

TOUCHING BASES

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The 2007 edition of "Touching bases" includes a range of items reflecting the professional and (sometimes) personal activities of a vibrant and active Department. 2007 was a roller-coaster year of extreme highpoints and lowpoints. On the positive side, the second phase of the Science Complex was completed and the Department finally came together under one roof. The relocation of research groups from the Axelrod Building was, without doubt, a more complicated process than the earlier relocation from Chemistry & Microbiology because of the physical distance. Nevertheless, it went remarkably smoothly. Thanks go to John Greenwood, the MCB representative on the relocations team, and to all of the individuals in the relocated labs for their patience with the process. It has been rewarding for me getting to know people better. The lowpoint is unquestionably the untimely loss of a longtime friend and faculty colleague Terry Beveridge.

This has been another outstanding year of achievements for the Department. Our undergraduate programs continue to grow and, while resources are always a challenge, there is no question that we offer the best opportunities possible for the students. Recruitment to our graduate programs is at an all time high - a point amply illustrated by the list of new faces in the Department. The Department hosts a diverse array of leading edge research activities and it is particularly gratifying to see some innovative new collaborations beginning now that we occupy contiguous research space. The level of activity in the Department is impressive and thanks go to all of the staff, students and faculty for their remarkable efforts and for making this an enjoyable place to work.

Perhaps the best sign of the intense level of activity in the Department is the fact that we are just getting the Fall 2007 newsletter out and we are already into May!

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Dr. Cecil Forsberg retired, officially, on August 1, 2007, after 3 decades of service to the U of Guelph. He has been a major contributor to all activities of

the former Department of Microbiology and, more recently, MCB. We'll still see Cecil in the hallways as he continues to pursue his research program as a Professor Emeritus.

DEFENCES

The following students successfully defended their theses during 2007:

M.Sc. **Kailash Banasure** (MICR) Mutharia Lab
Jessica Cock (MICR) Preston Lab
Meaghan Fowler (MICR) Whitfield Lab
Sandra Jeftic (MBG) Sharom Lab
Michelle Kean (MICR) Coppolino Lab
Theresa Lindhout (MICR) Lam Lab
Aaron Livingstone (MBG) Mosser Lab
Ana-Rita Rebelo (MICR) Meng Lab
Jodie Simard (MBG) Mosser Lab
Alison Sinclair (MBG) Mathur Lab
Graham Smith (BOT) Mullen Lab



Ph.D. **Peter Anderson** (MBG) Phillips/Mosser Lab
Tim Audas (MBG) Lu Lab
Leslie Cuthbertson (MICR) Whitfield Lab
Xuemei Gong (BOT) Bewley Lab
Ryan Hunter (MICR) Beveridge Lab
Madhuri Koti (MICR) Kaushik Lab
Guillaume Lachappelle (MBG) Mosser Lab
Shuhua Ma (MBG) Bag Lab
Cibele Machado (BOT) Bewley Lab
Sadegh Nabavi (MBG) Nazar Lab
Samuel Qi (MICR) Forsberg Lab
Anna Rucsk (MBG) Baker Lab
Mahbuba Siddiqua (BOT) Nassuth Lab
Shawna Wicks (MBG) Phillips/ Bendall Lab

APPOINTMENTS

Mike Emes was appointed for a second five-year term as Dean of CBS. For an article in *Zygote Plus* leading up to his reappointment, [click here](#).

Larry Peterson was appointed Interim President of the International Mycorrhiza Society.

Derek Bewley has been appointed by the USDA-Agricultural Research Service to Chair a Panel to review their research on Genebank Technologies, under their Plant Genetic Resources Program.

CONGRATULATIONS

Tenure & Promotion...

Annette Nassuth and **Stephen Seah** were promoted to Associate Professor (effective July 1, 2007).

In December 2007, **Joe Colasanti**, **Baozhong Meng** and **Jaideep Mathur** were awarded tenure.



Honours & Awards...

Cecil Forsberg was elected to Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology. This award justly recognizes Cecil's extensive contributions and his dedication to the discipline over the course of an outstanding career.

