

Jason Abernethy

Texas A&M University

Biotechnology

Current Employer: thromboVision

Nominated by Clare Gill

A 2003 graduate of Texas A&M University with a degree in Biomedical Sciences, Jason worked at Encysive Pharmaceuticals in human resource development before joining the PSM program in Biotechnology at Texas A&M University. While a PSM student, Jason served as the Public Relations Chair of the Student Biotechnology Society. He was responsible for organizing and hosting events, collaborating with industry partners, membership accrual and retention, and general structuring of the organization in its infancy. He also secured sources of funding and assistance for major events which allowed students direct access to numerous industry partners. Coming to the PSM from industry, where he worked hands on with recruiting, gave Jason a unique perspective into the job market which he shared with his fellow students. Jason secured an internship in product management and marketing at a small startup medical device firm named ThromboVision where he was offered a position after graduation. He has worked in product management for two years directly handling projects in regulatory affairs, engineering, finance and accounting, and investor relations. Jason is a member of the NPSMA and continues to lend his support to the Texas A&M Master of Biotechnology Program including the hosting of a seminar on resume writing and interviewing and by mentoring students who are preparing for entry into the job. As a side project, in early 2009, Jason started his own media and graphic design company handling web design and development, print design, and animation/video creation.

Sabrina Alan**Texas A&M University****Biotechnology****Current Employer: South Texas School of Law*****Nominated by Suresh Pillai***

As a master's student in biotechnology at Texas A&M University, Ms. Allan was President and Founder of the TAMU Biotechnology Society. As President she and the other officers raised money to support professional development opportunities for students including the opportunity to attend other events where they could meet with industry representatives. After graduating, Sabrina was employed by the Texas A&M Office of Technology Commercialization. Her work included drafting license agreements and material transfer agreements, conducting commercial assessment of technologies, performing market research, identifying potential licensees, analyzing the status of current invention disclosures, and communicating with faculty regarding their invention disclosures. Additionally, she aided in the creation of the Disclosure Management System. She subsequently was admitted into South Texas College of Law where she soon was asked to be a research assistant by Professor Shelby Moore. Ms. Allan's research is part of an ongoing project examining the proliferation of female middle school and high school teachers who have inappropriate relationships with male minors. The goal of this project is to examine the impact of these types of relationships on the male victims. Sabrina's focus is geared toward transactional law and contract drafting. Her goals include representing clients in negotiating, developing, and structuring business transactions related to the biotechnology industry. Her expected graduation date is May 2011.

Kristen J. Eads

North Carolina State University

Microbial Biotechnology

Current Employer: GlaxoSmithKline, Zebulon, NC

Job Title: EHS Advisor

Nominated by Lis Borbye

Kristen earned a BS degree in chemical engineering with a minor in biotechnology from North Carolina State University (NCSU) in 2004. In 2006, she received a PSM in microbial biotechnology from NCSU in 2006, building on the biological aspects of her undergraduate background. She made the decision to pursue a PSM instead of a Ph.D. degree because she recognized that the PSM degree would provide flexibility of career options. Upon graduation, she had her choice of companies to work for because of the work experience she acquired while in the PSM graduate program. Kristen considers the major benefits of the PSM degree to be an enhanced ability to work cohesively with a wide range of professionals, each with a unique perspective on a project, each with different goals and objectives, and each with a different method of working and communicating. Because this ability to work cross-functionally was successfully cultivated through case studies with other students and industry advisors while a PSM student, she was given responsibility for managing the cleaning validation program which required meeting the needs of a wide variety of stakeholders. She has been employed with GlaxoSmithKline since 2006 where she was a Process Validation Engineer until 2008 and is now an environmental health and safety Adviser with responsibility for monitoring and improving process safety, ergonomics, incident reporting, project and area risk assessments, and providing input to project teams to address and maintain compliance with EPA and OSHA regulations.

