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BENCHMARKS

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2009

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Convocation is June 11. With 41 graduates, the class of 2009 is Rockefeller's largest yet. Due to the large number of graduates, this year's Convocation has been divided into a morning presentation ceremony and an afternoon hooding ceremony. The schedule of events:

10 a.m. Presentation of Graduates, Caspary Auditorium. Tickets are required. For tickets, please call Erin Harkey, x8072.

2:30 p.m. Academic Processional from Weiss Lobby to Caspary Auditorium. All are welcome to gather along the route.

3 p.m. Convocation, Caspary Auditorium. Tickets are required.

4:45 p.m. Reception, Peggy Rockefeller Plaza. All are welcome.

World Science Festival kicks off June 10. The second annual World Science Festival, for which Rockefeller is a university partner, will bring together leading scientists, artists and thinkers for a five-day celebration of science. A 25 percent ticket discount is available for some events: Go to www.worldsciencefestival.com and use the code WSF-09CUPT when purchasing.

Step Challenge winners announced. 241 people in 37 teams participated in the Spring Step Challenge, held from April 20 to May 3. The winners of the main competition are:

First place: The Pacemakers, led by George Smith (Mail Room)

Second place: The Robins, led by Wan-Chun Liu (Nottebohm Lab)

Third place: Team Shillelagh, led by Marie Curry (Tomasz Lab)

The winners of the third-week bonus round, May 3 to May 10, are Team Food Service, led by Alzatta Fogg (Food Service).

Paul Nurse to host town hall meeting. Dr. Nurse will discuss topics including university finances on Wednesday, July 15, at 3 p.m. in Caspary Auditorium. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Announcements for this page may be submitted to thenning@rockefeller.edu.

BENCHMARKS

Paul Nurse, President
 Jane Rendall, Corporate Secretary
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FACULTY RECRUITMENT

Alumna Agata Smogorzewska named to faculty

by THANIA BENIOS

Agata Smogorzewska, a physician-scientist whose research focuses on DNA repair and on the molecular basis of Fanconi anemia, a genomic instability syndrome that leads to leukemia and other forms of cancer, is Rockefeller University's newest faculty recruit. The 2002 Rockefeller alumna, who studied under Leon Hess Professor Titia de Lange, will join the university in July as assistant professor and head of the Laboratory of Genome Maintenance.

Dr. Smogorzewska, who in addition to her Ph.D. received an M.D. from Weill Cornell Medical College as part of the Tri-Institutional M.D.-Ph.D. Program, has devoted her career to examining pathways that prevent cancer development, specifically those that repair DNA and induce replicative senescence, a process by which cells terminally arrest growth.

"In the case of Fanconi anemia, patients are very susceptible to a very specific DNA damage that is created by crosslinking agents, like the chemotherapy drug cisplatin," says Dr. Smogorzewska. "I am interested in understanding how the DNA repair pathway in patients with Fanconi anemia works, the function of the proteins in that pathway and their contribution to cancer prevention."

Dr. Smogorzewska honed her interest in molecular biology and biochemistry as an undergraduate at the University of Southern California, where she also received a summer research scholarship in biological research sponsored by Howard Hughes Medical Institute and a science and engineering research scholarship sponsored by the United States Department of Energy. After receiving her Ph.D. and M.D. she did a clinical pathology residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and then joined the genetics department at Harvard Medical School, where she has been a postdoc since 2005 in the laboratory of Stephen Elledge.



PHOTO: ZACH VEILLEUX

As a postdoc, Dr. Smogorzewska identified and characterized *FANCI*, a gene that is mutated in a subset of Fanconi anemia patients. Dr. Smogorzewska's research further revealed that this gene affects the repair of DNA. Without the proper protein, DNA isn't repaired and the outcome is full-blown Fanconi anemia, a genetic disorder characterized by bone marrow failure, skeletal anomalies and increased incidence of tumors. Dr. Smogorzewska also completed two whole-genome genetic screens using RNA interference in human cells. One screen yielded a list of proteins necessary for survival after DNA crosslink damage, which can occur when an agent, either foreign or endogenous, reacts with at least two different letters in the DNA sequence. A second screen resulted in a list of proteins important for induction of replicative senescence. Both screens identified many novel components of these critical cellular processes.