Chris Whitfield won a UGFA Distinguished Professorial Teaching Award for CBS in 2007. He was also elected a [Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada](#) (Life Sciences), a premier honour for any academic, reflecting outstanding research contributions.

Theresa Lindhout won one of three CSM Graduate Student Awards at the student symposium competition in the 2007 CSM Annual Conference, held in Quebec City June 17-20.

Sandra Good was selected as a 2007 recipient of a President's Award for Exemplary Staff Service in the category of Service Excellence Recognition. This award recognizes Sandra's attributes and her contributions to our Department and the University. We all appreciate her efficiency and her tireless attitude to make sure that everything works.

J. Derek Bewley, University Professor Emeritus in MCB, has been elected a Corresponding Member of the American Society of Plant Biologists 'in recognition of distinguished accomplishments in the science of plant biology'. This is a lifetime membership award for researchers from outside of the United States and is decided by a ballot of the society's membership. This prestigious award was initiated in 1932 and Derek is the first Canadian to receive it. He received a plaque and citation at a ceremony in Chicago in early July.

Robert Mullen received the 2007 C.D. Nelson Award in Plant Physiology from the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists. The award is made annually to an individual who has made "outstanding research contributions to plant physiology" within the first 10 years of holding an independent position.

Cameron Wagg, M.Sc. student in Larry Peterson's lab, won a John Macoun Travel Bursary from the Canadian Botanical Association to attend the Plant Canada Meeting in Saskatoon. At the meeting, he won Honourable Mention for his oral presentation "Soil fertility and mycorrhizal association influences on lodgepole pine and interior spruce seedling growth".

Michelle Smith, Ph.D. student in Janet Wood's lab, received The University Graduate Scholarship, the Tri Council Top-up Award to supplement her NSERC PGSB Scholarship and the Roche award for her Ph.D. seminar.

Nina Jones received funding from the Kidney Foundation of Canada. She also received an Early Researcher Award from the Ontario government.

John Dawson was named a recipient of the 2007 Provost's Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning at the University of Guelph. The award recognizes John's development of innovative teaching approaches in the Biochemistry program and his commitment to student learning. He was recognized for developing *Fold*, a mock scientific e-journal that allows students to gain experience in writing and peer-reviewing scientific papers. *Fold* was launched in 2004 in a fourth-year course called "Structure and Function of Macromolecules." In addition to completing a project in protein folding, about 40 students pair up to write a research article for review by their classmates and possible publication in the journal, which resembles a professionally produced electronic publication.

Click [here](#) to read more.

IN THE NEWS



Cecil Forsberg was featured in the New York Times [Meet the Enviropigs](#). They have cleaner manure and healthier meat, say their

developers, at left, Dr. John Kelly of MaRS Landing of Ontario and **Dr. Cecil Forsberg** of the University of Guelph.

Rod Merrill was featured in the Winter 2007 issue of [Zygote Plus](#) in an article entitled "One step closer" to understanding the mechanics behind a family of bacterial toxins secreted by human pathogens.

Jaideep Mathur was featured in the Fall 2007 issue of [Zygote Plus](#) in an article entitled "Plant by numbers". It discusses how Jaideep learned biology by painting and sketching plants in his native India.

NEW FACES in MCB

Our newest faculty member, **Emma Allen-Vercoe** (Cellular Microbiology) joined us this past December. Emma came to us from the U of Calgary.

Bertilla Moroni joined us in November as the new Departmental Secretary. Bertilla came from SOFAM.

