BenchMarks 2008, July 25

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Archive center goes its own way
by ZACH VEILLEUX

After 34 years as part of the university, The Rockefeller Archive Center, which catalogs and stores the university’s administrative and scientific records and also handles archival material from several other organizations and from the Rockefeller family, has become an independent organization. Effective July 1, the university has transferred assets that have supported the center’s operations, including a $115 million endowment, art valued at $2.8 million and property in Sleepy Hollow, New York, appraised at $17 million, to a new nonprofit organization. The center’s 26 employees are also now on the university’s payroll. Previously overseen by a board of advisors, the center has formed a board of directors headed by the Board of Regents of the State of New York earlier this year. The board of directors includes the chairman of the board of directors — The Rockefeller University, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Rockefeller Foundation — that it serves as well as David Rockefeller, representing the family, and Neil Rudenstein, the former president of Harvard University. The board has also appointed a president and chief executive officer, Jack Meyers, who will oversee all of the institution’s activities.

“The university’s records make up only part of the center’s archival materials, and the family and other institutions that rely on its services agreed that its needs would be better served by making it a separate institution,” says James Lapple, the university’s chief financial officer, who was involved in the deal. “By spinning it off, it is hoped the archive center will be able to broaden its mission.”

Under a new service arrangement, the university will pay a fee of about $500,000 a year to the archive center to continue to catalog and store university records — approximately the same amount it paid to support the archive center’s operations before the spin-off. In addition, the university will manage the archive center’s investments and provide financial and accounting management on a fee-for-service basis for an initial three-year period. Overall, the terms of the arrangement mean that the university’s costs for archival services will remain approximately what they were before; though the fiscal year 2009 balance sheet continued on page 2

New fundraising goal set at $750 million

by ZACH VEILLEUX

With $490 million raised toward its original $500 million campaign goal, the university’s Board of Trustees has decided to be 50 percent more ambitious. On June 4, they voted to add $250 million and two years to the Campaign for Collaborative Science, the fundraising initiative that will pay for the programs originally outlined in the university’s 2005 strategic plan. The new goal, $750 million, which is the end of 2012, is larger than any previous university fundraising effort and, if fully successful, will pay for a new of collaborative research vehicles, a complete renovation of Welch Hall and upgrades to core research centers. The new goal will also provide necessary funding to complete the university’s capital building projects identified in the strategic plan. Such capital funds were not raised in the initial phases of the campaign.

“Our donors have been extraordinarily generous and supportive of our programs, and now is the time to take the next step in the development of our institution,” says President Paul Nurse. “Over the past several months, we have worked to identify a number of new initiatives which will allow us to support and expand our research enterprise.”

Among the new initiatives that could be supported if the funds are raised are new interdisciplinary centers to promote collaboration. Aimed at furthering toward specific research goals, these new centers — examples include a center for vaccine development, a center for systems biology, a program in infectious disease and a center for research on brain function and anatomy in animal models — will have the exciting possibility that animals and microbes coevolved just as plants and pathogens did. Those that developed resistance to these pathogens lived on.”

Clinical immunologist to join Rockefeller University

by THANIA BENIOS

In September, pediatrician and immunologist Jean-Laurent Casanova will join the Rockefeller University faculty as professor of medicine and head of the Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases. The appointment of Dr. Casanova, who comes to Rockefeller from Hospital Necker for Sick Children in Paris, was approved by university trustees in June. Dr. Casanova studies genetic mutations that predispose individuals to specific pathogens, and his findings have both challenged and brought together divergent theories in the field of immunology. With this unified conceptual framework, Dr. Casanova has provided experimental evidence for a new center of life-threatening infectious diseases children are caused by mutations in a single gene.

“The goal is to learn where these genetic mutations exist in certain diseases and then try to patch them up by restoring the missing element,” says Dr. Casanova. “Our donors have been extraordinarily generous and supportive of our programs, and now is the time to take the next step in the development of our institution,” says President Paul Nurse. “Over the past several months, we have worked to identify a number of new initiatives which will allow us to support and expand our research enterprise.”
Awardees:
Laura A. Banaszynski, the Angelo Family Fellow of the Rockefeller University Cancer Research Foundation. Dr. Banaszynski, postdoc in C. David Allis's Laboratory of Chromatin Biology and Epigenetics, is investigating how histone modifications regulate gene expression and maintain genome stability, work that could have significant implications for cancer diagnosis and therapeutic strategies. Dr. Banaszynski is one of 16 postdoctoral fellows named by the foundation this year.

Dr. Hang, a Distinguished Investigator Award from NARSAD, to advance his studies on antipsychotic drugs used in the treatment of schizophrenia. The prize, a one-year grant of $100,000 a year for four years, Dr. Hang will study the molecular mechanisms by which particular genes work, and how those genes work in the human brain.

