

2018 BRASS Scholar Reception

BRASS Celebrates the 7th Annual Judi and Jack Johnson Day



The 2019-2020 4 new BRASS scholars were introduced by the BRASS Scholar selection committee on October 17th.

This day designated seven years ago by the BRASS scholars, celebrates Jack and Judi Johnson for the continued generous research support they provide every year through the Wintermann Foundation. The Wintermann Foundation guarantees that the 16 BRASS scholars in the Baylor College of Medicine Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences will receive \$3,000 for funding for their research during years 2-5 in their graduate studies. Scholars use this funding for discretionary spending for needed supplies and equipment to aid and advance their research. BRASS scholars (2016-2017) Patrick Hunt M.D./Ph.D. and Zach Kadow, M.D./Ph.D. spoke of the importance of the award's funding and its help in advancing their research.

Ed McMahon and Don D. Jordan presented the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo 2018 Outstanding Community Award Certificates and award money to BRASS Scholars Zachary Criss, Carli Domencio, Kristyn Hoffman, and Paul Fahey.

BRASS Scholar Updates

Life Outside the Lab



▲ Amy Pohodich M.D./Ph.D.(2012-2013) married Dr.Reid Wilson on March 17



▲ Dr. Robert Seilheimer M.D./Ph.D.(2011-2012) matched to University of Pennsylvania in March. BRASS scholars were on hand celebrate the good news



▲ Carli Domencio Ph.D. (2015-2016) escorted by her father, married Dr. Javier Santiago

► Joanne Hsu, M.D./Ph.D.(2015-2016) will defend this June. She writes: "At the end of last year, I got my first-author paper published in a high impact journal (Cell Stem Cell). It's on leukemia and the concept of competition between stem cells in our bone marrow. It was the cover article of the month, which is a dream come true - and made possible thanks to support from BRASS over the past two years".

-Joanne



BRASS Highlights

Selfies, Chuck Wagon Rides and an Evening of Fun at the Rodeo



March 13, 2019, found BRASS at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo for one great night and the perfect opportunity to tip our cowboy hats to BRASS Executive Committee Members Don D. Jordan and Ed McMahon. As rodeo committee members, Don and Ed's belief in our mission has secured the important funding needed for the BRASS scholars' research, lab equipment, and academic travel. March 13 was Texas Medical School Night and it was announced that BRASS would again receive \$95,000 to support and enhance the BRASS scholars in their research pursuits and community outreach. Following the presentation Don Jordan hosted the BRASS Scholars, Dr. Adam Kuspa and BRASS board members in his suite for a very fun and memorable evening at the rodeo!

BRASS Officers 2018-2019

Founder *Myra Wilson*
President *Elsie Eckert*
Vice President *Dr. James Bonar*
Treasurer *Lisa Chandler*
Event Chair *Linda Kuykendall*
Second Vice President *Don D. Jordan*
Recording Secretary *Jo Ann Petersen*
Research Award Liaison *Ed McMahon*
2018 Scholar Selection Chair *Dr. James Bonar*
Scholar Selection Committee Member *Steve Brown*
New 2019 Scholar Selection Committee Member *Michele Collins*

You have the right to decline future education and development communications. If you do not want us to contact you for our fundraising efforts, please contact the Office of Philanthropy and Alumni Relations at 713.798.4714 or optout-development@bcm.edu.

BRASS Giving

Carolyn L. Faulk
In Honor of Suzy Simons for the
Buck Bukowski BRASS Travel Endowment

Robin J. Simon
In Honor of Myra Wilson

Huda Y. Zoghbi, M.D
In Honor of Les and Elsie Eckert

BRASS Scholars

*Want to host a scholar get together?
Can't make an upcoming arts or sporting event?
Have extra tickets for a gala or a luncheon?
Contact Elsie Eckert at 713-789-2434 or
ej@elsiesmithdesign.com if you have tickets to
donate or you'd like to set something up.*

Baylor College of Medicine
BRASS
Formula For a Cure
Research and Funding
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Baylor
College of
Medicine

The Element

April 2019



▲ The 2018 BRASS Scholars Reception, the 7th Annual Judi and Jack Johnson BRASS "Super Star Day" was the perfect opportunity to visit one-on-one with the 20 BRASS scholars in attendance.



