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BENCHMARKS

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2008

CAMPUS NEWS

Archive center goes it 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 archive center's payroll.

Previously overseen by a board of advisers, the center has formed a board of directors and received a charter from the Board of Regents of the State of New York earlier this year. The board of directors includes the heads of the three primary institutions — The Rockefeller University, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Rockefeller Foundation — that it serves as well as David Rockefeller, representing the family, and Neil Rudenstien, 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, 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 sheets

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FINANCE

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 by the end of 2012, is larger than any previous university fundraising effort and, if fully successful, will pay for a slew of new collaborative research vehicles, a complete renovation of Welch Hall and upgrades to core resource 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 because of that we're in the enviable position of being able to think somewhat bigger than we have been," says Paul Nurse, the university's president. "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."

FACULTY RECRUITMENT

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 perspective of why some children get sick during the course of infection while others exposed to the same pathogen do not — work that has paved the way for the development of treatments.

"Dr. Casanova's research has forced scientists to reexamine accepted ideas in immunology and clinical medicine," says Rockefeller president Paul Nurse. "This innovative approach to translational research cuts across many fields and opens up new and exciting opportunities for collaboration."

As a clinical scientist, Dr. Casanova will establish part of his research program at The Rockefeller University Hospital and the Center for Clinical and Translational Science, where he will recruit children from around the globe who are selectively predisposed to developing infectious diseases, particularly tuberculosis, invasive pneumococcal diseases and herpes sim-

Among the new initiatives that could be supported if the funds are raised:

New interdisciplinary centers to promote collaboration. Aimed at furthering progress toward specific research goals, these new centers — examples include a center for vaccine development, a center for systems biology, a program in antibiotic discovery and a center for research on aging — would help support both new and ongoing work in areas between disciplines, which are sometimes missed by traditional sources of funding.

A program in ecology, ethology and evolution. The university's historic strength in whole-organism studies has waned in recent years. Nevertheless, it is becoming a lively area of science complementing molecular-level investigations, and funding could enhance the university's research portfolio.

Faculty retention fund. Newly recruited faculty receive start-up funds to help pay the hefty costs associated with equipping a new laboratory, but there are often few funds available to replace that equipment as it ages. A faculty retention fund would provide a stream of money to help maintain the laboratories of faculty who have been at the university for many years.

An endowment for core resource centers. Funds for maintaining and upgrading the equipment housed in the university's resource centers would benefit investigations in numerous labs. Because this equipment is frequently based on rapidly evolving technology, dedicated funds from a restricted endowment would provide a stable source of income for these centers that would help them respond quickly to new opportunities and would help retain skilled staff to oversee and train users.

Imaging facilities. A facility that would house functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) equipment would benefit the neuroscience labs. Important for determining brain function and anatomy in animal models as well as humans, fMRI equipment would also be a valuable asset for research.

Renovation of Welch Hall. One of the grandest and most historic spaces on the campus, Welch Hall is also in a state of disrepair. While a certain amount of work on Welch Hall must be done — and was included in the original \$500 million campaign — additional funds could pay for upgrades to the smaller rooms on the first floor and to the Founder's Hall lobby, and for connections to Nurses Residence and the new Collaborative Research Center.



microbes coevolved just as plants and pathogens did. Those that developed resistance to these pathogens lived on."

Dr. Casanova received an M.D. in 1987 from the University of Paris René Descartes and a Ph.D. in immunology from the Pasteur Institute in Paris and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in Lausanne in 1992. He is currently professor of pediatrics and, with Laurent Abel, director of the Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases at the Necker Medical School Hospital for Sick Children. In 2004, he received the Professor Lucien Dautrebande Prize from the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine and, in 2008, the Richard Lounsbery Award from the French and American Academies of Sciences.

