

# GENETICS *at georgia*

## Three genetics researchers elected AAAS Fellows

By Helen Fosgate

Three University of Georgia researchers connected to the department of genetics have been named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Election as a fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers.



Dawe

The three faculty members include R. Kelly Dawe, professor and Georgia Research Alliance Lars G. Ljungdahl Distinguished Investigator in Plant Biology and Genetics; Daniel Promislow, professor of genetics, both in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences; and Sarah F. Covert, associate professor of forest biotechnology in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources and adjunct professor of genetics.



Promislow

“The university is enormously pleased that these three distinguished faculty have been honored for their research accomplishments,” said David Lee, UGA vice president for research. “Selection as an AAAS fellow is a major milestone in the careers of our most talented scientists and important recognition of their ground-breaking contributions that also brings distinction to the University of Georgia.”

This year, 471 AAAS members were awarded this honor as a result

see *fellows* page 7

## Daniel Ruzicka awarded 2007 Bishop Graduate Fellowship

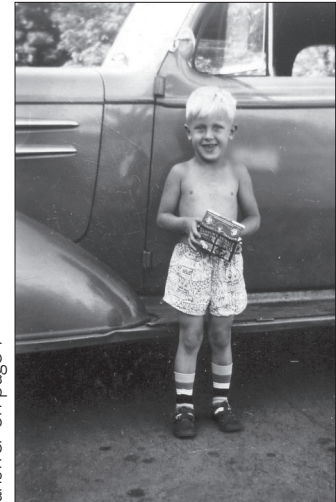
The Graduate Affairs Committee has awarded the 2007 Linton and June Bishop Graduate Fellowship to Daniel Ruzicka. Dan’s work in Rich Meagher’s lab has focused on understanding the role of the actin depolymerizing Factor gene family in regulating plant cytoskeletal organization.



The fellowship, an endowment established by a generous gift of Dr. Linton and Mrs. June Bishop, provides support for an outstanding genetics graduate student each year.

Following graduation in May, Dan will join the lab of Daniel Schachtman at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St Louis for postdoctoral work investigating the transcriptional and physiological response of tomato roots to soil nutrients in the presence of mycorrhizal fungi. His long-range goal is to pursue a plant molecular biology research career in industry.

answer on page 7



*Guess Who ?*

A UGA Foundation Fellow majoring in genetics and microbiology, Beth also competes in swimming and is a tutor for other UGA athletes. Her research focuses on an analysis of the structure and function of the IS492 transposase, MooV in the lab of Anna Karls. She plans to go to pharmacy school and perhaps pursue pharmacological genetics research.

## Beth Riggle receives Kenyon award

Beth Riggle was named the Cynthia Kenyon Undergraduate Award recipient at the department’s fourth annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. The Kenyon award, named in honor of a former undergraduate now on the faculty of the University of California-San Francisco, is given each



year to an outstanding undergraduate student for exceptional performance in academics, in research, and in leadership outside of the classroom.

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Peter Frey



Covert

## editor's note



Welcome to the fourth edition of the *Genetics at Georgia* newsletter. With much assistance from the former and founding editor, Michael Bender, I have assumed the reigns and bring to you a new look along with news updates and a new feature, the "Guess Who?" photo challenge (cover page).

We enjoy reading and tracking the career updates and news stories from alumni. We share the news in each issue to keep friends, family and colleagues in touch. Please, continue to share your accomplishments (personal and professional) by sending news to Susan White (whites@uga.edu). We will publish your news in the next issue.

Whether you are a parent, student or an alumnus, I bet you remember going to, or participating in, the science fair. This next piece of news comes not from an alumnus, but a high school student conducting research in the laboratory of Daniel Promislow. Yihe Dong, of Cedar Shoals High School, won First Place and the Best of Category Award at the 2007 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair for her project titled "Maternal Effects of Diet Restriction in Fruit Flies." The departmental focus on education and fostering laboratory research at all levels is unwavering.

Towards this end, your financial contributions have been put to good use. The money was used to support student travel to present research findings at national and international meetings, provide student fellowships and recognize outstanding student accomplishments. A little money can go a long way towards assisting a student's career and development. For information on how to make a gift, see page 7.

Jessica Kissinger

Design: Christopher Ross, Susan White  
Photographers: Jessica Kissinger,  
Carmen Rodriguez, Susan White

## News | Graduate Program

The genetics graduate program continues to shine. Publications in top journals, presentations at prestigious scientific meetings, and numerous awards reflect the high caliber of our students this year.

