Good Bye Class of 2015
Forever Part of the Hive…

This year we are saying goodbye to a class of approximately 223 seniors who have completed majors in Biology, Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Microbiology, Molecular Genetics, and Neuroscience. Although it is a pleasure to get to know our students it is equally as hard to see them go.

The student speaker for the class of 2015 Mehr Kashyap '15 BCD suggested that he and his colleagues represent a much larger collective or in his words “the Hive”. This is a beautiful and appropriate parting thought for this year’s graduates as they go forth and conquer the universe.

Congratulations, may your lives be filled with numerous triumphs, and we look forward to learning of your future accomplishments in the years to come.

BTW - The Senior Slide Show has been posted on line. More pictures have been added so please be sure to check it out.

Meliora!
UR Commencement 2015

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## Class of 2015

### Senior List

#### Bachelor of Arts Biology (BA BIO)

- Alexa Ball
- Branden Bartlett
- Jacob Cauvel
- Alice Chen
- Yoo Jeoung Chelsea Choi
- Roma Desai
- Ashley Dockham
- Amanda Forbes
- Yohanna Gaim
- Priyanka Garg
- Gregory Goldvug
- William Hubbard
- Amy Ige
- Timothy Jeffirs
- Phillip Kellogg
- Dongjun Lee
- Seung Ho Lee
- Nicole Lifson
- Chitavi Maulloo
- Aissatou Ndiaye
- Rhett Partida
- Alap Patel
- Priyanka Patel
- Badal Pradhan
- Anna Saltman
- Kaitlin Sappio
- Michael Saulle
- Jesse Sharp
- Tiffany Sinclair
- Nicholas Sirotenko
- Tatsunari Tomiyama
- Deanna Vaneerde
- Brian Voelz
- Katherine Wegman
- Michelle Young
- Daniel Zucker

#### Bachelor of Science Biochemistry (BS BBC)

- Sarah Bond
- Smon Cheewapansri
- Max Cheng
- Michael Dieringer
- Jennifer Goldreich
- Eric Herman
- Nicholas Hill
- Cassandra Kappen
- Ali Khan
- Amos Liou
- Kathryn Loveless
- Brandon Mariotti
- Nicholas Mastrosimone
- Austin Mottola
- John Muroski
- Alexander Neary
- Samantha Plummer
- John Reichert
- Robert Rietmeijer
- Mikel Ruterbusch
- Akram Salam
- Shannon Schmit
- Lara Schoenebeck
- Raven Shah
- Christopher Tucker
- Felix Yang
- Han Zhang
- Ruijia Zhu

**Phi Beta Kappa**

**Degree with Honors in Research**
Bachelor of Science Cell and Developmental Biology (BS BCD)

Rutul Amin  Lillye Anderson  Sara Benerofe  Samuel Benham  Elizabeth Brown  Isabelle Chu  Janelle Delos Reyes  Morgan Feder  Elizabeth Gagen  Corey Garyn  Nealansh Gupta  Balaji Jagdish  So-Yon Jang  Mehr Kashyap  Sean Kelly  Jesse Luna  Niklas Malmstrom  Jiyoon Park  Alison Patrick  Keith Provost  Alice Can Ran Qin  Tyler Raufeisen  Bridget Russo  Nischal Sodemba  Siqi Song  Michael Sumner  Kelvin Tam  Hannah Thomas  Benjamin Wainblat  Harris Weber

Bachelor of Science Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (BS BEB)

Alyssa Arre  Rebecca Galasso  Alisa Johnson  Shannon Keating  Madeleine Keefe  Sarah Lazarus  Gouri Mahadwar  Rachel Milner  Alida Pollock  Benjamin Smith  Erik Van Roey

Bachelor of Science Microbiology (BS BMB)


Bachelor of Science Molecular Genetics (BS BMG)


Phi Beta Kappa
Degree with Honors in Research
Bachelor of Science Neuroscience (BS BNS)

- Rachael Abraham
- Zachariah Adham
- Akinniyi Akinpelu
- Naba Ali
- Rebecca Bergman
- Brian Bernstein
- Andrew Bui
- Nancy Bui
- Albert Chen
- Cody Civiletto
- Jessica Cohen
- Kyle Critelli
- Patrick Davis
- Robert Dowd
- Anna Gershteyn
- Anima Ghimire
- Gregory Golembeski
- Meghan Gray
- John Douglas Haswell
- Jaeim Jeong
- Lily Kamalyan
- David Keener
- Megan Keil
- Soibhan Kelley
- Morgan Kennedy
- Sarah Kitts
- Henry Klos
- Zoe Kory
- Benjamin Landwersiek
- Celia Lenarz-Geisen
- Xiaoyi Li
- Xavier Lopez
- Ma. Lira Camille Manhit
- Benjamin Meath
- Morgan Mehring
- Nadia Mercado
- Annah Moore
- Michael Morreale
- Matthew Mullen
- Alyssa Murillo
- Christopher Nishimura
- Yan Nuzbrokh
- Mary O’Hehir
- Shane O’Neil
- Teresa Oh
- Kareem Panton
- Krina Patel
- Sally Patel
- Halima Rafi
- William Retz
- Erik Roisland
- Madelyn Rubenstein
- Brandon Salzman
- Srawasti Sarker
- Jordana Schmierer
- Venkatesh Abhishek
- Sharma
- Humma Sheikh
- Matthew Shinseki
- Maxwell Sims
- Christina Smiros
- Greta Smith
- Viola Spahiu
- Melissa Thomas
- Maria Tran
- Kwanza Warren
- Ryan Wier
- Jeong Yeon Yoo

Phi Beta Kappa
Degree with Honors in Research
Honors in Research
Twenty-Five Seniors Successfully Wrote and Defended a Thesis

The Undergraduate Program in Biology and Medicine (UPBM) provides majors in the B.S. or B.A. tracks the opportunity to graduate with honors in research. Students must achieve a minimum GPA of 2.7 and defend their written thesis at a meeting of their advisory committee.

