LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Biology Department Alums and Friends:

This issue of Biology Currents will be Professor Emeritus Uldis Roze’s final issue as Editor-in-Chief, a large undertaking that he has very graciously shouldered since the first issue in 1997. Dr. Roze conceived of Biology Currents, created its format, wrote the bulk of the articles, performed all of the editing, and oversaw its production and distribution. He has done a marvelous job. On behalf of the Department and our alumni, I would like to express my deep appreciation for all his efforts. Dr. PoKay Ma has agreed to succeed Dr. Roze as Editor-in-Chief. Fortunately for us, Dr. Roze will continue his research and scholarly activities at Queens College. He has agreed to serve as Editor Emeritus and will provide input in all aspects of the production of Currents.

2003 has been a very busy year for the Department. Perhaps the most significant undertaking for us was an external evaluation of the Department that took place in October. Drs. Robert Van Buskirk and Douglas Tallamy, biology professors at SUNY-Binghamton and the University of Delaware, respectively, were invited by the College administration to review the Department’s programs. Prior to their visit, Drs. Van Buskirk and Tallamy were provided with a Self Study Report prepared by the Department that gave detailed information on the Department. The entire full-time faculty participated in producing the 87-page Self Study Report, which took over 1 year to complete. Following their visit, the evaluators reported their observations to the administration and the Department responded to their report.

The evaluators commended the Department for “offering such a diversity of courses that were very well reviewed by the undergraduate students” and felt that this was “especially laudatory given the relatively small number of faculty in the Department.” They recognized that the near-term retirement of up to 40% of the full-time faculty presented both a threat and an opportunity, and encouraged the administration to provide the necessary support that would continue to allow the Department to attract high-caliber new faculty to maintain our ranks. The report highlighted the inadequacies of Colwin Hall as a venue for classroom teaching and faculty research. Though Colwin Hall is the historic home of the Department, and continues to house all introductory laboratories, the infrastructure of the building is no longer adequate for teaching modern biology courses or conducting modern research. The evaluators urged the administration to provide a single, modern facility to house most or all of the Department personnel, and teaching and research functions. Drs. Van Buskirk and Tallamy summarized their report by saying: “With the appropriate support from the Administration the Evaluators see a bright future for Biology at Queens College.” We concur.

In view of the external evaluation, I would like to report on our ongoing efforts to attract new faculty to the Department. In September 2003, Dr. Michael Barry joined the Department. There will be new additions to our faculty next year. Dr. John Waldman, presently a senior scientist at the Hudson River Foundation, will be joining our faculty in September 2004. Also, we are in the final stages of recruiting two new faculty members in the areas of ecology and microbiology. However, until new faculty hiring outpaces faculty retirement, the Department cannot return to its former numbers. Nevertheless, more of our faculty members are actively involved in scholarly activities, an important factor for enriching the educational environment for our students.

I invite you to visit the Department in person but if this is not possible please check the Biology Department website, at http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Biology, for updated information on Department activities, contact numbers, and email addresses. On behalf of the Department I thank you for your generous support over the past year and look forward to hearing from you in the years ahead.

Corinne A. Michels, Ph.D., Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING EDITOR

You are receiving the seventh issue of Biology Currents. For seven years, this newsletter was published under the diligent and conscientious editorship of Dr. Uldis Roze. I join Dr. Michels in offering our deep appreciation for his remarkable effort in nurturing this newsletter through its germinal years. Dr. Roze will continue to guide this publication as its Editor Emeritus.

At the request of Dr. Roze, I have agreed to assume the editorship of Currents next year. I feel very honored to be asked, and flattered by the confidence that Dr. Roze has placed in me. I look forward with some trepidation to the challenges of producing this important publication for an ever-increasing alumni population. I am reassured by the fact that we can continue to count on Dr. Roze’s experience...
and counsel in the years ahead.

