As we rapidly approach the fall elections and the specter of sequestration, one cannot help but wonder what the funding climate will look like for the biological sciences. There is no doubt that it will recover, but how long will it take and to what levels will it rise? That is still not clear. The best evidence is that there are still plenty of jobs for PhD bioscientists, but most will be outside academia. With limited resources in the immediate future, we at the GDBBS have made a conscious decision to limit the number of students we enroll and to concentrate our efforts on providing better training for our students.

There is ample evidence that the training we have been providing is quite good. Our graduates are placed in dozens of different professions all over the world. This year’s Distinguished Alumnus Award winner is a 1992 graduate of the former Cell and Developmental Biology graduate program. Elizabeth Smith was a student with Win Sale and is currently chair of biology at Dartmouth. She received the award at the third-annual GDBBS Awards Banquet held September 28 at the Emory Conference Center.

This issue also contains an article on four other alumni who have accomplished amazing things in medicine, business, and academia. See also the interviews of the student and faculty awardees honored at the Awards Banquet and the first named student fellowship: the William and Catherine Rice Endowed Research Award, which was given to Cancer Biology student Gina Alesi.

In spite of these and many other successes, we think we can do a better job, and several campus-wide presentations and events will emphasize mentoring and development of talent and diversity.

We are continuing our monthly Career Seminar Series to expose our students to the variety of careers open to them. If you would like to visit campus and talk with our students about your career choices, we would love to host your visit. Just send an email to the Career Committee at GDBBS-CAREER-COMMITTEE@LISTSERV.EMORY.EDU.

Another story describes an eight-week series of workshops on professionalization and individual development planning taken by our EarlyStart students. This kind of intensive discussion and mentoring will soon become the norm in our programs.

Finally, we want to point out the Emory University STEM Research and Career Symposium to be held April 3 to 5, 2013, at the Emory Conference Center. This is a premier research meeting for potential graduate and postdoctoral applicants, especially those from diverse backgrounds. With support and funding from the Laney Graduate School, we hope to attract up to 250 students and faculty to Emory for this event.

The old curse “May you live in interesting times” certainly applies here.

Keith D. Wilkinson, PhD
Director, GDBBS
Alumni Accomplishments

AMANDA WENDT

Giles Shih
Giles Shih graduated from Emory in 1999 with a PhD in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. He since has been recognized as a top leader in business as chair and CEO of BioResource International, Inc. (BRI), which he co-founded. He has earned the Triangle Business Journal’s “40 under 40 Leadership Award,” Business Leader top 50 Catalyst Entrepreneur Award, and the Pinnacle Award from the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce. BRI has been recognized as a Council for Entrepreneurial Development “North Carolina Company to Watch.” In addition, he serves on the Advisory Board of North Carolina State University Technology Incubator and North Carolina Agricultural Biotechnology Advisory Council of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center.

Shih has been recognized not only for contributions to his field, but he also shares his expertise and experience with current Emory students. This past year he participated in the Laney Graduate School Mentor/Mentee Protégé Program, and he was a speaker in the Graduate School’s Pathways beyond the Professoriate, which highlights career opportunities that Emory alumni have achieved outside academia.

Valerie Horsley
Valerie Horsley graduated from Emory with a PhD in Biochemistry, Cell, and Developmental Biology in 2003. She is now an assistant professor in the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at Yale University. Her lab examines adult epithelial stem cell activity, including tissue homeostasis, and how this contributes to wound healing and plays a role in cancer formation. In July of this year, Horsley’s contributions were recognized with the prestigious Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers—the highest honor given to young scientists and engineers by the United States government. These awards were established in 1996 by President Clinton, and awardees are selected on the basis of innovative research and service to the community. President Obama recognized each recipient and stated, “The impressive accomplishments of today’s awardees so early in their careers promise even greater advancements in the years ahead.”

Leigh Hochberg
Leigh Hochberg graduated in 1999 with an MD/PhD in Neuroscience from Emory. His current titles include vascular and critical care neurologist at Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham & Women’s Hospital, and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital; associate professor of engineering at Brown University; visiting associate professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School; and investigator at the Center for Restorative and Regenerative Medicine, Rehabilitation R & D Service at the Providence VA Medical Center.

