



Susan S. Wallace, Chair

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY AND MOLECULAR GENETICS

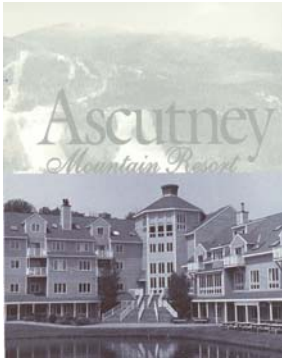
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Retreat 2002

The Fourth Annual MMG Departmental Retreat will be held on October 18 & 19, at the Ascutney Mountain Resort (Friday, October 18 is Fall Recess). Here is a sneak preview of the schedule:



The Retreat Planning Committee is very

pleased to announce that our guest speaker this year will be Dr. John Cooper, from Washington University. Dr. Cooper's lab studies actin assembly and dynamics in yeast and mammalian cells. Dr. Cooper's official hosts for the retreat will be a committee of students and postdocs, headed by Kim Carey and Kurt Toenjes.

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

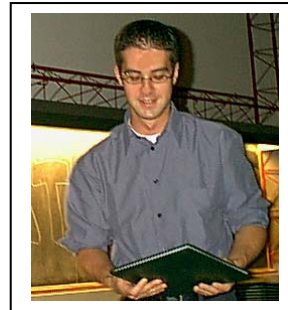


Photo courtesy of Mingyuan Shao

Sylvie Doubl  , Gary Ward, Doug Johnson, Kurt Toenjes, Kim Carey, and Helen Brunelle

MMG Undergraduate Award Winners

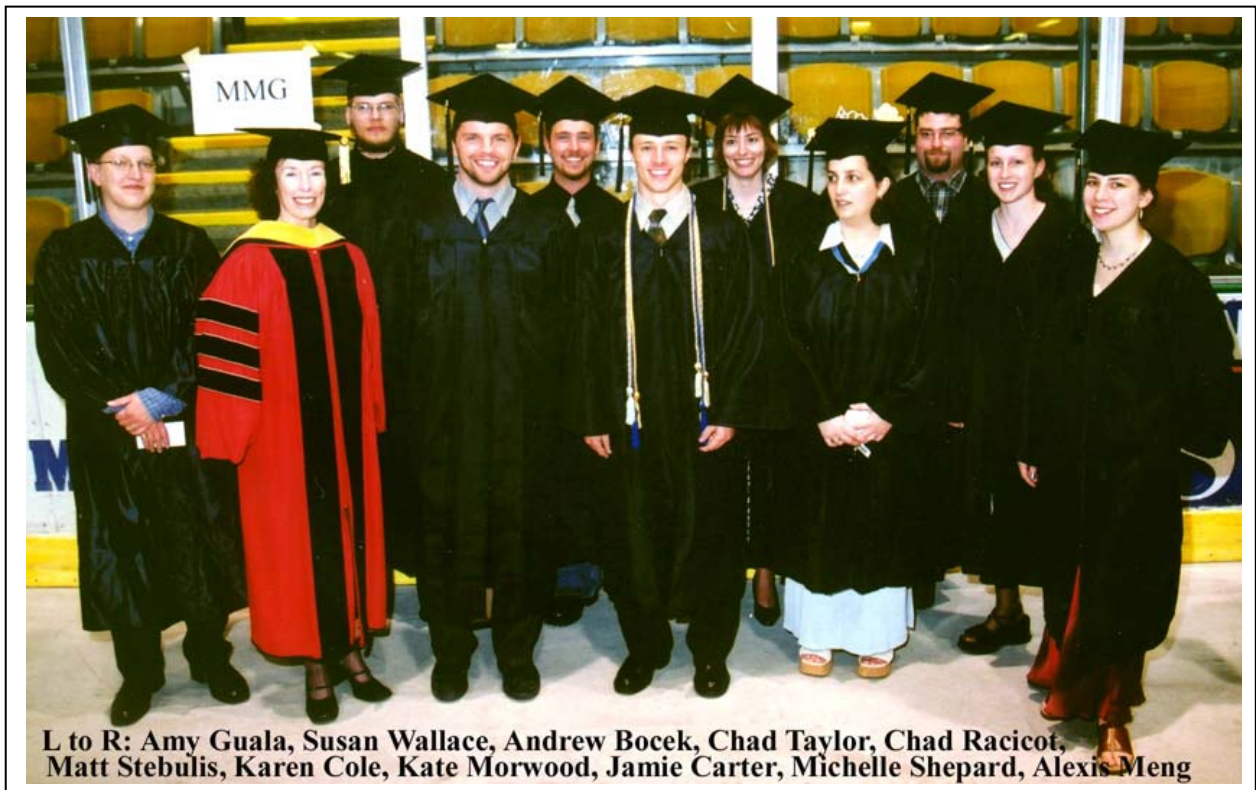
Our 2002 Warren R. Stinebring Award to Outstanding Seniors in Microbiology went to Matt Stebulis and Mike Florucci and our Lucille P. Markey Outstanding Senior in Molecular Genetics went to Karen Cole and Michelle Shepard.



