

UCLA MBIDP ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018 Newsletter | Vol I

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ACADEMIC YEAR

HONORING THE
LEGACY OF
PAUL BOYER

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Entering Fall 2017 MBIDP Cohort

2017-2018 MBIDP RECAP

by Stephanie Cuellar, MBIDP SAO

In Fall 2017, the MBIDP welcomed its largest cohort of 35 students. Over the year, we celebrated many accomplishments of our MBIDP students. Lauren Thurlow (BBSB) in Tracy Johnson's lab and Michael Emami (CDB) in Melissa Spencer's lab were recipients of NSF awards. Taylor Brown (IMMP) was a recipient of the Ford Foundation Fellowship. Four of our students, Raquel Aragon (CDB- Iruela-Arispe Lab), Taylor Brown (IMMP- Hallem Lab), Jessica Ochoa (BBSB- Yeates Lab), and Lauren Thurlow (BBSB- Johnson Lab) were recipients of the prestigious HHMI Gilliam Award. And, Cody Aros was a UCLA finalist for the UC-Wide Grand Slam competition. Grad Slam is an annual contest to communicate research. Participants are judged on how well they engage the audience, how clearly they communicate key concepts and how effectively they focus and present their ideas— in three minutes or less. And a special congratulations to our graduating students: Sharraya Aschemeyer (Ganz Lab), Yanjing Li (Huang/Wu Lab), Lauren Neves (Johnson Lab), Eriko Shimada (Teitell Lab), Celine Vuong (Black Lab), Oscar Campos (Kurdistani Lab), Courtney Young (Spencer Lab), Aimee Flores (Lowry Lab), Brian Young (Wohlschlegel Lab), Wanlu Liu (Jacobsen Lab), and Anna Sahakyan (Plath lab). Congratulations and best of luck to you all!

The MBIDP hired two new Student Affairs Officers in Fall 2017, Stephanie Cuellar and Ashley TerHorst, pictured below. Pamela Hurley retired in June 2017 after 32 years of service at UCLA, and Jennifer Miller left to pursue a teaching opportunity. Prior to joining the MBIDP, Stephanie was an undergraduate advisor for the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at UCLA, and Ashley was an Administrative Specialist for UCLA's School of Dentistry.



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Paul Boyer, with his wife and daughters

Honoring Paul Boyer, 99, Nobel laureate in chemistry

UCLA Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry Paul Boyer, who won the 1997 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his pioneering research on how adenosine triphosphate, or ATP – the cellular energy that drives all biological reactions – is formed, passed away June 2 at age 99. Boyer, a UCLA faculty member since 1963, was the founding Director of the Molecular Biology Institute and responsible for the emergence of Molecular Biology at UCLA. He devoted his research to the study of enzymes and to the understanding of oxidative phosphorylation – the process in which the energy that the human body gets from the combustion of food is converted largely to ATP. Paul Boyer donated a major share of his Nobel Prize award to provide funding for postdoctoral fellow awards at UCLA and two other institutions. In 2000, the building that is home to the MBIDP was named after Dr. Boyer; rightly so as he was also responsible for the emergence of “Boyer Hall” back in 1967. He also spearheaded the organization of UCLA’s interdepartmental doctoral program in molecular biology, which now includes over 130 students. UCLA is planning a memorial service for Paul Boyer, <http://www.chem.ucla.edu/BoyerMemorial/>.



In March, 126 students and 24 faculty traveled to Ventura for the annual MBI Retreat. The keynote address was given by Professor Michael Snyder from Stanford University. Past MBIDP alumni graciously spoke on the career panel and we honored students with TA and Dissertation Awards, and ended the first day with a Poster Session and Pub Trivia! On Sunday, the awardees for best poster presentations and the Fowler awards were presented, and the retreat ended with the traditional house cup. The next MBI Retreat will be held in September 2019, in Lake Arrowhead, CA.



Join us this Fall for the unveiling of the Boyer 159 remodel

Many of you may remember Boyer 159 as pictured above. This summer everything in Boyer 159 has been completely demolished down to the studs and concrete floor, as pictured below. The new space will feature: a brand new AV system, all new finishes and furniture, and a huge glass wall/door, that’s built of six glass panels that fold together to open the room to the redone patio area. We invite you to join us in fall as we celebrate the completion of the remodel! Details to come.



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For questions or comments email Stephanie Cuellar, MBIDP SAO, stephanie@lifesci.ucla.edu

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