Hey, does anybody ever read this introductory paragraph to each issue? Or is this space about as useful as the nutrition label on a box of donuts? I mean, do you really care what the ingredients are when you know you’re just going to eat the donuts anyway? Well, B is even more delicious than fried baked goods, so go ahead and skip this paragraph. Just dive right in.

The Yale Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Society Welcomes the Incoming BBS Class of 2013

BY D. HARBURGER & CHARMAINE CHAN

Who we are. Just over ten years ago a group of students from the Yale School of Management and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences realized the need on campus for a forum centered on the intersection of business and the life sciences. In 1997, these individuals formed a precursor to today’s Yale Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Society (YBPS). In the years that followed, the organization matured and advanced its goals by engaging people from various backgrounds to learn about and catalyze development in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

More recently, the YBPS has ventured beyond the Yale community and transformed into a node for integration of ideas from a diverse group of professionals. The YBPS collaborates with local and global organizations in various industries related but not limited to biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, management consulting, venture capital and patent law. These interactions are arranged by Yale students and post-doctoral fellows who collectively form the executive board of the YBPS.

Opportunities to participate. The YBPS offers both annual events, such as the Case Competition and Business of Biotechnology Program, as well as ongoing educational and internship opportunities through the Consulting Program, Technology Ventures Program (TVP), and YBPS Equity Research Club (YERC). We are also proud to announce a new collaboration with the Connecticut Technology Council that will provide internship opportunities with local biotechnology start-up companies – more details to come this fall. Interested graduate, medical, and professional students, as well as post-docs, faculty, and business professionals are welcome to participate. To become a member, simply join our e-mail list. You will then be able to read about upcoming YBPS events, educational opportunities, and job postings in our weekly newsletter.

For those in search of leadership positions, given the transient nature of the academic environment, often there are openings available for YBPS members to volunteer as program directors. Program directors gain valuable leadership experience and networking skills while organizing continued on page 3
Twenty-Two Fellowship Winners and Counting...

Congratulations to all of the students below who received prestigious fellowships that began this year.

**2nd Year Students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Fellowship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Callen Hyland</td>
<td>Cell Biology</td>
<td>MCDB</td>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamie Schwendinger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meghan Griffin</td>
<td>C &amp; M Physiology</td>
<td>MB&amp;B</td>
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<td>Annie Marie Le</td>
<td>Genetics</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whitney Harris</td>
<td>C &amp; M Physiology</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>National Research Service Award</td>
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**3rd Year Students**

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<tr>
<td>Griselda Zuccarino-Catania</td>
<td>Immunobiology</td>
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<td>US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command</td>
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<td>Chris Case</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
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<td>Tiffany Sun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nao Gamo</td>
<td>Neurobiology</td>
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<td>Jerrica Breindel</td>
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<td>Jennifer Bordeaux</td>
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<td>Allison Welsh</td>
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<td>Justin Garyu</td>
<td>Immunobiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dennis Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felicia Barriga</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>Ex Pathology</td>
<td>Robert D. Watkins Graduate Research Fellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Casale</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>Ex Pathology</td>
<td>Pfizer-Patricia Goldman-Rakic Fellowship</td>
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**4th Year Students**

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<tr>
<td>Carlos Stahlhut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elissa Robbins</td>
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<td>Scottish Rite Schizophrenia Fellowship Autism Speaks Pre-doctoral Fellowship</td>
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**5th Year Students**

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<tr>
<td>Julie Golomb</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>National Research Service Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Long</td>
<td>C &amp; M Physiology</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>National Research Service Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alice Ly</td>
<td>MCDB</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>National Research Service Award</td>
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**6th Year Students**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ken Harrison</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>American Heart Association</td>
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useful opportunities for the Yale community. Please visit our website to learn more and contact a program director.

Upcoming Fall Events:
October: FDA Seminar Series
November 13th: Speaker Panel, “Survival Strategies for Biotech firms”
November 14th: Case Competition

For more information about the YBPS, please visit: http://www.yale.edu/ybps.
To participate in one of our programs, please see: http://www.yale.edu/ybps/programs.html.
To become a member of the YBPS, sign up at: http://www.yale.edu/ybps/membership.html.
Lastly, to view our upcoming events, go to: http://www.yale.edu/ybps/events.html.

Charmaine Chan, MB&B, and David Harburger, Pharmacology, are co-Presidents of the YBPS.

