Mitsu Yoshida, an undergraduate in the Lin laboratory, was awarded the Mika Salpeter Prize for the best thesis in Neurobiology at Cornell in 2009. His thesis employed laser microdissection, microarrays, bioinformatics, genetics, and in vitro approaches to identify novel axon guidance cues in the mouse olfactory system.

Caroline Lei Wee, a Biology undergraduate who has been working in the Gunn lab since she arrived at Cornell in the fall of 2005, was named a Merrill Presidential Scholar and graduated summa cum laude this spring. Merrill Presidential Scholars represent ~1% of graduating Cornell seniors who have demonstrated outstanding scholastic achievement, strong leadership ability, and potential for contributing to society. They are selected by the deans of each of the undergraduate colleges. Caroline will be returning to sing at reunion, as a member of the Cornell University Chorus, before returning to Singapore to perform research and apply for graduate studies in neuroscience for the following year.
Eric Williams, a graduate student in the Lin laboratory, was selected from among 150 attendees to present a talk at the Keystone Symposium on Axonal Connections. He presented his studies on the role of the olfactory bulb during development and regeneration in the olfactory system. Eric was the only graduate student selected out of ten chosen presenters.

David Lin was elected an honorary member of Phi Zeta, the Veterinary Honor Society.

A heartfelt Congratulations to Xianfei (Fei) Sun, a graduate student in Dr. Paula Cohen’s lab, who just returned from China where she was joyfully married to Xu Wang, a graduate student from Dr. Andy Clark’s lab!
Welcome! - Andrew Modzelewski

“I am a first year Genetics and Development grad student here at Cornell and have recently decided to join Paula and the Cohen Lab. I just finished my rotation period here in Paula's lab where I learned a great deal about meiosis and have been introduced to advanced techniques that I have only previously read about. I am just beginning my thesis research on the ill-defined function of the argonaute family of proteins in terms of development and reproduction. I am also continuing the research of a past lab member on the functions of MLH1 and MLH3 as well as investigating their possible protein interactions in order to better understand their role in meiosis.

I would like to get involved in some of the many outdoor activities Ithaca has to offer. I have spent some time snowboarding, hiking and biking. I have just recently been introduced to rock climbing and kayaking and now that the summer is upon us I would really like to continue those pursuits. Paula enjoys the fact that I own hedgehog(s). They are surprisingly independent animals and if the law permits, I hope to one day breed them. They serve as the perfect grad student pet since you can virtually forget about them for days and it turns out they actually prefer that level of attention and like grad students, they are nocturnal.

I am excited about my decision to join this lab because of how well the group operates and how friendly the atmosphere is. Paula is a very supportive and knowledgeable PI which gives me the most confidence about the next few years of my career.

I hope to get a chance to meet everyone in the department and would like to help out with whatever I can while I am here so please feel free to involve me in any event that might come up.”

Thanks,
-Andrew Modzelewski

Publications


Questions or Suggestions regarding this Newsletter?

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Check out this link for Staff and Faculty for some useful information and tools:
http://www.ohr.cornell.edu/current/sustain/index.html

Administrative Staff in The College of Veterinary Medicine are invited to Administrative Networking Lunches (you bring your lunch - Beverage and Cookies provided). These luncheons are held once a month. The next Administrative Networking Lunch will be June 11, 2009 from 12-1pm in Schurman Hall, room S1-007.

GRAPES

The Graduate students, Residents, And Postdocs Experiencing Synergy (GRAPES) society is recruiting new members! This society was founded by trainees in Biomedical Sciences with the express purpose of promoting intra-departmental collaboration. All the GRAPES sponsored collaborative hours, the annual chili challenges and picnics and numerous other events have been coordinated by our group, however these cannot continue to be as successful without an influx of new members. Participation does not take up much time, we have one meeting a month and usually spread other responsibilities equally among the group. It's a great way to meet new people in the department and also looks pretty good on your CV!!

If you are a grad student, postdoc or resident and would like to join, please contact either Ashley Woods (akw25@cornell.edu) or Patty Clark (pac35@cornell.edu).