A Conversation with New HWI CEO Dr. Ed Lattman

Friends of HWI have now had the opportunity to learn some of the curriculum vitae basics about new HWI CEO Dr. Eaton “Ed” Lattman. Many people are aware of the career path which led him to HWI and of his scientific accomplishments which have included recruiting women into scientific leadership posts that previously were dominated by men, to developing the scientific measurement process known as the Lattman angles.

However, there is far more to the newest leader of Buffalo’s foremost research institution than scientific prowess and administrative capabilities.

In fact, as a former co-captain of his high school football team and a standout player on a Baltimore rugby team in the sixties, Lattman’s interests run the gamut from sports to fine foods to cultural institutions to a musical appreciation that spans styles as varied as reggae to folk to classical.

“I like to cook and entertain friends. I am a fan of Cooks Illustrated and appreciate its cooking techniques, as well as its product ratings. I also have a moderate interest in wines,” Lattman said. “When I left Johns Hopkins, my colleagues gave me a collection of 24 nice bottles of wine with the theory that the first case will be for the first five years and the second will be for the second five years.”

Although he has not yet had time to experience much of Buffalo’s cultural fare, he said he plans to visit all the museums in the area, particularly the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Buffalo Museum of Science (BMS). Lattman will bring an informed perspective to those visits, especially to his time at the BMS as he has visited science museums in cities all over the country. “At this point, my single favorite is the Exploratorium in San Francisco which is a very hands-on museum. They really work harder than most to be genuinely educational, as opposed to merely presenting gee-whiz science,” he said.

A former subscriber to the Baltimore Symphony, Lattman also plans to subscribe to the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra saying, “I have a decent collection of folk music and like Pete Seeger and Joan Baez. I also enjoy reggae and certain genres of jazz like the Modern Jazz Quartet, but classical music really tops the list for me.”

An avid reader, Lattman is not confined to reading only scientific journals or news publications. He is a detective novel buff with a particular appreciation for “old-fashioned British detective stories.”

Ngaio Marsh, Michael Innes, Martha Grimes and Donna Leon were cited as among his favorite detective genre authors.

But in speaking with Lattman, his deepest passion seems readily evident when he discusses his daughter, Laura Lattman. The 29-year-old New York City resident did not choose to follow in the footsteps of either her scientist father or her pediatrician/human geneticist mother, Baltimore-resident Susan Panny.

“She works on a lot of political asylum cases and a clear advantage of working for a firm like hers is that they do a fair amount of pro bono work for people who really need the help,” Lattman said. “It is truly a pleasure to see that Laura loves the law to the same degree that I enjoy science and her mother enjoys medicine.”

Lattman also appreciates the area’s natural resources, citing a particular interest in learning more about the plans for the waterfront and sharing his observations as a new resident coming from Baltimore, Maryland which has made a success of their bordering water. “I have some ideas and initial thoughts. It is such a gem and there is so much that can be done with it,” he said. “It is such a beautiful city with wonderful architectural treasures. It is a tribute to the architectural significance of the early 20th century.”

As for the Buffalo community, Lattman said that he has felt welcomed and embraced by the community since the early days of the recruitment process. “On my second visit to Buffalo, I met with the head of the medical school, the president and provost of the university and the leaders of institutions like Roswell Park. I was enormously impressed that busy, important people invested the time to meet with an HWI job candidate. That initial impression has been reinforced as everyone I have met since being here has been supportive, helpful and friendly,” Lattman said. “Everyone I meet is introducing me to others they feel I should know and it is the kind of place where you simply will not feel like an outsider for very long.”