Mike Florucci
(left)

Matt Stebulis
(below)





Graduation

Congratulations to MMG graduates. Those pictured above attended the CALS Ceremony. Carolyn Donohue and John Rose (Ph.D.'s) attended the Med. School Ceremony and Joyce Oetjen (Ph.D.) was stuck in N.C. with plane problems.

Faculty Award Winners

Congratulations to **Paula Fives-Taylor**, winner of the International 2002 Research in Oral Biology Award from the International Association for Dental Research. **Cedric Wesley** received a College of Medicine Faculty Development Award to support a postdoctoral fellow in his lab. This is the first time that anyone in this Department has received this award! **Brenda Tessmann** received the Teaching Award of Merit from the National Association of Colleges and

Teachers of Agriculture and the University of Vermont College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Welcome New Graduate Students

Welcome to the new first year graduate students. You will be seeing their smiling faces in the halls of Stafford, so introduce yourself to:

Emily Donald
Yin Guo
Suzanne Munsee
Lydia Nausch
Melissa Tinsley
Chunxiao Yu

Many thanks to Bill Church and Green Mountain Antibodies for yet another donation to support MMG graduate student activities!!



Top Row from left to right.....Ken Hampel, Eric Meyette, Tim Trott, Justin Meyette, Jamie Carter, Mike Wichroski, Jeff Mital, Jon Cherry.

Bottom Row from left to Right....Tammy Richman, Selena Trott, Molly Coseno, Melissa Batonick.

Not pictured but part of the teamMichelle Shields and Joonhee Han.

Biohazard V - Intramural Softball Champions

by: Michael Wichroski

During the Summer of 2002, the MMG departmental softball team (Biohazard) embarked on what would be one of the most memorable of all of the last five Biohazard seasons. In 2000, Biohazard won their first championship only to then lose in the semifinals of the 2001 season to their arch rival. In a surprising move, Coach Mike Wichroski stepped down after the 2001 season paving the way for up and coming ace Jeff Mital to assume the leadership role. Due to a change of heart, Wichroski was later

reinstated as an assistant coach forming a powerful managerial duo that would take the league by storm. With the return of many Biohazard veterans and numerous important off season acquisitions, Biohazard was poised to make one more run at the UVM Intramural Softball Championship. The Biohazard lineup consisted of Ken "Pedro" Hampel at pitcher and Molly Coseno at catcher. Backing up Ken in the infield were Jon Cherry, Michelle Shields, Mike Wichroski, Jamie Carter, and Selena Trott. Biohazard's stingy outfield consisted of Eric Meyette, Tim Trott, Jeff Mital, Justin Meyette, Tammy Richman, and Joonhee Han.

