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The Rockefeller University

October-November 1987

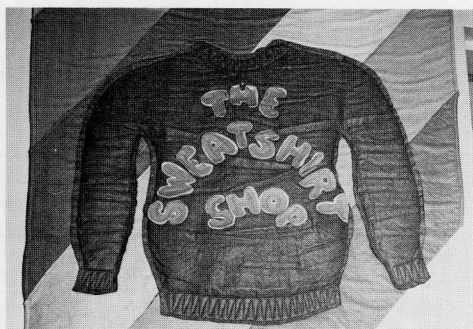
Volume 19, Number 1

Choppin Heads Hughes

Adjunct Professor Purnell W. Choppin has been appointed president of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, where he has served as vice president and chief scientific officer since October 1985. He succeeds Donald S. Frederickson, who resigned as president last June.

A member of the Rockefeller faculty since 1957, Dr. Choppin was Leon Hess Professor and co-leader of the University's virology laboratory until joining the Hughes Institute. He also served as vice president for academic programs and dean of graduate studies.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute, headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, carries out biomedical research in its units at leading scientific centers. In August 1986, the University signed an agreement with the Institute whereby Hughes will fund part of a new laboratory building at Rockefeller to house research by scientists jointly selected by the two institutions and holding joint appointments.



Open for business again. Tuesdays, 11:30-1:30.

Honors and Awards

Trustee **Ronald E. Cape**, chairman of Cetus Corporation, received the 1987 award for Distinguished Contribution to Research Administration, presented by the Society of Research Administrators.

Professor **Frank H. Field**, Mass Spectrometry and Gaseous Ion Chemistry, has been selected as the recipient of the 1988 Frank H. Field and Joe L. Franklin Award for Outstanding Achievement in Mass Spectrometry, sponsored by Extrel Corporation. The award, to be presented at the Third Chemical Congress of North America, in Toronto on June 8, 1988, was established in 1983 by the American Chemical Society to honor the work of Dr. Field and the late Joe L. Franklin, Robert Welch Professor at Rice University.

Rockefeller University Council member

Pew Funds Nutrition Center

The Pew Charitable Trusts of Philadelphia has awarded The Rockefeller University \$1 million for the establishment of an Excellence in Nutrition Center on campus. Beginning in July, 1988, selected medical students will receive a one-year intensive training experience in the study of energy metabolism and such related disorders as obesity, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, and diabetes.

"The objective of the Center is to introduce students to the possibility of shaping their future training so as to prepare them for careers linking basic biomedical science and clinical investigation to nutritional science," says Professor Jules Hirsch, head of the University's laboratory of human behavior and metabolism and director of the newly established Center.

Medical students in their third and fourth

year who receive Pew Fellowships will be associated with one of eight resource laboratories at the University in which biology can be applied to current issues of clinical nutrition.

The Center will also use the NIH-funded Obesity Core Center, including the clinical nutrition and research laboratories at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital and Vassar College, which will feature summer nutrition research internships for college students, beginning the third year of the grant.

The Center of Excellence in Nutrition is designed to serve "as a bridge between the basic technological arm of biology and the nutritional concerns involved in human welfare," says Dr. Hirsch. "Students participating in this unique program will develop a basic understanding of how the environment of nutrients alters living systems."

Tribute for Hirsch

There will be a morning memorial and afternoon scientific tribute to James G. Hirsch, on Monday, December 7. Dr. Hirsch, who was a leader in cellular immunology and physiology at The Rockefeller for 30 years and former dean of graduate studies, died on May 25. All members of the campus community are invited to attend the day-long tribute to be held in Caspary Auditorium.

Stein and Moore Award

The first Stein and Moore Award of The Protein Society was presented to Professor Emory Smith of the University of California, Los Angeles, at the Society's first symposium held on August 9-13 in San Diego. The award was named for the Rockefeller biochemist and 1972 Nobel laureates.

At the meeting, Professor James M. Manning, a former member of the Stein-Moore laboratory, summarized their contribution to protein chemistry, in particular for working out the chemical structure of pancreatic ribonuclease.

Eugene Garfield, president of The Institute for Scientific Information and publisher and editor-in-chief of *The Scientist*, has been named co-recipient, with David W. Fraser, president of Swarthmore College, of the John Scott Award, presented by the city of Philadelphia in recognition of contributions toward the "comfort, welfare, and happiness of mankind."

Professor **Emil T. Kaiser**, Bioorganic Chemistry and Biochemistry, received the 1987 Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award from the American Chemical Society at its national meeting, in New Orleans, August 30-September 4. He also presented a paper on the design and construction of biologically active peptides and proteins. Trustee **Ronald C. Breslow**, S.L. Mitchill Professor of Chemistry at Columbia University, received The Cope Award from the Society and spoke on recent advances in biomimetic chemistry.