Most students seeking a degree with honors in research have worked on a research project for a year or more and have achieved significant results. They then immerse themselves in the time-consuming process of writing the thesis.

Those who successfully complete their research and then push on to write the required paper are rewarded with the phrase “Honors in Research” added to their transcripts.

This year’s recipients are:

Zachariah Adham BNS
Dissertation: “The Notch and Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor Pathways in the Proliferation of Human Medulloblastoma Cells”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lisa Opanashuk
Environmental Medicine

Lillye Anderson BCD
Dissertation: “A Screen of Glucocorticoids Reveals Mifepristone as a Prion Clearing Compound”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sina Ghaemmaghami
Biology

Sara Benerofe BCD
Dissertation: “Chemokine Ligand 18 Expression and Localization in Infants with Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gloria Pryhuber
Pediatrics Neonatology

Michael Breen BMB
Dissertation: “Replication Competent Influenza A and B Viruses Expressing a Fluorescent “Timer” Protein”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Luis Martinez-Sobrido
Microbiology

Elizabeth Brown BCD
Dissertation: “Characterizing Nanoparticle Dosimetry In Vitro”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alson Eldor
Pediatrics Neonatology

Phillip Cohen BMB
Dissertation: “Immunological Consequences of Nanoparticle-Based Vaccination Against Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst
Microbiology

Robert Dowd BNS
Dissertation: “A Computational Model of the Mammalian Midbrain: Simulating Neural Responses to Amplitude Modulation”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Laurel Carney
Biomedical Engineering

Allison Eberhardt BMG
Dissertation: “Establishing Models of RUNX1-Mutated Acute Myeloid Leukemia”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jason Mendler
Hematology/Oncology

Anna Gershteyn BNS
Dissertation: “Adrenergic Regulation of Low Frequency Brain Artery Vasomotor Oscillations”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Maiken Nedergaard
Neurosurgery Center for Translational Neuromedicine

Nicholas Hill BBC
Dissertation: “Generation of Head-to-Tail Macrocyclic Peptides”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rudi Fasan
Chemistry

Alisa Johnson BEB
Dissertation: “An Investigation of the Role of Abnormal Laminin-332 Expression in ARPKD”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Soundarapandian Vijayakumar
Pediatric Nephrology

Mehr Kashyap BCD
Dissertation: “Regulation of LINE1 Retrotransposons in the Aging Organism: Suppression through the Longevity-Promoting Protein SIRT6”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vera Gorbunova
Biology

Shannon Keating BEB
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Richard Glor, Dr. Robert Minckley
Biology

Matthew Mullen BNS
Dissertation: “Differences in Neural Activation Between Undergraduates and STEM Field PhD Students on Magnitude Judgement”
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jessica Cantlon
Brain and Cognitive Sciences

Continued on Next Page
Christopher Nishimura BNS
Dissertation: "Chronic Exposure to the HIV Virotoxin Tat Causes Rarefaction of Cortical Capillaries in a Mouse Model of HIV Neuroinflammation"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst
Microbiology

Leti Nunez BMB
Dissertation: "Interaction of Human Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia with the Microenvironment"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Craig Mullen
Pediatrics Hematology/Oncology

Alice Can Ran Qin BCD
Dissertation: "Comparison of Oncogenic Transformation Across Rodent Species"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vera Gorbunova
Biology

Halima Rafi BNS
Dissertation: "Perceptual Neurophysiology in Aging and Alzheimer's Disease: It's Better to be Young"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Charles Duffy
Neurology Memory Care

Jonathan Tam BMB
Dissertation: "p53: The Guardian Mechanism Against Genome Instability in Long-Lived Rodent Species"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vera Gorbunova
Biology

Kwanza Warren BNS
Dissertation: "Mitochondrial Stress in Inner Hair Cells During Noise Damage and Recovery"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Patricia White
Neurobiology and Anatomy

Danielle Sookiasian BMG
Dissertation: "Early Deletion of Sox2 Impairs Neurogenesis in the Mammalian Inner Ear"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amy Kiernan
Ophthalmology

Jamie Strampe BMB
Dissertation: "The Density and Orientation of HIV-1 Env on a Nanoparticle Vehicle Influences the Magnitude and Quality of the Env-Specific Response Elicited Following Immunization in Mice"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst
Microbiology

Chris Tucker BBC
Dissertation: "Expression Changes in Caspofungin Resistant Candida albicans Mutants: A Genome Wide Study"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Elena Rustchenko / Bulgac
Biochemistry

Pictures from The UPBM Poster Session held Meliora Weekend 2014
Visit the 2014 UPBM Poster Slide Show on-line to Relive the Magic!
deKiewiet Fellowship

UPBM Graduates Receive deKiewiet Fellowships for Summer 2014

The Undergraduate Program in Biology and Medicine (UPBM) has been awarding de Kiewiet Summer Research Fellowships since 1983 to UR students majoring in UPBM tracks. The fellowship is designed to give University of Rochester students an opportunity to obtain substantial research experience in the laboratories of program faculty. Students in their junior year are invited to submit competitive applications.

