GENETICS at georgia

Creative Research Medal awarded to Manley

The University of Georgia Research Foundation has awarded a 2011 Creative Research Medal to Nancy Manley, professor of genetics. These medals are awarded for outstanding research or creative activity within the past five years that focuses on a single theme identified with UGA.

Manley

Manley is a pioneer in research on the thymus, an organ that plays a major role in the immune system and human health. She made critical discoveries about the genetic regulation of its embryonic devel-

see *Medal* page 7

Dawe named Distinguished Research Professor

The University of Georgia Research Foundation has awarded Kelly Dawe, professor of plant biology and genetics, with the title of Distinguished Research Professor. The appointment of Distinguished Research Professor is given to faculty who are internationally recognized for their

Dawe

see *Dawe* page 6

Landmark UGA study reveals breed-specific causes of death in dogs

By Sam Fahmy

Dog owners and veterinarians have long relied on a mix of limited data and anecdotal evidence to assess which breeds are at risk of dying from various conditions, but a new University of Georgia study provides a rare and comprehensive look at causes of death in more than 80 breeds.

The study, published in the current edition of the *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*, can be used to create breed-specific health maintenance programs and is a starting point for future studies that will explore the genetic underpinnings of disease in dogs.

Using data from the Veterinary Medical Database, Daniel Promislow and his co-authors in the Vet School classified cause of death for nearly 75,000 dogs over the 20-year period of 1984 through 2004. Eighty-two breeds are represented in their study, from the Afghan hound to the Yorkshire terrier.

While some of the findings corroborate smaller, breed-specific studies, the UGA researchers also found plenty of surprises. Golden retrievers and boxers are known to have high rates of cancer, but the researchers found that the Bouvier des Flandres actually has a higher death rate from cancer (47 percent) than the boxer.

Katherine Creevy, an assistant professor in Small Animal Medicine and one of Promislow's co-authors, noted that the previously unknown high risk of cancer in the Bouvier, a relatively rare breed, highlights the power of their comprehensive approach. "With rare breeds, an individual veterinarian may not see enough cases to be able to develop the opinion on whether the breed has a high incidence of conditions such as cancer," Creevy said. "But if you analyze records that have been compiled

see *Landmark* page 5

Paul Efland/UGA

Sitting with their own pets, Daniel Promislow (left) is flanked by Silver, a Weimaraner (bottom left) and Frisbee, a mixed breed (center). Dr. Kate Creevy (right) sits with her Border Collie, Makazi.

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Department of Genetics
The University of Georgia, Athens
www.genetics.uga.edu

editor's note

As spring turns to summer and the weather begins to warm up here in Athens, my thoughts turn to…the *Genetics at georgia* newsletter, now in its seventh year! We are excited to share news from the past year in the Department of Genetics, and hope that you will share your own news with us.

The department continues to grow in exciting ways. We gain not one but two new faculty members this fall, Andrea Sweigert and David Nelson. Sweigart works on the genetics of speciation in the monkeyflower genus, *Mimulus*, and Nelson studies genes that enable plants to respond to smoke.

Happily, our students, both graduate and undergraduate, continue to impress us with their accomplishments. Our grads have been especially successful at bringing in NSF funding this year, and continue to present work in top-tier journals. Our undergraduates are also up to exciting things, from publishing papers in illustrious journals like *Molecular Biology & Evolution* and *Developmental Cell*, to receiving offers of admission to top graduate and professional schools, to winning valuable scholarships for study in the US and abroad.

Of course, we continue to be interested in your activities and accomplishments after you leave UGA. So please send your updates, both personal and professional, to Susan White (whites@uga.edu). We will be sure to include them in the next newsletter.

