

11-1978

## NEWS AND NOTES 1978, VOL.10, NO.2

The Rockefeller University

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news\\_and\\_notes\\_1978](http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news_and_notes_1978)

---

### Recommended Citation

The Rockefeller University, "NEWS AND NOTES 1978, VOL.10, NO.2" (1978). *News and Notes 1978*. Book 8.  
[http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news\\_and\\_notes\\_1978/8](http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news_and_notes_1978/8)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the The Rockefeller University News and Notes at Digital Commons @ RU. It has been accepted for inclusion in News and Notes 1978 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ RU. For more information, please contact [mcsweej@mail.rockefeller.edu](mailto:mcsweej@mail.rockefeller.edu).



## President Lederberg Installed

Joshua Lederberg was formally installed as president of the University on Monday afternoon, October 16. He was inducted into office by Patrick E. Haggerty, chairman of the board of trustees.

Ceremonies were held in a tent erected for the occasion on the esplanade at the north end of the campus before an audience of dignitaries from the fields of science, education, government, foundations, and industry, members of the faculty, students, trustees, and staff, and University friends and sponsors.

Dr. Lederberg is the fifth man to head this institution since its founding in 1901 as The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, and the third to serve as president since it became a graduate university in 1953.

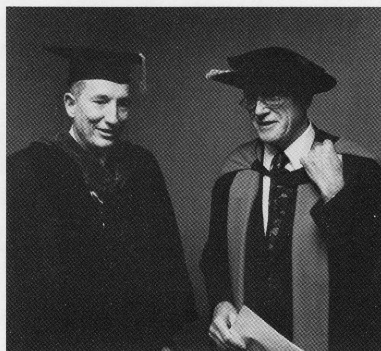
The Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, president of the University of Notre Dame, delivered the invocation as he did ten years ago at the installation of Frederick Seitz, whom Dr. Lederberg succeeded on July 1.

Mr. Haggerty began his welcoming remarks by introducing three members of the platform party, David Rockefeller, chairman of the University's board from 1950 to 1975 and currently chairman of its executive committee, Dr. William O. Baker, president of Bell Laboratories, vice chairman of the University's board and head of the search committee that selected Dr. Lederberg, and Dr. Seitz.

Greetings were then extended to Dr. Lederberg by representatives of the University and the scientific community. Professor Purnell W. Choppin spoke for the faculty and Valerie F. Reyna for the graduate fellows. Thomas B. Tomasi, Jr., chairman of the Department of Immunology and professor of medicine at the Mayo

Medical School and the Mayo Clinic—a 1965 Rockefeller graduate—presented greetings from the doctoral alumni. Joseph S. Fruton, Eugene Higgins Professor of Biochemistry at Yale University, spoke for the postdoctoral "alumni." Further greetings were expressed by Paul A. Marks, vice president for health sciences of Columbia University and director of Columbia's Cancer Research Center. *cont'd on p. 2*

*Above: Platform group: Front row, left to right: Father Hesburgh, Paul Marks, David Rockefeller, President Lederberg, Patrick Haggerty, William Baker, Frederick Seitz, Rabbi Caspary. Back row: Carl Pfaffmann, Thomas Tomasi, Purnell Choppin, Joseph Fruton, Valerie Reyna. (Not shown: Maclyn McCarty, Dr. and Mrs. Merrill Chase, Dr. and Mrs. Choppin, Dr. and Mrs. Marguerite Lederberg, and Joshua Lederberg with daughter, Anne, at the reception.)*



## Council Gets "Views" from York Avenue

October 16 was a doubly special day for members of The Rockefeller University Council, who held their fall meeting in the morning before attending the afternoon ceremonies for the installation of President Lederberg.

