



Nerdy by Nature—Graduate Office Newsletter



Class of 2024

Pictured above are the newest graduate students in Evolution, Ecology, & Behavior; Genome, Cell, & Cellular Development; Microbiology; and Biotechnology, pictured with the chair and graduate program directors at the Graduate Student Orientation this past August.

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Deadline Reminders

Are you on-track with your degree? Find out [here](#).

GSO Winter Break Hours

December 20th, 23rd & 24th—Remote work only, office closed
December 25th through January 1st—office closed

Oh, Science!

Did you know that we stock and sell fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) for research and training purposes right here on campus? Turns out that fruit flies are found to be model organisms for research due to their genetic similarities with humans and other animals. (Metabolism, development and behavior are shared, to list a few). Fun fact: Fruit flies have been used to study aging and age-related diseases.



The study of fruit flies began in 1913 in genetic studies. The first stock (a “stock” is a living culture of fruit flies that is maintained and propagated over generations) shipment from IU Bloomington was mailed on October 15, 1986. In that year, there were 1,675 stocks. By 2023, the collection had grown to 87,912 stocks and is now the world’s largest supplier of fruit flies. Check out the history of our IU *Drosophila* Stock Center (BDSC) [here](#).

Fellowships and Awards

Coming up soon is the [John H. Edwards Fellowship](#). One of our most prestigious academic awards is based on good citizenship and character, especially toward public service as demonstrated by actual service. This single-year award is approximately \$25,000 for graduate students in terminal degree programs. The deadline for applications is Monday, February 3rd.

Science Quotes

“Above all, don't fear difficult moments. The best comes from them.”

-Rita Levi-Montalcini, Neurobiologist, 1986 Nobel Prize Winner.

Rita Levi-Montalcini (right) was an Italian neurobiologist. She was awarded the 1986 Nobel Prize in Physiology of Medicine jointly with colleague Stanley Cohen.





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Featured Alumni - Blake Petersen!

Blake graduated from IU with a Ph.D. in Microbiology in 2022, studying regulation of quorum sensing and bacterial motility in Dr. Julia van Kessel's laboratory. During his time at IU, Blake found a passion for teaching and mentoring students, both in the classroom and in the research lab. He is now an Assistant Professor of Biology at Baldwin Wallace University, a primarily undergraduate institution (PUI) near Cleveland, Ohio. For more information about Blake and other awesome graduates, please visit our Alumni website [here](#).



Lab Spotlight



This month we feature the Limoli Lab and Microbiology student, Kim Kissoon! See Kim's answers to our questions below:

What does the Limoli lab do? What is the lab's primary focus?

The Limoli lab seeks to understand the cellular mechanisms behind polymicrobial interactions that affect patients' health and worsen disease outcomes. The primary focus is on *P. aeruginosa* and *S. aureus* interactions in respiratory disease in people with cystic fibrosis.

What is the most appealing to you about working in this lab and with Nicki?

Nicki's mentorship and training is what appealed to me most about this lab. But I also really enjoy the research and the overall lab culture.

What accomplishments are you most proud of to date?

Our lab winning Microlympics! And winning best talk at Micro Retreat 2024.

What do you do for fun and/or for self-care?

Sleep. But also, I really love to dance. I also love cooking and traveling.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Being in the Micro program has been a great experience so far. There are so many amazing people here! You all rock!

About this Newsletter:

This newsletter's purpose is to spotlight our department in a fun, informal—yet informative—manner. Suggestions for submissions are always welcome. Email us at gradbio@iu.edu or kramerkk@iu.edu.

Book Review—"Vanishing Treasures"

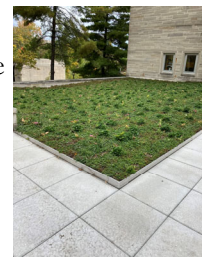
"Vanishing Treasures" a book recently featured on NPR, is about "A Bestiary of Extraordinary Endangered Creatures." It includes twenty-three short essays on "creatures ranging from the wombat to the spider; the raccoon to the tuna."

If you'd rather skip the broadcast and read the book, The Boston Globe says it is a "...celebration of seahorses, lemurs, and others and doubles as a wake-up call to look around and protect what you love."

To listen to the NPR podcast, click [here](#). For a link to purchase the book on bookshop.org (Hardcover-\$24.18) click [here](#).

Green Roof Installation

This fall, the vegetated roof outside of the Biology Building's atrium was expanded and planted with a variety of sedum species. LiveRoof® (<https://liveroof.com/about/>) installed this green roof.



Sedums, commonly known as stonecrops, are low growing, creeping plants with succulent (thick & fleshy) leaves. Many sedums are adapted to shallow, droughty soils and full sun, making them ideal for green roof plantings.

Caution: Most sedums are native to Eurasia, Africa, or South America, and some species have become invasive in the United States. Before planting your own sedum green roof or rock garden, carefully research species to avoid those known to be invasive.

Native tip: Consider gardening with two beautiful native stonecrops: woodland stonecrop (*Sedum ternatum*), which is adapted to shady conditions, and Alleghany stonecrop (*Hylotelephium telephoides*), which grows in full sun to partial shade. -Contributed by H. Reynolds