For many of our students, the opportunity to present their research results at national meetings stands as a highlight of their career here at UGA. These students bring recognition not only to their

see *editor's* on page 6

Design: Christopher Ross, Susan White
Photographers: Darlene Strickland, Susan White

news ¦ Graduate Program

Well, another year has passed here at the University of Georgia's genetics department, and here is what you have missed. A department is only as strong as its students, and the following are those exceptional students who represented us as officers in the Genetics Graduate Student Organization (GGSA). The co-presidents were Louisa Carter and Cassandra Heightington, the treasurer was Eileen Roy, the communications officer was Rebecca Miller, the social chair was Paul Griffith, and the recruitment chairs were Sarah Sander and Mark Fisher. New elections were recently held and the results are now official. The GGSA officer positions for the 2011-2012 academic year are as follows: co-presidents are Christine Hartman and Sarah Sander, the treasurer is Cheryl Pinzone, the communications officer is Sandra Hoffberg, the social chair is Jen Olmstead, and the recruitment chairs are Emily Peeden and Evan Staton. The GGSA strives very hard to keep our department top notch, and all past and future members should be commended for their fine efforts.

Carter

The following students have graduated from the department this year: Laura Bechard, Sarah Marshburn, Mohammad Rahman, Georgia (Qiaozhi) Wei, Eleanor Kuntz, and Heidi Roberson Trau. All the best is wished upon them as they continue their journey through life.

Lee

As we see students depart, we have others about to arrive. Megan Behringer, Rodney Jarvis, John O'Neill, Estefania Olivar, Ousman Mahmud, Sarath Ramachandran, Nicholas Troendle, Matthew Whitesell, and Matthew Zuellig will be arriving in August. We wish them much success in their future research.

There are a plethora of awards that our accomplished students have earned over the past year. The following are examples of these honors. Jared Lee was awarded an NSF East Asia-Pacific Summer Institute Fellowship for the summer of 2011 allowing him to work on his dissertation at a lab in Beijing, China for two months. Emily Peeden received a NSF DDIG. Brunie Burgos was awarded the 2011 Travel Grant from ASPB to attend their annual meeting in Minneapolis later this summer. Sarah Sander and Kerin Bentley received competitive pre-doctoral GRFP fellowship awards from the NSF.

Basenko

Keeping busy, senior students Mark Stead and Eve Basenko have both published papers in *Nucl. Acids Res.* Mark's is entitled, "Analysis of *Escherichia coli* RNase E and RNase III activity *in vivo* using tiling microarrays," and he has recently accepted a post-doctoral position at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. The title of Eve's paper is "Telomeric circles are abundant in the *stn1-M1* mutant that maintains its telomeres through recombination."

Bowden

Our students gave talks at top-notch conferences throughout the country. To name a select few, the Molecular Genetics of Bacteria and Phage Conference (Katie Bowden), the RNA Society meeting (Mark Stead), ASPB (Brunie Burgos), and many more. Many of our students also participated as judges in the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair. This outreach once again shows our dedication to the future of science through the nurturing of our future colleagues. Realistically, due to the copious achievements by the students in our department, this article can go on for quite some time. However, we will close this year in review wondering what breakthroughs our students will uncover next year.

Kris Mussar

UGA researchers will use $2 million grant to study transmission of human pathogen to coral reefs

by Beth Gavrilles

A multidisciplinary team of researchers at the University of Georgia has been awarded a five-year $2 million Ecology of Infectious Diseases grant from the NSF and NIH to study the first known case of "reverse zoonosis" that involves the transmission of a human pathogen to the marine invertebrate elkhorn coral.

White pox disease has devastated coral reefs throughout the Caribbean and Florida Keys and is believed to be responsible for much of the coral reef loss there since 1996. It is caused by a human strain of the common intestinal bacterium *Serratia marcescens*, which causes the hospital infection serratiosis. Historically, many emerging human diseases, such as AIDS and Ebola, have come from the natural world. The researchers are concerned that the transmission of *Serratia marcescens* from humans to elkhorn coral may indicate the beginning of a new phenomenon of diseases jumping from humans to wildlife.

see *Reefs* on page 7

news ¦ Undergraduate Program

In 2010, 23 genetics majors graduated with degrees in Genetics. The majority of these students have entered either medical school or graduate school. Our graduating seniors were recognized at a gala reception in May 2010 that was held in the Paul D. Coverdell Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences. At that time, the Cynthia Kenyon Outstanding Undergraduate Award was presented to Cullen Timmons, who worked in the Manley lab.