Jeremy DeBarry and Chin-Horng Kuo won two of the fifty highly competitive 2008 Dissertation Completion Assistantships awarded by the University of Georgia Graduate School. Jodie Linder was awarded an ARCS Foundation Scholarship and the 2007 Alton Graduate Fellowship from the department of genetics. Dan Ruzicka was named the 2007-08 Linton and June Bishop Fellow in Genetics. Brunie Burgos was selected as the Southern Regional Educational Board State Doctoral Fellow and received a 2008 American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) Travel Grant to attend the ASPB meeting this summer.



Jeremy



Chih-Horng



Tina



Kate



Jodie

The students in our program are also committed to teaching. Tina Bell won the UGA 2008 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award and Kate Small was the recipient of the 2008 Graduate School Excellence in Teaching Award. Both Tina and Kate exemplify the dedication and passion for teaching exhibited within the department.

The high quality of the scientific research of our graduate students continues to be reflected by their numerous journal publications and presentations at scientific meetings. Chih-Horng Kuo has an impressive publication track this year. He is the first author of three articles published in *Genetica*, an international journal of genetics and evolution, for his work with John Avise, Daniel Promislow, and Jessie Kissinger, respectively. Jodie Linder was selected to speak at the 2007 South Eastern Ecology, Population Genetics and Evolution meeting in Tremont, TN. Jodie's work on host-pathogen interactions was published in *The Journal of Insect Physiology*. Lizhen Chen presented a poster of her work at the 2007 annual meeting of the American Society of Cell Biology. Kimberly Hunt, Eleanor Kuntz, and Dan Ruzicka each presented their work at the 2007 Plant Center Retreat in Lake Lanier, GA. Dan was awarded the retreat's First Place for Best Graduate Student Talk, and his studies on the actin-depolymerizing factor gene family have been published in *The Plant Journal*. In addition, Dan Ruzicka, Kimberly Hunt, Vanessa Koelling and Brunie Burgos presented their research findings at the 2007 ASPB meeting in Chicago. Eve Basenko was an invited speaker at the 2008 Southeastern Regional Yeast meeting in Gatlinburg, TN, and Laura Bechard gave an oral presentation at the 2007 Cold Spring Harbor Telomeres and Telomerase meeting. Lixing Yang presented his work at the 50th Annual Maize Genetics and the Plant and Animal Genome XVI Conferences as well as served as an author in an article published in the January 2008 issue of *Science*.



Brunie

I would also like to welcome our incoming class, the 2008-09 graduate students, and recognize our current first-year graduate students. They are off to an excellent start by completing their rotations, choosing labs, and working very hard in their classes. Finally, the department congratulates Ping Hu, Nandita Mullapudi, Vanessa Corby-Harris, Brandan Hillerich, Chih-Horng Kuo, Zhijie Liu, Hui (Maggie) Qiu, Rebecca Tomlinson for the recent completion of their degrees in the fall of 2007. Dan Ruzicka, Kimberly Hunt, Jeremy DeBarry, Daehwan Chung, and Vanessa Koelling will be completing their PhDs this spring, and Lizhen Chen this summer. They are all moving on to postdoctoral positions and professional careers within their fields.

Brunie Burgos

## \$2.5 million grant will fund program in U.S. and China

by Philip Lee Williams

What began as a breakfast-table discussion between two married University of Georgia professors has led to a \$2.5 million grant for a novel interdisciplinary research and education program with China.

The grant from the National Science Foundation will allow a team of researchers to study how various species from China have become invasive in the United States—and vice versa. It will also provide UGA graduate and undergraduate students training opportunities in China.

The project was the brainchild of Rodney Mauricio, an associate professor in the department of genetics, and Karin Myhre, an assistant professor of Asian languages in the department of comparative literature. Myhre and Mauricio, who met through the Lilly Fellows teaching program, are husband and wife, and the proposal to NSF's Program in International Research and Education (PIRE) grew out of an early morning "what if" conversation over tea.

see *U.S.-China* on page 6

## News | Undergraduate Program

Our undergraduate program continues to stand out for the quality of our students and the research they conduct. Thus far, fifteen 2007 graduates have been accepted into medical school. Jamie Robinson was a recipient of the Zuccaire Summer Internship award to conduct research at the Pasteur Institute in France and Sharanya Raghunath was selected to present her research at the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Salisbury, Maryland.

