

INSIGHT

WELCOME CLASS OF 2019!

CONTINUED INSIDE »

The MBP faculty and staff are pleased to welcome you to our program





Bisma Ajaz

BS in Biochemistry and Cell Biology
University of California
(San Diego)



Arnau Argemi

BS in Biological Sciences
University of Chicago



Hunter Brown

BA in Biology
Carleton College



Federico Cammarata

BS in Management and Technology
Technical University of Munich



Jonathan Chen

BS in Chemical Engineering
University of California
(Berkeley)



Leo Chen

BS in Pharmacy
Taipei Medical University



Maxine Faass

BS in Chemistry
Emory University



Nupur Goswami

B.Tech in Biotechnology
Amity Institute of
Biotechnology



Nana Ingram

BS in Biology
Illinois Wesleyan University



Alexander Jackson

BS in Biochemistry
University of Denver



Ishi Jain

B.Tech in Chemical Engineering
Malaviya National Institute
of Technology



Clarens Jarbath

MS in Public Health
BS in Biology
Florida State University



Seok Won Jee

BS in Biochemistry
University of Wisconsin
(Madison)



Khak Khak Khayi

BA in Biochemistry
University of Washington



Amy Lee

BA in Genetics
Rutgers University



Victor Li

BS in Pharmacy
Xinhua College of Sun Yat-sen
University



Lena Licht

BS in Biochemistry
University of California
(Los Angeles)



Siran Liu

BM in Basic Medical Science
Capital Medical University



Anna Lu

BS in Pharmacology and Toxicology
University of Toronto



Lila Lu

BS in Viticulture and Enology
University of California
(Davis)



Haocong Ma

BEng in Bioengineering
China Agricultural University



Prerana Mantri

BS in Biomedical Science
Florida Institute of Technology



Manaswini Mattegunta

BS in Biotechnology
University of Houston



Kyssia Mendoza

BS in Biology
University of Massachusetts
Amherst



Shruti Narayan

B. Tech in Biotechnology
Vellore Institute of Technology



Bhavin Patel

MS in Biology
California Polytechnic State
University



Stephanie Shee

BS in Biological Sciences
University of Illinois
(Chicago)



Jonathan Timbrell

BSc Honors Specialization in
Genetics
University of Western Ontario



Jessi Toumeh

BS in Biomedical Engineering
University of Texas
(Arlington)



Nish Trivedi

Double BA in Biological Sciences
Northwestern University



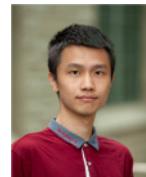
Yuwei Yang

BS in Biochemistry and Cell
Biology
University of California
(San Diego)



Mengting Ye

BS in Biochemistry and Cell
Biology
University of California
(San Diego)



Zihao Yu

BS in Biology
Case Western Reserve University



Chenlin Zhao

BEng in Biological Engineering
Ocean University of China



Alison Zhou

BS in Molecular and Cellular
Biology
University of Illinois
(Urbana Champaign)



Sherry Zhou

BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences
Sun Yat-sen University

