

BioNews – June 2022

Congratulations to Prof. Levin

A huge congratulations to **Prof. Rachel Levin** for her reappointment as Senior Lecturer of Biology and Environmental Studies, a well-earned recognition of her many contributions to those two departments. We are so fortunate to have you, Rachel!



Prof. Levin doing one of her favorite things.

Bio and Neuro welcome Caroline Towse



The Biology Department and Neuroscience Program are thrilled to have **Caroline Towse** on board as our new Animal Care Technician. Caroline has graduate training in psychology and behavior analysis, as well as extensive animal care experience with both rodents and birds. Here at Amherst, she will provide support for the many labs that work with live animals, including sea anemones, fish, and rodents. Welcome Caroline!

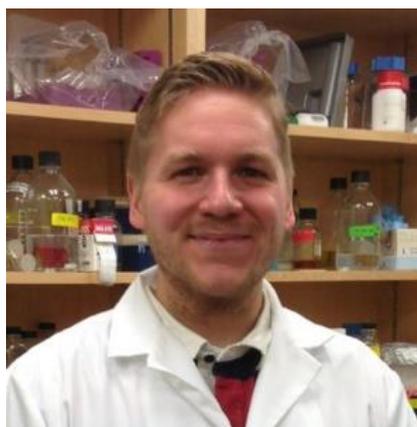
Congratulations and farewell to Prof. Augustine

Visiting Professor Robert Augustine had an eventful spring and summer, with the arrival of baby Mayari in March and the start of a new faculty position at Colby College this July. Best wishes to Robert and his family on their new adventure! Here's a photo from his farewell lunch.



Welcome (again) to Drs. Christina Bowers and Gary Heussler

Avid readers of BioNews will remember that **Dr. Christina Bowers** and **Dr. Gary Heussler** start their new positions on July 1. Dr. Bowers (below, left), formerly an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Southwestern University (TX), will be taking over as the new Laboratory Coordinator for Biology 191. **Dr. Heussler** (below, right), formerly a postdoctoral researcher at UC-San Diego, will join as a Visiting Professor and will contribute to courses such as Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry. If you see them in the halls, please stop and say hello!



BioBagels

The pre-pandemic BioBreakfasts have returned, this time re-branded as BioBagels! Please join us on the Science Center Patio each Wednesday this summer at 9:00 am for bagels, coffee, and community-building.



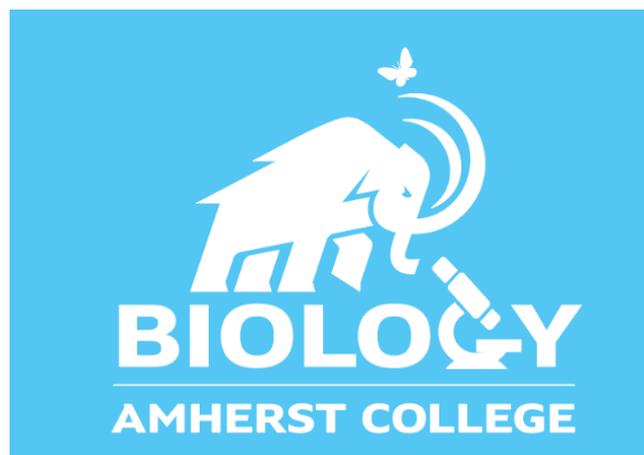
Summer research in the Bio Department

Biology labs (and field sites) are full of thesis students, SURF students, and academic interns this summer. Here are a few photos of students in the (clockwise from upper left) Trapani, Clotfelter, Goutte and Kim labs.



Passing the baton

Last but certainly not least, BioNews would like to thank **Prof. Joe Trapani** for his two years of leadership as Biology Department chair. Chairing a department through a pandemic is no easy feat, and we really appreciate his tremendous enthusiasm for all things biology. BioNews would also like to welcome **Prof. Alix Purdy** as the incoming Bio department chair. Thanks to you both for your service!



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