



MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

APRIL, 2021

THE UPDATE

Official Newsletter of the Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

Staff Spotlight!

To wrap up our Laboratory Staff Spotlight, we are going to share some information about Kara Ebisuya!

Kara grew up in Oahu, where she lived until she moved to Oregon. She completed her bachelor's degree in Biology at Pacific University. Shortly after graduating, Kara moved to Salt Lake City and started working in the MLS Teaching Lab at the University of Utah.

After working here for a couple of years (and realizing how fun MLS is!) she applied to and started working on her master's degree in laboratory medicine. While working on her master's, she completed a categorical certification in blood banking, which is her favorite subject!

Kara spends most of her time with her boyfriend, Layne, and their two fur babies, Koa and Nugget. Koa is a hyperactive mix of herding dog breeds and Nugget is a chubby little housecat who likes cuddles and playing fetch. Kara enjoys taking her dog out to play, random crafts, baking and cooking, playing video games, and planning trips home to visit family and go to the beach.

"Kara joined us in the Teaching Laboratory when she finished college a few years ago. She has blossomed into a very competent, knowledgeable addition to our lab. She enjoys a challenge, and it didn't take very long before she was overseeing the preparation of many of our lab sessions. She is kind and compassionate, and that shows in her interactions with both students and other employees. She is energetic and always three steps ahead of the rest of us. She is a wonderful asset to our program, and I am grateful to have her on our team!"- Kristina Pierce



We are happy to have you amongst us, Kara!

Checking on Each Other

Last spring the COVID-19 pandemic was picking up speed and people had no clue how widespread it would become or how long it would go on. Thousands of students were sent home for spring break unaware they would not return to their classrooms for the rest of the year.

Now, here we are a year later. So much has changed, so much is still unknown, but several in our local and university community have received the COVID-19 vaccine offering a glimmer of hope that change is on the horizon. All of us have been impacted to varying degrees by this historic event and we need our U community to come together like never before. It is crucial we hear from our colleagues, friends, and classmates. Please reach out if you have not in a while.

We encourage you to expand your U Crew to help those who feel they can't reach out. We suggest you call, text, direct message and/or email your U crew. Check on your lab partners in class and at work. Ask how you can support them as the Spring 2021

semester comes to an end. Maybe they need to chat with someone who understands the stresses they may be under. Share and take advantage of the following resources: [Center for Student Wellness](#) and [Basic Needs](#).



Faculty Recruit

To meet the needs of program growth, the Medical Laboratory Science Division is delighted to announce a new faculty position has been opened. Applicants can submit electronically to <https://utah.peopleadmin.com/postings/111467> Please contact the Search Committee Chair, Takara Blamires with questions.



Lab Professionals Week Challenge

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week is an annual celebration of the vital role laboratories and pathologists play in patient centered healthcare.

This year's participation will be virtual and remote, so be on the lookout for email instructions for how you can be involved!

We will have online games and prizes from 4/19 through 4/23, including:

Monday - MLS Meme Contest: create a science/academic/MLS themed meme

Tuesday - Transform your name: transform your name into a microbe-like name. Use your first name to inspire the genus and your last name to inspire the species.

Example: Lacey Murphy = Lacidophilus Murphrophilus

Wednesday - Get artistic: submit a science/academic/MLS themed painting, sketch, sculpture, or whatever type of medium you work with. Send us a picture of your creation. We will even distribute a coloring page for those of us that require a little more than inspiration.

Thursday - Word Search: find as many words as you can!

Friday - Lab Professionals Week Social: Join us for a 1 hour virtual get together.

For each activity you participate in, you will receive a virtual "ticket" with your name that gets entered into a hat. On Friday we will raffle off a bunch of prizes: a BOC study guide, Pandemic board game, plush microbes, lab week themed bags, notebooks, and more! The more activities you participate in, the better your chances of scoring some sweet prizes.

Instructions for how to submit your work will be included in the instructions emailed each day of lab week. We intend to share the submissions with everyone unless otherwise specified. Or, let us know if we can share them anonymously.

Global Health Case Competition

Congratulations to Bryanda (Bree) Woods, a second year in the undergraduate Medical Laboratory Science program!

Bree and her team took first place in the 4th Annual Global Health Case Competition.

The case competition is a unique opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students from multiple disciplines to come together to learn about, develop, and recommend innovative solutions for 21st century global health problems.

This year's project was "An Epidemic Offsides: Containing an Outbreak During the 2022 World Cup in Qatar".

We love watching our students succeed and thrive. Great accomplishment!

Love and Respect

Our country is, once again, dealing with anti-Asian violence and xenophobia.

The rise in anti-Asian hate, harassment, discrimination and violence experienced by members of our communities is heartbreaking. The Medical Laboratory Sciences Division stands in solidarity with our Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islander students, staff, faculty and community members and denounce race-based discrimination, bias and violence.

We encourage you to join us in resolving to do what we can to stop the hate. Call it out. Name it. Speak against it. Report it.

Reach out to the [Resiliency Center](#) and the [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Center](#) for help.

MLSPC

The MLSPC will be hosting a virtual game night Monday, 4/5 from 6:00-7:00 pm. Buy your favorite snacks and come hang out and play Jackbox games with us over Zoom from the comfort of your own home! There will be plenty of fun and laughter, and sweatpants are encouraged for maximum relaxation. RSVP [here](#)!

The MLSPC is also excited to announce a live, interactive mycology demonstration with Professor Sheri Hohmann, MSPH, SM(ASCP)^{CM}. The event will be held via Zoom on 4/26 from 4:00-5:00 pm. Login to join us in our Medical Laboratory Science teaching laboratory and find out what kinds of molds, yeasts, or fungi can make you sick. RSVP today [here](#)!

As always, we'd love to have you! If you are interested in joining the MLSPC you can apply online [here](#)!



Student Resources

[ASUU Student Child Care Program](#): Drop-in child care program: Call or email for more information! 801-585-7393 / ascuchildcare@sa.utah.edu

Get the most out of you U Card Benefits: Go to ucard.utah.edu

FEED U: Available to all U students. For more information go on their Facebook [@FeedUFoodPantry](#) account or [website](#)!

Upcoming Events

APRIL 19-23: Lab Week Celebration

APRIL 23: Spring M&E

APRIL 26: Virtual Interactive Mycology Lab

MAY 10: Summer Classes Begin

MAY 21: Graduation Day

Important Reminders

APR 5: University Non-Instructional Day

APR 15: Deadline for [Utah Governor's Energy Workforce Scholarship](#)

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

30 NORTH 1900 EAST, Room 5R472 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84132

Social

Instagram: [@UofUMLS](#)

Facebook: [@UofUMLS](#)

Twitter: [@UofUMLS](#)

mlsadvicing@path.utah.edu

Online

[medicine.utah.edu/pathology/
medical-laboratory-science/](http://medicine.utah.edu/pathology/medical-laboratory-science/)

Phone

(801) 581-7913

Among the things you can give and still keep are your word, a smile, and a grateful heart. - Zig Ziglar