Don’t Let Public Speaking Scare You
BY BEN LACAR

Halloween has come and gone, but for most of us the fear of public speaking will never go away. It might be comforting to know that even the best speakers still experience some anxiety. But the difference is that they’ve learned how to handle their fears. Here are some tips for you to do the same:

1. Look at your fear as an opportunity to do something exciting. Ever notice that the things that exhilarate us also make us apprehensive? Roller-coasters, bungee jumping, or even asking someone out, all fall into that category. Look at public speaking the same way.

2. Get comfortable with the room. Neuroscientists in the program know that an unfamiliar environment can induce stress. Therefore, practice in the seminar room before your talk. Figure out how to hook up your computer and control the lights. Converse with some of the audience members prior to your presentation. This will help relieve some of the short-term anxiety.

3. Improve your skills. The graduate school’s teaching center and local Toastmasters clubs provide opportunities to improve your speaking skills. Learning skills and practicing is the best way to keep fears at bay.

Research talks are great opportunities to get feedback from the community. Handling speaking anxiety and improving your skills will help you take advantage of these opportunities. I think you’ll find that public speaking isn’t as scary as it sounds.

Ben Lacar is President of the Greater New Haven Toastmasters Club and Neuroscience Graduate Student. E-mail him with your thoughts (ben.lacar@yale.edu).

Model Behavior: Transgenics in a perfect world.

Arabidopsis R01 Overexpressor
Bio-accumulates research funding. Just plant one in your office and watch the money roll in. Highly resistant to pink sheets.

Cre-Lux Mice
These revolutionary strains of mice are transgenic for old-fashioned dumb luck. Each cross is guaranteed to produce a whole litter of earth-shattering serendipity. No results? No problem. Revolutionizing your field is as easy as getting two mice to mate.

The Fairy God-Danio
Transgenic zebrafish that secretes an experimental-failure-obliterating peptide into its tank water. Mix a little into your buffers before you start your experiment, and you’ll never have to troubleshoot again.

Superfly
Um...this won’t help with your research. However, it produces a ‘hip field’ powerful enough to negate the geek field that you produce. Just carry a vial in your pocket or bag when you want to be the life of the party, or irresistible to the opposite sex.

Image by N. Powers.
WISAY wants YOU to be a mentor!

WISAY (Women In Science At Yale) is currently recruiting female grad students and postdocs for its fun and rewarding mentoring program. To find out more and to sign up, visit yale.edu/wisay/mentoring
Movements in Food

Eating Las Vegas

By R. Rosenarten


Zagat lists forty-eight restaurants in the “Celebrity Chef” section of its Las Vegas guide. Many of these are high-end affairs that drain a visitor’s wallet like a bad night at the craps table. Others serve small bites of fast food with a designer label. What makes the dining landscape in Vegas so impressive, however, isn’t the sheer number of top places, but their density. Take all the fancy places in New York, paint them in electric colors, hype the wattage of the light bulbs, upgrade the amenities, and pack them all onto a ten block stretch of Fifth Avenue—and you have Las Vegas. The most populous of all American cities founded in the last century, Las Vegas is also the brightest city on earth as seen from space.

Most casinos have not one, but two or more big-time restaurants. Seattle-born Mario Batali, credited with re-inventing Italian food in America in the late 1990s, and David Burke, the first American to win France’s Meilleurs Ouvriers de France Diplome d’Honneur, both recently set up shop at the Venetian, opening B&B Ristorante and David Burke Restaurant, respectively. Alsace native Jean-Georges Vongerichten of New York’s three-Michelin-starred Jean-Georges Restaurant headlines what may be the highest-grossing establishment in town, Prime Steakhouse, at the Bellagio. Charlie Palmer, chef-owner of Aureole, Alva, Lenox Room, Metrazur, and Astra in New York City, is a double dipper. He has brought the Aureole élan to the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, and mines the mass market with his Charlie Palmer Steakhouse at the Four Seasons. The best sushi in town—from what ocean I do not know—can be had at Nobu at the Hard Rock Hotel. And those are just for starters.

The winner of the most recent season of Bravo’s Top Chef “reality show” hails from the restaurant Guy Savoy at Caesars Palace, while the world-renowned Savoy tends to his five restaurants in Paris. At the MGM, home to French culinary icon Joel Robuchon, a typical bill comes to $250 per person, second cheapest wine on the menu included. Top Chef judge Tom Collichio has restaurants of his own in Vegas, including the scotch-drenched Craftsteak at the MGM (the bar offers over 140 single malts). And while you would be hard pressed to find a match for a glut of places where you expect to drop a fortune for fine dining, Tom Collichio and David Burke have created opportunities for spending a lot for dinner just up the road at the MGM at Foxwoods, in Ledyard, Connecticut.

