

# THE [CATALYST]



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### Quote of the Month:

"The effects you will have on your students are infinite and currently unknown; you will possibly shape the way they proceed in their careers, the way they will vote, the way they will behave as partners and spouses, the way they will raise their kids."

...

*Donna Quesada*



## [News & Announcements]

Tricia Lewis' last day of work was July 16. Kim Quedado will continue working in the Core Facility. If there are questions about the equipment in the shared facility, come to the front office. We have instructors who have agreed to help out with training on the various equipment.

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The Department of Biochemistry would like to welcome our newest staff member, Teresa Kase! She is an Administrative Associate and will be working in the front office. Please stop by and meet her.

...

The Department of Biochemistry will be

hosting a special seminar on Tuesday, July 23rd at 12pm in room 3084 HSN. Dr. Alan Cochrane, Professor of Molecular Genetics at the University of Toronto will present "Modulation of HIV-1 RNA Processing: A New Approach to Treatment." This seminar is being hosted by Dr. Peter Stoilov.

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On Thursday, July 25th, Mike and Kathy Schaller will be hosting a farewell party for Bill Wonderlin at their home. Main dishes and beverages will be provided, and a pot-luck for side dishes and dessert. There will be a sign-up sheet in the main office for the pot-luck. Hope to see everyone there! Spouses and kids are welcome.

## [Chair's Corner]

This issue of the [CATALYST] marks the end of Bill Wonderlin's tenure at West Virginia University, as he and Linda move to Michigan to pursue new career opportunities. It has been a pleasure and an honor to know Bill for the past five years. He is an exemplary member of the faculty, who is highly dedicated to the research and teaching missions. Bill made a significant impact in the Biomedical Sciences graduate program, as the coordinator and teacher in one of the first courses taken by the first year graduate students. His teaching success has been publicly recognized by a Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching. I think his success has been a direct result of his passion for science and teaching, and his genuine concern for the student's well being. Bill

has gone above and beyond for the students, offering refresher sessions to incoming students, spending countless hours supervising the development of student projects, creating a new methods course (unofficial and voluntary in its first iterations) and participating in an extracurricular program in cell biology (and driving the creation of a regional cell biology meeting for students). As a compassionate educator, Bill should serve as a role model for us all.

I gratefully thank Bill for all he has done. He has made a major contribution to developing a stimulating intellectual environment in the graduate program and in the Department. On behalf of the Department, I wish Bill and Linda success and happiness in their new endeavors.

-Mike

# Thoughts on Dr. “Wild Bill” Wonderlin

# [Farewell, Dr. Wonderlin]



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It is with profound sadness that I watch any colleague or superior leave my social sphere. I have a pretty big aversion to change, subject to heavy bouts of motivational inertia. So when I heard Bill Wonderlin was departing, I had that same immediate pang of separation anxiety, much the same as any other colleague's departure. This one, though, is certainly different. For those of us in the School of Medicine's PhD program, there are but a few nigh-universal experiences. One of those is the newness of everything we're encountering, and the increased responsibility. Another is the debauched partying, with details better left out of polite conversation. Still another is, of course, the exams in the cell course, also known as, to borrow my year's colloquialism, the Wild Bill Pain Train. These were noted for difficulty and detail not yet matched in most of our courses, undergraduate or graduate, and we approached them with as much effort as we could muster. For my sake, I always appreciated those tests, since they were the rare exams that happened to teach as much as evaluate. Interpreting data and reasoning through those essays, the material became distilled into its important parts, and I can say with certainty that I actually learned the point of FRAP while taking that test, not during study. That's rare, and I won't soon forget it.

My appreciation for Bill Wonderlin goes well beyond those initial experiences. He figured into the lives of the biochemistry students more than I anticipated, always being one to challenge and encourage during presentations and private conversation. He taught me better how to read; he taught me what little I know of teaching; he was one of my inspirations to seriously start writing.

He has been a critical cog in the machine of my upbringing here at WVU, and I lament for future students who'll have no chance to learn from him.

*Zach Hartman*

Dr. Wonderlin, You have created so many great opportunities for biomedical science graduate students, from initiating the Appalachian Regional Cell Conference to transitioning the Cellular Methods to a student-taught course. Your guidance and expertise have really helped me develop into a better and more well-rounded scientist. Since I can't truly express my gratefulness in words, I suppose a sincere thank you will have to suffice. Best of luck,

*Steve Markwell*

Wild Bill definitely had an impact on my grad school experience. First, his amazing models for teaching were ingenious (I don't believe I'll ever forget those rockin' banana channels). Secondly, he always had a good story to tell about previous grad students or his own grad school days which could bring a smile to any down-ridden grad student. And lastly, his generosity to eager minds left a lasting impression on me personally and professionally. Bill would never turn down a student with a question, no matter how off-the-wall it could be, and that's how I want to be someday when I grow up and become a professor. I am glad that I had the opportunity to be one of his students and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Best of luck to you in the future, Dr. Wonderlin!