The theme of the meeting was "Biomedical Research—Challenges and Opportunities As Viewed from the York Avenue Institutions." It was presented by three leading citizens of York Avenue—Gerald M. Edelman, head of the University's laboratory of developmental and molecular biology, Theodore Cooper, dean of the Cornell University Medical College, and Lewis Thomas, president of the Memorial

Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and a Rockefeller trustee.

After welcoming remarks by James A. Linen III, University trustee and chairman of the Council, and President Lederberg, Dr. Edelman, a 1972 Nobel laureate who holds the title of Vincent Astor Professor, delivered the keynote lecture, titled "The Capitalism of Curiosity." Dr. Cooper spoke on "Medical Education and Biomedical Research." The topic of Dr. Thomas' talk was "The Competing Role of Basic and Applied Research on Cancer."

The Rockefeller University Council is a group of leaders in industry, public

*continued on page 3*



---

## HONORS & AWARDS

---

Dr. **William O. Baker**, vice chairman of the University's board of trustees and president of Bell Laboratories, received the J. Willard Gibbs Medal of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society at ceremonies on May 19, when he delivered an address on Chemistry and Electricity. He also received an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of Notre Dame and an honorary doctor of engineering degree from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He was the 1977 recipient of the Delmer S. Fahrney Medal of The Franklin Institute.

Professor **Fritz Lipmann** was an honored guest at the joint meeting of the Gesellschaft für Biologische Chemie and the British Biochemical Society, held in Konstanz, West Germany, September 11-13, at which the fourth Lipmann Lecture, named in his honor, was delivered by Dr. Peter Mitchell of Glynn Research Laboratories, Bodmin, England, 1978 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry.

---

## APPOINTMENTS

---

**Jay A. Trowill**, professor, department of psychology, University of Denver, as a visiting professor in the physiological psychology laboratory of Professor Neal E. Miller, effective September 1.

**Russell Church**, professor, department of psychology, Brown University, as a visiting professor in the mathematical psychology laboratory of Professor William Estes, effective September 1.

**Michael Gazzaniga**, professor, department of neurology, Cornell University Medical College, as an adjunct professor in the experimental psychology laboratory of Professor George Miller, effective July 1.

### HOLIDAY PARTY

The traditional holiday party, the first at which President Lederberg and his wife, Dr. Marguerite Lederberg, will serve as hosts, will be held on Wednesday, December 6, from 3 to 5 P.M. on the 17th floor of the Tower. All members of the University community are invited.

### LEDERBERG INSTALLED *cont'd from p. 1*

In his installation address, Dr. Lederberg stated:

"The fundamental agenda of The Rockefeller University is biomedical research of substantial breadth, in the tradition of the Institute. Medical research today must have a broader perspective than that of the biochemical laboratory. We are fortunate in a faculty of world-recognized excellence in the behavioral sciences as well as experimental biology and pathology. And we can be informed by the still different insights of physics and mathematics.

"Scientific research is one of the most enthralling games that can occupy the human mind, and those of us who can dedicate our lifework to it are privileged indeed. But the private excitement of the chase for new discovery should not obscure the enormous public stakes of the enterprise. What we learn today about the structure of DNA and of cells and how these are knit together in a functioning organism is indispensable tomorrow for what is indeed a war against pain, disease, and death. There is no fundamental reason why we cannot learn to prevent all of the major destroyers of long and happy lives that loom over every one of us today: heart disease, cancer, mental illness, birth defects, parasitic afflictions, even untimely ageing. These tragic events are not fundamental laws of matter and energy—they are side effects of a natural evolutionary process that is less incomplete than it is indifferent

to the anguish of the human consciousness as we face our own mortality."

The benediction was then delivered by Rabbi Judah Cahn of the Metropolitan Synagogue of New York.

A reception was held on the 17th floor of the Tower following the ceremonies.

---

## Paul Weiss Honored

On October 4, Professor Paul A. Weiss received the 1978 Wakeman Award, presented by Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina. He was corecipient with Professor Viktor Hamburger of Washington University, St. Louis. The Wakeman Award—a bronze plaque and a \$5,000 honorarium for each recipient—honors basic neurological research that has added to knowledge of the central nervous system in relation to the treatment of paraplegics.

