We take the BS out of BBS.

Say it isn't so! It is with a heavy heart that we announce the retirement of Simone and Chase, our eppindwarf cover-models. They gave us four great years and now honor us with a final interview, speaking candidly about their alien abduction and plans for life after B. For those who find the pain too great to bear, we offer tips on ways to escape—how to find cheap airfares, plan a day trip to Mystic or bury yourself in work as you create a non-sucky talk. It will be difficult, but we can get through this.

Travel Tips

An Investigative Report

BY C. MENDENHALL

Going on vacation is a pain. First, you have to get someone to feed your cells, develop your film, or tend to your flies. Next, you have to convince your PI that the vacation is necessary. Sometimes the perfectly logical “I haven’t had a vacation in 3 years”, “I just finished qualifying”, or “My dog just died” is met with a blank or slightly disapproving stare. After you finally recover from the guilt eating away at your self-esteem, you have to book the ticket. Though seemingly a straightforward process, it can be surprisingly complicated. There are a billion companies out there, all promising to get you the best price. That’s why B is here with a few easy tips to help you book that vacation of your dreams.

1. Remember to book early. We’re not talking 3 months in advance, but greater than 3 weeks is a definite plus. That’s when prices are often at their lowest and you can get the best seats. Don’t plan too far ahead, however, because prices will often fluctuate over the course of the year.

2. If you don’t remember to book early, that’s okay. There are a ton of great last minute places you can try. First, start with Travelocity.com, and check out their last minute trips. For example, booking a last minute weekend for Toronto on Air Canada can sometimes set you back around $350.00. A last minute flight on Travelocity, however, can start at $335.00, including 3 nights at a four star hotel.

3. Travelocity (and Expedia and Hotwire last minute deals) only cover a select few major cities. Priceline is a good alternative, but you have to be flexible in the times that you are willing to travel. You can name your own price (a good price to start is 50% off the listed fare), but the times of the flight are not up to you. In other words, you’ll probably get a great deal, but you will also probably end up leaving at 4am to make a 6am flight out of Bradley. If you aren’t a fan of early morning travel, there are some other options worth checking out.

4. Travel Agencies aren’t always bad. For example, STA Travel has some great deals. After a slightly annoying $25.00 membership fee (sometimes you can find a coupon in the Yale Daily News that waives it), you are eligible for some of the best deals around. Their price for a weekend trip from Bradley to Toronto: $270.00. NYC to Paris: $499.00. STA is also good at booking high end airlines, which makes for good celebrity sightings. A continued on page 3
Opt-Ed

Self-Evolution: Careful of the Inevitable  By C. Mason

If you watch closely, the metamorphosis of chordates has been one of increasing complexity and dazzling intricacy. Through environmental stress and natural selection, this (us, as we are) is the best we have come to be.

However, we no longer are simply the products of selection pressure and survival of the fittest, because what is defined as “fit” has changed. In the hunter-gatherer sense of the word, fitness meant a strong constitution, physical fitness, and viable offspring; but now these traits can be overridden. Some would argue that the gene pool needs chlorine because: we keep myopia with contacts, cystic fibrosis with lung replacements, and poor hearts with pacemakers. However, there are many peripheral effects of genes that cannot be understood directly in the context of one advantage or disadvantage. For example, being heterozygous for sickle-cell anemia means that the physiological deformity is passed on, but a resistance to malaria is a concomitant effect.

This is the key point – just because a genetic “defect” has a greater risk of death, there are often unseen advantages. How do we gauge what is “fit” now? Intelligence, mental acuity, and organizational skills seem to have taken the priority, but will we keep these physical “defects,” or fix them as gene therapy already has in other organisms (in dogs to fix Sly syndrome, in mice to stop stomach tumors). Our congenital physical ailments will someday be fixed in utero or later in life, while the pressures for a larger cerebrum continue to direct our evolution.

Although this may seem strange or even (gasp!) unnatural, by understanding more and more of our own chemistry, genetics, and evolutionary history, we are controlling more of our evolution. We can keep humans alive that would normally be “naturally” killed by their own body until they reach a viable reproductive age, but the contributions that the person may have to the species can justify any unwanted physical ailments. Evolution does not happen to individuals, only to a species. And, as a species that has been created through evolution, it seems as though the final goal of evolution has been to create an organism that can direct its own evolution. Genes cannot be eliminated cavalierly because of the pleiotropic effects that they can have, and the connection between genes can dictate many unseen effects in development and existence. The control of our evolution is a precarious predicament, with the chance for great success and failure, but it is inevitable now.

