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The Rockefeller University

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## RU names chief information officer

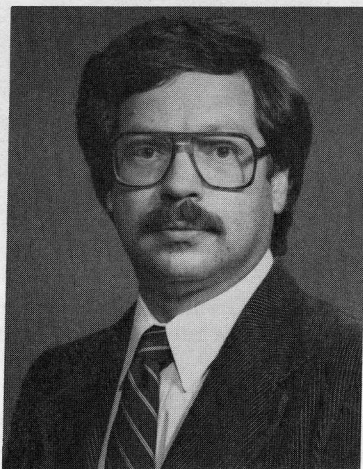
A biological anthropologist who first learned about computers to pursue his own research will be the new director of information and computing services at The Rockefeller University. Francis "Frank" Lees will assume his new position this summer.

"We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Frank Lees as the university's new chief information officer," said Fred Bohen, executive vice president and chief operating officer. "He has a broad grasp of the technical aspects of computing technology and demonstrated competence and accomplishments as a leader, planner, and manager of information services. He is committed to making the most up-to-date technology accessible to everyone on campus."

Jules Hirsch, physician-in-chief of The Rockefeller University Hospital and a member of the search committee, added: "Frank Lees will help investigators at Rockefeller perform cutting-edge work. Knowledgeable and outgoing, he will be responsive to the institution's unique information and technology needs."

Lees comes to Rockefeller from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, where—in addition to being associate professor of bioanthropology—he has held top administrative positions, most recently, associate vice president for information systems and technology. In this position, he managed the university libraries, computing center, office automation unit, and the educational communications center.

"I began using computers to process data for my research on population genetics and human morphology in the mid-1970s," Lees said. "Because I was visible on campus as a faculty member who knew a lot about computers, I was



Francis "Frank" Lees

asked to administer this area for a few years. I was asked to stay on, then to organize a new unit. What began as two years in administration turned into ten. But I enjoyed every minute of it.

"I am very excited about coming to Rockefeller because it gives me the opportunity to concentrate on what I believe is the most interesting aspect of computers—how they can be used in research," he continued. "I am looking forward to the challenge of heading an effort to streamline Rockefeller's computing services and to advance its offerings to faculty."

Lees is interested in meeting those in Rockefeller's research community to find out what technology is here, and what is still needed. "It will take a lot of understanding, cooperation and resources, but I hope to develop the research technology which will enable Rockefeller to retain its

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## Budget for compensation to rise 5% 4% earmarked for salaries, 1% for health care

Beginning July 1, the university's budget for compensation of faculty and staff will increase five percent—four percent for wages and one percent for health insurance—President Torsten Wiesel announced recently. Individual increases in salary will depend on employees' income and their status as faculty or staff.

"During the last year, the university's finances have stabilized and gradually strengthened," said Wiesel. "We have made progress, but money for operations, including salaries, remains very tight."

Fred Bohen, executive vice president and chief operating officer, said: "Given the recession and the adjustments in compensation, or lack thereof, at comparable institutions, we believe the university is offering a reasonable package to its faculty and staff. Of course, we would like to do better, but can't this year. We've reduced the university's annual deficit from \$15.8 million one year ago to \$8.6 million in the current year, but we still have a long way to go."

Individuals whose performance has been satisfactory will receive the following salary increases:

- Staff earning \$35,000 per year or less: 4.75 percent;
- Staff earning \$35,001 to \$60,000 per year: 4 percent;
- Staff earning above \$60,000 per year: 2 to 4 percent, averaging 3 percent, as determined by the president and executive vice president;
- Tenured faculty and lab heads: an average of 4 percent, as determined by the president;
- Non-tenured faculty, post-docs,

and research associates: 4 to 6 percent, as recommended by research supervisors and approved by the president.

"I'm happy to say income gradients were used for the first time this year, in recognition of the fact that last year's wage freeze was the heaviest burden for those least well paid," said Virginia Huffman, director of Personnel. "Because resources are limited this year, the salary increases simply offset the cost of living. That's why we have not given most supervisors freedom to use salary increases to reward merit. Next year, we hope to be able to return to a system where merit is taken into account."

Huffman underlined the fact that health benefits are part of Rockefeller's compensation package. "Rockefeller offers one of the most comprehensive and generous programs of health insurance available, one which requires minimal contributions by employees," she said. "To maintain these benefits at the current level will cost the university an additional \$450,000 in 1992-93. Both here and elsewhere, health insurance costs have increased three to four times the rate of inflation—but we are maintaining the same options which provide the same excellent coverage. We are covering the increased costs of that commitment."