Dr. Eaton E. Lattman
Generosity of Local Donors Gives Life To HWI Summer Student Program for 35th Consecutive Year

Erie County has provided $45,000 to the HWI Research Intern Summer Program. They have been sponsoring the summer program since 2003. Erie County values the opportunities that the summer program has made for the talented, determined children of Western New York. “Hauptman-Woodward deserves congratulations for its continuing service to education, and the science and health communities through its Summer Student Program,” Erie County Legislator Chairman M. Marinali said. “Allowing the participating students to gain real-life experience through the use of laboratory equipment and data is unique. It can spark the students’ minds to research and what careers they want to pursue, and also gives them the chance to participate in and improve their critical thinking processes and to learn from the exposure to new and different ideas.”

The East Hill Foundation has donated $20,000 to the HWI Summer Program. The East Hill Foundation funds innovative, charitable projects designed to enhance the quality of life for residents from the eight counties of Western New York. “The East Hill Foundation understands the importance of young people and their education and highly appreciates the relationship that the two share. ‘The children are the future,’” Mr. Wilson Greatbatch, a representative of the East Hill Foundation said. “We are very interested in supporting their education and through them we are ensuring our future.”

The Verizon Foundation has donated $15,000 to the HWI Research Intern Summer Program. The Verizon Foundation funds programs that address social issues such as literacy, technology education and domestic violence. The foundation is very enthusiastic about the HWI summer program and strongly believes in the program’s success under the leadership of Dr. Jane Griffin. “Verizon is very much committed to supporting programs that strengthen the communities where our employees live and work,” Maureen Rasp-Glose, Director of Verizon Community Affairs, said. “Verizon has been sponsoring this internship program since 2005. This grant is in support of HWI’s efforts to provide science-based research experience for bright students so that they can stay in Buffalo to work in highly-skilled professions.”

The Josephine Goodyear Foundation Awards $10,000 for the 2008 Summer Program. The Josephine Goodyear Foundation has donated $10,000 to the HWI Research Intern Summer Program. The foundation, which supports programs promoting the health and welfare of low-income women and children in Western New York, encourages collaboration between organizations.

Ebenizer United Church of Christ (UCCH) has donated $4,000 to sponsor one intern in the HWI Summer Student Program. The UCCC’s mission statement proclaims it as “a church that is global, multicultural, open and affirming, and accessible to all.” “Ebenizer UCC is an old, but forward-looking church that supports the work and education of young people who believe in the future of our world,” Gerry Rumsay, member of Ebenizer UCC, said. “The summer program offers opportunity for young students to experience science as one way to build on expanding the future of our church.”

The Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus’ Renaissance Fellowship Fund has donated $3,500 to support the summer student program. This summer, HWI has become one of the first recipients to receive this generous gift. “We are very pleased that HWI has identified such an outstanding candidate for the Renaissance Fellowship. The Renaissance Fellowship Fund was created through seed money from the Buffalo Renaissance Foundation and First Niagara Charitable Foundation,” Matthew K. Ernsite, Executive Director of the BNMC, said. “Through this internship program, more students will be exposed to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, the BNMC institutions, and a research experience in downtown Buffalo – instilling in them a hope for the future of this campus based on our fundamental life sciences strengths.”

Congratulations Summer Interns …

Rebecca Robitatto, a former intern from Dr. Barnali Chaudhuri’s laboratory, has been in touch and is succeeding in Yale University’s Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Ph.D. program.

Martha Clark, a former intern from Dr. George DeTitta’s laboratory, is pursuing graduate studies in Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Elena R. Sendro, a Biochemistry and Spanish student at Washington & Jefferson College, created a poster presentation on the summer research that she conducted at HWI during the 2007 Summer Student Program. Sendro, a second-year intern from Dr. Timothy C. Umland’s lab, also went to Western Pennsylvania’s Undergraduate Biology Research Symposium and her school’s spring poster session to showcase her research results. “The crystal pictures looked so cool and a lot of my professors were impressed with what I worked on,” Sendro said.