We are the first (and only, as far as we know) species to realize our mortality and the fragility of all other species. With this awareness comes power, and all power holds responsibility. Our species’ responsibility is to ensure our own survival, and by necessity, the ecosystem that supports us. Changing environments through bioremediation, global warming, and international agreements also highlights the power we have to control the environment and the evolution of other species.

Greater power over a larger domain confers the corresponding responsibility for our actions. The goal should be to try carefully, responsibly, and progressively to keep the positive elements of genetic disparities while eliminating the negative effects of them. We should not cower from our power to affect genetic changes, but embrace the newfound clout with caution and precision. Never before has an organism had such control over its own evolutionary development with birth control, abortion, gene therapy, shifting environmental pressures, and the awareness of each. There may be a time when our awareness of genetic systems, and the ability to change them, will be the only thing that will enable us to survive (such as during a global climatic change). It is all too appropriate for evolution to create an organism that can direct its own evolution, but we have a conscious ability to ascend beyond being simply a “selfish gene.” Indeed, our survival depends upon it. B

Your Opinion

B magazine seeks Op-Ed pieces from members of the BBS community. Please submit your column (maximum length 600 words) online or via the web, or call us for more information.

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flight from NYC to Barcelona last May cost one Genetics student a paltry $550.00 on swanky Air France, plus the seat was right next to Naomi Campbell (who’s even hotter in person). A hop from Pittsburgh to NYC on Lufthansa for one lucky Public Health student included a seat across from Tony Danza (who’s even shorter in person).

**Yale Travel**, located at 96 Grove Street (on the corner of Grove & Church, 764-9200 or 432-9911) is also happy to help. They offer special goodies too, like free parking at Tweed Airport for Yalies and discounts at other airport parking locations nationwide. Be sure to look at their new updated website at [http://www.yale.edu/ytravel/index.htm](http://www.yale.edu/ytravel/index.htm), which allows for online flight searching and booking. It's always best to compare their prices to the national services such as Travelocity and Expedia, and then call Yale Travel if you want them to try to match a flight you find elsewhere. As a last note, Yale Travel is a good place to book flights and hotels if you’re traveling on Yale business, such as to a scientific meeting or to visit a collaborator. Using Yale Travel allows your department to pay by Yale credit card or an internal travel requisition, meaning that you won’t have to shell out any of your own money.

5. Try and limit your traveling days to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Including a Saturday night stopover is great for reducing the price of a fare. If you are traveling during a holiday season and you didn't book ahead, consider traveling on the holiday itself (e.g., Christmas morning). Flights are still happening, but most everyone has already gotten to where they want to go.

6. Traveling at off-peak hours might make you cranky, but you will also save money. There is a reason why Priceline tends to give you early morning flights, especially on weekends - the planes are usually empty. An empty plane=cheap last minute tickets for you. Traveling on the last flight of the day (after 8pm) will often lead to lower fares, too.

7. Check the airline websites at 12:15 am. Courtesy-hold reservations are often released at midnight, so a few more seats on a booked flight will show up. Also, always check airline websites on Wednesdays at 12:15 am. We know it’s late, but the new cheap fares (often listed in a “websaver” link advertised on the homepage) are posted at midnight. By the time you wake up, most of the seats are already gone.

8. Don’t forget the smaller airlines. JetBlue, Frontier, Midwest Express, and Spirit, to name a few, are often overlooked. It’s nice to accumulate frequent flier points by being loyal to one airline, but sometimes a little airline promiscuity is financially rewarded.

9. Always remember to check alternative airports. There are 3 airports within the San Francisco vicinity (Oakland, San Francisco, and San Jose). Even Tweed Airport right here in East Haven sometimes has good fares (check for East Coast destinations such as Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C.).

10. If you are planning a vacation for more than one person, check the fares by booking individually and together. Sometimes booking together gives you a higher price than separately (for no good reason that I can think of).