Adjunct Professor **Richard M. Krause**, dean of Emory University School of Medicine and Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Medicine, has received a Senior U.S. Scientist Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He will work with researchers at the

(continued on page 1)

Professor Fernando Nottebohm, left, being interviewed by producer Mike Jackson for "The Health Century," a public television series on the major research achievements of the past 100 years in conjunction with the centennial of the National Institutes of Health, which aired in October.



Eugene Kone Dies

Eugene H. Kone, the University's public information associate for 28 years until his retirement in 1984, died on September 7 at the age of 72.

A pioneer of science public relations, his professional excellence earned him two Silver Anvil awards from the Public Relations Society of America and life membership in the National Association of Science Writers.

His knowledge of the University and its special place in science was broad and broadly communicated. In the words of Barry W. Dress, vice president for university relations, "Gene was the first and the model. He guided the beginning and the progress of our public information program with talent, impeccable judgment, and wise understanding of science, scientists, journalists, and the public."

A 1941 graduate of Yale University, and a longtime New Haven resident, Mr. Kone began his career as a reporter and editor with the New Haven Register and later was associate director and then director of the Yale News Bureau. He came to Rockefeller in 1956 at the invitation of then-President Detlev Bronk. Working single-handedly for 20 years and then as a member of the University's public information office, he ran science writers' seminars, dispatched news releases, and helped reporters and broadcasters tell the University's story to the public. On several happy occasions, he navigated Rockefeller Nobel Prize-winners safely through a tidal wave of press attention.

In addition to establishing the University's public information program, Mr. Kone founded and for 15 years directed the public relations office of the American Institute of Physics. As head of his own firm for many years, he was public relations consultant to the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Polytechnic Institute of New York, the American Psychological Association, the Society for Neuroscience, and the Endocrine Society, among others, usually working in association with his wife, Estelle.

While at Rockefeller, Mr. Kone was co-editor with Helene Jordan, former director of The Rockefeller University Press, of *The Greatest Adventure: Basic Research That Shapes Our Lives*, published by The Rockefeller Press in 1974.

Griffin Honored

Professor Donald R. Griffin's half century of contributions to the field of animal behavior were acknowledged at the Animal Behavior Society's Annual Meeting, held at Williams College, in June.

His pioneering research has encompassed major bird migration studies and the landmark discovery of echolocation, the mechanism by which bats navigate in darkness. In recent years, his writings on animal thinking and consciousness have aroused renewed scholarly interest and debate.

In his honor, a group of Dr. Griffin's colleagues and former students organized a day-long symposium on animal cognition on June 25, followed by a surprise dinner reunion and a symposium the next day on communication, orientation and migration.

Dr. Griffin opened the animal cognition



Eugene Kone

symposium with a talk that posed the central question, "How Can Animal Thinking be Studied Scientifically?" Among the other speakers at the two meetings were Professor Peter Marler and Dr. Carolyn Ristau of the University's animal behavior group; former members Gordon Burghardt, Dorothy L. Cheney, Alison Jolly, Ronald Larkin, Roger Payne, and Robert M. Seyfarth; and Jack Bradbury, Peter Tyack, and Timothy Williams, who earned their Ph.D.'s at Rockefeller under Dr. Griffin's supervision.

Noon Recitals

The tri-institutional noon recital program began its second season. Don't forget to check the bulletin boards and mail boxes for notices of upcoming concerts, which are held in the West Lounge of Sloan House at 1233 York Avenue, between 66th and 67th Streets.

Sigma Xi at RU

The University's chapter of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society of North America, elected five new members during the past year. Professor Brian Chait and Research Associate Robert Katz, Mass Spectrometry and Gaseous Ion Chemistry, Professor Joseph McCabe, Neurophysiology and Behavior, and Guest Investigator Constatine Pavlides, Neurophysiology, were elected to full membership. Graduate Fellow Alessandro Campa, Theoretical Physics, was elected to associate membership.

Research Associate Anthony Popowicz, Computing Services, and Postdoctoral Associate Jamie Zung, Parasitology, transferred their memberships to the University's chapter.

Those interested in joining the Society or in initiating Society-sponsored activities are invited to call Professor Scott Herness, the chapter secretary, on extension 8667.

Personals

Born June 4 to Research Associate **Nagaran Chandramouli**, Biochemistry, and his wife, Bhavani, a daughter, Meera.

Born July 2 to **Ira Woods**, Mail Room, and his wife, Lisa, a daughter, Melissa.

Honors and Awards (continued from page 1)

Max Planck Institute and the University of Cologne studying human mechanisms of immunity to *Staphylococci*.

Postdoctoral Fellow **Eric Lam**, Plant Molecular Biology, was one of five recipients of the Walter J. Johnson Annual Prize presented by the journal, Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics, for the encouragement of research in the life sciences.

