FRET microscopy of interaction between V2, the RNA silencing suppressor protein of the Tomato yellow leaf curl virus, and the tomato SGS3 component of the silencing pathway, in tomato protoplast.

We welcome all alumni to attend. If you plan to attend, please r.s.v.p. to TGulsen@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.

If you wish to make a financial contribution to the 40th Anniversary Celebration, make checks payable to: Stony Brook Foundation. Send contributions to: Robert S. Haltiwanger, Interim Chair, Dept. of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Stony Brook University, 450 Life Sciences Building, Stony Brook, NY 11794-5215.

**Underggraduate Education**

**Undergraduate Biochemistry Society**: Krishna Sarma, President of the Undergraduate Biochemistry Society; Alexander Chamessian, Vice President; Jean-Luc Chaubard, Secretary. It is great to see that this organization is back in action.

**Academic Achievement in Biochemistry** (GPA of 3.85 or higher): Kashifuddin Barzoi, Anna Bushkanets, Thomas Button, Devin Caswell, Kevin McCarthy, Andrew Moore, John Nally, Rita Nguyen, Pryanka Relan, Rohit Repala, Michael Taddeo, Tania Wyss.

**Biochemistry Honors Theses**: Were written by Muath Bishawi, Devin Caswell, Ewelina Fiedor, Kunal Kamble, Kevin McCarthy.

**Expanded Learning Award**: Ewelina Fiedor, Samsad Pavel, Michael Taddeo.

**Beckman Fellowship**: Jean-Luc Chaubard. (working with Professor Haltiwanger and Professor Holdener).

**Irwin Oster Awards**: Giorgio Medranda (Center for Developmental Genetics).

Giorgio, in Peter Gergen’s lab, participated in a genetics project aimed at generating mutations in the NELF-A gene in the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*. This gene has recently emerged as a potentially pivotal player during embryonic development. The mutagenesis was very successful resulting in the generation of over 100 independent genetic rearrangements at the NELF-A locus.

Giorgio proceeded to further characterize these mutations to define the structural changes associated with the mutations as well as phenotypic studies on the lethal phenotypes associated with the loss of NELF-A function. His work with Graduate Student, Xiaoling Wang from the Biochemistry and Structural Biology Program (Peter Gergen’s lab), has now provided compelling evidence that NELF-A has multiple critical roles in regulating the development of the *Drosophila* embryo.

Michael Tiongson for Undergraduate Research in Genetics (lab of Professor Berenadette Holdener).

Michael investigated the role of the molecular chaperone MESD in the folding of the LRP family of receptors. He completely independently developed the
Caenorhabditis elegans system in the laboratory obtaining the stocks, vectors and bacteria suitable for RNAi knockdown experiments. After developing the system in the lab he went on to a new project focused on developing a cell culture Yellow Fluorescent Protein complementation assay to examine the interactions between MESD and subdomains of LRPs. Again this was on untested waters in the Holdener lab. He found interactions of MESD and Lrp in the endoplasmic reticulum and, unexpectedly in the Golgi apparatus.

Michael is described by Prof. Holdener as a “true explorer and one who follows his curiosity, even when faced with adversity.”

Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence: Alexander Chamessian, Jean-Luc Chaubard, Jeffrey Fei, Eugene Tan.

Raymond Jones Award for Outstanding Work in Cell Biology: Devin Caswell in the laboratory of Professor Robert Haltiwanger: Devin worked on the glycosylation of the Notch 2 receptor. Notch2 plays an essential role in development. Defects result in the human genetic disease Alagille Syndrome.

The laboratory has evidence that O-glycosylation is important for Notch2 function. Devin used a variety of cell-based and mass spectrometer approaches to study the O-glycosylation of Notch2. He has made outstanding progress in a fairly short amount of time. Professor Haltiwanger states that “he has been a pleasure to have in the lab.”

Undergraduate Biochemistry Program Graduates

Cum Laude: John Cabahug, Scott Edèle, Ewelina Fiedor, Vanessa Gómez, Yoohwan Ho, Alex Hung, Boep Jin Kim, Walter Piddoubny, Prashant Vempati, Warda Zaman.

Magna Cum Laude: Silviu Barzoi, Devin Caswell, Wilson Duong, Kunal Kambhi, Xin Xuan Lin, Kevin McCarthy, Rita Nguyen, Pryanka Relan, Dana Schantz, Tania Wyss, Ray Zhang.