True to Biohazard form, the team stormed through the regular season with a 9-2-1 record resulting in a first place finish. Biohazard exhibited its characteristic grit and determination throughout the season, which was most evident in a season defining game against rival science team "It's a Given," when a struggling Biohazard rallied in the 7th inning down six runs to tie the game, ultimately resulting in a tie. This game would prove critical as "It's a Given" would go on to beat Biohazard's arch rival late in the year giving Biohazard a first place finish (due to the tie). Biohazard hung in there in the playoff semifinals when a short-handed squad kept the team alive by edging their competition by a score of 20-19 with a display of power that included a 7th inning walk-off homerun by Jamie Carter. Heading into the finals, the tension was mounting as many Biohazard veterans knew that this would be their last chance at intramural fame. With many veterans set to retire at the end of the season, there was a confidence about this group of crafty veterans that could be felt throughout Stafford Hall. Would they go out as champions? As the game approached, the coaches were sent into a panic when it was learned that Molly Coseno had run out of gas in New Hampshire. She would be late and they would have to forfeit. With all of his quick thinking skills at work, Jeff Mital shouted an expletive and promptly made his way over to the Gutterson gym where he fervently looked for another female player. The team was bailed out by Melissa Batnick (automatically in the Biohazard Hall of Fame) who filled in valiantly for the first few innings, saving Biohazard's season and bringing the team one step closer to another title. In a game that went back and forth in the early innings, Biohazard eventually pulled away from their competitor with the help of a large group of supporters that had gathered to root their team on, including Kirk Brown whose enthusiasm did not go unnoticed by the

game officials. Biohazard completed its second championship season.

The faces of Biohazard will change next year but the future looks bright as this team will be led by Jeff Mital and many up and coming young players. Retiring from Biohazard this year and the latest inductees into the Biohazard Hall of Fame are: Mike Wichroski - ex-coach and Biohazard founder with an erratic arm and big mouth; Jon Cherry - five year all-star and Biohazard co-founder; Tim Trott - four year player that roamed the outfield for Biohazard providing a great bat and speed; Selena Trott - solid all around player and bringer of snacks; and, Kirk Brown - yeah, we're bending the rules but there ain't no way Wichroski and Cherry are going in without Kirk.

Congratulations Biohazard!

More Sports News

In more sports news, rumor has it that **Gary Ward** and **Nick Heintz** may be resurrecting the MMG Hockey Team in the coming months. See them for further details!

Assorted Lab News

News from the Mintz Lab:

Denise Fernandez is working as a Laboratory Technician in the Mintz lab. Denise was formerly employed as a Laboratory Manager, Research Associate at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She received her Master's degree in Microbiology from Louisiana State University and has expertise in the field of prokaryotic genetics. Just what the doctor ordered!

News from the Pederson Lab:

Deborah Geraghty, who received her Ph.D. in 1999, recently received an MBA from Boston

College, and is now working with Kendall Strategies, a Biotechnology consulting firm in Cambridge, Mass.

Irene Rainville, who received her Ph.D. in 2000, is currently a postdoc with Stephen Jones at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where she is using transgenic mice to study development and tumorigenesis.

News from the Wallace Lab:



Guang-Ping Shen's daughter, Zhengzheng **Wei** graduated from MMG in 1999 as one of two winners for Lucille P. Markey Outstanding Senior in Molecular

Genetics. She received her Masters degree in Computer Science from UVM this year (2002).

Houhou (the cat) and his friend (raccoon).

Houhou is **Guang-Ping's** brother's 9 month old cat. He is very smart and sits on the sofa, crosses his



arms and watches TV just like you and me. The baby raccoon is visiting in her backyard. This picture was put together by computer! Aren't they cute?

Ahmad Chaudhry has recently established a new DNA Microarray Facility at UVM and is serving as its Director.

Jeff Blaisdell and **Rebecca Guy**, an MMG alumni of the Stein Lab, tied the knot on Saturday, July 20th in Brookfield, VT. Congratulations Jeff and Rebecca!



News from the Francklyn Lab:

Chris Francklyn was recently appointed as a full time member of the NIH Biochemistry Study Section.

News from the Raper Lab:

Cardy Raper sent this article from the warm breezes of Lake Champlain, North Hero, VT, after a five day sail to and from the southern reaches of the Lake.

Tom Fowler went abroad during August to present invited seminars at the International Mycological Congress in Oslo, Norway, and at the University of Helsinki, Finland. He's had the good sense to take a break from his usual 60-70 hour work-weeks in order to enjoy a bit of travel in Scandinavia during the three week interval between seminars. True to form, Tom was so organized for his trip that he not only tried out his new 'European clothes' for comfort ahead of time but printed up address labels for postcard mailing.

