

# BioNews – January 2022

**Best to wishes to Karen Racz and Jen Smith, and welcome to Leah Davis!**

January saw several momentous changes in the staffing of the Biology Department. **Karen Racz** retired as our Academic Department Coordinator, after more than 6 years in that position, and 12 years in service to Amherst College. We wish Karen all the best for her retirement, which she plans to spend pursuing interests in art, travel, and visiting family and friends.

We are excited to welcome **Leah Davis** as our new Academic Department Coordinator! Leah joins us from the Office of Financial Aid, where she has worked since 2013. She has been working closely with Karen Racz and Joe Trapani to take over the day-to-day operations of the department. Please stop by the Biology office to say hello to Leah.



Greenhouse manager **Jen Smith** also finished her work at the college in January. After working as our greenhouse manager since 2015, Jen is moving into a new position as the regional director for the Local Hero program for Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) based in South Deerfield. In this position she will be able to promote local agriculture in western Massachusetts. A new greenhouse manager will be joining us soon.

Thanks for all of your contributions to the department, Karen and Jen, and welcome to Leah!



A screenshot from a recent sendoff Zoom in honor of Karen's retirement.

## Ethan Temeles elected as AAAS Fellow

**Prof. Ethan Temeles** was [recently elected to be a fellow](#) in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). AAAS is one of the oldest and most prestigious of scientific societies. This is a tremendous honor, as membership is awarded to those “whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications in service to society have distinguished them among their peers and colleagues.” Congratulations Prof. Temeles!

## New paper from the Trapani lab

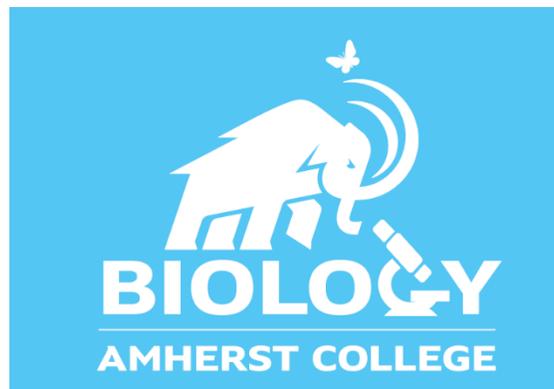
**Prof. Joe Trapani** and former thesis student **Rana Barghout '20** were two co-authors on a research methods protocol titled "In Vivo Analysis of Hair Cell Sensory Organs in Zebrafish: From Morphology to Function," that was [just published](#) in the *Neuromethods* book series. Congratulations to them!

## Alumni News



**Anna Rasmussen '13** recently defended her Ph.D. in Earth System Science at Stanford University. Her research uses molecular and biogeochemical approaches to understand the abundance, distribution, and activity of nitrogen-cycling bacteria and archaea in San Francisco Bay. Congrats to Anna!

**We hope everyone has a great start to the semester!**



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