The salary increases planned for fiscal year 1992-93 will add more than \$2 million to the university's operating budget.

For further information about the increase in compensation, contact Huffman, x8300.

## Head of FDA holds meeting with RU scientists

David A. Kessler, commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and his newly appointed senior advisor for science, Elkan R. Blout were the guests of honor at a working dinner hosted by President Torsten Wiesel Wednesday. The dinner, attended by Chairman of the Board Richard Furlaud, Eliot Lazar, FDA advisor and cardiologist, and about 25 Rockefeller University



David Kessler, commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, (left) chats with President Torsten Wiesel Wednesday evening.

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cycles competitively

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biomedical students

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## Campus computer consultant cycles competitively

By Olivia Gushin

"For someone who lives in New York, I do pretty well. I never have to take public transportation—I just ride my bike everywhere," says Stephen Grenholm, assistant for User Services in Computer Services. Grenholm's idea of "pretty well" goes far beyond most people's—about 100 miles farther.

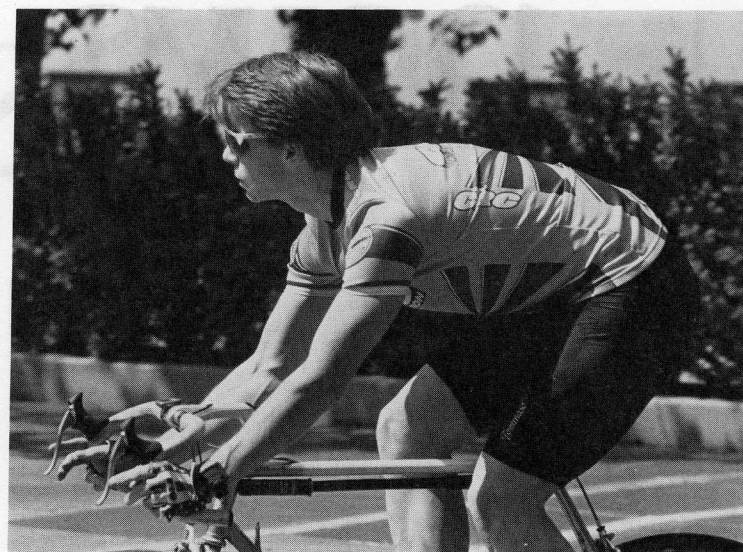
Grenholm started bike riding in his 20s "just to get around" while working as a professional violinist. He discovered he liked going fast and passing other cyclists, so he bought a racing bike and joined the Century Road Club, a cyclists' organization founded in 1899. In addition to racing in the road club's events, he now serves as the editor of its monthly newsletter.

Although Grenholm came to racing relatively late, age is not an important factor in the sport.

"Cycling keeps participants in incredible physical shape," Grenholm says. "It is not intrinsically damaging, as some sports are. Done correctly, cycling just makes you get stronger and train better."

To train for the 50- to 70-mile races, Grenholm occasionally bikes long distances and does weekly, intense sprints up hills he describes as "hellish," trying to get his heart rate up to 190 beats per minute. There is a particularly nasty hill on the Henry Hudson Drive which he uses for training.

In the winter, Grenholm cycles when weather permits, or goes to The Rockefeller University gym and "cranks up the exercise bike to its limits." His winter training prepared him for a New Year's race from New York City to Bear Mountain and back. In the sub-freezing weather Grenholm did better than he anticipated, completing the course in 4 hours



Stephen Grenholm, assistant for User Services in Computer Services, trains intensely throughout the year.

and 45 minutes.

Racing reminds Grenholm of performing music. "There is so much happening, you have to be incredibly alert," he says. "Riding at 30 miles per hour, with many other racers, you are constantly looking

out for elements that could help you strategically."

One of the many things Grenholm likes about bicycle racing is how straightforward it is. "It's black and white," he says. "Either you win, or you don't."

## Head of FDA holds meeting with Rockefeller scientists

(continued from page 1)

scientists and senior administrators, took place around one large table in the Abby dining hall, where conversation flowed freely and informally.

