Chair Chat

By Dr. Joel Piperberg

Happy New Year, and welcome again to another issue of the BioNews; we hope that you'll enjoy reading about what we've all been up to this past year.

During the 2006–2007 academic year, much was accomplished. Dr. Jean Boal was on sabbatical during the Fall 2006 semester, while Dr. John Wallace was away on sabbatical for the full year. Both John and Jean traveled during their time away from Millersville, Jean to France and John to Australia among other places. Both of their sabbaticals were extremely productive. We hired Dr. Abass Abdullahi as a one-year appointment to fill in for John. Abass did an excellent job for us, and I am happy to report that he has found a tenure-track position at CUNY–Bronx Community College. Dr. Judith Cebra-Thomas completed her first year as a new tenure-track member of the faculty; she is doing an excellent job.

After 30 years as a department fixture, Dr. David Dobbins retired. We celebrated his many years of loyal service at his retirement party that you can read about on page 2. He still will be easy to find on campus this year, since he will return as a Volunteer-in-Service. David will continue to maintain the landscape in the Roddy–Caputo Courtyard, work on the data he collected during his 2005–2006 sabbatical, and maintain the SEM. Early in the Summer of 2007, we conducted a successful search and hired Dr. Sharmin Maswood as a one-year replacement for David (page 4); we are pleased to welcome her to the Millersville University Department of Biology.

The Respiratory Therapy program has moved from Lancaster General Hospital (LGH) to newly-renovated quarters in the Lancaster Regional Medical Center (LRMC). We are excited about the new relationship with LRMC.

For a couple of years, in an attempt to increase the retention rates for our majors, Freshmen have been participating in a learning community where they live in the dorms and take many of their classes, including Biology 100, together. Thus far, the learning community has been a success. This year, Dr. Julie Ambler has added a Freshman Year Experience (FYE) course entitled "Biodiversity and the Sixth Great Extinction" to the retention effort. In other curricular developments, the Department is in the process of revamping requirements for the major and proposing a new B. S. degree in Allied Health Technologies.

In this issue of the BioNews, there are a number of other features that might interest you. On page 6, you can read about the inauguration of an NSF supported summer research program, and catch up with your friends’ activities in the Class Notes on page 11. Don't miss the Jumble puzzle contest on page 10, with a chance to win a gift certificate from Amazon.com.

We hope that you enjoy this latest issue of the BioNews, and that you will continue to stay in touch.
Dr. David Dobbins Retires

by Dr. Jay Moné

David Dobbins with a few of his former students. From left to right, Dale Karlson (’96), Carl Cummings (’73), David Dobbins, Jean Labriola-Scholz (’83), and Harry Alden (‘81).

On September 9, approximately 50 faculty, family, friends, and alumni gathered at the Lehr Dining Room in Gordinier Hall to celebrate Dr. David Dobbins’ 30 years of service to Millersville University. Organized by Dr. Jean Boal and with Dr. David Zegers as Master of ceremonies, the party featured a beer and wine reception followed by a buffet of salad, veggies, linguine, potatoes au gratin, roast turkey, beef-something-or-other, and carrot cake for dessert.

Amy Yocom provided floral bouquets and a centerpiece for each table consisting of a gourd base filled with various fall flora, all grown on the Yocom farmstead (this page). Two versions of placemats were created by Drs. Chris Hardy and Julie Ambler, one with caricatures of Dobbins in action pose and the other an assortment of photographs featuring David Dobbins with his students. Dr. Larry Reinking provided an often humorous Power Point presentation chronicling Dr. Dobbins’ years as an academician and researcher at Wellesley College and MU.

As a token of appreciation for Dr. Dobbins’ years at MU, he was presented with a framed print of a Boppel Nut tree by renowned botanical artist David Mackay (page 3). Also known as monkey nut or beef nut, *Hicksbeachia pinnatifolia* is a small tree related to macadamias that grows in subtropical rainforest and is currently considered endangered by the Australian Government. Thanks to Dr. John Wallace for this great gift idea.