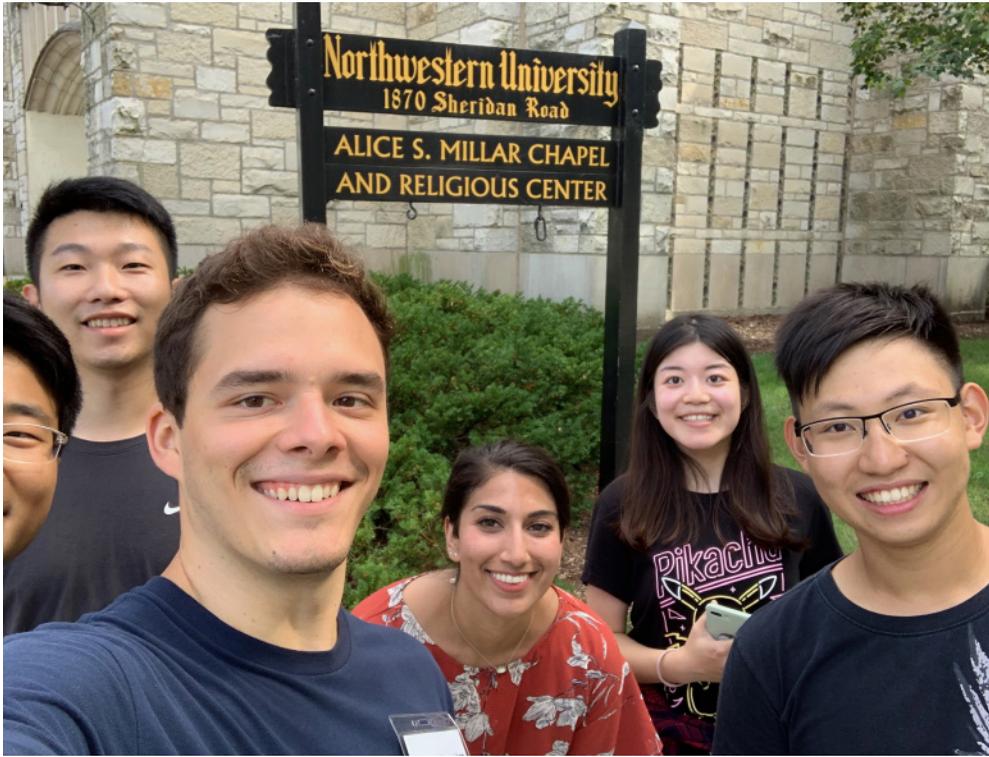


“I would say choosing Northwestern University MBP is one of the correct things for me. It provides us several hands-on experiences as well as commercial concepts making us more versatile. We have several minor and certification to choose from, which equips us with comprehensive knowledge. In my opinion, studying in this program helps me a lot in my career path.” -Leo Chen, First-year student

ORIENTATION WEEK 2019

New Students collaborate on completing campus scavenger hunt

First-year MBP students engaged in a scavenger hunt activity as a first step to forming lasting relationships with one another. The activity involved coordinating a plan within groups to locate hot spots within the Northwestern Evanston campus. The group that returned to the initial meeting spot first received Amazon gift cards as a bonus gift from the MBP program.



Pictured above, the winners of the 2019 scavenger hunt.

ALUMNI MBP MIXER



On October 3rd, 2019, the MBP hosted the 4th Annual Alumni Mixer at Smylie Brothers Brewing Company. We had close to 70 guests attend, a mix of alumni and students. This event served yet again as a gateway for our students to build connections with our alumni network. Through the course of the night attending alumni shared memorable moments from their time in the MBP program as well as sharing advice for our graduates and new MBP students.

MBP FIELD TRIP

The MBP students toured two Biotechnology companies in the Greater Chicago area

The Master of Biotechnology Program (MBP) visited LanzaTech and Fresenius Kabi on November 15th. Both companies are located in the Illinois Science & Technology Park in the greater Chicago area. The Park is a full-service corporate research campus with facilities to meet the needs of early-stage companies, growing firms, large established life sciences companies, and related institutional research.

The visit was arranged by Natalie Champagne instructor of the Topics of Professional Development in Biotechnology course. The course is designed to assist students in understanding the career development process in order to make informed and appropriate occupational and educational decisions. The field trip was a great opportunity for students to begin using their networking skills and learn about the biotechnology industry and careers. Instructor Natalie Champagne would like students to begin thinking about their career or educational goals during the first year of the program and field trips are a great way to expose students to the industry. 20 MBP students joined the field trip and they had the opportunity to participate in laboratory tours and engaged with scientists and other professionals during the career panel sessions.

-Natalie Champagne





STUDENT FOR A DAY

The MBP program hosted its first ever 'Student for a Day' on November 5th

On November 5th we hosted our very first Student for a Day event. This event was a part of our continued effort to engage prospective students and spread the word about our program. Three prospective students participated, while others expressed interest in participating at another time. The day consisted of attending two courses with the first year cohort with a group lunch in the student lounge and coffee and a tour of campus with current first year students. Several current first years, including Amy Lee and Bhavin Patel, volunteered to help guide the visiting students throughout the day. By all accounts, the day was a great experience for all, and one of the visiting students has already submitted his application for fall of 2020.

-Svetlana Korzeniowski



If you know anyone who may be interested in the MBP program and would like to participate in Student for a Day, please email us!

ABS STUDENT MIXER

Association of Biotechnology Students hosts Fall event at the Chicago Botanic Garden

On October 27, ABS hosted a trip to Jack's Pumpkin Lanterns at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Students were able to view more than 1,000 hand-carved pumpkins and walk along the boo-tanical garden trail encountering LED-lit jack-o'-lanterns, live carving, and ghostly trails.