Robert Kiyat, visiting student, Rout Lab.

Sarah Bhagat, research assistant, McEwen Lab.

Gang Chen, research assistant, Tomasz A. Makowski Lab.

Suja Anand, research assistant, Ravetch Lab.

Dr. Kapoor is the recipient of a Pew Fellowship in the Biomedical Sciences, among many others. The Pew Fellowship in the Biomedical Sciences, administered by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), A. James Hudspeth's new laboratory on the floor of 15 East 73rd St. The Laboratory was designed around an isolation test chamber that absorbs ambient noise and shields magnetic fields. The room, designed by ACEC Architects, enables researchers on sensitive ear research. This facility opens the laboratory to researchers and clinicians who cannot or should not perform in a hospital setting.

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Tarun Kapoor and Mike Rout receive tenure promotions by TALLEY HENNIG BROWN

The Rockefeller University will begin its fall semester with two newly tenured faculty members. The university’s Board of Trustees has approved promotions to Tarun Kapoor, head of the Laboratory of Chemistry and Cell Biology, and Michael P. Rout, head of the Laboratory of Cellular and Structural Biology. Both have been promoted from associate professor to professor.

“Both Tarun and Mike have flourished at Rockefeller and embody the kind of bold, new mission-driven research that the Rockefeller University has set out to achieve,” says Rockefeller University President Paul Nurse.

Dr. Kapoor, who holds bachelor’s degrees in chemistry and biology from the California Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Harvard University, came to Rockefeller as an assistant professor in 2001, following his postdoc at Harvard Medical School. He was named associate professor in 2005. The Kapoor lab applies chemical approaches to the study of cell division. His research is focused on the mitotic spindle, the cellular assembly that guides the movement of chromosomes into their proper positions in preparation for cell division. In addition to studying how the spindle establishes bipolarity, which is required for proper cell division, Dr. Kapoor aims to understand how cells detect and correct errors in the process, which are linked to developmental defects, failed pregnancy and cancer. Dr. Kapoor also designs and develops chemicals that block cell division through new mechanisms. “To do this, Dr. Kapoor has been developing small molecules that can do something completely different to block improper cell division.”

Dr. Kapoor is the recipient of a Pew Fellowship in the Biomedical Sciences, among many others. His tenure appointment was effective July 1.

Dr. Rout began his Rockefeller career as a postdoc in the laboratory of Günter Blobel after receiving his Ph.D. in 1990 from the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology in the United Kingdom, where he studied with J.V. Kilmartin. He was appointed associate professor and head of lab at Rockefeller in 1997 and was named associate professor in 2002. The Rout lab is focused on defining the structure, mechanism and origin of the nuclear pore complex, the macromolecular assembly that forms the gateway between the cytoplasm and the nucleus in all eukaryotic cells and regulates the transport of molecules into and out of the nucleus. “This traffic control has been shown to play a key role in regulating cell growth and development,” says Dr. Rout. Revealing the molecular architecture of the nuclear pore complex as a whole has large ly defied traditional techniques. Hence, Dr. Rout employs a hybrid approach of experimental methods, integrating different kinds of overlapping information about the nuclear pore complex’s 30 components to get the big picture. “We’ve had to piece together our picture of the nuclear pore complex’s architecture together using many different clues, rather like solving a three-dimensional crossword puzzle. We’re still at an early stage of understanding how the nuclear pore complex works,” says Dr. Rout, “but this first picture has provided us with some intriguing pointers that we’re now follow ing up.”

Dr. Rout is the recipient of numerous awards, including a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. He was named professor on July 1.

Tarun Kapoor and Mike Rout receive tenure promotions

will show assets being transferred out, represent restricted funds designated solely for the support of the archive center.

Dr. Meyers, who has a Ph.D. in English and American literature from The University of Chicago and a postdoc with Dr. John J. Quick at the University of California, Berkeley, was appointed as assistant provost at Yale University, hopes to expand and develop the center’s resources and programming and to build creative partnerships with other organizations. “An independent organization will give the archive center a higher profile in the research community and will enable us to establish a new range of collaborative relationships,” says Dr. Meyers, who was appointed in June 9. “The center’s resources are unique, and this is a rare opportunit y to initiate programming that we hope will be extremely useful to the larger community of researchers, scholars and those in philosophy who can benefit from our collection.”

Dr. Meyers succeeds Dwight Stretton, who had served as the archive center’s executive director since 1986. Dr. Stapleton, who has retired from the university, will continue to serve as executive direc tor emeritus of the archive center and will embarrass a regular and subfactual focus on research and writing.

The archive center serves approximately 250 on-site researchers and hundreds of off-site researchers each year. It houses 66 million pages of documents, 500,000 photographs, 2,000 films and 4,500 rolls of microfilm. The university’s records account for about 20 percent of the collection.