We have expanded our course offerings over the last several years to provide additional electives for our majors. New courses include Behavioral Genetics (GENE4050), Evolutionary Medicine (GENE4070) and laboratory classes related to the PIRE program (GENE4800L & 4810L).

We began the academic year with an undergraduate/faculty mixer to introduce students to research opportunities in faculty labs, and eight student researchers will present their work at the departmental Undergraduate Research Symposium and dinner in April.

The Genetics Club returned this year under the guidance of Daniel Promislow. Todd Everett is the president and Ashley Smith is the vice president. The club sponsored talks by William Kelly of Emory on epigenetics and imprinting, Mark Farmer of UGA on a critique of intelligent design, and Marcus Fechheimer of UGA on undergraduate research and choosing a laboratory.

Beginning with the class of 2008, we are adding a new graduation celebration. Graduating students and their families have been invited to a special recognition ceremony to be held prior to graduation, the evening of May 9th, in the Coverdell Center. This event will allow the department to personally acknowledge the accomplishments of our graduates and present them with a certificate and memento from the genetics department.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB  
SITE AT  
[www.genetics.uga.edu](http://www.genetics.uga.edu)

Jessica Kissinger



## head's note

Overall, this has been a good year for the department of genetics. Two new junior faculty joined the department this year, Kelly Dyer in November and David Moeller in January. Kelly replaces John McDonald as our molecular evolutionary geneticist. She works on natural populations of *Drosophila* fruit flies, and her research aims to identify and understand the major forces that shape genetic diversity and genome evolution. Kelly's interests include selfish genetic elements, sex chromosome evolution, maternally inherited endosymbionts, and the genetics of reproductive isolation and ecological adaptations. David uses field research in combination with molecular genetics to study the limits to adaptive evolution at species' geographic range margins as well as the process of speciation in *Clarkia*, a genus that has served as a model for studies of plant evolution. He is also initiating projects aimed at understanding the ecological genetics and genomics of plant responses to climate change using *Arabidopsis* species.

As we do each year, we welcomed new students and faculty members with a small dinner party. Their presence has built on existing strengths of the department and to further broaden our research and training programs. Several of our faculty received awards based on their research. Two faculty, Rich Meagher in 2007 and Sidney Kushner in 2008, were named Distinguished Research Professor. Apart from his academic research program, Rich has founded three biotechnology companies, one of which, Abeome, is built on a new technology to identify and isolate monoclonal antibodies in a single step. His other companies are involved with phytoremediation using various transgenic plants to detoxify sites contaminated with mercury and arsenic. Sarah Covert, Kelly Dawe and Daniel Promislow were elected Fellows of the American Association for the

see *head's* on page 4



## Andrew Paterson wins 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship



Andrew Paterson, a distinguished research professor of crop and soil science, plant biology, and genetics, has been awarded a 2007 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.

Paterson is director of the UGA Plant Genome Mapping Laboratory and is studying *Sorghum* as source of biofuel. What sets *Sorghum* apart as a prospective whole-plant-based ethanol crop is that *Sorghum* can easily be made perennial, meaning it comes back year after year, according to Paterson. Perennials also protect the soil more effectively and aren't as prone as annuals to causing soil erosion. *Sorghum* efficiently converts the sun's light into energy and needs only about half the water of corn. That makes it a prime candidate for further ethanol studies, according to Paterson.

"At the moment, *Sorghum* is the No. 2 bioethanol crop in the country," said Paterson. As a seed-based ethanol crop, *Sorghum* falls right below corn. "Bioethanol is currently produced from seeds, but *Sorghum* can easily make the transition from seed-based to whole-plant-based biofuels," he added.

Stephanie Schupska and Sam Fahmy (excerpt from original by permission)

## head's...from page 3

Advancement of Science, a highly prestigious award, adding to a growing list of our senior faculty AAAS Fellows. Finally, I was named Inventor of the Year by the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc. for six issued patents and fourteen pending which led to the founding of AviGenics, Inc. The company is genetically engineering chickens as bioreactors for the high yield, low cost production of human biopharmaceuticals in egg whites.

Our faculty and students continue to win well-deserved recognition for their accomplishments. This year, Rodney Mauricio and his collaborators won a prestigious and large grant from NSF's program, Partnerships for International Research and Education. Jeff Bennetzen, Jan Westpheling and other UGA researchers were part of a collaboration between Southeastern institutions that



Paul Efland

Coverdell Center

won a large grant for one of two national centers for bioenergy and biofuels. The UGA portion of this award is near \$20M.

