvich       | Biopsychology           | Tufts University         |
| Vasiliki Michopoulos | Neuroscience            | University of VA         |
| Meera Modi           | Biology/Philosophy      | SUNY, Binghamton         |
| Kevin Murnane        | Biology/Psychology      | University of GA         |
| Kate O'Toole         | Biology                 | Northern KY University   |
| Alexander Poplawski  | Neuroscience/Chemistry  | University of Pittsburgh |
| Rebecca Seaman       | Biology                 | Union College            |
| Jacob Shreckengost   | Biology                 | University of Chicago    |
| Sharon Swanger       | Behavioral Neuroscience | Lehigh University        |
| Ahmad Sylvester      | Psychology              | SUNY, Buffalo            |

Sonia has also been nice enough to draw up a list serve for the incoming class so you can send a message to everyone at NS-students2005@listserv.emory.edu.

## Brilliance Strikes The tales of Liz Hammock

On June 10th, Science published the final chapter of Liz Hammock's thesis work at Emory in an article entitled "Microsatellite instability generates diversity in brain and sociobehavioral traits." The impact of this paper was immediately evident when the New York Times included an article on it the same day. This is no real surprise, however. Her former lab mate, Miranda Lim, who obtained her Ph.D. from Emory last year, had the following glowing words to say about Liz: "Liz is one of the eminent scientists of our time! She exudes scientific energy from every pore, and is one of the few true nerds who gets even smarter with alcohol. She is a study in dichotomies: Incredibly focused on her experiments, yet she has millions of new ideas every day. Extremely hard-working in the lab, yet no one can keep up with her nightlife. Idealistic about the big picture, yet she can troubleshoot



the day to day problems. Brilliant and articulate, but put a microphone in front of her and the this former farm girl will break out in honky-tonk song. I have been so lucky to go through grad school with Liz and share her ideas about science, life, the universe, and more. She will have a brilliant career wherever she goes, and have a ton of fun

doing it!!!"

Liz's advisor, Larry Young, also had some nice words. "I am honored to have been Liz's advisor. Liz was one of those students who had more exciting ideas for experiments than one person could possibly perform in a life time, which made being her advisor a bit challenging times. After every seminar she attended, I could expect her in my office, with a huge grin, saying "I got an idea for an experiment... wouldn't it be really cool if we..." She has a stellar career ahead of her.

Liz completed her Ph.D. in late February and has since begun her post-doctoral work at Vanderbilt University where she is investigating the roles of oxytocin and vasopressin in the formation of cortical columns and development of autism. Congratulations Liz!



## I know what you did last year: Highlights of Neuroscience Student Accomplishments

Neuroscience students have seen quite a few success stories in the last few months from the awarding of 7 Ph.D.s to an article in Science. Here are some highlights:

### Ph.D.'s Awarded:

**Joanna Bonsall** with Dr. Marla Luskin  
**Isadora Bielsky** with Dr. Larry Young  
**Lisa Stanek** with Drs. Mike Davis and Kerry Ressler  
**Liz Hammock** with Dr. Larry Young  
**Anne-Elise Tobin** with Dr. Ron Calabrese  
**Cary Zink** with Dr. Greg Berns  
**Ricardo Caceda** with Dr. Charles Nemeroff

### Research Fellowships:

Emory is currently tied with John's Hopkin's University in fourth place nationwide for funding of NRSA's. We are preceded only by Stanford, Harvard and UCSF.

### NIH NRSA's:

**Lisa Kreiner** with Amy Lee (began 2/05)  
**Eric Backes** with Scott Hemby (began 9/17/04)  
**Jasmeer Chhatwal** with Kerry Ressler (began 8/1/04)  
**Kimberly Dougherty** with Shawn Hochman (began 9/04)

**Jennifer Felger** with Andy Miller (9/04-9/07)

**Dinesh Raju** with Yoland Smith (Begin 9/1/05))

**Lisa Imboden** with Lian Li

**Jill Bordelon** with Chris Muly

### NSF Graduate Research Fellowship:

Todd Ahern-Honorable Mention

### Other national awards:

**Charlene Cole**-FACES -Facilitating Academic Careers in Engineering and the Sciences

**John Pullium**-American Psychological Association Diversity Fellowship Program pre-doctoral fellowship and FACES - Facilitating Academic Careers in Engineering and Sciences predoctoral Fellowship.

**Gus Davis**-Clinical Pharmacology Fellowship from PhRMA

### Teaching Fellowships:

**Charlene Cole**-PRISM Fellowship

**Jaime Hatcher**- Piedmont Project Fellowship on integrating environment and sustainability in Teaching.

**Amanda Freeman**-Dean's Teaching Fellowship 2005-2006 and the International School of Biophysics.

### Travel Awards:

**Masa Kuwajima**- Atlanta Chapter of SFN/Eli Lilly Graduate Student Travel Award

**Elyse Katz**-Travel Award to the Organization for Human Brain Mapping Conference in Toronto

**Lizabeth Martin**-2005 Univ. Wisconsin Health and Emotion Symposium and RIKEN Brain Science Institute Summer Lecture Series.