Ashley Elliott

Middle Tennessee State University

Biotechnology

Current Employer: Santa Clara Crime Laboratory, San Jose, CA

Job Title: Crminalist II

Nominated by Linda Feagans

Ashley graduated from the Masters of Science in Professional Science (MS-PS) program at Middle Tennessee State University with an emphasis in Biotechnology. With a B.S. in biology and previous work experience in forensic science, she wanted to pursue an advanced degree that would allow her to learn from a diverse perspective. One of the main attractions to the MS-PS program was her desire to eventually move from performing “bench” tests into a supervising role. Ashley found the combination of business/professional education and advanced scientific course work to be ideal for her aspirations. The internship at the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in the Serology/DNA discipline was a critical step that allowed her to gain experience and additional critical knowledge in the field of forensic science. Owing to her educational background and her “hands-on” internship position, Ashley was offered a position with the Santa Clara Crime Laboratory as a Criminalist II in the Forensic Biology division. While a student, Ashley was a Graduate Assistant for the program, helping with recruiting, preparing grants, and starting a club for the MS-PS program.

William Griffin

University of Northern Iowa

Applied Physics

Current Employer: DISTeK Integration, Inc.

Job Title: Test Engineer

Nominated by Cliff Chancey

William entered the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) as a James W. Kercheval Scholar majoring in chemistry. He subsequently became a Begeman Scholar in Physics and added both a physics and a mathematics minor to his studies. He was active in the Society of Physics Students and the University Honors Program. As an undergraduate, he completed a published research project on a new method for measuring capillary surface waves and another on a design for an Earth-orbiting interferometer to measure gravity waves. William extended his knowledge of general relativity as a scholarship student at the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy at the University of Texas, Brownsville, during a summer program for advanced undergraduates and graduate students. He graduated with honors from the University of Northern Iowa in 2006, earning one degree in physics, another in chemistry, and a minor in mathematics. The first graduate of the program, William matriculated into the first class of the PSM in Applied Physics at UNI and completed the degree in one year including an internship at a general engineering and design company, Diedrichs and Associates. He was hired as a Test Engineer at DISTeK Integration, Inc., in 2007, where he is a member of a team dedicated to software applications and general engineering. His duties recently expanded to include VP for Academic Relations. William became the youngest member of the UNI Applied Physics Advisory Board in October 2008.

XiXi Jia**Northeastern University****Bioinformatics****Current Employer: Massachusetts Institute of Technology****Job Title: Technology Marketing and Licensing Assistant***Nominated by Deborah Jancourtz*

XiXi earned a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Biology from Ludwig-Maximilians Universitat, Munich, and a PSM in Biotechnology with a specialization in molecular biotechnology from Northeastern University. Although she began a master's program in Molecular Biotechnology in Germany, XiXi says, "The U.S. lured me because of the unknown and my eagerness to grow up." XiXi found the PSM program to be unique because she could take science courses and because the laboratory applications were closely related to the kind of R&D work one would expect in industry. The PSM was 'a real eye opener' through its innovation and entrepreneurship courses and hands-on projects. XiXi has volunteered in labs in Singapore, Germany, and the U.S. working in such areas as in-vivo assays, in-vitro assays, Nanoparticle Drug Delivery Systems and Thin Layer Chromatography. She was an Assistant Teacher in science at a Charter High School in Boston, and was a Lead Counselor at the Exxon Bernard Harris Summer Science and Math Camp. XiXi also gained experience as a Technology Transfer Assistant at the Northeastern Division of Technology Transfer which led to an internship at the MIT Technology Licensing Office (TLO) that focused on marketing activities, IP Bundling, and Systems and Processes. XiXi was an integral part of the team, was doing excellent work, and was invited to stay on at the MIT TLO after graduation. XiXi says, "It is amazing that a single program can be both solid and wonderfully customizable so as to add just the right value to people coming from diverse backgrounds and levels of experiences."

David Levinstim

Illinois Institute of Technology

Master of Chemistry in Analytical Chemistry

Current Employer: Becton, Dickinson and Co.

Job Title: Quality Management Senior Scientist

Nominated by Elizabeth Friedman

David Levinstim is an analytical chemist with Becton, Dickinson and Co. He has seven years of work experience with the Quality Control Chemistry laboratory in Hunt Valley, Maryland. In his current role, he develops test methods using HPLC, ICP, XRF and IMS instrumentation. He received a bachelor's degree in chemistry at The Johns Hopkins University in 2001. Since receiving a Professional Science Master's degree in analytical chemistry from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 2009, he has enrolled in The Johns Hopkins Carey School of Business to pursue a master's degree in business administration.

