

MMG NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Number 1

Summer 2001

2nd Annual Apple Pie Baking Contest

In the Second Annual Apple Pie Bake Off, we had a tie. The two winners were Aimee Stephenson for her homemade creation, and Mike Mitton for his Costco offering.



The happy winners - Aimee and Mike.



Left to right: Tom Fowler and Kurt Toenjes

Congratulations MMG Ph.D. Recipients

Karl Skowronek, from the Kurjan lab, received his Ph.D. and is now working as a Postdoctoral Associate at SUNY Stonybrook.

Alia Merla, from the Johnson lab, received her Ph.D. and is an Applications Specialist with Amersham Pharmacia Biotech in New Jersey.

Rebecca Guy, from the Stein lab, received her Ph.D. and is a Postdoctoral Associate at UVM with Karen Lounsbury in the Department of Pharmacology.

Aimee Stephenson, from the Fives-Taylor lab, received her Ph.D. and is the Associate Executive Director of

the Vermont Institute for Science,
Math and Technology.

Congratulations 2001 Awardees!

Lucille P. Markey Outstanding Senior in Molecular Genetics

Marie Guyette
Sanjiv Shah

Warren R. Stinebring Outstanding Senior in Microbiology

Matthew Seavey

DOE EPSCoR Summer Internship

David Simpson
Karen Cole-Booska

HELIX

Gulnar Pothiawala
P. Douglas Renfrew

SUGRFAME

Brent Osborne

2001 MMG Graduates - Where are they now?

Philip Chan - grad student at UVM

Marie Guyette - grad student at
Howard University

Justin Meyette - research technician
in the Gilmartin lab

Cindy St. Hilaire - lab technician at
Boston Children's Hospital

Matthew Seavey - grad student at
the University of Rochester School of
Medicine and Dentistry

Sanjiv Shah - grad student at the
University of Texas, Southwestern,
Dallas



Back row: Matt Seavey, Justin Meyette, Katie March, Ben Kaplan, Tammy Richman, Phil Chan, Alia Merla. Front row: Rebecca Guy, Marie Guyette, Cyndi St. Hilaire, Warren Schaeffer, Aimee Stephenson.

News from the Stein Lab

Charles Fredericks, former MMG undergraduate student, class of 1999, is a second year biotechnology law student at Franklin Pierce Law Center.

Shayna Cunningham, former MMG undergraduate student, class of 1998, is a technician at Mass General and will be entering Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Epidemiology.

Michael Davila, former MMG undergraduate student, class of 2000, is a graduate student working at the NIH campus.

Former Postdoc **Craig Parker** is now a Staff Scientist with the USDA in San Francisco.

Retreat News

The 4th Annual MMG Departmental Retreat will be held on October 12 & 13, at the Ascutney Mountain Resort (Friday, October 12 is Fall Recess). The detailed schedule is not yet finalized, but here's a sneak preview:

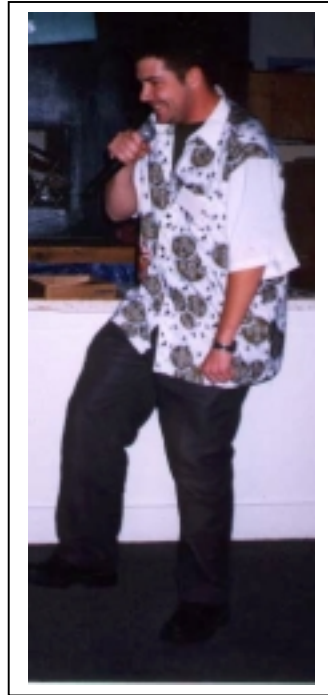
The Retreat Planning Committee is very pleased to announce that our guest speaker this year will be Dr. Joe Heitman, from Duke University. Dr. Heitman's lab studies signal transduction cascades regulating development and virulence of microorganisms. Dr. Heitman's official hosts for the retreat will be a committee of students and postdocs, headed by Stacey Gilk.

Check your e-mail and mailboxes for more details on the retreat as they develop - see you in Ascutney!

Sylvie Doublé, Gary Ward, Doug Johnson, Ken Hampel, Stacey Gilk, and Helen Brunelle



Our last Retreat, October 7, 2000. Left to right: Mike Wichroski, Scott Kathe, Justin Meyette, Jeff Mital.