11. Check Seatguru.com. This website gives the layout for the airplanes for many major airlines and tells you which seats to try to get, and which to avoid. For example, if you desire a quiet seat with extra leg room and hate to get stuck with a seat that won’t recline located next to the bathroom, be sure to check here.

12. Finally, after you purchase your ticket, keep watching the fares for the same flight. If the price drops, the airline will sometimes give you a refund for the difference. Though we find this depends greatly on the person you get on the phone at the company, it’s still worth a shot.

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CURTAIN CALL
By B. Shansky and M. Akins

In their first meeting with the press since their rescue from alien abductors, Chase and Simone speak openly with B reporters Mike Akins and Becca Shansky about their horrific experience.

B: Since we last talked, you’ve had quite the ordeal. We know this will be difficult for you, but could you tell us just what happened?

Simone: (takes a deep breath) After the last interview, we jetted off to New Mexico for an appearance at a biotech there.

Chase: It’s quick appearances like that that are really the downside of being celebrities. So to relax before coming back east, we decided to take a walk down a dark country road.

Simone: We were discussing how great it was to be out in the middle of nowhere without any paparazzi hounding us, when we saw the lights. (her voice quivers)

Chase: Are you okay, sweetie?

B: Please try to continue.

Chase: It gets a little hazy after that…I do remember seeing a strange figure with huge black eyes.

Simone: Yes! I remember, too. What was he holding in his hand?

Chase: I don’t know, but I still have nightmares thinking about it.

Simone: Thank god Mulder and Scully showed up when they did. Who knows what those…creatures could have done with us!

B: It’s incredible that they were able to find you. How did they know you were there?

Chase: In our debriefing, they told us that they knew aliens were seeking poly-

continued on page 6

Advice on Apartment Hunting By N. Horst

I know, I know… we all spend twenty hours a day in lab, so why should we care about our living spaces? Believe it or not, though, we all need a refuge from the toils of our waking hours. If you are constantly bothered by high rent, poor maintenance, noise problems, etc., your home becomes another bead of stress on the necklace of anxieties graduate students already wear. Whether you are a newcomer to New Haven or are simply looking for a nicer/less expensive/more convenient place to live, this article will help guide you through the apartment hunting process.

What do I want in an apartment? This is literally the single most important question you can ask. Do you like to cook? If so, you should look for an apartment with ample counter and cupboard space and for appliances of decent size and quality. Do you own pets? Be sure to look for landlords and buildings that are amenable to this. If you keep pets, you should look for a place that has sufficient lighting. How much do you care about where you do your laundry? Do you have severe allergies (seasonal or mold/spore)? You may want to consider apartments with hardwood floors over those with carpeting. How close do you want to live to your place of work? If you own a car, do you prefer off-street parking? Do you mind paying for parking? Will you have to pay for parking at home and at work? Can you find a place that is close to the Yale shuttle? Of course, you should also consider the amount of rent that you would be willing to pay on a monthly basis.

Where do I find apartment listings? I recommend the Yale Off-Campus Housing website as a resource: http://www.yale.edu/hronline/ochousing/. These listings can be viewed from any network computer on Yale’s campus. Also, keep your ear to the ground for opportunities through other students who might be leaving their apartments and your eyes to the bulletin boards around campus. If you are vehicle-ly mobile, don’t hesitate to look into apartments that are outside the "grad ghetto" or even New Haven proper. Rent outside of East Rock, Science Hill, or the Medical Campus is often considerably less expensive.

I’ve found a couple of possible places. What do I do now? Contact the landlord (or current tenant) immediately to schedule an appointment to see the place. Ask the landlord if he or she has any other apartments that you could visit. At the time of the appointment, bring your checkbook. You want to be able to pay your security deposit (and sometimes the first month’s rent) on the spot if you fall in love with a particular dwelling.

When touring the apartments, be scientific. Check the faucets and flush the toilet to gauge water pressure. Note the overall the state of the place. Even if the apartment itself is in good condition, a poorly kept lawn or rough looking hallways are good indicators of the quality of maintenance provided to tenants. Ask if the insulation and electrical wiring are up to date. Poor insulation can mean big heating bills in the winter, and you don’t want to find out in the peak of summer that you can’t install a window air conditioner because you’ll overload a circuit breaker! Inquire whether the building has gas, electrical, or oil heating. Gas heat is usually the least expensive, but buildings that use 100% electrical energy receive discounted rates during certain hours. Oil is the most costly, hands down. You may be able to obtain a typical utility bill from a previous winter, either through the landlord, current tenant, or the utility company. Of course, if rent includes utilities, you needn’t worry about this. Finally, spend some time wandering around the immediate neighborhood. If possible, talk to neighbors and fellow tenants to get a sense of what it is like to live there. Current tenants can tell you how responsive the landlord is to requests and complaints.

