Greetings from the Division of Biological Sciences!

In the last issue of Alumni News we celebrated the accomplishments of one of our younger alumni, Heidi Stallman. Heidi had just won third place in the L. Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future contest for her short story “The Winds.” Heidi usually writes speculative fiction—fiction grounded in science. She just moved back to Columbia, and agreed, in her spare time, to write (nonfiction) for the Alumni News.

Heidi’s feature articles this issue celebrate the award-winning teaching of Associate Professor Karen Cone and the world-class research of Professor John Walker. Heidi also contributed the memorial to Gary Perrot.

The feature article on alumnus Michael See has to be my favorite, because Mike was one of my favorite students. The story of Mike’s persistence and triumph in the face of rejection should serve as a beacon for today’s undergraduates. “Road Toward a Dream” is another story of triumph in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Reprinted from the latest Mosaic, it profiles senior Linda Davis, an award-winning role model for her peers.

We are, as always, interested in what is happening to you. Please take a minute to fill out the enclosed self-addressed, postage-paid card. If you prefer, write to us at Alumni News, 105 Tucker Hall, Columbia, MO 65211-7400, or e-mail me at davidj@missouri.edu. Better yet, stop by and visit when you are in the vicinity.

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**Biological Sciences Alumni News**

**Spring 1999**

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Cover photo: Dr. Mike See performs a video-assisted thorascopic surgery to remove lesions from a patient’s lung.

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Biological Sciences Professor Making International Waves

by Heidi Stallman

When plant cells talk, John Walker listens.

The MU associate professor of biological sciences recently won the Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Faculty Research and is making international waves in the field of plant signal transduction.

"It's always intrigued me that you can take a piece of plant, add a few hormones, and you get a whole new plant. And we still don't know how it works," Walker says.

Although he claims he's not a botanist, just a biochemist who likes working with plants, Walker's curiosity about how plant cells communicate has paid off handsomely.

After reading a 1987 publication describing the structure of receptor protein kinases in animals (proteins that turn biological processes on and off), Walker began thinking about how plant cells might communicate. This inquisitiveness led him to identify a receptor protein kinase in maize, the first such protein identified in plants. "It turns out there were a few hundred of them," Walker beams, barely able to contain his excitement.

Next, Walker hopes to determine the function of protein kinases in plants, what signals activate protein kinases, what other proteins might be interacting with the kinases to affect gene expression, and how the proteins travel in an organism without a circulatory system.

"There's no end of questions. Just a matter of figuring out their importance and how to address them," Walker says.

Although Walker's research has redefined the field of plant cell communication, Walker is modest about his accomplishments, obviously more interested in the research than any prestige. "I've had really good people who've worked with me, and really good colleagues in the department and on campus."

The ground floor of our new greenhouse complex begins to take shape. John Walker raised most of the money for this project.

He also credits MU's Food for the 21st Century Program, under which he was hired, for giving him the flexibility to try something new. "I was able to pursue questions I wouldn't have been able to otherwise, which in turn helped me recruit good grad students and postdocs," Walker says.

Walker enjoys having students working in his lab and says they've been an important source of hard work, ideas, and enthusiasm. "Some ideas are great, some silly. But all my students are really enthusiastic and bright. They've really pushed whole new areas of research," states Walker.

Walker also finds creativity and enthusiasm for his research by reading the literature and attending seminars. "When you see interesting, cool things happening, it really stimulates your interest."

Although he excels in research, Walker spends a lot of time in other academic pursuits. A typical day might include preparing for and giving a lecture, talking to students, interacting with people in his lab, writing papers and grants, peer-reviewing articles and avoiding campus committees.

Although his work pace is hectic, Walker says he wouldn't trade working in an academic environment. "The older I get, the more appreciation I have for our students and the amount of enthusiasm they have. Teaching gives you a lot of enthusiasm back."

Walker also credits teaching as a way to keep up with other aspects of research not directly related to his own and as a way to master new information. "Teaching makes you really think about a piece of information, which helps you think about your own research and how to present it to others or to write grants."

Most importantly though, Walker appreciates the complete freedom working in an academic environment has given him. Freedom that has turned the international world of plant signal transduction upside down.
Road Toward a Dream

by Brandon Ferguson

Linda Davis has aspirations of becoming a doctor. Her dream has not been influenced by successful professional role models. It came from not having any.

