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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY *news and notes*

WILLIAM H. STEIN • 1911–1980



Professor William H. Stein, an internationally acclaimed biochemist and a co-recipient with Professor Stanford Moore of the 1972 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his role in the deciphering of the chemical structure of the enzyme pancreatic nuclease, died on February 2 at the age of 68.

Though confined to a wheelchair since 1969, when he was stricken by Guillain-Barré Syndrome (infectious polyneuritis), Dr. Stein maintained a productive interest in the work of the laboratory of which he was co-leader with Dr. Moore.

Dr. Stein was born in New York City on June 25, 1911 and educated at the Phillips Exeter Academy and Harvard University, from which he was graduated in 1933 with a B.S. degree. He earned his Ph.D. degree at Columbia University in 1938. He joined what was

continued on page 6

Paul Weiss Receives Science Medal

Professor Paul A. Weiss was one of 20 recipients of the National Medal of Science for 1979, announced on December 28. He was cited for his contributions to understanding the nervous system, including work that helped form the basis for surgical repair of peripheral nerves.

The National Medal of Science, created in 1959, is the government's highest award for achievement in science, mathematics, and engineering. Previous Rockefeller recipients have been: George E. Uhlenbeck and Samuel A. Goudsmit (1977), James A. Shannon (1975), Frederick Seitz (1973), Detlev W. Bronk (1968), Fritz Lipmann (1966), Peyton Rous and Donald D. Van Slyke (1965), and Theodosius Dobzhansky and Neal E. Miller (1964).

Council Hears Trager, Cerami, de Duve

Parasitology Research and Related Issues of International Health was the subject of the 11th meeting of the Rockefeller University Council, held at the University on January 16.

Following a welcome by Trustee James A. Linen, council chairman, and an introduction by President Lederberg, the council members were addressed by Dr. Kenneth Warren, director of health sciences of The Rockefeller Foundation,

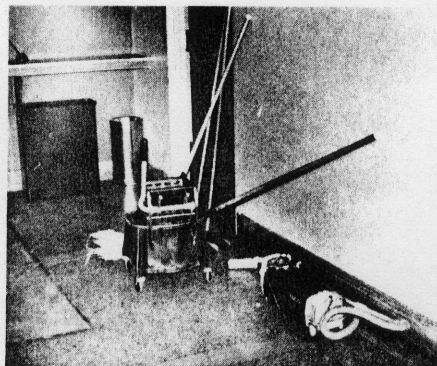
who spoke on The Great Neglected Diseases of Mankind, Professor William Trager on A Vaccine for Malaria?, Professor Anthony Cerami on The Development of New Drugs for Parasitic Diseases, and Professor Christian de Duve on Parasites as Cells.

Mr. Linen announced the names of those who have become council members since July 1979. They are: Christian Herter, University of New Mexico, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Carl B. Hess, President, AEA Investors, Inc., New York City; George F. Kirby, Chairman, Texas Eastern Corporation, Houston, Texas; G. O. Lienhard, Chairman, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, New Jersey; Robert S. McNamara, President, The World Bank, Washington, D.C.; Bella Meyer, Vice President, André and Bella Meyer Foundation, New York City; Phil R. North, Chairman, Tandy Corporation, Fort Worth, Texas; and John Stevenson, Partner, Sullivan & Cromwell, New York City.

The Rockefeller University Council is a group of leaders in industry, public affairs, education, and the professions who assist the University in increasing public awareness of its programs and objectives.

Lederberg Heads Cancer Panel

President Carter appointed Joshua Lederberg a member and chairman of the President's Cancer Panel on December 5. The panel, composed of three members, monitors and appraises the work of the National Cancer Program, reporting directly to the President. Dr. Lederberg succeeds Benno C. Schmidt, chairman of the board of Memorial Hospital and a trustee of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, who chaired the panel from its establishment in 1971.



In the still of the night. See story page 2.