Myriam McChargue

Rice University

Environmental Analysis and Decision Making

Current Employer: CDM Environmental Consulting

Job Title: Environmental Consultant

Nominated by Dagmar Beck

Myriam McChargue attended Louisiana State University and graduated in 2003 with a B.S. in Biological Sciences. She worked at LSU as a research associate and co-authored a paper on examining flash oxygen yield changes during chloride depletion and reconstitution. In her PSM studies at Rice University, Myriam focused on environmental sustainability with the goal of working for a conservation oriented organization or an environmental consulting company. She completed her internship with Environmental Resource Management Co. and accepted employment with CDM Environmental Consulting following graduation from Rice's Environmental Analysis and Decision Making program in 2006. CDM is an environmental consulting, engineering, construction, and operations firm dedicated to public health protection with expertise in water and wastewater, hazardous waste management, and a subsidiary in construction and general contracting.

Daniel Mills

Rice University

Environmental Analysis and Decision Making

Current Employer: HOK Architectural and Engineering

Job Title: Sustainability Manager

Nominated by Dagmar Beck

Daniel Mills received his B.A. in Biology from Trinity University in 2005. He gained research experience while interning with the National Park Service and working for the U.S. Forest Service. Daniel sought to integrate his background in biology and ecology with management and communication skills to be able to work either in environmental consulting or in policy making. He enrolled in the Environmental Analysis and Decision Making program in 2004. Daniel completed the required internship with Golden Associates in Houston and accepted a position with the HOK Architectural and Engineering firm in Houston after graduation. HOK is a global provider of planning, design and delivery solutions for the built environment. Since the firm's founding in 1955, HOK has developed into one of the world's largest, most diverse and respected design practices. At HOK, Daniel expanded his training to include sustainable and environmental building designs and collaborates with HOK architects in creating sustainable environments that meet the world's most complex planning and design challenges.

Sandeep Reddy Narpala

Northeastern University

Bioinformatics

Current Employer: International Aids Vaccine Initiative

Job Title: Research Assistant

Nominated by Deborah Jancourtz

As an undergraduate in India, Sandeep discovered the field of bioinformatics where he could combine his love of science and information technology. His visits to advanced centers in India like The Institute of Genetics and ICRISAT confirmed his conviction that graduate studies in Bioinformatics at Northeastern University would enable him to acquire knowledge in the latest trends in this field. Sandeep selected the PSM degree because he wanted to combine graduate coursework with a 'real world' professional internship. Sandeep says that some of the most interesting courses he took were Microarray Analysis and Protein Structure Modeling, Bio-ethics and Molecular Modeling. Sandeep had great insight into different aspects of ethical and legal issues of biological research. In his Molecular Modeling course, he learned that all complex biological processes that take place in the body can be virtually simulated with the aid of software and computer technology. As an intern at the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), a global non-profit organization whose mission is to develop a safe, effective, accessible, preventive HIV vaccine, Sandeep was an active, highly-regarded, and professional team member. The major focus of the lab is to design new immunogens that would elicit broad neutralizing antibodies against HIV-1. After graduating with a nearly perfect GPA, Sandeep was invited to stay on at IAVI. He says, "I continue to work at IAVI, NY as a Research Assistant contributing my skills towards the noble cause of developing an AIDS vaccination. On the whole, I strongly believe PSM was an exciting and refreshing program."

Steve Orlich**Pennsylvania State University****Master of Applied Statistics****Current Employer: Minitab****Job Title: Manager, Quality Assurance Department***Nominated by Mosuk Chow*

Steve earned a BS in Statistics, a BS in Psychology, and a minor in Mathematics from The Pennsylvania State University in 1999. He began his career at Minitab, Inc. as a software tester in the Quality Assurance Department where his responsibilities included developing and implementing test plans for new statistical software projects, developing verification tools, verifying statistical output, contributing to the development of new software features including design and documentation review, and functioning as a technical resource for other departments including Research and Design, Program Development, Documentation, and Customer Support. At the same time, he was also pursuing the MAS in statistics at The Pennsylvania State University graduating in 2003. When a new graphics system was introduced, Steve was named the lead tester at Minitab and was tasked with leading a team of software testers and developing the testing strategy. After 6 years as a software tester, he became the Quality Assurance manager and now oversees a department of 35 software testers and software engineers. His primary responsibilities now include supervising, training, coordinating, recruiting, and evaluating personnel, facilitating the development and improvement of software testing methods, procedures, and processes, and managing software development projects. He has given professional presentations and has authored a scholarly publication.

