



# Biomedical Engineering Graduate Program & Research Newsletter

School of Science and Engineering | Saint Louis University

## Welcome New Graduate Students!

Please help welcome our new graduate students to the BME department!

**Paige Bogert, Ph.D. student**, is researching “*Designing Nanocomposite Hydrogel Systems for Sustained Release of Monoclonal Antibodies*” in Dr. Zustiak’s lab. Paige is a full-time employee at Thermo Fisher.



**Avantika Jain, Ph.D. student**, began her studies in Dr. Garg’s lab researching the “*Determination of the role of CD4+ T-cells and their subsets in promoting muscle generation*”. A fun fact about Avantika is that she is a trained classical dancer.



**Rebekah Boos, Ph.D. student**, is researching in Dr. Zustiak’s lab on the “*Design and Fabrication of Injectable Nanocomposite Drug-Release Microspheres for Muscle Regeneration*”. Rebekah minored in music during her undergraduate studies and while it made scheduling classes tricky, she had many neat experiences that she wouldn’t trade.



The following students are on the BS/MS track. They’re all beginning their senior year as graduate students with the addition of one extra year to complete their master’s degree.

**Gabbie Coronado, BS/MS student,** is researching “*Fibrillar Collagen Deposition in Hydrogel Confinement*” in Dr. Case’s lab. A fun fact is that Gabbie skipped a grade!



**Parul Nigam, BS/MS student,** is researching in Dr. Hall’s lab on the “*Fabrication of Radiopaque Microspheres for Prostate Cancer Chemoembolization*”, and a fun fact is that she took care of a baby racoon for a bit.



**Alli Faber, BS/MS student,** is researching about “*Observing Glioblastoma Cancer Cells Encapsulated in Poly-ethylene glycol (PEG) - Based Hydrogels*” in Dr. Zustiak’s lab. A fun fact about Alli is that she is family friends with a Phillies player.



**Natalie Roush, BS/MS student,** is researching “*Alginate 3D Printing*” in Dr. Sell’s lab. Natalie is president of the equestrian team at SLU and has been riding horses since she was five years old.



**Ahmed Mahmoud, BS/MS student,** is researching in Dr. Case’s lab on an “*Ultrasound bioreactor for chondrocyte stimulation and signal transduction.*” A fun fact about Ahmed is that he has an indoor garden.



**Connor Tobo, BS/MS student,** is researching in Dr. Garg’s lab on “*Gelatin Nanoparticle Treatment for Volumetric Muscle Loss*”, and a fun fact is that he’s an up-and-coming DJ and music producer.



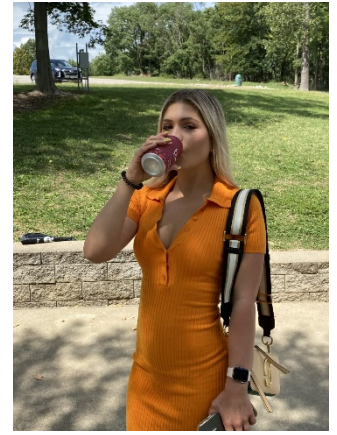
**Danielle McTigue, BS/MS student,** is researching on “*The Fabrication of 3D Printed, Ionically Crosslinked Hydrogels*” in Dr. Sell’s lab. A fun fact is that she started playing guitar at nine years old.



**Olivia Widdoes, BS/MS student,** is researching in Dr. Gai’s lab on the “*Internet of Senses (IoS) Testbed Development and Experimentation*”. Olivia is also majoring in Studio Art with an ephasis in drawing, and she enjoys painting, printmaking, sculpting, and graphic design!



**Grace Yost, BS/MS student**, is working on “*The Design of an Optimized Scaffold for Retinal Pigment Epithelium Cell Interaction*” in Dr. Sell’s lab. Grace is from Alton, Illinois which is the most haunted small town in America!



## Recent Graduates

Congratulations to **Jan Emily Mangulabnan**, advisor Dr. Andrew Hall, who successfully defended her master’s thesis “Development and Evaluation of a Force-Controlled Robotic System for Echocardiogram Procedures” on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.



## Awards and Honors

Congratulations to our BME faculty, **Koyal Garg** and **Scott Sell**, who were recently named as Fellows of the Saint Louis University Research Institute in recognition of their scholarly accomplishments at the highest level. The induction ceremony and Scholarly Works Awards will take place on **September 7, 2022** and all are welcome.



## Welcome Graduate Picnic

Thank you to all who could make it to the Welcome Graduate Picnic in Queeny Park on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>! The pictures of our fun event are located on the right. During our picnic, Shabnam Nejat was elected as the Chair of the **BME Graduate Student Leadership Committee**, and David Johnson was elected as co-chair. Congratulations to **Shabnam Nejat** and **David Johnson**!