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MILESTONES

PROMOTIONS, AWARDS AND PERSONNEL NEWS

Awarded:

Laura A. Banaszynski, the Angelo Family Fellowship of the Damon Runyon 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 therapeutics. Dr. Banaszynski is one of 16 postdoctoral fellows named by the foundation this year.

Paul Greengard, 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, was announced April 3. Dr. Greengard is Vincent Astor Professor and head of the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience.

Howard Hang, a 2008 Ellison Medical Foundation New Scholar Award. With the grant, which provides \$100,000 a year for four years, Dr. Hang will study the molecular mechanisms by which particular genes regulate aging. The New Scholar program supports young investigators engaged in aging research who are in the first three years of their independent research. Dr. Hang is head of the Laboratory of Chemical Biology and Microbial Pathogenesis.

Laboratory of Sensory Neuroscience and AKF Engineers, a 2008 Honor Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). A. James Hudspeth’s new laboratory on the first floor of Detlev W. Bronk Laboratory was designed around an isolation test chamber that absorbs ambient noise and shields magnetic fields. The room, designed by AKF Engineers, enables experiments on sensitive ear hair-cell bundles that otherwise could not be performed. ACEC judges projects on originality and technical, economic and social value.

Named:

Paul Bieniasz and **Leslie B. Voss hall**, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) investigators. The researchers are among 56 new investigators named by HHMI. Dr. Bieniasz is head of Rockefeller’s Laboratory of Retrovirology and associate professor at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center; Dr. Voss hall

is head of the Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Behavior. The new appointments bring the total number of HHMI investigators at Rockefeller to 14.

Peter Marler, a foreign member of The Royal Society, for his work elucidating mechanisms of the development of behavior and the brain, especially his studies on the development of bird song. Dr. Marler, professor emeritus of Rockefeller University, was elected May 16 as one of eight new foreign members. The Royal Society includes 1,344 fellows and 135 foreign members.

Promoted (academic appointments):

Karina Del Punta, from postdoctoral associate to research assistant professor, Heintz Lab.

Michael Ginsberg, from postdoctoral fellow to research associate, J. Darnell Lab.

Myriam Heiman, from postdoctoral fellow to research associate, Greengard Lab.

Fei Ji, from research associate to senior research associate, Ott Lab.

Miki Jishage, from postdoctoral fellow to research associate, Roeder Lab.

Hilda Amalia Pasolli, from research assistant professor to research associate professor, Fuchs Lab.

Hired:

Hyung Jin Ahn, postdoctoral associate, Strickland Lab.

Olaoluwakitan Awolesi, research assistant, Kreek Lab.

Melanie Ayerh, research assistant, Shaham Lab.

Adrian Baule, postdoctoral associate, E.G.D. Cohen Lab.

Vladimir Baytshtok, research assistant, Blobel Lab.

Sarah Bhagat, research assistant, McEwen Lab.

Nitin Bhatia, database administrator, Information Technology.

Michel Bornens, visiting professor, Nurse Lab.

Juan Cabello, custodian, Plant Operations Custodial Services.

Jared Cassin, research assistant, Kreek Lab.

Richard Chahwan, postdoctoral associate, Tarakhovsky Lab.

Ming Cheng, postdoctoral associate, Collier Lab.

Aruna Cuenot, associate director, Development.

Andrew Davenport, research assistant, Blobel Lab.

Niklas Feldhahn, postdoctoral associate, Nussenzweig Lab.

Shili Feng, research assistant, Darst Lab.

Amelie Forest, research assistant, Rice Lab.

Susana Gardete, postdoctoral fellow, Tomasz Lab.

Adriana Garzon, research assistant, Funabiki Lab.

Angel Gomez, porter, Housing Scholars Residence.

Zachary Gottlieb, research assistant, Heintz Lab.

Jillian Gregoire, copy editor, The Rockefeller University Press.

Megan Holz, research assistant, Rice Lab.

Yi Chen Hsieh, research assistant, Voss hall Lab.

Ya-Chieh Hsu, postdoctoral associate, Fuchs Lab.