Summa Cum Laude: Anna Bushkanets, Thomas Button, Andrew Moore, John Nally, Rohit Repala, Michael Taddeo.

Senior Leadership and Service Awards: Mary Arnett, Devin Caswell, Zach Tyerman.

Undergraduate Biochemistry Program

Jean-Luc Chaubard (advisor: Robert Haltiwanger) received a Beckman Award to work with Dr. Haltiwanger and Dr. Holdener. The title of his project is, “Generation of reagent antibodies to study O-fucosylation and O-glucosylation”.

Devin Caswell (advisor: R. Haltiwanger) graduated with Honors in Biochemistry. The title of his honor’s thesis was, “Mapping O-glycan modifications on the Extracellular Domains of the Notch2 Receptor”.

Saba Ansari, Yelena Aronchik and Rachel Salatka presented their poster: Light-mediated Chloroplast Synthesis in Euglena at the URECA: Celebration of Research and Creativity Program April 30, 2008.

Ward Melville High school student David Gittin, who started in the Gergen lab in the fall of 2007, received a Simons Fellowship to support his research over the summer of 2008. He submitted entries based on his studies of the roles of the Drosophila Brother and Big-brother genes to both the Siemens and Intel science talent search competitions. The news just came out that David was one of eleven Ward Melville students to receive recognition as a National Semi-finalist in the Intel competition.

Special Lectures and Events

The Melvin V. Simpson Lecture was held on September 18, 2008. Dr. Venki Ramakrishnan of the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, England, presented a lecture on “Insights into the decoding of mRNA from structures of the ribosome”.

Since the inception of the Simpson Lecture in 1995, the speakers have been Dr. Gottfried Schatz, Dr. Martin Gellert, Dr. Douglas C. Wallace, Dr. Ronald A. Butow, Dr. Cecilia Saccone and Dr. H. Ronald Kaback. We are especially appreciative of the generous endowment provided by Dr. Mel Simpson to fund the “Simpson Lectures.”
The Twelfth Annual Lectureship of The Institute for Cell and Developmental Biology will be held on April 23, 2009. Dr. Ajit P. Varki, Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Cellular & Molecular Medicine at University of California, San Diego will present the lecture. The Institute Lecture Series has been generously supported by the office of the President, the Vice President of Research, and the Deans of the School of Medicine and Arts & Sciences. Since 1994, the speakers have been Drs. Philip Leder, J. Michael Bishop, Eric R. Kandel, Shirley M. Tilghman, Marc Kirschner, Thomas M. Jessell, Ryuzo Yanagimachi, Eric N. Olson, Tom Rapoport, Hidde Ploegh and Gerald W. Hart.

**Educational Outreach and Biotechnology Training**

**Center for Science and Mathematics Education**

Directed by David Bynum, the center is the umbrella organization for science and mathematics education at the University. The Center has received over $15M in external funding. In May, Tennessee Congressman Bart Gordon (Chair of the House Science Committee) and New York Congressman Tim Bishop (Member of the House Education and Labor Committee) visited the Center. Congressman Bishop stated, “Stony Brook University is providing much needed leadership...through its efforts to enable more American students and researchers to succeed, opening the way for future discoveries and breakthroughs, so America can continue to be a world leader for generations to come.”

The same month, the Center hosted Suffolk County’s first ever elementary-level Mathematics tournament. In June, with the generous assistance of the Office of Communications, a first rate web-site and a professional brochure describing the center were developed. In July, Arthur Levine, President of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, visited the center accompanied by President Shirley Strum Kenny. In August six faculty and administrators from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) spent a day in the Center, observing activities, talking with faculty and staff and learning how to carry out similar activities at MTSU. In November, the Center hosted the New York State Business and Education Council meeting at the Stony Brook Manhattan campus. The Center is a local, state and national resource with the mission of advancing high quality science and mathematics education.

Keith Sheddard, Director of the Science Education Program, is leading the effort to create a Ph.D. program in Science Education to be directed out of the Center. The Letter of Intent has been approved by New York State and it is anticipated that the first class of graduate students will arrive in Fall 2009.

Keith is also the Principal Investigator of the National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Scholarship Program and has awarded 29 fellowships to students who will teach mathematics or science in high needs school districts.

