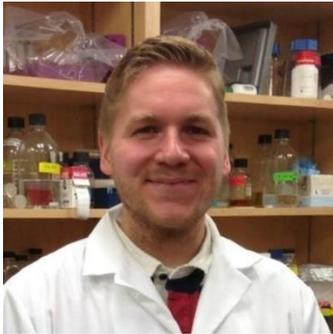


BioNews – September 2022

In Memoriam – Gary Heussler 1987-2022



The Amherst College Biology community has been deeply saddened by the passing of Visiting Professor Gary Heussler last month. Gary's passion for teaching and microbiology research made a big impact on us during his short time at Amherst. Gary received his B.S. in Biology from Fairfield University, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa, his Ph.D. from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, and was most recently a post-doctoral researcher in the Dutton Lab at the University of California, San Diego. Gary was a Mets baseball fanatic, and an avid weightlifter and runner, having completed numerous marathons. We send our condolences to the Heussler family.

Panagis joins as inaugural ABIC director

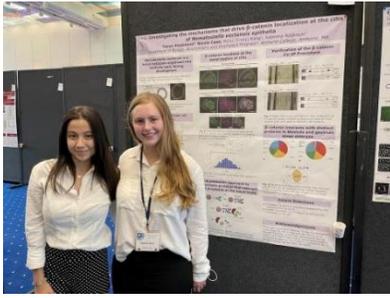
Dr. Lampros Panagis will join the Biology Department this fall as the inaugural Director of the Amherst Biological Imaging Center (ABIC). Lampros will be leading the development of the ABIC facility and managing our research microscopes, with a particular focus on the new Zeiss scope that was purchased with the NSF Major Research Instrumentation grant. Lampros joins us from Regeneron in Connecticut, where he manages their microscopy core facility as Lead Scientist. Lampros has a BS and MS in Biology, and a PhD in Neuroscience. He has extensive experience in all types of microscopy, and has been a support specialist for Zeiss. He will bring tremendous expertise and support to our research efforts. Please join us in welcoming Lampros when he starts work in early October!

More new faces around the department

AllexAndrya (Allex) Dawn has joined the Edwards lab as a research assistant. Allex is a recent graduate of Smith College, and worked in Lisa Mangiamele's lab on the neuroendocrinology of foot-flagging frogs. Welcome Allex!

Sophia Bulzoni is starting a new position as a research assistant in the Hood lab. Sophia graduated from UVA recently with majors in Biology and Environmental Science. Welcome Sophia!

Ragkousi students present poster



Tavus Atajanova '23 and **Nicole Case '22**, from the Ragkousi lab, presented a poster entitled “Investigating the Mechanisms that drive β -catenin localization at the cilia of *Nematostella vectensis* epithelia” at the international meeting organized by the Society for Developmental Biology (SDB) and Pan-American Society for Evolutionary Developmental Biology (PASEDB) in Vancouver, Canada. Congratulations Tavus and Nicole!

Kristensen lab featured in *Boston Globe* article

Congratulations to **Dr. Thea Kristensen** and **Elizabeth Zhang '24**, who were featured in [a recent Boston Globe article](#) about the increase in black bears in Massachusetts. The article did a great job of summarizing their research and educating people about human-bear interactions.



Cesinger defends dissertation



Monica Cesinger '15 completed her Ph.D. in Microbiology at the University of Washington in August. Cesinger, who did her honors thesis in the Purdy lab, studied factors associated with growth and virulence in *Listeria* bacteria. She was the recipient of many awards along the way, including an HHMI Gilliam Fellowship and the Helen Riaboff Whiteley Fellowship. Congratulations Monica!

Multiple major milestones for Ma

Wen-Juan Ma, former postdoctoral fellow from the Hood lab, has had a busy year. In addition to welcoming a new member to her family, Wen-Juan has been offered a faculty position at Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium and was awarded a huge grant from the European Research Council to start her new lab to study the evolutionary genomics of sex. Congratulations to Wen-Juan and her family!