Dr. Weiss, a member of the Rockefeller faculty since 1954 and recipient of three honorary university degrees in medicine, received word of the award last March, a few days short of his 80th birthday. It is the latest of many honors, garnered through a long and distinguished career, for contributions to the understanding of growth, differentiation, and regeneration in the nervous system. Among these contributions was the development during World War II of a method of sutureless splicing of severed nerves, which in turn led to the first tissue bank for surgical use.

---

## Safety

Do you know what to do—and what not to do—in case of fire? (Do not get on an elevator.) Do you know the location of the nearest fire alarm box, fire extinguisher, and fire exit? Do you know what kinds of extinguishers work on what kinds of fires? Do you know where the fire carts are located in your building? Could you find your way out of your lab or office if the lights went out and the room filled with smoke? Have you and your co-workers ever had a fire drill just for your area—a procedure that Thomas P. McGinnity, director of physical facilities, strongly urges each lab and office supervisor to institute?

A fire broke out in a University laboratory last spring. Within seconds, the heat sped along the metal ceiling strips to the other side of the room. A major blaze was averted only because the lab occupants had correctly stored and pro-

tected their materials, including flammable chemicals.

A newly revised *Fire Manual* has been distributed to every supervisor and lab head. In addition, there is a special *Hospital Fire Manual*. A more general *Safety Manual*, prepared by the University's Safety Committee and printed last year, contains information on fire, medical, and security procedures, including radiation safety. Copies of these manuals are available on request from Buildings and Grounds.

## And Security

There have been some incidents of personal property theft reported recently. The University's Security Office reminds us all again to lock up valuables. If you notice anyone suspicious, call the Security Office, extension 1111, Buildings and Grounds, extension 1515, or Mr. McGinnity's office, extension 1075.



## Vice Presidents Elected

At their October 17 meeting, the board of trustees elected Rodney W. Nichols executive vice president of the University and David J. Lyons vice president and controller.

Mr. Nichols came to Rockefeller in 1970 as a special assistant to the president and director of program planning and development. He was elected vice president in 1972. A graduate of Harvard in applied physics, he has a broad background in dealing with national and international trends in research and was a special assistant for research and technology in the office of the Secretary of Defense before coming to the University.

Mr. Lyons was appointed the University's first director of economic planning in 1970 and controller in 1971. A certified public accountant with a master's in business administration from the University of Chicago, where he was administrative assistant to the comptroller, he later served as assistant controller and then assistant director of finance at the University of Rochester.

## Second Dubos Forum

Authorities in science, medicine, and the humanities discussed the effects of energy consumption on human life and the environment at the second national conference of the René Dubos Forum, held September 24–27 in Mount Kisco, New York.

Professor Dubos served as conference chairman and delivered the opening address. Other participants included Professor Jules Hirsch, head of the University's laboratory of human behavior and metabolism; Professors James Marston Fitch and Percival Goodman of Columbia University, leading figures in architectural planning and preservation; and Alexander Leaf, chief of medical services of Harvard Medical School.

## \$100,000 Research Prizes Announced by G.M.

The establishment of three new international prizes—to be called the General Motors Cancer Research Prizes—was announced in September. Each prize consists of a gold medal and a cash award of \$100,000.

Dr. William O. Baker, president of Bell Laboratories and vice chairman of the University's board of trustees, has been named to the seven-member board of the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation, Inc. Frederick Seitz, president emeritus of Rockefeller and chairman of the board of the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, and Rockefeller Trustee Lewis Thomas, president of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, have been appointed to the Awards Assembly.

The individual awards are named in honor of Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., Charles F. Kettering, and Charles S. Mott, philanthropists who were associated with General Motors.

