From the desk of Vicky Prince

Nancy Schwartz, PhD, honored at NPA Annual Meeting

The OGPA’s own Dean Nancy Schwartz was honored with a Distinguished Service Award at the 14th Annual National Postdoctoral Association Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI, on March 4–6, 2016.

The NPA gives this award to a person or entity that has shown “a profound, sustained, or leadership contribution to improving the postdoctoral experience.” Through her service in numerous capacities, including NIH study sections, foundation review and editorial boards, the AAMC-GREAT Steering Committee (Chair of both Graduate Deans and Postdoc Leaders groups), and in her capacity as a faculty mentor, Dean Schwartz has had a profound impact not only on postdocs at the University but nationally and internationally. Indeed, without Professor Schwartz’s service on the NPA’s Founding Advisory Board and mentorship, the NPA itself would not exist. She is “the definitive example of how to make a profound impact on the postdoctoral experience.”

While this national recognition is certainly impressive and well-deserved, it is hardly the first laurel Dean Schwartz has received. In January, just before accepting the Distinguished Service Award, she was selected as the faculty recipient of the University’s Diversity Leadership Award for her exemplary leadership in cultivating diversity and inclusion in the BSD and beyond. (We wrote about that award in our Autumn 2015 newsletter.) She has also received both a MERIT award and a Mentor of Excellence from NIH, and she is an accomplished scientist, with 150 manuscripts and reviews to her name.

The OGPA is proud to have such an excellent professor, dean, and mentor as part of our team.

Congratulations, Dean Nancy Schwartz.
BSD graduate students Adam Brown (computational neuroscience) and Kevin Song (biophysical sciences) are organizing The Art of Science, a special exhibition as part of the Chicago Arts District’s 2nd Fridays, on Friday, April 8, from 6-10 p.m. at 1915 S. Halsted St.

Featuring the original artwork of BSD, PSID, and IME graduate students and postdocs, the show merges what some consider separate disciplines. But Adam and Kevin don’t see it that way. “People have to expand their idea of what a scientific image is,” says Adam. “Things produced in the lab that don’t necessarily ‘have a lot of scientific value’ can still have aesthetic value as a kind of ‘beautiful accident,’ he continues.

Art inspired by or taken from the lab can help spark a conversation with laypeople, who “are curious about what happens in the scientific world,” says Kevin. That’s why the artists plan to be near their work to answer questions about the scientific side of the images.

Also involved in planning the event are Guillerminta Ramirez-San Juan (biophysics), Sara Massey (chemistry), and Arin Greenwood (IME). Zach Williams, a local artist married to current BSD postdoc and alumna Celia Fernandez, also lent his time and talents to planning the show.

For more information, visit the Chicago Arts District 2nd Fridays website.

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**myCHOICE**

**BSD Alumni Career Forum**

Don’t miss the myCHOICE BSD Alumni Career Forum on Saturday, May 14, 2016, in GCIS 301.

This event will explain how BSD graduate students and postdocs can pursue careers in a number of fields. The day will be divided into two panels separated by a networking lunch. The theme of the first panel is research-oriented careers in a variety of settings (including industry, academia, and government) while the second panel covers best practices for getting hired in any type of job.

A diverse range of UChicago BSD alumni professionals will lead the panels, including Paul Ingram, PhD ’10, Senior Biologist at BASF; Enrique Beckmann, PhD ’84, President of Pathology Associates of Chicago; and Leslie King-Cortes, PhD ’06, senior scientist at Sanofi Genzyme.

The event will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., but you are free to come and go throughout the day as your work schedule allows.

**OGPA Launches BSD Instagram**

Now you can follow the BSD on our new Instagram account, @UCHicagoBSD and tag your photos with #uchicagobsd.

We aim to curate the weird, the wild, and the wonderful pictures and videos from your labs and scholarly lives.

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**Elaine R. Mardis**, Professor in the Department of Genetics at Washington University, St. Louis will present the address at the BSD Divisional Academic Ceremony on Friday, June 10 at the Logan Center for the Arts. The program and divisional dissertation awards will also be announced.

Professor Mardis is the Director of Technology Development at the McDonnell Genome Institute and helped create methods and automation pipelines for sequencing the human genome.

She also serves as an editorial board member on *Molecular Cancer Research, Disease Models and Mechanisms and Annals of Oncology*, as well as acting as a reviewer for *Molecular Cancer Research, Disease Models and Mechanisms and Annals of Oncology*. She received the Scripps Translational Research award for her work on cancer genomics in 2010.

