



Representatives of the Departments of Bacteriology, Medical Microbiology and Immunology and the Food Research Institute at the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Microbial Sciences Building, April 14th, 2005.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The official groundbreaking for the Microbial Sciences Building is a time to think of the future, and of the many people and institutions that are making that possible. The site is now a deep hole surrounded by construction activities, but the impact on the future is clear. That future will include resources undreamt of by students and faculty who labored in E.B. Fred Hall. For example, teaching and learning possibilities will be greatly expanded in Microbial Sciences. Rennebohm Undergraduate Instructional laboratories will be experimental learning centers interspersed on the research floors, while specialized instructional labs will be the home for more traditional courses in general and advanced microbiology, immunology, food microbiology, parasitology, molecular biology and other subjects. The Kikkoman Fermentation Laboratory will allow instruction in large-scale production of microorganisms and their valuable products, critical for the biotechnology and food industries. A generous donation from Merck will help fund equipment and activities in the new spaces.

UW-Madison students, staff and faculty will certainly benefit from the facilities in the Microbial Sciences Building. But the impact of the MSB resources will extend beyond the building occupants. You may have returned to campus for a Raper Symposium a few years ago and been reminded of the limitations of 25 Fred Hall. In the MSB, the Ebling Symposium Center, a 450-seat technologically advanced auditorium, will offer space for national and international meetings and symposia. Visitors to campus of all ages can explore the fascinating world of microbiology at the Discovery Center, an interactive science-learning facility.

New facilities and new funds are essential for future advances in the field. Donations from friends of Bacteriology are making a difference now through research scholarships, travel grants and awards that encourage and honor achievement and learning by both undergraduate and graduate students. Three new awards for undergraduates are offered for the first time in 2005 – the Ira L. Balwin travel award, the William Harmon Wright Scholarship (supported the Ira N. Fender Fund to honor Mr. Fender's favorite professor, "Windy" Wright) and the Microbiology High Achievement Award, funded by donations from Emeritus Professor Ronald D. Hinsdill and family.

The support and vision of alumni and friends of the Department of Bacteriology are making a difference now and making possible a bright future for our department.

GREETINGS

Glenn Chambliss



For the first nine years of my term as chair a primary goal was a new building for the department, a role I inherited from Ron Hinsdill when he retired at the end of 1995. After the collapse of plans to renovate Fred Hall in the summer of that year, Ron had planted the seed for a large building, housing more than just Bacteriology, in a presentation to the Campus Planning Committee that fall. He then stepped out of the picture. Upon taking up the challenge, I was aided and abetted by Judy Peterson and Tim Donohue from Bacteriology, Bill Weidanz from Medical Microbiology and Immunology, until he stepped down as Chair and then by Rod Welch, and by Mike Pariza from Food Microbiology and Toxicology. Slowly we advanced our cause through the bureaucracy of the university and the state, no doubt in great measure because we were too naive to realize how hopeless our task. Probably more importantly we succeeded because we had a guardian angel in the UW Facilities Planning and Management department, Rose Barroilhet. Rosie took pity on us for the lost sheep we were and led us through many a minefield. Thanks many fold, Rosie! I would also like to acknowledge the early and sustained support by Chancellor, then Provost, John Wiley. Without the support of those two key individuals the building would have never materialized.

Today construction of the building has begun. Excavation is almost complete and foundation concrete is being poured as I write this. Bids for the project came back seriously over budget but thanks to Chancellor Wiley, Vice Chancellor Alan Fish, Rose Barroilhet and others, I am sure, the university came up with the extra funds so we did not have to sacrifice either scope or function of the building to be within budget.

Although the process for getting a new building has been long and arduous, many would say that this particular project has been blessed and I would agree. It was the people involved in the process, working together, that made it succeed. In addition to those I have named many people have made major contributions to the project but I will save my acknowledgements of them until a later time.

I look forward to watching Microbial Sciences, a building that will set the standard of excellence for 21st century biological science facilities at UW-Madison, take shape on the site of Fred Hall. You may not have been able to join us at the groundbreaking ceremony on April 14, but I hope to see many friends of the department at the grand opening in a couple years.