Professor **Bruce Merrifield**, Biochemistry, received an honorary doctor of science degree from Adelphi University at its commencement ceremony on May 17.

Professor **Torsten N. Wiesel**, Neurobiology, was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree from New York University on June 5, and an honorary degree from the University of Bergen in Norway in August.

Promotions

Lawrence M. Pfeffer, Virology, to associate professor, effective July 1.

Martin Bähler and **Teresa McGuinness**, Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, **M. Scott Herness** and **Joseph T. McCabe**, Neurobiology and Behavior, **Lawrence Katz**, Neurobiology, **William A. Muller**, Cellular Physiology and Immunology, to assistant professor, effective July 1.

John C. Mitani, Animal Behavior, to assistant professor, effective October 1.

Alumni Briefs

Intention, Plans, and Practical Reason, a book by **Michael E. Bratman** (1974), professor of philosophy at Stanford University and senior researcher at the Center for the Study of Language and Information, has been published by Harvard University Press.

Caleb Finch (1969) ARCO William F. Kieschnick Professor in the Neurobiology of Aging at the University of Southern California's Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center, has been named to the National Advisory Council on Aging. The group helps formulate policies for the research programs at the National Institute of Aging.

Congressman William Lehman, right, with Dennis Stark, director of the Laboratory Animal Research Center, on a visit to the facility on September 25 to discuss the use of animals in biomedical research and federal funding of alternative methodology.





John Northrop

John W. Northrop 1891-1987

Professor Emeritus John W. Northrop, who worked at the University from 1916 to 1956, died May 27 at his home in Wickenburg, Arizona at the age of 95. In 1946, he shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry with his Rockefeller colleague Wendell F. Stanley and with James B. Sumner of Cornell University for demonstrating that enzymes can be crystallized and for preparing pure enzymes and virus proteins.

Born July 5, 1891 in Yonkers, New York, Dr. Northrop earned his B.A. and M.A., and, in 1915, his Ph.D. degree in chemistry from Columbia University. He joined what was then The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research as a member of the general physiology laboratory of Professor Jacques Loeb and later headed a laboratory of general physiology at the Institute's Department of Animal and Plant Pathology in Princeton, New Jersey. After becoming emeritus in 1956, he joined the University of California, Berkeley, as professor of bacteriology and physiology, remaining until 1970.

His many honors, in addition to the Nobel Prize, included the Daniel Giraud Eliot Medal of the National Academy of Sciences, and honorary degrees from Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, Rutgers, and Yale universities, and the University of California. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Franklin Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts, and an honorary fellow of the Royal Chemical Society and of the London Chemical Society.

Dr. Northrop was the author of *Crystalline Enzymes*, and from 1924 until his death served as contributor, editor, and later honorary editor of *The Journal of General Physiology*.

He is survived by a daughter, Alice N. Robbins; a son John, retired professor of geophysics at the University of California, San Diego; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. His son-in-law, Dr. Frederick C. Robbins, is dean emeritus of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and a 1954 Nobel laureate.

The Rockefeller Archive Center, which is administered by the University under the direction of Dr. Darwin Stapleton, houses more than 40 million historical documents of the University, the Rockefeller Family & Associates, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and The Rockefeller Foundation.



Barbara Gilson



Lee Hiltzik

Holiday Festivities

The University's annual Holiday Festivity, hosted by President and Mrs. Lederberg, will be held on the 17th floor of the Tower on December 18 from 3 to 5 P.M.

The annual Holiday Dance will be held on December 4, from 8 P.M. to 1 A.M. on the 17th floor of the Tower. Tickets for the dance, which features an open bar, buffet dinner, The Gary Andrews Orchestra and DJ, are \$22.50 each and are available at Purchasing, Founder's Hall reception desk, the Faculty and Students' Club, and the Hospital Office.

Deaths

Leslie H. Arps, 80, a member of the Rockefeller Council, senior and founding partner of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, a New York law firm, on July 16.

Cora M. Downs, 88, formerly Summerfield Distinguished Professor of Microbiology at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, who was a visiting research associate at The Rockefeller in 1939, on January 27.

Roger C. Elliot, 80, who was associated with the University from 1956 to his retirement in 1974, and who held a number of administrative positions overseeing the University's finances, including director of the budget and director of administrative services, on June 19.

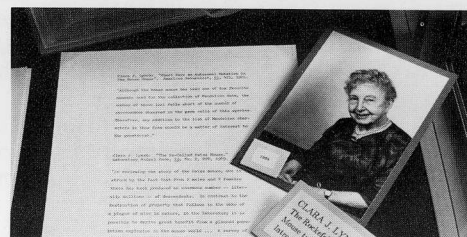
Lippman Hart Geronimus, 68, who was a postdoctoral fellow and visiting investigator in bacteriology at the University from 1949 to 1950, on May 24.

