



BIOLOGY Department Newsletter

 ITHACA COLLEGE
School of Humanities and Sciences

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Volume 10 (Fall 2011) Center for Natural Sciences * 953 Danby Road* Ithaca, NY 14850 * 607-274-3161

Greetings from the Chair, Andy Smith

Fall 2011 is a beginning with a lot of changes for the department and me. Personally, this is the start of new activities and responsibilities, as I am now the Chair of the Biology Department.



With several new faces in the department, as well as in the other CNS departments, there is a lot of energy and new, collaborative initiatives.

As always, we are looking forward to getting to know and work with our new students, and we hope to hear from our alumni as well. Please take a moment to tell us what you're up to or to pass along any news you have. You may e-mail any of the faculty or staff, or complete the on-line form: <http://www.ithaca.edu/hs/depts/biology/alumni/alumniform/>.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Welcome, new faculty!

The department is pleased that we were approved for several faculty searches this year! We welcome

- David Gondek
- Maya Patel
- Anne Stork
- Ian Woods.

Read about them on page 2.

CNS has a new look!

Not only has our department taken on new hires, so have the other 3 departments in the building; each excited to have their 2 new faculty hires. As you can imagine, space had to be reconfigured to fit everyone. Many renovations have been made to allow for more offices, lab and research space. The summer was filled with construction worker, noise, and obstacles; however, the work was all completed and ready by the first of the fall semester

Many new initiatives and collaborations

As many may know about the [IC 20/20 initiative](#), this is bringing to campus a new way to create a more diverse learning environment for our students. Impacts visible in the department include the creation of more interdisciplinary courses and an increase in shared laboratory space and equipment.

The Center for Natural Sciences seminar series was kicked off this fall. It focused on the new hires and their research. It was well attended and a great idea!

It isn't all work and no play around CNS. Currently there are 6 CNS teams that are made of up a combination of faculty and staff from different departments to take on the IC Walking Challenge. The goal is for one team to make the most steps in a week, and the most after the 6-week program.

New Faculty

Maya Patel

[Maya](#) returns to the department on a 5-year appointment as an Assistant Professor. This fall she is in charge of the Fundamentals of Biology lecture. In the spring Maya will teach a new course on biotechnology. Maya has a M.S. degree in Entomology and recently earned her Ph.D. in



Science Education from Cornell University. Her work focuses on the educational impact of undergraduate research. Before that, she was a Laboratory Professor for Introductory Biology at Georgetown University, where she continues to serve as Science Chair for the Meyers Summer Institute for College Preparation, at GU's Center for Multicultural Equity and Access. Maya enjoys the outdoors. Soon she'll be crawling around with their little boy collecting bugs, botanizing, and fossil hunting around the Southern Tier.

Anne Stork

[Anne](#) is pleased to be appointed on a 3-year appointment as an Assistant Professor in both Biology and Environmental Studies and Sciences. Anne's background is in ecology and evolution. She is loving learning about the organisms that inhabit the woods and pond of her new home. This fall she has been focusing on learning the edible mushrooms of the area. If she's not outside, you can find her playing accordion with her band Li'l Anne and Hot Cayenne.



David Gondek

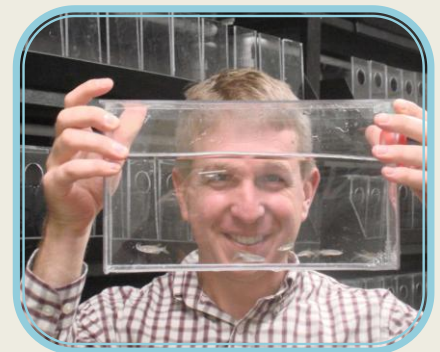
[Dave](#) is a full-time Assistant Professor who specializes in microbiology/immunology. He completed his Ph.D. at Dartmouth College and then moved to Harvard Medical School for his post-doc. His research involves studying the molecular factors involved in *Chlamydia* infection. As with many pathogens, strains that are specific to humans



do not typically infect other organisms, and vice versa. Unraveling the factors that determine susceptibility to this widespread sexually-transmitted pathogen could have important medical implications. Dave is also an avid downhill skier, who just missed qualifying for the Junior Olympic team when he was younger.