New M.Sc. Students:

Perrin Baker, Seah Lab
Danve Castroverde, Robb Lab
Viktoriya Coneva, Colasanti Lab
Ryan Demers, Dawson Lab
Maria Espinosa, Yankulov Lab
Richard Harris, Jones Lab
Derek Ho, Merrill Lab
Christine Holley, Greenwood Lab
John Hollingshead, Emes/Tetlow Lab
Salim Islam, Lam Lab
Marina Ivanova, Merrill/Jelokhani-Niaraki Lab
Aaron Johnstone, Mullen Lab
Chloe Lazakis, Colasanti Lab
Ana Loncar, Dawson Lab
Colin MacDougall, Clarke Lab
Michael Malysewich, Baker Lab
Maksym Misyura, Colasanti/Rothstein Lab
Meagan Mojeski, Mutharia Lab
Michelle Moody, Nassuth Lab
Laura New, Jones Lab
Filomena Ng, Seah Lab
Sarah Ostler, Lam Lab
Ashley Parfitt, Sharom Lab
Michelle Pinto, Mutharia Lab
Danielle Ramdin, Baker Lab
Laura Rice, Seah Lab
Syeda (Abeer) Rizvi, Posluszny Lab
Laura Sande, Whitfield Lab
Mike Schenkel, Mathur/Bewley Lab
Amit Shrestha, Nazar Lab
Sylvie Tremblay, Jones Lab
Danielle Visschedyk, Merrill Lab
David Ward, Lam Lab

Karla Williams, Coppolino Lab
Lesedi Williams, Bendall Lab
Tegan Williams, Lu Lab
Lisa Willis, Whitfield Lab

New Ph.D. Students:

Graham Smith, Harauz Lab
Ali Mohamed, Harauz/Ladizansky Lab
Alison Sinclair, Mathur Lab
Jaeju Yu, Nazar Lab

New Postdocs:

Wendy Allen, Emes/Tetlow Lab
Ashraf El-Kereamy, Rothstein Lab
David Guevara, Rothstein Lab
Iain Mainprize, Whitfield Lab
Nadejda Romanova, Emes Lab
Xurong Tang, Rothstein Lab
Mike Tran, Whitfield Lab

New Research Associates:

Serguei Golovan, Forsberg Lab
Beixin Mo, Bewley Lab
Elwira Sliwinska, Bewley Lab

New Research Staff:

Chris Ambrose, Allen-Vercoe Lab
Jessica Cock, Whitfield Lab
Adrienne Law, Kimber Lab
Stina Nilsson, Harauz Lab
Vibha Tyagi, Mathur Lab
Wenqing (Wendy) Wu, Rothstein Lab
Bin Zeng, Rothstein Lab

IN MEMORIAM

Terry J. Beveridge passed away peacefully at Groves Memorial Hospital at the age of 62. A funeral service was conducted by Rev. Kees Vandermay on September 14, 2007 at Knox Presbyterian Church in Elora. A Symposium on Biofilm, Geomicrobiology and Bacterial Cell Surfaces was held on September 29, 2007 in honour of Terry. (*See page 4 re TJB Symposium.*)



Helen Wilson, first Administrative Assistant in the College of Biological Science, passed away peacefully in her sleep on April 30. She had Lou Gehrigs disease. Helen and her husband had just returned from a month-long trip to Florida, something they had been doing for over 40 years. They would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September. Helen was 69.

PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

David Josephy has been Secretary to the Organizing Committee for the 11th International Congress of Toxicology. After several years of planning, the Congress took place July 14-19 at the convention center (Palais des congrès) in Montréal. The meeting was a big success with nearly 1,500 people attending and perfect summer weather. There was a good turnout from Guelph. Our Associate Dean, Glen Van Der Kraak, was an invited speaker in a symposium entitled "Innovations in Ecotoxicology". David co-chaired the symposium "In Vitro Toxicology – Evolving Concepts in Tissue Modeling". He was particularly impressed by the presentation given by May Griffith of the Ottawa Eye Institute, whose team is constructing artificial corneas, grown in vitro, for transplantation (Building in vitro models of organs, *Int Rev Cytol.* 244:137-173, 2005). The meeting also featured a successful social program, including a boat trip along the St. Lawrence River (see photo) and a banquet at the Palais. David has also been busy as a member of the negotiating team for the Faculty Association.