George E. Murphy, 68, professor of pathology, Cornell University Medical College, and chairman of the Neighborhood Committee for Asphalt Green, who conducted research with Homer Swift on streptococci at the Rockefeller Hospital from 1946 to 1953, on July 15. Dr. Murphy and his wife were instrumental in the conversion of the old municipal asphalt plant, at York Avenue and 90th Street, into a recreational complex, now named the George and Annette Murphy Arts and Sports Center.

Lawrence E. Nygard, 47, a doorman at Faculty House since 1976, on August 5.

Margaret Wuest, 93, who was a laboratory assistant at the University's Department of Animal and Plant Pathology in Princeton from 1935 until 1952, on June 13.

"Exceptions to the Rule: A Few Prominent Women of The Rockefeller University," a new exhibit, is on display in the Archives Gallery, Welch Hall, second floor landing. Organized by Barbara Gilson, the exhibit will be on view until the end of the year.



New Students

The University's new students include 15 graduate fellows and five biomedical fellows.

The new graduate fellows, who will work toward a Ph.D., are: Robert Camp, Swarthmore College; Kathy Fang, Shanghai Second Medical College; Ioannis Giannakis, Aristotle University of Salonica, University of Cincinnati; Hui-Quan Han, Qingdao Medical College, Shanghai Institute of Physiology; John McKinney, The Evergreen State College; Anthony Molloy, University of London; Mary Beth Moorefield, University of California, Berkeley, State University of New York—Downstate Medical Center; Deborah Norman, Princeton University; Anne Prieto, Catholic University of Chile; Vlado Rahal, University of Hamburg; Anshu Vashishtha, All India Institute of Medical Sciences; Leslie Vosshall, Columbia College; Catherine Woolley, Texas A&M University; Rafael Yuste, Autonomous University of Madrid; Yu-Hang Zhao, Peking University.

The new biomedical fellows, who will work toward a Ph.D. from The Rockefeller and an M.D. from Cornell University Medical College, are: Ethan Benardete, Harvard College; Victor Neel, Princeton University; Una O'Doherty, Barnard College; Marcia Simpson, Amherst College; William Swiggard, George Mason University.

New Archivists

Barbara Gilson and Lee Hiltzik have been appointed University archivists on the staff of the Rockefeller Archive Center in Pocantico Hills, New York.

They have been appointed to facilitate access by members of the University to its collection, which includes faculty papers and research files, reprints of scholarly articles, biographical material and memorabilia, and the research and patient records of the Hospital. Ms. Gilson's office is on the third floor of Welch Hall, where she can be reached on extension 8912 or at Box 128. Mr. Hiltzik can be reached at (914) 631-4505.

Ms. Gilson, who holds a M.A. degree in history from the University of Wisconsin and who most recently was an archivist at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, replaces former archivist Carolyn Kopp, who left the University in June. Mr. Hiltzik has a M.A. degree in history from the State University of New York, Stony Brook, where he is a Ph.D. candidate in the history of science, and where he was an archivist in the Department of Special Collections and University Archives.

Briefs

Professor **M. A. B. Bég**, Theoretical Physics, was an invited speaker at the Escuela Latin Americana de Física (ELAF '87) held at the Universidad Nacional de la Plata, Argentina, July 6-24. He spoke on "The Stability of the Canonical Electroweak Theory: A Physical Need for Superstrings?"

Dr. Bég, has been elected to the advisory board of the Aspen Center for Physics, on whose board of trustees he has served for six years.

Professor **D. Martin Carter**, Investigative Dermatology, spoke on "Tracking the Mystery of Epidermolysis Bullosa," at Dermatology Update '87, a press seminar presented by the American Academy of Dermatology, at New York Hospital—Cornell Medical College, September 15.

Professor **E. G. D. Cohen**, Theoretical Physics, visited The Netherlands from June 13-20 as a member of an international review panel to evaluate ongoing research in statistical physics in The Netherlands and to make recommendations for future government support of this field of physics.

Postdoctoral Fellow **Thomas M. Donnelly**, Laboratory Animal Research Center, has been certified a diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.

Professor **David C. Gadsby**, Cardiac Physiology, spoke on "Voltage Independence of the K translocation by the Na/K Pump in Isolated Cells from Guinea-Pig Ventricle," at a meeting of the Physiological Society, in Cambridge, England, September 18-19.

Professor **Donald R. Griffin** and Dr. **Carolyn Ristau**, Animal Behavior, were speakers at the American Psychological Association meeting on August 29 in New York. Dr. Griffin's subject was Conscious Thinking by Animals. Dr. Ristau spoke on injury feigning by birds, and whether or not it might be considered a purposal behavior.

