7-1990

NEWS AND NOTES 1990, SPECIAL SUMMER ISSUE

The Rockefeller University

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Special Summer 1990 Issue

News and Notes

1990 Commencement Honors 15 Graduates; Baker Receives Honorary Degree

The 1990 commencement ceremonies held on June 14 were the thirty-second in the university's history and the last of Dr. Joshua Lederberg's tenure as president. Lederberg awarded Ph.D. degrees to fifteen students in Caspary Auditorium following speeches by the students' faculty presenters.

In addition, an honorary doctor of science degree was given to Dr. William O. Baker, who stepped down as chairman of The Rockefeller University Board of Trustees on July 1 after nearly a decade in that position. Dr. Baker, who this year reaches mandatory retirement age for trustees, was presented the degree by President Emeritus Frederick Seitz.

The research of this year's graduates is summarized below. Presenters' names appear in parentheses.

Marian Louise Birkeland (Ellen Pure) studied the growth and differentiation of white blood cells responsible for secreting antibodies. She also developed a monoclonal antibody that has been used to study various aspects of the immune system.

David Campanelli (Carl Nathan) worked in the field of immunology and cell biology, where his research focused on understanding the natural antibiotics produced by human white blood cells to fight bacterial and fungal infections.

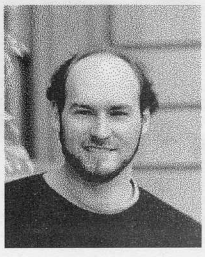
Jennifer Eve Cordes Darnell (Alan Saltiel) examined how genetic material is transferred from one cell to another. She also studied how and why lipids exhibit a unique and peculiar fatty acid composition.

Paul Francis Fehlner (Te Piao King) researched the responses of the immune system to the bee venom peptide melittin. This work sheds light on the basic immunological mechanisms involved in allergic reactions.

Carla Grandori (Hidesaburo Hanafusa) studied the functions of potential cancer-causing genes (proto-oncogenes) in normal neural and endocrine tissues. (Photo not available.)

Ruben Henriquez-Pelaez (John Aris) cloned and sequenced the gene that encodes a component of the yeast nucleolus, a subcompartment of the nucleus responsible for assembling the cell's protein-synthesizing machinery.

Roy Herbst (Lee Babiss) analyzed the molecular mechanisms underlying tissue-specific gene control in the liver. In studies using the genes of rats and mice, he detected DNA elements which regulate liver transcription and protein transcription factors.



Dan Kessler (James E. Darnell) studied how genes are regulated to produce Type I interferon. Interferons are substances produced by cells in response to viral infections which render neighboring cells resistant to further viral infections.

Chuan Frank Kuo (James E. Darnell) researched the effect of the microenvironment outside cells on gene expression. He was particularly interested in endothelial cells in the liver, which seem to produce substances that cause adjacent liver cells to express the gene for glutamine synthetase (GS).

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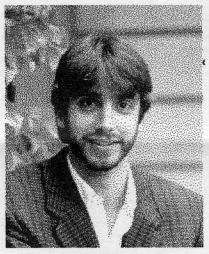
Commencement *(cont.)*

Genevieve Anne Laforet (Debra Kendall) examined the structure of signal peptides found in bacteria. Signal peptides are short, initial segments of protein that govern movements of proteins across cell membranes.

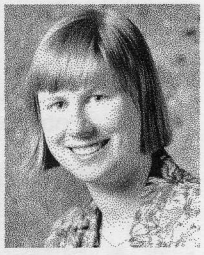
Daniel J. Lew (James E. Darnell) investigated some of the ways cells communicate biological information to each other, including their use of interferons, which are produced by cells in response to infection.

Berkley A. Lynch (John Taylor) studied calcitonin gene related peptide (CGRP), a neuropeptide that plays a role in blood pressure control.

Joshua Paul Metlay (Ralph Steinman) investigated how dendritic cells notify the immune system that a foreign invader is in the body, thus prompting a protective chemical response.



Olaf Sporns (Shawn Dalton) studied questions relating to machine vision and robotics. Using biologically based neural networks, Dr. Sporns designed and programmed robotic instruments capable of perceiving and categorizing environmental objects.



Elsbeth Lewis Walker (Gloria Coruzzi) studied the activities of genes important for nitrogen utilization in plants.

Installation Celebrations

David Baltimore will officially be installed as university president on Thursday, September 13.

The university community is invited to join with those attending the installation ceremony at a campus-wide reception following the event. The reception will take place at 4:00 p.m. on the lower level of the north campus esplanade, outside the Faculty and Students Club.

In addition, a symposium, "Prelude to the Future," will be held on Friday, September 14 in Caspary Auditorium beginning at 9:00 a.m. This symposium will conclude with a beer and wine social outside the Faculty and Students Club. Everyone is encouraged to come and meet informally with the distinguished scientists who will be speaking at the symposium:

Rudolf Jaenisch
Whitehead Institute and MIT

Eric Kandel
Columbia University

Louis Kunkel
Children's Hospital, Boston

Maxine Singer
Carnegie Institution of Washington

Irving Weissman
Stanford University

Don Wiley
Harvard University

Coming Soon: The *New* News and Notes!

Since September 1969 *News and Notes* has appeared bimonthly (excluding summer) in campus mailboxes. However, beginning September 7, *News and Notes* will become a *weekly* part of campus life, published every Friday throughout the academic year.

Starting in September the publication can be picked up at three convenient locations around campus: in the lobbies of the Tower Building and Founder's Hall, and in the A-level passageway between Smith Hall and the Smith Hall Annex.

The new *News and Notes* will provide timely, pertinent information on a regular basis. Articles will feature employee, institution, scientific, and student news reflecting the lives and work of everyone on campus.

News and Notes is *your* publication. Articles, ideas, and comments are welcome and should be submitted to the Public Information Office, Box 68, or call x8967. Articles can also be submitted via electronic mail to the address *newsnotes*. The regular deadline for each Friday's issue will be the preceding Monday at 5:00 p.m.

REMINDER

Pick up your first issue of the new

News and Notes

September 7 in

- Tower Building lobby,
- Founder's Hall lobby, or
- the A-level passageway between Smith Hall and Smith Hall Annex.