



BIOLOGY Department Newsletter Ithaca College



July 2008

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Greetings from the 2007- 2008 Chair

Marc Servetnick

It is a time of significant change at Ithaca. The new Business School building is open, the new Gateway Building is under construction, and work is starting on the massive new Athletics and Events Center. This fall, the College will have a new President, and the School of Humanities and Sciences will have a new Dean.



In the Biology Department, too, there is a lot of change. At the two ends of a faculty career, Vicki Cameron has retired, and Leann Kanda, our new Animal Ecologist, just completed her first year.

Both the Biochemistry and Environmental Studies programs are booming, as more and more students are attracted to the natural sciences.

Our alumni continue to excel in graduate school and medical school, among many other career paths.

The Biology Department faculty are a terrific group of people working to enrich the educations and the lives of our students. We couldn't do it without terrific students and supportive alumni.

As I pass the mantle of Department Chair to Susan Swensen, I am confident that the department is in excellent hands.

Thanks for taking time to read the newsletter and catch up on what's new here, and please let us know what you're up to, too!

Vicki Cameron is proud to announce that, after a distinguished career spanning 23 years in the Biology Department, Spring 2008 was her last semester of teaching. Vicki has had an enormous and positive impact on the lives of many students and colleagues.



Earlier generations of IC students muse that they could not imagine the Biology Department without Millie Brammer, or Lucille Schmieler, or - with apologies to many fine retired colleagues - without any of a number of other faculty. It is just as difficult to imagine the department without Vicki, who has tirelessly promoted undergraduate research, and who helped to create and nurture the Biochemistry program.

During the 2008-09 year Vicki will be on sabbatical before her official retirement. The Department wishes her well, but will truly miss her.

Faculty Achievements

Our faculty are actively engaged in a variety of activities, and in communities from the local to the international levels. Please read on for a few examples.

Publications

Faculty continue to publish with their students at an impressive rate.

Kirwin Providence and several other coauthors, including **Ashley Battista** ('09) and **Andrew Mullen** ('08). 2008. "SERPINE1 (PAI-1) is deposited into keratinocyte migration "trails" and required for optimal monolayer wound repair. *Arch Dermatol Res* **300**:303-310.

Stewart M. Gray, **Marina C Caillaud**, Mary Burrows, and Dawn M. Smith. 2007. "Transmission of two viruses that cause Barley Yellow Dwarf is controlled by different loci in the aphid, *Schizaphis graminum*". *Journal of Insect Science*, 7(article 5): 1536-2442.

Susan Swensen and several coauthors, including **Darrin Bann** (Biology '06). 2008. "Uncovering tropical diversity: six sympatric cryptic species of *Blepharoneura* (Diptera: Tephritidae) in flowers of *Gurania spinulosa* (Cucurbitaceae) in eastern Ecuador". *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* **93**: 779-797.

Science Cover & Publication!

Susan Swensen's research was published in the May 16, 2008 issue of *Science*, the world's leading journal of original scientific research, news, and commentary, published by The American Association for the Advancement of Science AND is their photo is on the COVER!! Susan's team examined the extraordinary diversity in a group of tropical herbivorous fruit flies in their paper, "Hidden Neotropical Diversity: Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts." Their work uncovered the extraordinary diversity present in *Blepharoneura*, a type of fruit fly that is a relative of the mediterranean fruit fly. These flies live on plants in the pumpkin family and specialize on different parts of the plant: some species feed and lay eggs on the male flowers; others species feed on female parts of the flower and lay their eggs there. Part of the explanation for *Blepharoneura* diversity lies in this specialization, but geography and time also matter. The diversity Swensen and her colleagues found was also hidden: many of these species look very similar on the outside and their diversity was only discovered through analysis of DNA.



Plant photo taken by Marty Condon

Weatherhead, P.J, **Katherine E. Muma**, J.D. Maddox, J.M. Knox and K.W. Dufour. 2007. "Morphology versus molecules: sexing Red-winged Blackbird Nestlings." *J Field Ornithol.* 78(4):428-435.