Time to sign the lease. Before signing a lease, make sure it lists improvements that you and the landlord have agreed upon. For instance, if the landlord has agreed to replace the refrigerator as an enticement to get you to rent the place, be sure it is in the lease. If the landlord allows pets, this should also be in the lease. Be sure the lease outlines for which utilities you will be responsible. Finally, ask the landlord if he or she is planning on selling the building in the near future. As a potential tenant, you have a right to know. A new landlord will have different ideals and may make considerable changes. In addition, the current landlord may not care as much about the state of the property. You should probably avoid renting from someone who plans to sell.

One final point: earlier is better when you are looking for “the perfect place”. Start looking in late spring if you can. Happy hunting! #
How To Make Your Talk Not Suck - Part I

BY A. SLEEPER

You’ve spent a lot of time collecting your data, and now it’s time to give a talk. You want your talk to do justice to your excellent work. You also want to present your data effectively enough that your audience will be able to provide you with helpful feedback, so that you will get something out of the talk just as your audience will. The structure and content of your talk will vary, depending on the purpose of the presentation, the length of time you have, and the audience you are presenting to, but there are some basic preparatory and delivery strategies that can apply to most situations. This article series will cover the basic components of creating and delivering a professional scientific presentation. In the first article, we will cover the basics of preparing effective slides. In the next article we will cover the structural organization of the talk. Finally, we’ll examine the actual delivery of the talk.

You’ve been to many presentations, and chances are, you already know the basics behind a quality talk. As a general rule of thumb, focus first on the organization and content of your talk to prepare effective, logically ordered slides. Next, focus on the delivery of your presentation by practicing smooth transitions from one slide to the next. On the day of the talk, arrive early enough to start your talk feeling prepared and relaxed.

THE BASICS OF EFFECTIVE SLIDES

When you give a talk, you are essentially teaching your audience new information. Think back to your favorite instructors. What components of their teaching made them so effective? You may choose to emulate some of these features in your talk. Additionally, keep in mind that different people learn material in distinct ways. Learning styles are typically broken into four categories: visual (learns best by watching pictures and flow charts), aural (learns best by listening, gets a lot out of quality talks and lectures), read/write (learns best by reading information, likes note-taking), and kinesthetic (learns best by doing). Ideally, you should try to communicate to each of these types during your talk. Include both meaningful words and pictures in your slides. Make your text succinct and logically ordered for the non-read/write types in the crowd. Never place paragraphs of text on a slide; rather, divide lists of information into itemized bullets. If possible, intersperse text-heavy slides with more visual slides. Try to make just one, clear point with each slide. The most challenging audience members are kinesthetic learners because it’s tough to make a formal presentation participatory, but keep in mind that many scientists learn this way.

Make high impact slides. Before you even begin to construct your talk, consider the overall visual impact your slides will have. Your information and data should be the focal points of each slide, not the background, color scheme, font or superfluous animations. Select a muted color scheme and professional fonts and bullets. Keep these consistent in all slides. Be sure that your text and figures are large enough. Avoid distracting your audience with unnecessary animation. Animated slides are helpful when you want to list information piece by piece. This is a great way to explain the historical development of background knowledge or the steps in a method you need to explain. Animation is also useful to show the sequential interaction of molecules in complex signal transduction pathways. Appropriate use of these features of Power Point and other programs can help to clarify potentially confusing parts of your talk. Controlling your animation with the keypad may help you to pace yourself within each slide if you tend to rush. If the animation does not have a clear purpose within the slide, however, leave it out.