In her Rockefeller laboratory, Dr. Smogorzewska will focus her research on understanding how several of these proteins regulate the activity of the Fanconi anemia pathway and other pathways necessary for DNA repair, and on identifying factors that promote survival in Fanconi anemia cells in the setting of DNA damage. "When a cell is confronted with DNA damage, it can either try to repair the genome or in the case of irreparable damage, trigger cell death or senescence," says Dr. Smogorzewska. "My focus is on how the cell tries to repair itself in order to survive and on processes that are induced when the proper repair fails."

"I am delighted that Agata will be joining the university's faculty," says President Paul Nurse. "Her research will shed light on the complex processes by which cells detect and repair damaged DNA — processes that have important implications for understanding cancer — and has the potential to help patients with genetic disorders."

ADMINISTRATION

Karen Booth to head Child and Family Center

by ZACH VEILLEUX

Karen Booth, a teacher and administrator with over 35 years of experience in early childhood education, has been named director of the university's Child and Family Center. She will take over the center's operations this summer, replacing Marjorie Goldsmith, who is leaving after 17 years with the CFC (see "Marjorie Goldsmith to leave Child and Family Center," page 2).

Ms. Booth's interest in early childhood education began in her high school and college years, when she first volunteered in children's schools. She worked as a nursery school teacher even as she pursued her undergraduate degree; she ultimately received a bachelor's degree in education from Wayne State University and a master's in education from Bank Street College of Education. "My whole life, I've

been drawn to watching children grow and develop, and to helping support the process of growing up and understanding the world," Ms. Booth says. "I have a great deal of respect for children, and I consider it a privilege to be able to share in a child's journey, with their family, as they experience things for the very first time."

Her career since then has taken her to several New York City early education programs, including the highly regarded Calhoun School on the Upper West Side, where she spent more than 15 years, and the West Side YMCA, where she was director of both the parent cooperative nursery school and the Tender Care day care center. In addition, she supervised the Kinder Camp program, which serves more than 400 children each summer.

Since 2001 Ms. Booth has been the early childhood director at the Third Street Music School Settlement in the East Village, a community arts school with numerous programs for preschool- and school-age children and adults. The preschool programs fully integrate visual arts, music, dance and drama into the curriculum.

"There's something exciting about meshing arts and education, and it gives preschool children a very powerful way to learn and to explore the world," Ms. Booth says.

Arts have played a major role throughout Ms. Booth's career, in fact. In addition to being a passionate artist herself, Ms. Booth has traveled to Italy's renowned Reggio Emilia, where children direct their own learning and use the visual arts to

continued on page 2

Karen Booth (continued from page 1)

synthesize new experiences and knowledge. She was also part of a New York City educator's group devoted to the Reggio Emilia philosophy. The methodology translates well to the CFC, where substantial investments have been made in arts facilities and education.

"It's very exciting for me to accept the position at Rockefeller's Child and Family Center, where there's already a strong arts program in place," says Ms. Booth. "It's also a privilege to return to a campus setting, which is where I began my career. Rockefeller's setting provides a safe outdoor area for children to explore and offers something very unusual for New York — a place to interact with nature.

"There's a strong sense of community here, and the campus environment makes

it easy for parents to visit frequently and get to know the teachers and other children. That's an important element in a child education program, and helps make it an exciting and fulfilling place to work."

"I'm very pleased that Karen has accepted the university's offer to direct the Child and Family Center," says Virginia Huffman, vice president for human resources. "Her background and knowledge in preschool art, music and dance programs fittingly complement the CFC philosophy and she brings extensive professional and administration experience from other early childhood programs. I'm sure she will be warmly welcomed by the CFC community and the university as a whole."

Originally from Dearborn, Michigan, Ms. Booth currently lives in the East Village.