Experiential Learning Curriculum Enhancement Grant

The School of Humanities and Sciences offers these grants to support faculty members in their efforts to revise existing courses to incorporate assignments or activities that provide effective experiential learning opportunities. This year the

following Biology faculty were awarded grants:

Susan Allen-Gil (revise Environmental Toxicology)

Ed Cluett (to purchase supplies for an Honors research project to allow a student to learn commonly used techniques in biomedical research, and to participate in initiating and developing a new line of research of biochemistry)

Jean Hardwick (provide support for student to present results of her original research at the 2008 Experimental Biology Conference in San Diego, CA)

Andrew Smith (revise 302 Research in Biology)

Susan Swensen (revise Power of Plants)

External Grants

Our faculty are continuously working on research and submitted grant proposals. Below are the ones that have been supported for the 2008-09 year.

Marina Caillaud is completing her 3-year grant from the USDA. "Genetic Mapping and Molecular Characterization of Feeding Specialization in Pea Aphid Host Races". In collaboration with Sara Via, at the University of Maryland, her laboratory is making a microsatellite-based linkage map to map loci that explain variation in feeding behavior between the alfalfa and the clover host races of the pea aphid. Also, she is using Microarray Technology to identify differentially expressed cDNAs between host races. Several students have contributed to this project: Samantha Palmer, Lei Mi-Mi, Eric Van Fleet.

Vicki Cameron completed a 3-year RUI grant from the National Science Foundation. The project was entitled, "Effect of Amino Acid Substitutions on the Production, Localization, Processing, Stability and Function of Subunit II of Cytochrome c Oxidase in Yeast". Cytochrome c oxidase (CcO) is an enzyme complex required for cellular respiration, the process

that derives energy from glucose to drive metabolic reactions. CcO is found in all eukaryotes and some prokaryotes and is composed of a variable number of subunits. The three largest subunits, Cox1p, Cox2p, and Cox3p are encoded on mitochondrial DNA in eukaryotes and are closely related to the three subunits found in prokaryotes. Their work has focused on the function of subunit Cox2p, using yeast as a model organism. Information about the function of Cox2p in yeast should help to elucidate the function of the protein in higher organisms. Such an understanding is important because deficiencies in CcO have been correlated with some types of human genetic diseases, including Alzheimer's Disease, and with aging. This research has been carried out primarily by undergraduate students who have attended regional and national meetings to present their data. Last summer it supported 3 students: Jessica Spinella, Janelle Mackereth and Erik Van Fleet. Erik gave a presentation at NCUR based on his work.

Jean Hardwick is finishing her 3-year grant from the National Institute of Health entitled, "Regulation and actions of NO in the cardiac plexus". The grant allows her to examine the role of nitric oxide (NO) in regulating cardiac function. NO is a gaseous neurotransmitter that has been shown to have an important role in the modulation of cardiac function. The enzymes needed for the synthesis of NO are found in blood vessels and nerve fibers

within the heart. Numerous studies have investigated the role of NO in the control of circulation and cardiac muscle function, but relatively few studies have examined the role of NO in neuronal control of the heart. In particular, it has been shown that NO levels increase with disease and inflammatory signals as a cardioprotective function. This study focuses on the potential interaction between the immune system, in the form of cardiac mast cells, and the synthesis and release of NO on the cardiac nervous system. Using a guinea pig model system, these studies examine the effects of NO on neuronal function to determine the precise sites of action of this molecule. In addition, experiments will also examine the ability of factors released by cardiac mast cells to alter the capacity of the heart to produce NO. These studies look at changes in the amount of NO synthesizing enzymes, in terms of specific protein and mRNA expression, as well as anatomical localization. The results of this study should help to elucidate the role of NO in regulating cardiac function, both in healthy and diseased tissue.