Matthew Varacallo, a Biochemistry student at Washington & Jefferson College (W&J), recently won the “Alumni Prize for Original Research in the Life Sciences” – an undergraduate research competition at W&J. He competed with other biology/biochemistry majors at W&J and in winning the biology prize, became the “bio candidate” for the award. He then competed against the psychology department for the overall competition. The competition was judged by faculty members. He won the award which included a financial prize as well as recognition on a permanent plaque at W&J. He also presented his work at the 29th annual Western Pennsylvania undergraduate research symposium, which also was held at W&J. “It takes a lot to present scientific research in a manner that people from a wide range of disciplines will understand and I have benefited immensely from the presentations,” Varacallo said. “I am grateful that HWI and Dr. Andy Gulick have given me these life-changing opportunities.”

HWI recently hosted UB summer research interns for a tour, meet and greet with Dr. Herbert A. Hauptman, and one-on-one meetings with HWI scientists. The students are participants in a six-week program funded by the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation and Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professorsate, both National Science Foundation Programs. The program also receives state funding.
HWWI's summer program is the "real deal" for students who are pursuing a science-related career. According to Dr. Jane Griffin, principal research scientist and summer intern program coordinator, "The summer program is an integral part of our mission to educate students at the undergraduate and graduate level. The program educates students and helps them decide if research will be their career choice." The students are immersed in science and by the end truly understand different approaches to research. HWWI's summer program is designed to involve students in scientific projects and expose them to real life lab procedures and state-of-the-art equipment. The students study molecular biology, biochemistry, crystal growth, and X-ray diffraction to assist scientists with their research. Following the program, the students present what they have learned from the program in front of their mentors and peers. Students in the 2008 internship are:

**Amy Cavers**, a pharmacology and toxicology student at the University at Buffalo (UB), is assisting Dr. Deborah Ghosh with his research on breast and prostate cancer.

**Deanna Driscoll**, a pharmacology student at UB, is working with Dr. George DeTitta in the high-throughput HT crystalization laboratory, studying chemical conditions that might lead to salt crystals instead of protein crystals. She's creating a rogue's gallery of salt crystal photos to make it easier to see salt crystals under a microscope.

**Daniel W. Dykstra** is working with both Dr. Michael G. Malkowski and Alex Vecchia on projects related to understanding the differences in substrate specificities exhibited by COX-1 and COX-2. Dykstra is currently majoring in biochemistry at SUNY Fredonia.

**Adam M. Ferin**, a chemistry student at Case Western Reserve University, is studying the crystallization of membrane proteins. He will be responsible for making solutions to be used in the HT lab, as well as, monitoring membrane protein samples with Dr. Mary E. Rosenblum in Dr. Michael Malkowski's lab.

**Sarah E. Franjoine** is studying the dimerization properties of Hsp 90 chaperone proteins using sensitive biophysical techniques in the laboratory of Dr. Daniel T. Gewirth. Franjoine is majoring in chemistry and psychology while minoring in biochemistry at Case Western Reserve University.

**Brittani Zurek**, working with Dr. DeTitta and Joseph Luft, used a ThermoFluorTM assay to collect data correlated with how significantly a small molecule can alter the stability of a protein. These small molecules are unique to each protein. Once identified, adding the small molecules to the protein can make the structure more "rigid" and amenable to crystallization. Zurek is a biology major at the University at Buffalo.

**Alexandra M. Galbo** and **Matt Varacallo** are working with Dr. Andrew M. Gulick, Galbo, a biological sciences student at Cornell University, and Varacallo, a biochemistry student at Washington & Jefferson College, are studying essential bacterial proteins that may allow the development of novel antibiotics.

**Trevor Keane** is working with Dr. George DeTitta and Joseph Luft, conducting a statistical analysis of data generated by the high-throughput crystalization laboratory. Keane's analysis will begin with a subset of proteins that were set up for crystalization experiments and classified into categories of outcomes (clear drops, crystals, precipitate, etc...) by experts. Relationships that exist between the 1536 different chemical solutions, the 96 proteins, and these categories of outcomes will be used to improve future generations of the cocktails. This study will help us to better understand the chemicals that are best suited to crystalize proteins. Keane is a biometry and statistics student at Cornell University.