Lee

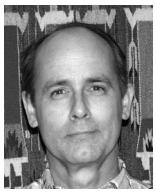
In summer 2010, several Genetics majors were chosen for competitive summer research programs, both on- and off-campus. They included Michael Bray, who was a summer CURO fellow in the Dyer lab; Adeline Lee, who was an intern for Orion Genomics in St. Louis; Muktha Natrajan, who was an intern with the World Health Organization in Namibia; and Daniel Pique, who was in the Weill Cornell/Rockefeller/Sloan-Kettering Gateways to the Laboratory Program for pre-MD/PhD students in New York City. For summer 2011, Allyson Byrd was accepted to a summer internship at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Maryland, Catherine Debban was accepted to an NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates at the Rocky Mountain Biological Lab in Colorado, William Hughes was accepted to the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience at Emory University, and Daniel Pique was accepted to the Amgen Scholars Program at Stanford University.

Natrajan

Special congratulations to Muktha Natrajan, a May 2011 graduate who received a BS in Genetics and an MPH in Environmental Health Science. Muktha has been awarded a 2011 Gates Cambridge Scholarship and will pursue a PhD in Neuroscience at Cambridge University. She is among a group of 30 U.S. recipients selected for this international postgraduate

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT
www.genetics.uga.edu

see *Undergraduate* on page 6



head's note

The last year has been an eventful one for the Department of Genetics, and it has been my great honor to contribute as interim department head. My tenure was supposed to be limited to a single year, but my stay extended into a second year as we sought a new department head. As I write, we are now negotiating with an exceptional candidate for the headship. We are all keeping our fingers crossed.

The Department of Genetics continues to flourish in very challenging budgetary times. We set a new record for competitive grant funding this year, so that has helped to keep our budget in the black. Several years without any salary raises have taken their toll, however. We lost one of our outstanding staff members, Ann Terka, to a better-paying job at another institution. We were fortunate, however, to hire a skilled UGA veteran, Donna Lord, to fill Ann's vital role in our purchasing activities. Four of our faculty members also received offers of much higher-paying and better-supported positions from other academic institutions, but we were able to convince all four to stay. UGA's commitment to our department was exemplified by the resources that were given for retention offers and by additional resources provided to hire two new faculty members. These faculty lines were committed to me several years ago as part of a job counter-offer, but it was unclear when exactly we would be allowed to fill these positions. It turns out this was the year, so we are very excited about the arrival of Andrea Sweigart and Dave Nelson as assistant professors this fall.

Our faculty continue to be recognized for their excellence in scholarship. Nancy Manley received a 2011 Creative Research Medal, provided to UGA faculty members with the most exciting and important current research. Kelly Dawe's many years of important scientific con-

see *head's* on page 4

head's...*from page 3*

tributions led to his being named a Distinguished Research Professor. Brian Condie and John Wares were granted tenure and promoted to associate professors this year, with glowing recommendations at all levels of review. As a reward, they have received additional committee assignments. John, in particular, has been given the opportunity to chair the Graduate Affairs Committee, our most demanding (and important) committee assignment.


Condie

One of the great pleasures of the headship in the Department of Genetics has been the opportunity to work with a skilled and dedicated staff. UGA has more than its share of strange processes, and it is a wonder to me that we always find someone in the office that can sort out whatever UGA puts in our path. David Brown, who runs our computer resources, is viewed cross-campus as setting the standard for how departmental information technology should be managed. This year, Dean Stokes provided certificates to David Brown, Jeanene Brown, Cheryl Gantt Nelson, James Griffith, Yolanda Lay, Janice Lunsford, Valerie Maples, Elizabeth McKinney, Tariq Perwez, and Darlene Strickland, recognizing a combined 186 years of service to the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences.