(continued on page 3)
Appreciation for Dr. Dobbins was so great that a significant amount of gift monies (about $500) was left for him to "play with." Without hesitation and with great generosity and loyalty to the Department of Biology, Dr. Dobbins donated all of it to the James C. Parks Scholarship in Botanical Research Fund. Thank you, David! (For more information on this and other funds that benefit students in the Department of Biology, and to learn how you can contribute, please see the insert at the bottom of this page.)

The evening culminated in the awarding of Professor Emeritus status to Dr. Dobbins (see resolution on page 14). Dr. Dobbins also shared with us his sage advice on several issues, including a warning about teaching too much, and remembering the importance of sabbaticals.

The party ended around 9 pm. Despite his retired status, Dr. Dobbins will still be around Roddy Hall as he continues his research on the comparative anatomy of tropical vines from South America, Africa, and India. He plans to finish another publication or two before leaving.

**How YOU Can Help**

Like what you read about Biology alumni, faculty, students, and programs? Please keep our programs strong and support biology students. Gifts can be restricted or unrestricted. Specific funds you may want to specify include: The Syd Radinovsky Scholarship in Biological Research, The James C. Parks Scholarship in Botanical Research, The Ratzlaff Scholarship, and the newly established Dr. Frank S. Lisella Endowment for Biology Equipment. For a more complete list or further information, please contact the Development Office or the Biology Department (biology@millersville.edu). You may give on-line @ www.millersville.edu; click on the ‘Giving’ tab, OR send your gift to Millersville University, Development Office, P.O. Box 1002, Millersville, PA 17551-0302.

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**Dr. Boal's Activities**

(continued from page 5)

escape route. These experiments extend our understanding of invertebrate complex learning.

Marie E. Beigel (MU ’05), Jean Geary Boal. The Effect of Habitat Enrichment on Activity and Body Patterning in *Octopus bimaculoides*


Based on Marie Beigel-Collins’s Departmental Honors Thesis, this research examines the effect of habitat enrichment on activity and body patterning in *Octopus bimaculoides* for the first time. In standard laboratory environments, octopuses showed significantly more jetting and hitting the walls, and showed a tendency for more sitting in the pots (dens), darker coloration, and red coloration on the arms. In the enriched environment, octopuses tended to show more shuffling, manipulating, curling arms, grasping shells, sitting on the bottom, lighter coloration, vertical stripes, and papillae. Results suggest that habitat enrichment leads to a wider range of behaviors and to fewer repetitive and destructive behaviors.
Dr. Sharmin Maswood’s Journey to Millersville

by Dr. Dominique Dagit

It’s a long way from Bangladesh to Millersville, but Dr. Sharmin Maswood has made this journey and we’re happy to welcome her to the Biology Department as our newest temporary full-time faculty member.

Sharmin completed her undergraduate work at the University of Dhaka, in the capital city of Bangladesh. After graduation, she traveled to the United States to visit relatives in New England and a younger brother who was studying at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. On his suggestion, she took her GREs and TOEFL exams while on vacation. At the time, Sharmin had no plans to stay in the United States. Well, it’s no surprise to those of us who work with Sharmin that her scores attracted the attention of graduate schools in the United States, and she ended up completing her graduate studies in Molecular Biology at Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas with a minor in Neuroscience. It was at this time that Sharmin became interested in women’s health, particularly as it relates to depression.

Following the successful completion of her Ph.D., Sharmin pursued postdoctoral research at the University of Colorado in Boulder where she set up the neurochemistry laboratory there. This turned out to be quite an undertaking and Sharmin single handedly set up a leading, state-of-the-art in vivo microdialysis laboratory for measuring brain neurochemicals on rat models of stress/anxiety and depression. One of her most important accomplishments with this new technique was the collection of neurotransmitters directly from the brain in a live rat. Although this was an exciting avenue of research, Sharmin returned to Texas Women’s University to focus more specifically on research related to females. This proved to be a good move because it was at this time that she met her future husband. As an odd coincidence, he also had attended the same University in Bangladesh studying physics.

When Sharmin’s husband, Kazi Hossain, found a job at Millersville University in the Education Department, and with a baby on the way, they made the decision to settle here. For the past four years, Sharmin has been at Franklin and Marshall College's Psychology Department teaching and performing research on the neurochemical changes associated with mood disorders, such as depression and anxiety. They have just moved from Lancaster to Millersville, and Sharmin, Kazi, and daughter Sameeha are enjoying being part of the Millersville Community.