*Holly Damron-Cyphert*



**Continued on page 3**

**Continued from page 2**

Dr. Wonderlin has always been a great help to me during my graduate career providing me with a wealth of knowledge and many skills I never would have picked up elsewhere. During the time I have known him I have been a student in his classroom asking questions because I was completely confused and then a student outside of the classroom needing assistance on a science problem. He also helped guide me in writing a grant to organize a student-run conference, which was funded, and was a crucial member in seeing that conference be a success. I have served with him as part of graduate student recruitment, where I was able to get to know him on a more personal level outside of research and the classroom. Further, I have recently become a student instructor for the Cell Methods course under his advisement and have also served on a number of committees with him. Needless to say, he has left a dramatic impact on me in my 3 years here at WVU. Dr. Wonderlin, thank you for all you have done for the students here in the Biomedical Sciences program at WVU. Even though we thought you might be trying to torture us during our first year, we know that it actually made us better once we completed it. Thank you for being willing to help and guide us whenever we needed help, no matter what program we ended up joining. I am sad to see you go, but know that you will continue to do great things. Oh, please don't generate the standardized exit exam for PhD

students until after I have my PhD. Thank you for everything you have done for me. I will never forget all of your encouragement and comments to make me a better scientist and person.

*Danielle Shepherd*



*Dr. Wonderlin talking with students at the Appalachian Regional Cell Conference.*

## [From the Editor]

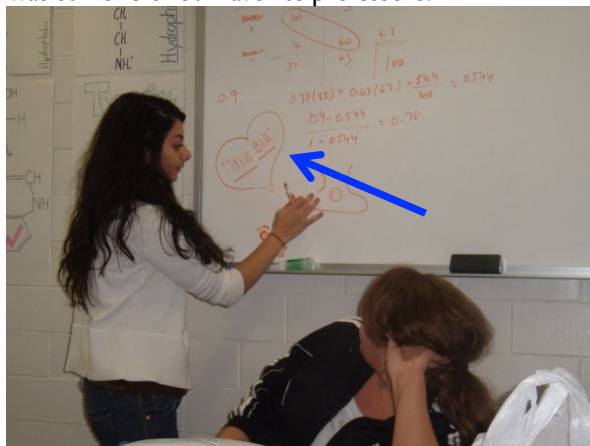
Greetings, fellow biochemists! Putting together this month's issue has been very bittersweet, to say the least. I am very sad to see Dr. Wonderlin leaving us in a just a few short weeks. His impact on my graduate school career is difficult to put into words. Generally, when professors give exams that require me to study until 2am every day and periodically call my mother amid bouts of oh-my-gosh-what-am-I-doing-here hysteria, I end the semester vehemently detesting that professor. This was absolutely not the case with Bill Wonderlin. I don't think I'll ever have the adequate words to thank him for pushing me to my breaking point and never giving up on me. I'm told that there are times that every graduate student has considered quitting, and I certainly wondered if I was cut out for it in that first semester, but I can honestly say that I couldn't stomach the thought of having to tell Bill I was throwing in the towel. Letting people down is bad enough, but letting down someone who had put so much effort into your success? Yeesh.

So, Dr. Wonderlin, I want to say thank you for caring enough. Thank you for pushing me and not giving up. Thank you for truly caring about the students' interests and

making sure that we had a voice. You've not only affected my life for the better, but countless others in this program. You will be sorely missed here at WVU and I wish you the best of luck in Michigan.

*-Amanda*

Even while studying for one of his Cell Structure and Function exams in the wee hours of the morning, he was still one of our favorite professors!



*In case you're wondering, the arrow is pointing at a heart containing the words "Wild Bill" on the whiteboard in the grad room.*



# 10 Things you didn't know about Bill Wonderlin!



Now: Bill and Linda hiking in the Adirondacks

## The Basics:

**Title:** Associate Professor

**Lab/Office:** 3148

### 1. What was your very first job?

In grade school I sold nightcrawlers to a local marina for a penny apiece...a very slimy way to earn the \$10 I needed to buy a transistor radio.

### 2. If you had to do it all over again, what would you study in school?

I would study to be a movie director.

### 3. How many times, if any, did you change majors?

I was very involved in music in high school, and I entered my undergraduate studies with an interest in studying music because I wanted to be a rock-and-roll keyboard player (Keith Emerson and Rick Wakeman were my heroes, and they were classically-trained musicians). But, after seeing the amazing natural talents of the other students in music, I chose the more practical career of becoming a primate paleontologist. After a couple of years in Duke's Anthropology graduate program, I discovered electrophysiology while working part-time in a lab at the Environmental Protection Agency, and I finally settled into my current career path.

### 4. Have you ever broken the law?

I have been relatively well behaved in recent years. But, having been in college for six years during the 1970's, I might have broken the law a few times.

### 5. Favorite junk food?

It used to be little chocolate-covered donuts. Now it's chips and salsa.

### 6. Biggest pet peeve?

Inappropriate cell-phone use has pushed everything else off the list.

### 7. 5 things you couldn't live without?

Linda, green tea, the great outdoors, a workshop, snow.

