FACULTY NEWS

- **Farewell to Jon Jacklet!** Jon retired at the end of the Spring 2008 semester and he and Alice have moved to Portland, Oregon. We wish them both a great retirement!
- **THANK YOU Al Millis!** Al concluded his 6 years as Department Chair on August 31, 2008. In Fall 08 he will be on sabbatical leave. He will continue to serve as the Scientific Director for Life Sciences.
- **NEW CHAIR! Richard Zitomer** began his service as Department Chair on September 1, 2008.

- **M Larsen** received an R01 award from the NIDCR for “Modeling Dynamics of Salivary Gland Branching Morphogenesis” and an R21: “Engineering Functioning Salivary Glands Using Micropatterned Scaffolds.”
- **Helen Ghiradella** - Invited presentation: Development of Iridescent Scales: How to Make a Photonic Crystal. Conference: "Iridescence: More Than Meets the Eye“ Arizona State University at Tempe, 2/6-9/08 Also, discussant at the conference.
- **Pan Li** 6/8-13 Gordon Research Conference - Biopolymers title of talk “Mechanical unfolding of single RNA kissing complexes“
- **Hua Shi, Kimi Nishikawa, Prabhat Mallik, Albert Millis** in June 2008 attended the Era of Hope Meeting in Baltimore Maryland and present a paper titled “Development of Targeted Breast Cancer Therapy Using Bi-functional Aptamers”. The event is sponsored by the Breast Cancer Program of the Department of Defense, sponsors of this research.
- **Hua Shi** received a DOD grant: “Recruiting Corepressors to Agonist-Activated Estrogen Receptors through Molecular Bypass”
- **George Robinson & Monika Calef** (adjunct faculty) received the "Wildlife Conservation Analysis for Montgomery County, NY“ grant funded by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, administered by the NYS DEC The 1-year award to UAlbany is $71,000, plus 25% matching funds from partner organizations, and requires analyses of biodiversity databases, the use of Geographic Information Systems, and presentations and workshops for biologists, educators, and county planning professionals. Our primary research employee is Dr. John Davis, appointed as a Visiting Research Scientist.
- **Katy Gonder:** IPS 2008 8/3-8/08, the 22nd Congress of the International Primatological Society held in Edinburgh, UK. K Gonder will co-chaired a symposium and workshop focused on the biology and conservation of African apes. A synopsis of the workshop follows. *Pan troglodytes vellerosus*: State of knowledge and future plans for research and conservation of an understudied ape; Chairs: Drs. Bethan Morgan and K. Gonder. The Gulf of Guinea chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes vellerosus*) inhabits Nigeria and western Cameroon. They are the most endangered subspecies of all chimpanzees across Africa; only about 6,500 are believed to remain in the wild. There are no specific conservation plans in place for these apes.

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• **Katy Gonder continued**: Workshop participants will discuss the state-of-knowledge of these apes and attempt to reach consensus on efforts to improve the conservation status of populations. One potential outcome is to coordinate future research and conservation activities. For more information please visit: [www.vellerosus.org](http://www.vellerosus.org)

• **Hua Shi and Denise McKeon**, Rabi Musah (Chemistry) along with colleagues teamed up and prepared a successful grant proposal that has been funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for $1 million over five years. The Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Talent Expansion Program – Center for Achievement, Retention and Student Success (CARSS), represents a coordinated and collaborative effort to effect a dramatic and sustainable enhancement of recruitment and increase in retention of University at Albany students in STEM fields.

• Congratulations to Emeritus Faculty Member **Jerram Brown** for receiving the highest honor from the Animal Behavior Society (New World only): Distinguished Animal Behaviorist. This award was given to Jerram in August 2008 at the annual ABS meeting in Snowbird Utah; he was also nominated for the 2009 Kyoto Prize in Biological Sciences, and chosen to write an autobiography for the book Leaders in Animal Behavior, Vol 2.

### FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

#### Helen Ghiradella


#### Robert Osuna


#### Ben Szaro

Melinda Larsen


Pan Li


Sho-Ya Wang


Helmut Hirsch

- Mark A. Hirsch, Flora M. Hammond, Helmut V.B. Hirsch, Topics in Geriatric Rehabilitation Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 92–98; 2008 Wolters Kluwer Health | Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; From Research to Practice Rehabilitation of Persons Living With Parkinson’s Disease

John Mackiewicz


- Poddubnaya,L. and John S.Mackiewicz Ultrastructure of the cirrus sac of echinophilid tapeworms (Cestoda,Bothriocphalidea) and the terminology of cirrus hard structures. International Journal of Parasitology ( In press)