President Lederberg delivered the graduation address at the 128th commencement at Stuyvesant High School, his alma mater, held at Avery Fisher Hall, June 22. He also gave the introduction and welcome for "Making Invention Pay," a National Innovation Workshop of the New York City Partnership, held in New York, September 18-19. On September 22 he served as chairman for a symposium on AIDS: Transmission, Prevention, and Civil Liberties, sponsored by the Junior Committee of the Irvington House Institute for Medical Research, held in Caspary Auditorium. Professor **Zanvil A. Cohn**, Cellular Immunology and Physiology, who is the Irvington House Principal Investigator at the University, spoke on "AIDS Research at Rockefeller." Dr. Lederberg also delivered the introductory lecture, "A Global Agenda for Biomedical Research in the Second Century After Pasteur," at a conference, Molecular Biology and Infectious Diseases, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Pasteur Institute, in Paris, October 5-9.

Senior Fellow **William Lowrance**, director of the Life Sciences and Public Policy Program,

chaired a workshop, "Issues in Collaboration for Human Genome Projects," as part of the congressional Office of Technology Assessment study on mapping the human genome, in Washington, D.C., June 26. The workshop examined the ethical and legal dimensions of this massive project.

Professor **Bruce S. McEwen**, Neuroendocrinology, presented two lectures at The Netherlands Brain Research Institute's summer school on "Neurochemistry of Functional Neuroteratology," August 31-September 4. He spoke on "Actions of Sex Hormones on the Brain: 'Activation' and 'Organization' in Relation to Function Teratology," and "Sexual Differentiation of the Brain in Relation to the DES Problem."

Adjunct Professor **Robert K. Merton**, University Professor Emeritus at Columbia University, was honored at an international conference, L'Opera di Robert K. Merton e la Sociologia Contemporanea, sponsored by the Associazione Italiana di Sociologia, in Amalfi, Italy, June 4-6.

Director of Personnel **John J. O'Donnell** has been named chairman of the Council on Organization and Management of the New York Heart Fund.

David Rockefeller, chairman of the executive committee of the University's board of trustees, as chairman of The Rockefeller Brothers Fund has announced, in conjunction with other foundations, the funding of a Citizens Commission on AIDS that will focus on the nonmedical issues facing the New York City-northern New Jersey metropolitan area.

Mr. Rockefeller recently received the annual award of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society of the United Way for his contributions to volunteerism.

Professor **Alan Saltiel**, Biochemical Endocrinology, delivered a lecture, "In Search of a Second Messenger for Insulin," at a plenary symposium on recent advances in insulin action at the 45th Annual Meeting of the American Diabetes Association, in Indianapolis, June 6-9.

Professor **Michael W. Young**, Genetics, was a co-chairman of the 18th International Conference on Chronobiology, held in Leiden, The Netherlands, July 12-17, where he gave a talk, "Molecular Analysis of the Biological Clock."

RU at Brain Conference

A number of Rockefeller researchers participated in the Second World Congress of Neuroscience, sponsored by the International Brain Research Organization, in Budapest,

Hungary, August 16-21.

Professor **Gerald M. Edelman**, Developmental and Molecular Biology, was co-chair of a symposium, "Developmental Determinants of Pattern in the Central Nervous System," where he spoke on "Cell Adhesion Molecules in Developmental Patterning and Neural Morphogenesis." He also participated in a symposium, "The Future of Neuroscience."

Professor **Paul Greengard**, Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, delivered a lecture, "Phosphoproteins as Mediators of Signal Transduction in the Nervous System," at a symposium, "Intracellular Messengers." He also participated in a workshop on "Basal Ganglia: Actions and Neurobiology of Dopamine."

Adjunct Professor **Victoria N. Luine**, Neuroendocrinology, presented "Monoaminergic Afferents to the Cholinergic Forebrain Neurons," at a poster session, "Anatomy: Forebrain, Basal Ganglia, Thalamus, Hypothalamus."

Professor **Donald W. Pfaff**, Neurobiology and Behavior, presented "The GABA_A Receptor Levels in the Female Hamster Forebrain Following *In Vivo* Acute and Chronic Progesterone Treatment: Quantitative Autoradiography," research done in collaboration with Professor Bruce S. McEwen, Neuroendocrinology. Dr. Pfaff also spoke on "Gene Expression in Endocrine Neurons—Molecular Approaches to Hypothalamic Functions," at a symposium, "Neuroendocrinology: Hypothalamohypophyseal System," and on "Gene Expression in Hypothalamic Neurons: Possible Relations to Behavioral Regulation," at a roundtable, "Neuroendocrine Mechanisms of Behavior."

Professor **Torsten N. Wiesel**, Neurobiology, co-chaired a symposium, "Visual System," where he spoke on "Visual Processing in Striate Cortex."