Linda Padwe is Associate Director of the Science Education Program and also a co-Principal Investigator on the above NSF award. Caren Gough is the Director of Field Placement in the Science Education Program, and places, advises and evaluates students during the student teaching phase of their development. Zuzana Zachar has directed the Master degree in Teaching Biology Program, the largest component of the Science education program for the past ten years. The program graduated 29 students last year and they make strong contributions to campus life: as teaching assistants in undergraduate biology classes, laboratory assistants in summer science programs, and student teachers in the Biotechnology Teaching Center. Janet Andersen teaches Techniques in Cell and Molecular Biology and Molecular Immunology to undergraduates; teaches Current Topics in Immunology to prospective teachers, and instructs middle and high school students in the Biotechnology Teaching Center.

The Biotechnology Teaching Center (BTC), directed by Joan Kiely, makes available biotechnology experiments to middle and high school students. The BTC can host up to 96 students daily and last year over 4,000 students performed experiments in human DNA fingerprinting, forensics, bacterial transformation and restriction enzyme analysis. Joan also directed the first annual High School Protein Modeling Challenge Competition whereby students created 3-D models of the calmodulin protein. Additionally, Joan directs a graduate microbiology course for teachers and directs prospective teachers as they...
work as assistants in the BTC. Dan Moloney, was promoted to Research Assistant Professor and is the principal investigator of the $1M National Institutes of Health Bridges to the Baccalaureate grant. He also teaches in the BTC and teaches a biotechnology course for non-majors. He directs the Biotechnology Summer Camp and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute High School Scholars Program.

Early this year Delon Callender joined the BTC as Laboratory Manager. The Center is administered by Judy Nimmo who has organized activities from pre-K to the post-doctoral level. She is assisted by Debbie Pelio who also has major administrative responsibilities for the Science Education Program.

**Medical School Education**

Nisson Schechter along with Dr. Raafat Elmaghrabi continue to direct the Molecules Genes and Cells course at the medical School. The class size has increased from 100 to 124 medical school students. The course is team taught with Aaron Neiman covering the molecular biology material and Eli Hatchwell covering human genetics. During the spring semester Nisson Schechter and Neta Dean team teach the Molecular and Cellular Biology (Bio 202) course on the west campus.

**Graduate Education**

The Department continues to administer and have the leading role in two graduate programs, Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB) and Biochemistry and Structural Biology (BSB). Carol Juliano is the graduate program coordinator, and Beverly Piazza is the admissions coordinator, for both programs.

The Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB) Graduate Program continues to be the largest life sciences graduate program on campus with about ninety students. Rolf Stengelz has been the Program Director since 2005. Assisting Rolf are Neta Dean, First Year Student Advisor, and Nisson Schechter, Advisor for Students in their second year and beyond. In the Fall of 2008, fourteen new students joined the MCB program. The Admissions Committee, chaired by Martha Purie, is working actively to recruit the entering class for 2009.

The graduate program in Biochemistry and Structural Biology (BSB) is now nine years old. Erwin London is in his second year as director. Nicole Sampson continues to be lab rotation (first year) student advisor, while Aaron Neiman is the new chair of admissions. There are now 23 students and 46 faculty members in the BSB program. This year four students joined the program, while two students graduated. This is the second year of our joint MCB and BSB N.I.H. training grant with Bill Lennarz as Project Director. Three students (Joseph Goncalves, Darryl Aucoin, Devin Camenares) have been appointed as trainees.

**Graduate and Postdoctoral Student Honors**

Janet Chang from Dr. Holdener’s lab was awarded the prize for best poster from the Genetics Society of America at the 2008 CSHL Mouse Genetics and Genomics meeting.

Mary Fortner from Dr. Thomsen’s lab received a travel scholarship from the Organizing Committee of the 12th International Xenopus Conference, held in Leiben Germany. She presented a poster on her thesis research.

Lisa Prazak gave a platform presentation describing her work on the cis-regulatory control of slp1 transcription in the Drosophila embryo at the 15th International Runx Workshop in September of 2008. She received a Sigma Xi Travel Award to support her participation in this Workshop. Xiaoling Wang and Lisa both tied the knot and married their fiancées during the fall of 2008. The marriage bug also caught up with former MCB student and Gergen lab alumnus Pegine Walrad, currently continuing with her postdoctoral studies at the University of Edinburgh.

Congratulations are in order for alumnus Melissa Pepling, who was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Biology at Syracuse University.