## Art Films

Films from the National Academy of Art in Washington, D.C., are being shown once a month in Caspary Auditorium, two showings each, at noon and 1 P.M. Still to come are: "Art in the Western World" (December 12); "The National Gallery of Art" (January 9); "A Gallery of Children" (February 13); "Leonardo: To Know How to See" (March 13); "On Loan from Russia: 41 French Masterpieces" (April 10); and "In Search of Rembrandt" (May 8).

The René Dubos Forum, inspired by Dr. Dubos' work in environmental biomedicine, was established in 1977 in cooperation with Total Education in the Total Environment, a nonprofit organization, under a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Many views from York Avenue were expressed at the Rockefeller University Council meeting and at the reception in A Lounge. Left to right, Theodore Cooper; Lewis Thomas; Council Member William C. Greenough and Father Hesburgh; Gerald Edelman with Council Member John H. Loudon; Trustee Brooke Astor; Council Member Susanna Agnelli; Laurence Rockefeller and David Rockefeller.

COUNCIL *cont'd* from p. 1

affairs, education, and the professions who assist the University in increasing public understanding of its programs and objectives. The October 16th meeting was the occasion for welcoming 12 new members. They are: Charles F. Adams, chairman, Finance Committee, Raytheon Company; Herbert A. Allen, partner, Allen & Company; Ronald E. Cape, chairman, Cetus Corporation; Edward E. David, Jr., president, Exxon Research & Engineering Co.; Michel David-Weill, Sr., partner, Lazard Frères; and John Dorrance, chairman, Campbell Soup Co.

Also: Eugene Garfield, chairman, Institute for Scientific Information; William T. Golden, director, General American Investors Corp.; Anthony J. F. O'Reilly, president, H. J. Heinz Co.; Morris M. Schrier, vice president, MCA, Inc.; Natalie Schwartz (Mrs. Daniel Schwartz), Palm Springs and San Francisco; and Clementine Tangeman (Mrs. Robert Tangeman), New York City.

Mr. Linen also announced the appointment of Frederick Seitz, president emeritus of the University, as a life member of the Council.

## Nobel to Nathans

Daniel Nathans, professor and director of the Department of Microbiology of The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, was a corecipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, announced on October 12. Dr. Nathans was a guest investigator at Rockefeller from 1959 to 1962 in the laboratory of Professor Fritz Lipmann, who this year celebrates the 25th anniversary of his Nobel Prize.



## Gasser Exhibition

An exhibition of documents, photographs, and memorabilia honoring the career of Herbert Spencer Gasser, second director of The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, is currently on view in the University's Library.

Gasser headed this institution from 1935 to 1953. In 1944, he shared a Nobel Prize with Joseph Erlanger for "discoveries concerning the functional differentiation of particular nerve fibres." Their work in the 1920s demonstrated that the elective response of a nerve has different components identified as resulting from fibres of different size and origin.

After his retirement, Gasser went back to laboratory work at Rockefeller. He died in 1963 at the age of 74.

The library exhibition includes medical school notebooks and drawings, scientific papers, and the Nobel Prize citation and medal.

A letter written by Gasser to Vannevar Bush sheds light on the man as well as the scientist. When asked to serve on a committee to work out procedures for the licensing of synthetic penicillin, he expressed his strong conviction that patents on medical discoveries must benefit the public, not individuals or corporations.

---

## PERSONALS

**Mark R. Branca**, a production editor in the Journals Office, was married on August 19 to Katherine Jo Hahn, a marketing analyst with Bowater, Inc.

**Wendy L. Stengel**, an assistant for research in the physiological psychology laboratory of Professor Carl Pfaffmann, was married on October 29 to Alan Richter, an accountant with Arthur Young and Company.

---

## BRIEFS

Professor **Merrill W. Chase**, Immunology and Hypersensitivity, was an invited speaker at the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program—13th Joint Meeting of the Tuberculosis Panel, held August 23–25 in Osaka, Japan.

