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news & notes

December 4, 1992 Volume 3, Number 12

The Rockefeller University

Science Outreach Program gets its message out

The people behind Rockefeller University's Science Outreach Program are getting out and spreading the word. Last month Bonnie Kaiser, director of the program, and five high school teachers spoke about the program's mission at a nationwide convention of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). It was the first time they brought their message about the program to a broader audience.

Their presentation emphasized that graduate research institutions such as Rockefeller can play a key role in vitalizing science education in middle and high schools.

"The Science Outreach Program benefits both the high school teachers and the university," Kaiser said to the audience. "Teachers learn about research from the lab. Members of the lab learn mentoring and teaching methods from the teachers. It is good all around."

The teachers on the panel—Ann Foley, Timothy Hearn, Richard Lee, Donna Light, and Vanessa

Stevens—described their diverse research projects at Rockefeller and recounted how their experiences in the lab have helped them be more effective in the classroom.

Foley said that her work in the DiNardo lab showed her that researchers draw from many scientific disciplines to solve a problem; she has consequently de-emphasized separate disciplines in her teaching and moved toward a more integrated approach. Lee commented that his experience at Rockefeller has helped him critique his Westinghouse students' research papers; after his work in the Greengard lab, it has become easier for him to spot what the essential question of his students' research is and what experiments his students could do next.

After the panel discussion, one member of the audience expressed an interest in setting up a similar program at another university. Another asked about sending students to Rockefeller labs next summer.

Presentations help explain benefits

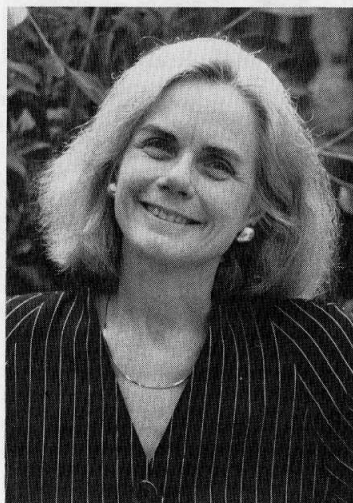
The Personnel Office sponsored a benefits fair yesterday (Dec. 3) in Tower lobby to inform employees about the full range of benefits the university offers. Representatives from each of Rockefeller University's benefits carriers attended the fair, explained their programs, and gave out literature.

The fair was timed to coincide with "open enrollment," the period when employees can switch among the university's health insurance plans. This year, employees can change their plans from Dec. 1 to

18. Changes will be effective Jan. 1, 1993.

"Open enrollment used to be in April," said Benefits Manager Darryl Williams, "because some of the health plans ended mid-year. We've decided to coordinate the different plans by having them all end with the calendar year."

For further information about changing health plans, contact Ginny Hansen, x8299, or Williams, x8297.



Bonnie Kaiser, director of the Science Outreach Program, spoke about the program at a national conference of science teachers.

Professor David Baltimore also participated in the NSTA event, kicking off the conference with a keynote lecture, "Confronting AIDS." Several hundred people packed the hall to hear his comments on the disease. Baltimore will be speaking on a similar topic at this year's Mirsky Christmas Lectures for high school students, to be held in Caspary Auditorium Dec. 28 and 29 (look for coverage in an upcoming issue of *News&Notes*).

In addition, as part of the conference, Professor Emeritus Christian de Duve, who won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1974, participated in an event that brought Nobel laureates together with NSTA teachers.

RU artists show their creativity

Four members of the Rockefeller community are demonstrating their flair for art around the corner at the Second Annual Medical Complex Art Show at the Cornell University Medical Library.

Irwin Gittleman, who volunteers at The Rockefeller University Hospital, contributed a collage entitled "Madonna and Child, 1992." The provocative work features the pop star Madonna—disrobed—and a folk art reproduction of a young child, with a blissful expression on his face (photo on page 2).

"The Madonna and child have been a powerful icon since the Middle Ages," said Gittleman who volunteers at several museums in addition to the Hospital. "I mean no irreverence; the play on Madonna's name was simply too tempting to pass up." Gittleman submitted a similar collage last year. "It also had Madonna in it," he said, "but she looked different for that one: she had clothes on."

Steve Cohen, a graduate fellow in the Chait lab has two photographs exhibited in the show. The first—in black and white—is a peaceful view of the New York City skyline at dawn. The second—in color—is a glimpse of a father and daughter standing before a moving Ferris wheel at Coney Island. The show's curators selected Cohen's photographs to illustrate an article about the exhibit to appear in the next issue of *The New Physician Magazine*.