His research on the BrainGate2 Neural Interface System has earned much acclaim, including a Doris Duke Clinical Scientist Development Award, and his most recent success on this project was published in an article in Nature titled, “Reach and Grasp by People with Tetraplegia Using a Neuroally Controlled Robotic Arm.” This project has enabled patients who are tetraplegic and unable to speak to move a robotic arm to grasp objects using only their brain activity.

Tiffany Roberts-Wilson
Tiffany Roberts-Wilson is a recent graduate, earning her PhD in Biochemistry, Cell, and Developmental Biology in 2010. Her dissertation work with Russ Price, titled “Suppression of Calcinerin Signaling and PGC-1α Expression during the Chronic Skeletal Muscle Atrophy Associated with Diabetes Mellitus: Implications for Muscle Function,” led to a Clinical Chemistry Fellowship at Emory’s School of Medicine. In June 2012 she began a two-year histocompatibility and transplant immunology fellowship, also at Emory. This year she has been recognized with the Paul E. Standjord Young Investigator Award from the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists. This award is given “to provide opportunities for young men and women to present their research work annually at the academy’s national meeting.”
This year the GDBBS provided incoming students with the opportunity to participate in a new program, the GDBBS EarlyStart Experience. The program responds to a call by the National Institutes of Health for graduate programs to increase student training in professionalization and career planning, and it incorporates the objectives of the Individual Development Plan resources offered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The director of the GDBBS, Keith Wilkinson, explains that the program offers “formal instruction in professionalization that has not otherwise been available to our students” and that it aims to “push the idea that students should be actively designing their own curriculum and career trajectory.”

Previously, the GDBBS has allowed incoming students to start prior to the fall semester for the primary purpose of gaining additional research experience, or a head start, on first-year lab rotations. However, this arrangement resulted in several negative consequences. Labs hosting students have been responsible for providing funding, and few labs have had the resources to do so, resulting in low participation by faculty. In addition, students who participated often ended up gaining experience in labs or research topics that they had little interest in pursuing long term.

This year the GDBBS was able to support students fully by shifting the dates of their financial support. Traditionally, support is offered for 21 months from GDBBS funds, starting in September and concluding in May of the second academic year, after which students are supported by their mentor’s grant or through a grant that the student has obtained. EarlyStart students are still supported for 21 months, but instead will be supported starting in July of their incoming year. This funding maneuver allowed better pairing of students with mentors and research projects, resulting in a much more productive early admission experience.

David Gruenewald, for example, of the Population Biology, Ecology, and Evolution Program, joined Emory in hopes of researching pollinator health and behavior. With the support of the EarlyStart program, he was able to work under Berry Brosi (Environmental Science) and Keith Delaplane (University of Georgia), investigating the dynamics of Varroa mite infections in both managed and feral honeybee colonies. His experience involved field work in the Oconee National Forest as well as molecular lab work and computational analyses.

In addition to improving the student research experience, the GDBBS Early Start Experience introduces students to strategies and tools that they may find useful for making the most out of their respective graduate programs. One such tool, the StrengthsQuest evaluation, is an online assessment that helps students identify their professional talents. StrengthsQuest provides suggestions for how students can use their talents for academic, career, and personal success, and it places an emphasis on developing leadership skills. Wilkinson also feels that the evaluations allow students to “become more comfortable and accustomed to different personality types that they will potentially encounter in their colleagues.”

Students enrolled in the program are also involved in a series of professionalization workshops, which are run by Wilkinson and Pat Marsteller, who is director of the Emory College Center for Science Education. Workshops cover topics ranging from time and stress management to networking and developing career plans, with an emphasis on training students to contribute actively to their own development and career planning. These workshops also benefit from the involvement of other members of Emory’s faculty and advanced graduate students.

EarlyStart students also were encouraged to participate in the Get a Leg Up at Emory experience. This program, open to all incoming GDBBS students, is designed to introduce students to some of the differences between graduate studies and their previous undergraduate studies. The course director, Doug Falls (Cell Biology), accomplishes this by providing students with a minicourse, complete with readings and assignments. Before their academic performance is potentially jeopardized by past approaches to learning, students in the program become familiar with the greater responsibility and self-motivation required by graduate studies.