**Shannon M. Lacombe** is studying biology at SUNY Cortland and working with both Drs. Michael G. Malkowski and Christopher C. Goulah to expand our knowledge of fatty acid metabolism by performing the mammalian cyclooxygenase enzymes COX-1 and COX-2. Her project includes the isolation of the genes encoding these proteins from various bacterial species with the intent of exogenously expressing and purifying the proteins and performing enzymatic activity assays and initial substrate characterization.

**Emily Li**, **Jennifer Makin**, **Jessica Nowak**, and **Jennifer Piraino** are assisting Dr. Vivian Cady. All students are working on various aspects of the Pneumocystis dihydrofolate reductase project. Li, a human biology student at Brown University and Piraino, a biological sciences major at UB, are focusing on the cloning, expression, and purification of Pneumocystis species human, rat and cowain wild types and mutant forms of dihydrofolate reductase to crystallize inhibitor complexes. Makin, who is studying biology at Canisius College, and Nowak, who is majoring in biology while minoring in chemistry at Canisius College, are focusing on the cloning and expression of the wild type and mutant forms of the Pneumocystis caninii enzyme for crystallization of inhibitor complexes. In addition, Makin is cloning and expressing three isoforms of cyclohydrolyase from Drosophila that are models for drug intervention in Parkinson’s disease.

**David Lotterm** is a student at Cornell University, who is working with Dr. Shaun Bowman in Dr. Barnali Chaudhuri's lab. His research involves the cloning and expression of bacterial chromosome trafficking proteins.

**Deborah Makin** and **Scott Tucker** are working with Dr. William L. Duax. Makin, a bioinformatics and computer science student at Canisius College, is tracing the evolution of enzymes critical to lipid synthesis in the earliest bacteria and their descendants in mycobacteria tuberculosis and in humans. Tucker is studying biological engineering, biomedical engineering, and pre-med at Cornell University and is identifying subfamilies of short chain oxidoreductase enzymes involved in sugar metabolism.

**Rio J. Swansekamp** is working with Dr. George DeTitta and Joseph Luft preparing and characterizing more than 1,000 chemical solutions used in the high-throughput crystalization laboratory to identify initial crystallization conditions for biologically important proteins. She will be charged with bringing a novel high-throughput crystalization optimization strategy, recently developed at HWWI, to the greater structural biology community. She graduated from Grove City College and will be attending the University of Rochester this fall where she will work toward a graduate degree in science.

**Becky Pietrasik** and **Danielle L. Tomasello** are assisting Dr. Wayne Schultz in his lab. Pietrasik, a biology student at SUNY Geneseo, is studying the transport of influenza A virus proteins within human cells. Tomasello, an engineering student at Case Western Reserve University, is mapping protein RNA interactions utilized by the SARS virus during viral replication.

**Elaina Sendro** is assisting Dr. Timothy C. Umland. Sendro, a biochemistry and Spanish student at Washington & Jefferson College, is working on structural studies of the DNA-binding protein Prep1, which is involved in gene regulation.

**Nicholas Furlani** and **Rachael NeMoyer** are focusing their efforts on developing a "crystal cookery" program with Dr. Eddie Snel and Joseph Luft. This project will help further develop the educational component of a National Science Foundation proposal recently submitted by these two investigators. The students will use products that are available in the grocery store (cosmetics, cleaning agent, etc...) to identify novel chemicals that can improve the stability, and/or crystallization behavior of proteins. They will use state-of-the-art techniques like HPLC and MALDI to improve the stability of 20 commercially available products, which are widely used in different chemically complex grocery store products. They will set up crystallization experiments with these proteins and grocery products using the high-throughput crystalization lab. Furlani is an engineering student at Case Western Reserve University and NeMoyer is a student at Pennsylvania State University.