This year’s graduates who were selected for the deKiewiet Fellowship in Summer 2014 are:

1st Row: Shannon Keating ’15, BEB; Ruijia Zhu ’15, BBC / MTH; Kristin Abramo ’15, BMG / BSB; Jamie Strampe ’15, BMB
2nd Row: Ali Khan ’15, BBC / ENG; Maxwell Sims ’15, BNS / BSB; Robert Rietmeijer ’15, BBC; Mikel Ruterbusch ’15, BBC; Jonathan Tam ’15, BMB
(Not Pictured: Jiyoon (Junne) Park ’15, BCD / HLP)

Kristin Abramo ’15, BMG, BSB
Research Title: “Analysis of CD28 Ligand Binding and Co-Stimulation”
Mentor: Dr. James Miller

Shannon Keating ’15, BEB
Research Title: “Genetic Basis of Anole Dewlap Diversity”
Mentor: Dr. Robert Minckley

Ali Khan ’15, BBC, ENG
Research Title: “Regulation of DNA Damage Response of Yeast by the Fun30 Chromatin Remodeler”
Mentor: Dr. Xin Bi

Jiyoon (Junne) Park ’15, BCD, HLP
Research Title: “Characterization of Functions of MDS1 and EVI1 Complex Locus (MECOM) Through Selective Knockouts in Mice”
Mentor: Dr. Archibald Perkins

Robert Rietmeijer ’15, BBC
Research Title: “smFRET Measurement of RNA 5’ to 3’ Ends: Dynamic Distances”
Mentor: Dr. Dmitri Ermolenko

Mikel Ruterbusch ’15, BBC
Research Title: “Translational Regulation of GATA-3 in the Context of Th2 Differentiation”
Mentor: Dr. James Miller

Jamie Strampe ’15, BMB
Research Title: “Determining the B Cell Response to a Nanoparticle-Based HIV Vaccine Delivery System.”
Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst

Jonathan Tam ’15, BMB
Research Title: “p53 is the Guardian Mechanism Against Genomic Instability in Aging Rodent Species”
Mentor: Dr. Andre Seluanov

Ruijia Zhu ’15, BBC, MTH
Research Title: “Multidirectional Peptides Self-Assembly”
Mentor: Dr. Bradley Nilsson

Max Sims ’15, BNS, BSB
Research Title: “Regulation of Hypoxia Inducible Factor-1α (HIF-1α) Activity via Endoproteolytic Cleavage”
Mentor: Dr. Mark Halterman
The Undergraduate Program in Biology and Medicine (UPBM) combines the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Medicine and Dentistry to provide undergraduate courses, seminars, and research experiences. The Program is made possible by the close proximity of the Medical Center and the River Campus and by the enthusiasm of the faculty for cooperative teaching aimed at providing the most up-to-date education in biomedical science.

One of the more popular aspects of the program is Independent Research. Independent Research courses allow students to gain scientific experience while gaining academic credit for their work in the laboratories of program faculty located on UR’s River Campus or Medical Center.

Typically a student and faculty member agree to register a research project as a course. Although research courses are not typical lecture hall experiences they are still considered a course that requires defined objectives, learning outcomes, contact hours, and criteria for evaluation that is normally associated with regular credit-bearing courses.

Approximately half of this year’s graduating UPBM majors have taken advantage of this opportunity.

The following UPBM majors registered one or more Independent Research course during their academic career and have contributed to furthering the boundaries of science:

Naba Ali BNS (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Suzanne Haber  
Pharmacology & Physiology

Rutul Amin BCD (3)  
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Michael Welte (1), Dr. David Yule (2)  
Biology, Pharmacology & Physiology

Lillye Anderson BCD (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sina Ghaemmaghami  
Biology

Thomas Anderson BMB  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Steven Gill  
Microbiology & Immunology

Sara Benerofe BCD (3)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gloria Pryhuber  
Pediatrics / Neonatology

Max Beyman BMB (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dragony Fu  
Biology

Sarah Bond BBC  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alan Smrcka  
Pharmacology & Physiology

Alexandra Born BMB/CHM  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dunman Paul  
Microbiology & Immunology

Michael Breen BMB (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Luis Martinez-Sobrino  
Microbiology & Immunology

Elizabeth Brown BCD (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alison Elder  
Environmental Medicine

Andrew Bui BNS (7)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lin Gan  
Ophthalmology

Sophia Catalano BMG (3)  
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Mark Noble (1), Dr. Andrei Seluanov (2)  
Biomedical Genetics, Biology

Vanessa Cedarbaum BMB  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Archibald Perkins  
Pathology & Lab Medicine

Smon Cheewapansri BBC  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Werren  
Biology

Max Cheng BBC/MUS (4)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chawnshang Chang  
Pathology

Isabelle Chu BCD (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. David Goldfarb  
Biology

Cody Civiletto BNS  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Majewska Ania  
Neurobiology & Anatomy