McKinney

The graduate students in the Department of Genetics have always been our lifeblood. Their report in this newsletter issue provides a fuller description of what they've been up to than I have space for here. As many of you know, the graduate students in the Department of Genetics are in charge of organizing and running our departmental retreat. They also play key roles in our seminar series and are the most vital component of the graduate student recruitment retreat in the spring. It is a wonder that they get so much research done while pursuing the teaching and service activities that are part of our degree program.


Maples

The Department of Genetics provides one of the strongest undergraduate genetics programs in the country, so it is not surprising that we attract exceptional students who go on to great things, as exemplified by our Kenyon Award winners of the last two years, Cullen Timmons and Christina Swoope. I should note that our labs also host numerous visiting scientists and students. One particularly notable visitor this year was Andy Kim, now a graduate of Cedars Shoals High School, who is also the son of a former research scientist in our department, Yong-Kyu Kim, now on the faculty at Emory. Andy's project in the labs of Wyatt Anderson and Jonathan Arnold was chosen by Intel as one of three finalists for the Dudley R. Herschback award. As part of this award, Andy has been given an all-expenses-paid trip to Stockholm, which includes attendance at the Nobel Prize ceremonies.


Kim

As I think this newsletter makes clear, the Department of Genetics continues to provide an outstanding environment for the pursuit of excellence in research, teaching and service. I have had an exceptionally interesting experience as interim department head, and hope that my contributions to the management of the department have been helpful. I thank all of our supporters for their assistance over the last two years and I look forward to many years of continued achievement by Genetics students, staff and faculty.

Jeff Bennetzen

nsfGRANTS

Mike Arnold, professor of genetics, received a National Science Foundation Rapid Response Grant to assess the effects of crude oil and dispersant on native plant populations in the Gulf Coast region.

The $175,000 grant will allow Arnold and two postdoctoral researchers to gather baseline information about the spill's immediate effects on coastal iris populations in and around bayous and marshes, including the effects of the dispersant applied to break up the oil.


Arnold

Arnold, a postdoctoral research associate at LSU some 20 years ago, established multiple research sites along the Gulf Coast from Florida to Louisiana, which he maintained after coming to UGA in 1989. In July, he began surveying at the various sites, which range from inland, fresh water habitats to brackish creeks and saltwater tidal marshes.

Arnold already has identified DNA markers in the hybrid coastal irises that provide clues about where and how the plants evolved and hybridized. For example, some species show resistance to high-saline waters while others thrive only in fresh water.

Other species grow well in sun while others survive only in shade, and so on.

Kelly Dawe, a Distinguished Research Professor who holds a joint appointment in the Departments of Genetics and Plant Biology, will oversee a $5 million NSF grant over the next 5 years that will allow him and a research team to examine how maize and related species transmit genetic information. The research may lead to improved varieties of corn as well as techniques that could treat human diseases, such as cancer.

The grant enables Dawe and his colleagues to continue to expand research initiated in 1999 under the NSF's Plant Genome Research Program.

Source: Columns, Aug. 23 & Dec. 6, 2010

Landmark...*from page 1*

over 20 years, you can detect patterns that you wouldn't otherwise notice."

Promislow said the study may help solve one of the great enigmas of canine health. "Normally, if you compare different species of mammals, big ones live longer than little ones—elephants live longer than mice, and sheep are in the middle, for example—and that pattern holds pretty well across hundreds of different species of mammals," Promislow said. "Within dogs, the opposite occurs; the little dogs live longer."