Also from Rockefeller is a photograph of the 59th Street Bridge at night, entitled "Scintillate," by Tom Gorrell, guest investigator in the Müller lab, and an oil painting, entitled "City Tug," by former employee Dorothy Meyer.

Fifty-seven professional and amateur artists from the area's four major biomedical facilities have pieces on display in this year's show. Their works appear in a variety of forms, including boat models, wood carvings, paper masks, ceramics, water-colors, collages, photographs, and oil paintings. This year, the show features



Steve Cohen, student in the Chait lab, has two photographs exhibited around the corner at the Second Annual Medical Complex Art Show at the Cornell University Medical Library.

2 University staff to manage residences

3 Protein facility aids researchers

4 Dance ushers in holiday season

See *Art*, page 2

University's own staff to manage residences

The Rockefeller University's residential properties will be managed by the university's own offices come the new year, announced Executive Vice President Fred Bohen yesterday (Dec. 3). William "Bill" Howe has been appointed as the new director of university housing.

The change is the result of a recent study which reviewed the services provided by Phipps Houses Services, Inc., the outside organization that currently manages the properties. The study concluded

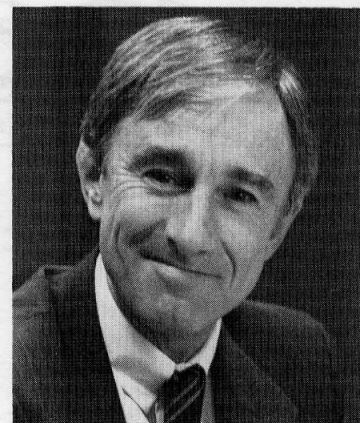
that it would be more cost effective for university staff to manage the properties.

"I am confident that Bill Howe will bring leadership and administrative direction to the university's housing operations and services," Bohen said. "He has worked closely with me for nearly a decade both at Brown and at Rockefeller. At Rockefeller, he has handled a wide-range of financial and service challenges since February of this year."

Working closely with Phipps,

Howe has already assumed responsibility for effecting an orderly transition of housing operations. He will lead a university team that includes housing coordinator JoAnn Greene and building superintendents Cliff Norton, Otto Marton, and Henry Bonet.

Beginning next Mon., Dec. 7, the offices of the Rockefeller housing staff will be located on the third floor of Scholar's Residence. Questions and concerns can be directed to Howe or Greene, x8500.



"Bill" Howe is now director of university housing.



Lessie "Leslie" Stone came back to work at Rockefeller 25 years after leaving to start a family.

Employee returns to Rockefeller after 25-year absence

By Jennifer Horne King

Some employees leave Rockefeller and never come back. Others, like homing pigeons, leave the university and can't stay away. Lessie "Leslie" Stone of the Luck lab waited 25 years before coming back.

Stone worked at Rockefeller from 1953 to 1955, first as a server in the Faculty Dining Room in Welch Hall, and then as a server in the Nurses' Dining Room in the Hospital. Twenty-five years and three children later, Stone returned to work as a lab assistant for the Luck lab.

"Both times," says Stone, "I came to Rockefeller without intending to get hired. I simply

visited my cousin Ann Dupree, who retired last year after 37 years at Rockefeller, and then one thing 'led to another!'"

The first time Stone was hired, she had come from Georgia as a 25 year old on her first visit to New York City. That day, a staff member from the Faculty Dining Room—where Dupree worked—called in sick. Stone volunteered to help out, and that afternoon was offered a full-time position which she readily accepted. "It wasn't just the higher salary," says Stone, who was earning \$12 a week at the time. "Things were different in New York: the people were friendlier, and I could sit anywhere I wanted to on the bus."

Stone recalls the 1950s at Rockefeller, "I remember we changed uniforms all the time: a pink one for the daytime meals, a pretty black one with a white apron and lace cap for the evening meals. I was so scared when I started out. I was sure I'd spill something on one of the doctors. Fortunately, I never did."

Stone also remembers a rule about visitors: "Because I lived in a Hospital room at the time, my male visitors could only come as far as the front parlor room on the ground floor."

Stone left Rockefeller in 1955 to marry a man she met at Rockefeller. During the 25 years that followed, Stone had three children and held a number of positions including nurse's aid and home assistant to senior citizens.

When Stone returned to Rockefeller in 1980 to have lunch with Dupree, she was thinking about finding a job, but not at the university. "It just so happened that during my visit, Ann and I bumped into Lila Magie of Personnel, who had hired me the first time around. She asked, 'when

are we going to see you again, Leslie?', and I said, joshing, 'just as soon as you find me a job!'"