Also, Professor **Charles D. Gilbert**, Neurobiology, spoke on "Receptive Field Properties and Intrinsic Excitatory Cortical Circuits," at a workshop on "Anatomy and Function of Neocortical Circuits." Professor **Werner Graf**, Neurophysiology, spoke on "Geometrical Frameworks for Eye-Head Coordination and Their Intrinsic Representation," at a workshop, "Postural Mechanisms." He also presented "Morphological and Physiological Correlates of Vestibular Excitatory and Inhibitory Pathways to Extraocular Motor Nuclei in the Goldfish," "Head-Neck Geometry of Vertebrates: Constraints in a Multi-Joint System," and "Spatial Tuning of Second Order Vestibular Neurons of the Vertical System to Optokinetic Stimulation in the Rabbit," at poster sessions.

Continuing its long-standing policy to actively support equality of opportunity for all persons, The Rockefeller University forbids discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or handicap. The Administration has an Affirmative Action Program to increase the employment of women and members of minority groups in all areas of the University's activities.

Fight Flu

The Employee Health Office is making flu shots available to Rockefeller personnel in November, Monday through Friday, from 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., Room 118, Hospital. For information, call extension 8414.

News and Notes is published five times a year from October through July. This is Volume 19, Number 1. Suggestions for articles are welcome and may be sent to *News and Notes*, Box 68, phone extension 8967. Photographs, page 1, center and page 3, center, Mary Wagner; right, Marc Kaplan; page 2 and page 3, right, John Sholtis; page 3, left, Rockefeller University Archives © 1987 The Rockefeller University, New York 10021-6399. Printed in the United States of America.

A View from the Dean's Office

Introducing New Students

Over the next few issues of A View from the Dean's Office, we will briefly introduce the 15 new Ph.D. students who entered the Graduate Program this September.

The first four students described in this issue aptly reflect the diversity of The Rockefeller University community in terms of their interests, backgrounds, and national origins. Our list begins in alphabetical order.

Robert Camp enters the program with a B.A. degree in Biology from Swarthmore College. He graduated in June 1987. Originally from Elyria, Ohio, Robert wishes to pursue his interest in virology and gene expression while at Rockefeller.

Born in Shanghai, China, Kathy S. Fang received a medical degree from Shanghai Second Medical College in 1982. While doing a clinical residency in internal medicine at a teaching hospital in Shanghai, she grew increasingly interested in basic biomedical research. Kathy came to the United States in 1984 and was a Ph.D. student for one year at the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Alabama. She left the program to come to New York with her husband, and worked as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Professor T.P. King at Rockefeller. She entered the Ph.D. program to acquire the thorough training she desires to pursue a career in experimental medicine.

Ioannis Giannakis has had a long-time interest in physics. He majored in physics as an undergraduate at Aristotle University of Salonica in Greece, where he received his B.A. degree in 1984. Ioannis came to the United States and studied at the University of Cincinnati for his M.A. degree, which he received in April of this year. He plans to pursue his interest in theoretical particle physics at Rockefeller. Ioannis is a native of Salonica, Greece.

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Profile

Charles Mobbs brings more than fine academic credential and research skills to his work at The Rockefeller University. He brings an unusual perspective as well—a deep philosophical approach to scientific problems, grounded in the thinking of Hume and Kant.

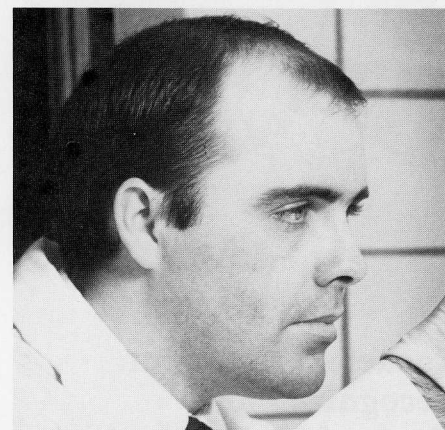
"When people ask me what I am, I say, 'I'm a philosopher,'" states Charles. "If I could accomplish the same things thinking on a mountaintop, I would. But, of course, I'd miss the fun of doing experiments."

Instead of on a mountaintop, Charles is working with Professor Donald W. Pfaff in the laboratory of neurobiology and behavior and with Professor Bruce S. McEwen in the laboratory of neuroendocrinology. Their work in investigating hormonal reactions in the brain at the individual cell level provides opportunities to explore both his scientific interests and to probe his broader questions about life and reality.

Charles's philosophical and scientific journey to Rockefeller began as an undergraduate at MIT where he became interested in the process of aging. Issues of aging intrigued him because they presented intellectual scientific challenges, the potential for practical results, and striking philosophical questions. "Everything that we do and believe is predicated on our mortality. Yet, if death were not absolutely inevitable, it would fundamentally alter our approach to life," notes Charles.