WATCH THE MAIL

Faculty and Staff members residing in Manhattan, Queens, Nassau, the Bronx, and southern Westchester, will be receiving information at home about electing coverage in a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) as an alternative to their coverage through the University's Group Health Care Insurance Plan. Please read the material carefully and if you have any questions come to the Personnel Office, Founder's 103, or call extension 1415.



From left, Isaiah, Lillie Mae, Bernard Curry

A Visit with Mrs. Curry

Among the people *news and notes* greeted while touring The Rockefeller by night (see story, column 3) was Lillie Mae Curry, whose ties to the University go back more than three decades. Those ties now include two of her sons, Isaiah, who came to the University in 1974 as a porter and is now an assistant in the radiation safety lab, and Bernard, who also started as a porter, in 1976, and recently became a helper in the virology lab. Mrs. Curry's cousin, Mrs. Cora Fields, a helper in the parasitology lab, has been at Rockefeller since 1951.

Mrs. Curry started her own Rockefeller career in 1947 as an animal attendant. She left in 1949 to have her first child, Betty Jean, returning a year later to the University but working for The Rockefeller Foundation, which then had labs in Smith Hall. The birth of her three sons, Isaiah (named for his father), Nathaniel, and Bernard, kept Mrs. Curry busy at home from 1952 until 1955 when, wanting to supplement the family budget and still have time for her family, she came back to the University as a night cleaner. Her youngest child, Sylvia, was born in 1963. The family has grown up. Betty Jean is now a nurse in New Jersey, Nathaniel an air force staff sergeant, and Sylvia a high school student. Isaiah is the father of Gerard and Nathaniel of Charlene, both four years old.

Since 1964, Mrs. Curry has been steadily on the job, becoming an assistant supervisor in 1975. In her present capacity, she and Assistant Supervisor Theresa Shubert oversee and assist the 18 women who share cleaning responsibilities with a crew of 20 porters. The work is demanding, especially since belt tightening measures at the University resulted in a rather severe cut in personnel a few years back. The response by the staff, under the direction of Custodial Services Supervisor Ronald Sauers, has been to reexamine procedures and come up with more efficient measures. Says Mrs. Curry, "People seem to stay here a long time."

BRIEFS

Professor **Mary Jeanne Kreek**, Biology of Addictive Diseases, was an invited speaker at the Conference on Research Developments in Drug and Alcohol Abuse, sponsored by the National Association on Drug Abuse Problems and the New York Academy of Medicine Committee on Public Health, held December 4-5 in New York. She spoke on Metabolic Interactions between Opiates and Alcohol. Adjunct Professors **Robert B. Millman** and **Enoch Gordis** also participated in the conference.

Executive Vice President **Rodney W. Nichols** has been appointed to the Department of State's new Advisory Committee on Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, which held its first meeting January 17.

PROMOTIONS

Paul M. Lizardi, Cell Biology, to associate professor, effective December 1.

Peter Blackburn, Biochemistry, to assistant professor, effective December 1.

James Tam, Biochemistry, to assistant professor, effective January 1.

HONORS & AWARDS

President Lederberg was one of four prominent New Yorkers honored for their achievements at the first annual awards dinner of Big Brothers Inc., held January 17 in celebration of the organization's 75th anniversary. Big Brothers is a nonprofit service agency through which adult volunteers provide companionship and counsel to children of single-parent homes. Other recipients of the award, in the form of a statuette, were Mobil President William Tavoula-reas, entertainer Eubie Blake, and boxer Floyd Patterson.

Elaine Pagels, chairman of the department of religion of Barnard College and wife of Professor Heinz Pagels, Theoretical Physics, won the 1979 National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism for her book, *The Gnostic Gospels*. The award, in the form of a scroll, was presented in New York on January 17. (The Pagels were the subject of a feature story in the December 1978 issue of *news and notes*.)