I have given some thought to the future of *Currents*, and have defined for it three major goals: (i) to maintain the quality, spirit, and purpose of this newsletter that had been achieved under the editorship of Dr. Roze; (ii) to expand its distribution and availability; and (iii) to involve the alumni in its production.

We will attempt to achieve the second goal by making *Biology Currents* available on the web, in addition to the print copy. Alumni and friends will be able to access *Currents* by visiting the Department of Biology website. All previous issues also will be available. In addition, information and photographs that are not included in the print copy will be placed on the web. Photographs of Department and College activities will be posted. The website will be updated periodically to keep it truly current.

The third goal is relatively more ambitious and its success requires alumni participation. *Biology Currents* was conceived as a newsletter of the alumni and for the alumni. For seven years, it has been produced by the Department to serve as an agent for the Department to keep up with you, and for you to keep up among yourselves. I would like to explore the possibility of making this a newsletter by the alumni as well. To this end, I will initiate three new features, all of which require your active participation. First, instead of a one-editor publication, I would like to assemble an editorial board for *Currents*. I invite alumni to serve on this board. Volunteers or nominations are most welcome. Second, in addition to profiling new graduates, I would like to include profiles of alumni in each issue. I urge you to send to me names of alumni whose biography or accomplishments may enliven this newsletter. Third, I would like to initiate the “History of the Queens College Department of Biology” project. We seek anecdotes and reminiscences from you about your times at Queens College. Tell us about life in the Department, your ups and downs, the faculty members and classmates you remember or have forgotten. Tell us your funny stories, sad stories, or any stories. If you still remember them after several years, they must have made an impact on your life. If you have photographs or other memorabilia related to the College or the Department, we ask you to share them. The history of the Department needs to be told, and you are the ones to tell it.

As one of the more junior members of the Department, I do not personally know many of our alumni, and I am not known by the majority of you. I would like to be acquainted with you, and invite you to contact me with suggestions on how to improve this newsletter, and how to improve communication between the Department and its alumni. I would also welcome your active participation in the writing and production of the newsletter. I very much look forward to hearing from you at pokay@qc.edu or at the College address listed in this issue.

PoKay Ma

### Profiles

#### Michael Barry

Dr. Michael Barry joined the Department in September 2003, making him the newest current member of the Biology faculty. He has had a busy first semester. Besides teaching Bio 108 laboratory and preparing to teach the course in the Spring (where he is introducing a series of new lab exercises with Dr. Seeling), he developed, with Dr. PoKay Ma, a new vertebrate anatomy and physiology course with lab. And while setting up his new lab and serving on a variety of College committees, he wrote and submitted three grant applications to support his future research. It is a strenuous lifestyle, which makes demands both on the young professor and his family.

But Dr. Barry defends the professional standards demanded of young faculty. He feels that professional achievement of the faculty is one of the most important vehicles for helping the College reclaim and maintain its historic role as the magnet for bright students from Queens. In addition, a higher science visibility might help to reverse the slide in the number of biology majors graduating from Queens College in recent years.

Dr. Barry’s research, reflected in 21 scientific publications to date, has been focused on gustation — the sense of taste — in mammals and fish. In work on hamsters at the University of Connecticut, he explored the neurobiology of salt-taste receptors in the tongue. The sense of salt taste is transmitted by the chorda tympani, a branch of the facial nerve. Ablation of the chorda tympani destroys the ability to taste salt. (In humans, facial nerve damage following oral surgery or radiation treatment can lead to loss of taste sensation.) In hamsters, the ability to taste salt returns following nerve regeneration, and is lost once more by cutting the regenerated nerve.

Tracing the gustatory sense to the central nervous system, Dr. Barry also studied changes in the hamster solitary nucleus following nerve damage. While agreeing that there is some neural division of labor for taste modalities, Dr. Barry characterizes as “garbage” the simplistic mapping of taste modalities on the tongue as presented in most introductory biology textbooks.