"Nobody in my family has a professional career," Davis says. "My mom has to work all the time just to make it. I really don’t want to have to do that."

Davis, a senior biology major, is a first-generation college student from Columbia. After graduating from Hickman High School, she got a taste of research as a participant in MU’s Express Program. The program provides incoming college freshmen with research experience in labs at MU. It also pays them a stipend for their work.

Since Davis’ work with the Express Program, it’s been difficult to keep her out of MU’s research labs. Much of her research has come as a participant in the Heartland’s Alliance for Minority Participation Program, which is designed to interest more minority students in careers in the sciences.

For three years, she researched plant physiology with her faculty mentor, biology Professor Tobias Baskin. Her work resulted in a first-prize certificate and $500 when she presented her findings at a Detroit conference sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Even with her busy class schedule, Davis finds time to work at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center in Columbia, researching easier and faster methods of detecting mutations in DNA.

"Being involved in research has really given me experience," Davis says. "Working at Ellis Fischel has given me more of an interest in clinical research."

As a minority student succeeding in biological sciences research and studies, Davis has become a role model to other minority students. During the summer, she works with Summer Welcome as an adviser to freshmen. "A lot of minority students come in and have questions," she says. "I’m able to tell them about research and encourage them to get involved in it."

John David, director of the Division of Biological Sciences, says Davis’s self-motivation has allowed her to succeed despite not having many of the advantages that other students have. "She’s a terrific young woman and a really good role model."

In addition to being a role model for other minority students, Davis believes she has influenced some of her family members, particularly one of her five siblings.

"They’re proud of me and what I’m doing," she says. "I guess I’ve influenced my younger brother who’s starting at Hickman. He's doing well in school."

Linda Blockus, who oversees MU’s Express Program, says Davis’ research experience definitely is an example for other students.

"The fact that Linda’s had two different research experiences at MU—in basic sciences as well as applied biomedical sciences—is one of the things that’s exemplary about her."

Davis is hoping that the medical school selection committee feels the same. She wants to pursue a career in surgery or internal medicine.
Distinguished Alumni Award
Division of Biological Sciences

Call for Nominations

Attention Biological Sciences alumni — we want you to nominate your classmates

The Division of Biological Sciences is inaugurating an annual Distinguished Alumni Award. This award will recognize one or more of our alumni for achievement in their field and/or distinguished service to their profession or their community. We need your help! If you know alumni who have made distinguished contributions to their field, their profession or their community please take a couple of minutes to nominate one of them. Self-nominations are welcome.

Nominee's Name: ____________________________

Address: __________________________________

Phone: ____________________________________

Summary of nominee's accomplishments: (feel free to attach additional information)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Your Name: __________________________________

Phone: ____________________________________

E-mail: ____________________________________

Return this postage-paid form or, if attaching additional pages, mail them to:

Division of Biological Sciences
Distinguished Alumni Award
105 Tucker Hall
University of Missouri-Columbia
Columbia, MO 65211-7400

If you prefer, you may send your nomination by e-mail to: davidj@missouri.edu. Please include your name and phone number.
Students describe Dr. Karen Cone as “enthusiastic,” “personable,” and “dedicated;” her teaching style as “dynamic, interesting, and fun;” and her courses in Genetics and Plant Molecular Biology as “great,” “excellent” and “the best they've had at MU.”

The associate professor of biology beams at their praises and humbly shakes her head. “I'm a perfectionist. I don't know how to do half a job,” she says.

Cone's students have noticed. In addition to honoring her with their own Tri-Beta Club's Osage Apple Award, Dr. Cone has been the recipient of numerous other teaching and advising awards, most recently the prestigious 1998 William T. Kemper Excellence in Teaching Award.

“Getting recognition (for the Kemper Award) is fun,” Cone says. “But the Tri-Beta award is more special in some ways because that's just the students deciding.”

Although students and faculty alike have noticed Dr. Cone's enthusiastic teaching style, Cone says she never expected to be a teacher. In fact, she actively avoided teaching until coming to MU in 1988, believing that she would eventually work in industry. “I never wanted to be a teacher, not even when I took this job,” says Cone.

Lucky for MU students, she didn't have a choice.

