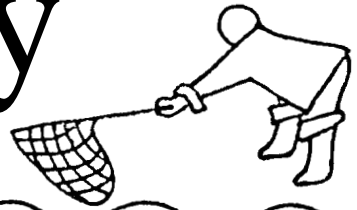


MBL Monthly



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Grass Lab Moves to Whitman

When the 2002 Grass Fellows arrive at the Marine Biological Laboratory this May, they won't be reporting to their long-time home on the third floor of the Lillie Building. Instead, they'll be the first occupants of newly renovated space across the street in the Whitman building.

Last October, the MBL began reconfiguring 1,400 square feet of laboratory space on Whitman's third floor. It is one of several renovations currently underway at the laboratory (see page 2). The area formerly housed a number of summer educational activities, including SPINES (Summer Program in Neuroscience, Ethics, & Survival) and a program for undergraduates from Williams College funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. These programs are moving to the Loeb Building, which now houses most of the MBL's educational programs.



The Grass Lab's new space, on the third floor of the Whitman Building, overlooks the Lillie Building and MBL Street.

Since 1951, The Grass Foundation has sponsored the Grass Summer Fellowships Program at the MBL. The Fellowships offer young neuroscientists the opportunity to conduct independent research, often for the first time in their careers. The Fellows typically spend 14 weeks in Woods Hole. There have been more than 400 Grass Fellows to date, many of whom have gone on to make major contributions to neuroscience.

Richard Cutler, Director of the MBL's Facilities, Ser-

vices, and Projects Office and Steven Zottoli, President of The Grass Foundation, have been working together to design a space that will meet the Fellows' research needs and also foster the cooperative and collegial nature of the program. According to Cutler, "The new lab space will be fully modernized and is designed to allow more flexibility for overall use." Interior walls have been removed and new lights, plumbing, and flooring have been installed. In addition, custom work-stations and furniture have been designed to maximize the use of space in the lab.

While the new Grass Lab promises to be a convenient, functional, and modern research area, its design also ensures that the Lab's historical connection to Lillie will be preserved. According to Cutler, the door to Lillie 317—home to the Grass Lab since the early 1970s—will be displayed in a corridor alcove in the new Whitman space.

In 1996, Dr. Daniel Barry, a NASA Astronaut and Grass Fellow from 1985-1987, brought the key to this door into space with him as a tribute to Grass Foundation founders, Albert and Ellen Grass; the Grass Foundation; and the Grass Laboratory. The renovation project is expected to be completed by the end of March.



Recycling News

There is excitement brewing from Cafe Swope, and it's not only because the area has been renovated. Plastic serving containers and utensils have been eliminated and a new beverage container recycling station will be created. Also, leftover food is being recycled through a local farmer. These efforts have reduced the amount of "trash" produced at the Swope Center by more than 50%.

The MBL actively recycles paper, newspaper, electronics, grass clippings, scientific equipment, and miscellaneous items, if and when they become available. The MBL's Recycling Committee continues to explore options for expanding the lab's program. Contact Joe Hayes for more information (jhayes@mbl.edu, 508-289-7530.)

Science News

From the Laboratory of Paul Colinvaux...

Paul recently gave the following two seminars at Michigan State University in Lansing, MI:

"The Human Niche and the Fates of Nations: An essay in Ecological Experience" — February 19th.

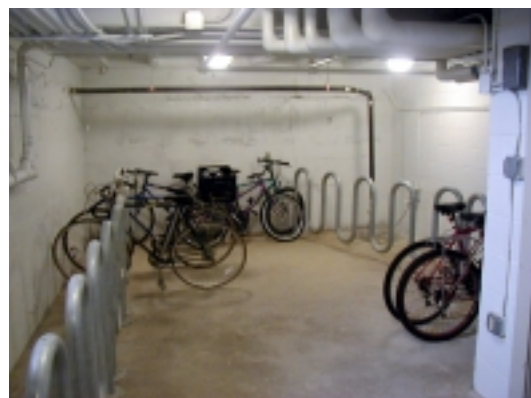
"Amazon Paradigm Lost: Falsifying the Haffer-Prance Refuge Hypothesis" — February 20.

From the Laboratory of Michael Rabinowitz...

Eckel, William, Michael Rabinowitz, and Gregory Foster 2002.

"Investigation of unrecognized former secondary lead smelting sites: confirmation by historical sources and elemental ratios in soil."