"Less than a week later, Ms. Magie called me up and said: 'I have something for you Leslie, but it's not in housekeeping this time, it's in a lab.' I remember thinking, 'Oooh, it's going to be so hard,' but Ms. Magie had told me it would be like cooking up recipes, and she was right. Sure enough, I mix, measure and weigh!"

Today, after 12 years in the Luck lab, she can look back and laugh. "I'll never forget the first time I looked into a microscope," she says. "There were all these things swimming and gliding around. I remember thinking: 'They're alive, my cells are alive!'"

This year, Stone became a great-grandmother. "This doesn't mean that I'm ready to stay home," warns Stone with a twinkle in her eye. "Far from it. I'm not going to retire easily so long as I'm healthy, and right now, I couldn't be better!"

Art show exhibits works from RU

(continued from page 1)

its first hologram: a life-size human brain held in the hand of the artist and neurosurgeon Kathryn Ko of The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical College. It is called "Bring Us to Understanding."

"These people are physicians, office employees, graduate students, and research scientists only part of the time," said Helen-Ann Brown, head of Cornell Medical Library relations and one of four curators of the show. "Look at what they produce the rest of the time!"

Brown, who helped to select the artwork in the exhibit, hopes the show will become a yearly tradition. "It's wonderful outreach to our neighbors and to the community," she says, "and it's a labor of love for me."

Located in the C.V. Starr Biomedical Information Center, at 1300 York Avenue (at 69th St.), the show will run through Jan. 31. Many of the pieces in the show are for sale.



Irwin Gittleman, who volunteers at The Rockefeller University Hospital, contributed a collage entitled "Madonna and Child, 1992" to the Medical Complex Art Show.

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Left: Joe Fernandez (left), Lori Andrews, and Jim Hall review protein sequencing data at the university's Protein Sequencing/Biopolymer Facility. **Right:** Susan Powell (back) runs one of the facility's two oligonucleotide synthesizers, while Ynolde Andrews records data.

Protein Sequencing Facility helps biologists chase proteins

by Susan Blum

"Twenty years ago, most biological researchers knew protein chemistry. Now, many know molecular biology, instead. That's why we play a very big role," says Sheenah Mische, director of The Rockefeller University's Protein Sequencing/Biopolymer Facility.

The facility helps biologists do what they have always done—chase proteins, the cellular building blocks that shore up a cell's structure, catalyze its biochemical reactions, and control which substances enter and leave. The insights of molecular biology now make it possible to conduct this pursuit using two different "languages." Investigators can study the proteins, which are long strings of amino acids linked together in a linear chain. Alternatively, they can study the chains of nucleotides that code for the protein (DNA) or serve as an intermediary in the protein's production (RNA). Knowledge gained in one language can be "translated" into another to serve the ultimate goal of understanding a protein's structure and function.

The Protein Sequencing/Biopolymer Facility exploits both languages to help researchers in their pursuit of proteins. Located

on the fifth floor of Smith Hall, the core facility serves more than 100 Rockefeller researchers, as well as investigators from other institutions. It is, says Mische, "a concentration of extremely expensive equipment and extremely knowledgeable people dedicated to helping investigators conduct their research."

Protein sequencing and microchemistry

To understand a protein, it is necessary to know the sequence of its constituent amino acids. Sequencing a protein used to be a complicated, time-consuming process that employed a series of enzymatic degradations yielding overlapping "maps" to complete the sequence of the entire protein.

Today, it is possible to sequence as few as three peptides (short protein fragments) derived from the intact protein and then to translate them back into their original DNA code. The resulting DNA probes can then be used to fish out the gene that codes for the whole protein. Using the tools of molecular biology, the gene can be reproduced, its entire sequence read, and the protein's complete amino acid sequence deduced from it.

Nowadays, therefore, the toughest part of protein sequencing is get-

ting enough of it to work with, since many of the proteins of greatest interest are very scarce in the cell. Using special microchemistry techniques developed at the facility, staffers can isolate minute amounts of peptides which can be sequenced using instruments maintained to ensure maximum sensitivity. So powerful are the pioneering techniques that investigators from as far away as England, France, Greece, Russia, and India have used the facility's services.

Oligonucleotide synthesis

The DNA probes needed for protein sequencing are made at the facility. But protein sequencing is not the only reason the facility makes synthetic "oligos," as they are known. These short sequences of DNA are also used as primers for the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), a procedure that quickly makes billions of copies of DNA molecules. Other uses of oligos include probing for DNA/RNA or DNA/protein interactions.