Blout, professor and director emeritus at the Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health, said his mandate as senior science advisor to the FDA

was to help Kessler reach out to the academic community and to bring its expertise to bear on FDA issues. "Our ultimate goal is to make science the basis of every decision the FDA makes," Blout explained. The FDA is enlisting the advice of industry as well as academia, forming a science board of eight to ten top scientists.

Kessler emphasized that, contrary to some perceptions, the FDA does not test, manufacture, or research: "We review applications," he said. However, according to Kessler, the AIDS epidemic has taught the FDA that "we can't sit back and wait for applications to come in. The agency must become involved in the process much earlier." After the thalidomide incident 30 years ago, the FDA's efforts had focused on

keeping unsafe drugs off the market. Now, impelled by the AIDS epidemic, the focus has shifted to early approval of promising drugs. Nevertheless, Kessler cautioned, "the post-thalidomide thinking does not shift overnight. Everything we do is a balancing act."

In a lively and spirited exchange, Rockefeller scientists debated a host of issues with Kessler and Blout, including AIDS, TB, orphan drugs, biotechnology, the role of research within and outside the FDA, measuring effectiveness, medical devices, breast implants, and the use of drug labels.

Wiesel thanked Kessler and Blout and called the dinner a success. Kessler invited Rockefeller scientists to contact them at the FDA with opinions and recommendations.

## Chief information officer named

(continued from page 1)

unique standing as a preeminent biomedical research institution—through this century and into the next."

Lees earned an A.B. in anthropology from the University of Illinois (1968), an M. Phil. (1974) and Ph.D. (1975) in anthropology from the University of Kansas. He went to SUNY Albany in 1975.

Lees is married to a cultural anthropologist, Fran Mascia-Lees, who currently teaches at Simms Rock College in Western Massachusetts. They have two children.

## One flew over the falcon's nest

Mika Ono



One of the fledgling falcons that lives on the roof of The New York Hospital visited Smith Hall on Monday.

## Looking forward to the next holiday?

Those planning a trip to the beach or their next trip to the slopes may be interested in this list of holidays for fiscal year 1992-93:

Independence Day: Fri., July 3

Labor Day: Mon., Sept. 7

Columbus Day: Mon., Oct. 12

Thanksgiving: Thurs., Nov. 26 and Fri., Nov. 27

Christmas: Wed., Dec. 23, Thurs., Dec. 24, and Fri., Dec. 25

New Year's Day: Fri., Jan. 1

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Mon., Jan. 18

Washington's Birthday: Mon., Feb. 15

Memorial Day: Mon., May 31

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## Book shelf

# Hospital researchers publish text on rare inherited disease

Assistant Professor Andrew Lin and Professor and Senior Physician Professor D. Martin Carter have published a comprehensive text on the inherited disorder epidermolysis bullosa (EB), *Epidermolysis Bullosa: Basic and Clinical Aspects* (Springer-Verlag, 1992). In this text, Lin, Carter, and other physicians present up-to-date information on the genetics, pathology, and management of the disease. The text has already been cited in an article in *Science* (May 8).

EB is a group of inherited disorders which make the skin abnormally fragile. From 1986 to 1991, The Rockefeller University Hospital was the coordinating

center of the National EB Registry, which is now in its second five-year phase of operation. The other centers are Stanford University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of Washington. Supported by The National Institutes of Health, the registry strives to collect clinical data concerning the diagnosis, treatment, and epidemiology of all American EB patients.

"Because EB is a rare disease, few clinicians are familiar with it, and many recoil at the prospect of caring for individuals covered with blisters caused by a disease they know little about," Lin and Carter write in their preface. "For patients,

insult is thus added to injury and they feel abandoned, neglected, and frustrated. One way to remedy this deplorable situation is to provide clinicians with a compact source of information detailing the principles of EB diagnosis and treatment. This text seeks to fulfill this role."

The book begins with a chapter on current perspectives and differential diagnosis in EB, then goes on to cover the basic science aspects of the disease, a clinical overview, extracutaneous manifestations and their management, and other special management considerations.

"Because skin blisters are the initial manifestation of

epidermolysis bullosa (EB), patients invariably present to the dermatologist for diagnosis and treatment," Lin and Carter write. "However, EB is a systemic disease whose management requires input from clinicians in virtually all fields of medicine, including pediatricians, surgeons, dentists, gastroenterologists, hematologists, otorhinolaryngologists, dietitians, and physical therapists, to name a few."

A reception for those who wrote chapters in *Epidermolysis Bullosa* and who live in the New York area was held in the Faculty and Students Club at The Rockefeller University June 4.