Jon Cherry enjoying the last retreat!

News from the Ward Lab

Jeff Mital has joined the Ward lab, bringing sunshine and hope to all of the members.

Michael Wichroski's pet rabbit "Ralphie" was recently spayed and thrived through the surgery. Our thoughts were with Ralphie during this time.

News from the Johnson Lab

The last year has been a time of transition for the Johnson lab. **Tammy Richman, Janet Murray, and Alia Merla** did fantastic jobs in successfully defending their Ph.D. dissertations. Janet is currently a Postdoc with **Dr. Barry Finette** in the

UVM Pediatrics Department, Alia is an Applications Specialist with Amersham Pharmacia Biotech in NJ, and Tammy is going to be a Lecturer in MMG for the upcoming year.

The transition for Doug going to the "dark side" as Associate Dean in CALS has gone smoothly and the lab research has hardly been affected, as evidenced by the garnering of a 4-year NSF renewal this Spring.

Kurt Toenjies and **Alysia vandenBerg** are leading a research transition in the lab as we are "closing down" our *S. pombe* research and starting up research on the pathogenic yeast *Candida albicans*.

This summer in the lab, we have two outstanding UVM undergraduates, **Karen Cole Booska** and **David Simpson**, who received HELiX Summer Research Fellowships to do research, and **Herman Chen**, a recent graduate of U. of North Carolina.

All in all, this transitional year has been exciting and successful and we are looking for great things in the year to come.

W. Hunter White is a graduate of the Department (MS, '97) and former member of the Johnson lab, is now a Research Biologist at Eli Lilly. He can be reached at Eli Lilly & Company at (302) 456-3019

News from the Fives-Taylor Lab

Keith Mintz received a promotion from Research Associate to Research Assistant Professor.

Eunice Froeliger left our Department to join the Vermont Department of Health.



News from the Pederson Lab

Marilyn Van Dufflen is now working as a postdoc in Chris Berger's lab in the Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics at UVM.

News from the Burke Lab

Robert Pinard has taken a position as a Research Scientist in Research and Development at Molecular Staging, Inc. in New Haven, Connecticut.

David Pecchia is now a Research and Development Coordinator in the oligo synthesis division of Dharmacon Research, Inc., in Lafayette, Colorado.

News from the Wallace Lab

Bob Melamede will be leaving the beginning of August for new job as Chair of Biology at University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. **Aimiee Stephenson** also has a new job at BSCS, in Colorado Springs. BSCS, or Biological Sciences Curriculum Study, is a nonprofit organization that develops science curricula for grades K-college and provides professional development opportunities for science teachers at all levels.

Vishy Bandaru and **Shanti Jeedigunta** of the **Lewis Lab** had a baby girl, **Aishwarya Bandaru**, on May 14, 2001.



Shanti and baby Aishwarya

Faculty News



Charlie Novotny, Guang-Ping Shen, Bob Ullrich

Charlie Novotny is retiring in August. He will be back in the fall to do some teaching, and I'm sure he will be glad to share some new fishing stories!

Tom Moehring made the trek to Vermont from Florida to help Charlie celebrate.



Susan Wallace and Tom Moehring

New Faculty Members

As a result of the Genetics Search, welcome **Cedric Wesley**, new Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) to the Department. Cedric comes to us from The Rockefeller University in

New York. His wife, **Uma**, a Senior Research Scientist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, will also be joining us as an Assistant Professor on the Research Track.

News from the Main Office

The main office won a radio contest on Friday, June 8. We won a six-foot long hero sandwich and a case of Snapple by faxing a poem to radio station Star 92.9. DJs Baxter and Steele delivered our prize, which was packed into a rain gutter! Our creative entry is reproduced below:

The nicest office to stop in, no matter what you need,
We're always smiling, we're not into greed.

No matter what's shakin' we're not coffee breakin'.

We work in a small fish bowl, with only one goal
We'd love to win the lunch and we'd thank you a bunch.

We love 92.9. It suits us just fine. Come join us and we'll dine.



Left to right: Diane Steele of STAR 92.9, France Roy, Patty Laverty, Debbie Stern, Helen Brunelle and Alan Baxter of STAR 92.9.