PHOTO: ZACH VELLEUX

Marjorie Goldsmith to leave Child and Family Center

by TALLEY HENNING BROWN

Her *modus operandi* is both art and science, but her work is well known among a particular cohort at Rockefeller — parents. As director of the university's Child and Family Center, Marjorie Goldsmith has helped guide hundreds of Rockefeller children through the most formative years of their lives, heralded in a vast expansion of the program and introduced numerous improvements to the center's facilities. After 17 years at Rockefeller, Dr. Goldsmith will say her official good-byes June 30, to take up directorship of All Souls School.

Dr. Goldsmith began working in early childhood education in 1973. Following the example of her mother and grandmother — both lifelong teachers — she holds a master's degree in early childhood education from Bank Street College of Education and a doctorate in curriculum and teaching from Teachers College, Columbia University. She has served as teacher/director of the Jackson Heights

Children's Center, materials development coordinator at the City College Day Care Training Program, educational director of Plaza Head Start and, for eight years, director of The First Presbyterian Church Nursery School.

The CFC, which Dr. Goldsmith joined in 1992, was established in the 1950s as an informal parent-run program, a way for American mothers on campus to help welcome the families of the numerous overseas researchers joining the Rockefeller community. By the time it became an official department of the university in the early 1970s, the CFC filled four classrooms and was equipped to offer half-day care to children three years and older. When demand for the service increased rapidly as the university grew during the 1990s, Dr. Goldsmith was hired to expand the program. The CFC now has 10 classrooms and is licensed for 122 children, ages three months to five years. Dr. Goldsmith oversaw the

construction of three playgrounds and an art studio and reorganized and expanded the children's library. She supervised a permanent staff of over 40 teachers and specialists, planned and managed the center's budget and led the admissions process. She also hosted regular parent discussion groups and introduced incentives for professional development for CFC teachers.

Dr. Goldsmith shaped the center's curriculum around an approach known as developmental-interaction, which seeks to foster creativity, problem solving ability and social development through children's active participation in learning experiences and interaction with their physical and social environment. The university's landscaped campus and the surrounding neighborhood have played an integral part of that learning process: Small groups of children and teachers are often seen parading toward a mission at a local park or museum or learning

about nature on campus. "I don't think it's possible to underestimate the effect of the environment on the way we live and work," says Dr. Goldsmith. "That's one of the things I'm going to miss about Rockefeller; this beautiful campus is an exceptional place to work. Another is the wonderful people in all the campus departments and the parents, children and teachers I've had the pleasure to get to know."

Beginning in July, Dr. Goldsmith will be the new director of All Souls School, a private preschool on the Upper East Side. Directorship of the CFC will be filled by Karen Booth, another Bank Street College alumna. "I know with her experience, Karen will fit very well here," she says. "And I know what she can expect. The people at Rockefeller are not only welcoming and friendly, but incredibly diverse, a quality that creates a climate that is both enriching and challenging for everyone involved."

HONORS & AWARDS

Telomerase researchers honored with Pearl Meister Greengard Prize

by TALLEY HENNING BROWN

The Pearl Meister Greengard Prize, Rockefeller University's annual award for outstanding women in science, was presented this year to three scientists who together established the field of telomerase research. Elizabeth H. Blackburn of the University of California, San Francisco, Carol W. Greider of The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Vicki Lundblad of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies have elucidated how telomeres, which protect the integrity of chromosomes, are themselves protected by the enzyme telomerase. The women's pathbreaking achievements were honored at a ceremony in Caspary Auditorium on March 26.

The Pearl Meister Greengard Prize was established by Paul Greengard, Vincent Astor Professor and head of the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, and his wife, sculptor Ursula von Rydingsvard. Dr. Greengard contributed the proceeds of his 2000 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to Rockefeller University and, in partnership with supporters of the university, created the yearly award. Named in memory of Dr. Greengard's mother, the prize was founded to bring attention to the contributions of extraordinary women scientists, which often do not receive appropriate recognition and acclaim.