KENNETH B. RAPER SYMPOSIUM IN MICROBIOLOGY

New and returning students, faculty and staff are energized at the beginning of each academic year by the opportunity to attend the Kenneth B. Raper Symposium. The 18th annual symposium, held at the Memorial Union, displayed the breadth of microbiological research at UW-Madison. Featured faculty speakers included Katrina Forest from the Department of Bacteriology, Gary Splitter (Animal Health and Biomedical Sciences), Aseem Ansari (Biochemistry), David Brow, James Keck and Tricia Kiley (Biomolecular Chemistry), Katherine McMahon (Civil and Environmental Engineering), Ching Kung (Genetics), Paul Ahlquist (Molecular Virology) and Bernard Weisblum (Pharmacology). The 70 posters included presenters from many departments and centers at UW-Madison, as well as UW-Milwaukee and UW-La Crosse. More than 225 people attended the all-day event, funded by the Kenneth B. Raper Memorial Fund and sponsored by the Department of Bacteriology. The 2005 Symposium is scheduled for Monday, August 29 and will again be held at the Memorial Union. Registration is now open online at the Bacteriology website, www.bact.wisc.edu Beginning in 2007 the Symposium will be held in the Microbial Sciences Building's 450-seat auditorium.

FACULTY NEWS

Professor **Robert Landick** was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, for his contributions to understanding RNA polymerase regulation. USDA Associate Professor **Kenneth E. Hammel** was also named an AAAS Fellow for his work on lignocellulose biodegradation. USDA Professor **Thomas Jeffries** was chosen as a Fellow in the American Academy of Microbiology.

Assistant Professor **Karen Wassarman** received a Greater Milwaukee Foundation 2004 Shaw Scientist Award. The five-year, \$200,000 award from the James D. Shaw and Dorothy Shaw Fund is designed to support basic research in biology by scientists in the early stages of their career. Dr. Wassarman is studying small RNAs (sRNAs) and the role noncoding RNAs play in regulating cellular processes.

Professor **Diana Downs** will serve as Editor in Chief of *Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews* from 2005-2010. Professor **Jorge Escalante-Semerena** has been appointed to the Prokaryotic Cell and Molecular Biology Study Section of the National Institutes of Health Center for Scientific Review.

Professor **Richard Gourse** was one of the organizers of a group of scientists who issued a letter of concern over research funding priorities in microbial sciences since 2002. The letter, sent to the Director of the National Institutes of Health, raised concern over the redirection of NIH funding “from projects of high public-health importance to projects of high biodefense relevance but low public-health importance”. The letter pointed out that basic research is most at risk, with funding for studies of model bacteria such as *E. coli* falling by more than 40%. More than 750 microbiologists, including most faculty in the Department of Bacteriology, signed the letter.

The National Institutes of Health renewed the grant which funds the Biotechnology Training Program, directed by Professor **Timothy Donohue**, for five more years. The program was established in 1989. BTP supports more than 30 graduate students, from a variety of programs and colleges at UW-Madison, each year. Trainees minor in a cross-discipline and participate in an industrial internship. BTP has 145 faculty trainers and 103 graduates.

NORTH CENTRAL BRANCH MEETING

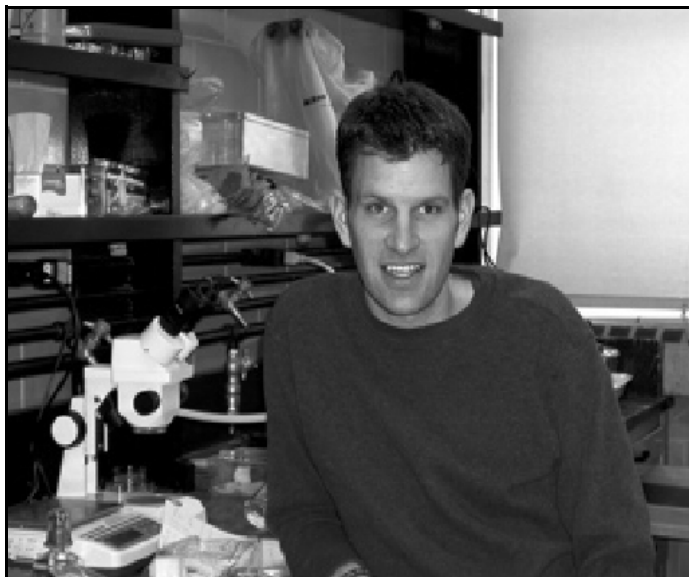
The 64th annual meeting of the North Central Branch of the American Society for Microbiology was held in Madison Nov. 12-13, 2004, hosted by the Department of Bacteriology. Conference organizers included 2004 North Central Branch Officers Drs. Glenn Chambliss, President, Karen Wassarman, Secretary and Michael Thomas, Treasurer. They welcomed members from all five states in the North Central area – Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and North and South Dakota, representing more than 20 colleges and universities. About 200 registrants enjoyed talks, posters and a banquet, along with the mild weather. The Keynote speaker, Dr. George Weinstock, co-Director of the Baylor College of Medicine Human Genome Sequencing Center, gave an energizing talk on the exciting promise of new genome data. His address was sponsored by the Waksman Foundation for Microbiology. Student awards are an important feature of the North Central Branch meeting. Graduate students Brian Paul (UW-Madison), Sarah Pulvermacher (University of Iowa) and Jeremiah Wagner (UW-Madison) won awards for their posters. Wade Schulz from the University of Minnesota won the best undergraduate poster award. Ryan Newton (UW-Madison) was judged best graduate student presenter for his talk “Inside Crystal Bog: A glimpse at the temporally dynamic composition of freshwater bacterial communities”.