Ian Woods

[Ian](#) joins the department as a full-time Assistant Professor who specializes in Developmental Biology and Computational Biology. He



earned his Ph.D. at Stanford and was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard. He uses the zebrafish to study the development and function of the nervous system. His research focuses on two areas: (1) sensory neurons that detect thermal, chemical, mechanical, and painful stimuli, and (2) the molecular basis of arousal and anxiety-like behaviors. Prior to graduate school, Ian spent two years in the Peace Corps, teaching science and math in the Solomon Islands. In addition to his scientific interests, he enjoys playing the organ, and is

currently the organist at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Ithaca.

Summer Activities

Susan Swensen Assists in Plans for China Trip

[Susan](#) will be traveling with Susan Allen-Gil and Marian Brown to Beijing, China in October. They will present a 3-part presentation on sustainability education at IC during the International Forum for Education for Sustainable Development.

Student and Faculty Presentations

[Ed Cluett](#). Poster presentation co-authored with students: **Cody Chittenden**, **Ashley Brinkerhoff**, **Arianne Shrenker**. Gordon Research Conference, "Molecular Membrane Biology". Andover, New Hampshire.

[Leann Kanda](#). Presented at the American Society of Mammalogists. Portland, Oregon. The work was co-authored with students: **Laura Easton**, **Jeffrey Hatzel**, and **Laura Louon**.

[Maki Inada](#). Presented, "Investigating a mode of gene expression regulation via alternative splicing coupled with mRNA decay in fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces*

pombe", Eukaryotic mRNA Meeting. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Cold Spring Harbor, NY. The work included student co-authors (**Philip Feinberg**, **Bushra Amreen**) as well as with Jeffrey A Pleiss.

[Jean Hardwick](#). Presented at the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience Workshop. Pomona College.

Adam Longwich and with faculty co-authors [Susan Swensen](#) and Marty Condon (Cornell College) presented a poster at the Botanical Society of American meetings in St. Louis entitled "Neotropical Cucumbers: Molecular Phylogenetic Reconstruction of the Genus *Gurania*".

[Peter Melcher](#) and his students presented three presentations at the 2011 annual Botanical Society of America meeting held in St. Louis, MO in July.

Peter Melcher presented his work on Functional embolism refilling in *Acer rubrum* with co-authors Maciej Zwieniecki and Professor Michele Holbrook from Harvard University.

Pamela Millan*, Peter Melcher and Professor Lawren Sack (UCLA) presented a [Poster presentation](#) on "Intracanalopy leaf plasticity and the impact of light versus height on carbon and nitrogen isotope discrimination for five temperate deciduous tree species."

Marieke Brouwer*, Rrobert Griffin-Nolan, and Peter Melcher presented a [Poster presentation](#) on "Investigating the role of green light in photosynthesis in *Coleus spp.*".

Funding for travel and conference expenses were paid in full from the **The Bernard Family Fund for Undergraduate Research in Biology** for Pamela Millan and Marieke Brouwer and Adam Longwich. They are very thankful for the opportunity to attend and present their work at a national conference!

Alumni Continue to Succeed

Sarah (Avellaneda) Griffin (Biology '08) is pleased to announce her marriage to Craig Griffin (I.C. '09, Health Care Administration).



Sarah (Avellaneda) Griffin

Ashley Bell (Biology '11), is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Mathematics at Colorado School of Mines.

Aaron Bloom (Biology '08) is a graduate student in the Medical Pharmacology program at the University of Arizona. He is excited to announce that he has successfully published 7 times!

Ryan Bochacki (Biology '07) and Rachel Flink returned to the department in the spring to present, "An inside view on medical school" to the premed students. Ryan and Rachel are finished their M.D.'s this spring at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine. They answered questions about medical school admissions, life in medical school, allopathic vs. osteopathic medicine, etc. After getting married this summer, they are now beginning their residency programs in Rochester.

Rachel Borst (Biology '08) is attending the Medical University of South Carolina for pharmaceutical.



Lauren (Elich Monroe) Ryan
(Biology Teaching '05)

Alison (Bowers) Hoffner (Biology'04) received a Paramedic Certificate and is employed as a Cardiology Technician at the Lawrence & Memorial Hospital.

Zach Cava (Biology '09) is a Biological Science Technician at the US Geological Survey in Nevada. He is working on a desert tortoise monitoring project out in the Mojave Desert.

