• **Congratulations are in order….**
  Rachel (Clark) Cole—who successfully defended her thesis last week!
  Vicky Muller Ewald and Katerina Okerstrom—who both received a Graduate College Summer Fellowship!

• **Upcoming Thesis Seminars**
  Jessica Thomas (A. Lee Lab, Physiology) “Elucidating the molecular and biophysical determinants that suppress Ca2+-dependent facilitation of Cav2.2 channels”
  - April 6, 2018 (Friday) at 1:30-2:30pm in 1117 MERF

• **Neuroscience PhD Program Seminar Series**
  - April 3, 2018 (Tuesday) 4:00pm in 1459 PBDB - DATA BLITZ
  - April 10, 2018 (Tuesday) 4:00pm in 1459 PBDB - 1st year rotation talks: Maggie Tish, Louis Balcziak, Jenna Kelly, and Adriana Rivera-Dompenciel
  - April 17, 2018 (Tuesday) NO SEMINAR, CCOM Health Sciences Research Week - topic: The Connected Brain
  - April 24, 2018 (Tuesday) 4:00pm in 101 BBE - 1st year rotation talks: Emily Walsh, Noah Armstrong, Katelyn Joyal, and Berlin Mendez
  - May 1, 2018 (Tuesday) 4:00pm in 1459 PBDB - 1st year rotation talks: Parker Abbott, Ben Rangel, Tim Skog, and Thomas Pak
  - May 8, 2018 (Tuesday) NO SEMINAR, Finals Week

• **2018 U Iowa Brainhack**
  Meet other brain enthusiasts and collaboration on projects related to the brain in an interactive three-day workshop/hackathon. (No prior programing experience necessary.) More information. Questions—please contact james-kent@uiowa.edu
  - May 3-5, 2018 (Thursday to Saturday) 9am to 5pm

• **Graduate College would like your feedback**
  You have been hearing from university leaders in recent weeks, inviting you to participate in a survey to tell us about your experiences so far as a student at UI. We hope you will respond to their email messages by taking the survey. It will give us useful information for our department, and it will help us make sure the views of our department’s students are represented when the university looks at the survey results as a whole. You can take the survey by going to www.uiowa.edu/seru/tell-us. The survey takes most students about 25-30 minutes, and students who take the survey will be entered in a weekly prize drawing. For more information, see www.uiowa.edu/seru/students or contact seru@uiowa.edu.

• **Graduate Student Appreciation Week….April 2-6**
  The Graduate College has joined with the Graduate Student Senate and the Graduate and Professional Student government to host a week-long celebrate of graduate students. Registration form to get involved and full schedule of events can be found here.

• **Neuroscience Program Awards Committee Announcements**
  ~ Students: The Neuroscience Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the Publication Award. This award is given to a neuroscience graduate student for the best primary research article within the past year. The graduate student must be the 1st author (or joint 1st author) on the publication, and the article must be published or accepted for publication at the time of nomination. Articles submitted for this award should come from the graduate student, and the nominated articles will be evaluated by a committee of three faculty members in the Neuroscience Program. In addition, the student should write a brief paragraph (less than 150 words) explaining the overall general importance of the findings. The Publication Award carries a financial prize of $500. Please send nominations to Kumar Narayanan by April 13th, 2017. The winner will be announced before May 10th, 2017.

  ~ Faculty: We are seeking judges for the two upcoming Neuroscience program awards: The Publication award and the Service award. For each award, we need three judges. In each case, the nominations are due by April 13 and we expect to complete the judging within three weeks of that so that we can announce the winners during the first week in May. If you can serve as a judge for either of these awards, please email Ryan LaLumiere.

  ~ Faculty: The Neuroscience Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the Service Award. This award is given to the neuroscience graduate student who has displayed exemplary efforts in service to the Neuroscience Program in the previous year. “Service” is broadly defined, and includes contributions to the Program per se (e.g., serving on core Program committees) and contributions to the broader community (e.g., Brain Bee, Brain Awareness, outreach). Nominations for this award are made by individual faculty, and the award may be given to a graduate student of any year in the program. The awardee is selected from the nominees by a committee of three faculty members. The Service Award carries a financial prize of $200. Please send a nomination letter highlighting the nominee’s qualifications to Jan Wessel by April 13th, 2017. The winner will be announced before May 10, 2017.
Announcements & Updates

- **Summer Registration**
  Registration for summer 2018 is now open. Please register yourself if you have a need to be registered during the summer. Examples:
  ~ Received a Graduate College Summer Fellowship for 2018
  ~ Graduate College Iowa Recruitment fellow with summer support
  ~ Planning to graduate during summer 2018
  ~ Taking comps during summer 2018
  ~ Presidential or Deans Fellowship with support for summer 2018
  ~ Received Graduate College URM Pre-Comp Summer Mentor award for 2018
  Please complete this by April 2 – as I will need to request tuition payments by April 13. NSCI:7305 (Neuroscience Research) is available for registration in summer 2018.

- **Iowa Neuroscience Institute (INI) Updates**
  ~ Check the [INI website](#) for dates and details on their seminar series and journal club

- **Department of Biology Seminar Series**
  ~ Spring seminar schedule can be found [here](#)

- **Molecular Psychiatry Seminar Series**
  More details can be found [here](#) of seminar series dates spanning through June 2018

- **Cerebellar Interest Group**
  Monthly meetings, [dates listed here](#) at 1pm in 1385 PBDB, with lunch from the INI! Please RSVP for lunch to [Krystal Parker, PhD](#)

- **SAVE THE DATE**
  ~ Faculty: Spring Faculty Meeting in 2141-2 RCP (Neurology Conference Room) on Wednesday, May 9 from 4:00-5:00pm
  ~ Students & Faculty: Neuroscience Program Spring Picnic at Picayune Creek Farms on Thursday, May 17 from 4:30-7:30pm