

10-26-1990

## NEWS AND NOTES 1990, OCTOBER 26

The Rockefeller University

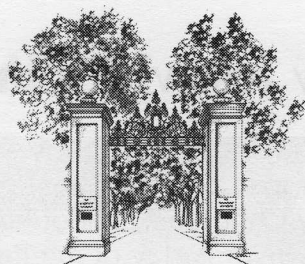
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# News & Notes

## University Senate adopts new faculty structure

The Academic Senate Wednesday voted unanimously to adopt a new academic structure in which junior faculty will head independent laboratories. The plan, embodied in the "Policies Governing Appointments and Promotions" of the university, was a revision of that announced by President David Baltimore in his installation address and presented to the Senate last month.

"I am very pleased with this new set of policies," Dr. Baltimore said. "Rockefeller University is now positioned to be very attractive to young scientists. I look forward to working with our faculty to identify the finest young scientists and bring them to this campus.

"I also want to reiterate a pledge made earlier: I will work to assure that we identify and attract women and members of minority groups to the faculty. Blacks and Hispanics, particularly, are underrepresented in biomedical science."

The new policies contain three major changes:

- Each laboratory at the university will be directed by a Head of Laboratory who may hold the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor or Professor,

- New laboratories will be established by the President upon recommendation of a search committee formed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Senate, and
- In considering candidates for Head of Laboratory, the search committees will include qualified scientists both inside and outside the university.

The new rules were written to minimize alterations of the existing policies. Therefore, the present ability of Heads of Laboratories to appoint Assistant and Associate Professors within their labs was not changed, nor were the promotion procedures. Opportunity is provided for those Assistant and Associate Professors to become Head of Laboratory through the actions of search committees.

The effect on the university of these changes will be gradual but, ultimately, far-reaching. Eventually the makeup of the Rockefeller University faculty will more closely resemble that of other major American research universities than at present. As envisioned by Dr. Baltimore,

Rockefeller University will in five years or so consist of 80 to 100 independent laboratories of varying sizes. Included will be those labs that are now headed by University Fellows, a title that will be dropped in favor of the description Head of Laboratory.

New appointments as Head of Laboratory will emphasize younger scientists at the Assistant Professor level. These appointments, as well as a smaller number at the Associate Profes-

☛ see **Senate** on page 2



*Last Friday The Rockefeller University Childrens' School held its most successful bake sale ever. Above, Charlene Simonian (left) served Fran Reeves a homemade treat. See pages 2 and 3 for details on this event and others that occurred in the Tower Building lobby on Friday.*

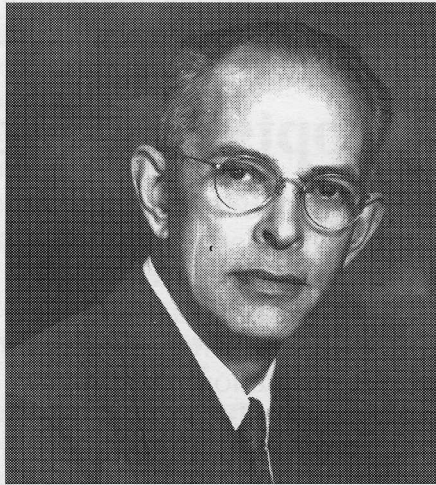
*Rockefeller researcher for 33 years dies*

## Francis Holmes pioneered plant virus research

Dr. Francis Oliver Holmes, a researcher at the Rockefeller from 1932 to 1965, died near his home in Henniker, NH, on the evening of October 12. Dr. Holmes, who was almost 91 years old, was struck and killed by a pickup truck as he tried to cross a street.

Holmes earned a Doctor of Science degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1925. In his dissertation he provided the first report of the existence of herpetomonad flagellates on milkweed plants in the U.S. He worked at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research in Yonkers for several years before joining the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

Dr. Holmes' special research interest was the mosaic virus diseases of plants. In the days



*Dr. Francis Holmes in 1953*

before the electron microscope, he created the "local lesion assay," a method for determining the relative concentration of plant-virus particles. He developed varieties of tomatoes, tobacco and sweet peppers that were resistant to mosaic virus disease, and he also devised a method for removing viruses from various types of plants.

Following retirement from the Rockefeller, Dr. Holmes taught for a year each at the University of New Hampshire and the University of Illinois, before settling in Henniker. A scientist to the end, he conducted experiments near his home on bees, willows, boron-deficient soils and gypsy moths. His 60 years of scientific research yielded 181 publications, including 49 he produced during his retirement.

Dr. Holmes became a widower in 1982; he is survived by his son, Francis Williams Holmes, his sister, Edith Holmes, and three grandchildren. ➤➤

### **Senate** *(continued from page 1)*

sor level, will be tenure-track appointments leading toward promotion to Professor, which is the university's only tenured position. Provision is contained in the new policies for collaborative labs.

The Senate also discussed possible restructuring of the legislative bodies of the university to accommodate these new policies, but deferred action.

Copies of the new policies will be available after November 1 from the office of the Director of Faculty Administration. ➤➤

## Friday festivities in

The Tower Building lobby was the site of a fundraising activity last Friday as The Rockefeller University Children's School held a day-long display of his sports memorabilia.

Sixty-seven moms and several dads of the Children's School contributed a variety of baked goods to Friday's event, which also included the sale of educational materials and violets. Educational Director Norma Adams said that more than \$1,000 was raised to help fund school projects.