Environmental Pollution 117:273-279.



Would you like to ride your bike to work, but wonder where you can store it safely, take a shower after your ride, and stow your helmet and personal belongings while you're at work?

Contact Joe Hayes about the new year-round bike storage facility (jhayes@mbl.edu, 508-289-7530).

On Tour with Rich Cutler

Construction Projects Reach all Corners of MBL

The MBL is undergoing a facelift. Renovations or construction projects are happening in every laboratory building, as well as in Cafe Swope, The Brick Apartment Building, and Homestead. Here are a few highlights:



Workers in the MRC (third floor) prepare new lab and office space for new MBL and BUMP investigators Rick Goetz and Paul Barber.



Porch structural repairs to the Brick Apartment Building.

Human Resources, Education, Research Space Administration, Financial Services, and the Biological Bulletin staff will move into a renovated Homestead Building this spring.



The third floor of the Lillie Building is being renovated to provide lab space for the new Global Infectious Diseases Program.



Rich Cutler points out one of the new safety stations that will eventually be installed on every floor of all lab buildings.



A recently renovated Ebert Hall dormitory room awaits its summer residents.

Spring Break

If you can't be in Fort Lauderdale or Jamaica basking in the sun on March 21, you may want to take a break and join your co-workers for some fun, refreshments, and good cheer.



Thursday, March 21, 2002

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Meigs Room

Swope

Employees are invited to spend a little time away from the day-today. Bring your musical instrument and join in a jam session, play games, or just relax.

If you have a hobby that you would like to share with other employees, please contact Linda Snow at ext. 7122.

Recent Gifts and Grants

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded \$522,941 for "*Giardia*: A Model for Ancient Eukaryotic Genome Analysis." Mitchell Sogin is the principal investigator.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded the following grants:

- \$206,879 (first year) for "Molecular Genetic Studies of Bdelloid Rotifers." Matthew Meselson is the principal investigator.
- \$391,633 for "Developing Process-Level Understanding of Controls on Belowground Carbon and Nutrient Dynamics in Tundra Ecosystems." Knute Nadelhoffer is the principal investigator.

The Science Journalism Program received grant renewals from the American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology in the amount of \$9,000 and The American Society for Cell Biology in the amount of \$5,000.

Employee News

Please welcome the following new employees:

Tony Cave, Research Administrator, The Ecosystems Center
Adrian Green, Research Assistant, The Ecosystems Center
Gabriele Gerlach, Associate Scientist, Marine Resources Center
Erica Lasek-Nesselquist, Research Assistant, Josephine Bay Paul Center
Carolyn Solchenberger, Administrative Assistant, Financial Services

MBL Long-term Employees Honored

• Ecosystems Co-Directors **John Hobbie** and **Jerry Melillo**, and Ecosystems Senior Scientist **Bruce Peterson** were honored for their 25 years of service to the MBL on Wednesday, February 13, at an event in the Meigs Room. MBL Director and CEO William Speck presented each with a chair engraved with their name and the MBL seal.

• The Director also honored those who have worked at the MBL for 20 or more years at a luncheon held at the Jonsson Center on Wednesday, February 27:

Franklin Barnes, William Lochhead, Gus Shaver, Eugene Tassinari, Lewis Anderson, Joseph Deveer, Suzanne Donovan, Joyce Enos, Ed Enos, Kurt Fuglister, Walter Gonsalves, Janice Hanley, John Hobbie, Frances Johnson-Horman, Louis Kerr, Jerry Melillo, Stephen Mills, Rebecca Mountford, Cathy Norton, Bruce Peterson, and Paul Steudler.

Benefits Buzz

See Better and Save Money!

When you present your Blue Cross Blue Shield ID card to a participating Davis Vision Discount provider, you are eligible for these terrific discounts:

- 25% discount on lenses and frames
- 20% discount on daily wear contact lenses
- 10% discount on disposable contact lenses

The Davis Vision network is changing all the time, so make sure you call to verify a provider's participation and current address well in advance of your appointment.

You may also receive these same discounts at participating optical centers such as Sears Optical at the Cape Cod Mall and Pearl Vision Center in Capetown Plaza both in Hyannis. For updated information about an optometrist, ophthalmologist or optical center participating in the Davis Vision Discount Programs call BCBS Physician Selection Service at 1-800-821-1388.