Using functional magnetic resonance imaging at Columbia University, Dr. Barry has begun mapping the organization of taste in the human cerebral cortex. He would like to continue this work at Queens College, and explore how the sensation of taste is related to the sight and smell of food, and how this relationship is organized in the brain. Some of these studies will be performed in collaboration with members of the Biology Department and the Neuropsychology group in the Psychology Department.

Dr. Barry is keenly aware of the sacrifices and uncertainties implicit in scientific research. But for him, one glorious satisfaction balances them all: the knowledge that once a
problem yields its answer, the researcher is the only person in the world to savor the triumph. Of all the human sensory modalities, taste is today perhaps the least understood in neuropsychological perspective. The field holds many answers, and potential future triumphs, for the patient investigator.

Dr. Barry comes to Queens College via the University of Pennsylvania (BA, with Biology honors), the University of Hawaii (M.Sc.), and the University of Delaware (Ph.D. in fish neurobiology). These were followed by a post-doctoral position at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (biology of the fish spiracular organ), and research appointments at the University of Connecticut, Seton Hall University, and most recently, Columbia University. While his Queens College appointment is recent, Dr. Barry has had a long association with CUNY. His wife, Dr. Erika Friedman, a health scientist, was on the faculty of Brooklyn College for many years. Dr. Barry has learned much about CUNY at the dinner table – nothing surprises him after joining Queens College. With experience at many other universities, along with a deep understanding of CUNY, Dr. Barry brings with him a broad perspective of the strengths and weaknesses of this institution, and is in a good position to help to enhance this College.

Arthur Lentz Colwin, professor of Biology emeritus, died November 1, 2003 at his home in Key Biscayne, FL. He was born in Sydney, Australia. When Arthur was young, his family moved to Montreal, Canada. In high school, he worked to help support his family, but studied evenings to ensure success in applying to the prestigious McGill University in Montreal. He won admission and a scholarship, and earned a B.S. in Biology, graduating as valedictorian of the Class of 1933. Three years later, he completed his Ph.D. at the same institution.

Following his doctorate, Arthur won a fellowship at the Osborne Zoological Laboratories of Yale University. This turned out to have two important consequences. First, from Yale he won entrée to the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratories (MBL), where he was to spend much of his creative scientific career. Second, it was at Woods Hole that he met his future wife, Laura Hunter. Laura confides that Arthur was a lifelong choco-holic, and as part of her courtship, she fed him an endless supply of chocolates!

Laura accepted Arthur’s proposal, but the couple put off marriage till he found a permanent job. This happened in 1940, when Arthur joined the Biology faculty of the then-three-year-old Queens College. Laura recalls they had a brief honeymoon in the Poconos, then had to rush back to grade final exams.

At Queens College, Arthur embarked on his major work, a study of the fertilization process in animals. In this research, Laura was his full partner; all of their research publications are jointly authored. Laura states that the two retained distinct modes of thinking. If there were two ways to do something, Arthur would do it one way, Laura the other way. The result was stronger science; having survived each other’s criticism, the work was pre-tested for external review.

The Colwins’ test organisms were marine organisms, in particular the annelid Hydroides and the hemichordate Saccoglossus. For these, they depended on the facilities of the Woods Hole MBL. During the fall spawning season, the weekly rhythm of work consisted of teaching and lab work at Queens, followed by weekend travel to the MBL. Typically only Arthur would be teaching on Friday afternoon. Laura would leave the campus early on Friday afternoon to prepare sandwiches for the trip. She would return as the afternoon lab was finishing, pick up Arthur, and immediately start the drive to Woods Hole. In pre-interstate days, they drove along the slow U.S. 1 coastal road, stopped for midnight coffee at a diner near Providence, and reached Woods Hole in the morning hours. They would be in their lab at 9 am on Saturday.

The Colwins used the newly discovered electron microscope to study the process of fertilization in Hydroides, Saccoglossus, and other marine animals. Their discoveries led to a fundamental change in the understanding of the fertilization process. They disproved the then-prevailing dogma that the sperm penetrates the egg during fertilization, and demonstrated instead that the membranes of sperm and egg undergo a complex fusion process. Membrane fusion has been shown to occur in almost every animal studied to date.

