

## Behavioral Neuroscience

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Emily Oot - defended



Emily has been an extraordinary student in the Behavioral Neuroscience PhD Program. She completed the program and successfully defended her dissertation in April. She was also a fellow in the BUSM Transformative Training Program in Addiction Science. In addition to being a stellar student, Emily is also the recipient of an F31 grant which she was awarded on her first submission. In addition to her academic acumens, Emily has been a wonderful citizen of the program. She is always an eager participant in journal club and has always been the first student to volunteer to meet with applicants invited for interviews and to mentor and help newer students to the program. She has also participated as a lecturer for the past 2 years in a required lecture series course in the program, a role normally only requested of faculty members. Emily has been working at the level of a faculty member for several years and we are thrilled she now officially has a PhD!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Clara Zundel – 4<sup>th</sup> year student



Clara is a 4<sup>th</sup> year student in the Behavioral Neuroscience PhD Program. She has been an excellent student and citizen. In her relatively short time being fulltime in a lab starting in her second year, Clara has accrued 8 publications on which she is the first or second author on four. She has also presented seven posters at national and international conferences. She has enthusiastically met with applicants invited to interviews and mentored newer students entering the program. Clara has also been a teaching assistant for one of the required courses in the program. She also regularly participates in evented hosted but BU BEST and BU PDPA and is an active participant in journal clubs. Clara's research focuses on the neuropathological and neurobehavioral consequences of Gulf War Illness. Her long-term interest is understanding the effects of environmental neurotoxins on the brain and behavior and its impact on mental health.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Ben Thompson – defended



Ben has been one of the most hardworking students in the history of the Behavioral Neuroscience PhD Program. Ben came to the program with two masters degrees that were unrelated to neuroscience. He was passionate about understanding the etiologies and consequences of addictions with a particular interest in alcoholism. He volunteered in labs doing the type of work that matched his interests and eventually applied to and was accepted into the Behavioral Neuroscience PhD Program. He was also a fellow in the BUSM Transformative Training Program in Addiction Science. Ben has done substantial volunteer service related to drug and alcohol addiction including at the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center and serving as Clinical Director of multiple drug addiction treatment programs in several correctional facilities, and has mentored students in the BU chapter of the Collegiate Recovery Program. Ben successfully defended his dissertation in April and is committed to making contributions in field of addiction research and we look forward to following his career.