**Ann Wojtaszcyk**
Philip Coppens, Ph.D.

Coppens, a chemist, is a pioneer in the field of high resolution X-ray crystallography. He has demonstrated the experimental mapping of the distribution of electrons in molecules, studied the light-induced changes in molecular crystals, and engineered crystals with specific properties. He won the Gregori Aminoff Prize from the Royal Swedish Academy of Science in 1996. Coppens has been a professor of Chemistry at the University at Buffalo since 1968.

Claire Fraser-Liggett, Ph.D.

Fraser-Liggett led the teams that sequenced the genomes of microbial organisms and helped initiate the era of comparative genomics. Fraser-Liggett was a leader of one section of the WMAP (Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe) Mission of NASA that has revealed conditions as they existed in the early universe, billions of years ago. Jarosik was born and educated in Buffalo, through undergraduate and doctorate degrees from the University at Buffalo.

Thomas B. Tomasi, M.D., Ph.D.

Tomasi has made many important contributions to the field of Immunology. His work demonstrated why the human body does not reject the fetus. He was educated at Dartmouth College (BA), the University of Vermont (MD) and Rockefeller University (PhD). He served as President and CEO of RPCI from 1987-1996, and is presently working on the development of a tumor vaccine.

Norman C. Jarosik, Ph.D.

Jarosik, a physicist working in large scale science is a leader of one section of the WMAP (Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe) Mission of NASA that has revealed conditions as they existed in the early universe, billions of years ago. Jarosik was born and educated in Buffalo through undergraduate and doctorate degrees from the University at Buffalo.

John D. Holland

A research fellow at the Buffalo Museum of Science, Holland has made fundamental contributions to the study of prehistoric stone tools, and the analysis and classification of the lithic (stone) materials. As a young man, Holland moved to Buffalo to work at the Ford Stamping Plant. Following retirement from his engineering position, he pursued an atypical largely self-taught second career to become a leading expert in the field he pioneered.

Patricia Chapple Wright, Ph.D.

Wright studies behavior, ecology and biology of lemurs. She discovered a new species of lemur (relative of monkeys) and helped establish the Ranomafana National Park Preserve in Madagascar where she serves as International Coordinator. She received the MacArthur ‘genius’ award, and serves on the National Geographic Society’s committee for Research & Exploration. She currently is Professor of Anthropology at SUNY Stony Brook. Wright grew up in the Buffalo area.

Gerty Cori, M.D. and Carl Cori, M.D.

Gerty (1896-1957) and Carl Cori (1896-1984) received the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine 1947 for the discovery of the course of the catalytic conversion of glycogen. This work was done at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute (then The Institute for the Study of Malignant Diseases).

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A new WNED production, HERBERT HAUPTMAN: PORTRAIT OF A LAUREATE, profiling the life and career of the 91-year-old president of Buffalo’s Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute was premiered at HWI on June 3, 2008 to an audience of close to 200 colleagues, friends and admirers.

The documentary is being shown on WNED at various times. For more information on viewing the piece, contact WNED at (716) 845-7000. Audience members laughed, cried and were inspired as they saw the personal side of our international celebrity.

From a working class family in Brooklyn, Hauptman would become a world-renowned mathematician whose work changed the field of chemistry. His groundbreaking methods helped uncover the structures of molecules, a key step to understanding disease processes and designing drugs to combat them. With his research partner Jerome Karle, a physical chemist, Hauptman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1985.

In addition to leading the Institute that now bears his name, Hauptman is a Distinguished Professor in the Structural Biology Department in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo.

“The film is a moving tribute to a remarkable man,” WNED President and CEO Donald K. Boswell said. “Dr. Hauptman’s work continues to have an enormous impact on medical research. History offers an inspiring example of what one person can accomplish with persistence, dedication and a commitment to excellence.”