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Mentor(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheel Clerk BMB</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jacques Robert Microbiology &amp; Immunology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phillip Cohen BMB</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst, Dr. Harris Gelbard Microbiology &amp; Immunology, Neurology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren Cole BMG</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Margot Mayer-Proschel Biomedical Genetics</td>
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<td>Marcia Des Jardino BMG</td>
<td>Faculty Mentors: Dr. Michael Bulger (2), Dr. Joseph Miano Pediatrics, Cardiovascular Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Dieringer BBC</td>
<td>Faculty Mentors: Dr. Jian Zhu (2), Dr. Hongyu Mao (1) Microbiology &amp; Immunology, Biostatistics Computational Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Dowd BNS</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Charles Duffy Neurology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allison Eberhardt BMG/PSY</td>
<td>Faculty Mentors: Dr. Helene McMurray (1), Dr. Jason Mendler (2) Biomedical Genetics, Hematology &amp; Oncology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adrian Farsaii BMB</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Minsoo Kim Microbiology &amp; Immunology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priyanka Garg BIO</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Roman Eliseev Orthopedics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corey Garyn BCD/PHL</td>
<td>Faculty Mentors: Dr. David Lambert (1), Dr. Xin Bi (2) Biology</td>
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<td>Anna Gershteyn BNS/SP</td>
<td>Faculty Mentors: Dr. Maiken Needergaard (1), Dr. Edward Vates (2) Neurosurgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audra Gold BNS</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst Microbiology &amp; Immunology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory Golembeski BNS</td>
<td>Faculty Mentors: Dr. Nina Schor (2), Dr. Julie Fudge (1) Pediatrics, Neurobiology &amp; Anatomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neelansh Gupta BCD</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Abdellatif Benraiss Neurology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shari Gurusinghe BMG</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Laurie Steiner Pediatrics &amp; Neonatology</td>
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<td>Nicholas Hill BBC/CHM</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rudi Fasan Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balaji Jagdish BCD</td>
<td>Faculty Mentors: Dr. Emily Barrett (2), Dr. Sanjay Maggiwar (1) Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology, Microbiology &amp; Immunology</td>
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<tr>
<td>So-yon Jang BBC</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Elizabeth Grayhack Biochemistry &amp; Biophysics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alisa Johnson BEB</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Soundarapanandian Vijayakumar Pediatric Nephrology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mehr Kashyap BCD</td>
<td>Faculty Mentors: Dr. Richard Glor (2), Dr. Robert Minckley (1) Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Keenahan BMB</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst Microbiology &amp; Immunology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phillip Kellogg BIO</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mark Dumont Biochemistry &amp; Biophysics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean Kelly BCD</td>
<td>Faculty Mentors: Dr. Vera Gorbunova (2), Dr. Andrei Seluanov (2) Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ali Khan BBC/ENG</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Xin Bi Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joung Heon Kim BMG</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrew Samuelson Biomedical Genetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connie Koons BMB</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor: Dr. Paul Dunman Microbiology &amp; Immunology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hannah Kopin BMB (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jacques Robert  
Microbiology & Immunology  

Alexander Kozlov BBC  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrei Seluanov  
Biology  

Harika Kunchala BMB (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Harold Smith  
Biochemistry & Biophysics  

Michelle Landis BMB  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Craig Jordan  
Cancer Center  

Eun hee Lee BMB  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst  
Microbiology & Immunology  

Seung Ho Lee BIO  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Minsoo Kim  
Microbiology & Immunology  

Xiaoyi Li BNS  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Welte  
Biology  

Gouri Mahadwar BEB (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Jaenike  
Biology  

Niklas Malmstrom BCD/HIS  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Robert Quivey  
Microbiology & Immunology  

Brandon Mariotti BBC  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alan Smrcka  
Pharmacology & Physiology  

Chitavi Mauloo BIO/CHM  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Soo Ok Lee  
Pathology  

Benjamin Meath BNS (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bradley Nilsson  
Chemistry  

Nadia Mercado BNS  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Greg DeAngelis  
Brain & Cognitive Sciences  

Annah Moore BNS/CHM (4)  
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Gail Johnson-Voll (1), Dr. Bradley Nilsson (3), Anesthesiology, Chemistry  

Michael Morreale BNS  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chawnshang Chang  
Pathology  

Austin Mottola BBC (3)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Eric Phizicky  
Biochemistry & Biophysics  

Matthew Mullen BNS (3)  
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Jessica Cantlon (2), Dr. Brad Mahon (1)  
Brain and Cognitive Sciences  

John Muroski BBC (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gloria Culver  
Biology  

Aissatou Ndiaye BIO/FR (2)  
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Elena Bulgac / Dr. Jeff Hayes  
Biochemistry & Biophysics  

Alexander Neary BBC/PSY (2)  
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Vera Gorbunova, Dr. Andrei Seluanov  
Biology  

Zoe Netter BMB  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joshua Munger  
Biochemistry & Biophysics  

Christopher Nishimura BNS (4)  
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst (3), Dr. Brian Ward (1)  
Microbiology & Immunology  

Leti Nunez BMB/CHM (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Craig Mullen  
Pediatrics Hematology & Oncology  

Yan Nuzbrokh BNS  
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Nehrke Keith (2), Dr. Gail Johnson-Voll (2)  
Nephrology, Anesthesiology  