---

## PROMOTIONS

**David C. Gadsby**, Cardiac Physiology, and **Lois Hood**, Mathematical Psychology, to assistant professors, effective September 1.

---

## IN PRINT

An article in the July issue of the *New York State Journal of Medicine*, "Lead Hazard among Ironworkers," reports on efforts made to monitor and control the effects of lead fumes on workers dismantling an obsolete section of the Bronx elevated subway. Among the participants in the study were members of the University's metabolism-pharmacology laboratory, Professors **Shigeru Sassa**, **Karl E. Anderson**, and Professor and Physician-in-Chief **Attallah Kappas**, who collaborated with experts from the Environmental Sciences Laboratory of Mount Sinai School of Medicine, the New York State Department of Health, and Bell Laboratories. As the report states, lead paint is an essential protection for iron and steel structures; but when heated, as in dismantling operations, the lead volatilizes, and resulting fumes pose a serious health problem. Respiratory exposure to lead is far more serious than gastrointestinal exposure, since as much as 90–95% of the metal can be absorbed into the pulmonary circulation. Continuous medical supervision, combined with checking and modification of protective equipment, was critically important in protecting the workers' health and in establishing criteria for other such operations. Lead is one of a number of potential biohazards, such as drugs and environmental chemicals, whose biological effects are under study in The Rockefeller University Hospital.

The October 1978 issue of the *Biophysical Journal* is devoted to the proceedings of a meeting on fast biochemical reactions sponsored by the Biophysical Society last April. It contains 18 research papers with discussions and 43 extended abstracts, including a paper by Professors **Gwyn Ballard** and **David Mauzerall**. The volume is also being issued as a 400-page hard-covered book under the title, *Biophysical Discussions: Fast Biochemical Reactions in Solutions, Membranes, and Cells*.

---

## Women's Association Tea

The Rockefeller University Women's Association will hold a Christmas tea on Thursday, December 14, at 2 P.M. on the 17th floor of the Tower. All Rockefeller women are cordially invited to attend and are asked to bring a small gift. These gifts are distributed each year by the Women's Association to patients at Goldwater Memorial Hospital.

## William Robbins Dies

Trustee Emeritus William J. Robbins, a distinguished plant physiologist and former director of The New York Botanical Garden, died on October 5 after a brief illness. He was 88.

A graduate of Lehigh University and a Ph.D. in botany from Cornell, he joined the University of Missouri in 1919. He was professor and chairman of the botany department, later dean of the graduate school, and served for a year as acting president. At Missouri, he began the studies that led to the demonstration that plants, like animals, require vitamins for normal growth.

He became director of the New York Botanical Garden and professor of botany at Columbia University in 1937. He held both posts until his retirement in 1957.

He was elected to the Rockefeller board in 1956 and became emeritus in 1965. He retained a laboratory here on campus, where he continued to pursue his research until his illness.

Dr. Robbins is survived by three sons and eight grandchildren. His oldest son, Frederick, is a Nobel laureate and dean of Case Western Reserve University Medical School. His son William is clinical associate professor of medicine and associate attending physician at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and The Hospital for Special Surgery and was a guest investigator at Rockefeller from 1954 to 1957. His youngest son, Daniel, is a mechanical engineer and executive of ITEK Corporation.

---

## Book Fair

The annual book fair for the benefit of the Rockefeller University Children's School will be held on November 28–30, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. in the Tower lobby. Lots of good buys and a good cause.

---

## HOLIDAY BALL

Everyone is invited to the Rockefeller University Holiday Ball, which will be held on Friday, December 8, from 8:30 P.M. to 1 A.M. on the 17th floor of the Tower. Music by the Lester Lanin Orchestra, refreshments, and an open bar. Dress is optional. Tickets are \$7.50 per person in advance at the Purchasing Office or the Faculty and Students Club or \$8.50 at the door.