Michael Thomas and Karen Wassarman

The 2005 North Central Branch Meeting will be held September 23-24 in Ames, Iowa on the campus of Iowa State University.

WELCOME TO CAMERON CURRIE



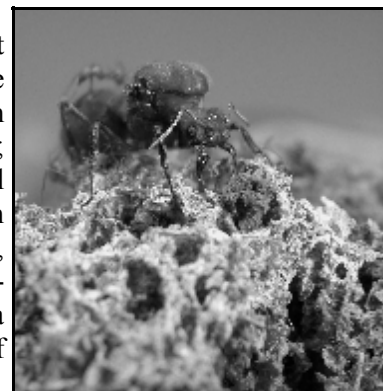
The Department of Bacteriology welcomes Assistant Professor Cameron Currie. Dr. Currie was offered a position at UW-Madison as the result of a multidisciplinary hire of scientists specializing in symbiosis. Dr. Currie had a choice of home departments and decided that Bacteriology was the best fit based on the research interests of our faculty. His own research is focused on the ecology and evolution of symbiotic associations between animals and microbes, especially leaf-cutter ants and their associated microbes.

Dr. Currie received his undergraduate and Master's degrees at the University of Alberta and completed his PhD in 2000 at the University of Toronto under Dr. David Malloch, Department of Botany. As part of his dissertation research, he discovered that the long-studied mutualism of attine ants and the fungus they cultivate as their sole food source is more complicated than had been known. He

found that the ants carry antibiotic-producing bacteria of the genus *Pseudonocardia* on their bodies and are able to protect their fungal gardens from devastating pathogens. This work earned him a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Doctoral Prize in 2001, Canada's top prize for graduate student research.

Dr. Currie's work on the quadripartite association between fungus-growing ants, their fungal cultivars, mutualistic bacteria, and specialized garden pathogens has shown that the co-evolution of these groups has been going on for more than 50 million years. He is excited about the opportunity to expand his studies of this symbiotic system to new areas, such as natural product chemistry and genomics, at UW-Madison.

Dr. Currie did postdoctoral research with Dr. Ulrich Mueller, University of Texas at Austin, and was an Assistant Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Kansas before coming to Wisconsin. He found the offer of a position in Madison attractive for a number of reasons including the quality of the University; the opportunity to work with colleagues who have expertise in microbiology as well as ecology, evolutionary biology and entomology; and hockey. They don't play much hockey in Kansas, according to Dr. Currie. He came to Madison with his wife Gail, now working as a researcher in the Department of Rural Sociology, and their 4-year-old son Aidan. His ants, with their fungal and bacterial partners collected in Panama and other warmer parts of the world, now make their home in the Department of Bacteriology.



ALUMNI NEWS

Michael Sadowsky (BS, 1977) was named a Distinguished McKnight University Professor at the University of Minnesota for his research achievements in environmental microbiology. **George O'Toole** (PhD, 1994) was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Dartmouth College. **Byron Brehm-Stecher** (BS, 1995; MS, 1996) is an assistant professor at Iowa State University in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. He studies rapid methods for the detection of food-related microbes. **Eric Skaar** (BS, 1996) recently accepted a position at Vanderbilt University in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. **Alejandro De Las Peñas** (PhD, 1997) is now an Assistant Professor in a research institute in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. **Melissa Prebeg McGinnis** (BS, 1999) just received her DVM from the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. **Nicholas Schoeller** (BS, 2002) works for Pfizer in the Sterilization Technology unit of their Kalamazoo, Michigan plant. He reports that Microbiology Support hires quite a few Wisconsin Bacteriology graduates because they feel that the program gives students a better background in classical microbiology than other schools. **Jack Newman** (PhD, 2001) reports that he is a Founding Scientist at Amyris Biotechnologies in Berkeley, California.