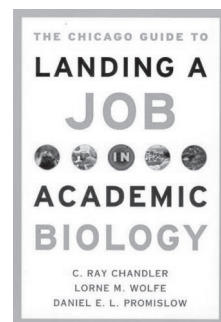
Graduate student recognition includes the Graduate Excellence in Teaching Award to Kate Small and the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award to Tina Bell. At the undergraduate level, Jamie Robinson, a senior genetics major, won a Zuccaire Summer Internship at the Pasteur Institute.

Genetics faculty space has expanded to include laboratories in the newly constructed Coverdell Center. The

see head's on page 8

## bookBRIEF

The University of Chicago Press has published a new book by Daniel Promislow, *The Chicago Guide to Landing a Job in Academic Biology*, designed to help navigate the high-stakes process of the academic job search. Promislow's co-authors are Ray Chandler and Lorne Wolfe of Georgia Southern University.



## ASV Lectureship

The American Society for Virology has endowed a new lectureship dedicated to the memory of Lois K. Miller. The award will recognize an exceptional plenary speaker at each annual meeting, beginning in 2008. The lectureship honors the outstanding legacy of Miller as a scholar, mentor, and colleague. Miller, a distinguished professor of genetics, made fundamental contributions to the study of insect baculoviruses and to basic problems in biology, such as apoptosis. She is the first woman to be honored by ASV with a named lectureship.

## biofuelsRESEARCH

UGA has been awarded one of the largest research grants in its history—nearly \$20 million by the U.S. Department of Energy—to develop efficient processes for converting plants such as switchgrass and poplar trees into fuels. Genetics professors Jeffrey Bennetzen and Jan Westpheling were members of the team of scientists from major universities, national research laboratories, and industry who collaborated to win funding for a \$125 million bioenergy research center to be based at Oakridge National Laboratory. UGA's portion of the grant is funded over five years.

After graduating from MCG and completing a residency at Brown for internal medicine, **Sandeep Bhat** (BS '96) is now an academic hospitalist at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in Manhattan.

**Margaux Charbonnet** (BS '02) is a pediatric resident at Emory. She graduated from LSU Medical School in 2006.

**Nathan Crain** (BS '07) is volunteering as a medical intern with Dr. Arteaga of the Universidad Nacional de Trujillo in Peru for the spring of 2008 prior to entering medical school in the U.S. He and **John Binford** (BS '07) traveled from Nicaragua to Peru in February and March of 2008 by means of the old-fashioned bicycle.

Formerly an assistant research professor at the School of Veterinary Medicine, New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania, **Mary Durando** (BS '83, DVM '87) is now an associate clinical professor in large animal medicine at the University of Minnesota School of Veterinary Medicine.



In his fourth-year of medical school at Emory, **Joseph Kirk Edwards** (BS '04) is intending a residency in anesthesiology with the hope of eventually obtaining a pain management fellowship.

Currently in his chief year of residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Northwestern University, **Julian Escobar** (BS '98) will be moving to Dallas in July to start a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility.

**Peter Horanyi** (BS '98, PhD '05) holds a postdoctoral position at the University of Virginia in the department of molecular physiology and biological physics. Peter and his

wife welcomed beautiful twin girls, Mary Virginia and Sophie Elizabeth, on October 7, 2007.

**Shilpa Iyer** (PhD '06) was awarded a 2007-2008 Parkinson's Disease Foundation project grant for the development of mitochondrial gene therapy for neurodegenerative disorders. She is a research associate with James Bennett in the neurology department at the University of

## alumni news

Virginia School of Medicine. In her spare time, she enjoys interior decoration and has recently completed a mural of "Fall-colors."



**Amber Keyser** (PhD '03) lives in Portland, OR with her husband, Seth Isenberg, and two kids (Beryl, 3, and Fisher, 6). She is a freelance science and adventure writer for children, and her first book, *An Algonquin Heart Song: Paddle My Own Canoe*, was published in 2007. Visit [www.amberkeyser.com](http://www.amberkeyser.com) to see her work.

In his fourth-year at Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, **Justin Lewandowski** (BS '04) expects to graduate in May 2008 with his DVM.

A board-certified prenatal genetic counselor with Regional Obstetrical Consultants in Chattanooga, **Val Long** (BS '00) graduated with an MS in genetic counseling from Howard University in 2003.

**Andrea McCollum** (BS '99, MS '02) received a PhD from Emory in December 2007 and was awarded an American Society of Microbiology fellowship. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the CDC.