MBP students enjoy at the Chicago Botanic Garden

NEW ABS BOARD

Introducing our new executive board for the Association of Biotechnology Students!

The Master of Biotechnology Program welcomed our 2019 Association of Biotechnology Students (ABS) executive board. Elected by our first year students, the new board will continue an MBP tradition of organizing academic, social, community service, and professional development events and outings for all MBP students throughout the academic year.

PRERANA MANTRI, PRESIDENT



I am Prerana Mantri and have been recently elected as President of ABS. I was born and brought up in Pune, India and studied there till the 12th grade. I then moved to the United States and finished my Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences this year in May at Florida Institute of Technology. Some of the things I like doing during my free time are watching movies and sit-coms, trying out coffee and hot cocoa with my friends at new cafes, reading, playing badminton and catching up with my friends back home and in Florida. As President of ABS, I want to organize as many outings as career talks for my fellow classmates. This is important because we have a short time here at Northwestern and I want everyone to make as most of their time here as they can. Outings as a club will help us destress while fostering friendship. Also, I want to organize career talks by experts from different areas like Regulatory Affairs, R&D, Business, and IP Law and Patents because my fellow classmates have varying interests and I want to make sure everyone has an equal opportunity to hear from experts from the area they are interested in. I also want to take forward the Mentor-Mentee program because it can get stressful for students while moving to a new city and university and I want to make this move as seamless as possible for the incoming class of Biotechnology Students. All in all, I am really excited to see what the year holds for us!

JESSI TOUMEH, CO-VICE PRESIDENT



I am Jessi Toume and I have been elected as Co-Vice President of ABS. I was born in Saudi Arabia and moved to Texas when I was nine years old. I graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) with a Bachelors of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering in May of 2017. Post-graduation, I worked for Abbott Labs as an Engineer and then decided to pursue my Masters in Biotechnology at Northwestern. During my free time I like to catch up with friends, karaoke, play board games, write poems and play basketball. For my program, as Co-Vice President of ABS, I would like to work closely with the board members to organize information sessions from different biotechnology companies. I believe this will foster and enlighten the students in my program in areas they may not be familiar with. Alongside the board members, I would like to organize different field-trips to tour Chicago and see what it has to offer. Since there are many international students in the program and many who are not familiar with what Chicago has to offer, I believe field trips to museums, art galleries, the theatre and more will not only be fun social activities but it will speak to why Chicago is a wonderful and well-known city. Also, since I have experience with mentorship, I want to work closely with the Mentorship program in terms of personally assisting students and offering a helping hand to what can be considered a tough move, especially to international students. For the community, I want to work closely with the Community Service Chair to increase participation in programs that are offered at Northwestern that encourage and represent underserved minorities. I believe that with the experience and passion towards my goals as Co-Vice President, it will be a fun and productive journey for the students in my program!

AMY LEE, CO-VICE PRESIDENT



My name is Amy Lee and I am the Association of Biotechnology Students' new Co-Vice President. I'm from Freehold, New Jersey and I received my Bachelor of Arts in Genetics from Rutgers University this past spring. Some of my hobbies include aerial fitness, kickboxing, and visual arts. As a part of ABS, I am looking forward to improving the second-year mentorship program and helping to implement new academic, professional, and social activities for my cohort and future cohorts to come. The MBP program will go by quickly and my main goal will be to make sure that we all make the most of our time at Northwestern.

NUPUR GOSWAMI, SOCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR



Nupur Goswami will be serving as the new Social Committee Chair of the Association of Biotechnology Students. Nupur is from New Delhi, India and recently completed her bachelor's in technology in Biotechnology from Amity University, India. She hopes to organize as many fun events as she can for her cohort members. She believes that students should be able to engage in activities outside of their studies as a way to distress. Nupur hopes that her team will be able to help students create memorable experiences.

STEPHANIE SHEE, COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR



My name is Stephanie Shee and I am from the northwest Chicago Suburb called Elgin. I obtained my bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago. My hobbies include cooking and playing tennis, but I also love to try different foods and am a whiskey enthusiast. As a member of ABS, I am excited to get us to really bond as a cohort through creating a positive impact on our society. Some ideas I already have in mind include volunteering at FMSC, animal shelters, and doing charity runs. But I am open to other ideas!