▲ Jack and Judi Johnson, Don Jordan and Ed McMahon rang in the holidays at the BRASS Annual Holiday Party, graciously hosted and underwritten by Carolyn Faulk.



▲ Ed McMahon surprised all 20 BRASS scholars with a \$500 check at the BRASS Scholar's Reception. Ed also donated an additional \$50,000 to the Donald E. McMahon BRASS Scholar Education and Recruitment Endowment Fund. A BIG BRASS Salute and Thank You to Ed!

A Message from the BRASS President

Dear BRASS members and supporters:

2018 ended with many highlights and fun events for BRASS and the anticipation of many more for 2019.

In September the Scholarship Committee selected from a total of 31 applicants and nine interviews the four outstanding 2019-2020 scholars who are highlighted in this issue. It is an impressive line-up of brilliant young scientists and we are thrilled to welcome them to the BRASS family!

The October 17 Scholars reception at the Decorative Center of Houston Roots Café, underwritten by Don Jordan, was the perfect setting to welcome the four new scholars and celebrate the 7th Annual Judi and Jack Johnson BRASS "Super Star" Day. Ed McMahon surprised all 20 BRASS scholars with a \$500 check for each of them with the only stipulation being "spend it anyway you wish to". Ed then announced an additional gift of \$50,000 for the Donald E. McMahon BRASS Scholar Education and Recruitment Endowment Fund. It was an exciting and memorable evening for everyone.

The BRASS Holiday Party on December 5, was once again, graciously hosted and underwritten by Carolyn Faulk. The festive Canova Room in the Montebello Highrise provided the perfect setting to ring in the holidays and welcome more than 80 BRASS members, scholars, and their lab mentors. Guests brought gift cards for all the BRASS scholars which always lends fun and cheer to their holidays.

Super Bowl Sunday found us at the home of Jeanie and Marshall Smith where 45 scholars, spouses, friends and members cheered, ate and had a great time.

On March 13, Texas Medical School Night, HLS&R presented a \$95,000 check to BRASS for the continued support and enhancement for 2019 for the BRASS Scholars' research pursuits and community outreach. It was the perfect way to begin the new year

So, here's to a GREAT year ahead for each of you and as always, I am grateful for your continued support!

~ Elsie



▲ Elsie Eckert

BRASS Scholar Spotlight

BRASS Welcomes Four New 2017-2018 Scholars



▲ **Kali Deans**
Myra Branum Wilson Scholar

Kali Deans grew up in Naperville, Illinois. She received a full-tuition, merit scholarship to attend the University of Wisconsin- Madison. In 2014, she graduated with a B.S. in nutritional science and a certificate in Global Health, and she was awarded the Meyerhoff Award for Excellence in Leadership, Scholarship and Service. During undergraduate, her inquisitive spirit lead her to join the lab of her professor, Dr. Guy Groblewski, where she studied an animal model that was thought to be critical to understanding the pathology of chronic pancreatitis. Prior to matriculating at Baylor College of Medicine, she further explored her interests in inflammatory bowel diseases through a one-year research fellowship at the University of Chicago.

Kali is currently an M.D./Ph.D. student in the Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine Program. Her interests remain associated with nutrition with a focus on inflammatory bowel diseases. It is her goal as a future physician scientist, to work with and for these patients from multiple angles of research and medicine to enhance their lifestyles and improve treatments.

In her free time, Kali enjoys going to the gym, gardening, cooking, and spending time with her friends and family. Kali is excited to join the BRASS family and looks forward to networking with the Houston community. She would like to thank the BRASS administration and all of the donors that contribute to such a great organization.



▲ **Matthew Penna**
Sidney Broadfoot Faust Scholar

Matthew Penna was born and raised in Miami, Florida. He is the eighth of ten children. He graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in biomedical engineering and a minor in biology from the University of Miami in 2016. During his freshman year, Matt joined a research lab and his passion for research was ignited. He conducted research in the field of tissue engineering and stem cell research with projects in ophthalmology, cardiology, and neuroscience. He began shadowing physicians and planning a career where he could adopt an all-inclusive approach to medicine as a physician scientist.

In 2016, Matt joined the M.D./Ph.D. program at Baylor College of Medicine and began his path toward becoming a physician scientist. After spending two years in medical school, he joined the Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine Graduate Program at Baylor. He is currently a first-year graduate student with interests in neuroscience and regenerative medicine, persuing his goal of becoming a physician scientist.