**Faculty News**

Paul M. Bingham and fellow Biochemistry and Cell Biology faculty member, Zuzana Zachar, developed a novel, promising approach to cancer chemotherapy several years ago. This approach involves a new class of small molecule anticancer agents, designated “thioctans”, and was patented through the University. Exclusive global rights to this patent were licensed to Cornerstone Pharmaceuticals.
Paul and Zuzana have continued to make extensive progress in understanding the molecular mechanisms of action of these drugs. This improved understanding, in turn, is opening new windows of application of thioctans in anti-cancer therapy. These drugs have now entered Phase I human clinical trials at several sites in the United States and Canada and are sponsored by Cornerstone Pharmaceuticals.

In recognition of their work in this area Paul and Zuzana received the Michael Maffetone Award for Cancer Research from the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Foundation at the Foundation’s Annual Gala.

Paul’s work on his novel theory of human origins, properties and history is progressing on several fronts. With co-author Joanne Souza, Paul will publish a book length treatment of this important work in the Spring of 2009 (Bingham and Souza, “Death from a Distance and the Birth of a Humane Universe”).

Moreover, in collaboration with Instructor Joanne Souza, Paul has continued to develop and refine a unique course on this subject (BIO358). This work includes ongoing innovation in teaching methods for the very large (570 students) live version of the course at Stony Brook. The cumulative effects of these efforts over the last six years are allowing them to teach large classes with unprecedented efficacy, reaching larger portions of the class with richer understanding of more complex content.

As well, Paul and Joanne have continued the technical development of a sophisticated, state-of-the-art digital version of the course (in technical collaboration with the creative Stony Brook alumni company, Rothman Media).

Deborah Brown reports that Laura Listenberger, a former post-doctoral fellow, has accepted a tenure track position at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, and will start this September. Laura and Jay are expecting their second child in February.

David Bynum spoke on his work at the WLIW21 Teaching and Learning Celebration in Manhattan, the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., the House Science and Technology Committee Subcommittee Hearing Room in the Rayburn Building in Washington, D.C. and the regional Association for Science Teacher Education meeting in Pennsylvania.

Vitaly Citovsky started a biotechnical company (Bioglow) with private and state money.

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Vitaly Citovsky was a recipient of a competitive continuation grant from USDA and a new grant from NYS ITD. He also continues to serve on Editorial Boards of Virology, Plant Physiology, Molecular Plant Pathology, Plant Signaling & Behavior, Plant Pathology Journal, Communicative and Integrative Biology, The Open Plant Science Journal, and Gene Regulation and Systems Biology, and is a member of the Cell Biology section of Faculty 1000 Biology.

Vitaly Citovsky and Alex Krichevsky started a biotechnical company (Bioglow) with private and state money.

Neta Dean has developed a new purple fluorescent color marker for studies in Saccharomyces cerevisiae and Candida albicans which has resulted in an application for a provisional patent by the university. Since this work was published, Stony Brook University has negotiated MTAs with 30 other universities and these reagents have been sent to more than 60 different scientists.

Dale Deutsch and his lab are finishing two NIH grants this year and set a record by writing three more consisting of a renewal, and two new ones. The spirit in the lab is high because there are three interesting projects going on with two great graduate students, Martin Kaczocha and Nadine Ulloa. Martin was given permission to write his thesis and Nadine’s proposal was approved.

Peter Gergen completed a three-plus year stint as the Associate Dean in the Graduate School in September of 2008. He gave research seminars in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology at Cornell Weill Medical College, and here at home in the Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology at Stony Brook. He also gave a talk at the 49th Annual Drosophila Research Conf-
Peter gave a research talk at Half Hollow Hills High School in October. In addition, he gave presentations about research and graduate training opportunities in the biomedical sciences to students in the CESAME (formerly LIGASE) BIOPREP Summer Program in a Workshop organized by the Stony Brook Office of Undergraduate Student Affairs, and in a Dean’s Panel presentation in the Summer Programs Student Research Conference Day at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Peter Gergen has taken a break as a member the Biochemistry of Gene Expression Grant Review Panel for the National Science Foundation, while starting as a full member of the Minority Programs Review Committee panel for the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. He has also recently been recruited as a member of the Career Development Panel for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Bernadette Holdener continues to study patterning in the early mouse embryo. Michael Tiognson, an undergraduate in the Holdener lab was awarded the Erwin Oster award for Undergraduate Research in Genetics; received his BS in Biology in June 2008. Michael is currently working as a research technician at NYU. Janet Chang, a graduate student in the Holdener lab, was awarded the prize for best poster from the Genetics Society of America at the 2008 CSHL Mouse Genetics and Genomics meeting. Jean-Luc Chaubard, a Biochemistry major in the Holdener and Haltiwanger laboratories, received a Beckman Fellowship.