### 8. Least favorite thing to do in the lab?

Clean it.

### 9. Most embarrassing moment?

I have always devoted a great deal of effort to avoiding major embarrassments, and the ones that have slipped through aren't worth mentioning.

### 10. If you could have dinner with any historical figure/world leader/scientist/celebrity, who would it be and why?

Abraham Lincoln. I would like to hear his view of our world today. He had a remarkable ability to interpret or explain the complexities of the human condition in a few words. I also admire his ability to do the "right thing", even when it wasn't the popular thing to do, and I wonder what course he would follow in the new millennium. Also, we are both from Illinois.



Then: mid-70s rock & roll

#### Editor's Note:

Yes, I printed this picture twice on purpose. It's just so good, I had to sneak it in as many times as possible. ©

the[Spotlight]

## [Newsday Crossword]

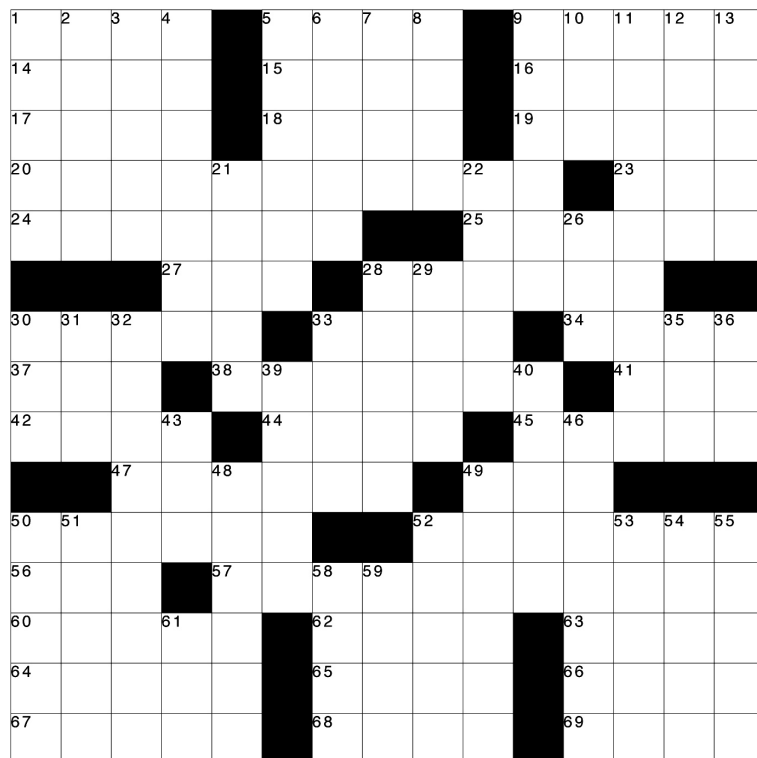
07/18/13 RANGED ALL OVER Billie Truitt, edited by Stanley Newman

## Across

- 1 When Romeo meets Juliet  
 5 Toppers  
 9 Gallery display  
 14 Chance to play  
 15 Distracted greeting  
 16 Blazing  
 17 Natural successor  
 18 In fighting trim  
 19 Spoke sweet nothings  
 20 Safe  
 23 Comic bit  
 24 Put on a skewer  
 25 Stream's path  
 27 Stop up  
 28 The Big Dipper appears on its flag  
 30 Brave  
 33 Miles off  
 34 Be begrudging  
 37 Application  
 38 Another helping  
 41 Unenviable mark  
 42 Bellyache  
 44 In a frenzy  
 45 Helps in a heist  
 47 Prepare  
 49 Third qtr. starter  
 50 Sort of  
 52 Gallery display  
 56 Numerical standard  
 57 Look  
 60 Conductor Previn  
 62 Dinghy duo  
 63 One capful, perhaps  
 64 Contorted look  
 65 Predatory dolphin  
 66 Detroit River's destination  
 67 Aligns, for short  
 68 Fully memorized  
 69 Places to relax

## Down

- 1 Dumas dueler  
 2 Prepare to play pool  
 3 Shopworn  
 4 Beginnings of progress  
 5 "World Series" game  
 6 Yet to come  
 7 Compared with  
 8 Spill the beans  
 9 Keyboard shortcuts  
 10 Sci-fi sighting  
 11 Northern border of Chihuahua  
 12 Fields of study  
 13 Possible pigeon perch  
 21 Tatters  
 22 Online greeting  
 26 Mandolin kin  
 28 In progress  
 29 Long and lean  
 30 Checkout counter display  
 31 GI hangout  
 32 Place to sip alfresco  
 33 High point  
 35 11/11 marcher  
 36 "By all means"  
 39 Snap class



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- 40 Spa amenity  
 43 Fresh  
 46 Thoroughly mixed  
 48 Starch sources  
 49 Power tool  
 50 Bridge response  
 51 Home worker  
 52 Madcap comedy  
 53 Worship  
 54 Amber source  
 55 Orchard, essentially  
 58 Eccentric  
 59 Bring in  
 61 TiVo button

Coffee Break