Sharmin is currently teaching General Biology (Bio 100) and a seminar course on hormones and behavior. In November she traveled to San Diego to attend the annual conference of the Society for Neuroscience where she presented two student co-authored posters from her recent research. When she’s not teaching, Sharmin enjoys reading mystery novels, daily work-outs at the gym, and local Thai cuisine.
Sabbatical and Research Activities of Dr. Jean Boal

Dr. Jean Boal enjoyed a sabbatical in the fall of 2006. She traveled to the Université de Caen Basse-Normandie (UCBN) in northern France, where she studied cuttlefish behavior with a team of French faculty and graduate students. The laboratory work was performed at a nearby marine laboratory, the Centre de Recherches en Environnement Côtier. While in France, Dr. Boal gave two lectures (one in French!) and met with administrators at UCBN involved in the new MU–UCBN exchange program to facilitate exchanges of students majoring in the sciences.

In the summer of 2007, Dr. Boal returned to the same French marine laboratory with three MU students, Tania Franks (MU '07), Katherine Heldt (MU '09), and Adriane Hohmann (MU '09). The team performed several experiments on chemical perception and learning in newly hatched cuttlefish. The research results turned out interesting, and everybody had a great time, learned a lot of French, and enjoyed the French people, sites, and cuisine.

Some of you may have seen Dr. Jean Boal on NOVA this spring. Kaufmann Productions, an Australian film company, came to visit her lab in the summer of '05 to film her work on cuttlefish learning for a documentary on cuttlefish behavior. The team was great fun to work with and many of Dr. Boal’s current and former students came to watch and participate. The film was aired in Asia and Europe in the fall of '06 under the title of “Cuttlefish: The Brainy Bunch.” In early '07, the North American rights to the film were bought by WGBH of Boston, who edited and revised sections of the film and then released it as the NOVA program entitled, “Kings of Camouflage” that aired this spring, along with an interview on a companion web site. Dr. Boal reports that it was a wonderful experience working with the two film crews, Australian and American, and she was pleased that so many former students were able to return to campus to participate.

Dr. Boal's recent publications listed below include Millersville students as co-authors.


This paper, based on Jessica’s Departmental Honors Thesis, describes how sea urchins cover their bodies with a variety of materials for protection from UV radiation. Their selection of intermediate-sized objects may demonstrate a trade-off between the energetic costs of carrying objects and the physiological costs of exposure to UV. Karena Lloyd-Knight (MU masters degree student in '05-06) assisted with the literature review and preparation of the final manuscript. A short review of this article was published in *The Global Marine Environment* (newsletter of the Marine Biological Association): 38, Fall 2007.

Lauren M. Hvorencny (MU '04 ⚫), Jessica L. Grudowski (MU '04 ⚫), Carrie J. Blakeslee (MU '06 ⚫), Tiffany L. Simmons (MU '06 ⚫), Paula R. Roy (MU '06 ⚫), Jennifer A. Brooks (MU '06 ⚫), Rachel M. Hanner (MU '06 ⚫†), Marie E. Beigel (MU '05 ⚫), Miranda A. Karson, Rachel H. Nichols, Johanna B. Holm (MU '06 ⚫), Jean Geary Boal. Octopuses (*Octopus bimaculoides*) and cuttlefishes (*Sepia pharaonis*, *S. officinalis*) can conditionally discriminate. *Animal Cognition* (2007) 10(4): 449-459

This manuscript is the result of five years of combined experiments from University (⚫) and Departmental Honors (✴) Theses and Independent Studies (⚫). To test the hypothesis that octopuses and cuttlefish are capable of conditional discrimination, subjects were trained in two maze configurations (the conditions) in which they were required to select one of two particular escape routes within each maze (the discrimination). Conditional discrimination was demonstrated when six of ten octopuses (*O. bimaculoides*), six of 13 pharao cuttlefish (*S. pharaonis*), and one of four common cuttlefish (*S. officinalis*) successfully selected the correct

(continued on page 3)
Center for Environmental Sciences Launches its Summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program