Arthur’s research was interrupted by WWII. In 1943, he entered the Air Force and served in the Pacific, winning a bronze star and retiring with the rank of captain. After the war, the Colwins won an NSF grant to install the first electron microscope at Queens College, in their basement lab in the former E Building. In 1953–54, the Colwins spent a sabbatical year at the Misaki Marine Biological Station in Tokyo, Arthur on a Fulbright, Laura on an AAUW Fellowship. It was at the same venue in 1960 that the Colwins chaired a symposium on fertilization held under the auspices of the International Institute of Embryology. Here they presented their EM studies of the fertilization process; the results were published the following year in the Journal of Biophysical and Biochemical Cytology, now The Journal of Cell Biology.

The Colwins’ professional lives revolved around the twin poles of Queens College and the MBL. While living modestly, they made generous gifts to both institutions following their QC retirement in 1973. At Queens College, they endowed the Colwin Prize, an annual award given to a graduating Biology major with substantial achievement in academics and research. At the MBL, in 2003, they endowed the Colwin Endowed Summer Research Fellowships, used to support the full summer lab fees of young investigators.

Queens College honored the couple in May 1993 by naming the former E Building Laura and Arthur Colwin Hall. The MBL honored them by electing them to the MBL Board of Trustees, and later Trustees Emeriti. Arthur also served on the Editorial Board of the Biological Bulletin. He is survived by his wife Laura, and two sisters, Sally Werfel of Seattle and Ruth Rogers of Las Vegas.
Elijah Kim

Blazing a New Trail

Elijah Kim is the middle of three sons of a pastor and a nurse’s aide. His parents emigrated from Korea to the United States and settled in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, where Elijah was born. The senior Mr. Kim had chosen to settle in a neighborhood that he felt was most in need of his ministry, a courageous choice that had lasting impacts on his young sons. Elijah attended Stuyvesant High School, and entered Queens College with intent to pursue a career in medicine. During his four years at Queens College, Elijah generated an outstanding academic and leadership record. He was President of the Future Healers of America, the Queens College pre-health students’ organization. Under his leadership, the Future Healers saw an increase in membership and in the number and variety of invited speakers, both from our own campus and from various professional schools. He served on the editorial board of Nucleus, the Queens College journal for research in the sciences. He has also been active in the Biology Honor Society and was elected President during his senior year. He has also served as President of the Queens College Korean Christian Fellowship.

It was in the rough-and-tumble neighborhood of Bushwick where Elijah encountered much that molded his career choice and aspiration. As youngsters, the Kim brothers were frequent victims of racial harassment, threats and crimes. Elijah has seen many of his childhood companions drop out of high school, become drug addicts, or end up in prison. It is quite remarkable that out of this environment sprang a young man who is industrious, cheerful, caring, and has, in the words of one of his mentors, “an infectious optimism that is a boon to his teachers and fellow students.” Part of this optimism is probably rooted in the courage and hope inherent in the resolution to emigrate. For Elijah, this optimism stems also from more personal convictions. Or in his own words: “I am a result of such a community and I am living evidence that socioeconomic status need not prohibit success. In the spirit of selfless sacrifice we can bring health and hope, and recapture the zest that is life for both the impoverished and the advantaged.”

Discimus ut serviamus – Elijah is a full embodiment of our motto.

Elayne Pappas

In Her Mother’s Footsteps

In June 2004, Elayne Pappas will march in the graduates’ column in the 80th commencement of Queens College, exactly 31 years after her parents, Despina Pappas (née Papadopoulos) BA ’73 and Ike Pappas BA ’73, went through the same exercise. Despina Pappas went on to dental school at Columbia University and set up a pedodontics practice, while Ike Pappas went on to business school at Baruch College (MBA ’76) and set up an accounting business. They raised a family in Queens, in which Elayne is one of three children.