The 2008 prize recognizes Drs. Blackburn, Greider and Lundblad for their dis-



Defenders of DNA. From left to right, the 2008 Pearl Meister Greengard Prize recipients Vicki Lundblad, Carol W. Greider and Elizabeth H. Blackburn.

covery of the enzyme telomerase and studies of its regulation. Telomerase maintains repeated DNA sequences, called telomeres, at the ends of chromosomes. Working with yeast and other unicellular organisms, the three women made seminal discoveries that have laid the foundation for our current understanding of the role of telomerase in human aging and cancer. Without telomerase, telomeres wither away, eventually leading to cell death. Telomerase is ac-

tive in stem cells and germ-line cells, which are programmed to divide indefinitely, but not in normal human tissues, where cells have a limited life span. In human tumors, telomerase is reactivated, endowing human cancer cells with immortality.

Dr. Blackburn, who is Morris Herzstein Professor of Biology and Physiology in UC San Francisco's department of biochemistry and biophysics, discovered telomerase in 1985, together with her graduate

student, Carol Greider. The Blackburn laboratory has since become a leader in manipulating telomerase activity in cells, and Dr. Blackburn's research focuses on the variety of effects the process has on cells. Dr. Greider, who is now the Daniel Nathans Professor and director of the molecular biology and genetics department at Johns Hopkins, used modeling in mice to study the impact of telomerase deficiency on organ homeostasis and life span. Dr. Lundblad, a professor in the Molecular and Cell Biology Laboratory at the Salk Institute, has discovered the genes that encode for telomerase proteins in yeast and shown that yeast lacking telomerase lose their telomeres and eventually die.

"Together, the work of our three awardees meant that the fountain of cellular youth had been discovered. For the first time, the wider scientific community began taking an interest in telomeres and telomerase," said Titia de Lange, Leon Hess Professor and head of the Laboratory of Cell Biology and Genetics and a presenter at the March 26 award ceremony. The evening also included remarks by guest speaker Mary Robinson, president of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, former president of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Pearl Meister Greengard Prize comes with \$50,000, which the three recipients will share.

PHOTO: STAR BLACK

OBITUARY

Hidesaburo Hanafusa, professor emeritus, dies at 79

by TALLEY HENNING BROWN

As an innovative researcher, spirited colleague and devoted mentor, Hidesaburo Hanafusa's renown reached around the globe. Though he retired from The Rockefeller University and returned to his native Japan more than a decade ago, his influence as a member of the Rockefeller community is still present and his scientific legacy in the field of oncology is immutable. Dr. Hanafusa, professor emeritus and head of the Laboratory of Molecular Oncology, passed away Sunday, March 15, at Osaka University Hospital.

Dr. Hanafusa was born in Nishinomiya, Japan, on December 1, 1929, the son of Kamehachi and Tomi Hanafusa. While a student at Osaka University, where he received his

Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1960, he married Teruko Inoue, a classmate who later became one of his main research collaborators. Dr. Hanafusa left Japan in 1961 to join the laboratory of Harry Rubin, a pioneer in the study of tumor viruses at the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Hanafusa's discoveries into the genetics of cancer viruses followed upon the work of Peyton Rous, who was the head of Rockefeller's Laboratory for Cancer Research when he discovered, in 1911, that a virus could cause cancer. During his work at UC Berkeley, Dr. Hanafusa provided a more detailed picture, showing that the Rous sarcoma virus (RSV) — the avian cancer virus discovered by Dr. Rous — works by transforming normal cells into cancerous ones. He also mapped out the chain of specific chemical reactions that RSV initiates to cause pathology. Dr. Hanafusa continued this line of research as a visiting scientist at the Collège de France in Paris from 1964 to 1966, and then accepted a position as head of a laboratory of viral oncology at the Public Health Research Institute in New York City.

Dr. Hanafusa joined The Rockefeller University in 1973, as professor and

head of the Laboratory of Molecular Oncology, where he gained deeper insight into the ways cancer viruses work. He knew that the original RSV could induce tumors but that other strains derived from the original could not. When he passed derivative strains through chickens in his laboratory, however, he was able to recover tumor-causing viruses again. He concluded that the