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Christine Tavano received the 2004 Ira L. Baldwin Distinguished Predoctoral Fellowship in Bacteriology. She studied photosynthesis in *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* with Dr. Timothy Donohue. Her work has led to understanding a new pathway that cells use to respond to reactive oxygen.

Rachel Mooney has been awarded the 2004 William H. Peterson Predoctoral Fellowship in Bacteriology. Her research, under Professors Richard Gourse and Robert Landick, is focused on two universally conserved proteins that regulate transcript elongation in bacteria, sigma and NusG.

Hyunsic Choi received the 2004 Jerome J. Stefaniak Predoctoral Fellowship in Bacteriology. In his work with Prof. William McClain he has devised a synthetic tRNA gene library. His current research examines the recognition mechanism in the aspartyl tRNA system.

The 2004 Sigird Leirimo Memorial Award for mentoring excellence and all-round willingness to contribute to the development of colleagues was presented to **George Schmitz**. George has mentored undergraduate students in Dr. Diana Downs' laboratory, including two participants in Bacteriology's NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates program who subsequently entered PhD programs. He also served as a student representative on steering committees for two training programs. His research involves the role of the YjgF protein in *Salmonella typhimurium* metabolism.

The 2004 Herman A. Smythe Award for research excellence went to **Brian Paul** for his work with Dr. Richard Gourse on the role of the DksA protein in regulation of ribosomal RNA expression in *E. coli*. Brian was able to purify DksA and show that it interacts directly with RNAP complex *in vitro*. This research proved that DksA, previously unsuspected as a transcription factor, is absolutely required for rRNA regulation.

Jesse Woodson received the 2004 Chair's Award for his outstanding work with Dr. Jorge Escalante-Semerena on Coenzyme B₁₂ Biosynthesis. In the course of his research, Jesse discovered two new enzymes, defined a new pathway, and identified three genes encoding the corrinoid-specific transport system across archaeal cell membranes.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Quin Christensen received a 2004 Ira L. Baldwin scholarship. His project, done in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Thomas, compared wild type and engineered non-ribosomal peptide synthetases (NRPSs). Quin will be entering a PhD program at the University of Illinois in fall 2005. **Miranda Warren** was awarded the 2004 Ronald D. Hinsdill Scholarship. Her project on the identification of cellular processes in *Salmonella enterica* that involve the YjgF protein was done in the laboratory of Dr. Diana Downs. **Erin Kron** received the 2004 William B. Sarles Scholarship. Her project, mentored by Dr. Katrina Forest, involved mapping transcription sites of *pilT* and *pilU*. Erin also was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in 2004. **Eric Bruger** was awarded the 2005 William Sarles Scholarship. Under the direction of Dr. Diana Downs he will be mapping four newly isolated mutants that effect thiamine biosynthesis in *Salmonella enterica*.

Justin Lemke received the 2004 Karl Leemkuil Memorial Award for his work with Dr. Richard Gourse on the identification of factors affecting rRNA promoter activity. Justin also received a 2003-2004 University Book Store Academic Excellence award for his project. He joined the Microbiology Doctoral Training Program in fall 2004 and continues his work in the Gourse laboratory.

Undergraduates benefited from several new Bacteriology awards given in 2005. **Lionel Lim** received the first William Harmon Wright Scholarship. He will be working with Dr. Timothy Donohue on zinc-dependent anti-sigma factor ChrR in *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*. **Brad Slominski**, nominated by Dr. Heidi Goodrich-Blair, used the Ira L. Baldwin Undergraduate Travel Award to attend the ASM conference on Beneficial Microbial Symbionts. **Lacy Sommer** received the first Microbiology High Achievement Award, supported by Ron Hinsdill and his family. Lacy did an independent project on the translational regulation of FNR in the laboratory of Dr. Tricia Kiley.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Jennifer Anthony received a Louis and Elisa Thomsen Wisconsin Distinguished Fellowship for the 2004-2005 academic year from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Jen completed her PhD research on the sigma factor of *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* under the direction of Dr. Timothy Donohue. A 2005-2006 Thomsen Fellowship has been awarded to **Charles Cowles** for his research on mutualism in *Xenorhabdus nematophila*/nematode symbiosis. Charles is doing his research in the Heidi Goodrich-Blair laboratory. The Thomsen Distinguished Fellowship is given to graduate students with excellent academic performance and an outstanding research record.