## Book by RU manager addresses controversy over suicide, assisted suicide

Doron Weber, manager of Public Affairs at The Rockefeller University, has published a book with physician Judith Ahronheim addressing the controversy surrounding suicide and assisted suicide by terminally ill patients. The book is entitled *Final Passages: Positive Choices for the Dying and their Loved Ones* (Simon & Schuster, 1992). Weber came up with the idea for *Final Passages* after writing a reference work on living wills for his previous employer, the Society for the Right to Die.

*Final Passages* argues that the media's extensive coverage of suicide by terminally ill patients, most notably of Derek Humphry's do-it-yourself suicide manual, *Final Exit*, and Jack Kevorkian's home-made suicide machine, has helped blur the distinction between aging and death, which are inevitable, and suicide and hopelessness, which are not.

"As with any crisis, when people are frightened and ill-informed they may seek quick or simplistic solutions," Weber and Ahronheim state in the book. "There has been a disproportionate amount of publicity surrounding a few unusual and extreme cases of suicide and assisted suicide. These cases are compelling and demand our attention but they point to the problem rather than the solution."

"Whether suicide, with or without the help of a physician, is ever a rational choice and an acceptable medical option is a matter of intense and continuing debate," the authors—who themselves disagree on this issue—continue. "But one thing we believe, and almost every medical and lay expert in this field can agree

on, is that most people who turn to suicide are not fully informed and have not adequately explored other medical options that could give them new hope for going on with their lives."

Drawing on their professional experience, as well as on interviews with physicians, lawyers, and medical ethicists, Weber and Ahronheim explore the questions and alternatives faced by the dying, including:

- Communicating with doctors;

- Effective pain control;
- How to recognize and treat clinical depression;
- Dying a natural death;
- Hospice and comfort care;
- How to safeguard legal rights with living wills and durable powers of attorney for health care;
- Financial planning for health care;
- Dealing with the emotional pain of death.

*Final Passages* was written as an antidote to the sense of helplessness

and confusion experienced by those facing the end of life. The authors say: "We believe that greater knowledge about illness and death, and about the wide range of options and resources available to us, can restore a measure of balance and hopefulness to what is, after all, part of all our lives."

*Final Passages* was recently featured on NBC's "Today" show. Several radio and television interviews are also scheduled across the country.

## Corners



The profusion of foliage in front of Bronx lab softens its geometrical lines.



## Recital features biomedical students

By Olivia Gushin

Many applicants to the M.D.-Ph.D. program come to their interviews with questions about labs, resources, and other scientific issues. Chris Min, who plays the violin, wanted to know about music. Luckily, he was scheduled for lunch with Barbara Kazmierczak, another student in the M.D.-Ph.D. program who plays the piano. She was able to answer many of his questions. The Tri-Institutional Noon Recital today—featuring pieces by Brahms, Prokofiev, Albéniz, and Debussy—is the product of this musical friendship.

Min began to play the violin when he was 10, in Houston, Texas. After moving to Des Moines, Iowa, he became concertmaster of the Des Moines Youth Symphony. Min later attended Harvard University, which does not have a performance department. However, this didn't prevent him from having a full musical life. In addition to taking

classes in chamber music performance, Min managed the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra, eventually coordinating a tour of Asia.

Kazmierczak won many music competitions in high school, and made her debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at age 15. Nonetheless, she realized it would be difficult to make a living as a musician and went to the University of Chicago to study biochemistry. Despite the demands of her scientific studies, Kazmierczak continued to play the piano avidly. In addition to giving several recitals, she appeared as a soloist with the University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra, performing Rachmaninoff's *Variations on a Theme by Paganini*. When she graduated in 1986 with both B.A. and M.S. degrees in biochemistry, she received the university's Sudler Prize in the Performing and Creative Arts.

Min, now a third-year biomedical fellow in the Sakmar lab, and



Barbara Kazmierczak and Chris Min, M.D.-Ph.D. students, will perform at Tri-Institutional Noon Recital today (June 5).

Kazmierczak, a sixth-year biomedical fellow in the Zinder-Model lab, try to practice together once a week, but they admit this is a difficult schedule to maintain. Both try to practice daily on their own, although Min finds that his practicing disturbs his roommates. Listeners are surprised, he notes, at the noise a violin can produce. Kazmierczak remarks that hearing

someone practice is like "listening to a vacuum cleaner."