Chris Whitfield covered a lot of distance in 2007. In April, he was the keynote speaker at the Annual NHRI Conference in Taiwan (NHRI is the equivalent to the US NIH). While there, he also gave seminars at three universities and institutes spanning the length of the island. In July, Chris spent a couple of weeks in Australia where he was an invited speaker at the Australian Society for Microbiology annual meeting in Adelaide, and the 19th International Symposium on Glycoconjugates in Cairns. Later in the year, he was an invited speaker at the annual meeting of the Society for Glycobiology, held in Boston in November. During the year, Chris also presented seminars at the University of Alberta, Queens University, and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Larry Peterson participated in a Workshop on Scientific Publication at the Plant Canada Meeting in Saskatoon, Sask. in June.

Xuemei Gong of the Bewley Lab presented a talk on her thesis work at the '2nd Workshop on Molecular Aspects of Seed Dormancy and Germination' in Salamanca, Spain in early July.

Michelle Smith, Tanya Romantsov and Janet Wood presented posters at the 3rd Gordon Research Conference on Cellular Osmoregulation in Aussois, France, and Janet Wood gave invited talks at the University of Western Ontario and the Proline Symposium in Frederick Maryland. (August 2007)



On August 14, the first annual **CBS undergraduate summer student poster day** was held in the Atrium. The event was a great success, with 36 students presenting their work. Many thanks to all of the faculty, grad students and staff that came out to support the students, and discuss their research. Thanks also go out to the scientific vendors that provided fantastic door prizes for the event.

TJB SYMPOSIUM

On Saturday, September 29, more than 180 people from across Canada and the US attended the Symposium on Biofilm, Geomicrobiology and Bacterial Cell Surfaces in honour and recognition of Terry J. Beveridge for the impact of his research and scientific achievements in the field of Microbiology.



Following the formal part of the program, attendees were invited to a wine and cheese reception in the SCIE Atrium.

Later that evening, ~160 people, including Terry's wife Jan, son Braden with wife Becky and daughter Bree with her fiancé Aaron, sat down to dinner at the Italian Canadian Club (ICC).

The day was filled with science, reminiscing and of sharing fond memories of our TJB.

Also in honour of Terry, a memorial scholarship fund has been created. Two scholarships will be awarded annually to assist graduate students with travel costs to attend scientific meetings. To donate on-line, click [here](#).

DEPT'L STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Biochemistry Program Undergrad Awards:

Marsha Greer, Analytical Biochem Award (\$400)
Shaun Filonowicz, Analytical Biochem Award (\$400)
Shane Caldwell, Honours Biochem Award (\$500)
Kathleen Rossi, Honours Biochem Award (\$500)
Sarah Legree, Fisher Scientific Schol in Biochem (\$500)
Jenea Bin, CIC Institute of Canada Prize (silver medal)

Micro Program Undergrad Awards:

Andrea Portt, Kenneth James Berg Mem Schol (\$1,000)
Lihn (Vanessa) Tran, H.O. Shackleton Mem Schol (\$500)
Lindsay Alston, Shutt Mem Schol (\$500)
John Tavares, Pharmacia & Upjohn Award in Micro (\$500)
Lea Sorensen, GIBCO/BRL Micro Res Excel Award (\$500)

Micro Program Grad Awards:

Ryan Hunter, Robinson Travel Schol (\$400)
Michelle Smith, Roche Mol Biochem Award of Excel (\$500)
Theresa Lindhout, Pharmacia Micro Grad Award (\$500)

MBG Program Undergrad Award:

Jeffrey Malins, Roche Award in MB&G (\$500)

MBG Program Grad Award:

Shauna Lee, Donald R. Phillips MB&G Scholarship (\$8,500)

Undergraduate Summer Research Awards:

USRA's (14 awards)

Scott Baynton, Bendall Lab
Caitlin Cudmore, Graether Lab
Megan Fortino, Jones Lab
Amiee Hill, Mangroo Lab
Daniel Johnstone, Mathur Lab
Elizabeth Kita, Yankulov Lab
Adrienne Law, Kimber Lab
Matt Leslie, Seah Lab
Adrian Millman, Coppolino Lab
Stina Nilsson, Harauz Lab
Peter Poliszczuk, van der Merwe Lab
Erica Pufall, Lu Lab
Kathleen Rossi, Dawson Lab
Sandy Szeto, Merrill Lab