Outside of lab, Matt enjoys exploring the city of Houston mostly through running and eating. The cuisines of Houston are some of the most diverse and tastiest he has ever experienced. His main motive for running is to continue enjoying the delicious food that Houston has to offer. Matt is excited to become part of the BRASS family



▲ **Sarah Herzog**
Don D. Sykora Scholar

Sarah Herzog grew up in the small farm community of Greenville, Ohio. An avid violinist, she intended to study violin performance. However, after the passing of her grandmother from breast cancer and a newfound discovery of her love for chemistry, she changed plans and attended the University of Notre Dame to study biochemistry. She graduated cum laude with a B.S. in honors biochemistry and a minor in theology in May 2018. Realizing the breadth of questions needing answers in breast cancer, she made the decision to continue her education and pursue a Ph.D.

Sarah is now a first-year student in the program of Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences (IMBS). She has an interest in cancer biology, intending to work in breast cancer. She hopes to integrate her skills in computer coding with her love of cellular and molecular biology to understand cancer mechanisms and develop better treatment strategies for breast cancer patients.

When she is away from the bench, Sarah spends her time testing new recipes, playing her violin, attempting to learn guitar, and visiting Houston breweries. During baseball season, her perfect day is grabbing a local beer and cheering on the Chicago Cubs. Sarah is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the BRASS family and is excited to call Houston her new home.



▲ **Linda Zhang**
Don D. Jordan Scholar

Linda Zhang was born in Houston, Texas but grew up in Palo Alto, CA. She graduated cum laude from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in molecular and cellular biology with an emphasis in immunology. Her passion for translational research and immunology was inspired by her previous work on autoantibody profiling pediatric lupus patients and evaluating functional differences in antigen processing caused by mutations strongly associated with Ankylosing Spondylitis.

Today, Linda returns to Houston as a student in the Baylor's M.D./Ph.D. program. After completing two years of medical school, she is now a first-year graduate student in Translational Biology and Molecular Medicine. She is particularly interested in the area of cancer biology and immunology in hopes of making discoveries in the laboratory that will address unmet clinical needs.

Outside of academics, Linda enjoys baking, cooking, and trying out the latest food spots in Houston. She also has a passion for traveling and experiencing new cultures, venturing to countries such as Morocco, Thailand, and Vietnam with her friends. Linda is extremely honored and grateful to be welcomed to the BRASS family and is excited to advocate for scientific research.

2018 BRASS Holiday Party



1. Susan and Denis DeBakey
2. Michael Bickham and Lenny Matuzewski
3. Linda Zhang, Kali Deans and guest
4. Myra Wilson
5. Elizabeth Bowling, Dr. Trey Westbrook and Jarey Wang
6. Steve Brown
7. Ed McMahon and Pat Studdert
8. Jo Ann Petersen and Mike Taylor
9. Elsie Eckert, Robin Simon, Lisa Chandler and Linda Kuykendall
10. Jeanette and Dr. Jim Bocell
11. Don D. Jordan and Hershey Grace
12. Dr. Matthew Baker, Lily and Juliette Baker
13. Wanderson Rezende, Craig Moffatt and Michele Collins
14. Carol and John Ames
15. Tamara Klosz Bonar and Dr. Jim Bonar
16. Carl and Linda Kuykendall

2018 BRASS Scholar Reception



1. Sidney Faust, Ed McMahon and Hershey Grace
2. Marshall Smith and Linda Zhang
3. Don D. Jordan, Andrea Ortiz and Francoise Marks
4. The beautiful ambience of the Roots Cafe
5. Les Eckert, Linda Zhang, Sarah Herzog, Kali Deans and Matthew Penna
6. Cora Sue and Harry Mach, Dr. Gayle Slaughter
7. Zachary Kadow, Patrick Hunt, and Carl Kuykendall
8. Robert and Donna Stokes, Debby Leighton
9. Peter VanDerlofske and Wanderson Rezende
10. Michele Collins, Sidney Faust and Craig Moffatt

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11. Matthew Penna
12. Zachary Criss, Carli Domenico, Ed McMahon, Kristyn Hoffman, Don Jordan and Paul Fahey
13. Dr. James Bonar and Sarah Herzog
14. Ed McMahon, Judi Johnson and Jack Johnson
15. Myra Wilson and Kali Deans
16. Lisa Chandler, Elsie Eckert and Linda Zhang