By Dr. Dominique Dagit

It’s all about ‘immersing’ yourself in research – literally! This summer nine undergraduate students participated in our first ten-week summer REU program entitled: “Watersheds: From River to Estuary.” The REU program is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and provides opportunities to bring students from all over the U.S. to Millersville’s Center for Environmental Sciences to engage in watershed-related research. The program began with a week of activities including native plant hikes, stream shocking, and bird watching, and culminated in a weekend of trawling and seining at the Marine Science Consortium at Wallops Island, VA. Students then spent the next nine weeks conducting independent research projects with faculty mentors; the summer ended with the presentation of their papers at a student research symposium. This summer, we had six participants from Millersville: Claire Larkin, Amanda Eplet, Sean Miller, Alison Polan, Brett Crowthers, and Geoff Baum; and three students from outside Millersville: Danielle Nagelberg, Temple University; Matt Knittel, Allegheny College; and Ricky Tilton, Calvin College. Most of the research projects were centered on investigations of the impact of legacy sediments on nine streams in southern Lancaster County. Research projects included studies of riparian vegetation, macroinvertebrate communities, fish diversity and abundance, and water quality. Other research projects were investigating snail distribution and movements in a salt marsh at (continued on page 7)

Summer 2007 REU students and mentors (from left); row 1: Amanda Eplet, Danielle Nagelberg, Claire Larkin, Matt Knittel, Dr. Dan Yocom; row 2: Dr. Dominique Dagit, Sean Miller, Brett Crowthers, Geoff Baum, Alison Polan, Ricky Tilton, Dr. Todd Sikora; row 3: Dr. Dave Zegers, Dr. Rich Clark; row 4: Shawn Rice (REU Coordinator), Dr. Chris Hardy; top: Dr. John Wallace.
Summer REU Program
(continued from page 6)

Assateague Island, VA and the effect of boating on local air quality over Lake Clark, PA. All students prepared a final paper, and several of these will be presented at regional and national meetings this year.

Titles and investigators of projects included (individuals whose names are underlined are from MU): Impacts of Legacy Sediments on Benthic Communities and Water Quality, Matthew J. Knittel, John R. Wallace and John R. Shuman; Floristic Survey in Streamside Forests in Relationship to Elevation and Aspect in Three Lancaster County Conservancy Nature Preserves, Claire Larkin and Christopher Hardy; Assessment of Riparian Replanting Health Using Fish Index of Biotic Integrity, Sean Miller and Dominique Dagit; Development of Methods to Assess Heavy Metals Present in Stream Fish Assemblages in Lancaster County, PA, Danielle Nagelberg and Dominique Dagit; The effect of vegetative cover height and light intensity on the activity level of meadow voles, Microtus pennsylvanicus. Richard K. Tilton, David A. Zegers, and Daniel H. Yocom; and Population Density and Size Distribution of the Mud Dog Whelk in Tom’s Cove, Amanda Eplett and Dominique Dagit.

One of the most exciting aspects of this program is the opportunity to forge collaboration among faculty. This summer’s faculty mentors included: Chris Hardy, Dominique Dagit, John Wallace, Dave Zegers and Dan Yocom (Biology); Kathleen Schreiber (Geography); Richard Clark and Todd Sikora (Earth Sciences). It’s hard to say who benefited more from the experience—the students or the faculty! We’re looking forward to next summer, which we hope will bring more students from outside Millersville with even more faculty mentors becoming involved. More information about the REU program is on our website: http://www.millersville.edu/~reu/.

Student Recognition Luncheon

In early May, the Department of Biology honored graduating Seniors involved with various research projects with a buffet lunch at Gordinier Hall. From left to right are: Rodney Ritzel, Christina Lilli, Mystery Student, Joel Piperberg (Department Chair), Lara Williams, Lindsey Wegrzyniak, Stacey Gibson, Jill (Wise) Rudy, Cindy Willman-Kinsey, Matthew Fox, Kimberly Fetzer.
Want to read a biology-oriented book, but you are a bit overwhelmed at the choices? Biology faculty have some suggestions for you.


These are the chronological story of veterinarian, James Herriott, and his life and practice in the Yorkshire dales area of England. His life during World War II and his family life are explored, too. The books are heartwarming and funny and insightful!!! I think every biologist would enjoy them.