To further this interest, Charles went to the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where he worked at an aging center with Professor Caleb Finch, a Rockefeller University alumnus, and earned his Ph.D. His dissertation focused on his discovery of how to control the aging process in the reproductive system of rodents. By decreasing or increasing estrogen, reproductive senescence could be delayed or accelerated.

"During this time, I was a big hit at cocktail parties," laughs Charles. "Crowds would gather when I said my research involved sex and aging. I also did a radio show then, and



Charles Mobbs

pleased listeners by saying that one possible practical implication of this research would be the perfect contraceptive for rodents."

In addition to his sense of humor and his ability to keep in mind any practical implications for his research, it is clear in talking with Charles that he rarely loses sight of the broader philosophical questions that motivate him. His research is guided by century-old questions of the meaning of life, reality, and truth. "I use philosophy to generate ideas and my scientific research to explore them."

Charles has been a postdoctoral fellow at Rockefeller for three years. He is currently working on the biochemistry of the ventromedial nucleus of the hypothalamus. This nucleus mediates effects of estrogen on female sexual behavior, which involves, in effect, turning on specific neuronal connections. Estrogen appears to induce at least three specific gene products in this nucleus, which also happens to be inducible by trophic factors and stress; working continues to determine their roles in facilitating neuronal connections. Charles is also developing a theory of aging involving this nucleus and a process he calls neurohumoral hysteresis. High blood glucose damages this nucleus; conversely, damage to this nucleus leads to high blood

(continued on page 2)

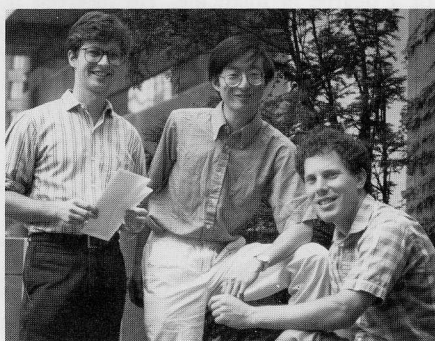
The Oxford Experience

Charles Epstein, Clay Reid, and Jeffrey Yuan are in complete agreement: their eight weeks at Oxford University this summer was a productive, rewarding, and enjoyable experience.

In recent interviews, each cited the benefits of working with people who approach their research from a different discipline or with new techniques.

Jeff, a third-year student in the laboratory of Professor Günter Blobel, is interested in the spatial organization of eukaryotic chromatin and how it relates to the structure of the nucleus. He said the opportunity to work with Dr. Peter Cook at the Sir William Dunn

from left to right
Clay Reid, Jeff Yuan, Charles Epstein



John Sholtis

School of Pathology was an invaluable experience. "Dr. Cook had developed some new techniques to study the nucleus, and I was able to learn a great deal. Even though my stay was only for a few weeks, I accomplished a lot."

Chuck, a second-year student in the laboratory of Professor Zuvil Cohn, thought his Oxford experience was instructive. He was able to observe a biophysical approach to protein-lipid interactions, which complimented his work at Rockefeller. Chuck also emphasized that the summer afforded new scientific contacts that enhanced his work and could ultimately benefit other students. "Interesting reciprocal relationships

(continued on page 2)



John Sholtis

Annette Lee

Rockefeller Student Recognized for Meritorious Research on Aging

When the selection committee of established gerontologic and geriatric specialists reviewed manuscripts for the Walter Nicolai Award for Meritorious Research on Aging, their tough decision became clear. The manuscript they chose encompassed significant original research oriented toward improving the quality of later life and aptly reflected the determination and skills of this student.

The manuscript was submitted by Annette Lee, fourth-year Ph.D. student working in Professor Anthony Cerami's laboratory of medical biochemistry. Her award-winning manuscript is entitled "Nonenzymatic glycosylation of DNA by reducing sugars *in vivo* may contribute to DNA damage associated with aging."

"I didn't expect to win," said Annette modestly. "Maybe I was the only one to submit a paper." But on October 9, 1987, Annette was honored at the annual meeting of the American Aging Association at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in New York, and received the Walter Nicolai Award for her outstanding research on aging. Annette later gave a ten-minute talk to an audience of prominent researchers, where she outlined her research findings. In addition to the award, she received a cash prize of \$1,000.

Since 1982, the Paul F. Glenn Foundation has awarded a prize in the name of Walter Nicolai for meritorious research by a graduate or medical student in the area of biomedical gerontology. To qualify, nominees must submit a 6-10-page paper along with a letter from a sponsor commenting on the significance of the work. The sponsor must be a member of a society associated with aging research. The manuscript is published in the *Journal of American Aging (AGE)*. The first prize winner receives \$1,000 and the runners-up receive \$250 to help enable them to attend the annual AGE meeting.