Carolyn Reifsnyder

San Jose State University

Biotechnology

Current Employer: Agilent Technologies, Inc.

Job Title: eContent and Solutions Manager, Worldwide Marketing Operations Team

Nominated by Sally Veregge

Carolyn holds a B.S. in Biology from Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. As an undergraduate student, she participated in an internship at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals and completed a research thesis. Carolyn then held several positions at a commercial real estate and road construction conglomerate including property management, accounts payable/receivable, government contract bidding, and fleet management. She returned to her true passion, research, two years later at the Fraunhofer USA Center for Molecular Biotechnology. In that position, Carolyn managed several contract research projects, as well as the maintenance of a research lab. After two and one-half years at the bench, Carolyn decided to join the Professional Science Master of Biotechnology (MBT) Program at San Jose State University. Carolyn excelled and was selected as the outstanding graduate of 2008 by both her classmates and the faculty, earning both the Brinegar and Sheila Tobias Awards. Because of the program's internship requirement, she was recruited by Agilent Technologies to join the Life Sciences marketing team as an intern and was given a unique data mining project aimed at driving revenues for the company in the academic market space. Carolyn was asked to stay with Agilent through the second year of her MBT Program and was offered a full time position as eContent and Solutions Manager with the Worldwide Marketing Operations team. What began as an internship opportunity, has become a key business function at Agilent, contributing to the company's 20+% growth in academia. With the credibility gained at Agilent from this investment, Carolyn has been able to extend her professional umbrella to encompass web content improvement for the entire life sciences and analytical chemistry organization, as well as drive additional business critical projects.

Sabiyah Robinson

San Jose State University

Biotechnology

Current Employer: Illumina, Inc.

Job Title: Process Development Engineer

Nominated by Sally Veregge

Sabiyah graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1996, then was hired into New United Motors Manufacturing, Inc. as a manufacturing engineer for the Vehicle Assembly department. He spent his first five years refining his engineering skills in the lean manufacturing environment of the Toyota Production System, then another five years in the innovative Toyota product development environment, where he facilitated new vehicle process and equipment introductions to the Assembly department for Toyota vehicles in three model years. Desiring to further diversify his skill sets, Sabiyah sought a new industry, selected biotechnology, and sought a way to break into the industry. In the fall of 2006, he entered the Master of Biotechnology (MBT) program at San Jose State University. In the program, he sought further challenges of learning skills divergent from his engineering background such as hands-on molecular biology techniques and bioinformatics, and both enhanced and shared his practical business and management skills in the program with his program cohorts. After graduating 2008, Sabiyah accepted a position at Illumina, Inc. in Hayward as a Process Development Engineer.

Initially, he worked in a group that produces consumable products for Illumina sequencing platforms, but recently transitioned into a position working with development scientists focused on platform reagent and hardware improvements. In his time at Illumina, he has leveraged his skills and experience both from working as a manufacturing and development engineer at NUMMI and from his molecular biology and business training in the MBT program.

Jason Shelton

Middle Tennessee State University

Health Care Informatics

Current Employer: HCA

Job Title: Business Analyst

Nominated by Linda Feagans

Jason earned a B.S. in mathematics with a minor in education. Jason chose the Health Care Informatics program at MTSU as an outlet for his passion to work with people while working with technology. The informatics program allowed him to enter the healthcare industry without any prior experience. His internship at StoneCrest Medical Center allowed him to observe numerous functions within the hospital and observe how information flowed throughout the facility. Taking advantage of professional networking opportunities during his internship, Jason received multiple job opportunities within Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) which owns StoneCrest. He now works as a business analyst with HCA in Nashville, TN. As a PSM student, Jason was actively involved with answering questions for new HCI students. He has been asked to serve on the MSPS advisory board since graduating and is also serving as an adjunct professor in the Nursing Department.