Next, consider the conceptual impact of each slide. Each slide you prepare should have one central point, and that point should be reflected in the title of the slide. This way your audience is always grounded with a take-home point that they can easily remember. If you are discussing something complicated (for instance, conflicting data within your field) it might be best to divide the concepts into multiple slides. If you feel the information needs to be delivered in just one slide, try to subordinate the slide to reflect each individual part of what you want to say. Give a summary title, and list the 2 or 3 central concepts with the relevant explanatory material in bullet form beneath each. If you have data summarized in a complicated table, consider whether there is more than one point embedded in this information; if so, consider splitting the table into 2 or more tables, each with just one theme to the data. This may involve repeating a column of information, but this will only reemphasize the data for your audience. Since data is so central to every scientific talk, it is definitely worth your while to take the extra time required to deliver your data in the most comprehensible manner possible.

Having a well-organized strategy to develop effective slides is an important first step in preparing any presentation. You may have to try various formats before you find one that works for you, but once you do, this step of preparation is done. Stick with it in all of your presentations, and you will be able to begin your future preparation with step two – determining the organization and content of the talk.

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mers that can withstand high g-forces and suspected we’d be in danger. They’d actually been following us all day.

Simone: Yeah, they even asked for our autographs at the biotech appearance!

B: Clever. So tell us about how they rescued you.

Chase: Well…the government won’t let us say much about that…

Simone: Right. But I do have one vivid memory I can disclose. As we were being wheeled out of the ship, Mulder grabbed the aliens’ security camera, which is how you got that picture for your last cover.

B: Quick-thinking on his part. Are you going to undergo hypnotic regression therapy to recover more of your lost memories?

Simone: No, I don’t think I’d like that.

Chase: (chuckles) I’d almost rather have hypnosis to forget the whole thing!

B: Well, we’re really glad that you’re home safe. You gave us quite a scare there. So what does this mean for your careers?

Simone: Well, we’ve actually managed to save up quite a bit of money from all our appearances.

Chase: We’re looking forward to retiring and spending some time raising a family.

Simone: (laughs) But definitely in a well-populated area—no more dark country roads for us.

B: Okay. Well, we’ve got a word limit here, so we’d better wrap this up.

Chase: (rolls his eyes) Editors.

B: Tell us about it. Anyway, it’s been a real pleasure knowing and working with the two of you.

Simone: Likewise, I’m sure! Without the two of you, we wouldn’t even be here!

Chase: (verklempt) I’m going to miss you guys.

B: Best of luck, you two! Send pictures when the eppi-babies arrive!

(Boyz-II-Men’s “End of the Road” plays in the background, as the four of us leave the room)

FIN

-----Dear B will return next issue.-----

---CURTAIN continued from page 6---

Trail Mix An Off-shoot of Lifestyles of the Poor and Academic By J. Rinn

This will be my last installment of Trail-Mix as I happily pass the duty of informing the BBS of our local outdoor resources to MB&B’s Jim Robblee.

I once swore never to unveil the best 2 square miles of nature located less than 5 miles from the Kline Biology Tower. Now that I have graduated, however, I am ready to share this park with all. Fullery Park is hardly known, even by locals. It is not a national, state or regional park; in fact it is a privately funded public park.

Fullery Park has been owned and maintained by the Fullerly family of Amity for the past 87 years! Located on the outskirts of Thomas and Sherline’s property, this place is home to beautiful Lake Ulna as well as a large hill in the backdrop. From the top of the hill you can see where Ulnar Creek winds in to innervate the lake. A well-groomed woodchip trail leads you down the hill to my favorite local picnic spot! Here you will find a large field nearly an acre in size, with several picnic benches and even several well-maintained grills for the perfect spring BBQ.

If you continue on the trail for another half mile you will find a set of exercise stations to do pull-ups, step-ups, balance, and whatever other workout utility you can conjure from the facilities. As you continue on the trail approximately one-quarter mile, you will find a minifrisbee golf course with two holes. As if that weren’t enough, each spring the park hosts a festival with goofy contests like the famous leg pulling contest, which I may have just won with this article.