Nancy Hollingsworth was an invited speaker at the 2008 Meiosis Gordon Conference and was elected vice chair for the 2010 meeting. She presented seminars at the Cancer Research UK London Research Institute, the University of Iowa Department of Biology, the University of North Carolina Department of Cell and Developmental Biology and at the NIH Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Nancy continues to serve as an Associate Editor for the journal, Genetics.

Bill Lennarz continues to serve as Executive Editor of *Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications* (BBRC) and on the Fellowship Awards Committee of the Life Sciences Research Foundation. He is also a National Academy of Sciences Liaison Officer for the National Research Council, and a member of the Nominating Committee for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

In January, Bill attended the AMGDB Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico as well as the Keystone Symposia Scientific Advisory Board Meeting in Keystone, Colorado. In March and April he attended the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience Scientific Advisory Board Meeting in St. Augustine, FL, and the BBRC Board Meeting in San Diego, CA. Bill was honored by the Research Foundation of the State University of New York in Albany where he was presented with an Outstanding Researcher/Scholar Award.

In addition, Bill presented seminars at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta and Auburn University in AL. In May, he presented a session at the 6th International Symposium on Glycosyltransferases in Atlanta, GA. Bill served as an external reviewer on a research project at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and in July he carried out a peer review for the National Institutes of Health at
Indiana University. In September, Bill presented a seminar at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in NY. Later in the fall, he attended the National Academy of Sciences Regional Meeting in NY, and in November attended the Johns Hopkins University 100th Year Anniversary Celebration of the Department of Biological Chemistry. In December, he presented seminars at the Riken Symposium on Glycobiology in Tokyo, as well as lectures in Osaka, Nagasaki, and Fukuoka, Japan.

**Erwin London** presented seminars at the Department of Molecular Medicine at Cornell University in Ithaca, the Physics Department of the University of Rhode Island, and at the Chemistry Department of the College of Staten Island, C.U.N.Y. He also was a session chair at the Gordon Research Conference on “Glycolipid and Sphingolipid Biology”. Erwin continues as the Director of the Biochemistry and Structural Biology Graduate Program, as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the journals *Biochemistry* and *Protein Science*, as well as a member of the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Membrane Biology*. He also is a member of the Fellowship Award Committee for the Life Sciences Research Foundation.

*Harvey Lyman* shared with *Eugene Katz* the 2008 Bently Glass/Mortimore Kreuter Award for Excellence in Teaching in SPD.

Harvey Lyman and Eugene Katz founded the Post-Baccalaureate Program in the Health Sciences for persons making a career change and opting for a career in the health sciences. The program, sponsored by the School of Professional Development, received dozens of applications and has enrolled its first cohort of 20 students with an additional group of about ten starting in fall 2009. Harvey’s collaboration with his Japanese colleagues resulted in the latest of their series of papers on metabolism of Euglena gracilis: Mechanism of Conversion from Autotrophy to Heterotrophy in *Euglena gracilis* Cytologia 72[4]; 1-11. 2007.

Harvey presented the results of the work with his Japanese colleagues at the Joint Annual Meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists and the Sociedad Bioquimica de Mexico in Merida, Mexico in June 2008.

Harvey’s review of Light and Plant Development by G. Whitelam and K. Halliday appeared in the Quarterly Review of Biology 82 [No 4] 421- Dec. 2007. Harvey was invited to join the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Texas, Houston Undergraduate Advisory Board. Their annual meeting was held in Houston Jan. 9-11, 2008.

*Ken Marcu* gave a plenary session talk entitled: Targeting NF-kappaB signaling in Osteoarthritis: Is it only about inflammation?, at the Osteoarthritis Research International Congress held from Sept 18-21, 2008 in Rome, Italy.

He also gave an invited seminar at the University of Nice, Faulste of Science, Nice, France on “Differential roles of IKK-alpha and IKK-beta, in osteoarthritis”. Ken also lectured for another year in a Molecular and Cellular Rheumatology course held at the S. Orsola Medical Center in Bologna, Italy on the topic: “Molecular targets and promise of gene therapy in inflammatory diseases”.

