

BioNews – April 2021

Flores Ramos '17 awarded prestigious Soros Fellowship

Stephany Flores Ramos '17, who majored in Biology and Statistics and did her thesis research in the Purdy lab, was awarded a prestigious Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship. The fellowship funds two years of graduate study, which Stephany will use as she pursues a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences at the University of California, San Diego. The Soros fellowships are for immigrants or children of immigrants who are chosen for their potential to make significant contributions, through graduate study, to the United States. Read more about Stephany and the fellowship [here](#). A huge congratulations to Stephany!



Biology faculty receive honorary professorships

Three Amherst Biology faculty recently received honorary professorships from the College. Brief descriptions are below. Congratulations to them all!

Ethan Clotfelter - Rufus Tyler Lincoln Professorship in Biology

Amherst's endowed professorships acknowledge achievement in teaching, research, and scholarship and are a significant form of recognition. This professorship was established in 1916 by Caroline Tyler Lincoln (widow of Rufus P. Lincoln 1862) in memory of her son, Rufus Tyler Lincoln.

Caroline Goutte - Edward S. Harkness Professorship

Amherst's endowed professorships acknowledge achievement in teaching, research, and scholarship and are a significant form of recognition. This professorship was established in 1930 by New York philanthropist Edward S. Harkness.

Jill Miller - Thomas F. Pick Readership in Environmental Studies

The readership was established in 1999 to support individuals who are dedicated to teaching, studying, or researching in an area of environmental studies. The Pick Reader is a member of the faculty appointed by the president and the provost and dean of the faculty to coordinate studies and to organize events relating to environmental studies across existing disciplines and departments. The Pick Reader serves as a campus resource person in environmental studies.

Lots of great news from the Jeong lab

Thirteen (!) former and current member of the Jeong lab are co-authors on the [recent paper](#) “Ferroportin 3 is a dual-targeted mitochondrial/chloroplast iron exporter necessary for iron homeostasis in Arabidopsis,” to be published in *Plant Journal*. The authors are: **Leah J. Kim** (Bio '19 & former postbac) , **Kaitlyn M. Tsuyuki** (BCBP '18 & current postbac), **Fengling Hu** (Bio '19), **Emily Y. Park** (BCBP '19 & former postbac), **Jingwen Zhang** (Bio '18), **Jennifer Gallegos Iraheta** (Bio '20), Ju-Chen Chia, Rong Huang, **Avery E. Tucker** (former postbac), **Madeline Clyne** (Bio '18), **Claire Castellano** (Bio '16), **Angie Kim** (Bio '19), **Daniel D. Chung** (Bio '19), **Christopher T. DaVeiga** (BCBP '20), **Elizabeth M. Parsons** (Bio '20), Olena K. Vatamaniuk, and **Jeeyon Jeong**. Congratulations everyone!

Leah Kim '19 also co-wrote, with **Prof. Jeong**, an outreach article for kids entitled “Bats, Blood, and the Biology of Iron: It Is All About Balance” for *Frontiers for Young Minds*. You can read [it here](#).

Finally, **Prof. Jeong** was also a co-author on the paper “In Vivo Evaluation of Oxygenic Photogranules’ Photosynthetic Capacity by Pulse Amplitude Modulation and Phototrophic–Irradiance Curves” [published in ACS EST Engg](#). This was the result of a collaboration with colleagues in Civil and Environmental Engineering at UMass, Amherst.

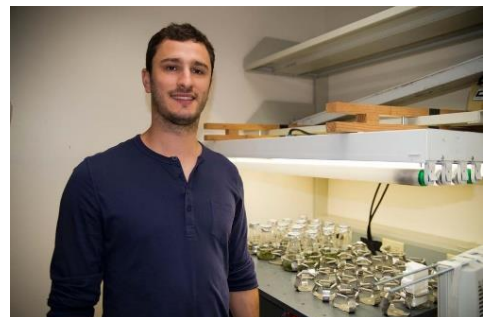
New paper from Miller/Levin lab

Prof. Jill Miller and **Prof. Rachel Levin**, along with **Kim Greenberg '17** and **Derek Schneider '20**, recently published [the paper](#) “Dimorphism, Polyploidy, and Genetic Diversity in the Australian Endemic *Lycium australe* (Solanaceae)” in the *International Journal of Plant Sciences*. Congratulations to them all!



Welcome to Amherst College, Dr. Augustine!

Robert Augustine will be joining the Amherst College Biology faculty as a Visiting Lecturer in the fall of 2021. Dr. Augustine, who currently holds a position at Vassar College, received his Ph.D. in Plant Biology at UMass, Amherst and completed postdoctoral fellowships at UW-Madison and Wash U in St. Louis. His research interests are focused on the role of the small ubiquitin-related modifier (SUMO) system in stress protection in several plant model systems. While at Amherst he will teach or co-teach Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry, and Cell Structure and Function, and may also mentor research students.



Biology labs welcome new senior honors students

The following '22 and '23E Biology students are planning on conducting senior honors research in Biology next year: **Peter Baird, Talia Bloxham, Nicole Case, Grace Davenport, Luis de Pablo, Sophia Fernandes, Hannah Goldberg, Nick Gulow, Zach Jonas, Katie Lingen, Anna Madden, Andrea Mirow, Eva Nelson, Aidan Park, Sam Park, Danica Peterson, and Kelly Zheng.** We are looking forward to hearing about your discoveries next year!

Biology Steering Committee is looking for new members

The Biology Steering Committee, which works with faculty to enhance the educational and social experience of students within the Biology Department, is looking for new members for the 2021-2022 year. Please write to biologysteering@amherst.edu if you are interested in learning more.

Accolades for Trapani lab member Hannah Nieditz

Senior thesis student **Hannah Nieditz '21** won best undergraduate poster at two separate virtual conferences, the Northeast Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (NESOT) virtual conference and the Northeast Undergraduate Research on Neuroscience (NEURON) virtual conference. Way to go, Hannah!

Addendum to last issue

Faithful readers of BioNews will recall that we promised a link to the new paper by **Noah Lerner '16, Victoria Luizzi '17** et al. from the Hood lab. [Here it is!](#)

Congratulations Kailey!

Kailey Tobin, laboratory and field technician in the Clotfelter lab, will be leaving her position this summer to attend Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine, where she will specialize in large animal medicine. Good luck Kailey!

Alumni news

James Colwell '20 will be pursuing a Master's degree in Entomology from the Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias de la Educación (UMCE) in Santiago, Chile, working with Dr. Patricia Estrada Mancilla on forest canopy insect diversity.

Three of our amazing post-bac researchers have exciting things ahead:

Stanley Dunwell '20 is starting a new position as a Clinical Research Coordinator in GI Oncology at Dana-Farber, where he will help with their clinical trials and data management.

Sydney Nelson '20 is starting her Master's in Environmental Science at the Yale School of the Environment, studying conservation in wood frogs.

Derek Schneider '20 will also be starting a job as a Clinical Research Coordinator, in GI Surgery at Mass General Hospital.



If you have anything to share for the next BioNews, please send it to Ethan Clotfelter (edclotfelter@amherst.edu)