I hope all this Thomas Fullery hit your funny-bone (ulnar nerve) and piqued your interests in the outdoors after this cold, rainy and over-stayed winter. Although all of these outdoor features don’t exist in this fictitious park, they are available in numerous other parks right in our backyard; so get out and enjoy this spring! For more ways to enjoy the outdoors with and without a car, stay tuned to see what Jim Robblee has in store! B

Happy Trails. B magazine says goodbye to John Rinn (right) and hello to Jim Robblee (left). Photo courtesy of J. Rinn.
Mystical Connecticut
By A. Goldman

About an hour from New Haven, situated between exits 89 and 90 off I-95, is a beautiful riverside town called Mystic, CT. The town is not named for the thick mist that often adds a calming mood to this already quiet town, nor is it named for the mystical effect provided by the abundance of fireflies in early summer and the profusion of bioluminescent comb jellies (or ctenophores, from the Phylum Ctenophora) in the river later in the summer. In actuality, Mystic is named from the Algonquin word “misi-tuck,” which means “tidal river”\(^1\).

I’ve been living in Mystic for almost four years, and the fact that it’s such a wonderful place really makes the commute to New Haven doable. Besides the obvious touristy things such as the Mystic Seaport and the Mystic Aquarium, there are many other great reasons to go to Mystic. You can rent canoes or kayaks from Mystic River Rental, which is located right on the river at 15 Holmes Street. From the water, you can check out the big boats that you’d otherwise have to pay the Seaport sixteen bucks to see (although $16 gets you onto the boats and into the buildings where the ships were made). If you can get out on the water after dark, the aforementioned bioluminescent jellies in August light up the water with every paddle stroke. These glowing creatures can also be seen from the docks near the drawbridge in the center of downtown.

After staring into the water and yelling: “There’s one! And there’s another one!” for two hours, you’re probably going to be ready to eat a big fat dinner. If you want to get some extremely overpriced, mediocre seafood, you can go to one of the restaurants with a nice location on the river. Alternatively, you can go to one of the great restaurants frequented by the locals. The Daniel Packer Inn (aka “the DPI”) is a local favorite, with a cozy downstairs bar-restaurant that is about half the size of an average cold-room. Despite its tiny size, there is often live music – I once saw a five-piece funk band perform there. With an incredible atmosphere (including a raging fire in the colder months), good food, reasonable prices, and great beer on tap, you can’t go wrong – unless you try to go with a large group on a Friday or Saturday night, as it fills up pretty quickly. They also have a more swanky restaurant upstairs, but the menu up there is a little pricier. If you like sushi, Zhang’s is a fantastic Chinese-Japanese restaurant. I highly recommend the “crispy spicy tuna” roll, which consists of a hot crunchy tempura roll topped with deliciously cool creamy tuna, pickled radish, and sweet fish roe that pop in your mouth. The contrast of textures, temperatures, and tastes is truly ter-rific. If you’re in the mood for Indian food, a three-minute drive North on Route 1 will take you to an excellent restaurant called Taste of India. The food there is great, and you can bring your own beer or wine. If you want some great tea or coffee, the Green Marble has about twenty-four million varieties of coffee (roasted locally by the owner), and even more varieties of tea. While in Mystic, don’t forget to buy a knick-knack with a lighthouse on it. B

The School of Music was established in 1958 and is largely contained on the block between College, Wall, Temple, and Elm Streets. The School of Music presents over four hundred public concerts and recitals each year. With that much going on daily, you have to be able to attend at least one concert sometime in your academic career.

Sprague Hall (on the corner of College and Wall Streets) just finished its two-year renovation and is now truly magnificent in its neo-gothic carving and gold leaf splendor. The hall was already known for its incredible acoustics, so now a concert can be memorable both aurally and visually.

There are plenty of free concerts going on weekly (even though we are getting a hefty thousand dollar raise next year, free is always good). Wednesdays have lunchtime (12:30) chamber music at Sprague Hall, with free admission. This weekly concert series showcases concert artists in the School of Music’s Chamber Music program. Mid-day organ recitals are also on Wednesdays, free of charge.

If Jazz is more your thing, you missed the March 3rd performance by the Yale Jazz Ensemble (Sprague Hall, admission free). The Duke Ellington Fellowship was on Friday, April 30, featuring piano, bass and horn ($5 admission for students).

For opera, April 16th and 17th had the Yale Opera’s presentation of Gounod’s “Le Médecin malgré lui.” April 28th was Liederabend II: An continued on page 8
The **BUZZ**

The 2004-05 **BBB stipend** will be $25,000. Those who win outside fellowships will get $29,000.

**NSF** now provides a stipend of $30,000!!

Jon Butler, chair of History, will become the **dean** of the grad school on July 1. A new **med school dean** will be announced imminently.