Night People

At the Hospital, a nurse answers a patient's call. In the Boiler Plant, the watch engineer checks the steam flow charts. From Smith Hall to the Tower, vacuum cleaners hum. A car turns off York Avenue and pulls up in front of the chain across the 66th Street driveway as a guard steps out of the lighted shed into the darkness to see who's coming to The Rockefeller at midnight.

The University stays up around the clock. After five, most of its non-resident occupants are concerned primarily with assuring the comfort and safety of the rest of us. They include a force of 38 porters and cleaners, the last of whom finish their work at one in the morning; and two night shifts of security guards, of the engineers and their crew who keep the power pulsing, of medical personnel at the Hospital, and the night telephone operators. But there are others, hold-overs from the nine-to-five world, who find the night hours a good time for working on a problem in the lab or the Library (which never closes) or in an office where the phones have finally stopped ringing. Frequently among the last group is Vice President David J. Lyons. Mr. Lyons is also, of recent date, a budding photographer. At his suggestion, and with him along to take the pictures, *news and notes* took a look at the University by night.

On the crisp December evening in question, we set off from Mr. Lyons' office at about nine, just as Porter Carmine DeNisi was arriving. His cleaning equipment inspired Mr. Lyons' first shot, the still life on page one, which confirmed that the flash attachment on the camera was indeed working. With this reassurance, we began our tour proper inside the entrance of Founder's Hall, symbolic and geographical center of The Rockefeller. As we chatted with Security Sergeant Bathurst Muir, on duty at the reception desk, Professor Sarah F. Liebowitz passed by and waved as cheerily as if it were nine in the morning. We followed her to her favorite night haunt, a corner in the Periodicals Library (next to a radiator), where books and notes covered most of a table. Hearing the nearby rustle of pages turn-

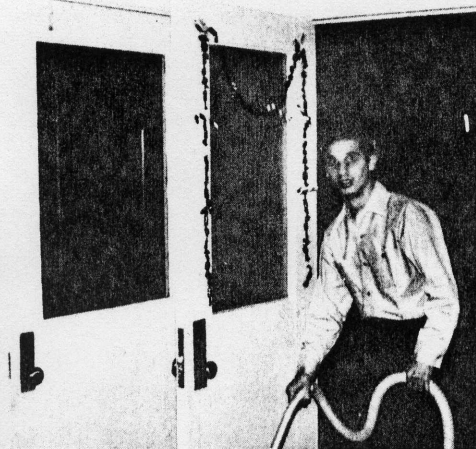
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Roland Blischke Dies

Roland Blischke, an assistant for research in charge of the electron microscope service for the University, died on December 29 at the age of 40 after a long illness. He had been at Rockefeller since 1965. Professor Philip Siekevitz expressed the sentiments of the members of his and other cell biology groups with whom Mr. Blischke worked that they would miss "a gracious, generous, and very competent fellow worker."



Photographer Lyons



Theresa Shubert

continued from page 2

ing, we peered through the stacks and spotted Research Associate Shigeo Ikegawa poring over a copy of *Current Abstracts of Chemistry*.

In the tunnel along the way to our next stop, the Custodial Services office on the A floor of Founder's, we ran into Theresa Shubert, her hands full of supplies. Mrs. Shubert and Lillie Mae Curry are the assistant supervisors of the night cleaning staff. We found Mrs. Curry at the office where we also found Night Supervisor Sebastian Negron. We never quite caught up with his cousin, Amilcar Negron, assistant supervisor of the porters. Investigating the computer room down the hall, we discovered Graduate Fellow William Bleisch, an animal

behaviorist, working on a paper about an endangered species of monkeys in South India.