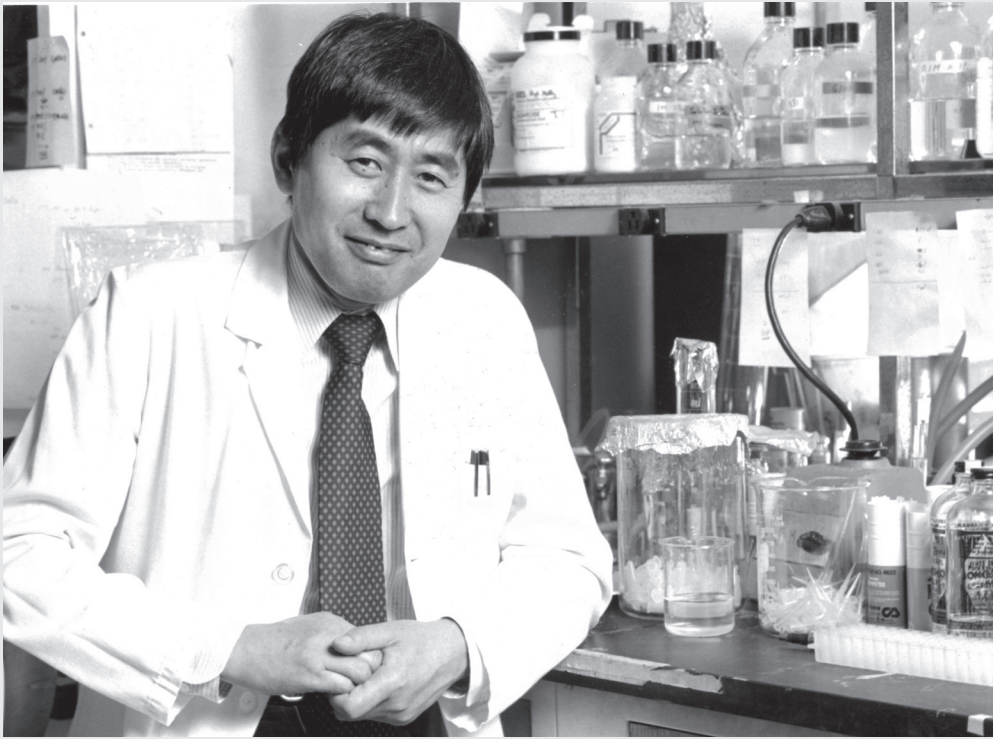


PHOTO: INGEBRET CRUTTNER

information for tumor causation exists in normal cells — in other words, cells have oncogenes. From these experiments he also deduced that oncogenes play normal roles in cellular functions and only cause tumors when mutated or activated in some way. He later confirmed that RSV manufactures a constantly active tyrosine kinase, a protein that promotes cell division in normal cells and with overproduction can make them cancerous.

For these discoveries, Dr. Hanafusa was awarded the 1982 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award. "Saburo was a quiet, unassuming man but a very rigorous and fantastically devoted scientist. I don't ever remember him not being in the library on a Saturday or Sunday," says James E. Darnell Jr., Vincent Astor Professor Emeritus, head of the Laboratory of Molecular Cell Biology and a close friend and colleague of Dr. Hanafusa. "I have missed him since he went to Japan and his death is a great blow to science and to me personally."

In 1988, Dr. Hanafusa identified a new oncogene — *crk*, also from an avian cancer virus — and described the structure-function relationship that en-

dows its protein with the ability to cause cancer. SH2 and SH3, later found to be common in proteins encoded by many human oncogenes, are protein domains that, by implicating themselves in the signal transduction pathways of a host cell, essentially give the cell mixed signals, leading the cell to become cancerous.

"Scientifically, Dr. Hanafusa had an unerring compass for determining what lines of experimentation were best. His experimental style involved great rigor and precision, and he was most confident in what he could directly observe himself through the microscope," says Frederick R. Cross, who earned his Ph.D. in Dr. Hanafusa's lab and is currently professor and head of Rockefeller's

Laboratory of Yeast Molecular Genetics. During his years at Rockefeller, Dr. Hanafusa mentored 34 graduate students and was an enthusiastic research collaborator. "He was also a very thoughtful and caring mentor. He struck a perfect balance between watching what his graduate students were up to, making suggestions for better directions and providing independence for them to find their own way," says Dr. Cross.