Morgan O'Brien BMG  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrew Samuelson  
Biomedical Genetics  

Teresa Oh BNS (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gail Johnson  
Anesthesiology  

Jiyoon Park BCD/HLP (4)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Archibald Perkins  
Pathology  

Alap Patel BIO/HBS  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brian Ward  
Microbiology & Immunology  

Krina Patel BNS (2)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ben Hayden  
Brain & Cognitive Sciences  

Priyanka Patel BIO  
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Lata Balakrishnan / Dr. Robert Bambara  
Microbiology & Immunology  

Shiv Patel BMB  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst  
Microbiology & Immunology  

Continued on Next Page
Alison Patrick BCD (4)
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Vera Gorbunova (2), Dr. Andrei Seluanov (2)
Biology

Samantha Plummer BBC (2)
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Eric Phizicky, Dr. Lei Xu
Biochemistry & Biophysics, Biomedical Genetics

Brittany Porter BMG (2)
Faculty Mentors: Dr. David Dean, Dr. Paul Dunman
Pediatrics, Microbiology & Immunology

Amelia Poulin BBC
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mahin Maines
Biochemistry & Biophysics

Alice Can Ran Qin BCD (5)
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Chawnsang Chang (1), Dr. Vera Gorbunova (2),
Dr. Andrei Seluanov (2)
Pathology & Lab Medicine, Biology

John Reichert BBC
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Miller
Dermatology

Robert Rietmeijer BBC (2)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dmitri Ermolenko
Biochemistry & Biophysics

Bridget Russo BCD (2)
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Benoit Biteau, Dr. Jane Sottile
Biomedical Genetics, Cardiovascular Research Institute

Akram Salam BBC (2)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Miller
Biochemistry

Anna Saltman BIO/SA (2)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Elaine Sia
Biology

Srawasti Sarker BNS
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mark Noble
Biomedical Genetics

Jordana Schmierer BNS/IRL (3)
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst (1), Dr. Maiken Nedergaard (1), Dr. Edward Vates (1)
Microbiology & Immunology, Neurosurgery

Shannon Schmit BBC (2)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Beth Grayhack
Biochemistry & Biophysics

Lara Schoenebeck BBC (2)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chris Proschel
Biomedical Genetics

Raven Shah BBC
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jack Werren
Biology

Jesse Sharp BIO
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Seth Perry
Biomedical Engineering

Matthew Shinseki BNS
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Maiken Nedergaard
Center for Translational Neuromedicine

Sydney Simpson BMB (2)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jian Zhu
Microbiology & Immunology

Benjamin Smith BEB
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tirumalai Rangaasamy
Pulmonary/Critical Care Unit

Jordan Snajczuk BMG
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Laurie Steiner
Pediatrics & Neonatology

Nischal Sodemba BCD (2)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mark Noble
Biomedical Genetics

Danielle Sookiasian BMG (3)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amy Kiernan
Ophthalmology

Alicia Spiegel BMB
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Paul Dunman (2), Dr. Sanjay Maggirwar (1)
Microbiology & Immunology

Jamie Strampe BMB (3)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Dewhurst
Microbiology & Immunology

Michael Sumner BCD
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dave Cohen
Endocrinology & Metabolism

Jonathan Tam BMB (4)
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Vera Gorbunova (2), Dr. Andrei Seluanov (2)
Biology

Melissa Thomas BNS
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anna Majewska
Neurobiology & Anatomy

Christopher Tucker BBC (2)
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Jeffrey Hayes,
Dr. Julie Fudge
Biochemistry & Biophysics,
Neurobiology & Anatomy

Daniel Van Twisk BMB/CSC
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jian Zhu
Microbiology & Immunology

Rachel Vance BMG (3)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Thomas Mariani
Pediatrics

Juan Vazquez BMG (2)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrei Seluanov
Biology

Harris Weber BCD/BSB (2)
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Maiken Nedergaard / Dr. Jeffrey Lliff
Translational Neuromedicine

Akira Neng Chun Wong BMG
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Benoit Biteau
Biomedical Genetics

Felix Yang BBC
Faculty Mentor: Dr. David Goldfarb
Biology

Han Zhang BBC
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Robert Bambara
Microbiology & Immunology

Ruijia Zhu BBC/MTH (2)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bradley Nilsson
Chemistry
Biotechnology Certificates
Completed by Thirteen 2015 Graduates

The Certificate Program in Biotechnology is designed to give students the background needed for entry into biotechnology and for advanced study, and it gives recognition for specialization in the field.

The graduates who have met the requirements for the Biotechnology Certificate for 2015 are:

- Sheel Clerk BMB
- Connie Koons BMB
- Harika Kunchala BMB
- Eun Hee Lee BMB
- Xavier Lopez BNS
- Leti Nunez BMB
- Shiv Patel BMB
- Sydney Simpson BMB
- Jamie Strampe BMB
- Jonathan Tam BMB
- Daniel Van Twisk BMB
- Deanna Vaneerde BIO
- Akira Wong BMG

Honors Societies Awards & Accomplishments

UPBM Majors / Biology Graduate Students Recognized

All-American Honors
The UAA Presidents Council established a program of All-Academic Recognition in 1998. Qualifying student-athletes are recognized at the completion of the fall, winter, and spring seasons each year. The honor is intended to recognize the high level of academic achievement demonstrated by student-athletes who effectively balance their significant commitment of time, effort, and energy in athletic endeavor with their highly challenging academic responsibilities... More info available on UAA website.