*Saba Ansari* and *Yelena Aronchik* continue in the Lyman lab working on the photo-regulation of chloroplast synthesis. *Rachel Salatka* is joining the lab to work on the phosphoinositide regulation of chloroplast synthesis.

Ten students from the WISE [Women in Science and Engineering] program spent eight weeks in the Lyman lab working on the project: Redox Regulation of Positive Phototaxis in *Euglena gracilis*.

Harvey began his 15th year as a member of the Stony Brook University School of Medicine Admissions Committee.

Harvey continued as Chair of the Faculty Committee on Health Professions.

*Aaron Neiman* and his lab continue to study the process of sporulation in yeast. Aaron spent part of his time this year in Maurice Kernan’s laboratory.
(Department of Neurobiology) learning *Drosophila* genetics as part of a new project to examine how yeast spores survive predation by insects.

*Keith Sheppard* presented invited seminars on Science Education at the New York Business Council and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York. He also ran two workshops “Taking the “Che-mystery” and “Che-misery’ Out of Chemistry” at Hofstra University’s IDEAS Institute. Keith served as a grant reviewer for the National Science Foundation and the Science Foundation of Arizona.

Keith is serving as the director of science education and is co-chair of the Faculty Qualification, Performance and Development Committee of the University’s National Teacher Education Accreditation Committee. Additionally, Keith is directing the effort to establish a new PhD program in Science Education at Stony Brook.

*Steven Smith* was an invited speaker at the Gordon Research Conference on Ligand Binding and Interactions, and at Stanford and Kyoto Universities. He continues as the Director of the Center for Structural Biology at Stony Brook.

*Jim Staros* continues to serve as Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Stony Brook, a position that he has held since 2002.

*Rolf Sternglanz* has an active group working on chromatin gene regulation.

*Jerry Thomsen* was promoted to Professor effective September 1, 2008. Jerry's lab is funded, in part by a 2008 Targeted Research Opportunity grant from SBU to study transcriptome dynamics during sea anemone regeneration. Jerry also became a core investigator of the Stony Brook University NYSTEM Institutional Development Grant, to foster research on stem cells at SBU. Jerry continued to receive NIH RO1 funding to study modulators of BMP and nodal/TGF-β signal transduction in Xenopus development and cell differentiation.

Jerry Thomsen and his wife Julia welcomed a new daughter, Isabela Kailani Todorov-Thomsen, to the world on August 25, 2008, weighing in at 7 pounds 6 oz. Although sleep deprived, Jerry presented seminars at the Scottish Stem Cell Network (SSCN) 2nd Anniversary meeting at the University of Edinburgh, CUNY Queens College Department of Biology, and the SBU Department of Ecology and Evolution. Members of Jerry’s lab attended the 12th International Xenopus Conference in Germany, while Jerry helped out at home with his newborn daughter. Jerry continues to serve as the Director of the Genetics Graduate Program at SBU.

**DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH SEMINARS**

During 2008 the department hosted the following speakers: *Drs. Tania Baker*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; *Peter Baumann*, Stowers Institute; *Howard Crawford*, Stony Brook University; *K. Heran Darwin*, New York University; *Neta Dean*, Stony Brook University; *Bruce Demple*, Harvard University; *Bernard Epel*, Tel Aviv University; *Hironori Funabiki*, Rockefeller University; *Peter Gergen*, Stony Brook University; *David Green*, Stony Brook University; *Kat Hadjantonakis*, Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; *Lizbeth Hedstrom*, Brandeis University; *Masayori Inouye*, Rutgers University; *Christine Jacob-Wagner*, Yale University; *Antonius Koller*, Stony Brook University; *Eric Lam*, Rutgers University; *William J. Lennarz*, Stony Brook University; *Huilin Li*, Brookhaven National Lab; *Mary Munson*, University of Massachusetts Medical School; *Frank Pugh*, Pennsylvania State University; *Venki Ramakrishnan*, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology; *Rick Russell*, University of Texas, Austin; *Orlando Schärer*, Stony Brook University; *Gregg L. Semenza*, Johns Hopkins University; *Pamela Stanley*, Albert Einstein College; *Lukas Tamminga*, University of Virginia; *Li-Na Wei*, University of Minnesota; *Kristi Wharton*, Brown University; *Michael Wiener*, University of Virginia; and *Fred Winston*, Harvard University.