Twice this summer I had dinner at the MGM at Foxwoods. I wasn’t drawn by the gravitas of these stars and their eateries. Rather I went with the more modest ambition of trying a new Italian place called Alta Strada run by chef Luis Morales, the scion of Alta Strada in Wellesley, Massachusetts, owned by chef Michael Schlow. The Brooklyn-born Schlow has made his mark in Boston, but instead of cashing in on his superstar status by offering pomp and knock-offs at outrageous prices, his new place appeals to the food lover in all of us. Alta Strada serves modern interpretations of traditional Italian cuisine that are delicately balanced and expertly executed, yet familiar and hearty. Most recently, at the invitation of my friend Leigh Spoon, the assistant general manager of Alta Strada, I sat down to a four-course food and wine pairing. First came grilled octopus salad with tomato oil vinaigrette—the tender octopus salami cleverly resembled cured meat-like mortadella. Wine expert Dee Blackmer selected a crisp white from the Italian Piedmont, Vietti Ameis 2007, that balanced the acid in the tomato and accentuated the freshness of the octopus and locally grown green beans. For the second course, a rich, generous portion of potato gnocchi with butternut squash, sage and pancetta, was matched with a medium-bodied red, Masi Campofiorin. The savory centerpiece came next, prime rib steak with Tuscan kale, roasted cauliflower and mushroom ragu. I challenge Jean-Georges to serve a better steak at his Vegas Prime! The lily was gilded with glasses of the super-Tuscan Antinori Tignanello ’05, which had been decanted two hours earlier in anticipation of this moment. Really, now, what more could life have to offer? The answer arrived with dessert: a dark chocolate crostata with dried cherries, served with sparkling Banfi Brachetto “Rosa Regale,” a delicious dessert wine that resembled the best cassis soda I ever tasted.

Of course, you don’t have to travel as far as Vegas, and pay Vegas-sized prices, to live and eat decadently. For wonderful meals that do not break the bank, nearby options like Alta Strada achieve a connection with their community, with regular guests, hometown employees, and locally sourced food-stuffs, that is unattainable in Vegas. Still, if you are like me, you may occasionally be drawn to the bright lights in the desert—to behold with awe, shock, and some disgust, man’s playing with fire, as it were, where there is no water. What imagination, what hubris, it takes to build cities in places so inhospitable to human life and crown the achievement with glitzy restaurants. Everything—the food, the people, the building material—comes from someplace else. Perhaps that is one of the city’s charms, its out-of-the-way-ness. One of the ironies of the adage “what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas” is that the desert forgets nothing; all the marks we make in it become permanent, like the skyline etched in the red rocks of the Mojave.
DEAR B

Got a problem? Got questions? Just ask B. (Advice is for entertainment purposes only, and you have only yourself to blame if you follow any of the stupid suggestions.)

Dear B,

I'm a brand new student who likes to live large, and the BBS stipend just doesn't cut it. With my lifestyle needs, did I make a mistake by choosing to go to grad school?

--Miss Bling

Dear Miss Bling,

Hmmmm....was your other option to be an investment banker on Wall Street?

--Dear B

Dear B,

I want to do something novel with Green Fluorescent Protein. Any ideas?

--Color My World

Dear Color My World,

I have a brilliant idea (as usual). Make a GFP transgenic chicken. Then make a GFP transgenic pig. Then open a restaurant next to a nursery school. Perhaps you could call the place "Sam's." See how this is going to end?

--Dear B

Dear B,

I played a really funny practical joke on my PI, and although the rest of the lab laughed, she didn't. Should I be worried?

--Funny Man

Dear Funny Man,

You, sir, have just destroyed your career. Faculty, by definition, are not funny people. Vindictive and unforgiving? Certainly. Humorous? Not possible. You will a) probably not graduate or b) be blackballed for life and wind up as the first BBS PhD to work the night shift at Starbucks.

Investment banking is starting to look pretty attractive, isn't it? 

DEAR B

Lifestyles of the Poor and Academic Traveling on the Cheap

By A. Ly

When it comes to traveling, graduate students don’t usually find themselves in a time-money Catch-22 because we occupy a unique niche in which we have neither time nor money to satiate our wanderlust. Or so I thought. Although there are many things that are too good to be true floating in cyberspace, there are a few sites that may help you lighten the financial burden of traveling (as for negotiating time off with the PI, that’s all on you).

