

Amherst BioNews Monthly Newsletter - June 2018 edition

Greetings biology folk,

Welcome to our new monthly newsletter with all that's happening and exciting in the Amherst College Biology Department!

~~NEWS~~

- *Prof Jeeyon Jeong's NSF grant has been funded, congratulations Prof Jeong!!!* The grant is an NSF-IOS RUI award titled "Mitochondrial Ferroportin and Iron Homeostasis in Plants" and \$462,395 will be funded over the next 3 years starting . The proposed research aims to understand iron homeostasis at the cellular and physiological levels via investigating the role of a putative mitochondrial iron exporter, Ferroportin 3 (FPN3), from *Arabidopsis thaliana*.
- Biology's Summer Research Program (SURF, Greg Call fellows etc..) officially starts on Monday June 4th.
- If you're here this summer, be on the lookout for the start of the BioBreakfasts, coming soon to McGuire 4th floor lounge.
- We're on the move, Biology is moving to the new science center this August, stay tuned for updates.

~~NEW MEMBERS OF THE BIOLOGY COMMUNITY~~

—If you see us in the halls be sure to say hi!

New Postdoc in the Hood Lab! Wen-Juan Ma will be starting postdoctoral research on the sex chromosome in the Hood lab. She's coming from the University of Lausanne, where she has been studying sex chromosomes in frogs (*Rana*) and also some work on evolutionary genomics in plants (and she's ready for the small genomes of fungi!). Wen-Juan should be here through this academic year and next, with some time spent on bioinformatics work in my collaborator's lab. Here is her GoogleScholar page.

Several graduating seniors will be spending time in labs this summer!

- Ben Birkenfeld '18 will be joining the Goutte lab as a postbac for June and July - he'll be continuing his latest passion: CRISPRing genes in *C.elegans*!
- Itai Muzhingi '18 will be staying on in the Purdy Lab for 3 weeks this summer, wrapping his thesis work on *Vibrio cholerae* gene regulation. Afterwards, he will be joining Bruce Walker's lab at the Ragon Institute of Harvard/Mass General/MIT to work on HIV biology and vaccine development.
- Mohamed Ramy '18 will be joining the Trapani lab for 6 weeks this summer. Ramy was an RC among other things while an undergrad at Amherst. As a Watson Fellow, Ramy will spend next year in Djibouti, Germany and Canada interviewing immigrant refugees about their experiences.

• Natalie Sun '18 will be working as a postbac researcher for six weeks in the Clotfelter lab this summer, continuing her thesis research on the metabolic consequences of hematophagous ectoparasites in nestling tree swallows. In the fall she's headed for Taiwan for a Fulbright Research Fellowship on the impacts of heavy metal contamination on wild mammal populations.

Be on the lookout later this summer for the arrival of many new faces in the department!

Including:

- Prof [Marc Edwards](#)
- Prof [Nidanie Henderson-Stull](#)
- Prof [Joohyun Lee](#)
- Prof [Katerina Ragkousi](#)

Have something Department-related to share in the next newsletter? Please email Joe Trapani.

Best wishes for the start of another great summer!

-the Biology Department

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