Graduate students **Sara Caldwell, Heather Green, Samantha Orchard, Elizabeth Skovran** and **Shondelle Wilson** were elected as members of the Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society. **Kelly Anklam, Susan Rupp** and **Amber Vanden Wymelenberg**, Master's in Bacteriology students, were also inducted into Gamma Sigma Delta, as was staff member **Lesleigh Luttrell**.

Bacteriology undergraduates successfully competed for campus-wide research awards. **Alita Burmeister, Nicholas Frame, John Kunstman** and **Andrea Radtke** all received 2004 Wisconsin/Hilldale Undergraduate/Faculty Fellowships and **John Kinzfohl** received a 2004 Holstrom Environmental Research Scholarship. **Lewis Hong** and **Mollie Malaney** received Hilldale Awards for 2005-2006.

Among the presenters at the 2004 Undergraduate Symposium were Bacteriology majors **Monica Adams, Dina Garcia, Chu Kwen Ho, Lewis Hong, Lionel Lim, Fawnah Price** and **Mingzi Zhang**. Dina Garcia also presented a poster at the 2005 Undergraduate Symposium, as did Bacteriology majors **Nicholas Heaton** and **Jennifer Rowland**.

Bacteriology undergraduates received a number of scholarships and awards from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences in 2004 and 2005. Congratulations to award recipients **Leann Barden, Caroline Bender, Alita Burmeister, Eric Bruger, Sharon DeBoer, Quin Christensen, Nicholas Hallet, Kelly Jones, Jeff Lorch, Eric Phillippi** and **Jennifer Weis**. **Katie Ballering** received a WALSAA Leadership Award for her work as Co-President of the Microbiology Club in 2004.

Congratulations to 2004 Master of Science in Bacteriology Graduates: Jamie Altmann, Brian Anderson, Kelly Anklam, Alex Atterbury, Brittany Barger, Elizabeth Donley, Zomary Flores, Karen Freedman, Jennifer Gross, Dirk Horne, Denise Jones, Selvi Kunnimalaiyaan, Gloria Lopez-Franco, Jessica Mahood, Linda Mertens, Haiying Ni, Sarah Ozanick, Yanyu Peng, Sara Schroeder, Brenda Soto, and Amber Vanden Wymelenberg.

MICROBIOLOGY DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Kathryn Holtgraver, Program Coordinator
www.microbiology.wisc.edu

Greetings to all Bacteriology and MDTP alumni. The MDTP admitted it's first class in 1998, when the Departments of Bacteriology and Medical Microbiology and Immunology merged their Ph.D. programs. We are proud to say that we will have reached our steady-state goal of 120 students with the 2005 entering class and will have graduated 25 students by the end of this year.

The program had an extremely successful recruiting season this spring, attracting 22 students from among the best programs in the country. We thank all of you for any students you may have sent our way and for any letters you may have written in support of their admission.

The MDTP will have a new director as of July 1, 2005: Professor Heidi Goodrich-Blair, Department of Bacteriology. We welcome her and wish her the best. We also send a heartfelt thank you to outgoing director Jon Woods, professor of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, for his many efforts on behalf of the program since its inception and especially for the extra effort he expended during the last few years as director.

Please feel free to contact us for any reason. We'd love to hear from you!

PH.D. GRADUATES, 2004-2005

Jennifer Anthony (Prof. Timothy Donohue): Function of the *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* alternative sigma factor, sigma^E and its anti-sigma factor, ChrR. Jen has accepted a postdoctoral position in the laboratory of Prof. Jay Keasling, Dept. of Biochemical Engineering, University of California at Berkeley. **Darby Brown** (Prof. Caitilyn Allen): Life in the Xylem: The secrets of *Ralstonia solanacearum* pathogenesis revealed by *in vivo* expression technology. Darby is a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Jeffrey Dangel, Couch Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. **Karen Cloud** (Prof. Joseph P. Dillard): Lytic transglycosylases are responsible for production of peptidoglycan-derived cytotoxin in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. Karen is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Prof. Jo Handelsman in the Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Ilenys Díaz-Muñiz (Prof. James Steele): Citrate catabolism by *Lactobacillus casei* in ripening cheese: a genomic approach. Ilenys is working as a postdoctoral fellow for USDA at North Carolina State under the guidance of Profs. Rodger McFeeter and Fred Briedt. **Melissa Dubois** (Prof. John Mansfield): Regulation of B cell responses in experimental African trypanosomiasis. Melissa has accepted a postdoctoral position with Prof. Mark Slifka, Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute at Oregon Health Sciences in Portland. **Enid Gonzalez** (Prof. Caitilyn Allen): Plant cell wall-degradation and twin-arginine translocation: Exploring *Ralstonia solanacearum* virulence factors. Enid will be a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California at Davis with Prof. Daniel Kluepfel.