Overall, this year’s EarlyStart program was quite successful, with 23 students from all nine GDBBS programs involved. Wilkinson plans to improve the course by incorporating feedback from these students and hopes to involve more of the GDBBS programs and gain more support in highlighting the importance of this type of training. Wilkinson also encourages all Emory programs and divisions to offer similar programs.
On April 3, 2013, Emory will host its first STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Research and Career Symposium. The two-day-long symposium will be held at the Emory Conference Center and will allow undergraduates planning to pursue PhD or MD/PhD degrees and graduate students looking for research-intensive postdoctoral opportunities a chance to present their work. Although the number of African American and Hispanic/Latino students who earn a PhD has been increasing annually, these groups are still underrepresented when compared to the number of Asian American and Caucasian scientists with advanced degrees. This difference leads to a disparity between the diversity of the US population and the diversity of the US workforce in STEM-related fields. Unfortunately, the Laney Graduate School students and postdoctoral trainees are no exception.

Federally funded training programs expect recipient institutions to recruit and retain students from a variety of backgrounds in order to receive these benefits. Trainees from diverse backgrounds are eligible to apply for diversity travel awards to attend the Emory symposium. Eight students will be selected to give an oral presentation, and the rest of the participants will present their research in a poster session. The symposium will feature two prominent minority scientists: George H. Jones, PhD, a Goodrich C. White Professor of Biology whose research focuses on the mechanism and regulation of antibiotic synthesis in bacteria, will give the opening remarks. James R. Gavin III, MD, PhD, will give a speech during dinner. Gavin is currently the CEO and CMO of Healing Our Village (see below) and also serves on the Emory Board of Trustees.

The most important part of this new symposium, however, is the highly competitive yet underrepresented minority students it will bring to Emory. Ideally, these participants will discover everything Emory has to offer and will apply for graduate programs and postdoctoral positions here at Emory.
The third-annual GDBBS Awards Banquet was held Friday, September 28, at the Emory Conference Center Hotel. Students, faculty, administrators, and alumni of the GDBBS attended the banquet, which included a cocktail reception and dinner featuring a keynote address by Jonathan D. Glass, professor of neurology and pathology and director of the Emory ALS Center. Students, faculty, and alumni were recognized for their outstanding achievements in scholarship, research, teaching, leadership, service, and mentoring.

The banquet has undergone several developments since it was first held in 2010. Keith Wilkinson, director of the GDBBS, explains, “We have codified the descriptions of the awards, the application procedure, and the selection procedures so that each step is transparent and the eligibility requirements are easily understood.” In addition, the GDBBS has partnered with the Laney Graduate School to handle invitations and RSVPs. The first Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented at the 2011 banquet to recognize graduates of the GDBBS who have continued to achieve excellence in their careers. Wilkinson notes that this award “has proved to be a very popular recognition of the accomplishments of our graduates.”

This year, the William and Catherine Rice Endowed Research Award was added to the list of accolades and was presented by Bill Rice 86PhD to Cancer Biology student Gina Alesi. Wilkinson noted, “This is the first endowed, named award for our students, and we hope it serves as an example for others to give back directly to students pursuing the PhD at Emory.”

Glass views the banquet as a way to bring together the diverse group encompassed by the GDBBS to allow interaction and recognition of the hard work of graduate students. He hoped his keynote address could “provide perspective for scientists just starting out in their careers.”

“I thought this was an absolutely fabulous event and a terrific way to recognize students and faculty,” said Elizabeth Smith, a graduate of the former Cell and Developmental Biology graduate program, who is now a professor and chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at Dartmouth College and the winner of this year’s Distinguished Alumnus/a Award. “Science is hard; for every successful experiment, there are many failures, and so I think it is important for the entire community to come together to honor excellence in research and mentoring.”

This year’s banquet was held during Emory’s Homecoming Week, a time that Wilkinson would like to see become tradition. “I would like to see this become an event that could bring GDBBS graduates back to campus and help us build a close community of graduates, faculty, and current students. They may be influential in recommending Emory and would be valuable career mentors who could speak to the diversity of opportunities available to our graduates,” says Wilkinson.

In addition, he believes the number and type of awards will continue to evolve as priorities in graduate training change. “For instance, we might consider an award for translational research and/or team science, both areas being emphasized by the NIH,” suggests Wilkinson.