Elayne has known from a tender age that she will join the ranks of her mother’s profession. In fact, Elayne knows not to change a winning formula. She followed in her mother’s footsteps to the Bronx High School of Science, to Queens College, and to the Department of Biology. However, she has opted not to follow her mother onto the next step. Although she was accepted by the School of Dental and Oral Surgery at Columbia University, she has decided to attend the School of Dental Medicine at SUNY- Stony Brook this Fall. This, however, will only be a short detour. Elayne intends to focus on pediatric dentistry, and join her mother in practice in the near future. According to her mother, Elayne has chosen her profession herself; there was no maternal pressure, although Dr. Pappas cannot but be flattered and delighted with that choice.

Outside of Biology and Dentistry, Elayne’s foremost passions are her family, her heritage, and basketball. As she has intimated to one of her mentors, her family life is conducted in the mode of My Big Fat Greek Wedding. In tribute to her Hellenic heritage, Elayne has elected to minor in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. Although she no longer plays as much as she used to, basketball is taken very, very seriously. She remains active in the sport as coach of her church’s team and under Elayne’s guidance, the team is champion of the Metropolitan Greek Orthodox Basketball League. Can the skills learned in stuffing rubber spheroids into large hoops enhance the skills needed to stuff amalgam into tiny cavities? Time will tell.
Two New Endowed Scholarship Funds in the Department of Biology

The Adele Mae Gottschalk Scholarship Fund

The Adele Mae Gottschalk Scholarship Fund was established with a generous bequest of $168,000 by the late Dr. Adele M. Gottschalk. It forms the nucleus of an endowment fund we hope to build on and grow over the coming years. According to Dr. Gottschalk's stipulation, income from the Fund will provide a tuition scholarship each year for a female student in her sophomore, junior, or senior year who intends to pursue a medical career. Although the recipient may pursue any major within Queens College, the Department of Biology has been chosen by Dr. Gottschalk to administer the funds.

Dr. Gottschalk was born in Elmhurst, Queens, in December, 1941. Her father passed away when she was twelve years old, and her mother supported the family under difficult circumstances. Dr. Gottschalk majored in Chemistry at Queens College and graduated with honors in 1963. She attended the School of Medicine at SUNY–Buffalo on a four-year scholarship and graduated in 1967 third in her class and one of only six women. She went on to the University of Chicago and the University of California–San Diego for her internship and residency— in surgery. This was a bold, unconventional choice for a woman in the 1960s. She was the first woman surgeon in southern California. For two decades, Dr. Gottschalk practiced general surgery with the Kaiser-Permanente Health Plan in the San Diego area until her retirement in the early 1990s. After retirement, Dr. Gottschalk was active in church activities and public service.

Dr. Gottschalk has established two scholarship funds at her alma mater, one at Queens College and the other at SUNY–Buffalo. She worked part-time and saved for her education, but felt that, given the difficult circumstances of her youth, it was free tuition at Queens College and scholarship support at SUNY–Buffalo that made her high professional achievement possible. She wanted to extend a similar opportunity to others. The Department of Biology at Queens College has set up a committee to administer this fund. Contributions to the Adele Gottschalk Scholarship Fund may be made to the Queens College Foundation.

The Max K. Hecht Scholarship Fund

The Department of Biology has established an endowment fund in honor of Professor Max K. Hecht, who passed away on March 17, 2002.

Professor Hecht worked at Queens College for more than 40 years, and served as Chairman of the Department of Biology for 18 of those years. In his capacity as a teacher and an administrator, Max touched the lives of many students and colleagues. He was also an outstanding researcher who made influential contributions in many areas of evolutionary biology. A detailed profile of Max's life and work was published in the 2002 edition of Biology Currents.

The Max K. Hecht Scholarship Fund was initiated by the Hecht family and Professor Marvin Wasserman. Each year, an award will be made to a junior or a graduating senior who is considered to be an outstanding Biology major. The criteria to be used are academic and research accomplishments. Preferences will be given to students interested in organismic biology, Max's field. Contributions to the Max K. Hecht Scholarship Fund may be made to the Queens College Foundation.