Marc Servetnick has finished a 3-year grant from the National Science Foundation entitled, "Use of transgenic *Xenopus* embryos to study cell specification in eye development." Vertebrate eye development is a complex process in which cell-to-cell signaling plays a critical role. Signaling by fibroblast growth factors (FGFs) has been shown to

play several roles in eye development. Marc and his student have been studying the roles of FGF receptors in early *Xenopus* development and their results suggest that different FGF receptors mediate different processes in early eye development. This research has been carried out primarily by **Alex Chesney** ('09).

Andy Smith is continuing his 3-year grant from the National Institute of Health. The grant supports research with undergraduate students on biological adhesives. The title of the project is, "The mechanism of cross-linking by proteins that create adhesive gels". Last year, Andy's lab showed that metals play an essential role in cross-linking the glue. Current work is aimed at identifying the effectiveness of different metals and the mechanism by which the metals cross-link proteins. Three students are working in the lab this summer: **Caitlin Mooney**, **Sarah Garcia** and **Andrew Bradshaw**.

Susan Allen-Gil Hosts an International Conference in Ukraine

Susan Allen-Gil received a NATO grant to plan and convene an Advanced Research Workshop on "Rethinking Higher Education to Meet the New Challenges of Environmental Security". The conference is part of the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme. Susan worked together with colleagues in

Canada, Israel, and Ukraine, to plan the conference, which was held in Kharkiv, Ukraine in May 2008. Additional funding for the project was provided by Ithaca College, Kharkiv State University in Ukraine, and the Christian Johnson Endeavor Foundation. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together the leading thinkers and practitioners in higher education (in several fields pertaining to environmental security) with government agencies, NGOs and universities to identify the best academic approaches for training university students in transition countries to address issues of environmental security from an interdisciplinary framework. The objective was to advance the next generation of practitioners to engage fully with the environmental security problems such as that of the Chernobyl disaster in the Ukraine, the postindustrial trail of pollution in the Black Triangle Region, and predicted agricultural loss due to climate change. Susan took two Ithaca College students with her, **Lia Stelljes** and **Sarah Brylinsky**, both whom presented papers at the conference.



Susan Allen-Gil and students, Lia Stelljes and Sarah Brylinsky (both '08).

Contributed papers will be published in the NATO Science Series entitled *Rethinking Higher Education to Meet the New Challenges of Environmental Security*.

Ed Cluett & Students Teach in New York City

Ed Cluett continues to provide fabulous experiences for Education students, taking them to teach at the Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem over Spring Break. He and science education student, **Molly Trufant**, ran the annual DNA electrophoresis activity as part of our partnership with Frederick Douglass Academy in New York City. They supervised the lab activity in 12 classes over five days, seeing 220 students in grades nine and ten. Mr. Tim Hearn, science coordinator at FDA, provided valuable logistical support; and the IC/FDA partnership provided financial support.



Jason Hamilton Works to Establish a Charter High School

Jason Hamilton is working with the local Ithaca community to establish a charter high school centered on sustainability. They

have recently submitted a proposal to found a New Roots School, a charter school in Ithaca (newrootsschool.org). The goal is to create a sustainability-based high school, in which students are taught through integration of theories and practices of sustainable education. If accepted, the school will open in September 2009 with an anticipated 50 ninth and 50 tenth grade students.

Richard B. Fischer
Environmental Conservation
Recognition Award

The following Biology faculty are part of the Ithaca College Natural Lands Committee: **René Borgella, John Confer, Jason Hamilton, and Leann Kanda.** They are pleased to announce the Committee's recent award, the 2008 Richard B. Fischer Environmental Conservation Recognition Award. The Award was given by the Town of Ithaca to recognize the Committee's work in using undeveloped properties as learning tools, and for contributing to the natural environment of the Town of Ithaca. Thanks to the committee's efforts, IC now has a sustainable timber management program, endangered species management protocols, and an invasive species plan, all of which emphasize biodiversity, ecosystem function and teaching and research opportunities. In addition to its work on the Newfield property, the committee also actively manages natural areas of South Hill adjacent to campus. The

committee is also working with Tompkins County planners to develop a countywide management plan for unique natural areas. (Information was taken from the Press Release.) The award ceremony included "planting" of the tree, a brief background on the Fischer Award and on the work of the Ithaca College NLC, and a presentation of a certificate to the NLC by Town Supervisor Herb Engman.