Alexandra Cheseny (Biology '09) received a fully funded research assistantship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Molecular and Environmental Toxicology program. She is now pursuing a Ph.D. at Northern Illinois University

Eleanor Clancy-Thompson (Biology '07) is enrolled in the Ph.D. Immunology, Cancer Research program at the University of Virginia.

John Dymon (Biochemistry '09) is enrolled in the bioengineering Ph.D program at the University of Utah.

Lauren (Elich Monroe) Ryan (Biology Teaching '05) has been working at the Mutant Mouse Regional Resource Center in Mebane, NC for one year. Prior to that she spent two years working for the EPA in the APP&CD (air pollution prevention and control division) as a Field Technician in the Research Triangle Park, NC). Lauren is pleased to announce her marriage (two years ago) to a native Ithacan who is a Master Fire Fighter for Chapel Hill Fire Department (that's his engine in their wedding photo)..

Karen (Ke) Ersland (Biology '05) is pleased to announce her

2010 Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

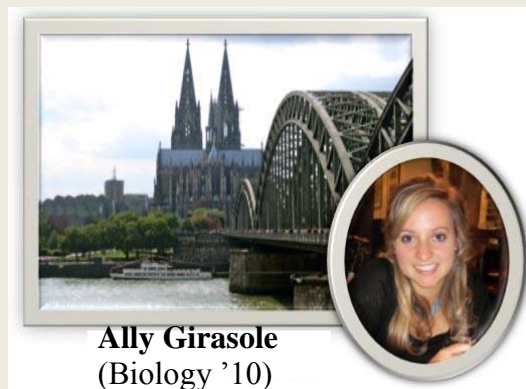
Jessica Gadway (Biology '08) will receive a M.S. in Biomedical Forensic Science this fall from Boston University School of Medicine. She is also an Associate Scientist at Biogen Idec in Cambridge, MA.

Diane (Duby) Golebiowski (Biology '06) is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and has 2 publications!

Allison Girasole (Biology '10) returned to present at the Department's Seminar Series about her one year [DAAD](#) Fellowship to perform research at the University of Cologne (Germany). DAAD is a German Academic Exchange Service. Ally is now working as a post baccalaureate researcher at the NIH.

Brittany Herits (Biology '07) is pursuing a DO at the UMDNJ – SOM as she is working as the Commissioned Officer – Ensign for the US Navy. She is pleased to announce that she is the recipient of the USN Health Professions Scholarship

Continue on page 6.



Ally Girasole
(Biology '10)

Kudos

Awards

Marina Caillaud was among the Spring 2011 IC Faculty Excellence Award recipients.

H&S Educational Grant Initiative Recipients:

- **Leann Kanda**: help support class field trips for Field Biology.
- **Marina Caillaud**: provide supplies for her student's research project in Genetics.
- **Jean Hardwick**: assist in student travel expenses to present at the Experimental Biology meeting in Washington, DC.

Additional Duties

Jean Hardwick was selected to serve on the Society for Neuroscience Committee on Neuroscience Departments and Programs. The Society for Neuroscience is a professional society with over 40,000 members worldwide. The Committee on Neuroscience Departments and Programs (CNDP) works to enhance individual and institutional members through programs and initiatives that offer opportunities for professional development, networking, and information sharing to educators and learners in higher education. Jean has been appointed to a three-year term on this committee, with the goal

of representing undergraduate neuroscience programs within the society.

Peter Melcher has been selected to be the Director of the Physiological and Ecophysiological Sections of the **Botanical Society of America** to serve a three year term. The BSA has been a leading society in various research fields in botanical sciences since 1893. It publishes the esteemed peer-reviewed research journal "American Journal of Botany." it also publishes the Plant Sciences Bulletin and Botany for the Next Millennium as well as Careers in Botany. This year Peter will be organizing a symposium on plant water relations for the July 2012 conference. The Societies key objective is to sustain and provide improved formal and informal education about plants and to promote the teaching and learning.

Peter Melcher is also now a Review Editor for the peer-reviewed **journal** *Frontiers in Plant Biophysics and Modeling*.

Publications

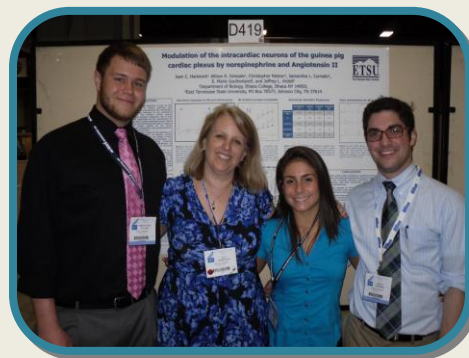
Students are in bold and italics.