--Jeanne Addison


This book is a novel, though its description of lab life is fairly accurate. In this book, life in a cancer research lab in the 1980s is disrupted by allegations of fraud. If you work in a lab, especially with rodents, or you work in a high-pressure research lab, you may find this book particularly relevant, but it's a good read no matter what. If you supervise technicians, graduate students, or post-docs, you may want them to read it—it has great lessons on good versus bad record-keeping.

--Susan DiBartolomeis


I'm not in the habit of reading non-fiction (I read enough scientific journals as it is), but I got this book as a gift, read the first chapter, and was hooked. Ms. Stewart made me feel like I was with her when she visited floral breeders, growers, and sellers. She engrossed me in the history of the flower business and enlightened me on such issues as pesticide use and fair trade. She taught me important lessons about buying from flower stores versus grocery stores and about the importance of photoperiod and flowering. Even if you don't typically buy flowers, you will like this book (and maybe, just maybe, you will be inspired to treat yourself, friend or family member to a cheerful bouquet).

--Susan DiBartolomeis


It's eighteenth-century London. War is brewing in the colonies. Infectious diseases such as cholera, gonorrhea, and syphilis run rampant through the city. Various forms of cancer, many due to environmental hazards, ensure a slow and agonizing death, with surgery the only treatment, and only opium to relieve the pain.

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Book Reviews

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The treatments for most of what ails you include bloodletting, tobacco enemas (yes, you read it right), purging, and whatever elixir someone claims will put you right again. Against this backdrop, medical science began in earnest to separate myth from fact. The first step in this long march was in understanding the workings of the human body, a task that fell mainly to the surgeons.

Surgeons of the eighteenth century bore little resemblance to those of today. The surgeons in "The Knife Man," by Wendy Moore, inhabited a macabre world of body snatchers, vivisection, and human and animal experimentation. Most notable among them was John Hunter, a remarkably insightful scientist with an insatiable appetite for knowledge. Hunter was both a naturalist and a doctor, a combination that served him well, as he was well connected with the circus trainers and explorers of his time (like Captain James Cook), who provided access to a huge assortment of exotic and domestic animals, both living and dead. The dead, stuffed specimens provided useful insights into the relationships between animals, and also between animals and humans, more than half a century before Darwin's "Origin of Species."

To study humans, though, one needs human bodies, which plunged Hunter and his protégés into the dark world of grave robbers, criminals, and midnight, backdoor deliveries of corpses freshly cut from the gallows, or not so freshly dug up from the earth.

The career of John Hunter touched many fields and persons of his time. His students included Edward Jenner, who would later describe vaccination for smallpox. It has been speculated that Hunter was the character upon which both Dr. Doolittle and Dr. Jekyll, were based. Hunter was one of the first to describe the use of placebos to determine the efficacy of therapy, as he did with treating gonorrhea, a disease that reached epidemic proportions in London. At the time, gonorrhea and syphilis were thought to be manifestations of the same disease. This was not an unimportant question, since the two venereal diseases were the most common complaints when "gentleman" visited doctors. While gonorrhea is usually a self-limiting disease, syphilis was more insidious and potentially fatal. To determine once and for all whether these diseases were one and the same, Hunter inoculated himself (the only person he could be sure never had either disease) with the discharge from a man with gonorrhea. If he developed gonorrhea, but not syphilis, it would prove that the two diseases were different. Unbeknownst to Hunter, however, was that the inoculum contained both gonorrhea and syphilis, so the results of his experiment misled him to confirm the idea that the two infections were one and the same. (As Mark Twain said, "It isn't what we don't know that hurts us, its what we know for sure that just ain't so.")

Hunter was a truly extraordinary individual, and Moore does an excellent job of bringing him back to life, if only in the mind. He was one of the few who was able to cast off the common beliefs of the time for experiment-based evidence, an ability that was, and still is, critical to understanding how things really work. Moore's book is not for the squeamish, with vivid descriptions of vivisections, human dissections, and examinations that included tasting of various fluids. She immerses you into the fascinating world of eighteenth century London, with objective medical research in its infancy. This is a book that you should begin reading on a Friday night, because you probably won't want to put it down until you're finished.