The two MMG undergrads in our lab are the proud recipients of summer research grants: **Eleanor Rees** was awarded a HELiX grant to work on "Scooter", the active transposon of *Schizopyllum*, in an effort to make it useful for transposon mutagenesis, and **John List** is

being supported by an REW supplement to my NSF grant to obtain mutations in G-protein coupled receptors of Schizo's mating pheromones that alter their spectra of pheromone recognition. Both Eleanor and John intend to stick with the Raper lab for the next semester or two.

Our lab has also applied for and will receive several thousand dollars to package up our valuable stocks for deposit at the Fungal Genetics Stock Center. Tom made a second attempt in early July, as P.I. to obtain a full-blown NSF grant. Cardy says, "I've never read such fabulous reviews as he received in his first attempt -- can't figure how or why they failed to fund him the first time. Oh well, we have hope eternal!"

You all may have noticed that **Mike Mitton** is no longer humming along off key to his favorite muzak in our lab. He's gone into the construction business, hoping to build and sell at least one house in the Burlington area. He and Angel plan to marry soon. We miss him!

News from the Heintz Lab:

Jon Gilbert, who was an honors graduate of the MMG undergrad Molecular Genetics Program, is getting married this fall. He is moving from DNAX in Palo Alto CA to a new job in the Boston area. He plans on visiting UVM sometime in October.

Chris Houchens, a graduate of the CMB program who did his thesis research while we were housed in the Stafford Building, is moving from Johns Hopkins to Sloan Kettering in NYC to continue his postdoctoral training with Tom Kelly. Chris and his wife Chris have two children.

Julie Wells, another CMB graduate that did her thesis research while we were housed in Stafford, is moving from the University of Wisconsin to Harvard University for

additional postdoctoral training. Julie has been doing extremely well with chromatin IP analysis of transcription factor binding to promoters during the cell cycle, with new papers in PNAS and MCB this year. Her technical expertise in ChIP resulted in a number of great offers in Boston, but rumor has it that the real reason she is moving to Boston is to join her boyfriend!

Young-Chae Chang, a postdoctoral fellow who also did his research in Stafford, is now an Assistant Professor in Korea. Young just received his first large grant that was funded for a full 6 years so he is extremely happy. He is working on antisense and RNAi methods for extinguishing the expression of specific genes.

The members of the lab miss our old space and friends in Stafford. Though we are only a few steps away, it's not the same as being back on the third floor of Stafford. Hope to see all of you at the retreat!

News from the Burke Lab:

The Burke Lab welcomes new graduate students, **Michaela Benyah-Essam (Micci)**, **Dominic Lambert**, and **Julie Hathaway**. In addition, a new postdoc started in the lab on August 19. **Christina Pecore** recently earned her PhD in biophysical chemistry from the Pennsylvania State University.

Former lab members **Danielle Vitiello** and **Robert Pinard** are happy and doing well in New Haven, Connecticut. Rather than a baby, they decided to have a puppy named Mikka. She's a Hungarian Vizsla and is rather exotic looking and quite beautiful.

In January, **David Pecchia** found himself in the challenging position of delivering his and Vaishali's new baby girl, Jemma, at home after being sent home from the hospital due to a lack of beds, and not much happening with Vaishali's labor (they could have hung out

in the waiting room). Soon after their return home, however, the baby decided it was time to meet her family and there was no time for David to do anything but take on the role of midwife. He successfully untangled the umbilical cord from the baby's neck, delivered the shoulders, ran to the kitchen to get string and scissors, and cut the cord. We knew David was talented, but working as midwife, husband, and father simultaneously brings those talents to a whole different level.

A first child arrived for **Qiao Yu** and her husband, Jack Bobo, in March. Her full name is actually Macafie Lili Bobo and she's a gorgeous baby. Good luck to the little one, however, when she enters public school with a name like that!

Have you heard about the new vibe? It's a shiny, new, silver Pontiac Vibe (6-speed manual transmission) that **Michele Shields** bought in Philadelphia. She is currently terrorizing Burlington with her new wheels. Be careful if you're a pedestrian in the vicinity of Hungerford Terrace!!