Cone's first teaching assignment was General Genetics, a course she had never taken herself. “It wasn't required. So I had no framework to start,” she says. “And that made it scary to walk into a class of 90 students.”

Cone diligently prepared for each lecture that semester, buying her first home computer because there was too much work to finish at the office. She was ecstatic when she got one lecture ahead. Then she'd race home and spend the weekend trying to make it two.

“The people in my lab never saw me that first semester,” she jokes, describing her first teaching assignment as a harrowing experience.

Cone's hard work paid off, however. And she turned her own inexperience into an asset. “I tried to remember what it was like to not know genetics. I remembered being ignorant and the cool ways people told me to remember it. Of course, I learned it best when I finally taught it,” Cone says.

From these shaky beginnings, Cone has blossomed into a teacher who not only teaches well, but enjoys doing it. She especially enjoys developing relationships with students who keep coming back to report how they're doing semester after semester. She likes writing recommendations for students, especially those who chose careers in genetics. And she likes giving students advice. “I really like people, and teaching is a logical extension of that,” Cone says. “I love it when that light bulb goes off… Yes! I got to them. Cool.”

Cone not only teaches in the classroom, she has also mentored numerous undergraduate and graduate research students in her plant genetics laboratory. Cone believes that mentoring is especially important in teaching scientific research because science is best learned one on one or one on a few. “It gives me an opportunity to really work with a student. And them a chance to ask questions themselves, to make an observation, and to see what that might be telling them,” Cone says.

Cone is an accomplished research scientist herself, studying epigenetic influences on plant gene expression, or changes in gene expression that don’t result from classic mutation. She says that research and teaching are a hard balance, however, and that her research sometimes suffers when she has a large teaching load. “When I'm teaching, teaching wins,” Cone says. “I really like teaching. I like being a good teacher. But right now, I'm looking forward to a research leave so I can concentrate on my research. No excuses.”

Besides balancing teaching and research, Cone also knows how to slow down and relax. She sings in the University’s Choral Union on Thursday nights, always has a mystery novel going, and loves cooking for friends. She describes ER as her only “religious television experience,” and says she’s always taking something apart and putting it back together again in the new home she shares with her partner, three dogs and three cats.

*continued on page 7...*
Seeing Surgery as his Career

by Brandon Ferguson

As a Mizzou football player and wrestler, Michael See wasn't overly concerned with academics. See was intelligent and confident, but his drive was focused in the wrong direction as he headed down his career path.

A knee injury and several operations turned him around.

"I was on a football scholarship, and I had a couple of knee operations," See says. "By my sophomore year my knees were so bad that I just couldn't play anymore. It was at that point when I couldn't be an athlete that I started doing what I was supposed to do, and I kind of liked it."

The summer after See found enjoyment in academics, he also discovered the career field that would shape his future goals. While working as an orderly in a hospital, See observed surgeons. He saw how much they enjoyed their work and realized he wanted to pursue medicine.

"I knew I wanted to be a surgeon," he says. "I identified so much with the attitude, demeanor and personality the surgeons had. I ate it up. A light turned on and said, 'If that's the way you think, then you'd better buckle down and start making the grades, buddy.'"

He did just that. See, who had been a C student during his first two years, made all As his junior and senior years, taking as many 300 level courses as he could in preparation for applying to medical school. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences in 1974.

"If they wanted to see As, man I was going to bury them with them."

However, when See applied, he was refused admission to MU's medical school. Eventually, he reapplied and was refused again.

"Everybody thought they wanted to be a doctor, so there were 10 times as many applicants as there were spots," he says. "It was a really tough thing to get into medical school. They couldn't even interview half the people who applied. Each year I'd kind of try to figure out what my weakness was.

Disappointed but not discouraged, See decided to pursue a master's degree in molecular biology while he prepared to reapply to medical school. He was determined to follow in the footsteps of his father, a Columbia obstetrician.

See's adviser, John David, chair of biological sciences, remembers See's persistence in knocking on the door of the medical school. "The medical school doesn't necessarily look at a rejection as a bad thing," he says. "The hours are bad in medical school. It's got to be something you want more than anything else in the world or you don't get through it."

And by working on his master's degree, See was showing that he could do the medical school course work. When he applied for a third time, he was accepted.

After graduating in 1980, See landed a residency at the prestigious Mayo Clinic, where he performed surgery for five years and earned an award for best surgical resident.