Andrew Bradshaw, Michael Salt, Ashley Bell, Matt Zeitler, Noelle Litra and **Andrew M. Smith**. 2011. Cross-linking by protein oxidation in the rapidly setting gel-based glues of slugs. *The Journal of Experimental Biology* **214**:1699-1706.

Caillaud, MC and Via, S. 2011 Quantitative genetics of feeding behavior in two ecological races of the pea aphid, *Acyrtosiphon pisum*. *Heredity*. <http://www.nature.com/hdy/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/hdy201124a.html>

Del Campo M.L., S. Palmer and **M.C. Caillaud**. 2011. Characterization of a novel OBP protein in chemoreceptor organs of manduca sexta (Sphingidae). *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*, *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* **104** (2), 319-325

Smith, A. M. 2010. Gastropod Secretory Glands and Adhesive Gels. Chapter 4 in *Biological Adhesive Systems: From Nature to Technical and Medical Application*. Byern, Janek von; Grunwald, Ingo (Eds.). Springer, Wien.



Students Stay Active & Receive Funding

Students' professionalism and their outstanding GPA create success for internal funding.

Many students received a total of nearly \$6,000 from one or more of the following:

- [The Bernard Family Fund for Undergraduate Research in Biology](#)
- [Flo and Jack Bernard Scholarship](#)
- H&S Educational Grant Initiative
- [Jason Dickens Memorial Award](#)
- [Fred Kastenbaum Pre-Health Award](#)
- Rochester Academy of Science
- Sigma Xi

This year the annual NCUR meetings took place at IC. This was well attended as many of our students presented at this national conference, as well as many others throughout the year.

Alumni Continued from page 4

Oliver Klein (Biochemistry '10) is a research technician in the Wellman Center for Photomedicine at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Thee research revolves around the development of optical molecular toolkits to visualize therapeutic response and resistance in metastatic cancer.

Samantha Palmer (Biology '05) is pleased to announce her 2011 co-authored publication with Marta del Campo and **Marina Caillaud**. View the [abstract](#) here.

Bobby Rivard (Biology '06) is pursuing a MD from the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Jackie Scahill (Biology '07) is working at Bet Tzedek in development. She is running a year-round young leadership program, social media, helping with major gifts, and learning a ton more!

Ainsley Smith (Biology '08) has been accepted in the MS program at Duke University for Fall 2011. She is also pleased to announce her first co-authored publication.

David Seidorf (Biology Teaching '10) began teaching 11th grade biology at Franklin High School in Somerset, New Jersey.

Fred Soliman (Biology '05) graduated from medical school in Spring 11. He will be a family medicine resident at University of

Keep us informed!

As always, it is nice to hear from our alumni to let us know what they are up to. You may do so easily by submitting the [alumni form](#) available on the department's web site or send us a postcard or e-mail.

Pittsburgh Medical Center. After completion of residency he will pursue a fellowship in primary care sports medicine, and hopes to be a team physician in the future.

Molly Trufant (Biology Teaching '08) is Secondary Science Teacher at the Newfield Central School, NY.

Dennis Thapa (Biology '08) is pursuing a MD at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Jennifer Wills (Biology '08) enrolled in a Master's program at Georgetown University.

Curt Wittig (Biology '09) has entered the University of Wyoming's pharmacy program this fall.

Thank you to all new and continuing donors!

We want to thank all of you again who have donated to the department's funds listed above! Your continued support and interest in the department are an essential part to enable us to continue providing students with many independent opportunities.

Throughout the year, students continue to co-author presentations and publications and take their work on the road to present. Funding also provides necessary research supplies and equipment needed to perform their research.

In order for students to request funding, they must create a proposal for their request. This provides them with hands-on experience on grant requests.

Support for Biology Undergraduates

Name: _____ Major: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Home Address: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made out to Ithaca College



- Bernard Family Fund for Undergraduate Research in Biology**
- Flo and Jack Bernard Scholarship**
- Bertolini Endowment**
- Thomas J. '02 and David C. '05 Metzger Undergraduate Research Fund**
- Biology Department**
- Ithaca Fund for Humanities and Sciences**

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Comments:

The Biology Department thanks you for your generous support!



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