From there we clattered down—and down—the steep metal stairway that leads to the Boiler Plant, for the first of two visits. We met Watch Engineer Eric Wiberg, Utility Man Raymond Schmidt, and Fireman Florante Santos, and later we talked to the second shift that night, Watch Engineer Richard Mullins, Utility Man Edilberte Palustre, and Fireman Franklin Santos. Conversation stopped as soot was blown out of the boiler tubes and as air compressor dials were read. These men and their coworkers, who work on rotating shifts, guard a cavernous domain filled with machinery

ranging from vintage DC generators to a new 400-ton cooling unit that looks like something out of "Star Wars." There is never a moment when the plant is unattended and the crew must be alert to respond to a crisis or breakdown anywhere on campus. Without them, the University stops functioning.

Working our way toward 68th Street, we knocked out a few doors in Smith Hall. A response came from behind one where Research Associate Robert Waters was just finishing a long evening with an oscilloscope. A member of the neurophysiology group of Professor Hiroshi Asanuma, Dr. Waters' work relates to the lab's studies of the central nervous system.

Jeanne Pollard and Gwendoline Keyes



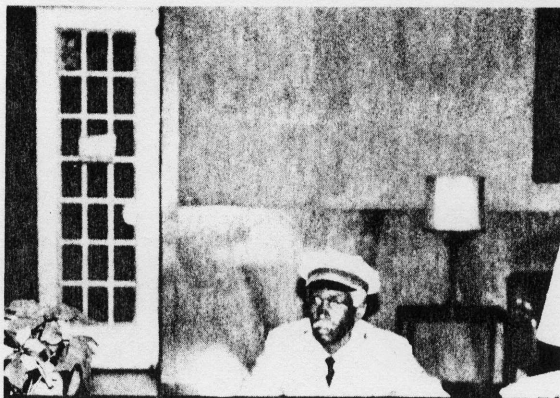
Pearl Rivers



Below, Edilberte Palustre, Richard Mullins, Franklin Santos



Below, Bathurst Muir



William Bleisch



Sarah Liebowitz



Aubrey Holder



Anna Kabatnik

Outside, smiling in the cold, Guard Aubrey Holder, who has recently switched to night duty after almost eight years on the day force, was keeping watch at the 68th Street gate, a job that frequently involves rerouting visitors to New York Hospital who turn into the University's parking lot. He also makes rounds of the President's House.

Turning south again, we detoured at a cheery oasis, the Faculty and Students' Club, where Peter Dumiak, a recently retired city fireman, was tending bar. On our way out, we converged on Porters Alvin Pinnock, Angel Astacio, and Eustaquio Feliciano.

Guard Cedric Smith, stationed at 66th Street, has worked nights for the seven

years he's been at Rockefeller. As we stood with him, waiting for the camera's batteries to recharge, Lieutenant Pedro Torres joined us, just coming on duty to take charge of security from 11 PM until 7 the next morning. During that time he would cover the campus by foot and keep in touch by walkie-talkie with his men at each station.

Anna Kabatnik, whom we visited next, is the telephone operator on duty from five to midnight. James Wilson is the voice of The Rockefeller from midnight until 8 AM.

On the third floor of the Hospital, at the nursing station, Night Supervisor Gwendoline Keyes introduced us to Staff Nurse Jeanne Pollard, just com-

pleting her 3:30 to 11:30 shift, and to Orderly Ridler Bryan and Nurses Aide Patsie Moore, both Hospital staff members for a decade, who would be working with Miss Keyes until morning.

"It's quiet now," Miss Keyes said, "but we're ready for any emergency and of course there's always a doctor on call. Normally, our busiest time begins at 6 in the morning when we start the round of waking, bathing, and feeding the patients, checking vital signs, dispensing medicines, and the weighing-in for the special programs and diets many of our patients must follow."

At midnight, as the work day was beginning for some, we ended our tour, having run out of steam and film.