He then completed two years of cardiothoracic training at the Medical College of Wisconsin, and another two-year fellowship at the University of Colorado.

continued on next page...
Letter to Alumni News

Dr. Billy Cumbie,

A recent article in the Alumni News told me of your retirement and I wish to congratulate you on your career and contributions to the field, the university and especially the students. You certainly have a great deal of which to be proud, but I suspect that little Katelyn is probably at the top of the heap.

I have revisited campus on numerous occasions since graduating in 1978 and often considered stopping by to say hello, but those weekends and day trips never seemed to provide the proper timing. With 35 years worth of faces and names, I am sure that mine will not stand out. Still I have always wished to express my gratitude for your teaching, vision and advice.

I was a biology major and you were my advisor for the majority of my stay at MU. Since high school I have had a great love of biology and you certainly fueled it further. Unfortunately I was a mediocre student — I’ve always blamed it on a fickle memory. In preparing my curriculum for my senior year though, you made (what I thought at the time) to be a rather offhand suggestion: to sign up for a computer programming language (FORTRAN). You said that it was quite amazing what was being done with the machines and that a smattering of knowledge would probably come in handy. I took the course and very soon saw the possible applications. My final class project was a rather successful (if I do say so myself) simulation of a genetics phenomenon that Dr. George Smith was examining at the time.

After graduation, I looked for employment in the bio market — but let’s face it, the grades weren’t there. I decided to swap my chosen profession with what had become a growing interest. Another semester of postgraduate work at MU in computer science and I had my first job offer as an entry-level programmer.

Twenty years later, I can point to a most rewarding career and a continued love of botany, zoology and genetics. I have worked for an auto parts manufacturer, Sprint, Control Data, Midwest Research Institute and now Allied Signal and the Department of Energy.

I must beg your pardon for rambling on like this, but I wanted you to know that the fulfilling life I have today started with your prescience and advice. Thank you very much.

Joe Fessler

Mike See (continued)...

“If I hadn’t gotten hurt, I wouldn’t have woken up,” he says. “It showed me what I really wanted to do. That encouraged me to stick it out and keep applying.”

See is in private practice in cardiothoracic surgery in Columbia. His performs surgeries at Boone Hospital Center and Columbia Regional Hospital in Columbia, St. Mary’s Hospital in Jefferson City and Lake Ozarks General Hospital, as well as seeing patients at clinics in Mexico, Moberly and Marshall, Mo.

As See looks back on his career preparation, he acknowledges that the energy he spent trying to get into medical school was worth the fulfilling career he found.

“I think they got tired of me beating on the door,” he says. “They said ‘Alright already, we’ll let him in.’”

Karen Cone (continued)...

Although Cone no longer spends her weekends preparing for lectures, she still takes her weekend activities into the classroom, often chatting with students about common interests, such as singing, before class. Many students cite this extra effort to be friendly as their favorite part of Cone’s courses, finding it easier to ask questions and consult with her during office hours.

“I felt like she really cared about how I was doing,” one student wrote.

“She wants us to learn,” says another.

Cone smiles when she hears these positive teacher evaluations. “I want to do the best job I can do. I want to make it interesting. And I want students to leave and remember me,” says Cone.

So far, she’s succeeding.
Quick Hits

Faaborg Honored with MU Faculty-Alumni Award

Puerto Rico, Galapagos and Mexico often become the laboratory for John Faaborg’s students. As a professor of biological sciences and natural resources, John has led dozens of field trips, allowing students to gain firsthand knowledge of birds and their ecology. Some of the students also serve as research assistants in the field. Faaborg’s research interests include evolution of community structure in birds, avian social behavior and conservation and insular ecology and biogeography. He is among the youngest of 200 Elected Fellows of the American Ornithologists’ Union, an honor reflecting important contributions to his field. Faaborg is coauthor of a textbook, *Ornithology: An Ecological Approach*, and has written more than 50 scientific articles. A superb teacher, he has won the Maxine Christopher Schutz Teaching Award, the William T. Kemper Foundation Award for Teaching and the Purple Chalk Teaching Award.

Awards!