Staffing News

Promotions

Marina Caillaud and Peter Melcher were both awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.



Departing

Brenda Putnam, lab coordinator, has been a tremendous addition to the department over the last 2 years. Unfortunately for us, her husband has been promoted, causing them to relocate. It is anticipated that a new coordinator will be hired for the start of the new semester. We are happy for their success, but will miss Brenda and her contributions to the department.



Newest Addition

Leann Kanda joined the Biology Department in the fall as the new animal ecologist. Leann's background is in mammalian ecology, and her current research focuses on movement ecology. She is bringing in a colony of dwarf hamsters for behavioral studies to complement field studies of muskrat. Outside of work, Leann is a bookworm, sci-fi geek, and perpetual DIY home renovator. She is tolerated at home by her husband and three cats.



Leann Kanda and Esko the muskrat.

Johanna Baker Gives Back

Ithaca College is known nationally for its efforts to address sustainability on campus. Many departments have been making efforts to reduce consumption of paper and electricity by utilizing duplex printing on printers, recycling paper, and turning off lights and computers when they are not being used. Johanna Baker, our animal care specialist, has taken the initiative to save "macaroni" (Styrofoam packing material) and bringing it to the UPS office for recycling. The UPS workers

(and shippers) are extremely happy for Johanna's efforts. Way to go, Johanna!



Johanna Baker helps the postal service

Jack Bernard Weds

The department congratulates our dear friend, **Jack Bernard**. He and his high school sweetheart, Diane, exchanged wedding vows near the end of the year. Although Jack has moved from the area, he has not left Ithaca College. His generosity and commitment to the department remains with his two awards: The Bernard Scholarship and the Jack and Flo Bernard Family Undergraduate Research Fund. The Department sends a life-time of happiness for the newlyweds!



Jack and Diane Bernard

MAT Degree Kicks Off

The H&S MAT program takes on its first full-time students in the sciences. The Biology Department has accepted its first full-time students in the new MAT program in H&S. This summer **Molly Trufant** (IC '08) and **Lauren Amering** (Brockport '08) are performing their required semester of research with Jason Hamilton and Ed Cluett, respectively. Molly is adapting Jason's Ladybug Project for high school classes, and Lauren is developing a chromatography lab activity for high school and middle school classes that investigates the production of anthocyanins in leaves as fall approaches.

The MAT program enables students with a bachelor's degree to obtain certification for teaching grades 7-12 in New York State. The program, accredited by New York State, requires one school year and two summers to complete. Graduate assistantships are available.

Student Achievements

Several biology and biochemistry majors were recognized for their achievements in academics and research activities.

The Bernard Scholarship

The Bernards were an inspiration to thousands of students, and both Flo and Jack considered

their interactions with students to be the most important part of their careers at Ithaca College. This scholarship honors their commitment to helping students. This year the 2007-2008 recipient of the Scholarship was **Caitlin Baran** (Biochemistry '09).

Jack and Flo Bernard Family Undergraduate Research Fund

These funds are used to provide stipends for summer research, funding for student travel to meetings, and as needed, supplies and equipment necessary for students to carry out their projects. Several students benefited throughout the year.

If you would like to contribute to either of the Bernard Funds, we would greatly appreciate it. You may complete the form at the end of this newsletter.

George A Gonzalez-Gallardo Scholarship

Jason Diaz ('09) was awarded the Biology Department's George A. Gonzalez-Gallardo Scholarship. This scholarship was established in memory of George A. Gonzalez-Gallardo, a 1979 graduate. Recipients must demonstrate high academic achievement.

Jason Dickens Memorial Award

Beth Hoover ('07) is this year's recipient of the Jason Dickens

Memorial Award. This award is given in honor of Jason Dickens, who was an Ithaca College Biology major. Jason hoped to attend medical school and to use his talents to serve society as a physician. Tragically he was the victim of a boating accident in the summer of 1998. Beth is planning on attending medical school.