URA's (7 awards)

Jacqueline Barnard, Mosser Lab
Kelly Bell, Tetlow Lab
Jenna Denyes, Clarke Lab
Jennifer Gooch, Posluszny Lab
Kelly Keithlin, Lam Lab
Julie McDonald, Colasanti Lab
Tin Vo, Mutharia Lab

MCB-SRA's (3 awards)

Shane Caldwell, Merrill Lab
Laura Greenfield, Whitfield Lab
Kristel Jefferies, Sharom Lab

PERSONNEL CHANGES IN MCB

Carol Schlaht has joined CBS's Associate Dean of Research Office on the 3rd floor of the SCIE.

Sandi Brown and **Sandra Howlett** have joined CBS's purchasing clerk group also on the 3rd floor of the SCIE. All purchasing is handled by this area which is supervised by Nora Teri.

Leanne Dickie and **Karen Ingram** also joined CBS in the College's stockroom.

Leona Varga joined the Department of Food Science in October.

Angela Wilson left her position in Undergraduate Media Prep to join Canon Canada in Mississauga.

Marta Steiner-Mosonyi (formerly of the Dawson Lab) re-joined MCB in this area.

Amanda Martyn recently resigned her staff position in order to pursue her Ph.D. degree as a full-time student. **Amanda van der Vinne** covered Mandi's maternity leave and then took up the full-time position.

Lisa Dietrich, formerly a temporary purchasing clerk, is now MCB's Wash-Up Facility Technician.

MOVE TO SCIENCE COMPLEX COMPLETE

In Fall 2004, personnel from the former Department of Microbiology in the Chem



& Micro building moved into Phase I of the Science Complex and the deconstruction of C&M began.

By the end of July 2007, Phase II was completed and personnel from the former departments of Molecular Biology & Genetics and Botany in the Axelrod Building had settled in to the new building.

REALLY NEW FACES



Luna Rahman and husband Nafis were blessed with a baby daughter Mehreen Hossain on November 8.

Terry Beveridge's granddaughter, Ava Elizabeth Beveridge, was born on February 17 weighing in at 7 lbs 3 oz.



Sarah Schoolings baby daughter, Mhairi Paolina, arrived promptly on her due date of August 9.

John Dawson's son, Ezra Lawrence Dawson was born July 25 at 10:10 pm, weighing 6 lbs 11 oz, 22 inches.



Dyanne Brewer and Nathan Nielson welcomed their son, Malcolm Anders Nielsen into the world on March 22.

Tim Lampman and **Natalia Kaniuk** (former grad student in the Whitfield Lab) were thrilled to introduce their baby boy, Jackson Lampman.

2007 HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

4th Annual Holiday Party

On Thursday, December 13, over 150 MCB personnel and guests sat down to dinner at the ICC. Entertainment throughout the evening included a slide show highlighting some departmental events of 2007, 'Prof Trivia', and of course an evening of music and dancing.

Adopt-A-Family Fundraiser

For the third year in a row, MCB sponsored a family in need through the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington. Our family consisted of a single mom and her 5 children ranging in ages from 10 months to 9 years. With a few fundraising events and through the generous cash/gift donations from folks in MCB, we were able to provide our family with \$150 gift vouchers for Guelph Hydro and Zehrs, bedding and clothing for all 5 children, a vacuum cleaner for mom, lots of books, and a few toys - over \$1,700 in donations.

CBS HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER

In August, CBS announced the appointment of **Adam Doane**. As Health and Safety Officer for the College, Adam will be developing and implementing various health, safety and environmental initiatives for the College. He will be working closely with the departmental safety committees, faculty and staff to further improve the compliance and effectiveness of the CBS safety program.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Health and Safety in your area you may contact Adam via email adoane@uoguelph.ca or by phone at 58046.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

We'd love to hear from YOU! If you've got news about your research, publications, travels, presentations, new/departing lab personnel, social events, etc. please send it to Bertilla Moroni.

The MCB Newsletter Committee 2007:

Wendy Keenleyside
Denise McClellan
Laleh Hatefi
Christine Schisler