Eustaquio Feliciano, Angel Astacio, Alvin Pinnock



Below, Cedric Smith, Pedro Torres



Patsie Moore, Ridler Bryan



Peter Dumiak

Two Loves

He's played the romantic lead in "Blithe Spirit," sung and danced in "West Side Story," and last October was Doc Gibbs in the New York Theater Ensemble's performance of "Our Town." He also holds a master's degree in biochemistry and, as an assistant for research in the cell biology laboratory of Professor Philip Siekevitz, works with Professor Martin Watterson on protein studies. As far as David Iverson is concerned, "Right now I'm having my cake and eating it."

Mr. Iverson's two loves—science and theater—took hold in high school in Maryland. They thrived at Western Maryland College where he majored in chemistry and performed in nine major and several minor productions ranging from Tennessee Williams to Strindberg.

In graduate school at Wake Forest University he "got serious" about science and was not seen on the boards. He also got serious about fellow student Patsy Wang, who became Mrs. Iverson in 1976.

A year later, the couple came to New York. Dr. Wang-Iverson had an appointment as a postdoctoral fellow at Rockefeller in Professor Zuvil Cohn's lab. (She is now an assistant professor at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.) Mr. Iverson enrolled at the Neighborhood Playhouse for his first formal dramatic training. In 1978, Dr. Watterson offered him his present position.

What's in David Iverson's future? At the time of this interview, more auditions and the publication of a research paper of which he is a co-author. As he says, "We'll see what happens."



David Iverson, out of the laboratory and onto center stage, as he appeared in the role of Elder Daniels in "The Shewing-Up of Blanco Posnet" by George Bernard Shaw, presented last May, at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York.



Some highlights of the winter season on campus. Above, Professor Gerald Edelman answers questions during a break at the Alfred E. Mirsky Christmas Lectures. Right, Professor Robert Lahita plays Santa at the Hospital's children's party. Above right and far right, members of the University's support staff at a party given in their honor on January 9 by Joshua and Marguerite Lederberg at the President's house. With Mrs. Lederberg, left to right, Ronald Sauers, James Mortko, Eugene Roth, Herman Richter, Thomas McGinnity, and Robert Channell.



then called The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research as an assistant in the laboratory of the noted German biochemist Max Bergmann. After Bergmann's death, Doctors Stein and Moore continued the work of the laboratory, which has been the source of major contributions to the understanding of the structure and biological activities of proteins and to the development of quantitative chromatographic procedures for the separation of amino acids, the basic subunits of proteins. (Proteins are the building blocks of living matter and knowledge of their structures is fundamental to an understanding of the chemistry of life and to the repair of some biological malfunctions.)

In 1959, they succeeded in working out the first complete chemical description of an enzyme, a protein that speeds up or brings about reactions in living cells. They found that pancreatic ribonuclease, a substance that breaks down ribonucleic acid (RNA), consists of a chain of 124 amino acids comprising 1,876 atoms. They identified the amino acids and demonstrated how they fit together in the ribonuclease molecule. The research culminating in this achievement took over two decades. For it, they developed special methodology and their procedures proved helpful in subsequent studies of many enzymes. In October, 1972, a week before they were named as recipients of the Nobel Prize (along with Christian B. Anfinsen of the National Institutes of Health), Doctors Moore and Stein and their laboratory colleagues completed the analysis of the enzyme deoxyribonuclease.

Many honors came to Dr. Stein. In 1960, he was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences and named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He and Dr. Moore shared the Electrophoresis and Chromatography Award of the American Chemical Society, the Theodore William Richards Medal of the American Chemical Society, and the Kaj Linderstrom-Lan Award, (Copenhagen). Dr. Stein received an Award of Excellence Medal from the Columbia Graduate Faculty and Alumni Association and an honorary doctor of science degree from Columbia University.

He was chairman of the editorial committee of the American Society of Biological Chemists and editor of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

President Lederberg characterized Dr. Stein as a man whose "life was devoted to the many missions of our institution, including research, teaching, editorial service, and the human concerns that contribute to the success of our enterprise. His counsel will be deeply missed."