Annette's sponsor, Dr. Helen Vlassara, is well known for her work on aging. Her most recent work "Glucose and Aging," published in *Scientific American*, has received national attention. In commenting on Annette, Dr. Vlassara said, "She is wonderful to work

with. She is most worthy of this award."

The basis of Annette's paper stems from work originally begun by Richard Bucala, a Rockefeller University alumnus, in which glucose and other reducing sugars were shown to react nonenzymatically with DNA *in vitro* in a time- and sugar concentration-dependent manner, a mechanism similar to that observed with proteins. The nonenzymatic glycosylation of DNA *in vitro* affects both physical and biological properties of the DNA. To further study the nonenzymatic glycosylation of DNA, Annette has developed *in vitro* and *in vivo* models to monitor and analyze DNA modifications as a function of glucose 6-phosphate concentration and the potential effects DNA damage by reducing sugars may play in the biological aging process.

Profile (continued from page 1)

glucose. This suggests a positive feedback cycle in which glucose damages this nucleus, leading to more damage, leading to further damage, etc. This could explain the increase of diabetes and its secondary effects during aging, as well as the effect of caloric restriction to retard senescence.

He says that three premises guide his approach to his work: a wrong hypothesis is better than no hypothesis; explanations are invented, not discovered; things are always more complicated than they seem—but it doesn't matter.

Because he is driven by his own philosophical interests, Charles maintains that the questions which spark a specific research question are as important as the work itself. "I would vehemently disagree with the statement that there is no such thing as an uninteresting question."

After listening to Charles talk, it is obvious that one of his many talents is his ability to convey an excitement and enthusiasm about science. He is a natural speaker, teacher, and advocate. USC recognized this ability too, and gave him a teaching award. While at MIT, he also created and taught a course, "Introduction to Scientific Research, History, and Philosophy."

Charles also likes to act (he was on stage a great deal in high school and college), write science fiction (he's even published), and enjoy the great philosophical pursuit of tap dancing.

Charles is married to Zita Wenzel, an assistant professor of neuroscience and an associate director of the Scientific Computing Center at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Introducing New Students (continued from page 1)

Hui-Quan Han also enters the Ph.D. program with a degree in medicine. He received his M.D. degree from Qingdao Medical College in 1982 and went on to continue his studies at Shanghai Institute of Physiology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. In 1986, he was awarded the honor of being one of the ten excellent young scientists by the Committee of Science and Technology of Shanghai and the Society of Scientific Discipline.

To broaden his research experience in biochemistry and pharmacology, Hui-Quan has been working at the Geisinger Medical Center since July 1986. At Rockefeller, Hui-Quan plans to pursue an interest in neuroscience.

The Oxford Experience (continued from page 1)

have evolved from this exchange program. I worked with Dr. Anthony Watts in the Department of Biochemistry of Oxford University. This year, a student of his will be coming to Rockefeller to work with Dr. Ding-E Young in the Cohn Lab," notes Chuck.

Coincidentally, Dr. Watts is on a sabbatical at Harvard College this year. Chuck recently visited him and helped schedule a lecture at Rockefeller. Dr. Watts's lecture on the dynamics of membranes will take place at 11:00 A.M. on October 26 in Room 301 of the Tower Building.

Clay Reid, a fifth-year M.D.-Ph.D. student in the laboratory of Professor Bruce Knight, used the time at Oxford to gain another perspective to his research. As his work involved the physiology of the visual system, he chose to work with Dr. Kevan Martin in the David Witteridge and David Smith Laboratory at Oxford. The lab was working on the same system but using more anatomy and biophysical techniques. "The people in the lab were very friendly and helpful. It was a pleasure to work with them," said Clay.

What struck all three men about their experience was the friendly style of the labs at Oxford. "Kevan Martin is a wonderful cook," notes Clay. "He would invite people in the lab to his home for dinner."

Jeff also enjoyed the atmosphere. Every day at 4:00, he would join his colleagues for afternoon tea. "It's a pleasant ritual," states Jeff. "People would time their experiments so they could be free for afternoon tea. Everyone in the lab, from the lowly student to the senior professor would meet for tea and biscuits."

Siamon Gordon, the Rockefeller University alumnus who administered the exchange program at Oxford, was also helpful and supportive. He held a cocktail party at his home so the Rockefeller students could meet others at the University.

Jeff, Clay, and Chuck highly recommend that the program be continued and possibly expanded. They agree it may be beneficial to run the program during the school year so there would be opportunities to participate in courses and seminars.

The SRC with the support of the Dean's Office has had the University lease a 1988 Dodge Mini Van to be used by junior faculty and students. Richard Breedon, "The Vanguard" and Ph.D. student, stands in front of van loading up with M.D.-Ph.D. students on the way to a Seven Springs conference.



John Sholtis