Professor Mardis will present a public seminar on Thursday afternoon, June 9, sponsored by Human Genetics.

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**myCHOICE Expands Career Options for Grad Students**

Now midway through its second year of funding, myCHOICE (my CHIcago Options in Career Empowerment) will continue to diversify career options for graduates with mentorship-focused programming this Spring Quarter.

myCHOICE has been a great success so far. The Ez Exposure seminar series, *What Can I Do with My PhD?*, has seen 1,045 attendees at its 52 seminars, where 44% of the 88 speakers were University of Chicago alumni. Over 230 trainees have attended the Ez Education mini-courses, covering scientific teaching, writing, emerging technologies, scientific communication, professional development, and negotiation. Since introducing the externship and internship components of the Ez Experience programming in Summer 2015, 18 trainees have become part-time interns in offices across the University, and 4 have been offered jobs.

In keeping with the Spring Quarter focus on mentorship, myCHOICE will offer Mentor Groups that pair professionals from consulting and industry with small groups of advanced trainees who will meet monthly to discuss how to transition into those fields. Other programs for Spring 2016 include the skill-development workshop series Entering Mentoring and a roundtable speed-mentoring event. Spring Quarter will also feature a seminar on teaching as mentorship led by Scott Hawley, Dean of the Graduate School of the Stowers Institute, renowned Drosophila geneticist, and recent inductee into the National Academy of Sciences.

In addition to mentorship-focused programming, Spring Quarter will feature the Booth School of Business’ popular Leadership Effectiveness and Development (LEAD) workshop series, the nationally-acclaimed SciPhD: Preparing for Professional Careers workshop, an exciting Science Policy series taught by prominent UChicago community members, and a diverse UChicago postdocs Erica Westerman, Joe Pierre, and Sean McConnell facilitated the “Creating a National Postdoctoral Survey: A Way of Seeing an Invisible Population” workshop. Kyle Delan, co-lead organizer of Future of Research (FOR) Chicago and UChicago graduate (PhD ’12), helped facilitate an Innovation in Action session titled “Creating Policy-Focused Symposia for Grassroots Advocacy,” and won first place for the poster, “Postdoctoral Advocacy in Action: Lessons from the Future of Research Chicago Symposium,” co-authored by Rianne Ellenbrock, Erin Hedder (Postdoctoral Affairs Administrator), and Nancy Schwartz.

Kristina Martinez, PDA President and co-chair of the Teaching and Outreach Committee, presented “Scientific Outreach: University of Chicago Lab Tour for the South Side Chicago Youth,” authored by Martinez, Abby Stayart, Kate Boylan, Andrew Childress, Cara Froyd, Laurie Risner, and Nancy Schwartz.

Nancy Schwartz was a plenary speaker on a panel and moderator for several sessions on postdoc career development. In addition, she won the Distinguished Service Award.

Read more about the activities of the BSD PDA at the NPA Meeting on the BSD PDA blog.

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**New Alumni**

The Biological Sciences Division conferred the PhD on 14 students at the Winter Quarter convocation on Friday, March 18, 2016.

There were 17 students who received the M.S. degree. We are very proud of our new graduates.

**BSD Student Fellowships and Accomplishments**

Congratulations to our 2016 NSF Graduate Research Fellows.

New student fellowships are updated regularly on the OGPA website. Students who have been recognized for excellence at national meetings are announced on the Accomplishments page.

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**Disability Language for Course Syllabus**

Attention, faculty: it is strongly recommended that you include language about accommodating students with disabilities on each course syllabus.

You may find sample language about accommodating students with disabilities in the Student Disability Services handbook, Teaching Students With Disabilities, page 4.
BSD to Host Outreach to Local Undergraduates

UChicago BSD faculty and graduate students, please join us at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, for the GGSB/IGSB research seminar followed by a reception with DePaul undergraduates.

The event will take place in the Knapp Center for Biomedical Research first floor auditorium (Rm. 1103). UCSF Professor Hana El-Samad, PhD, Associate Professor of Biochemistry & Biophysics, will discuss "Anticipators and Procrastinators, Synthetic Biology and Big Data."

The goal of the 45-minute reception following the seminar is to encourage informal discussions about our outstanding Ph.D. research training offerings. There may be questions about entrance requirements, courses, the MBL bootcamp, prelims, qualifying exams, and lab rotations. There are 39 DePaul University undergraduates registered so far.

The program is a joint effort sponsored by IGSB, BSD Diversity Committee, and the molecular biosciences cluster. Please email Barry Aprison at baprison@bsd.uchicago.edu if you have any questions.

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