Dr. Stein was frequently a lecturer or visiting professor at other institutions. On this campus, many remember the series, "On Separating Things," presented

at the 1962 Christmas Lectures for High School Students, in which Doctors Stein and Moore and the late Lyman C. Craig described the techniques of physical and chemical separations on which much of modern biological science rests.

A memorial service was held on February 6 in Caspary Auditorium at which recollections of Dr. Stein were presented by President Lederberg, Dr. Moore, Konrad E. Bloch, John T. Edsall, Joseph S. Fruton, Philip Handler, Bernard L. Horecker, James M. Manning, Herbert Tabor, W. Arthur Cullman, and Edmund Rosenthal.

At the service, Dr. Moore eulogized his colleague of 40 years as a man who "combined an inventive mind, and a deep dedication to science, with being one of the most generous persons I have ever met. Over a period of forty years, we approached problems from somewhat different perspectives and then focused our thoughts on the common aim. If I did not think of something, he was likely to, and vice versa, and this process of frequent interchange of ideas accelerated progress in research.

"Bill's concern for our world never diminished. For example, on Friday of last week he was working on letters to stimulate research on the use of alcohol as a fuel to alleviate the energy shortage. Also on last Friday he gave me a very practical idea on a research problem."

Dr. Stein is survived by his wife, the former Phoebe Hockstader, their three sons, William H. Stein and David F. Stein of New York, and Robert J. Stein of Boston, a brother Fred M. Stein of Harrison, New York, a sister Cecelia S. Cullman of Columbus, Ohio, and seven grandchildren.

An exhibition highlighting Dr. Stein's career will be on view in the Library.

DRESS APPOINTED

Barry W. Dress has been appointed associate director of development. A member of the University's Development Public Affairs Office since 1975, he has served as development officer and as assistant director, with responsibilities primarily in the area of major individual gifts.

AWARD HONORS RHOADS

The American Association for Cancer Research has established a \$1,000 Rhoads Memorial Award, to be presented annually to a scientist 40 or under "for meritorious achievement in cancer research."

The prize honors the distinguished pathologist Cornelius P. Rhoads, first director of Memorial Hospital and later Sloan-Kettering Institute, who worked at The Rockefeller from 1928 to 1939 where he made important contributions to studies of diseases of the blood. He died in 1959.

APPOINTMENTS

Antoinette Steinacker, Biophysics, as senior research associate, effective December 1.

Annette Hervey Dies

Annette Hervey, a specialist in the nutrition of microorganisms and plant tissue culture and a member of the University's adjunct faculty, died on January 28 at the age of 59. A senior research associate at the Harding Research Laboratory of The New York Botanical Garden, Dr. Hervey was a guest investigator working with Trustee Emeritus William J. Robbins, former director of the Botanical Garden, in the Rockefeller laboratory he maintained from 1966 until his death in 1978. During the past year, she had been associated with the plant physiology laboratory of Professor Armin C. Braun.

Children's School Accepting Applications

The Rockefeller University Children's School is accepting applications for fall registration. Those interested who have not yet applied should do so immediately. University parents have priority over those affiliated with neighboring institutions. Early placement decisions are made in March.

The school accepts children from the age of three years to six years three months. Tuition is on a sliding scale. For information and applications, call Barbara Adams, educational director, on extension 1591.

PERSONALS

DEATHS

Anna McCall, 83, a chambermaid in the Hospital from 1944 until her retirement in 1963, on December 29.

Thomas Richardson, 75, who worked as an elevator operator at the Hospital from 1954 to 1962 and as a switchboard operator until his retirement in 1969, on January 20.

Boris A. Spassky, 75, a research associate in the evolution and population genetics laboratory of the late Theodosius Dobzhansky from 1962 until his retirement in 1970, on January 6.

Mary Vokoun, 84, who joined the University in 1933 and retired as a helper in the laboratory of Professor Walther F. Goebel in 1966, on October 30.