

SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL MICROBIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY (SIMB) AWARDEES IN BESC - 2017



Brian H. Davison, Chief Scientist for Systems Biology and Biotechnology in the Bioscience Division at ORNL and the Science Coordinator in BESC, awarded SIMB Fellow 2017.

Fellowship status is a special grade of membership in SIMB, acknowledging a career long sustained record of significant research and/or service contributions to the profession of industrial microbiology and/or biotechnology.

He co-chaired the 15th to 26th Symposia on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals. He is on the Board of the Society for Biological Engineering. Honors include an R&D100 for bio-succinic acid, the SIMB CD Scott award, and AIChE Fellow. He has 160+ publications and ten patents in bioprocessing, industrial microbiology, biofuels and bioproducts.

Brian's Ph.D. is in Chemical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology and his B.S. is in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rochester, New York.



Amanda Williams-Rhaesa, a fifth-year Ph.D. candidate in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Georgia (Dr. Michael Adams' lab), received a 2017 SIMB Diversity Travel Award.

Her research focuses on utilizing thermophilic bacteria for biofuel production from plant biomass. Currently, she has been focusing on metabolic engineering the cellulolytic thermophile *Caldicellulosiruptor bescii* for increased ethanol production and her work has included studying the genetic stability of different strains of this organism.

Amanda is dedicated to promoting diversity and women in STEM and has focused her efforts on local outreach and mentorship of undergraduate students for independent research.

Prior to joining the doctoral program, Amanda received her B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and her B.A. in Italian from the University of Georgia.