**Maryse Paquet**-Women in Neurosciences, Eli Lilly and Pfizer Student Travel Awards and best poster Award (3rd place) GDBBS Annual Symposium

### Other Awards:

**Zoe Donaldson** was named to *The Chancellor's List*.

### Student Publications:

Please see our website at [www.emory.edu/NEUROSCIENCE](http://www.emory.edu/NEUROSCIENCE) for a current list of student publications

Something missing? Contact Zoe at [zdonald@emory.edu](mailto:zdonald@emory.edu)

## What is a Neurobuddy all about?

From the desk of Lizabeth Martin

As you know by now, Emory neuroscience is looking forward to a new class of 17 highly qualified and much sought-after students. Many of you may recall the summer before beginning at Emory... the massive amounts of mail and e-mail from GSAS, GDBBS, NS and every other acronym under the sun, finding a place to live, deciding where to rotate, locating the nearest grocery store, gas station, and bars to your new home... etc. This

year, each new student has been paired with a current student whose role as "neurobuddy" is to make the transition to Emory/Grad School/Atlanta a little bit easier. Our current neurobuddies include the entirety of the first year class as well as many second years and some more advanced students. As our new students begin arriving to ATL, we will organize a variety of social functions for the neurobuddy pairs. Miss out

on being a neurobuddy this year? Keep an eye out for invitations to the retreat and mixers this fall to make sure you get to know our new students.

Lizabeth Martin generously coordinated the Neurobuddy program for this year's incoming students. Many thanks for her hard work. Please contact her at [eimarti@emory.edu](mailto:eimarti@emory.edu) with comments or offers to help.

### A side note...

Every one of us is working towards a singular goal – a Ph.D. in neuroscience. Most likely, we will all eventually stand in front of a room full of people while we explain to them what we have done to earn this degree. As a graduate student in Emory Neuroscience, you should attend as many theses defenses as you can, regardless of your area of interest. Show our faculty and each other that we support each other in our endeavors. After all, we will all be Emory Ph.D.'s and will be judged not only by our own work but also by our peers.

## The Yummy Crystal Apple

Each year, Emory recognizes a few exceptional faculty for their teaching and service to our community. This year, Yoland Smith, the current Program Director was awarded the Crystal Apple award in recognition of "excellence in graduate teaching." Yoland has been the backbone of the Neuroanatomy core coursework for our program for many years now, and as such, every student in our program has gained from his wis-

dom. He has helped integrate the previous neuroanatomy and systems neuroscience into one comprehensive course, and is



always looking for ways to improve the program. Yoland's passion for student interaction in our program seems to have no bounds. He has at different times served as head of the NS admissions committee, director of graduate studies, and program director, all while running a top notch research lab at Yerkes. Congratulations Yoland. You truly deserve this award.

## A Rising Star

Dr. Donna Maney, who joined the Emory faculty in 2002 and the neuroscience program shortly thereafter, was recently awarded the 2004 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. This award is the highest honor for professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers.

This award comes only a year after Donna was awarded the National Science Foundation

Faculty and Career Development Award of more than \$500,000. These highly sought-after and competitive awards are given to researchers who not only show tremendous promise in their fields but also develop innovative techniques to incorporate into their teaching.

In addition to her excellent research on neuropeptides in song birds, Donna has been broadly active in science education. An

experienced writing instructor, Donna has developed an undergraduate writing course in neuroscience and led a faculty workshop on bringing writing into the undergraduate science curriculum. Outside of Emory, she is developing an ongoing study that will provide hands-on research experience to DeKalb County public high school students enrolled in an ornithology course at Fernbank Science Center. Congratulations Donna!



Donna Maney

## Emory University

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Great Minds...



[www.emory.edu/NEUROSCIENCE](http://www.emory.edu/NEUROSCIENCE)

The Emory Neuroscience Graduate Program leads to the Ph.D. degree and is designed to provide a broad background in modern neuroscience, as well as specialized training in a wide range of specific research areas and techniques. The particular areas of strength in our program are further described on our website. The broad range of research interests coupled with a collaborative atmosphere make the Emory Neuroscience Program well suited to provide a strong, dynamic and exciting environment in which to pursue graduate studies.

For more information please contact Sonia Hayden at [shayden@emory.edu](mailto:shayden@emory.edu) or (404) 727-3707.

For comments on this newsletter please contact Zoe Donaldson at [zdonald@emory.edu](mailto:zdonald@emory.edu).

## A Fond Farewell From Cliff Michaels

Dear Emory Neuroscience Students & Faculty,

Over the past two years I have had the pleasure of serving as the president of Graduates in Neuroscience, and through this office have been involved in many aspects of our program. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my fellow students for all of the hard work they have put in on various committees, volunteering in the community, and helping out with NS events. I believe that it is this commitment to the program and drive to constantly improve that our students possess which sets us apart from other programs. With that said, there is always room for improvement, and we should continue to strive to

make our program the best possible. I would also like to thank all of the faculty members who



And here's to you, Cliff...

have aided and supported GIN over the past year. Without your support a student organization such as this would not be nearly as successful. Finally, our fantastic program coordinator

Sonia Hayden deserves a big THANK YOU for all she has done to help with GIN and GIN related events; we couldn't have done it without you. So, now its time for me to hang up my hat and pass on the torch to Rebecca and Eric, good luck and I look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,  
Cliff Michaels  
Co-president, Graduates in Neuroscience 2003-2005