The Awards Banquet overall, says Wilkinson, “is really a celebration of the accomplishments of our students. So many of them are outstanding, but it is easy for us to take them for granted. This event reminds us of how talented they are and how much they contribute to our successes.”
Bill Kaiser, Graduate Career Award
Kaiser began his doctoral studies in 2009 as a student in the Microbiology and Molecular Genetics (MMG) program. Two years later, while researching the antiviral role of programmed cell death, his work was published in *Nature*. In addition to this publication, Bill has given oral presentations of his work at Cold Spring Harbor and Keystone, and he received the MMG Program Scholar Award in 2011. Notably, he recently received the NIH Director’s Early Independence Award. Following graduation this fall, Kaiser said, “This award will enable me to immediately skip a postdoc and start my own independent lab here at Emory.” As one of only 24 award recipients, and the first from Emory, he will establish a research program to investigate the molecular basis of programmed necrosis.—JP

Rebecca Levin, Student Teaching Award
Levin, a former sixth-grade science teacher, is the Student Teaching Award recipient. Aside from her graduate studies in the Population Biology, Ecology, and Evolution (PBEE) Program, Levin has been a TA for several undergraduate environmental science courses and currently co-teaches a freshman seminar called “Going Viral: Infectious Diseases, Ideas, and Politics.” Even though Levin admits that it can be challenging to reach a student who may have different intellectual interests, she finds it most rewarding “when a teacher’s passion and excitement for a topic is transferred to his or her students.” Although she enjoyed teaching and interacting with middle-school students, she missed doing research and subsequently entered PBEE’s doctoral program. Given her love for both research and teaching, her career goals are to do applied research in disease ecology and continue to teach students of all ages.—JP

Laura Mariani, Student Leadership Award
Mariani, a graduate student in the Neuroscience Program, was the recipient of this year’s Student Leadership Award. Mariani is an active member of graduate student government, having served as an SGA legislator since 2011 and as president of the Graduate Student Council during the 2011–2012 school year. During her time as president, Mariani was a leading advocate for establishing a parental accommodation policy for graduate students. She also organized a “Wine for Whines” event, which was a town-hall–type forum for students to provide feedback that was then submitted to the Graduate Student Council. Mariani plans to pursue a career in academia, and she says, “Developing leadership skills and learning to work with the university administration are helpful for someone who wants to run a lab in the future.”—SB

Ben Nanes, Outreach/Community Service Award
As an active member of Health Students Taking Action Together (HealthSTAT, http://www.healthstatgeorgia.org/), Nanes is the recipient of the Outreach/Community Service Award. Since joining Emory’s MD/PhD program in 2008 and the Biochemistry, Cell, and Developmental Biology Program in 2010, Nanes generously has contributed his time and effort to support HealthSTAT’s mission of unifying students from different academic disciplines to improve Georgia’s health care system. He has joined other students to speak with lawmakers at the state capitol regarding health policy, worked on campaigns to support Georgia’s health safety net, and recently served as chair of the board of directors for the...
organization. Nanes has found it rewarding to work with students from different educational fields and make a difference as a student. After completing his degree, Nanes said that he “plan[s] to pursue an academic career as a physician-scientist, combining clinically relevant research in cell biology with patient care.”—JP

Orion Keifer, Student Mentor Award
This year’s Student Mentor Award went to Orion Keifer, an MD/PhD student in the Neuroscience program. Before coming to Emory, Keifer studied at Georgia Tech, and he began to develop his interest in mentoring as he taught in introductory courses. More recently here at Emory, Keifer has been actively involved with medical education; he has been a teaching assistant in human anatomy labs and helped junior medical students hone their skills in the Good Samaritan volunteer clinic. He also mentors undergraduate students in a lab environment and is involved in Eat, Teach, Talk, Run, which is an organization that helps graduate students prepare for their first stints as teachers. Keifer ultimately wants to be an academic pediatric surgeon. He notes, “I consider mentoring a pivotal part of running a successful lab, especially given that I often will have to empower my students, postdocs, and residents to work independently.”—SB

Award Winners and Nominees*

Graduate Career Award
MMG: William J. Kaiser
BCDB: Emily Ryan
GMB: Lydia Morris
PBEE: Pierre Ankomah

Student Teaching Award
NHS: Rebecca Levine
GMB: Benjamin Barwick
GMB: Benjamin Rambo-Martin
IMP: Megan Mickum
MMG: Max Schroeder
NHS: Karen Siegel

Student Leadership Award
NS: Laura Mariani
BCDB: Beth Bowman
MSP: Stefka Gyoneva
NHS: Mary Beth Weber
NS: Leila Myrick