Michelle Azu, Renae Feldmann, Molly Kirkconnell and Christy Otis were named 1999 Outstanding Undergraduate Seniors and Emily Gressman and Jay Sleesman were awarded 1999 Cancer Federation Scholarships. All of these exceptional students will be continuing their educations — three will be entering medical school and the other four will be attending graduate school in the fall.

Tara Phelps won a 1999 Green Chalk Graduate Student Teaching Award and Robin Hurst-March, an instructor with the division, won a 1999 Purple Chalk Award for Excellence in Faculty Teaching.

Congratulations to all of our award winners!

front row: Michelle Azu, Emily Gressman, Jay Sleesman
back row: Christine Otis, Laura Miller, Molly Kirkconnell, Renae Feldmann

Tara Phelps (left) and Robin Hurst-March
Help keep your fellow alumni informed. Please fill out this page and mail it back to us.

Name ____________________________________________

Address _________________________________________

_________________________________________________

Degrees & dates _____________________________________

Department(s) ______________________________________

I continued my education at...

Institution(s) ______________________________________ Department(s) and dates ____________________________

Department(s) ______________________________________

I accepted employment in the private sector/academia...

Company/institution(s) ______________________________ Department/division(s) ____________________________

Position(s) ______________________________________ Dates ____________________________________________

I received awards/honors ... ________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

I have done these other interesting things ... _________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

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__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Please fold so return address shows, tape shut and mail.
Your friends want to hear from you!

The most frequent suggestion for future issues of Alumni News is “tell us more about our fellow alumni.” We’d love to. Of course, we’re dependent on each of you to keep us informed. Please take a minute to write us and tell us anything and everything you’d like about either yourself or one of your fellow alums: weddings, children, new jobs, promotions, awards, articles or books, retirement, special achievements, or special events. This page folds into a self-addressed, prepaid postcard. If you’d like to send a letter, address it to...

Alumni News
105 Tucker Hall
University of Missouri – Columbia
Columbia, Mo. 65211-7400
Alumni News

1940s

Lorin W. Roberts (BA, chemistry, 1948; MA, botany, 1950; PhD botany 1952) retired in 1991 after 34 years at the University of Idaho. His long and productive career as a professional botanist was highlighted with three Fulbright awards, an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, recognition as an AAAS Fellow, receipt of the Chevalier, Ordre du Merite Agricole (French decoration) and the Distinguished Faculty Award from the University of Idaho. Lorin published three books, the latest appearing in 1995. Lorin is thoroughly enjoying his retirement in Moscow, Idaho.

1950s

Albert James (A.J.) Campbell (BA, zoology, 1953; BS, medicine 1954; MD, University of Pennsylvania, 1956) is currently president of the Missouri State Medical Association. He is past-president of the University of Missouri Medical Alumni Board of Governors.

1960s

Clayton Johnson (BA, zoology, 1966; DDS, Washington University, 1970) was a dental officer on the USS Hancock. He left the Navy as a captain to enter private practice in California, Mo. Clayton and his wife Eleanor have three children, Emily, Virginia and Cetitia. They are active in local community affairs and professional associations.

Bob Lynch (AB, zoology, 1967; MD and PhD in physiology, University of Minnesota, 1972) is professor of pediatrics and director of pediatric critical care at St. Louis University. He lectures annually at medical schools in Nicaragua.

1970s

Robert A. Goodnow (PhD, botany/microbiology, 1972) was director of biological research and vice president of biologics research for the animal health division at Armour Pharmaceuticals. He holds three US patents for veterinary vaccines. Robert presented several scientific papers in the People’s Republic of China and Russia. He took horse-jumping lessons in Dublin. Robert now resides in Columbia where he attends at least one football game a year.

1980s

Richard Blankenship (BA, biology, 1980; Executive MBA, Washington University, 1997) is an investment broker with Morgan Stanley/Dean Witter. He owns Alliance Savings Co., Inc., an insurance and employee benefits provider. His business partner is from Kuwait which allows Richard to dabble in international trade.

Tim A. Nigh (BA, biology, 1980; BS, forestry, 1980; MS, forest ecology, 1984) is an ecologist in the Natural History Planning department of the Missouri Department of Conservation. He has been involved in the inventory, identification, protection and management of Missouri Native Ecosystems and is presently coordinator of the Missouri Biological Classification System Project. Tim received an Australian Research Fellowship and the Arthur Christ Research Award.