After 25 years of groundbreaking research, Dr. Hanafusa retired from The Rockefeller University in 1998 and returned to his homeland, where he was director of the Osaka Bioscience Institute until his death. In addition to the Lasker Award, he was the recipient of a Howard Taylor Ricketts Award, an Asahi Press Prize and an Alfred P. Sloan Jr. Prize. He was a recipient of the Japan Order of Culture, a member of the Japan Academy and a foreign associate of the United States National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Hanafusa is survived by his daughter, Kei Hanafusa. A memorial symposium in Dr. Hanafusa's honor will take place in Caspary Auditorium Friday, June 26. For more information, visit www.rockefeller.edu/hanafusa.

Caremark to save Rockefeller \$150,000 per year

by ZACH VEILLEUX

A decision to replace the company that manages prescription drug benefits for personnel enrolled in The Rockefeller University Group Health Care Expense plan, implemented in March, is expected to result in cost savings of at least \$150,000 per year, according to Virginia Huffman, vice president for human resources.

The new benefit manager, Caremark, began processing pharmacy claims and mail-order prescriptions on March 1. The change applies only to those who participate in the health care plan administered by The Principal Financial Group; there is no change for those who receive health benefits through Oxford Health Plans.

"Our goal in choosing providers is to get the best value for the university and to get excellent customer service for the plan's participants," says Ginny Hansen, director of benefits. "We also work to minimize the disruption caused by any changes we make." Although it means a different Web site and phone number, and new ID cards, the switch from Express Scripts to Caremark resulted in very few participants needing to change pharmacies.

"Most major local and national chains, as well as the independent pharmacies used most commonly by our community, are in Caremark's network," Ms. Hansen says.

The opportunity to switch providers arose when Human Resources looked at the aggregated data on all claims paid in 2008 as part of their regular annual review. The analysis, which is based on the retail and mail-order prescriptions actually filled by Express Scripts in 2008, suggested that switching to Caremark could save an estimated \$150,000 in 2009. The savings were confirmed by the university benefits consultant, Mercer, which also showed that Caremark had similar ratings to Express Scripts in terms of customer satisfaction.

The savings, which Caremark achieves by negotiating better prices from drug manufacturers, will be helpful at a time when the financial markets continue to be unpredictable.

"This was an easy decision because there was an opportunity to save money with relatively little disruption and no downside," says Ms. Huffman. "We continually review our benefits coverage to ensure we are receiving the best value and are also getting good service and easy access to the facilities our community uses the most."



PHOTO: ZACH VEILLEUX

Heredity at the hospital

In 1944, Rockefeller scientists Oswald T. Avery, Colin M. MacLeod and Maclyn McCarty made the landmark discovery that DNA is the molecule responsible for carrying genetic information. Sixty-five years later, dozens of colleagues, family members and admirers gathered in the first-floor lobby of The Rockefeller University Hospital, where a plaque commemorating that historical achievement was unveiled. The celebration, held on February 10, was the first in a series of events to celebrate the hospital's centennial, which officially kicks off this fall.

A celebration of service

In 2008, 10 people retired and two celebrated anniversaries of service to The Rockefeller University. At a dinner in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Dining Hall on April 16, those 12 people were honored for their contribution to the university community.

Retirements:

A splendid keeper of order in President Emeritus Frederick Seitz's life, **Florence Arwade** (Office of the President Emeritus) accompanied Dr. Seitz to international meetings, even substituting for him in his illness, and examining everything that crossed his desk, including that to do with major educational and political activities, à la James Bond.

As a research assistant first in Peter Ahrens's lab in 1956, then with Jules Hirsch and finally James Krueger, **Florence Chu** (Krueger Lab) was known for her sense of humor, which made unpleasant tasks enjoyable and left those around her speechless but laughing. Ms. Chu's work in the lab was unfailingly meticulous and accurate, and her strong individualistic streak will be missed.

Sergeant **Wilfredo "Freddy" Garcia** (Security), who came to Rockefeller as a clerk-typist in the library in 1982, was famous on campus for his welcoming smile at the gate. Always ready to help visitors with directions around the city and enthusiastic restaurant reviews, Mr. Garcia is now finding his way in his own travels, across the country in his new camping trailer.