Congratulations to Jared Odegaard and Valerie Hand, both in Immunobiology, on their recent engagement.

Congratulations to B mag’s Eliyne Provost, Ex. Pathology, on her engagement to Michael Wolfgang, postdoc in the same department.

Congratulations to B staff member Nathanael McCurley, Immunobiology, who married Tara Keim on March 19.

Special congratulations to Agnes Lee, Cell Biology, and Gene Ang, Neurobiology, on the birth of their daughter, Antonia (7lbs.12oz., 19 inches), on Feb 2.

**Music continued from page 7**

Evening of Song by German composers, performed by singers from the Yale Opera program. Admission was free! For tickets and information for upcoming performances, call 432-4158.

If the folks are coming for commencement, a surefire way to keep your dad and your stepdad from speaking to each other is to take them to the **Commencement Concert**, featuring artists from the School of Music class of 2004 (Sun, May 23rd at 4pm).

Finally, if you studied an instrument in high school or college and are itching to pick it up again, you can take a semester’s worth of lessons from fellow grad students in the school of music. For $200, you get 13 half-hour lessons from some of the best students in the country. If you need any more convincing, remember that classical music is linked to higher intelligence—for example, listening to a Mozart sonata induces an improvement in short-term spatial reasoning (Rauscher, Shaw and Ky, 1993). Your PI will thank you.

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The *B* magazine **“Fortune Cookie”** Contest

**PART OF THE GREAT B-YOND - A SHOWCASE OF STUDENT CREATIVITY**

You people must eat A LOT of Chinese take-out, for we received over 100 contest entries. Congratulations to our winners! Please support our contest sponsor, **Independent American, LLC**.

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*Rania Zaour**, *Cell Biology* A dissertation is like a war: easy to begin, hard to end.

**2nd Place - $20 Amazon Gift Certificate**

*Jennifer, Gallagher, Genetics* Beauty is in the eye of the publisher.

**3rd Place - $10 Atticus Gift Certificate**

*Erica Ann Champion, Genetics* An IP is only as strong as your weakest antibody.

**Other Notable Entries** *(in random order)*

- **Lara Ely, Microbiology**
  - An unexpected result will become a permanent problem.

- **Elisabeth Wurtmann, MCGD Track**
  - Success is in the stars for you, unless it is simply a fluorescence artifact.

- **Matt Cabeen, MCGD Track**
  - Weigh your decisions carefully. But tare the balance first.
  - A friend who knows math and statistics is your greatest friend.
  - Wide is the gate that leads to a postdoc, and many enter through it; but narrow is the gate that leads to a faculty position, and few enter through it.

- **Aravind Basavapathrani, Pharmacology**
  - Smooth roads lie ahead as Whitney Avenue will be repaved.

- **Nanami Gotoh, Cell Biology**
  - A genie will wish you three grants.
  - You will attract cultured model organisms to your home.

- **Veronica Segarra, MB&B**
  - Cheer up, Nature paper ahead.
  - Do not work so hard, have a beer, you will soon get scooped.
  - You will be the last to graduate from your class.

- **Neal Mitra, MCDB**
  - Remember the Philosophy of the East when interpreting the Western.
  - What appears to be two bands may actually be one really fat band.

- **Sierra Colavito, MCGD Track**
  - Before you transform your bacteria, you must first transform yourself.
  - You are only as competent as your cells.
  - Do not drop NMR machines on your foot. It Megahertz.

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**>>  You are only as competent as your cells.**

**>>  Before you transform your bacteria, you must first transform yourself.**

**>>  What appears to be two bands may actually be one really fat band.**

**>>  Remember the Philosophy of the East when interpreting the Western.**

**>>  What is the sound of one hand pipetting?**

**>>  In the next life, YOU will be the model system.**

**>>  Today you will have that miracle result. The one you can’t reproduce.**

**>>  Your mentor will soon come into great fame and fortune - but that still won’t be enough.**

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The magazine **“Fortune Cookie”** Contest

**PART OF THE GREAT B-YOND - A SHOWCASE OF STUDENT CREATIVITY**

You people must eat A LOT of Chinese take-out, for we received over 100 contest entries. Congratulations to our winners! Please support our contest sponsor, **Independent American, LLC**.

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