ALUMNI NEWS

Henry B. Freye '52 and Virginia Lucas Freye (née Freydberg) '50 write that despite the passage of more than 50 years, they still care about what goes on at their alma mater. Henry was co-captain of the QC soccer team, and played in the QC Orchestra–Band, where his classmate Albert Kapikian '52 played a magnificent cello (see April 2001 Biology Currents).

Henry and Virginia met at the College and married in 1954. Virginia went on to a career at Sloan-Kettering Institute, Ciba Pharmaceutical, Duke University, and the University of California at San Francisco, where she authored or co-authored 13 scientific publications. Henry and Virginia have three children who have distinguished themselves in their own fields of endeavor.

Henry graduated from Duke University Medical School in 1959 and returned there for a pediatric residency followed by a fellowship in Allergy and Immunology at Duke and CHMC in Boston. He joined the faculty of Brown University in 1965 and had a private practice in Rhode Island and Connecticut, which he continues on a part-time basis.

Barry Bass '74 earned an MS from NYU in 1977, a DDS
from SUNY-Stony Brook in 1981, and a specialty in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Long Island Jewish Hospital in 1984. He is in private practice in oral surgery in Plainview and Massapequa, and is Associate Director of the TMJ Department at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset. His home phone is 516-484-7087.

Bridgit Pilchman Goldman ’98 is pursuing a Ph.D. at CUNY in the field of plant molecular biology. As teaching assistant in the QC Biology Department, she won a 2003 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student. A few of the student evaluations cited in the President’s Award: “the best laboratory instructor I have ever known” and “the embodiment of everything a great teacher should be.” Congratulations, Bridgit!

**FACULTY NOTES**

Stephane Boissinot gave four meeting presentations:
- Oral presentation at the Mid-Atlantic transposable elements meeting, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, June 2003.
- Three poster presentations at the meeting of the American Genetics Association, University of Connecticut, Storrs, July 2003

Corinne Michels maintained continuing external grant support from the NIH. She attended the Gordon Conference on Stress-induced gene expression at Queen’s College, Oxford University, London. In addition, her lab gave three meeting presentations:
- At the Yeast Cell Biology meetings, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, Cold Spring Harbor, NY. (Oral presentation)
- At the XXI International Conference on Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology, Goteborg, Sweden. (Poster presentation)
- At the Eukaryotic Transcription meeting, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, Cold Spring Harbor, NY. (Poster presentation)

Paul Mundinger presented a paper at the Northeast Birdsong Workshop at Millbrook, NY, July 9, 2003.

Cathy Savage-Dunn was awarded an American Cancer Society grant of $720,000 for 7/1/03–6/30/07, for the study of genes and cells involved in TGFβ signaling in C. elegans.
- In August 2003 she presented an invited seminar at the University of Toronto.
- On October 14, with members of her lab, she gave a poster presentation at the Inaugural Symposium of the Developmental Biology Program, Sloan-Kettering Institute, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Zahra Zakeri became President of the International Cell Death Society, and joined the Editorial Board of the Journal Apoptosis. She gave 6 invited seminars:
- At the January 2003 meeting “Apoptosis 2003 – from signaling pathways to therapeutic tools” held in Luxembourg.
- At the University of Ottawa, Canada, April 2003.
- At the Villa Vigoni-Loreno de Menaggio, Como, Italy on

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**Biology 2003 B.A. Graduates**