--Jay Moné
Word Jumble:  

by Dr. Susan DiBartolomeis

Unscramble the following seven words. Use the circled letters to form the eighth word.  
(Hint: These are things that are used in the mammalian digestive system.) The answers will be given in the next BioNews (2008).

DALGABRDLEL

YNSMZEE

MUDDNOEU

VISAAAL

NSEETINSTI

MCSHOAT

EACPSARN

Solve the puzzle and win an Amazon gift certificate!!!!

Send your answer, name, and address to:

Dr. Susan DiBartolomeis
Department of Biology
PO Box 1002
Millersville University
Millersville, PA 17551

The winning name will be drawn from all correct entries received on or before

February 29, 2008.

Congratulations!!!!

to Kristin DePrince Mattie (’96) of Pennsville, PA.

Kristin was last year’s winner of the crostics game. (Answer: "It hunted him in the forests, tracked him into jungles, pursued him onto the ice. And in those...places where man was almost wholly innocent of civilization, man was not safer...He was more vulnerable." J.M. Barry, The Great Influenza.)

Thank you to all those who entered – it was wonderful hearing from you!
Class Notes

Some of our biology alumni have written to us with information about their personal and professional activities. Please continue to do so; we love to hear from you! Here is a sample of what we have received.

Megan (Alexander) Molique (’98) is employed by the Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation’s Natural Heritage Program. She works as a GIS Data Management Specialist, mapping rare, threatened, and endangered plants and animal species.

Dr. Delmar Bachert (’71) is Biology Director of Battle Creek Public Schools Outdoor Education Center in Dowling, MI.

Zach Barton (’07) has accepted a faculty position at the York County School of Technology. He teaches 9th grade Comprehensive Science and 10th grade Biology.

Marie Beigel-Collins (’05) is an Aquarist at Innovative Aquarium Systems, San Diego, CA

Dr. Lauren Bergey (’94) has completed her graduate studies and is now an Assistant Professor of Biology at Centenary College in Hackettstown, NJ.

Carrie Blakeslee (’06) is a Graduate Student in the Department of Biology, Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, PA

Ricky Carr (’05) is a research technician in the Dept. of Plant Pathology at Cornell Univ. He is studying fungal and bacterial pathogens of onions. Ricky hopes to start graduate school next fall.

Dr. Joe Choi (’96) will soon finish his residency in Syracuse and begin a fellowship in shoulder and elbow surgery at the East Bay Shoulder Clinic in San Francisco.

Randy Clemens (’05) is employed by Merck as a Biologist in Safety Assessment within their Pathology Department.

Jessica Grudowski (’04) is Senior Environmental Specialist for the Bureau of Coastal and Land Use Compliance & Enforcement, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Toms River, NJ

Judith (Dauscher) Herald (’98) and her husband Scott (’92) welcomed their second child, a daughter, Sydney Anne, on April 4, 2006.

Lauren Hvorecny (’04) is Programs Manager at the Marine Science Consortium, Wallops Island, VA.

Jill Gallagher (’01) is employed by the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection as a Compliance Specialist in the Air Quality Program.

Rachel Hanner (’06) is a Biology Teacher at the Lancaster Country Day School in Lancaster, PA.

Erin High (’06) is employed by the California Dept. of Fish & Game as a field technician. She is conducting waterfowl research near Sacramento.

Johanna Holm (’06) is conducting research as a Technician II in the Department of Clinical Sciences at Cornell University, Ithaca NY.

Christy Lilli (’07) is attending dental school at the Univ. of Pittsburgh. On Sundays, she joins the rest of the city in cheering for the Steelers!

Jennifer Luttner (’04) published an article in the Laurel Mountain Post called “More Than a Roman Holiday”, describing her experiences as a respiratory therapist over a period of 4 months at the Mediterranean Institute for Transplantation and Advanced Specialized Therapies in Palermo, Italy.

(continued on page 12)
Krista Prosser (’06) works for the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation in Alaska. She reports that the location is a marine biologist’s dream, filled with humpbacks, orcas, seals, sea lions, and otters!

Dr. Mike Reed (’81) has been promoted to Full Professor in the Department of Biology at Tufts University.

Christina Scheltema (’86) is employed by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Pesticide Programs.