Pictured above right are some of the tasty treats that were on sale; a photo of Oliver Farley discusses his frame; Norma Quintana; and below, Riccardo Casciano (right) sells one of the violets he and his wife Nina N. Casciano contributed to the event. The next sale is scheduled for November 3.

—by Patricia



## Schultz, Diwyk feat

Canadian violinist Victor Schultz will perform with pianist Christine Diwyk today's Tri-Institutional Noon Recital at Sloan House, 1233 York Avenue.

Schultz was awarded second prize in the 1989 Carnegie Hall International American Music Competition for violinists. Diwyk is a winner of the International's "Young Musicians Competition." Together today they will perform works of Corigliano, Ysaÿe, Minnelli, and Antheil. Admission is free.



## er lobby



Photos by Shari Diamond

## d at today's recital



Last Friday the Orion String Quartet (above) was featured at the Tri-Institutional Recital.

## In The News

**Nathan Bahary, Robert Blank, James E. Darnell, Jeffrey Friedman, Mary Gartner, Rudolph Leibel, Jane Pachter, Donald Siegel, and Joel Sohn** were all featured in a three-part series (November 21-23) in *New York Newsday* entitled "On the Genetic Frontier." All are members of Dr. Darnell's Laboratory of Molecular Cell Biology or Dr. Jules Hirsch's Laboratory of Human Behavior and Metabolism. They were profiled because of their research on the genes that may cause diabetes and obesity.

**Dr. Ellen Borenfreund**, adjunct faculty member in the Laboratory Animal Research Center, was featured on the television show *Brooklyn College Presents* on September 23. The program, which airs on WNYE-Channel 25 and C.U.N.Y. cable, focused on alternatives to animal testing and discussed Borenfreund's neutral red *in vitro* cytotoxicity assay, which she developed at this university.

During September and October, newspapers from coast to coast ran articles on the importance of exercise featuring Professor **Jan Breslow** commenting that "exercise increases the activity of an enzyme, lipoprotein lipase, that breaks down triglycerides in the bloodstream."

The *Star Tribune*, published in Minneapolis, ran an unusual headline on October 3: "Gustavus meeting is thrown into chaos." The Gustavus referred to is the Nobel Conference that opened at Gustavus Adolphus College on October 2; chaos was introduced by Professor **Mitchell Feigenbaum** who discussed chaos theory which, he said, "pushes you to think with more effort, and maybe we'll be able to understand more complicated things."

## Honors & Awards

**Joel E. Cohen**, Professor of Populations, will receive the "Founders' Award" from the Cranbrook Educational Community on October 27. This is Cranbrook's highest honor, awarded 40 times in the past 35 years.

President **David Baltimore** was awarded the first Cynthia and George Mitchell International Award in Biotechnology at Texas A&M University on October 21. The honor was presented at the U.S. and Asian Pacific Biotech Conference '90, and Dr. Baltimore shared the prize with Dr. K. T. Li, Senior Advisor to the President of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

## Inexpensive e-mail service offered

Computing Services has installed a Sun computer that is totally dedicated to electronic mail. Consequently, they are offering a new, very low-priced service: accounts may now be established that will allow unlimited use of electronic mail for a fixed annual fee of \$20.00 per academic year. (The fee for the remainder of this academic year is \$12.00.)

Those subscribing to this service will gain access to the "post office" machine and, of course, the "library," which is free to all. Included with the service is an allocation of disk space that is more than adequate for most needs; in the near future, other services, such as the Calendar of Events and telephone directory, will be added.

To open an account, or for information, contact Computing Services at x8925. ➡➡

## Write for News and Notes!

In recent weeks, many of you have asked about writing for *News and Notes*, but few stories have come into the Public Affairs Office. There must be a number of would-be writers out there, and doubtless there are thousands of untold stories to be written about the people and activities of the university. So what are you waiting for? Send articles and ideas to box 68 or via e-mail to *newsnotes*. Photos are also welcome. ➡➡

## Archive Center receives Rockefeller's desk

The Rockefeller Archive Center in Tarrytown houses approximately 45 million documents and does not normally collect furnishings or memorabilia.

However, recently an exception was made: when Exxon moved its headquarters from New York to Dallas in August, the center acquired the executive desk of John D. Rockefeller, Sr., which had been on display at the corporate headquarters building on Sixth Avenue for years.

"We're delighted to have the desk, which was in Rockefeller's office from 1882 to 1911," said Dr. Darwin Stapleton, director of the center. The desk's new home will be in the center's entry hall, beneath an oil portrait of its former owner. ➡➡



*The desk is now on permanent display at the Archive Center. Pictured are Vic Galea (left) of Exxon and Dr. Darwin Stapleton, director of the center. Exxon also donated the bell, which came from the famous passenger liner Mauretania, sister of the Lusitania.*

## Trying to plan your holidays?

The university is officially closed on the days listed below.

<i>Election Day</i>	Tuesday, November 6
<i>Thanksgiving</i>	Thursday and Friday, November 22, 23
<i>Christmas</i>	Monday and Tuesday, December 24, 25
<i>New Year's</i>	Tuesday, January 1



**News&Notes** is published on Fridays throughout the academic year by the Public Affairs Office of Rockefeller University. Suggestions for articles are welcome and may be sent to Box 68, or call 570-8967. Articles may also be submitted via electronic mail to *newsnotes*. The deadline for each Friday's issue is the preceding Monday at 5:00 p.m. The Rockefeller University is an equal opportunity employer and has an affirmative action program to increase the employment of women and members of protected groups at all job levels. Editor: Robert Brown. Designer: Patricia Sadiq.