The facility can modify oligos to suit particular research requirements. For instance, the oligos can be biotinylated to enhance their sensitivity, or chemically phosphorylated to save researchers time.

Peptide synthesis

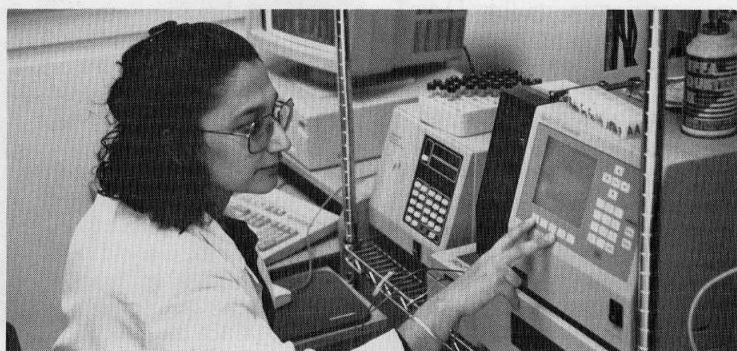
Researchers may ask the facility to make a synthetic peptide for any number of reasons. They may use it to evoke specific antibodies that can locate a protein in the cell, to serve as a substrate for an enzymatic reaction, or to compete with another protein under study. Investigators may also order up a number of peptides that differ at only one or a few amino acids, as a way of assessing the effect of mutations in the gene that naturally codes for the protein.

Like synthetic oligos, synthetic peptides can be modified for a researcher's needs. Modifications include phosphorylation and biotinylation.

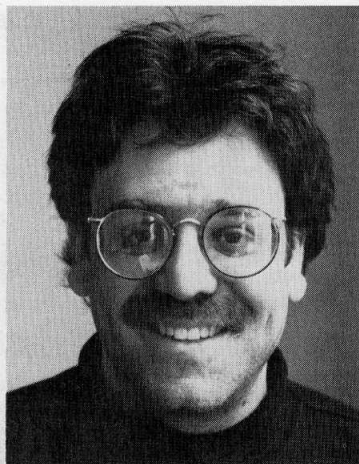
Amino acid analysis

Amino acid analysis breaks a protein down into its component amino acids and quantifies each one. Such a tally gives information about the nature of a protein, such as whether it is acidic or basic, or whether it contains an unusually high number of certain amino acids.

Staffers at the facility can also analyze amino acids for sugars, and tell whether the amino acids have unusual modifications such as methyl or phosphate groups. All these analyses provide clues to the protein's possible function.



Left: Jeff Mathers cleaves a peptide off the resin on which it was synthesized. **Right:** Farzin Gharahdaghi analyzes a protein's amino acids. Renata Lee, not shown here, also performs amino acid analysis at the facility.



Leon Maleson, professional bassist who works in Faculty Administration, will be one of the musicians playing at this year's Holiday Dinner Dance.

Dinner dance ushers in holiday season with style

All members of The Rockefeller University are invited to celebrate the holiday season at the university's Holiday Dinner Dance on Fri., Dec. 11 at 8 P.M. in Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall.

This year's dinner dance offers a buffet dinner of roast prime rib or poached salmon, saffron rice or potatoes, carrots, green beans almondine, and dessert, as well as an open bar. The event also features music by "The Gotham Sultans" who will play swing, motown, rock-and-roll, jazz, and Latin dance music. Leon Maleson, professional bassist and database coordinator in Faculty Administration, will play in the band.

"This will be the first year the dinner dance is held in Abby

Aldrich," said Virginia Huffman, director of Personnel and one of the event's organizers. "It's a warm and intimate setting and the whole affair promises to be very elegant. Because Leon is involved, I'm sure the music will be wonderful, too."

Magarita Campbell, administrative secretary of the Allfrey lab who has helped organize the event for over 25 years, said: "The dinner dance is a nice evening out. Because we couldn't hold it last year due to a faulty floor, I hope we'll have a great turnout this year. I think there has been added enthusiasm about the event since President Torsten Wiesel became honorary chair of our Holiday Dance Committee. David Lyons,

vice president for business and finance, and treasurer, also gave us his support, as he does every year."

Tickets are \$25 per person. Patron tickets, for those who wish to help support the event, are \$40. Because space is limited, ticket sales will be kept to 150, available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tickets are available in the Personnel Office, the Faculty Club, the Tower Building lobby, the Purchasing Office, Hospital 106, Media Resource Service Center, the Cashier's Office, and the Deans' Office (for students). They may also be ordered by mail; send a request and a check payable to "The Rockefeller University" to Angie Dohnert, Purchasing Department, Box 258.