John Burke's new dog, Helen, Australian sheep dog and black lab mix, is doing well with Sparky, his elderly Australian sheep dog. John and his parents recently visited the Canadian Rockies to celebrate his parent's 50th anniversary. The weather was cold and not that great yet an enjoyable time was had by all!

Anne MacLeod spent a glorious three weeks in Scotland, Ireland, and London from May to June and discovered that the adjective 'brilliant' can be used to describe just about anything.

The Burke lab has a new research grant from the NIH NIGMS that supports biochemical studies on the hammerhead ribozyme.

The Little Shop of Horrors saga goes on as **Zhenxi Zhang** continues growing giant mutant vegetables in the lab. His tomatoes actually attacked Micci one day as she innocently stood nearby and as a result Audrey had to be terminated.

After receiving his Master's Degree in Computer Science in December, **Mike Fay** shaved his goatee and looks and feels like a new man. Congratulations on a great job, Mike!!

In other news...**Cyndi Villarimo** wants her PhD for Christmas; **Ken Hampel**, **Michele Shields**, and **Joonhee Han** were all a part of the championship softball team, The Biohazards, this spring; **Cyndi** wants her PhD for Christmas; **Julie Hathaway** has a new dog, Emma, a cocker spaniel; **Zhenxi** and **Ji** have no babies or dogs, yet; **Joyce Heckman** has been in two car accidents in her beloved Subaru (NOT her fault) and she continues to mentor and support all around her; and, last but not least, **Cyndi** wants her PhD for Christmas!!

News from the Stein Lab:

Dan Zurawski will be celebrating his one year wedding anniversary in September.

Dan Lagasse, former lab technician, has found a job in Boston with a biotechnology company.

The Stein Lab is also proud parents of its new blow-up shark named "Fins" that it received from Continental Lab Products, Inc. for continued patronage. If you visit the lab, you will notice it prominently displayed above Eddie's bench stalking all those who do not return CD's.

News from the Lewis Lab:

Shanti Jeedigunta is leaving us in September for a new job at Mylan Technologies in St. Albans. She will be an Associate Scientist in Analytical R & D.

Tom Lewis and Paula Austin were married on April 21, 2002, in Arizona.



They then went on a rafting trip in Grand Canyon for 18 days. Best wishes to the happy couple!

News from the Johnson Lab:

It has been a busy summer for the Johnson Lab and a bit of a transition time as several old-timer students moved on and new ones came aboard. **David Simpson**, who worked in the lab as an undergraduate and stayed on as a technician this past year, left us in May to pursue the life of a technician at Harvard Medical School in Boston. He now, fittingly, works on mating in yeast in the lab of Elaine Elion. **Chad Taylor**, who also worked with us as an undergrad and then a technician, moved on to work at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School in the Division of Rheumatology and Allergy. Chad's new research focuses on rheumatology. In an ironic twist of fate, Chad and David seemingly can't get enough of the other, working only 2 blocks away from each other. Both are excelling at their newfound jobs and are representing us and the Department well. As for the perpetual old timers: **Doug Johnson** has had a busy summer continuing to balance his dearily duties with keeping us researchers on the straight and narrow. He did travel to Madison, Wisconsin in July where it was hot, hot, hot (literally). He chaired a session at the 2002 Yeast Cell Biology Meeting and presented a high-tech poster summarizing much of the lab's work of the past year. Research associate **Kurt Toenjes**, CMB