Promislow said dogs are an ideal species in which to explore the genetic basis of disease. Scientists first mapped the dog genome in 2003 and have since compiled data on genetic variation at single points on the genome for more than 80 breeds. By combining the genetic data with the data from their study, the UGA team can search for genes that influence the risk of diseases such as cancer.

"Is genetic variation for disease due to a few genes that vary in the population and have a big effect or dozens or hundreds of genes with small effects? That's a basic biological question that we can address," Promislow said. "There's potential to learn a lot about the genetics of disease in general using the dog as a model."

Promislow approached Creevy with the idea of collaborating after acquiring gigabytes of data that required a veterinarian's expertise to analyze. Much of the initial data analysis was performed by former veterinary internal medicine resident Jamie Fleming, who is now in private practice in Port Washington, Wis. Creevy noted that Promislow's background in evolutionary biology allows the team to explore questions that have implications far beyond veterinary medicine. She also pointed out that their collaboration underscores the potential of interdisciplinary research. "This study is a good example of the unique things that can happen at a research university," Creevy said.

Source: UGA News Service, April 19, 2011 [condensed]

alumni news

Foram Ashar (BS '10) is a PhD student in human genetics at Johns Hopkins University.

Alexis Carimi (BS '10) is at LSU, New Orleans, in her 1st year of medical school.

Chelsea Chandler, née Jones, (BS '10) is in medical school at MCG in Augusta.

In preparation to work as a nurse anesthetist, **Corrie Duplantier** (BS '10) is currently at LSU Health and Science Center in their MSN program.

Fiyin Fawole (BS '10) is in Augusta at MCG in her 1st year of medical school.

Currently working as a research assistant in the Dawe laboratory, **Rashin Ghaffari** (BS '10) plans to pursue a PhD in cancer biology.

Elizabeth Hedgepeth (BS '08) is completing her 2nd year of a MPH in epidemiology at UGA.

Working with disabled people in Spokane, Washington, **Wesley Leftwich** (BS '10) joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corp (Northwest) after graduation.

Matthew Martin (BS '10) is a law student at Harvard.

Recently honored with a 2011 AACR-Women in Cancer Research Scholar-in-Training Award, **Nandita Nullapudi** (PhD '07) is a post-doctoral fellow at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Jared Sanders (BS '10) is at the University of Chicago in the genetics, genomics, and systems biology program as a PhD candidate.

Prior to attending medical school at UVA in September 2011, **Cullen Timmons** (BS '10) is trekking the globe in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the U.S.

Wei Wang (BS '10) is teaching English at Shandong University in China.

Currently at MCG in Augusta, **Hunter Wilson** (BS '10) is pursuing an MD degree.

Compiled by Susan White

Please send your news updates to Susan at *whites@uga.edu*

Kenyon Awards

The Cynthia Kenyon Outstanding Undergraduate 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 senior student for exceptional performance in academics, research, and leadership. The 2010 Kenyon Award went to Cullen Timmons, who is currently traveling around the world prior to entering medical school at the University of Virginia this fall. In the Manley lab, he helped to implement novel computational methods for the analysis of tissue organization in the thymus. A recipient of an undergraduate Merck Travel Award, he presented his work at the Cold Spring Harbor meeting on vertebrate genetics in April 2010.

Timmons

The 2011 Kenyon Award went to Christina Swoope, who played a major role in identifying distinct oncogene expression in breast cancer subtypes in the Davis lab. Her work led to the findings for an upcoming manuscript, on which she is first author. In addition, she presented this work at the 102nd Annual American Association for Cancer Research meeting in Orlando last April.

Swoope

Christina has been accepted to Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and expects to begin her graduate school career this fall.

Oberstaller awarded Alton Fellowship

Every year the department's Graduate Affairs Committee selects one student who has shown exemplary progress in their research to receive the Kirby and Jan Alton Graduate Fellowship. This past year (2010-2011) Jenna Oberstaller was bestowed this honor for her work in the Kissinger lab on using genomics to study the evolution of gene regulatory networks in apicomplexan parasites, as well as to develop malaria diagnostic targets.