Potpourri

Bake Sale

The Children's School will hold its holiday Bake Sale and African Violet Sale today (Dec. 4) in the lobby of the Tower Building between 8:30 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. All proceeds will benefit the school.

Tri-Institutional Noon Recital

Baritone Christòphen Nomura, accompanied by pianist Dalton Baldwin, will sing works by Johannes Brahms, Xavier Montsalvatge, Emanuel Bach, and Johann Franck, among others, at Tri-Institutional Noon Recital today (Dec. 4). Nomura is winner of the 1992 Young Concert Artists International Auditions (New York) and of the Paul A. Fish Memorial Prize of Young Concert Artists. Baldwin has accompanied Jessye Norman, Elly Ameling, Frederica von Stade, and Jose van Dam. The recital, to be held in Caspary Auditorium at noon, is free and open to the Tri-Institutional community.

Free tickets to Nomura and Baldwin's performance at the 92nd Street Y, on Tues., Dec. 8, are available from Sandi Walsh, x8072.

Holiday Festivity

This year's Holiday Festivity will be held Fri., Dec. 18, from 3 to 5 P.M. in Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall. Everyone on campus is invited.

Sunday film

The Lost Weekend (1945), to be shown in Caspary Auditorium Sun., Dec. 6 at 7:30 P.M., is directed by Billy Wilder and stars Ray Milland and Jane Wyman. The

film won Academy Awards for best picture, best actor, best director and best screenplay. Admission is free. All are welcome.

Birth

Assistant Professor Sanford M. Simon's most recent project has been a successful collaboration in developmental biology with his wife, Rachael Migler. Their first child, Joel Stuart Simon, was born Oct. 3.

Help job-hunting

The Personnel Office continues to offer a job book to help scientists and students contemplating life after Rockefeller. A compendium of over 100 positions, the book lists tenure-track posts, postdoctoral fellowships, and jobs in industry. For the non-scientist, the book also collects notices about proficiency exams with government agencies.

Everyone is welcome to ask at the front desk of the Personnel Office, Founder's Hall 103, to see the job book. Copies can be made of any of the notices. In addition, labs are asked to send any copies of job notices they receive to Personnel, Box 125.

Pilot study funds

The Clinical Nutrition Research Unit (CNRU), which is funded by the National Cancer Institute, is offering support for pilot projects related to nutrition and cancer prevention. The 12-year-old center will award \$10,000 per year (renewable for a maximum of three years) to launch the basic and clinical projects. Pilot proposals are due Dec. 15; competitive renewals, Jan. 16. For more information and

application guidelines, contact Linda Cotte, CNRU program secretary, 639-8352.

Music Room

Practice time is available in the university's Music Room on the first floor of Caspary. The room, which is equipped with a Steinway grand piano, music stands and chairs, may be reserved for one hour during the day or evening. Because the voice carries through the building, no singing rehearsal is allowed during office hours. Contact Kate Cameron, x7802, to sign up.

A copy is a copy is a copy

The High Security Vendacard copy cards for self-serve photocopying in The Rockefeller University library have been replaced by General Meter System cards—the same as used in the Media Copy Services Center. This means that cards for copy machines in both locations are interchangeable.

Copy cards are available for purchase at the Media Resource Service Center, Bronk 111, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. They are no longer sold by the Cashier's Office. Copy costs have not been affected by the switch.

Honor

Rockefeller Alumnus M. R. C. Greenwood ('73) dean of graduate studies and professor of nutrition and internal medicine at the University of California, Davis, was installed as a member of the Institute of Medicine last month. The Institute of Medicine, chartered in 1970 by the National

Academy of Sciences, elects distinguished members of medical health science and related professions to provide advice on critical issues in public health, food safety, nutrition, and health policy.

Election

Rockefeller alumnus Martin Yarmush ('79), a professor of biochemical engineering and biochemistry at Rutgers University, was recently elected founding fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineers.

Book

Alumnus Stephen Cooper ('63) has published a book *Bacterial Growth and Division* (New York: Academic Press). The review in *Cell* says the book "represents the fruits of much heavy thinking plus scholarly examinations of the past and present thoughts of others."

News&Notes schedule

The last *News&Notes* issue of the year will be published next Fri., Dec. 11. Anyone with notices for this issue should contact Editor Mika Ono Benedyk, Box 68 or x8982, by Tues., Dec. 8.

Extra, extra!

Beginning this week, *News&Notes* will be sent to all lab heads via interoffice mail as requested. The paper will also continue to be distributed in kiosks across campus.