For information about benefits, contact Linda Snow at MBL ext. 7122.

Library News

The Library announces the availability of two new databases of interest to the Woods Hole scientific community.

To access, visit the MBL/WHOI Library website under Databases <http://www.mblwhoilibrary.org/databases/>

1) FOUNDATION DIRECTORY ONLINE

The Foundation Directory Online Platinum contains the complete list of 60,000+ foundations, corporate givers and public charities plus a separate searchable file of 150,000 recent grants. The database is updated monthly. (Please contact library staff for the user name & password.)

2) GEOBASE

GEOBASE covers worldwide literature on geography, geology, ecology, and related disciplines. The database contains 600,000+ records with abstracts from 1980-present. Coverage includes more than 2,000 journals (fully indexed); 3,000 selectively indexed; and more than 2,000 books, monographs, conference proceedings, and reports. The database is updated daily. (This database gives a European perspective & includes items not indexed in the GeoRef database).

March 2002 Calendar

For updates, please check our website, <http://www.mbl.edu/weekly/>

Tuesday, March 5

The Ecosystems Center Seminar Series
“Atlantic Ocean thermohaline circulation threatened by increasing arctic river discharge”

Bruce Peterson, The Ecosystems Center
Whitman Auditorium, 12:15 PM

Wednesday, March 6

Massachusetts Environmental Education Society
“Energizing environmental education in the Commonwealth”

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester
To download a conference brochure, please see: www.massmees.org

Thursday, March 7

New England Oceanography Seminar Series

“An alternative modeling approach for coastal ocean studies—an unstructured grid, finite volume coastal ocean model: Tests and applications to Georges Bank, Bohai Seas, and Georgia estuaries”
Changsheng Chen, WHOI
WHOI, Clark 507, 4 PM

Friday, March 8

The Bay Paul Center Seminar Series
“Microbial defense systems: Evolution, ecology, and application”

Margaret Riley, Yale University
Candle House 104/105, 4:00 PM

Monday, March 11

BUMP Research Discussion
“Distribution of Atlantic White-Sided Dolphins, *Lagenorhynchus acutus*, in the Gulf of Maine: A predictive model”
Erin Summers, Research Masters candidate
Loeb 32, Noon

Tuesday, March 12

The Ecosystems Center Seminar Series
“N cycling in the sea—stable isotope approach”

Mark Altabet, UMass Dartmouth
Whitman Auditorium, 12:15 PM

Wednesday, March 13

MBL/BUMP Spring Seminar Series
“Ionic currents underlying spontaneous action potentials in cerebellar neurons”
Indira Raman, Northwestern University
Candle House 104/105, Noon

Thursday, March 14

WHOI Distinguished Lecturer Series
“Microbes and metals in the environment”
Jill Banfield, University of Wisconsin
WHOI, Clark 507, 4:00 PM

Monday, March 18

BUMP Research Discussion
Title TBA
Mark Lever
Loeb 32, Noon

Tuesday, March 19

The Ecosystems Center Seminar Series
“Nitrogen cycling in forests of the Catskill Mountains: Do species matter?”

Gary Lovett, IES
Whitman Auditorium, 12:15 PM

Wednesday, March 20

MBL/BUMP Spring Seminar Series
“Regulation of G-protein coupled receptors by mRNA binding proteins”
Kathryn Sandberg, Georgetown University
MRC 210, Noon

Friday, March 22

The Bay Paul Center Seminar Series
“Ports of entry for migratory genes”
Elisabeth A. Raleigh, New England Biolabs
Candle House 104/105, 4:00 PM

Monday, March 25

BUMP Research Discussion
Title TBA
Marci Cole
Loeb 32, Noon

Tuesday, March 26

The Ecosystems Center Seminar Series
“Where did all the nitrogen go? N inputs, storages, and losses in northeastern watersheds”
Elizabeth Boyer, SUNY
Whitman Auditorium, 12:15 PM

Wednesday, March 27

MBL/BUMP Spring Seminar Series
“Regulation of prolonged changes in neuronal excitability”
Len Kaczmarek, Yale University
Candle House 104/105, Noon

CONFERENCES

For information about conferences, please call Pam Oldham (508) 289-7214.

March 8 - 10, Yale Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

March 15, 16, Brandeis Volen Center

March 18 - 20, Nitrogen Synthesis
March 25, 26, Yale Immunology

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