Oberstaller

The Alton Fellowship, funded by a generous continuing gift from Dr. Kirby and Jan Alton, provides full support for an outstanding fourth-year graduate student.

After completing her thesis next spring, Jenna plans to be involved in some aspect of parasitology that will address global health issues.

Dawe...*from page 1*

original contributions to knowledge and whose work promises to foster continued creativity in their discipline.

Dawe has investigated the centromere-kinetochrome complex for nearly two decades. He is best known for his contributions to the understanding of kinetochore structure, and he identified the first plant kinetochore proteins. A kinetochore is the protein structure on chromosomes where the spindle fibers attach during cell division; a centromere is the region of DNA typically found near the middle of a chromosome.

Dawe's lab has made significant contributions to understanding how the sites of centromere assembly are determined by specialized histone proteins that contact the DNA. He is also a leading expert on meiotic drive, a phenomenon in which certain chromosomes undergo preferential segregation to the progeny.

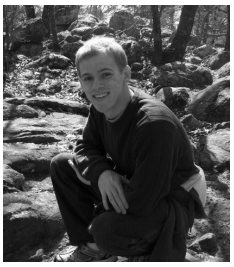
Other faculty of the Department of Genetics who have been named Distinguished Research Professor are Sidney Kushner (2008), Richard Meagher (2007), and Andrew Paterson (2002).

Source: Columns Vol. 38, No. 35, 4/18/2011

Undergraduate...*from page 3*

scholarship. Her previous national awards include a 2009 Goldwater Scholarship and a 2010 Udall Scholarship.

We're proud to note that four Genetics majors were co-authors on research papers that were published in 2010: Michael Bray and Daniel Pique (Dyer lab) in *Molecular Biology and Evolution*; Sara Pope (Hall lab; recipient of the 2009 Kenyon award) in the *Journal of Heredity*; Jennifer Simpliciano (Kipreos lab) in *Developmental Cell*. Additionally, the following students working with Genetics faculty presented their research findings at the 2010 CURO symposium at UGA: Michael Bray (Dyer lab), Erin Giglio (Dyer lab), Zijing Guo (McEachern lab), Anisha Hegde (Terns lab), Rakia Nasir (Kushner lab), and Sylvia Shin (Hall lab).


Bray

We thank Sidney Kushner for his outstanding service as temporary undergraduate coordinator during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Mary Bedell

Friends of Genetics

We proudly recognize alumni and friends who have supported our academic programs from May 12, 2010 to date. We are grateful for the generosity of all of our donors. If your name is listed incorrectly or is missing, please e-mail *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.

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Shiyun Xiao

editor's...*from page 2*

own work, but also to the entire Department of Genetics. Please consider helping to make this possible by contributing to the Genetics Alumni Student Travel Fund, or choose from other funds that also help support the goals of the department. Your support at any level can really make a difference in the academic life of a student. You can find more details on the pledge form on page 7.

Daniel Promislow

Reefs...*from page 3*

The team will investigate the mechanisms of transmission of white pox disease and the factors that drive its emergence in marine animals.

Understanding the modes of transmission will help scientists to predict future impacts of the disease and to begin to develop effective control strategies.

Wares

The scope of the team's research will extend beyond gaining an understanding of the impact of white pox disease on elkhorn coral and how to counter it. The most likely source of the pathogen for coral reefs is under-treated human sewage, so the study also will explore the intersection of public health practices and environmental health outcomes.

John Wares, associate professor of genetics, will be looking into the interactions of the pathogen with the microbial environment of coral reefs in the Caribbean. Unlike humans, corals do not have classic immune systems with white blood cells to take on and destroy invading bacteria.

Instead, they appear to rely primarily on external defense systems, such as beneficial bacteria that live on their surface. Wares will investigate this system to determine whether healthy bacterial communities can defend corals from disease.