A postdoctoral associate in the lab of Ken Zaret at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, **Nandita Mullapudi** (PhD '07) is working on transcription factors in mouse development.



A toxicologist for the EPA in Washington, D.C., **Kathleen Newhouse's** (BS '00) primary focus is human health risk assessment within EPA's Integrated Risk Information System program. She earned an MS in toxicology in 2003 from the University of Washington-Seattle.

**Kurinji Pandiyan** (BS '07) is now a doctoral student at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in the human genetics program.

**Maggie Rigamer** (BS '06) is in her second-year of medical school at LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans.

Following completion of a PhD in pathobiology at Brown University in 2007, **April Shiflett** (BS '99) moved to the microbiology, immunology, and molecular genetics department at UCLA as a postdoctoral researcher. She is studying the human pathogen *Trichomonas vaginalis*, looking at the evolutionary history of a unique organelle called the hydrogenosome, in the lab of Patricia Johnson.



**Alison (Becker) Springs** (BS '00) received her doctorate from Clemson University in microbiology and molecular medicine in 2004. She completed her postdoctoral training at Michigan State University in pharmacology/toxicology and is currently investigating novel therapeutics for Her2+ breast cancer at the Greenville Hospital System in South Carolina.

## U.S.-China...from page 3

“Our research team will use forensic genetic techniques to study the genetic structure and population of 10 invasive species, five native to China and invasive in the United States, and five native to the United States and invasive in China,” said Mauricio. “Invasive species are one of the most pressing conservation issues of our day—one of the consequences of globalization—and we have leveraged considerable local scientific talent to address this global crisis.”

While scientific research is an important part of the new grant, the educational aspects are just as important. A number of new assistantships will be available for graduate students who will work on ecological genetics in China. The five-year grant will also pay for 10 undergraduates per year to participate in an eight-week summer field course and research internship in China—a program not limited to students from UGA.

In addition to Mauricio and Myhre, UGA faculty members who are co-principal investigators on the grant include plant biologists Jim Hamrick and Shu-Mei Chang and plant pathologist Ron Walcott in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

“As someone who has taught Chinese language for many years as part of Asian literature and language programs, I have paid close attention to how students can best master a difficult and very different language,” said Myhre. “This grant provides UGA with a unique opportunity—it not only gives students interested in genetics the opportunity to work with top scientists in China, but it also allows those students to gain the linguistic and cultural tools to participate in substantive research work in a fairly short time.”

Undergraduates signing on for the study abroad experience will have some background before they go. They’ll be required to take three courses, intensive Mandarin and introduction to Chinese culture, both to be taught by Myhre, and a lab course in genetics taught by other faculty. But the study abroad itself will offer opportunities like few others for the undergrads, with visits planned to numerous sites in China normally not accessible to tourists.

Many people may be surprised by the number of invasive species from China that can be found in the southern United States. *Wisteria*, privet and honeysuckle are all Chinese natives that have found a welcome foothold in the South’s climate and geography. None of these is remotely as well-known as China’s coiling stealth dragon: kudzu. Plants aren’t the only invaders, though. Snakehead fish, Asian tiger mosquitoes and Formosan termites are just three Chinese animal species that flourish in the States as well.

While *Wisteria* is lovely in bloom, and kudzu helped reclaim land after massive erosion from poor farming practices, invasive species are largely seen as serious problems. Indeed, in the United States alone, the estimated annual cost in agricultural losses, ecosystem damage and control exceed a staggering \$137 billion.

Studying invasive species has been a challenge, though, because it is often hard to coordinate research across international borders.

“To really understand the biological basis of invasiveness, we must study the species in both their native habitats and where they have become invasive,” said Mauricio.

Numerous other researchers and teachers are involved with the grant, including many from UGA, which already has established groups working on invasive species.

“What we may not appreciate is that plants and animals native to the southeastern United States have become serious invasive pests in China as well,” said Mauricio. “This shouldn’t be surprising, since these areas share a number of biological, geographic and climactic characteristics.”

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## Friends of Genetics

We proudly recognize alumni and friends who have supported our academic programs from April 13, 2007 to date. We are grateful for the generosity of all of our donors. If your name is listed incorrectly or is missing, please email whites@uga.edu so that we may properly acknowledge your generosity. To make a gift to the department, please refer to the gift form on page 7.

Anonymous (1)

Janice M. and N. Kirby Alton

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Valerie Maples

David Moeller

Maria Cristina Ow

Alchron Jones Rhodes III

Francis H. Ruddle

James D. Vinson, Jr.

