

VTPRIME

The Newsletter of VT-PREP & VT-IMSD

Happy Holidays and best wishes to you and your family over the Holiday break from the IMSD/PREP family!

We hope this is the first time you are receiving this newsletter. Please bear with us while we update our email list.

IMSD/PREP Alumni Returned as Invited/Guest Speakers

What are they doing now? What can you do with the PhD in Behavioral Sciences? How can you maximize your experience in PREP/IMSD and Blacksburg? What are the best ways to take advantage of your network? These were questions answered by IMSD/PREP alumni when they returned to Blacksburg as guests of the IMSD/PREP Family this Fall.



Ms. Leah Guthrie, PREP alum from the 11th Cohort, returned to keynote our 14th PREP/IMSD Orientation in August. Currently in her 4th year in the PhD program at Albert Einstein, Leah counseled the new trainees, both IMSD and PREP, to "be flexible" and to "not be afraid to try out new things."

Dr. Folabomi "Bomi" Oladosu, a member of our 9th PREP Cohort, currently a Postdoctoral Fellow, visited from August 24-26. VT was



her first stop following her successful defense of her Neuroscience PhD in July and prior to starting her Fellowship at NorthShore University Health System in Chicago. Among her "survival tips", Bomi counseled scholars to learn to "adapt" like she did when her mentor transferred from UNC to Duke in the middle of her training.



Dr. Frank Criscione, IMSD 2009-2011, visited to share his research and his life experience with the PREP/IMSD community. Dr. Criscione continues to work with mosquitoes. [Click here to watch a brief video of Dr. Criscione's presentation and interview.](#)



From October 5-7, amid the imminence of Hurricane Matthew, **Dr. Rolanda Findlay**, our first **Graduate Evaluation Assistant, VT Psychology PhD**, came to visit and tell us about her incredible journey, including her recent nomination to the position of Lt. Commander by President Obama and confirmation by the US Senate. As an Experimental Psychologist with the U.S. Navy, her research has included the impact and tweaking of standardized tests on performance, which we in PREP and IMSD can relate to given our skepticism with the GRE. Her personal philosophy is "You only live once, all day

everyday!" [Click here to watch a brief video of Dr. Findlay's presentation.](#)

Postcard from SACNAS

From October 13-15, several VT-IMSD/PREP family members participated in the 2016 SACNAS at Long Beach, California. The theme of the conference was, "STEM Diversity & Public Understanding." 12th Cohort PREP alumni, **Johanel Caceres** (Hawley lab) and **Leland Fleming** (Friedman/Valdez labs) were also there (Photo).



PREP alums Johanel and Leland socializing with VT "relatives" at SACNAS

Postcard from ABRCMS

Like we have done the last 14 years, a tradition that we brought to VT, 16 IMSD/PREP family members joined others in Tampa for ABRCMS 2016. We collaborated with IMSD alum and CoFounder of MAPRS, Dr. Anjolie Diaz and her colleagues from Ball State, Drs. Stephanie Simon-Dack and Linh Littleford. Three PREP scholars and 2 IMSD prebacks made presentations. VT walked away with one research presentation award.



"Siblings" from Dr. Martha Ann Bell's "CAP" lab: Dr. Anjolie Diaz and Nia (MAOP 2016 Intern)

Current Scholars News

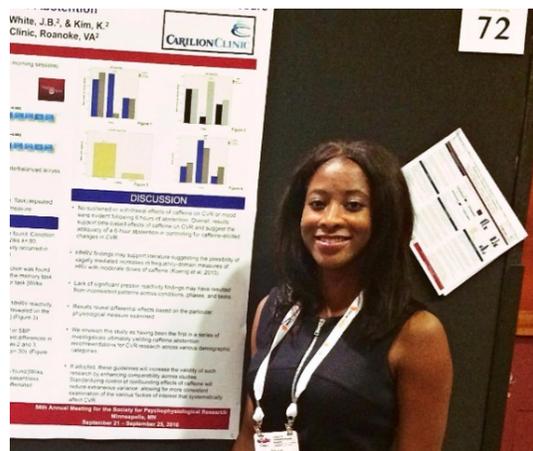
IMSD prebac scholar, **Alyssa Debra**, is a busy student: as she looks forward to her "next life", she has been adding to her already awesome portfolio including presentations at ABRCMS and STEM conference at Emory University.

Amina Rahim, IMSD undergrad, received the Fralin Undergrad Research Fellowship.

IMSD predoc, **Alexis Trent**, participated in a conference in Germany focused on Biomedical Engineering.

IMSD Predoc, **Maryam Moarefian**, passed her qualifying exam in Mechanical Engineering.

Shara Grant received the first annual, Society for Psychophysiological Research's Diversity Travel Award.



Alumni News

Dr. Kevin Muite, PREP alum, 8th Cohort, defended his PhD dissertation in Immunology at the University of Chicago. He and his wife, Carolina, also became proud parents of their first child, Maximilian.