Outreach / Community Service Award
BCDB: Ben Nanes
CB: Jasmine Miller-Kleinhenz
GMB: Nicole Umberger
NHS: Memorie Nichols
NS: Alisha Epps
NS: Kathryn Shepard

Program Scholar of the Year
BCDB: Kevin Van Bortle
CB: Jessica Tepe
GMB: Jenna Daenzer
IMP: Clint Paden
MMG: Elizabeth A. Ohneck
MSP: Paul Musille
NHS: Jessica Marcinkevage
NS: Sharon Swanger
PBEE: Eleanor Sternberg

Faculty Mentor Award
Anita Corbett
Lawrence Boise
Randy Hall
Grace Pavlath
Win Sale
Krish Sathian
Yolanda Smith
Stephen Traynellis

Distinguished Alumni Award
CDB: Elizabeth Smith
BCDB: Jing Chen
BCDB: Valerie Horsley
BMB: Lance Wells
CDB: Khaled Machaca
MMG: Tony Richardson
MTT: Marion Sewer
NHS: Heidi Michels-Blanck
Pharm: Jeff Boatwright

*Winners are noted in blue.
Gina Alesi, a second-year graduate student in the Cancer Biology program, is the recipient of the first William and Catherine Rice Endowed Research Award. This prestigious award was established by Bill Rice and his wife to support students in the Cancer Biology program within the GDBBS. Alesi is quite honored to receive this award, saying that “it’s humbling to know that I earned this award in an environment with so many amazingly bright people.”

For her current project, Alesi is screening for novel genes that are involved in cancer metastasis. The hope is that, by determining the mechanistic function of these genes, new therapies can be developed to target these mechanisms and slow down the rate of metastasis. With a large percentage of cancer deaths attributed to metastasis, such research opens the door to an increasing number of available cancer treatment methods.

The motivation to study cancer biology is personal for Alesi. In the past year alone, she has known several people who were diagnosed with, and succumbed to, cancer. According to Alesi, “It’s incredibly motivating to think that something I may help discover could prolong, and potentially save, the lives of many people. Arriving at Winship [Cancer Institute] every morning and seeing the patients I’m working to help definitely keeps this goal in perspective.”

The namesake of this award, Bill Rice, is a 1986 graduate, earning a PhD in Biochemistry. Rice—who currently serves as president, CEO, and director of Cylene Pharmaceuticals in San Diego—also serves on the Emory Alumni Board as the Laney Graduate School representative and is a member of the Nominations and Leadership Committee of the board.

Following his doctoral work, Rice completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in the University of Michigan’s Internal Medicine department. From 1989 to 1992, he served as assistant professor of pediatric hematology and oncology at Emory’s School of Medicine. He went on to become senior scientist and head of the Drug Mechanism Laboratory at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Maryland, where he discovered numerous novel agents, published in top journals, and received several awards of distinction.

As an entrepreneur, Rice became the founder, CEO, president, and director of Achillion Pharmaceuticals. In addition to holding these leadership positions, Rice has made a name for himself in the business world by successfully negotiating business deals and becoming a finalist for Ernst & Young’s Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Rice expressed his gratitude for the opportunities afforded him at Emory and his passion for giving back. Coming from modest means, Rice said that he got his “big break” at Emory by being able to meet elite scientists and gain generous academic and professional support.

Given that Rice’s career spans both the business and research sides of science, he advises students to stay flexible in their career goals. Pointing to a plethora of opportunities in government and industry, Rice encourages students to explore academic and nonacademic career paths.

Alesi believes the award will help her establish an academic career as a PI with her own lab. Although still at the beginning of her training, she advises fellow graduate students: “Stay on top of things, work hard, and establish a comfortable school/life balance.”
Today Elizabeth Smith runs her own laboratory at Dartmouth College, but she got her start here in Emory’s Cell Biology department. She came to Emory in 1987 after receiving her bachelor’s degree from Agnes Scott College in nearby Decatur. She completed her dissertation research in the lab of Win Sale, earning her PhD in 1992. Now at Dartmouth, Smith serves as a professor and department chair in Biological Sciences. Her lab focuses on the regulation of signal transduction pathways involved in ciliary beating in a biflagellate alga model system.