Heather (Stiner) Riley (’02) recently co-authored a paper in PLoS Biology entitled “Functional Modulation of Cardiac Form through Regionally Confined Cell Shape Changes.”

Scott Somershoe (’98) of Nashville, TN married Rebecca Athrow of Vicksburg, MS on October 21, 2006. Scott became the State Ornithologist with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in April 2006 and is charged with coordinating habitat management, conservation planning, and research for all non-game birds in TN.

Rodney Ritzel (’07) has been hired as a research assistant at Yale University in the laboratory of Dr. Zeimin Zhong. The focus of research in the lab is the development of mammalian cortex and the molecular mechanisms of neural stem cell differentiation.

Judy (Roma) Owens (’87) is Principal of Kennedy-Kenrick High School in Norristown, PA. She also teaches AP Biology at the school.

Paula Roy (’06) is a Graduate Student in the Department of Biology at Villanova University, Villanova, PA

Ed Ruth (’70) has recently retired from a 38-year tenure at the Milton Hershey School. Congratulations Ed!

Christina Scheltema (’86) has been working for the Environmental Protection Agency since 1990. With the Office of Pesticide Programs since 1994, and in her current position since 1998, she does regulatory work on older pesticides.

Jessica Siggs (’05) is currently a Laboratory Specialist at Environex, Inc. in Devon, PA.

Tiffany Simmons (’06) is currently a Research Assistant in the Department of Surgery - Division of the Starzl Transplant Institute, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA

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Thanks to all those who have kept in touch with us. We would especially enjoy hearing from some of our more “seasoned” alumni. Please send additional information to:

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John.Hoover@millersville.edu
Millersville University, Department of Biology
Spring 2008 Colloquium Series

All lectures are scheduled on Wednesdays from 4:00-4:50 pm in the Armstrong Auditorium, Room 210, of Caputo Hall. Light refreshments will be served before the presentations. For further information, please contact Dr. Carol Hepfer at (717) 872-3791 or the Biology Department at (717) 872-3409.

Feb. 6 Genetic Counseling Strategies and Outcomes
Karen Cutti, MS & Rachelle Gehr, MS, Lancaster General Women & Babies Hospital
*Harold R. Weirich Memorial Lecture*

Feb. 13 Topics in Bioterrorism - from Anthrax to the Plague
James L. Medina, MD, FACEP, MU'95, Emergency Medicine, Lancaster General Hospital
*Harold R. Weirich Memorial Lecture*

Feb. 20 Molecular Diagnostic Tests Predict Response to Novel Cancer Therapies
Kathleen Murphy, PhD, MT (ASCP), Assistant Professor of Pathology and Director, Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
*Harold R. Weirich Memorial Lecture*

Feb. 27 Understanding the Cellular Basis of Anesthesia
Laura Palmer, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biology, Penn State Altoona

March 5 A Rapid Fast-Track Approach to Drug Discovery using Aptabodies™
Tom Caltagirone, PhD, President & CEO, Aptagen, Jacobus

March 19 Wildlife Forensics: A Walk on the Wild Side
Jane Huffman, PhD, MPH, Laboratory Director, Northeast Wildlife DNA Laboratory, East Stroudsburg

March 26 Expression from the Inactive X Chromosome; Molecular Mechanisms and Phenotypic Consequences
Laura Carrel, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Penn State College of Medicine

April 2 Using Yeast to Study Evolution in the Laboratory
Greg Lang, PhD, MU'01, Post-Doctoral Associate, Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics, Princeton University

April 16 Cell-Adhesion-Mediated Embryonic Self-Assembly
Malcolm Steinberg, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Molecular Biology, Princeton University

April 23 Sphingosine Kinase 1: Localization To and Signaling Through the Plasma Membrane Raft Microdomain
Jeremy Hengst, PhD, MU'95, Research Associate and Faculty Member, Department of Pharmacology, Penn State College of Medicine
RESOLUTION CONFERRING FACULTY EMERITUS STATUS UPON
DR. DAVID R. DOBBINS

WHEREAS Dr. David R. Dobbins served as a faculty member of the Biology Department of Millersville University since 1977, a total of 30 years; and

