



NOVEMBER 2018

# ENGEL HALL NEWS

BIOCHEMISTRY @  
VIRGINIA TECH

IN THIS ISSUE



DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

## Engel Hall News...The gift that keeps on *Thanksgiving*

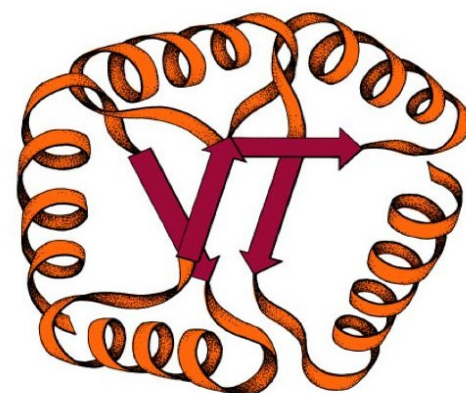
November has been another busy and productive month here in Engel Hall. The semester is quickly coming to an end so be sure to keep up to date on all the happenings in Virginia Tech Biochemistry.

### A new way to get your updates

If you are located here in Engel, you may have noticed that we are currently working on placing a HD monitor on the wall facing the west entrance to the building. This new monitor will be used to display Engel's most recent updates and announcements. Keep a lookout for this new addition coming soon!

### Fall Seminar Series comes to a close

The Biochemistry Fall Seminar Series ends in December. Thank you to external and internal VT speakers who gave compelling talks this semester. We now have undergraduates as well as graduate students attending each week, and plan to offer more professional development talks in the future. Thanks also to the staff who help make this series possible. Stay tuned for our Spring series and remember: alumni and retired faculty are always welcome to attend on Mondays at 4 PM, 223 Engel Hall.



### New Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Chevon Thorpe has recently joined VT Biochemistry as a Collegiate Assistant Professor. Page 2

### Departmental Scholarship Recipients

Meet the recipients of this year's departmental and college scholarships. Page 3

### November's Twitter Feed

Checkout some of this month's Twitter highlights and don't forget to follow @VTBiochem Page 4

## New Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Chevon Thorpe

The Department of Biochemistry is excited to welcome Dr. Chevon Thorpe as of October 2018. Dr. Thorpe is Biochemistry's newest Collegiate Assistant Professor and will be one of the instructors for General Biochemistry, 4116 in the upcoming Spring Semester. The Department is especially excited that Dr. Thorpe will be acting as an important link between Biochemistry and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as the first Director for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity for the college. Dr. Thorpe received her B.S. degree in Biology, with minors in Chemistry and Psychology at Christopher Newport University. She went on to be a part of the 4<sup>th</sup> VT PREP cohort where she was mentored by Virginia Tech Biochemistry faculty member Dr. Jake Tu. Dr. Thorpe then completed her Ph.D. here at Virginia Tech in Biochemistry. In her most recent position, Dr. Thorpe worked with medical school students at Edward Via



College of Osteopathic Medicine (Virginia Campus, VCOM) as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Physiology. Dr. Thorpe has openly expressed her passion for serving **all** students with the mindset of "students first". She also understands the

importance of building and fostering affirming spaces for students that are underserved and underrepresented here on our campus. "As an educator, it is my responsibility not only to create a safe and intellectually stimulating learning environment, but to invest in the development of future educators by helping them realize their full potential. Education provides the tools to listen carefully, imagine creatively, articulate interesting questions, explore alternative viewpoints, maintain intellectual curiosity and to speak persuasively. In every course and lecture delivered, I attempt to model these characteristics and set expectations for students to do the same."-Dr. Thorpe. We're looking forward

to further strengthening Virginia Tech Biochemistry under Dr. Thorpe's leadership through her efforts to advance innovative pedagogy along with inclusion and diversity.

Are you enjoying these monthly newsletters? Consider *making a gift* to the Virginia Tech Biochemistry Department using our secure giving site associated with the Virginia Tech Foundation.

Simply visit the online gift form at <http://givingto.vt.edu/donate>. Once you enter the amount you would like to contribute, select "College of Agriculture and Life Sciences" and then "Biochemistry Department Annual Fund".



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\$1,000

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\$ 25.00

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# CHECK OUT THESE SUPER BIOCHEMISTRY STUDENTS:



Earlier this fall, the Department of Biochemistry, in partnership with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, awarded 22 undergraduate and 2 graduate students with scholarships to help them further their education here at Virginia Tech. These particular scholarships have been funded by a variety of sources which include the Kendall W. King Memorial Scholarship, the R.W. and Frances H. Engel Scholarship, the William Newton Scholarship, Bruce and Connie Anderson Scholarship, Ann L. and John L.

Hess Education Fund, William Burns Downey Memorial Scholarship, and Thomas O. Sitz Scholarship. A short bio and future graduation plans for all of the students that were recipients of these various scholarships will be displayed in rotation on the new monitor in the west wing of Engel Hall. Congratulations to all the recipients and an incredibly huge thank you to all the donors that make these scholarships possible.





# October Tweets



**BcGSA**  
@BcGSAVT

Following

We had some issues with the Blacksburg wind! BUT we are more than ready for the BcGSA tailgate. Thanks to the committee for their help & @asalsbur for leading efforts 2 years in a row. #GoHokies 🍷🍷🍷



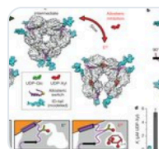
11:44 AM - 3 Nov 2018



**Pablo Sobrado**  
@SobradoLab

Following

Congratulations to Nick Keul (undergraduate student from @vtbiochem @VTCals) great work! . The entropic force generated by intrinsically disordered segments tunes protein function



**The entropic force generated by intrinsically disordered seg...**  
The carboxy terminus of human UDP- $\alpha$ -D-glucose-6-dehydrogenase is structurally disordered, but has sequence-independent effects on the conformation of the enzyme and bi...  
nature.com



**Dr. Chloe Lahondere**  
@Lahondere\_Lab

Following

Award notification! 🎉 @Lahondere\_Lab, Dr. Lydia Patton @Luis\_Escobar\_VT & @thevinaugerlab receive a grant from @globalchangevt and ISCE to study the impact of #climatechange on #mosquito 🦟 population dynamics in VA -@virginia\_tech @VTCals @vtbiochem @VTFishWildlife @VTCLAHS

11:46 AM - 14 Nov 2018

2 Retweets 10 Likes



**VT Biochemistry**  
@vtbiochem

Shoutout to our Peer Mentors & Advising staff for hosting the Biochemistry Major table at Open House this past weekend! Looking forward to meeting the next generation of Biochem undergrads!



11:42 AM - 13 Nov 2018



**Blake Sanders** @blake\_e\_sanders · Nov 10

presenting at ASM Virginia Branch Meeting 2018, a great two days full of exciting microbiology, thanks organizers and @radfordu for hosting us @TheSlideLab @FusoPortal @vtbiochem @virginia\_tech #science #asm #microbiology #PhDlife #PhDchat - at Radford University





# IN THE CLASSROOM: SNAP



## ENGEL HALL NEWS

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Blacksburg, VA 24061

Students in our Introduction to Biochemistry class participated in a Design Thinking activity called *Mock Ups* where they worked in teams to design various products! The class is held for first year students and transfers into Biochemistry, held in the New Classroom Building SCALE UP classroom.

If you have a story, you'd like us to highlight in the Engel Hall News, please contact Mari Martinez, [mmari96@vt.edu](mailto:mmari96@vt.edu). Stay tuned for more highlights next month!



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