★ Tomotaka Endo ‘18, BMG (Squash)

Amgen Scholars
“Made possible through a 12-year, $50 million commitment from the Amgen Foundation, Amgen Scholars allows undergraduates from across the globe to participate in cutting-edge research opportunities at world-class institutions. 17 leading institutions across the U.S., Europe and Japan currently host the summer program.

Undergraduate participants benefit from undertaking a research project under top faculty, being part of a cohort-based experience of seminars and networking events, and taking part in a symposium in their respective region (U.S., Europe or Japan) where they meet their peers, learn about biotechnology, and hear from leading scientists.” For more information on the Amgen Scholars Program visit http://www.amgenscholars.com/

★ Peggy Chien ‘17, BCD - Tokyo (Summer 2015)

Ayman Amin-Salem Memorial Award
The Ayman Amin-Salem Memorial is a college-wide award which is to be presented each year at Commencement to that member of the senior class who best evidences the quality of good character and good citizenship, such as decency, reliability, responsibility, and congeniality. Preference may be given to students who also have an interest in biology or the biological sciences, music, art, writing, or athletics.

★ Michael Breen ‘15, BMB
★ Phillip Cohen ‘14/15, BMB
★ Mark Lawlor ‘15, BMB

Catherine Block Memorial Fund Prize
Annual prize awarded by the University to a woman in the junior class in recognition of her outstanding ability and achievement in the field of science. Selection is based on recommendations by the respective departments, which are evaluated by a committee appointed by the Dean of the College.

★ Chitavi Maulloo ‘15, BMG/CHM (2014)
★ Anna Parker ‘16, BEB (2015)
★ Christine Ziegler ‘16, BMG/CHM (2015)

Davis Projects for Peace Fellowship
The Projects for Peace program was launched by author, philanthropist, and scholar Kathryn Wasserman Davis in 2007 to commemorate her 100th birthday. Since its founding,
Projects for Peace has funded more than 700 projects in over 100 countries. Davis passed away on April 23, 2013, at the age of 106.
★ Fatima Bawany ’15, BIO
★ Katherine Wegman ’15, BIO/ANT

Wendy Jill Fread Prize
The Wendy Jill Fread Prize is a College-Wide award that was established in memory of Wendy Jill Fread (Class of 1975) and is presented to the member of the senior class (preferably a woman) who, during four years as a student, has given the greatest service and shown the greatest concern for fellow students;
★ Lillye Anderson ’15, BCD

Fulbright U.S. Student Program
The Fulbright Scholarship competition is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State designed to promote mutual understanding and peace between the United States and other nations through educational and cultural exchange. It offers opportunities for career-launching study, teaching, and research abroad. Scholars pursuing study or research design their own programs and arrange institutional affiliations in the host countries.
★ Benjamin E. Landwersiek ’15, BNS

German Academic Exchange Service Research Internships in Science & Engineering
RISE is a summer internship program for undergraduate students from the United States, Canada and the UK in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences and engineering. It offers unique opportunities for undergraduate students to work with research groups at universities and top research institutions across Germany for a period of 2 to 3 months during the summer.
★ Kristin Abramo ’15, BMG
★ Corey Giaryn ’15, BCD/PHL
★ Alexandra Born ’15, BMB/CHM
★ Austin Mottola ’15, BBC
★ Robert Rietmeijer ’15, BBC
★ Jamie Strampe ’15, BMB

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship
The scholarship, which provides financial assistance to students who are enrolled in study abroad programs worldwide, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and the Institute of International Education. “Rochester students have studied in 26 different countries through the scholarship,” said Jacqueline Levine, director of Rochester’s Center for Study Abroad and Interdepartmental Programs.
★ Nathalia Botero ’16, BMG
★ Eric Chen ’16, BMG
★ Anjali Patel ’15, BMG
★ Golden Key International Honour Society
★ Sarah Allen ’15, BMG
★ Brian Bernstein ’15, BNS/PSY
★ Michael Breen ’15, BMB
★ Gregory Golembeski ’15, BNS
★ Balaji Jagdish ’15, BCD
★ Michelle Landis ’15, BMG
★ Benjamin Meath ’15, BNS
★ Leti Nunez ’15, BMB/CHM
★ Sally Patel ’15, BNS/PSY
★ William Retz ’15, BNS
★ John Wilson ’15, BMG/PSY
★ Kailee Zornow ’15, BMB
★ Janet Howell Clark Prize
Is awarded annually to a, “senior woman” who has shown the greatest promise in creative work in one of the following fields— Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Astronomy—and has shown outstanding versatility in the mastery of allied fields.”
★ Chitavi Maulloo ’15, BIO/CHM (2015)
★ Kauffman Entrepreneurial Year (KEY) Program
The University of Rochester defines entrepreneurship as “transforming an idea into an enterprise that generates value,” implying that the enterprise outlives the creator and that it positively affects others. Qualified students may propose to devote as much as an entire academic year to internships, special projects, relevant coursework, business plan development, research into various facets of entrepreneurship, or analysis of how culture and public policy influence entrepreneurial activity.
★ Brian Bernstein ’15/16, BNS/PSY
★ Andrew Bui ’15/16, BNS
★ Cody Civiletto ’15/16, BNS
★ Alisa Johnson ’14/15, BEB
★ Halima Rafi ’14/15, BNS
★ Brandon Salzman ’14/15, BNS
★ Venkatesh Abhishek ’14/15, BNS/MUS/PSY
★ Benjamin Wainblat ’14/15, BCD/PSY
★ Akira Neng Chun Wong ’14/15, BMG
★ Kearns Scholar
The Kearns Scholars program currently supports over 110 undergraduate students, first-year through seniors. Students who are in the program are retained in STEM at substantially higher rates than nonparticipants, and three-quarters enroll in graduate study. Kearns Scholars also earn higher grades in their first and second year science courses, and withdraw from those courses less frequently, than is historically true of similar students. For more information on the program visit: (http://
★ Andrew Bui ’15, BNS
★ Nadia Mercado ’15, BNS