By Land

Until recently, I thought the only way to get a roundtrip bus ticket from New York City to Washington D.C. or Philly or Toronto for less than $20 was to take the infamous “Chinatown bus.” This is no longer the case, for other bus companies have entered the fold, with Megabus and Boltbus marking their arrival with astonishingly economical fares (the earlier you plan, then cheaper your trip). Even Greyhound has introduced its NeOn service, a 10-hour trip from NYC to Toronto, for as low as $1 each way (harder to get nowadays, but it does exist). And if you’re still not sold, they have free wi-fi.

For a more spacious and time-efficient trip, Amtrak would be the way to go, but you are all aware that this convenience comes at a price. However, it is possible to circumvent the whole “paying” thing if you have a few thousand frequent flyer miles with Continental lying around. The partnership between Amtrak and Continental allows for customers to convert miles to points and vice versa in blocks of 5000, with only 3000 points needed (one-way) for travel all over the Northeast. This is just one example of the many partnerships between various airlines, hotels and car rental companies, so it might be worthwhile to click around on their websites and see what pleasant surprises are in store.

By Air

It’s becoming much harder to find ridiculously low airfare deals these days, especially when airlines are beginning to charge for checking luggage, blankets, etc. A general trend: flying on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday will yield a cheaper fare. If you know well in advance your travel dates, try using Farecast for predictions on price trends for your trip within the next 90 days. Alternatively, many search engines, such as Travelocity and Kayak, allow for flexible date searches, which can save you a little money if you don’t have a rigid schedule. Lastly, keep in mind that many of the budget airlines are not included when you use search engines such as Expedia or Priceline, so take a few minutes and check out Virgin America, Jetblue and Southwest.

When you get there

I don’t have any tricks up my sleeves when it comes to lodging other than www.couchsurfing.com, which generally isn’t most people’s cup of tea. Once you’ve found a place to get some shut-eye, however, a great way to get suggestions on the best dive bars, cheap eats or local events from locals is to turn to www.yelp.com. Type in what you’re looking for, the zip code and a list of places, which can be filtered by popularity and distance among other parameters, is yours to peruse. Other sites that serve a similar purpose include Metromix, Citysearch and a new/serious offshoot of TheOnion, Decider (only serves Chicago at the moment).

Next, to get to these places of interest, www.hopstop.com (presently limited to a few US metropolises) can help you navigate the city using public transportation (beneficial to both your pocketbook and Mother Earth, AND no need for a designated driver). Type in your starting/destination addresses, select your preference for more or less walking and voila, step-by-step directions.

Hopefully you’ve gleaned a few useful tips for your next trip from this article. In the meantime, I’ll try and compile some information for international travel (if you have any tips, please email me and I’ll be sure to include them in future columns).
Connecticut has miles of wonderful hiking trails but, generally speaking, the state is not a stellar destination for backpacking. Trails often pass through private land or public parks not open for overnight camping. They are often also crowded with other hikers, since they frequently run near local geographical landmarks or sections of otherwise interesting trail. You might understand my curiosity, then, when I read about an overnight hike on a section of the Blue-Blazed Tunxis Trail just west of Bradley International Airport. It was billed as a wild area, without many other hikers, and since it was just an hour’s drive from New Haven I figured it’d be perfect for the spur-of-the-moment hiking trip we were looking for; it didn’t disappoint.

The hike was described in my hiking resource book as a thru-hike, to be done with two cars, but we planned a quick hike in and then out the next morning on the same trail. This goes against my general bias in favor of loop hikes; I get bored easily and I appreciate not having to see the same scenery twice, but as an out-and-back hike it was short and practical, so off we went. We packed up on Saturday morning, arrived at the nondescript trailhead near the town of Barkhamsted by early afternoon, crossed the amazingly busy road and headed up into the woods.

There were two memorable aspects to this trip; one was the pervasive reminder of history. Three minutes into the hike we passed the first of several enormous maples that we saw along the trail, remnants from when the land was cleared and these trees were left standing on the edge of the field to provide shade for the cattle. Somewhere in my brain is the knowledge that most of New England was cleared at some point in the previous few centuries for agriculture, but I don’t generally think about this. Reminders of this agricultural past always inspire a bit of awe in me as they force me to place myself and my surroundings in an historical perspective. As we hiked up the trail we often passed old roads, easily spotted by their flanking rows of trees. Near the end of our hike, just past a huge jumble of rocks that form a remarkable set of caves, we came to a set of old cellar holes and foundations with trees growing up out of their stonework. In an amusing juxtaposition these old houses were on the edge of an abandoned beaver pond, now silting in and filled with small trees. All houses eventually become wild again.