**Fred Kastenbaum
Pre-Health Award**

This award is to help supplement expenses associated with preparation for the MCAT. This year's recipients of the [Fred Kastenbaum Pre-Health Award](#) are **Alex Chesney** ('09) and **Elyse Honikel** ('08).

Peggy R. Williams Award

Caitlin Baran and **Dan Wald** (both Biochemistry students) are among the recipients of the 2008 Peggy R. Williams award, provided by The Center for Student Leadership & Involvement. All the students nominated must be juniors or seniors and must demonstrate outstanding performance in both academic and non-academic endeavours. A selection committee meets to deliberate on the applications of each of the students and selects the ones they feel most aptly represent the spirit of the award.

Sigma Xi

Four of the eighteen students inducted into Sigma Xi were our students! Students were

nominated by faculty, then elected to membership because of their research achievements or potential.

- **Caitlin Baran** (Jean Hardwick)
- **Pamela Ronco** (Ed Cluett)
- **Michael Salt** (Andrew Smith)
- **Dennis Thapa** (Andrew Smith)

Student Scientific Activities

Students are given hands-on experiences in the class room, as well as alongside a faculty mentor. Research done in the faculty lab are often presented and published.

Presentations

Eastern College Science Conference (ECSC). The conference is designed specifically for undergraduates to present the results of their research.

- **Mike Salt** (*Andrew Smith*) "The iron phenomenon: breaking protein aggregation in mulluscan glues"
- **Dennis Thapa** (*Andrew Smith*) "The 5' RACE: cDNA sequencing of a molluscan glue protein"

National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). Ithaca College students are selected for attendance at this meeting and selection is very competitive. Only the most outstanding Ithaca

College students are provided with this special opportunity.

- **Pamela Ronco** (*Ed Cluett*) "The Effect of Phospholipase A2 Inhibitors on the Processing of Amyloid Precursor Protein"
- **Ana Velez** (*Marc Servetnick*) "Examination of Candidate Sex Specific Genes in *Xenopus laevis*"
- **Eric Van Fleet** (*Vicki Cameron*) "Deletion of the Nuclear Gene YME1 Stabilizes Mutant forms of Cox2p.) (Other student author, Martin Tomov)

Poster Presentation.

Caitlin N. Baran, E. Marie Southerland, Jeffrey L. Ardell, and *Jean C. Hardwick*.

"Remodeling of the guinea pig intracardiac plexus following pressure overload-induced cardiac hypertrophy". Experimental Biology meeting in San Diego, CA.

Out in the Field

Zach Cava ('09) is a summer intern at The Wetlands Institute located in New Jersey. The Institute has routinely involved undergraduate students in a wide variety of research projects pertaining to coastal environments and the organisms



Zach Cava banding an Osprey

inhabiting them. The focus of the research is Conservation Biology.

Rebecca Rideout ('10) is completing a 5 week study of aquatic invertebrates at the Queen's University Biological Station north of Kingston, Ontario, Canada. She is supported through the Ford Fund and the Bernard Research Fund and is working with **Bruce Smith** and **Kit Muma**. Scientists at the field station put on a yearly open house to highlight ongoing research and as public outreach for the community. An estimated 400 people attended the event this year. Bruce and Rebecca presented information about the tic invertebrates found in the Rideau Lakes region of Ontario, Canada.



Poster Display at Open House:
Canada, Summer '08
(photo credit Kit Muma)

Jason Hamilton and his colleagues are studying the rare, nine-spotted ladybug. Besides being incredibly cool and charismatic, ladybugs are also essential predators in both farms and forests that keep us from being overrun with pests (like

aphids and mealybugs). In many areas the native ladybugs are being replaced by exotic ones. This has happened very quickly and we don't know how this shift happened, what impact it will have (e.g. will the exotic species be able to control pests as well as our familiar native ones always have) and how we can prevent more native species from becoming so rare. **Molly Trufant** is working on this project for her summer research experience as part of the MAT requirement.