One melodious result of all this practice is that the two musicians are well prepared to give a command performance at today's Tri-Institutional Noon Recital. The concert will be held in Rockefeller University's Caspary Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the Tri-Institutional community.

## Potpourri

### Barbecue

The Faculty and Students Club will host a barbecue today (June 5) at 5:30 P.M. Tickets are available at the door for \$10. The rain date is June 12.

### Lunchtime film series

*Mystery of the Master Builders*, Coronet Films (1988) will be shown Wed., June 10, at noon, in Tower 305. This film employs techniques in structural analysis to reevaluate the architectural achievements of ancient and modern buildings. The film sheds light on how the ancient world's architectural wonders were constructed, explores to what degree the styles of ancient buildings were a quest for beauty, and questions whether the lessons of these buildings have been learned by modern architects. Admission is free and all are welcome. Viewers may bring their lunch.

### RockMUG meeting

The Rockefeller University Macintosh Users Group will hold its next meeting Wed., June 10, from 11:30 A.M. to 12:45 P.M., in Flexner Extension 363. The programs "Endnote" and "Endlink" will be demonstrated and discussed. "Endnote" is a program for keeping track of references, inserting them into manuscripts and creating formatted bibliographies. "Endlink" enables users to import information from other databases and reference

programs into "Endnote." Everyone is invited to the meeting. Participants should bring lunch; soft drinks will be provided. Those who would like to help plan future meetings or want to be added to the RockMUG mailing list should contact Rachael Kolb or Anthony Popowicz, x8925, or send e-mail to login *rachael* or *tony*.

### Children's orchestra concert

The 23rd annual Children's Orchestra Society Concert will be held in Caspary Auditorium, Sun., June 14, at 4:30 P.M. For more information, contact Yeou-Cheng Ma or Michael Dadap, 718-939-7024.

### Departures

Visiting Professor: Mitsuaki Moriguchi, Manning lab.

Visiting Assistant Professor:

Minoru Horie, Gadsby lab.

Postdoctoral Associates: Sandhya Duggan, Agosta lab; James Pfau, Pfaff lab.

### Lectures in Japan


President Torsten Wiesel will speak on "Dynamic Aspects of Visual Cortical Function" at the Okazaki National Research Institute in Japan, June 11. He will speak on "Brain Mechanisms of Vision" at the Hamamatsu Mitetsu Hotel in Japan, June 12.

### Flexible spending accounts

Employees who wish to take advantage of flexible spending account tax savings in 1992 must return enrollment forms to Personnel by June 12. Participants should specify the amount to be deducted from their salaries for the health care spending account (up to

ノーベル賞受賞の  
T. N. ウィーゼル ロックフェラー大学学長  
浜松にて講演

1981年度のノーベル生理学・医学賞受賞  
ロックフェラー大学学長  
Torsten N. Wiesel 博士



↑講演日 6月12日(金)  
↑時間 午後4時~6時  
↑場所 浜松名鉄ホテル(〒430 浜松市浜名区有馬町)  
↑テーマ 「視覚を司る脳の働き」  
—— 一般の方にも分かりやすく視覚生理についてお話をします。  
—— 視覚は、視覚野を通じて視覚される視覚の生々、及神経です。

↑聴講料 無料

Part of the program for one of President Torsten Wiesel's upcoming lectures.

\$1,500) and the dependent expense account (up to \$2,500).

Payroll deductions toward medical and dental insurance plans will be put on the flexible spending plan automatically for all employees, so that contributions will be made in pre-tax dollars. Those who wish to prevent this change must inform Personnel in writing by June 12. For more information, contact Darryl Williams, x8297.

## RU research assistant (1917-1992)

Eleanor Mathusek, a research assistant in the Hirsch lab since 1985, died May 30 after a brief illness with lung cancer. She began working as a temporary helper in the laboratory of Edward H. Ahrens, Jr. in 1954 and liked it so much that she remained

there until Ahrens retired in 1985. Mathusek left behind a devoted family and many friends in the Rockefeller community. Contributions in her memory can be made to: Calvary Hospital, 1740 Eastchester Road, Bronx, New York 10461.

## Classified

A one bedroom apartment, at 71st St. and First Ave., is available for rent. It has a dishwasher, central air-conditioning, and a 24-hour doorman. Rent is \$1365. A lease is available from July 1, 1992, to Aug. 31, 1993. Call 861-9033 for more information.