Philip K. Robb (AB, biology, 1980; MD, 1985) has a solo surgery practice in otolaryngology in Atlanta. He and his wife Suzanne Barton (BS, medical technology, 1981) have four children, two boys and two girls ages 3, 6, 10 and 12.

Emmett S. Manley (AB, biology, 1982; MD, University of Tennessee, 1986) is a founding partner of the Mossy Creek Clinic in Jefferson City, Tenn. Emmett is the Jefferson County Medical Examiner, pharmacy, nursing and medical students often rotate through his rural primary care clinic.

Julie Burge (BA, biology, 1983; DVM, 1987) is owner of Burge Bird Services and Missouri liaison for the Association of Avian Veterinarians. Julie owns a breeding flock of 85 parrots and performs with her Blue and Gold Macaw at the Kansas City Renaissance Festival.

Jeffrey A. Smith (BA, biology, 1988; OD, Illinois College of Optometry, 1993) is an optometrist with Fox Valley Optometry, Aurora, Ill. He is president of the Fox Valley Optometric Society and executive council member of the Illinois Optometric Association. Jeffrey married Linley Morehart in Cozumel, Mexico.
Jeffrey's specialty is diagnosis and treatment of Anterior Segment Eye Disease and specialty contact lens fitting of corneal transplant patients and keratoconus patients. **Christopher Bradley** (BA, biology, 1989; DO, University of Health Sciences, 1994) completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Detroit Riverview Hospital in May 1998.

**Rhonda Hoglen-Keary** (BA, biology/Honors College, 1989; MBA, University of Texas, 1996) is an implantable sales specialist with Medtronic in Coppell, Texas. She has enjoyed becoming involved with the MU and Delta Gamma Alumni Associations in Dallas.

**Dan Wenny** (MA, biology, 1989; PhD, zoology, University of Florida, 1998) just accepted a position as an area ecologist in the Center for Biodiversity, Illinois Natural History Survey. Dan received the “Best Student Paper” award at an international meeting in Costa Rica. He and his wife **Wendy Gibbons** (MA, biology, 1989; MA, journalism, 1991) have two young children, Malin and Jack, to keep them busy.

### 1990s

**Sandra E. (Straughn) Sisk** (BS, biology, 1991) is Recycling Coordinator for the St. Francois County Environmental Corp.

**Larry T. Todd, Jr.** (BA, biology, 1991; DO, University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences, 1995) is a resident in orthopedic surgery at Doctor's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio. He has a recent paper in the Journal of Orthopedics on complications of retrograde humeral nailing. He and his wife Catherine Todd (BJ, journalism, 1992) recently celebrated the birth of a daughter, Savannah R. Todd.

**Phillip Plotz** (BS, biology, 1992; BJ, journalism, 1985; MD, UCLA, 1996) is a resident in family practice with Kaiser-Permanente in Los Angeles.

**Richard Eric White** (BA, biology, 1992; MD, 1997) is a resident in dermatology at Southern Illinois University Medical School. Richard plans to accept a fellowship in cutaneous micrographic surgery before entering academic medicine back in Missouri.

**Honnavara N. Ananthaswamy** received his PhD in 1975 from the University of Missouri (with Dr. John Grumau), after which he joined the research team of Dr. Abraham Eisenstark. The research of Dr. Ananthaswamy and his colleagues resulted in the first observation of DNA damage by near-ultraviolet radiation. As a direct result of this research, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products now include antioxidant and anti-near ultraviolet radiation ingredients.

After leaving Dr. Eisenstark's laboratory, Dr. Ananthaswamy was on the faculty of genetics at the University of California–Berkeley and the National Cancer Institute in Maryland. He is now professor and deputy chair of the Department of Immunology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He has received the National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Ananthaswamy's current research includes collaboration with Cancer Research Center scientists Drs. Gennadi Glinsky, Slava Glinsky, Ana Ivanova, as well as Dr. Eisenstark.

**Rusty L. Crawford** (AB, biology, 1994; MPS, 1998) is an Administrative Associate II with MU Extension. Rusty was inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the national honor society for Public Administrators. Rusty and his wife Shelly recently celebrated their ninth anniversary. Their daughter Meghan Roz Leeann began first grade last fall.

