UVA Biomedical Sciences (BIMS) graduate students have been hard at work over the summer attending conferences all over the world, setting up committee meetings, completing experiments at the bench, and preparing for the arrival of the incoming students. This year, the BIMS program welcomed 73 first years, with most arriving in July to start their first round of lab rotations. These 6-week rotations allow the first years to get a feel for the research and community each lab provides.

To welcome the first years, the Graduate Biosciences Society (GBS) held an ice cream social on a hot July afternoon to introduce the first years to BIMS upperclassmen. They also sponsored a picnic where first years were introduced to upperclassmen and various clubs led by BIMS students. They were greeted by representatives from Queer in Medical Sciences (QIMS), Women in Medical Sciences (WIMS), Graduate Recruitment Initiative Team (GRIT), Biology Outreach and Inclusion Program (BOIP), and Project Bridge. The first years were able to hear about all of the amazing work these groups are doing throughout both the UVA and Charlottesville communities. GBS and WIMS co-sponsored a trip to Carter’s Mountain for their Thursday evening Sunset Series where the first years could experience amazing views of Charlottesville while bonding with their classmates. Lastly, many labs gave a brief introduction to their research through a poster session to offer the first year students a look into potential rotation opportunities. This was a great way for the incoming class to meet other students and faculty.

Welcome to the BIMS Class of 2024, we cannot wait to see what your futures hold!

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