WHEREAS Professor Dobbins was a devoted and committed teacher, who was able to convey to his students his enthusiasm for biology in general and botany, in particular, who taught a wide range of courses covering General Biology, Concepts of Botany, Horticultural Science, Problem Solving in Botany, Developmental Plant Anatomy, Plant Morphogenesis, Educational Workshops for teachers and the UNTV 101 seminar; and

WHEREAS Professor Dobbins served as the advisor to the Botany Club and its descendant the Biology Club since 1980, and

WHEREAS Dr. Dobbins encouraged his students to participate in research so that they could experience the thrill and challenge of scientific pursuits and served as the thesis advisor to 15 Biology Honors students and 2 Masters Degree students and was awarded 26 grants for research and the support of his independent study students; and

WHEREAS Dr. Dobbins has authored numerous scientific papers, articles and book chapters and is considered an internationally respected expert in lianas; and

WHEREAS Dr. Dobbins is currently an Associate Editor of the Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society, a botanical journal that has been published since the late 1880s, and has been a member of several professional organizations, including the Botanical Society of America, the American Society of Plant Biologists, the Society for Developmental Biology, Sigma Xi, the International Association of Wood Anatomists, the International Parasitic Weed Society, the Pennsylvania Academy of Sciences, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists (CPUB), and

WHEREAS Professor Dobbins enthusiastically supported his many students, from non-science majors to Biology majors, and taught them to employ an inventive approach to scientific inquiry and to apply critical thinking in all areas of their lives and work; and

WHEREAS Dr. Dobbins obtained and lovingly and meticulously maintained two electron microscopes for the Science Departments as part of his direction of the Electron Microscope and Histology suite; and

WHEREAS Professor Dobbins was a highly respected and venerated colleague, who was willing to take on many demanding responsibilities in his department, such as Department Assistant Chair or member or Chair or of committees, such as the Evaluation Committee, the director of the Glass Laboratories and the photography darkroom facilities, the APSCUF representative for Biology, the

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CPUB Director for 19 years and past President of CPUB, and, along with Professor James Parks, the design of the Botany Option and its shepherding through the approval process, and

WHEREAS Professor Dobbins has served on many University-wide committees, such as the Tenure and Promotion Committee, five University-level search committees, the Grievance Committee, Faculty Senate, the University Development Committee for the Sciences and Mathematics, the Campus Landscape Committee, the Sabbatical Leave Committee, the Exploratory Committee for Undecided Students (and advisor to undeclared students), the Faculty/Athletic Liaison Committee and now plans to be a Volunteer-in-Service to continue his contributions to the University community; and

WHEREAS Dr. Dobbins could always be counted on to make important contributions to discussions of serious or contentious department and university issues, always sprinkling his opinions with humor, rationality, and above all his ardent concern for betterment of the University and his department; and

WHEREAS Professor Dobbins, along with Doug Herr, designed and planted the Roddy Courtyard which contains three distinct habitats, including the Katherine Albright wetlands, rock garden, and native plants grass area, along with a bog and a pond with a waterfall that hosts species of plants and animals native to Pennsylvania, thus demonstrating his strong commitment to improving the beauty of our campus; and

WHEREAS Professor Dobbins demonstrated his dedication to the greater community and environment as a member of the Organizing Committee and a 17-year member of the Steering Committee for the Native Plants in the Landscape Conference held annually at Millersville, a conference which not only has greatly enhanced the reputation of the University and his department, but has contributed significantly to the conservation and preservation of native species and biological communities in our region; and

WHEREAS Dr. Dobbins, along with his wife Linda, served as a gracious and amiable host for department job candidates, biology department picnics and other events, and

WHEREAS Professor Dobbins was a frequent participant in numerous activities that enhanced our cultural community, including his leadership and performances in productions of the Lancaster Opera Workshop, which often led him to alter his appearance dramatically by such methods as shaving his mustache to portray a chorboy and bleaching his hair, and

WHEREAS Dave will be sorely missed by all of his colleagues at Millersville as he spends more time in various leisure and professional pursuits; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That in honor of his long service and contributions to his Department and the University, the Biology Department of Millersville University asks that Dr. David R. Dobbins be granted the honorary title of Professor of Biology Emeritus.