Allende, Lisa
Barkhardaryan, Ania*
Blake, Katherine,* Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society
Bloom, Alana,* cum laude, Golden Key Society
Budhram, Roshil*
Cacarla, Sumita*
Campana, Christian
Castillo, Cesar
Cohen, Miriam,* QC Foundation scholar
Deenadayalan, Swarna
Desmornes, Julner
Dimitrakakis, Potoula
Hossain, Sharbind,* Feigelson Award; magna cum laude, Golden Key Society, Abe Rothenberg Memorial Award.
Isseroff, Esther,** Colwin Prize; summa cum laude, Golden Key Society, Phi Beta Kappa
Jolanda, Jolanda
Kaur, Ramneek*
Kent, Scott*
Khan, Karen
Khanzada, Ghulam
Meehan, Patricia,* cum laude, Golden Key Society
Nekmard, Farid
Panagiotakis, Antonios*
Patel, Kajal,* Golden Key Society, QC Foundation scholar
Patel, Pratiksha
Peerezada, Habibullah
Petrides, Artemis,** Darwin Prize; magna cum laude
Razack, Shaleeza
Russo, Elizabeth,** Lancefield Prize; summa cum laude, Golden Key Society

Seedarnee, Rudra
Sobin, Jessica*
Sokolowski, Jennifer
Taher, Tanzina
Tello, Luis
Theotokas, Mario*
Thind, Amanjot
Varellas, Keira
Veloso, Rolando
Verma, Palika
Wittig, Christine
Zeman, Lawrence

*Biology honors
**Biology high honors

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**Biology 2003 M.A. Graduates**

Hamid Khan
Jonathan Kwiat
Anita Heinz
Eric Morgan


• At the University of Galway, Ireland, June 2003.
• At the University of Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy, June 2003.
• At the School of Dental Medicine Pathology Department, University of Pennsylvania, August 2003.

With members of her lab, she gave two meeting presentations at the Cell Death Meeting at Cold Spring Harbor, New York. The titles were “Regulation of Cyclin-dependent kinase 5 and cell death,” and “Analysis of influenza virus-induced cell death.”

RETIRES

Sheldon (Corky) Aaronson was attending a performance of Henry IV at Lincoln Center in early January 2004 when he felt the curtains were closing early – for him! His heart had slowed to the point he was fighting for consciousness. He was evacuated to the nearby St. Luke’s – Roosevelt Hospital, where he discovered the head of Cardiology was Dr. Jonathan Steinberg ’76, a former student of his in Microbiology. The cardiac problem was solved by installation of a pacemaker, and Corky has returned home to the happy smiles of his grandchildren. Dr. Steinberg recalls the microbiology course as an obstacle course on the way to medical school, but is happy that the pacemaker operation has worked out well.

Corky plans to continue a labor of many years’ duration, a book on the uses of algae and lichens in human medicine.

Andrew Greller began serving as President of the Torrey Botanical Society, for the term 2003-2005. He is also an Honorary Research Associate at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, and an honorary Curator in the Institute of Taxonomic Botany at the New York Botanical Garden.

He taught a course in World Vegetation (doctoral level) at QC in fall 2003, and continues to serve on doctoral committees at the City University of New York.

Uldis Rozé gave two invited presentations:
• At the annual meeting of the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association in Newport, RI, March 15, 2003.
• At the annual meeting of the New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Council in Hamilton, NY, November 1, 2003.

His 2002 article in the Journal of Mammalogy 83:381–385 was selected for review in Nature Australia, Winter 2003 issue. The article discusses biological design factors that allow a porcupine to separate from a would-be predator after the porcupine’s quills have formed a temporary bridge between itself and the predator.

Acknowledgments: The editors wish to thank David Alsop, Suzanne Chamberlain (SUNY-Buffalo), Laura Colwin, Mario DellaPina, Roberta Koeper, Corinne Michels, Despina Pappas, Regina DeRise, and Marvin Wasserman for their help in the production of this newsletter.
BIOLOGY ALUMNI FUND

Between 1/1/03 and 12/31/03, 78 alumni and friends donated a total of $9,293.34 to the Department of Biology. At a time of budget deficits, these gifts fill an important niche in the Department. They are used for departmental enhancement, to support student and faculty research and student travel to scientific conferences, and for course development. We are deeply grateful for this support.

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Co-editors: PoKay Ma and Uldis Roze
www.qc.edu/Biology/
Department of Biology, Queens College, The City University of New York
65-30 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing, New York 11367 U.S.A.

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