Jenny and John Wares

Charles Yanofsky

## fellows...

from page 1

of scientifically distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications, according to the association.

Covert was recognized for “basic studies in plant pathology concerning plant-fungal interactions and for innovative educational activities in course development for practical skills in becoming a scientist;” Dawe for “distinguished contributions to the field of plant biology, particularly for the molecular cytogenetic analysis of plant centromeres and neocentromeres;” and Promislow for “distinguished contributions to our understanding of the evolutionary genetics of aging.”

AAAS, founded in 1848, is the world’s largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal *Science*. The non-profit AAAS is open to all and fulfills its mission to “advance science and serve society” through initiatives in science policy, international programs, science education and more.

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## alumni news...from page 5

Working in a relatively new occupation where you care for hospitalized patients without clinic/outpatient duties, **Cindy Buckner Starke** (BS '91) is currently employed by Longstreet Clinic in Gainesville as a hospitalist. She is married to Stephen Starke (BBA '90) and they have two children, Jessica, 5, and Wyatt, 3. She completed an MD and a PhD in genetics at Emory in 1999. Cindy volunteers at her daughter’s Daisy Scouts and is an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Gainesville.



**Ryan Summers** (BS '07) is a first-year medical student at Emory in Atlanta.

In 2007, **Jason H. Smouse** (BS '96) finished a residency in pathology with a subspecialty of cytopathology at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School. He is now working as a community-based pathologist in Colorado at the Boulder Community Hospital. He also just became board certified in anatomic/clinical pathology as well as cytopathology. Jason completed his MD in 2002 at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Compiled by Susan White

Answer to *Guess Who?*...Bob Ivarie



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\_\_\_ Genetics Alumni Student Travel Fund :: Supports graduate and undergraduate travel to national and international research conferences.

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## Laurels to

...Tina Bell who won a 2008 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award.

...Brunie Burgos who received a Doctoral Scholars Award from the Southern Regional Education Board and an American Society of Plant Biologists travel grant to attend the Plant Biology 2008 meeting in Mexico.

...Jeremy DeBarry and Chih-Horng Kuo who won two of the fifty competitive 2007-2008 Dissertation Completion Assistantships awarded by the UGA Graduate School.

...David Hall and John Wares who were each awarded 2008 Faculty Research Grants by the University of Georgia Research Foundation.

...Jim Hamrick who has been named a Regents Professor.

...Jessica Kissinger who was promoted to associate professor.

...Sidney Kushner who has been named a Distinguished Research Professor.

...Jodell Linder who won an ARCS Foundation Scholarship.

...Richard Meagher who was invited to speak at UGA's fall 2007 graduate Commencement.

...Jamie Robinson who was awarded a 2007 Zuccaire summer internship at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

...Dan Ruzicka who won First Place for Best Graduate Student Talk at the UGA Plant Center retreat.

...Kate Small who won a 2008 Graduate School Excellence in Teaching Award.

...John Wares who won a National Geographic grant award.

...Sue Wessler who has been named to the first University of Georgia Foundation Chair in the Biological Sciences in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences.

## Grad film, take two

In 1986, the graduate students had a dream—to capture the real side of departmental life and hear what the faculty actually thought about each other. The 21-year old film inspired the current graduate students to update the video and re-interview the faculty. This laugh-out-loud, sidesplitting rendition shows the 'real' side of the department and creates a time capsule that will allow future generations of the genetics department to look back and remember that even through all the work, we still knew how to have some fun!

Jodell Linder

## head's...from page 4

Coverdell Center houses the new College of Public Health and faculty from several departments whose research is biomedical related. The building has extensive, modern laboratory and animal facilities. The laboratories of Mary Bedell, Brian Condie and Nancy Manley have relocated from the Davison Life Sciences Complex to be part of the Developmental Biology Group, and the laboratory of Jessica Kissinger has relocated to be a part of the Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases.

We are deeply grateful for your gifts last year, which have strengthened our research and teaching programs. Dr. Linton and Mrs. June Bishop added another \$50,000 to their graduate student fellowship fund. This is also the year that we hope to finish off the Mary E. Case Lectureship fund. So don't be surprised if you hear from me again with more details. Mary was Norman Giles' long time collaborator and one of the founding members of the department. She is also a pioneer for successful women in science. These gifts contribute in very real ways to the many accomplishments of our students and faculty, some of which we have highlighted in this newsletter. Have a great year.

Bob Ivarie