Margarita Kats, research assistant, Heintz Lab.

Robert Ketting, visiting student, Rout Lab.

Mayumi Kibe, research assistant, Ravetch Lab.

Marie Knockaert, research associate, Brivanlou Lab.

Alex Kotlyar, research assistant, Tuschl Lab.

Seung Lee, research support associate, Genomics Resource Center.

Edson Leon, receiving clerk, Purchasing.

Ling Li, research assistant, Young Lab.

Sarah Maguire, research assistant, McEwen Lab.

Lemuel Mansingh, animal technician, Heintz Lab.

John Marshall, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Daviana Martinez-Osorio, research assistant, Heintz Lab.

Brian Millan, clinical research nurse, Hospital Nursing Inpatient.

Jorge Morales, mechanic I, Plant Operations Maintenance Shop.

Matthias Muellenbeck, visiting student, Nussenzweig Lab.

Michael Murphy, security operations manager, Security.

Martina Mustroph, research assistant, Greengard Lab.

Sarasija Naini, research assistant, Collier Lab.

Tomoyoshi Nakadai, postdoctoral associate, Roeder Lab.

Damion Nicholson, porter, Housing Scholars Residence.

Jeffrey Nusbaum, research assistant, Tuschl Lab.

Yijun Ou, research associate, Nussenzweig Lab.

Daniel Reuman, visiting assistant professor, J. Cohen Lab.

Rebecca Rizzo, laboratory administrator, Tarakhovsky Lab.

Megan Robblee, research assistant, Breslow Lab.

Caryne Roey, clinical research recruitment specialist, Hospital Clinical Research Office.

Vincent Romano, animal attendant, CBC.

Ronen Sadeh, postdoctoral associate, Allis Lab.

Bianca Santomasso, postdoctoral associate, R. Darnell Lab.

Steven Schutzer, member of the adjunct faculty, Krueger Lab.

Miho Shimada, postdoctoral associate, Roeder Lab.

Louisa Thompson, research assistant, McEwen Lab.

Megan van Overbeek, postdoctoral associate, de Lange Lab.

Corstiaan Versteegh, foreign research intern, Hudspeth Lab.

Gabriel Victora, visiting student, Strickland Lab.

Clifford Wasser, director, Bridges to Better Medicine initiative, Development.

Matthew Whorton, postdoctoral associate, MacKinnon Lab.

Zhu Xue, research assistant, Roeder Lab.

Irene Yaroslavsky, postdoctoral associate, Leibowitz Lab.

Gaylord Young, animal attendant, CBC.

Gheorghita Zbaganu, visiting associate professor, J. Cohen Lab.

Margaret Zellner, postdoctoral associate, Pfaff Lab.

Archive center

(continued from page 1)

will show assets being transferred out, they 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 most recently served 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 on June 9. “The archive center’s resources are unique, and this is a rare opportunity to initiate programming that we hope will be extremely useful to the larger community of researchers, scholars and those in philanthropy who can benefit from our collection.”

Dr. Meyers succeeds Darwin Stapleton, 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 director emeritus of the archive center and will embark on a two-year sabbatical focused 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 reels of microfilm. The university’s records account for about 20 percent of the collection.

Tarun Kapoor and Mike Rout receive tenure promotions

by TALLEY HENNING 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 science that the university is known for,” 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 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 the cell detects and corrects errors in the process, which are linked to developmental defects, failed pregnancy and cancer. Dr. Kapoor also designs and discovers chemicals that block cell division through new mechanisms. “To draw an analogy with engineering: I couldn’t care less about making a car that runs more efficiently on gas. I would want to design a completely new kind of car — to figure out how we can do something completely different to block improper cell division.”

Dr. Kapoor is the recipient of a Pew Fellowship in the Biomedical Sciences, among other honors. His tenure appointment was official February 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 assistant 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 largely 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 to the big picture. “We’ve had to piece 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 following 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.