"This is essentially high-tech community ecology," said Wares. "I'll be looking at what organisms are living on the coral and what role they play in promoting coral immunity."

He said he is excited about the opportunity to use next-generation genetic sequencing, through the Georgia Genomics Facility at UGA.

"In the past, we might have been limited to looking at a sample of a few hundred microbes from a given sample of the community," he said. "For this study, we can study tens of thousands from each sample. It will be very powerful."

James Porter, associate dean in the Odum School of Ecology, is the study's leader. Other team members are Erin Lipp, associate professor of environmental health science in the College of Public Health, and Assistant Professor Andrew Park, who has a joint appointment in the School of Ecology and the College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Infectious Diseases.

(Source: Columns, Nov 1, 2010 [condensed])

Medal...*from page 1*

opment and function. Until her work, there was little experimental data on the genetics of thymus organogenesis or the role of cell interactions in its development. She solved provocative questions and generated genetic tools needed to address problems in a rigorous way. Manley has published definitive papers in top journals and is considered a world leader in this field. Her work has provided several breakthroughs including

see *Medal* on page 8

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Evelina Basenko, awarded Outstanding Poster Presentation at the 2010 Scientific Research Day
Allyson Byrd, recipient of a NIH summer internship in biomedical research at the NIAID
Brian Condie, for achieving tenure and promotion to associate professor
Catherine Debban, recipient of Rocky Mountain Biological Lab and CURO summer research fellowships
Kelly Dyer, elected to the council of the American Genetics Association
Erin Giglio, recipient of a CURO summer research fellowship
William Hughes, recipient of a Summer Undergraduate Research Experience at Emory
Nikhil Kamath, who was appointed to the competitive Georgia Recruitment Team
Sidney Kushner, Chair-Elect of Division H, American Society of Microbiology, 2011-2012
Rodney Mauricio, recipient of the inaugural Provost's Outstanding Faculty Service Award, and of a plaque of thanks presented by President Adams for outstanding leadership in the university's successful reaffirmation of accreditation by the SACS
Muktha Natrajan, recipient of a 2011 Gates Cambridge Scholarship and a 2010 summer internship with the World Health Organization in Namibia
Emily Peeden, awarded a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant
Daniel Pique, recipient of a summer research fellowship in the Stanford Summer Research Program-Amgen Scholars Program
Adeline Lee, recipient of a 2010 summer internship at Orion Genomics in St. Louis, MO
Cheryl Gantt Nelson, for her marriage to Barry Nelson
John Wares, for achieving tenure and promotion to associate professor
Jan Westpheling, elected Treasurer of the Society of Industrial Microbiology
Jianing Xu, awarded Best Oral Presentation by a Graduate Student at the 2010 Scientific ResearchDay

Bishop Fellows named

The Linton and June Bishop Graduate Fellowship is awarded by the department's Graduate Affairs Committee to two senior students who have shown exceptional progress, independence, and creativity in their research. The 2010-2011 awardees were Kristofer Mussar of the Meagher lab and John Robinson of the Wares lab. Mussar won the award based on his integration of bioinformatics and experimental approaches to studying epigenetics and expression, while Robinson won the award for his work on methods that employ genetic data to estimate the rate of extinction in Finnish *Daphnia magna* populations.


Mussar


Robinson

The fellowship is made possible by an endowment established by a generous gift from Dr. Linton and Mrs. June Bishop.

Medal...*from page 7*

explaining the roles of Hoxa3, Pax1 and FoxN1 in early thymus development.

Other past recipients of Creative Research Medals in the Department of Genetics are Jessica Kissinger (2009), Daniel Promislow (2005), Michael Terns (2003), Jan Westpheling (2001), Kelly Dawe (2000), Mike Arnold (1997), Sidney Kushner (1987) and Richard Meagher (1987).

Source: Columns Vol. 38, No. 35, 4/18/2011