Jason and his Cornell colleague, John Losey, invited the public to search for the lost nine-spotted ladybugs at the Second Annual Ladybug Blitz. A nine-spotted ladybug has not been seen in New York since the 1980's. Jason and other ladybug researchers from Ithaca College and Cornell University collected many species of ladybugs to help figure out what's going on.



Leann Kanda and **Michelle Rhoades** ('11) are spending the summer studying space use and personalities in muskrat in Lansing, New York. The study uses a combination of captive tests and field observations to see if "bold" young muskrats use their investigations of neighboring territories to decide

where to reside as an adult. Michelle is responsible for a crew of volunteers in the field, including Katie Cormier ('09), Kasey Currier ('09), and Kaitlin Kohberger ('11). Michelle is supported through the Ford Fund.



Michelle Rhoades releasing an accidental capture.

ALUMNI CONTINUE TO SUCCEED

Please update your activities at <http://departments.ithaca.edu/biology/alumni/>

- **Jerry Ashrafi** (Biology '03) is pursuing a DMD at the Boston University School of Dental Medicine.
- **Sarah Avellaneda** (Biology '08) is a Lab Technician in the Weill Institute for Cell and Molecular at Cornell University.
- **Darrin Bann** (Biology '06) is pursuing a MD/PhD from Penn State.

- **Jennifer Barbre Krucker** (Biology '00) is the Manager of Compliance and Validation at Boehringer Ingelheim in Ridgefield, Connecticut.
- **Rebecca Bordonaro** (Biology '06) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Zoology with a minor in Epidemiology at Cornell University. She plans on getting her DVM through their dual degree program.
- **Amanda Bostick** (Biology '07) is at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at RIT in their Masters of Science in Secondary Education program for the secondary education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- **Max Bronstein** (Biology '05) is a Science Assistant at the National Science Foundation.
- **Jeff Doherty** (Biology '07) is working at Tool and Fastening Sales in Boston, Massachusetts.
- **Mary Edwards-Ransom** (Biology Teaching '08) plans to be a Science Teacher. She's also one of the first M.A.T. students. See the section below.
- **Becky Friend** (Biology '07) will be attending the Ohio State Vet School this fall.
- **Michael Gondek** (Biology '01) is a GC-MS Chemist at Upstate Laboratories Inc. in Syracuse, New York.
- **Amanda Joy** (Biology '06) volunteered as a middle/ high school science teacher at the World Teach Organization in Guyana, South America during 2007-08. She lived and taught in Orealla, a small, Amerindian community in the rainforest interior of Guyana.
- **Jessica (Kupiec) Kerr** – is employed at Artemis Health, Inc. in San Francisco, CA where she further develops a non-invasive method of fetal testing. She has 2 publications (2007) for her previous work in Cardiology, and got married last July.
- **Eleanor Lahr** (Biology '04) recently received a NSF 2008 Graduate Research Fellowship award at the University of Montana. She and her new husband are the only two at the University of Montana to be selected this year and Nora is the only IC alum in this year's group!
- **Quentin Machingo** (Biology '00) and his family are proud to announce the birth of their second child.
- **Kate Majka Johnston** (Biology '02) - received a teaching certificate in Biology and Earth Science. Received a Masters in Biology Education from University at Buffalo in Spring 2008 and plans to pursue a Ph.D.
- **Michael Mazourek** (Biochemistry '99) received a travel award from the American Society of Plant Biology to attend the Gordon Research Conference on Plant Metabolic Engineering.
- **Sheri (Meslinksy) Wagner** (Biology '00) got married in 2006 and settled in a small town south of Buffalo. She finished her residency in Pediatrics in 2007 and began practicing as a pediatrician.
- **Jeff Metsky** (Biology '03) is a Trails Foreman at the U.S. Forest Service in Montana.
- **Susan Meyer** (Biology '07) was a research technician for the University of Notre Dame working in Alaska over the Summer of 2007.
- **Jennifer Moran** (Biochemistry '01) is working in the Lab Technical Services at Epic Systems Corporation in Wisconsin.
- **Michelle Niescierenko** (Biology '02) traveled with a group to Bolivia and spent 10 days working in a partnership with a foundation to get homeless/abandoned children off the street. They provided primary medical care to close to 600 children and some adults and link those with chronic medical conditions to long term care. They were also able to provide teaching on public health topics including dental hygiene, reading, maintaining hydration and preventing parasites and worms.
- **Alex Papolos** (Biochemistry '07) is a laboratory technician at the New York Medical College with plans to attend medical school in the fall.
- **Elizabeth Peterson** (Biology '04) is starting the PhD program at SUNY Albany in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology.
- **Maira Pires** (Biology '02) has been awarded a very competitive Department of Defense grant for almost \$100,000 for the next 3 years