As executive assistant and grant program administrator, **Camilla Harris** (The Rockefeller Archive Center) has been the essential link between the center's scholars, archivists and other staff. An avid fan of the *New York Times* crossword puzzle, it was no surprise that she also proved highly skilled in managing the most complex organizational tasks that have kept the center running smoothly.

In addition to managing dozens of employees and overseeing the daily operations of the entire Security Office, **Michael John** (Security), who came to Rockefeller in 1977, also earned his bachelor's degree while working — in English literature. Mr. John was highly respected as the kind of leader who kept an open ear, solved problems coolly and competently and took immense pride in developing the skills of his staff. He was front-and-center in the planning of high-profile visits from United States presidents, first ladies and other notables. Mr. John now works in security at Peace College in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he built a new house with his wife.

Since 1987, **Erwin Levold** (The Rockefeller Archive Center) served a crucial role for his extensive knowledge of history, German and archival administration, but he was only slightly less well known for his encyclopedic knowledge of popular music of the 1950s, 60s and 70s, especially Motown. Also a volunteer firefighter, Dr. Levold was instrumental in the safety planning for the center, at which he remains chief archivist.

Hired in 1969 as an oiler in the power, heat and light department, **Franklin Santos** (Power

House) also served as a fireman in the boiler room from 1970 on and was promoted in 1981 to watch engineer. Extraordinarily knowledgeable and cooperative, Mr. Santos was a favorite among the engineers of his crew through 40

years of dependable and dedicated service.

As executive director, **Darwin Stapleton** (The Rockefeller Archive Center) raised over \$2 million in funds for the center, acquired the

archives of eight non-Rockefeller foundations and increased the profile of the center, which now attracts an average of 250 researchers a year, up from 150 when he arrived 22 years ago. In his retirement, Dr. Stapleton plans to devote more time to his twin passions, fishing and traveling.

Hired as receptionist in 1986 and promoted to secretary the following year, **Roseann Variano** (The Rockefeller Archive Center) has served since 2002 as the archive center's facilities coordinator. An excellent project juggler, Ms. Variano handled highly detailed invoices, maintained relationships with vendors and had extensive knowledge about center renovation projects, learning the ins and outs of boilers, emergency operators, computer and telephone cables, security systems, masonry and landscaping.

Mary Jane Zimmerman (Office of the President Emeritus) was promoted to work in the President's Office after only three years at Rockefeller, in 1975. As executive assistant to President Joshua Lederberg from 1982 until his death in 2008, Ms. Zimmerman served as a fine example of excellence through learning, as no task was too challenging for her can-do attitude. She was also well known for her unflappable demeanor in difficult situations, a trait that probably came in handy with the military clearance she had with Dr. Lederberg's top-secret government papers.

Celebrating 25 years:

Since he was recruited to head the Laboratory of Neurobiology in 1983, **Charles D. Gilbert** (Gilbert Lab) has advanced our understanding of brain circuitry and visual perception and has served as unofficial campus sommelier, choosing all the wines for the university's cellar when it was built in the 1990s.

Beth Dougherty (Hudspeth Lab) worked as administrative assistant in the President's House during Joshua Lederberg's administration and later in the laboratories of Ralph M. Steinman and A. James Hudspeth. An enthusiastic traveler, Ms. Dougherty's most recent journeys have brought her all over southern and eastern Asia. Back home, she extends that enthusiasm in her volunteer activities with the Payne Whitney Psychiatric Hospital and Habitat for Humanity.

In absentia:

Retired: **Pablo Asencio, Joyce Buffa, Joseph Cummings, Eustace King, Rita M. Rodney, Sheila Rhyne and Clifton Watt.**

Celebrating 40 years: **Sarah F. Leibowitz**

Celebrating 25 years: **Maryse V. Aubourg, Leonida C. Fleming, Margaret A. Gabriel, Joann Greene, Patricia O. Tellerday, Catherine M. Vanchieri, Torsten N. Wiesel and Ira Robert Woods.**



Top row: Beth Dougherty; current and former Security Operations Managers Michael Murphy and Michael John. Middle: Zhang Bin, Connie Zhao, Esther Ndungo and Seung Yeon Lee. Bottom row: Anthony Drummond and Linden Clement Baynes; Anthony Santoro; and Camilla Harris and Paul Nurse.