**Nicole L. (Clark) Dietrich** (BS, biology, 1994) is the senior technician of the NIH Intramural Sequencing Center, National Human Genome Research Institute in Maryland. Nicole married Nathan Dietrich (AB, political science, 1994) in 1996.

**Stephen Waller** (BS, biology, 1994) received his MD from the MU School of Medicine last May.

**Jennifer L. Hanslick** (BS, biology/interdisciplinary studies, 1995) spent two years as a research technician in psychiatry at the Washington University School of Medicine. She entered Northwestern University School of Medicine this fall. Jennifer's first child, Marie Elizabeth Hanslick-Papp arrived April 1, 1997.

**Nick Toepke** (BS, biology/math, 1995) has begun his fourth year at the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. He and his wife Barbara (an MU Law student) were married in August 1996. Nick was chosen to represent MU at the Smith-Kilborne Foreign Animal Disease program on Plum Island. This USDA-sponsored program focuses on quarantinable farm animals.

**Danielle Banik** (BS, biology, 1996) was a laboratory technician in the Human Genome Mapping Project at Genome Systems in Ballwin, Mo. Danielle recently accepted a position in customer service with Genome Systems. Among her many responsibilities, Danielle will be making genetic information available to the general public.

**Dee Denver** (BS, biology, 1996) is a doctoral student in molecular biology/biochemistry at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Dee spent the previous summer working on the Epstein-Barr virus.

**Angela D. Still** (BS, biology, 1996; MBA, William Woods University, 1998) is office manager at Youssef Eye Center, Inc. in Chillicothe, Mo.

**Laura Viero** (BS, biology/Phi Beta Kappa, 1996) is a second year medical student at St. Louis University.
In memory of
Gary H. Perrot
(July 26, 1950 – March 9, 1998)

From his intense loyalty to his unfailing enthusiasm, from his "Radar O'Reilly filing system" to his black crepe paper birthday party, Gary Perrot will be remembered with laughter and with tears.

"Everyone here has known Gary forever," says post-doctoral research associate, Pam Cooper. "He was a great guy to work with."

Gary's colleagues agree. Gary joined the Division of Biological Sciences' technical staff in December of 1979, after graduating with honors in biology from Lincoln University. Over the next two decades, he worked with numerous faculty, staff, and students and left his positive mark on everyone he touched.

"He was very helpful and always had kind things to say," remembers Robin Brueckner. Others describe Gary as "generous to a fault," dedicated and extraordinarily capable. They appreciated his enthusiasm and cite his loyalty as one of his most memorable qualities.

"The best thing about Gary was a level of loyalty that went past wanting to do a good job," says Dr. Karen Cone, Gary's most recent supervisor. "He always went over and above the call of duty to do his work."

Dr. Abe Eisenstark agrees, adding that Gary would do anything to see a project succeed. He describes Gary as a "lab manager par excellence" and a "good friend as well as an associate." "It was an emotional thing with Gary to see that an experiment succeeded," says Eisenstark.

Cooper, who worked with Gary in Cone's lab, credits Gary with keeping the lab running smoothly and says, "he took over where Dr. Cone left off." She appreciated that no matter what needed to be done, Gary would do it without complaint, and she describes Gary as having "good hands" when it came to experiments. "Every experiment he did would go right. He always got twice the yield that I did," laughs Cooper.

Cone says one of her best decisions when she first came to MU was to hire Gary. She credits Gary with helping her get her research off to a good start and adds that Gary loved teaching people and was always generous with his time and knowledge. "He loved it when an experiment worked out and we got a good result," says Cone. "He had a lot of enthusiasm and loved learning new things."

Gary Perrot was much respected by everyone who knew him. He was a beloved member of the Division of Biological Sciences' staff and will be sorely missed as a technician and mentor, as well as a friend.

"Gary was very much a team player. I learned a lot from him," says Cone.

So did we all.

The Division of Biological Sciences has established an endowment fund in Gary Perrot's name to provide financial support to staff members who wish to continue their education and their career development. If you would like to help ensure that Gary's legacy of kindness and generosity is continued, contributions may be sent to Pat Willis, 105 Tucker Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211-7400. Checks should be made out to the "University of Missouri-Columbia Biological Sciences Endowment Fund" and should include "Gary Perrot Memorial Gift" in the memo section.
Come visit the Division of Biological Sciences on the web at www.missouri.edu/~bioscwww

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