McNair Scholar
The goal of the McNair Program is to increase the numbers of low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented minority students who pursue the doctoral degree, with the long-term goal of helping to diversify the nation’s college and university faculty and researchers. The program provides intensive advising and academic support, as well as a mentored research opportunity, the opportunity to travel to research conferences, and a myriad of other supports that help students achieve their academic potential. McNair scholars also participate in a seminar, three credit bearing lecture classes, and a two month research program. For more information about the program visit: http://www.rochester.edu/college/kearnscenter/CollegePrograms/McNair.html
★ Andrew Bui ’15, BNS

Grace McCormack Fund for Biology Prize
This award is given annually to worthy students, who, in the judgment of the Department, have great potential and have demonstrated excellence in academics, teaching, service to the department, or scientific research.
★ Sarah Allen ’15, BMG
★ Liluye Anderson ’15, BCD
★ Max Beyman ’15, BMG
★ Corey Garyn ’15, BCD/PHL
★ Mehr Kashyap ’15, BCD
★ Sarah Lazarus ’15, BEB
★ Gouri Mahadwar ’15, BEB
★ Jiyoon Park ’15, BCD/HLP
★ Alison Patrick ’15, BCD
★ Benjamin Wainblat ’15, BCD/PSY
★ Harris Weber ’15, BCD/BSB
★ Katherine Wegman ’15, BIO/ANT

National Society of Collegiate Scholars
★ Naba Ali ’15, BNS
★ Rutul Amin ’15, BNS
★ Marcia DesJardin ’15/16 BMG
★ Priyanka Garg ’15, BIO
★ Claire Hart ’15, BMG
★ Balaji Jagdish ’15, BCD
★ Amos Liou ’15, BBC
★ Chitavi Maulloo ’15, BIO/CHM
★ Benjamin Meath ’15, BNS
★ Christopher Nishimura ’15, BNS
★ William Retz ’15, BNS
★ Shannon Schmit ’15, BBC
★ Nicholas Sirotenko ’15, BIO

Edward Peck Curtis Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student
Awarded for teaching excellence in schools with undergraduate programs, the E.P. Curtis Award recognizes a record of distinguished teaching, typically developed over at least eight years.
★ Matthew Johnson, Doctoral Student, Biology

Student Life Awards
The annual University Student Life Awards recognize those undergraduate students who—through service to others, investment of talent and time, and pursuit of excellence—have significantly and positively impacted the University of Rochester and/or surrounding community.
★ Freshman Leadership: Katherine Wegman ’15, BMG/ANT
★ Outstanding Fraternity and Sorority Leadership: Alap Patel ’15, BIO/HBS
★ Presidential Award for Community Service: Rutul Amin ’15, BCD

Susan B. Anthony Center / Women’s Leadership Awards
There are six University Women’s Leadership Awards which are presented annually to women of the University community who have distinguished themselves through their achievements, service and contributions to the common good. This year three UPBM majors took home the following:
★ Fannie Bigelow Prize-Fatima Bawany ’16, BIO/RLS (2014)
★ Fannie Bigelow Prize-Allison Eberhardt ’15, BMG (2015)
★ Susan B. Anthony Scholarship-Oluwatobi Abubakare ’16, BNS (2015)
★ Susan B. Anthony Scholarship-Katherine Wegman ’15, BIO/ANT (2015)

Take Five Scholars Program
A unique program to the University of Rochester, provides an additional semester or year, tuition-free. It offers the chance to pursue a demanding major and still enjoy the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the broad-based, intellectual enrichment of a liberal arts education. Since its inception in 1986, over 1,100 students have become Take Five Scholars. The number of students enrolled in the program varies each year, with new Scholars accepted each semester.
★ Zachariah Adham ’14/15, BNS
★ Alice Chen ’15/16, BIO/ANT
★ Smon Cheewapansri ’14/15, BBC
★ Phillip Cohen ’14/15, BMB
★ Marcia DesJardin ’15/16, BMG
★ Rebecca Galasso ’14/15, BEB/CSC
★ Ihuoma Igbokwe ’15/16, BMG
★ Amy Ige ’14/15, BIO/HBS
★ Ali Khan ’15/16, BBC/ENG
★ Michelle Landis ’15/16, BMG
★ Morgan Mehring ’15/16, BNS/DMS

Continued on Next Page
UR Undergraduate Writing Colloquium Contest
The College Writing Program holds an annual undergraduate writing contest to recognize and celebrate outstanding student writing and to share that writing with the University of Rochester community. Each spring the College Writing Program accepts submissions from students in four categories: Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural and Applied Sciences. Prizes are awarded for the best paper in each of the four categories.