The second remarkable thing on the hike was the number of mushrooms: I have never seen so many types of mushrooms growing in one place at one time. The especially wet weather during the previous weeks must have provided perfect growing conditions because they were growing in trees, coming up through leaf litter, growing on moss, striking in their shades of red, purple, bright orange, clean white, and earthy brown. It became almost a game to see how many different kinds we could spot, though there was no trick to finding them.

As promised, the trail was fairly empty and, if we ignored the occasional roar of planes overhead, did feel quite wild. We saw only three other hiking groups, one of which was a gentleman who commented on his surprise at seeing anyone else in the woods with him. There was only one view along the trail and it was mediocre, but then again that would be expected for a hike that does not gain much elevation. We had the campground all to ourselves, setting up our tent above a babbling brook that emptied from one of the many old beaver ponds in the area. In sum, it was a perfect weekend trip to be enjoyed with minimal preparation and worry. There were even enough huckleberries and mushrooms and history that I didn’t get bored retracing my steps on the way out in the morning.
Matthew Fleming, CMP, won “Best Poster” at the Ion Channel Targets meeting in San Francisco in September. His project was “Use of Label-Free Optical Biosensors to Detect Ion Channel Interactions in Intact Cells.”

Whitney Harris, CMP, married Burnes Brown on August 5.

Jamie Schwendiger, MCDB, married Carl Schreck, Physics, in June.

Tim Hand, Immunobiology, and Amanda Poholek, Cell Biology, announced their engagement over the summer.

Pedro Alves, CBB, and his wife Andrea are thrilled to announce the birth of Lia Rose Alves. She was born on Friday Oct. 17 at 11:24pm, 8 lbs. 6.5 oz. and 19 1/2 inches long.

Haig Keshishian, Professor of MCDB, and his wife Anahid announced the birth of Levon Mardiros Kapoian Keshishian at 10:51 am on October 16. He weighed 5 lbs. 5 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Emily Einstein, INP, received 1st Place in the NeuroDay 2008 Berry Pie Bake-Off. She is now obligated to place this distinction in a prominent location on her CV.

B magazine’s “What to Say When Your Parents Ask What You Do in Grad School” Contest

As always, thanks to all the wonderful people who shared their disturbing frame of mind with the BBS community. We will be sending you each a year’s supply of mood-stabilizing drugs.

1st Place

Riding out this economic recession on the taxpayer’s dime until real jobs become available again.

Steve Ding, MB&B

2nd Place

Remember how you stopped being able to help me with my homework in about 10th grade? Well, I’m in 20th grade now. I really don’t think you’re going to understand what I do in grad school any more than you understood geometry. Let’s just leave it at that, and I’ll see you at my defense.

Kendra Frederick, MB&B

3rd Place

Similar to what I did as a baby: cry and lay curled in the fetal position a lot.

Sarah Gray, INP

Other Notable Entries

I get up around noon. Roll into lab after a leisurely brunch of cold pizza and instant coffee. Check my e-mail for an hour. Heard of Facebook? That’s another hour. Pretend to read a paper when my boss swings by. I do a calculation or two. Then go get coffee. Talk with a friend down the hall about how much grad school sucks. Check my e-mail again. Then I go home via the liquor store.

Kendra Frederick, MB&B

I grow weed.

On Sun Lau, MCDB

I’m testing how much pain and torture I can endure.

Fatih Mercan, Pharmacology

I’m deriving an equation that explains life’s existence so that I don’t have to go to church anymore. If I take the derivative, the universe might implode.

Steve Ding, MB&B

I’m Lex Luthor, only more hair, less money, and less bad-ass.

Annie Le, Pharmacology

I begin everyday by telling myself I am not stupid…and by the end of the day realizing how incredibly stupid I in fact am.

Sarah Gray, INP

How many times are you going to ask me the same thing? You don’t get it, right? I don’t wanna be a doctor(MD)! So stop it and tell your friends that I chose to kill rats rather than people.

Lery Alvarez-Lugo, MCGD

I collect virgins (flies).

Crew Smith, Cell Biology

Pretty much doing the same stuff as an undergrad, except with no more getting told what to do and believe it or not, I get paid!

Mike Zou, Pharm/Mol Med

I’m working on curing cancer and I have the solution but big pharma won’t let my committee graduate me.

Fatih Mercan, Pharmacology

Developing WMD (weapons of molecular destruction).

Roshan Karki, Exp Pathology