PHOTOS: ZACH VELLEUX

Another reception held in Weiss Café April 23 recognized 56 employees who were celebrating their 10th and 20th anniversaries.

Celebrating 20 years:

Anthony Agosto, Alex Buenaventura, James Carozza, Kathleen Cassidy, Frederick R. Cross, Marta Delgado, Anthony Drummond, Lanie Fleischer, Andrew Gallina, Celia Gonzalez, Sara Gonzalez, Roberto Gualtieri, Ian Huggins, Burnetta Levy, Ruben D. Peraza, Ecie Prince, Dennis Rivera, Romualda Rodriguez, Magdalena Rondiak, Ismael Serra, Eileen Silver and Monica Sweeney.

Celebrating 10 years:

Andrew Apostolopoulos, Linden Clement Baynes, Elizabeth Campbell, Nieves Asencio Caraballo, Guo Qing Chang, Israel Coats, Stuart Cohnen, Frank R. Colosi, Thomas Eisenreich, John Fak, Luis Fernandez, Barbara Ghelardi, Barbara Grajewski, Leonard Hare Jr., Askia Herbert, Christopher Keogh, Robin Kirwin, Joseph Krasovsky, Lisa Kressbach, George Lee, Alex Mateo, Lourdes Matthew, Brian Oh, Nathalie Opalka, Lorna Petersen, Matthew Randesi, Priscilla Rogerson, Anderson Santana, Anthony Santoro, Maria Vologodskaja, Knut Wittkowski, Jie Xing, Kimihisa Yoshida and Connie Zhao.

MILESTONES

PROMOTIONS, AWARDS AND PERSONNEL NEWS

Awarded:

Pradeep Kumar, a Keck Futures Initiative grant from the National Academies. The grant, for \$25,000, will fund a project titled "Interaction of Complex Biomolecules with a Complex Liquid: Role of Water in Biology." Dr. Kumar is a fellow of the Center for Studies in Physics and Biology.

Ralph M. Steinman, the Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research, for his discovery of and pathbreaking work with dendritic cells. Dr. Steinman, who heads the Laboratory of Cellular Physiology and Immunology, shares the prize with Bruce Beutler of The Scripps Research Institute. At \$500,000, the award is the largest for science or medicine in the United States.

Sarah A. Wacker, the inaugural George Palade Graduate Fellowship at The Rockefeller University. Ms. Wacker is a graduate fellow in Tarun Kapoor's Laboratory of Chemistry and Cell Biology and also devotes her time to mentorship programs, both at Rockefeller and elsewhere. The award, created this year to recognize outstanding graduate research, honors the late George Palade, Nobel laureate and former Rockefeller professor. Ms. Wacker, a third-year student, will hold the fellowship until she receives her Ph.D.

Promoted (academic appointments):

Iakov Zhurinskiy, to research associate, Nurse Lab.

Hired:

Antoine Bricard, foreign research intern, Hudspeth Lab.
Ylli Doksani, postdoctoral associate, de Lange Lab.
Keisha John, postdoctoral associate, Hatten Lab.
Evgenia Korol, research assistant, Rice Lab.
Wen-Hui Lien, postdoctoral associate, Fuchs Lab.
Robertino Lim, research assistant, James Darnell Lab.
Thomas Maloney, research assistant, Pfaff Lab.
Conor McMeniman, postdoctoral associate, Vossall Lab.

Saurabh Mehandru, member of the adjunct faculty, Steinman Lab.
Samson Obado, postdoctoral associate, Rout Lab.
Simon Runge, foreign research intern, Tuschl Lab.
Katherine Seip, postdoctoral fellow, Kreek Lab.
Uri Seligsohn, visiting professor, Collier Lab.
Olisambu Uche, research specialist, Nussenzweig Lab.
Elisabetta Volpi, visiting student, Collier Lab.

This publication lists new hires, awards and promotions. Staff promotions are listed yearly; academic promotions and appointments are listed monthly.