Zachary Adham '14/15, BNS (Natural Sci. Division)

NCUR is an annual conference (the only one of its kind, with a national scope) for primary research and artistic performance by undergraduate students, encompassing the natural and social sciences, the humanities, the arts, and engineering. Since its beginnings the conference has enjoyed the active support of major American colleges and universities. The UR Office of Undergraduate Research began sending students to NCUR in 1991. Student investigators may present their work at NCUR as an oral presentation or in a poster format. NCUR participants are also eligible to submit texts of their presentations to be considered for publication in the annual NCUR Proceedings, a juried publication.

April 2013, La Crosse, Wisconsin
Zachary Adham '14/15, BNS

April 2014, Lexington, Kentucky
Max Cheng '15, BBC/MUS
Joshua Cho ’16, BMG

April 2015, Cheney, Washington
Morgan Albert ’16, BCD
Michael Breen ’15, BMG
Elizabeth Brown ’15, BCD

UR Undergraduate Research Exposition
The Undergraduate Research Exposition is a College-wide event in which UR students at all levels and in all areas of study are invited to present their investigative and creative work. The Expo reflects the passion for learning that enlivens the University, professors and students alike, and that finds expression in varied forms, in every area of study.

2013 UPBM Participants
Alisa Johnson BIO ’15, BEB
Annah Moore ’15, BNS/CHM
Junne Park ’15, BCD/HLP
Harris Weber ’15, BCD/BSB

2014 UPBM Participants
Naba Ali ’15, BBC
Max Cheng ’15, BBC/MUS
Paige Haas ’16, BMG
Raven Shah ’15, BNS
John Wilson ’15, BMG/PSY - Professor’s Choice Award Winner for Social Sciences Division
“Thank you for that introduction, Dr. Gorbunova. And thank you to both you and Dr. Seluanov for mentoring me for these past four years.

Just a warning -- I haven’t prepared anything special for this ceremony. I was told that I could just use the same speech from earlier today.

I’m not kidding! Dr. Lambert actually suggested that at my senior thesis defense a few weeks ago. And I really want to get an A on this speech, so I should probably listen to him.

I want to begin by thanking everyone that’s helped us make it to this diploma ceremony. So, thank you to all of our professors for going way beyond just teaching us Biology, and advising us both academically and personally.

And thank you for curving 50% to a B average. We would not be here today if it weren’t for that.

Thank you to our amazing course coordinator, Jenn Baylark! Especially for dealing with some of our highly questionable regrade requests. We promise you, our entire future -- whether we made it here today or not -- really did hinge on getting that one point back.

And thank you to Marianne Arcoraci! For making sure that we completed our majors, had information about research and scholarship opportunities, and much more.

We’re sorry for turning more than a few of our forms in a little late. And by ‘we’re sorry,’ I mean I’m sorry.

And thank you to all other UPBM administrators who’ve had a hand in helping us receive our degrees today.

To our families -- we owe you so much for supporting us throughout these four years -- academically, financially, and emotionally. It couldn’t have been easy to deal with us as we were stressed out studying for our classes. We might not always tell you, but you really are our pillars of support.

And finally, thank you to all of the graduates here today. There is no one I would rather study all night with, or go to workshop with, or skip lecture with -- [turn to faculty] I mean, attend lecture with -- than with you. There is no one that I would rather graduate with, than with you.

So, if there is one thing that I’ll miss the most after we leave today, it’s all of you.

For a lot of us, the next chapter of our lives is filled with uncertainty. And so, we’re bound to face obstacles from time to time. But, honestly, we are so ready.

Remember this. We’re here today, because all of us made it through orgo. Right? We can face anything.

Sure, the degrees we’re about to get in a few minutes symbolize all of the biology we’ve spent mastering over the last four years. But what we’ve gained is so much more than that.

Over these past four years, we’ve become more confident, analytical thinkers. We’ve transitioned from simply learning to actively contributing and creating knowledge.

We’ve also become more patient over the years. If you’ve done research in a lab at all in the past four years, you’re probably just one more experiment away from publishing! You thought. Two years ago.

But perhaps most importantly, we’ve been humbled by the vastness of knowledge both around us now, and yet to be discovered. And that’s cultivated this very curious nature that’s evident through our interest in biology, but also in other facets of our lives.

We instinctively seek to question, make hypotheses, and evaluate results. And when our results don’t match our expectations, we just...
go back, change the hypothesis and then we’re always proven right!

Whether the next phase of your life is med school, or grad school, a job, or you’re still unsure, just know that these past four years have prepared you for whatever comes next.

Our task from here on out is to continue growing, to stay confident and curious, and then go change the world.

So, 2015. Let’s walk this stage, let’s get our degrees, and then it’s time to face whatever lies ahead.

I have no doubt that we’ll be among the future movers, shakers and healers of the world.

Good luck and congratulations! "

- Mehr Kashyap ’15, BCD

Picture Pages
2015 Bio Department Diploma Ceremony
Keep in Touch

Check in with the Hive from Time to Time

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