Holly Hamilton (Prof. Joseph Dillard): Type IV Secretion in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*: Its role in DNA secretion and in bacteria host cell interactions. Holly is beginning her second postdoctoral position with Prof. Rodney Welch in Medical Microbiology and Immunology. **Christopher Herring** (Prof. Fred Blattner): The introduction and suppression of amber stop codons in the genome of *Escherichia coli*. Chris is working with Prof. Bernhard Palsson in the Department of Bioengineering at the University of California in San Diego. **Eric Martens** (Prof. Heidi Goodrich-Blair): Initiation and maintenance of *Steinernema carpocapsae* nematode colonization by *Xenorhabdus nematophila* bacteria. Eric is currently working as a postdoctoral fellow for Prof. Joseph St. Geme at Washington University, St. Louis.

Samantha Orchard (Prof. Heidi Goodrich-Blair): Oligopeptide and nucleoside salvage by the bacterium *Xenorhabdus nematophila*. Sam has joined Prof. Anca Segall's laboratory at San Diego State University as a post-doc and is working on *Salmonella* chromosome structure. **Brian Paul** (Prof. Richard Gourse): DksA: A potentiator of regulation of transcription by small molecules in *Escherichia coli*. Brian is a postdoctorate with Gigi Storz at NIH-NICHD in Bethesda, Maryland. **Elizabeth Skovran** (Prof. Diana Downs): Connecting the dots in bacterial physiology: Metabolic interactions, thiamine and Fe-S cluster metabolism. Betsy is doing a postdoc in the laboratory of Prof. Mary Lidstrom, University of Washington, Seattle.

Christine Tavano (Prof. Timothy Donohue): Insights into photosynthesis in *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*. Christine will continue her studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Prof. Adel Talaat. **Kelly Winterberg** (Prof. William Reznikoff): A global approach for studying bacterial genomes. Kelly will be continuing her work as a postdoctoral fellow in the Reznikoff lab. **Jesse Woodson** (Prof. Jorge Escalante-Semerena): Coenzyme B₁₂ biosynthesis and precursor salvaging in Archaea. Jesse will be a postdoctorate candidate with Prof. Joanne Chory at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California working on *Arabidopsis thaliana* development.

IN MEMORIAM

Joe Seto (MS, 1955; PhD, 1957) passed along the sad news of the death of **Leonard Devine** (BS 1950; MS, 1954), March 22, 2004 in Poway, CA.

Alumni Newsletter 2005

The demolition of E.B. Fred Hall began on August 26, 2004, with the first blows from the wrecking ball to the side of instructional lab 118. But much was salvaged from Fred Hall before it came down, including five truckloads of quality wood furniture, vintage cabinets and shelves. These items went to the Habitat ReStore in Madison. The ReStore, staffed by volunteers, sells reusable building items to the general public with all proceeds going to build affordable housing through Habitat for Humanity.

Several Fred Hall relics will live again in the new Microbial Sciences Building – the 1955 date stone and time capsule, decorative limestone with fossil imprints from the main entrance, and some of the slate blackboards.



Microbial Sciences Bldg.

Although excavation for the Microbial Sciences Building began in late 2004, the ceremonial groundbreaking was held on April 14, 2005 as part of the BioStar Celebration. Alumni, faculty, staff and students from many departments joined in the ceremonies marking the dedication of the Genetics/Biotechnology addition, the construction of Microbial Sciences, and planning for additional expansion of space for biological science research on the UW-Madison campus. Attendees who visited our temporary home in old Biochemistry had the chance to see updated architectural designs and hear short research presentations by scientists from the core departments, Bacteriology, Medical Microbiology and Immunology and the Food Research Institute that will share space in MSB. You can follow the progress of the Microbial Sciences Building between now and completion in 2007 on our web cams: www.bact.wisc.edu/MSB/webcam.html We also have a new brochure, Microbial Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, describing the new initiatives that will be possible after we move into the building. Just let us know if you'd like a copy.

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