What attracted you to the GDBBS program at Emory?
I am a native of Atlanta, and I had wanted to go away for graduate school. I interviewed at other places, but I found the faculty at Emory to be the most welcoming and excited about their work. The faculty also seemed to take a great interest in graduate education. All too often, graduate students just become cheap labor for the faculty and it’s sort of lost on them that you are there for training, to become a colleague. But at Emory, I never felt like just a cheap pair of hands. I always felt like there was a genuine interest in my becoming a successful researcher.

How did your GDBBS experience prepare you for your career?
There is more to having a successful career in science than just being a great scientist. You have got to be able to write papers and grants, review manuscripts, and communicate at conferences. At Emory I had to write a grant proposal in the NIH format; that was incredibly helpful. Also, we would write summaries and reviews of papers in our journal clubs, so it was good preparation for reviewing manuscripts. And, of course, you get experience speaking as well. Being a professor myself now, I can see that those kinds of activities require a huge amount of energy from the faculty. In hindsight, I really appreciate how much time it took for the faculty to administer these giant qualifying exams, go over grant proposals, and continue to work with you along the way. Not every graduate program is like that.

What advice would you give to current GDBBS students?
Graduate school is about training, and you want to get the best training that you can. I think some students make decisions about what labs to join based on the wrong thing, like whether that’s the fun lab or whether their best friend went into that lab. They need to pay attention to the best fit for them. I have seen bad matches happen so many times. It is not that they’re bad students or bad PIs; it is just a bad fit. And then, in the end, the students don’t receive the best training possible because they didn’t choose very well. I also think a lot of times grad students are preoccupied with what their classmates and labmates are doing. They just need to focus on what they are doing. I remember one of the best experiences I had was the first time Win Sale, my research adviser, sent me to a cell biology meeting. It was eye opening. I realized it really wasn’t about the other graduate students at Emory, that my competition was out there in the world. You might be competing against a postdoc in Japan or Europe. It doesn’t matter who did their qualifying exam first and that sort of stuff. Just focus on your work.
On September 1, Emory launched a new leadership annual giving program. This program, the Wise Heart Society, received its name from Emory’s motto, “The wise heart seeks knowledge.” This notion informs Emory’s core missions of education, discovery, health care, and public service. Acknowledging that its accomplishments would not be possible without the generous support of its donors, Emory has named its new leadership annual-giving society the Wise Heart Society to recognize the generous donors who contribute $1,000 and above. The Wise Heart Society will recognize all individual leadership annual donors to Emory at the following levels:

- Founders: $1,000–$2,499
- Mentors: $2,500–$4,999
- Pioneers: $5,000–$9,999
- Innovators: $10,000–$24,999
- Visionaries: $25,000+

The Laney Graduate School (LGS) welcomed more than 400 new graduate students on August 28. Amanda Wendt 13G, a current student in the GDBBS, welcomed the students and shared her experience as a member of the Laney Graduate Student Giving Committee. She encouraged the students to participate in alumni association–sponsored events, attend the LGS professionalization programming, and consider a contribution to the student-giving campaign.

The LGS has raised more than $11,000,000 toward its $10M campaign goal to support graduate education! Campaign Emory will come to a close on December 31, 2012, and your gift of any amount will continue the great work of supporting graduate students. Thank you to all who already have donated to help us get this far. For more information on Campaign Emory, please read here. To make a gift to the GDBBS, please visit here.

Eat, drink, and mingle with other students and alumni at our LGS Networking Events. Mark your calendar for the first 2012–2013 networking event in the Rollins School of Public Health on Tuesday, November 13, at 6:00 p.m. This special program on diabetes will include a short documentary, a panel discussion with Emory experts in the fields of diabetes research and prevention, and a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow alumni and students. For more information, contact Robin Harpak.

We have launched the third year of the Alumni Mentor Program in collaboration with the Emory Alumni Association and look forward to great success again matching alumni with current doctoral students to provide guidance and support as our students navigate the next phase of their careers. Alumni mentors can register online here, and students can register here.

In September six students began their studies as the newest additions to the Cancer Biology Program. GDBBS alumnus James Gavin III 70G welcomed the new class of students, sharing his pathway from Emory PhD student to successful professional in medicine, research, and the academy. He admired how Emory’s graduate programs in Biological and Biomedical Sciences have grown, and he encouraged these new students as they embark on the beginning of their professional training.