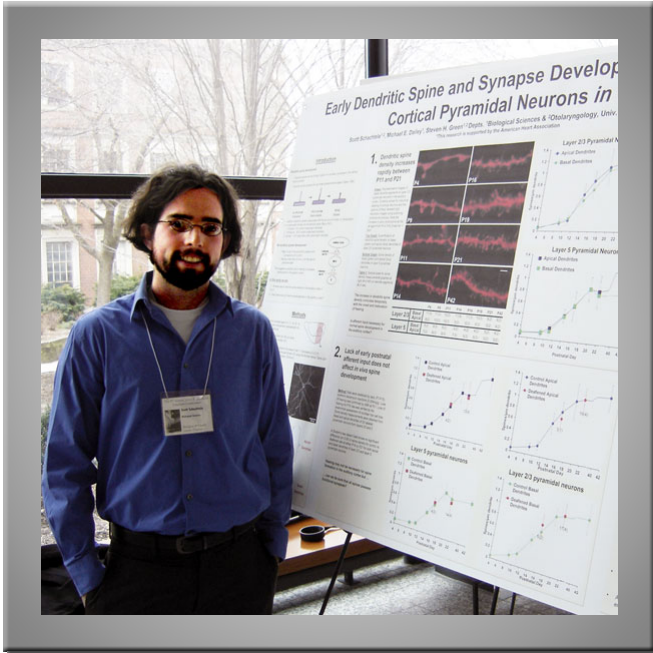




Graduate Student Spotlight



Scott Schachtele

PhD - Neuroscience

BS, Neuroscience - University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Winner of 2nd Place in the Biological & Health Sciences Division at the 2007 James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference

Please describe your thesis project in a short sentence.

My research investigates synapse development in the auditory cortex and, in particular, the role early auditory activity plays in modifying normal synapse formation.

How did you decide to go to graduate school?

The University of Minnesota has phenomenal undergraduate neuroscience program. The way they taught and the experiences I had in those courses as an undergraduate really solidified my decision to pursue a graduate degree.

What made you decide to go to graduate school at Iowa?

The diversity and the prestige of the faculty associated with the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program was a major factor in my decision to come to Iowa for my PhD. I also was impressed by the high degree of collaboration between faculty throughout the University of Iowa sciences.

What are some of your interests outside of school?

I am a DJ at KRUI, the local college radio station. Needless to say, music is a major outside-of-school interest. Also, I enjoy hiking, reading and watching movies.

You are a winner of one of the top awards at the Jakobsen Conference in a previous year. What did you enjoy most about the Jakobsen Conference experience?

The best part about the Jakobsen Conference was presenting my work to fellow graduate students. The diversity of the audience member's backgrounds really facilitated a great question and answer session for which I gained a lot of insight into my project.

Are there any particular challenges you've faced as a graduate student at Iowa?

Self-motivating has been the biggest challenge in graduate school. My project is very tangential to the projects in the rest of the lab. As a result I must rely on my own self-motivation to learn new techniques, implement them and devise subsequent experiments. It can be difficult to motivate ones self especially if the experiments need a lot of troubleshooting.

Do you have a particular mentor who has played an important role in the development of your thesis or your career trajectory?

Yes, Dr. Steven Green.

Please note any significant honors you've received .

American Heart Association Heartland Predoctoral Fellowship 2005-2007, University of Iowa Graduate Student Summer Fellowship 2007

Hometown: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Advisor: Steven Green