of her graduate work for investigating breast cancer.

- **Melanie (Powers) Fraites** (Biology '01) received a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. She is current working as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the US Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Daniel Reifsteck** (Biology '84), is a CEO at Ximedica in Providence, Rhode Island.
- **Dominic Roda** (Biology '07) is studying to become a doctor of podiatric medicine. He is enrolled at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine.
- **Albert Roy** (Biology '98) is pursuing a MBA (expected 2008) at Johns Hopkins University while serving as the Director in Finance & Planning at the National Childhood Cancer Foundation.
- **Jackie Scahill** (Biology '07) was awarded a fellowship last summer, where she was assigned to KPCC Southern California Public Radio in Pasadena, CA, for ten weeks. It is extremely exciting for Jackie to receive this fellowship because there were 125 applicants and 19 finalists. More importantly, it is typically received by a graduate student! Jackie was also invited to attend the 2008-09 Class of Coro Fellows in Public Affairs in Southern California.

- **Elvis Shehi** (Biology '00) received a MS from Northeastern University and is a scientist at Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, MA.
- **Stephanie Simon** (Biology '07) is attending the Pennsylvania College of Optometry.
- **Fred Soliman** (Biology '05) is attending Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- **Mike Soto** (Biology '03) worked in finance and the stock market and is now interested in going to graduate school.
- **Jeff Stahl** (Biology '06) is attending Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- **Dana (Walsh) Smith** (Biology '05) is attending Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie. She's pleased to announce her marriage to Brian Smith (IC graduate May '05) last summer.
- **Heather (Welsh) Spooner** and her husband are pleased to announce the birth of their second, Grant Christopher in fall '07. Bourne Frederick, 2, welcomed his little brother.
- **Fawn Stehlin** (Biology '02) is working at National Geographic.
- **Melissa Wern** (Biology '07) plans on attending a Physicians Assistants Program.
- **Carolyn Vitale** (Biology '08) is pursuing a MD at Temple University.

- **Scott Werneke** (Biology '06) is enrolled in the Immunology program at Washington University of St. Louis.
- **Alison Wright** (Biology '01) received a MS in Biotechnology in 2004. She is now pursuing a DDS at the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery.
- **Chris Wyland** (Biology Teaching '07) is a Middle School Science Teacher at the New York City Department of Education.
- **John Yackee** (Biology '75) is a cardiologist at Cardiac Associates in Olney, Maryland.

Alumni Publications!

- **Andrew Cameron** (Biology '05) is a co-author of "Depletion of GGA3 Stabilizes BACE and Enhances β -Secretase Activity", *Neuron* **54**,721-737, June 7, 2007.
- **Susan Swensen** and several coauthors, including **Darrin Bann** (Biology '06). 2008. "Uncovering tropical diversity: six sympatric cryptic species of *Blepharoneura* (Diptera: Tephritidae) in flowers of *Gurania spinulosa* (Cucurbitaceae) in eastern Ecuador". *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* **93**: 779-797.

Bernard Family Funds

Name: _____ Major: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Home Address: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made out to the

ITHACA

- Bernard Family Undergraduate Research Fund**
- Bernard Scholarship**

Send to: Office of Special Programs
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310 Alumni Hall
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