BISMA AJAZ, INDUSTRY & ALUMNI RELATIONS CHAIR



My name is Bisma Ajaz and I am excited to be this year's Industry and Alumni Relations Chair! I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and graduated from UC San Diego with a degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology and a minor in Psychology. After graduation, I worked for three years as an Analytical Scientist at a Contract Research Organization in San Diego before attending Northwestern for the Master of Biotechnology Program. In my free time, I enjoy finding new places to eat and exploring Chicago. I am excited to help students in my cohort foster new professional, academic, and alumni connections and build on their professional development skills.

JONATHAN CHEN, TREASURER



Jonathan Chen was born in Tainan, Taiwan. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a Chemical Engineering/Materials Science and Engineering joint degree. Before joining MBP, he worked as an associate process engineer implementing new equipment and processes in cGMP facilities at Genentech South San Francisco Production Site. He looks forward to serving as the Treasurer in ABS to help support all exciting events and opportunities that will be offered to MBP students. In his free time, he plays badminton and shoots drone footage and time-lapse photography. Whenever he gets a chance, he is always on an adventure to explore the world to capture indigenous moments and the stunning nature with his cameras. In his new position at ABS, he hopes not just to record events and expenditures but also to record the everlasting memories created by his cohort.

FEATURED STUDENT



My name is John Docter, I am a second-year student conducting research in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department here at Northwestern. In lieu of an internship this past summer, I worked at Camp Manito-Wish in Northern Wisconsin as their girls-camp Nature Director. This means I'd be living and working at camp, responsible for a daily program that would serve around 200 campers. Typically, the nature director had focused on educating participants about the natural world. This summer, however, armed with 3/5ths of a master's degree and newly attained engineering knowledge, I decided to move the program forward and create a basic science and engineering curriculum. I knew chemistry, physics, and engineering could make for some interesting activities and figured it would be fun to spend time getting kids excited about science.

Through several months of brainstorming, creativity and scanning the internet, I created a program I thought would be perfect for camp. I needed to address one fundamental question: How do I make complex topics accessible and engaging? I decided on free-form experiments, that had the potential for hands-on learning and creativity. I preceded each session with a 5-minute question and answer with the kids to get them thinking and excited about the days' concepts. Then, with materials laid out, I would set them loose on whatever task was planned, be it making bottle rockets, catapults, or fluid-transportation devices.

The program worked. Giving the campers creative control over the activity made them invested and offered the opportunity to grapple with scientific concepts. For example, when we made bottle rockets, the kids were talking about how they might make their rocket go as high as possible. Some were discussing how if they decorated theirs too much, it would be weighed down. Superficial, yes, but they are still thinking about gravity, drag, and design tradeoffs, non-trivial concepts for 10-year-olds. Additionally, they'd laugh and yell happily when their rocket would shoot off in some strange direction because they didn't balance it correctly. I got several dirty looks from the nursing staff for those particular rockets, even though I did my best to explain that this was the price of progress in engineering.

I received a lot of positive feedback about my program, however, the biggest reward wasn't praising or consistent attendance. It was when kids would find me during off-hours and excitedly ask science questions, from chemistry and space to animals they had never seen before. I could answer with enthusiasm each of those questions in turn:

-“If you have more reactants, we'll create more gas, and thus more pressure for the rocket.”

-“That's not a shooting star, it's a satellite. Did you know the faster you go around the earth, the slower time moves?”

And my personal favorite answer,

-“Lucy! That's a smooshed garter snake you found on the road, it's cool but kinda gross! Please toss it in the woods and wash your hand.”