**GRADUATIONS AND DEPARTURES**

Caroline Park began her studies as an M.D./Ph.D. student at Albert Einstein University in September 2008. Caroline was a Biochemistry major who worked in the Hollingsworth lab. Archit Bhise is a high school student who worked as a Simons research assistant at SBU.
fellow in the Hollingsworth lab during the summer of 2008, and was selected as a 2008-2009 Siemens semi-finalist on the basis of his research.

Khurshida Shahidullah obtained her Ph.D. from Dr. London’s lab in 2008.

Michael Tiognson received his BS in Biology while in the Holdener lab in June 2008, and is currently working as a research technician at NYU.

Arif Kirmizitas from Dr. Thomsen’s lab successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis entitled “GTPBP2 is a positive regulator of TGF-ß signaling and is required for embryonic patterning in Xenopus”, in August. He will begin postdoctoral work in Spring 2009, and is presently making a final lab selection for his Ph.D. work.

Gergen Lab undergraduate student researchers Giorgi (Gio) Medranda and Kristen Marino both graduated in May of 2008. Gio has started a research position at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York. He received the Irwin Oster Award for undergraduate research in genetics based on studies of the NELF-A gene that he carried out during his junior and senior years. Both Gio and Kristen are planning on continuing with studies in health related professions in the future.

Xiaolong Wang from Peter Gergen’s lab, graduated with his Ph.D. in the summer of 2008, and has started postdoctoral research in the laboratory of Bob Roeder at Rockefeller University.

Kelvin Luther (advisor: R. Haltiwanger) received his Ph.D. from the MCB graduate program. The title of his dissertation was, “Structural and Mechanistic Insights into Lunatic Fringe”. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Thierry Hennet at the Univ. of Zurich, Switzerland.
**Faculty Members**

Paul Bingham, Associate Professor  
Deborah Brown, Professor  
David Bynum, Professor  
Elol Carlsohn, Professor Emeritus  
Vincent Cirillo, Professor Emeritus  
Vitaly Citovsky, Professor  
Kevin Czaplinski, Assistant Professor  
Neta Dean, Professor  
Dale Deutsch, Professor  
Bernard Dudock, Professor Emeritus  
Frank Erk, Professor Emeritus  
Martin Freundlich, Professor Emeritus  
J. Peter Gergen, Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Graduate School  
Robert Haltiwanger, Professor and Interim Chair  
Bernadette Holdener, Associate Professor  
Nancy Hollingsworth, Professor  
Jen-Chih Hsieh, Research Associate Professor  
Wali Karzai, Associate Professor  
Abraham Krikorian, Professor Emeritus  
William J. Lennarz, Distinguished Professor  
Erwin London, Professor  
Harvard Lyman, Associate Professor  
Kenneth Marcu, Professor  
Carl Moos, Professor Emeritus  
Aaron Neiman, Associate Professor  
Raghupathy Sarma, Professor Emeritus  
Nisson Schechter, Professor  
Keith Sheppard, Associate Professor and Director Of Science Ed. Program  
Sanford Simon, Professor  
Melvin Simpson, Professor Emeritus  
Steven Smith, Professor  
James Staros, Professor and Dean/CAS  
Rolf Sternglanz, Distinguished Professor  
Gerald Thomsen, Professor  

*Other Faculty Appointments*

Janet Andersen, Lecturer  
Nurit Ballas, Research Associate Professor  
Markus Eilers, Research Assistant Professor  
Susan Erster, Lecturer  
Michael Destio, Lecturer  

Haopeng Xu Duffy, Research Associate Professor  
Caren Gough, Lecturer  
Joan Kiely, Director Biotech. Teaching Lab  
Alexander Krichevsky, Research Assistant Professor  
Huiling Li, Visiting Associate Professor  
Laura Listenberger, Research Assistant Professor  
Chang-Jun Liu, Adjunct Professor  
Yizhi Meng, Lecturer  
Daniel Moloney, Director Biotech. Teaching Lab  
Linda Padwa, Lecturer  
Hermann Schindelin, Adjunct Professor  
Matthew Schmidt, Adjunct Visiting Asst. Professor  
Richard Setlow, Adjunct Senior Biophysicist  
John Shanklin, Adjunct Professor  
William Studier, Adjunct Senior Biophysicist  
Hideyuki Takeuchi, Research Assistant Professor  
Shoko Ueki, Research Assistant Professor  
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