student **Alysia vandenBerg**, and lecturer **Tammy Richman** also traveled west this summer, trekking to Ithaca, New York, for the Northeast Regional Yeast (NERY) meeting. Kurt gave an excellent talk on his and David Simpson's work from the past 2 years, while Tammy scrapped together a snazzy poster summarizing her work done in conjunction with **Sergio Morales**, an MMG graduate student, who rotated with us this past spring. Ms. vandenBerg, upon returning from Ithaca, immediately took off to Cancer camp in Keystone, Co. Cancer camp is an annual workshop run by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and Alysia was selected for the honor of attending this summer's workshop. While Alysia will continue to get mail from the AACR for the rest of her life, she had an excellent time mulling over myriads of histology slides, learning the ins and outs of cancer, and whitewater rafting down the Colorado River. Kurt has been busy this summer, wrapping up a paper on his and David's work, which is now ready for submission. He also continues to step up the lab's efforts to study the pathogenic yeast *C. albicans*. To that end, he worked with Rachel Jeffrey, a Yale undergraduate who joined us for the summer, and new MMG graduate student **Suzanne Munsee**. Tammy, the lone holdout on the yeast *S. cerevisiae* front, has been busy, too. In June, Doug and Tammy celebrated the long-awaited publication of their paper on the localization of GFP-Cdc42p. The fruits of their labor were rewarded even further when ASM sent the news that their paper had been chosen as 1 of 6 ASM journal articles from June that would be highlighted in *ASM News*. Tammy also mentored a very talented high school graduate, Ben Wasserman. Ben was immersed in all kinds of molecular biology and yeast genetics this summer and moved along several projects for the lab. Ben will be leaving us this fall to attend Princeton University.

News from the Bond Lab:

Mingyuan Shao took a one-day hiking trip in the Stowe area in August, one of the last stuffy days this summer. They enjoyed the cool breezes at Moss Glenn Falls, then

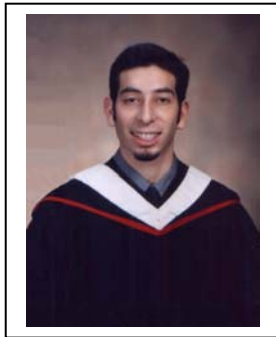


headed for Smuggler's Notch and Sterling Pond, which is located at the very top of the Notch. It was about a 40 minute climb up but only 30 minutes down.

News from the Thali Lab:

The Thali lab lost one, but gained two and a baby! **Carisa Zampieri** has left for graduate school at the GWU/NIH. We'll miss her! **Sandhya Khurana** will do her graduate work in the Thali lab. Welcome! **Lynnie Rudner** joined the lab this summer, hurray. **Sascha O. Nydegger** and Silvia had a 4th of July baby named Janine.

News from the Main Office:



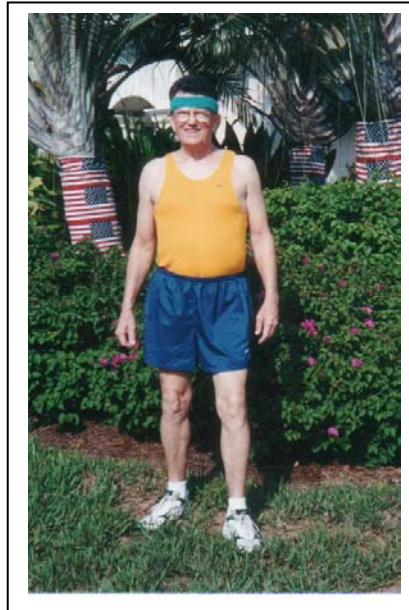
Debbie Stern's son, David Moss, graduated from UVM in May. David is a member of the UVM Boulder Society and past president of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. He is working here on campus as an Admissions Counselor.

France Roy has two additions to her family, Bonnie and Clyde, her two Maltese puppies. Stop by the office any time for an update on the house-breaking progress!



Retiree News

What do retired MMG department members



do after life at UVM? **Tom Moehring** is dressed for jogging on July 6, 2002. **Charlie Novotny** has gone fishing. **Diane Meyer** is just as busy now as when she came to the lab

every day. She is doing contract writing, currently for the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, and is the Coordinator of the *Quality Report*. She is also managing her three camps on Lake Champlain, and has just finished writing a chapter for an Oral Microbiology textbook with **Paula Fives-Taylor**. Diane is also in the process of writing another chapter on invasion of *Aa* for a book entitled *Bacterial Invasion of Host Cells*. Aside from her science, Diane is also busy in the world of tennis as the editor of the USA Tennis Vermont website, Chair of the Board of USA Tennis, Vermont, a member of the Board of USA Tennis New England, and is helping to run a tournament at Mt. Holyoke College in August. She will be at the US Open in New York in September and is then off to Paris, France, to attend the Davis Cup Competition. For recreation, Diane does aerobics almost every day, and just got back from a hiking and biking trip in the Laurentians. She has also recently re-taken up golf.