Leland Fleming, VT-PREP alum, Cohort 11/12, is coauthor on a paper recently published in "Skeletal Muscle" (<https://skeletalmusclejournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13395-016-0105-7>) from work done during his tenure as a prep trainee in Dr. Greg Valdez's lab. Leland was also featured in an article from the University of Alabama at Birmingham's School of Medicine where he is in his 2nd year in the PhD program. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

Brittany Rice, VT-PREP 11th cohort, sent us a note of thanks for creating opportunities that have helped her become who she is today. Brittany was recently featured on the University of Kentucky, Office of Biomedical Research website, for a spotlight on the incoming class of IBS students. [Please click here to read the full article.](#)



Cassie Eng, 13th Cohort PREP Alum, presented the research she conducted in Dr. Martha Ann Bell's lab at the 2016 annual International Society for Developmental Psychobiology meeting in San Diego.

Where are They Now?

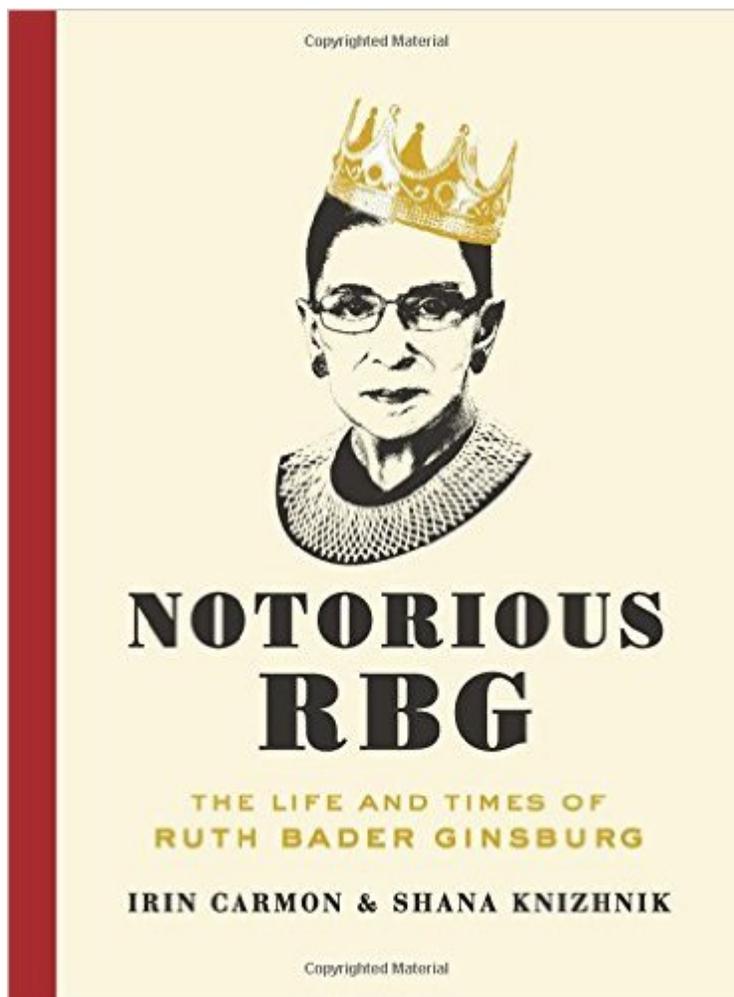
Dr. Candace Best, PREP alum from our first Cohort, is Assistant Professor (<http://www.augusta.edu/scimath/psychology/candacebest.php>) in Psychology at Augusta University in Augusta Georgia. Dr. Best 's tenure in PREP was in the lab of University Distinguished Professor of Psychology Dr. Thomas Ollendick.

Other News

Ed Smith's essay about his journey in science, "Doing Science While Black", was recently published in Science magazine and was the subject of a National forum. [Please click here to read the full article.](#) You can access the national discussion here: <https://www.reddit.com/r/science/>.

VT President, **Timothy Sands**, has called on the university to double minority enrollment. [Please click here to read the full article.](#)

We think you will enjoy the wisdom of this book, about the life and contributions of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg



How to be Like RBG (lessons from the book)

1. **Work for what you believe in**
 2. *Pick your battles*
 3. Avoid counter productive emotions like anger, resentment, and envy
 4. **Don't burn bridges**
 5. *Avoid personal insults*
 6. Don't be afraid to take charge
 7. **Fight for structural change**
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Save the Date!

PREP/IMSD/Carver Bi-weekly Forum:

Ms. Erica Lee (IMSD alum) - December 1

Holiday Party - December 3

Internship Opportunities

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

2017 HS-STEM Summer Internships

<https://www.zintellect.com/Posting/Details/2595>

Detailed information about the internships can be found at

<http://www.orau.gov/dhseducation/internships/>

Harvard Catalyst Research Programs

For more information on **VRIP**, please visit the website:

<https://mfdp.med.harvard.edu/dcp-programs/medicalgraduate/visiting-research-internship-program>.

For more information on **SCTRP**, please visit the website:

<https://mfdp.med.harvard.edu/dcp-programs/college/summer-clinical-and-translational-research-program>.

Please note that both programs have an invitation-based application. In order for students to receive an application, they must email

pfdd_dcp@hms.harvard.edu in order to request one.

Amgen Scholars Programs

UC Berkeley Amgen Scholars Program Website:

<http://amgenscholars.berkeley.edu>

Caltech Amgen Scholars Program Website:

www.sfp.caltech.edu/programs/amgen_scholars

National Amgen Scholars Program Website:

<http://amgenscholars.com>

WAVE Fellows Program

<http://www.sfp.caltech.edu/programs/wavefellows>



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