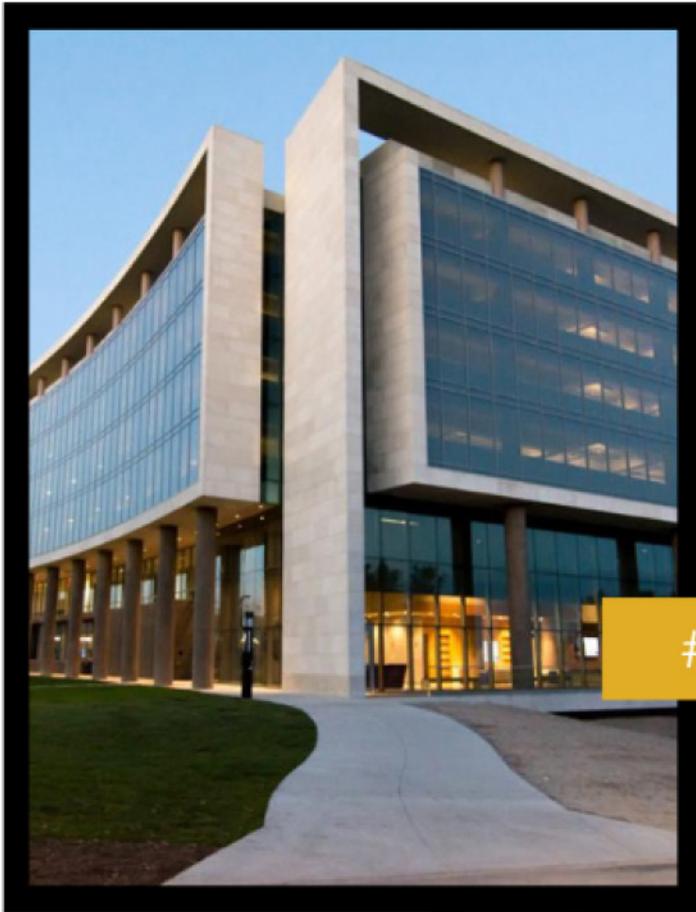
What these interactions demonstrated were intellectual curiosity and scientific engagement. Why is this important? Love of a subject is a requirement of pursuing it. I became interested in biotechnology because of several passionate science teachers and college professors. It was very rewarding to spend a summer paying that forward and spreading excitement to kids, to show them that the same subject they got bored of in school could be engaging in a different context. Ultimately, to give kids the chance to be smart, create, and learn from their mistakes, and hopefully to demonstrate what an incredible field we work in.



John Doctor testing bottle rockets crafted by Camp Manito-Wish campers in Wisconsin.

BIOTECH-NEXUS

The MBP program will be hosting it's first ever Biotech-nexus in March 6th, 2020.

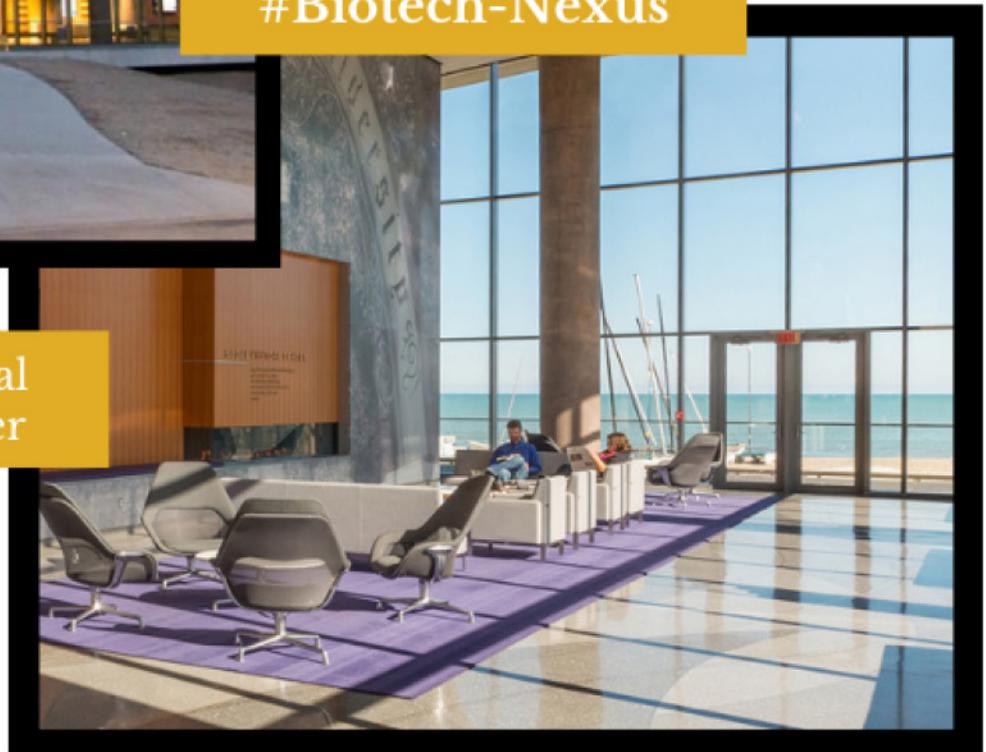


Save the Date

MARCH
6TH

#Biotech-Nexus

Location: Segal
Visitors Center



MORE DETAILS TO COME!

RSVP AT THIS LINK: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/biotech-nexus-tickets-76830767895?aff=RSVP>