In March I Lothar Krinke (D. Wulff 1989) was promoted to Vice President of Research & Business Development, Medtronic Neuro-Modulation. “I am quite excited about this as I get to lead terrific groups of scientists leading the charge in pain research, deep brain stimulation research, neurourology research and CNS drug infusion research. In addition, I am responsible for Academic Collaborations and Intellectual Property and Licensing. One of the biotech collaborations I forged a few years ago is between Medtronic and Alnylam Pharmaceuticals. We are developing an RNA based therapy for Huntington’s by infusing an siRNA against the Huntingtin mRNA into the brain. I am quite proud of this because it directly leverages my work as a graduate student with Dan Wulff with OOP antisense RNA.”

In January 2008 Stuart Strahl, (J. Brown 1984) President/CEO of the Chicago Zoological Society, was awarded the National Medal for Community Service by the Institute of Museum and Library Services in a White House Ceremony.

Jerry Boss (R. Zitomer 1982) Dept. Microbiology and Immunology Emory University School of Medicine 7/1/08-2013 is the new Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Immunology

Tim Pratt (R. Osuna 2004) started with Zeiss last September (leaving the official academic path) and is having fun going to Germany. He will have the honor of representing Zeiss for it’s Widefield Applications 3D Live cell imaging Course run by Dr. James Pawley in Vancouver in June (http://www.zoology.wisc.edu/faculty/Paw/Paw.html). Non-work related: Tim, Michelle and Becca are living near Mahopac NY (in Dutchess Co, by winter). Michelle is still an Assistant District Attorney in Westchester County and they love playing with almost 2 year old daughter Rebecca.

See pics at http://picasaweb.google.com/Timothy.S.Pratt/Tim will be sending along Zeiss job postings for undergrads and grad students

Dan Formanowitz (R. Jaeger 1981) is Professor, Associate Chair and Graduate Advisor at the University of Texas-Arlington and received the College of Science Excellence in Teaching Award, 2007-08

Jonathan Newman (J. Gilliam 1990) becomes chair of the Dept. of Environmental Biology University of Guelph, Canada.

Sam Bowser (S. McGee-Russell 1984) Wadsworth Center NYS Health Department; Sam was in the 2007 Werner Herzog film for Discovery Channel “Encounters at the End of the World”--There is a hidden society at the end of the world. One thousand men and women live together under unbelievably close quarters in Antarctica, risking their lives and sanity in search of cutting-edge science. Now, for the first time, an outsider has been admitted. Werner Herzog, accompanied only by his camera man, traveled to Antarctica, with rare access to the raw beauty and raw humanity of the ultimate Down Under.


Brian L. Beachy, BIOD (G Robinson 1999), passed away on March 26, 2008. He is buried in the Pigeon River (Michigan) Mennonite Church Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in care of Tom and Jennifer Eshleman, 26 Dawn Ave., Akron, PA 17501.
• Diana Weber (N. Lehman 2003) American Museum of Natural History—2003-05 Lemon Award; Received a polar postdoc in 2005. In May ’07 received a NSF Major Research Instrumentation Program. "MRI: Acquisition of a High throughput Genotyping Core,"—for the DHPLC which is used for genotyping and mutation screening. Diana has 5 great students assisting with the MHC polar project [4 undergrads & post-baccalaureates: D Perez, J Shelton, L.D. Brown, J. Chapman, and one high school student: F Ojo.

• Michael Murphy (S. Brown 1982) Is retiring from SUNY Cobleskill, after 30 years (5 in RF and 25 SUNY)! He is moving on to a saner life, much more music and travel and spending time with Peter.

• Deborah Bell-Pedersen (D. Shub/M. Belfort 1991) was promoted to Professor at Texas A&M University—Biology Dept; received the Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching from the Association of Former Students, College of Science Texas A&M University; is Associate Editor for Fungal Genetics and Biology; and has the following Research grants - 1 NIH R01 grant; 1 NIH P01 grant; Also 1997–present is reviewer for several journals including; Science, Genetics, PNAS, Fungal Genetics and Biology, EMBO, Molecular Microbiology, Molecular Biology and Evolution, Journal of Biological Rhythms, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Fungal Genetics Newsletter, Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, Quarterly Review of Biology, to name a few.

• Marion Perkus (D. Shub 1982) has retired from teaching/research and is currently at the Foundation for the Study of American Yoga.

• Nick Burgis (R. Cunningham 2004) Last fall Nick accepted an assistant professorship in the Department of Chemistry /Biochemistry Eastern Washington University—Cheney WA. He has had several undergraduate students doing biochemistry research over the year and has been teaching primarily undergraduate biochem courses.

• Nick Burgis continued: Nick received a faculty research grant from EWU to do cancer research over the summer. He and two students spent most of this week (mid June) in Park City, UT—Rocky Mountain Northwest regional American Chemical Society Conference where the student presented a poster. On a personal note, Nick and his wife had a second child, Henry Earl Burgis, in March. Daughter, Zoe, turned 2.

• Janet Dietrich Kumar (P. McCormick 1993) In the past 15 years since 1993, Janet completed a post-doc at Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, PA, and then worked at GlaxoSmithKline in PA for 2 years. Then she was an assistant professor at Cabrini College where she taught full time for 4 years. She continues to teach part-time at Cabrini while raising 2 girls (8 and 4) and son (2).

• Andre Melendez (C. Baglioni, 1992) Albany Medical College Center for Immunology & Microbial Disease: Member NIH Cancer Etiology Study Section (02/05-present) which reviews grant applications related to the causal agents, processes, and cells involved in early events in carcinogenesis. Temporary Member (06/08) CMAD reviews applications involving molecular and cell biological mechanisms of development and aging, encompassing studies ranging from single cells to whole organisms.

• A Melendez NIH/NIA 1R01 “Redox-Control of MMP-1 and Senescence” The process of aging is associated with many degenerative disease processes including arthritis, atherosclerosis, cancer and neurodegeneration. Associated with many of these disease processes is the uncontrolled expression of matrix metalloproteinase-1. Our lab has established that the age-associated increases in MMP-1 expression can be prevented by antioxidant-based therapies. These studies will define how antioxidant compounds block matrix metalloproteinase-1 production and lead to development of therapeutic strategies for treatment of age associated degenerative diseases.

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• A Melendez continued: Philip Morris, Inc. “Redox-dependent Regulation of PTEN in Bladder Cancer” Smoking related bladder cancers contribute to 50% of all bladder cancer. The activity of the tumor suppressor PTEN is commonly lost in many metastatic bladder cancers. These studies will define the importance of oxidants in the regulating the growth of bladder cancer and will identify novel redox-based prognostic indicators for this disease.

• Roy Khalaf (R. Zitomer 2001) Since graduating in 2001, he completed a one year post-doc at Georgetown University in Dr. William Fonzi’s lab, then accepted a faculty position as Assistant Professor of Biology at the Lebanese American University in Byblos, Lebanon (Feb 2003). He is married to Josiane Maalouf and they have a one year old daughter, Yasmina.

ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS


• Carrico, P.M. (R. Zitomer 1998), research Asst Professor Albany Medical College Ctr for Immunology & Microbial Disease Hempel, N. and Melendez, J. A. Respiratory Control of ROS Signaling and Cancer. In: Cellular respiration and carcinogenesis, In Press.

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