Lakshmi Subbarao

Illinois Institute of Technology

Master of Chemistry in Analytical Chemistry

Current Employer: TharSFC, a Waters Company

Job Title: Application Chemist

Nominated by Elizabeth Friedman

After graduating from the University of Delaware in 2004 with a BS in chemistry, Lakshmi started working for Lincoln University as a grader and chemistry tutor for honors students. In October 2005, she accepted a position at Advanced Materials Technology (AMT), a start-up company. At AMT, she had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Jack Kirkland, helping to develop superficially porous particles used in Halo™ chromatography columns. However, the task oriented nature of the position gave little opportunity to advance her knowledge of chromatography. The PSM program at Illinois Institute of Technology was appealing because it focused on analytical chemistry and allowed students to continue to work full-time. Upon enrolling at IIT, Lakshmi noticed immediately that the focus was not just on theory, but also its application to industry with real examples. When she started the program, she was hoping to just strengthen her knowledge in analytical chemistry – but an unforeseen bonus was a boost in confidence. Despite the downturn in the economy and the many hiring freezes, she was interviewed by several large companies. Instead of being fearful of appearing unknowledgeable, she approached interviews as an evaluation of which company would best fit *her*. In January 2009, she accepted a position with TharSFC, a Waters Company. As an applications chemist, Lakshmi demonstrates instruments to potential customers and runs their samples to illustrate the advantages of supercritical fluid chromatography (SFC). She recently co-authored an article that appeared in *The Column* that documented the ionization of different classes of compounds when coupling SFC with mass spectrometry. Currently, she is working on applications of SFC in regulated environments. In the last group meeting, her manager actually referenced a book on validation that was used as a textbook in one of her PSM classes.

Eric Tan**Keck Graduate Institute****Master of Biosciences****Current Employer: Kinetic Concepts, Inc.****Job Title: Concept Management, Product Development Engineer III***Nominated by Merlene Singleton*

Eric Tan is currently a Concept Manager in New Product Development at Kinetic Concepts, Inc. in San Antonio, Texas. He is responsible for early-stage project management, assessing the technical and business feasibility of new product ideas. He has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a B.S. in Biology from Stanford University. Eric has a Master's degree in Biological Sciences and a PhD in Applied Life Sciences from the Keck Graduate Institute, specializing in rapid isothermal DNA amplification combined with a novel color-based nanosphere detection method and a hand-held microfluidic device. Eric also has completed the Masters of Business Administration from the Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management.

Huong Tran

Michigan State University

Industrial Mathematics

Current Employer: Steelcase, Inc.

Job Title: Market Research Specialist

Nominated by Peiru Wu

Huong earned a B.S. in mathematics from Grand Valley State University in 2005. She then joined the Professional Science Master's program (PSM) in Industrial Mathematics at Michigan State University and earned her M.S. degree in 2007. Huong is currently a Market Research Specialist at Steelcase, Inc, one of the largest office furniture manufacturing companies in the world. Prior to this role, she was a Financial Analyst. Huong has enjoyed tremendous success at Steelcase. Because of her work with Steelcase during graduate school and the reputation of the Industrial Mathematics program, she has the flexibility to work on various influential projects. Her current project involves predictive modeling in the office furniture world requiring the use of complex adaptive systems and working with several professors from the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.

Yukang Zhao

Case Western Reserve University

Entrepreneurial Biotechnology

Current Employer: Arteriocyte, Inc.

Job title: Project Manager

Nominated by Edward M. Caner

In 2005, Arteriocyte hired second-year Entrepreneurial Biotechnology PSM student Yukang Zhao as a Commercialization Assistant intern. He worked as an intern for approximately one year, first working with stem cell researchers and then writing SBIR and other government grants with the company's CTO. During his internship, Yukang was involved in the authoring of over 10 major grants. Upon graduating, the company moved quickly to hire him full-time. In 2008, CEO Don Brown wrote the following comment in a letter of support for the Entrepreneurial Biotechnology Program:

As an intern, Yukang was a key person in the authoring of a grant that won Arteriocyte \$2 million from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). This grant has been a critical component in the growth of Arteriocyte. Because of his work ethic, entrepreneurial spirit and the excellent training that he received from CWRU, Yukang is now employed full-time at Arteriocyte in the position of Project Manager. Since his time of hire, he has been instrumental in our post-acquisition transfer of the Magellan business from Medtronic and in getting our own manufacturing, quality and regulatory systems going.

Since 2008, Yukang has made a significant contribution toward Arteriocyte's raising approximately \$7 million in government grants and other investment. Yukang is co-inventor of US Patent #20080241246, "Cell-based therapies for treating liver disease." He continues to support the Entrepreneurial Biotechnology Program by mentoring students, particularly those who join Arteriocyte each year as interns. Since Yukang was hired, Arteriocyte has hired a total of nine CWRU graduate student interns and has hired four interns full-time upon graduation.