“I would like to think that this film shows that mathematics is a beautiful and powerful way to solve problems which go far beyond the realm of what may be expected,” Dr. Herbert A. Hauptman, Nobel Laureate and President of the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute, said. “My hope is that this will serve as an inspiration for the next generation of young scientists and mathematicians.”

“It’s a rare opportunity to be able to do a film about someone like Dr. Hauptman – a man who you have to admire for his intelligence, but also for his thoughtfulness and logic,” said WNED Senior Producer Paul Lamont, who reflected on the significance of Hauptman’s professional contributions, as well as his love for music, family and the beauty of mathematics.

It’s astounding to me to think that someone can spend nearly four decades working on a single problem as he did, with dedication, focus and the ability to balance his family life with that passion and drive,” Lamont said. “I approached this film as a series of snapshots which, when looked at as a whole, reveal the picture of a man.”

Funding for the documentary was provided by Independent Health, The James H. Cummings Foundation, The Baird Foundation, The Peter C. Cornell Trust, Gelia Walls and Mohr, the M&T Charitable Foundation, The John R. Oishei Foundation, the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, the University at Buffalo Academic Health Center, and the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.
M&T Bank awarded a $100,000 grant to the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute, Inc. (HWI) to support both the recruitment of HWI’s new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as well as future scientific recruitment.

Hauptman-Woodward welcomed Dr. Eaton E. Lattman, former Dean of Research and Graduate Education in the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences at Johns Hopkins University (JHU), as CEO and Executive Director on July 1, 2008. A published author in the field of crystallography, he has degrees from Harvard and JHU and at JHU has served as department chair of Biophysics in both the School of Medicine and the School of Arts and Sciences.

“M&T’s generosity clearly is well-known throughout its markets across the nation. But we are particularly grateful that they have the vision and leadership to support a cluster hiring approach to strengthen HWI’s collaborations with Roswell Park Cancer Institute and UB,” Dr. Walter A. Pangborn, Executive Vice President at HWI, said.

“As Buffalo’s locally headquartered bank, M&T is delighted to help further the scientific mission of HWI by attracting outstanding leaders in the life sciences field, and promoting its potential as an engine for our city’s economic growth,” Shelley C. Drake, President, The M&T Charitable Foundation, said.

Lattman plans to spearhead a new phase in HWI’s recruitment efforts. The initial stages of this also will be partially funded by the generous M&T grant. Lattman’s first priority is to recruit, in collaboration with the University at Buffalo (UB), an established senior scientist to HWI who would also serve as the head of the Structural Biology Department. Lattman is interested in broadening HWI’s computational biology program and increasing efforts in the area of molecular modeling for cancer drug discovery. One of his primary goals with future recruits will be the development of a cluster hiring approach to further strengthen HWI’s collaborations with Roswell Park Cancer Institute and UB.

About The M&T Charitable Foundation

M&T Bank believes it has a responsibility as a corporate citizen to do all it can to strengthen the communities in which it operates. Through its giving, M&T supports a diverse range of cultural, civic, education, health care, human service and youth organizations that add value to its communities.

City Honors High School Students Give Science Presentations

Do you wonder why City Honors ranks as the number one high school in New York State? Or perhaps you wonder how the school can rank 11th across the nation? Or maybe you are curious to know if local students can compete nationally and globally with science scholars?

Three City Honors highly gifted local high school students presented brief seminars on cutting-edge research on genomics in laymen’s terms on the work they are doing at the Hauptman-Woodward Institute under the tutelage of Dr. William Duax, HWI’s Herbert A. Hauptman Distinguished Scientist.

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Hauptman-Woodward Staff and Board Mourn the Loss of Long-Time Board Member, Friend

PAUL J. KOESSLER

A local philanthropist and civic leader, Paul J. Koessler (1937-2008) served on the board of Hauptman-Woodward since 1998. He was Vice Chairman of the HWI Board of Directors from 2003 to 2008 and also served as Chair of the Governance and Government Affairs committees.

“Paul led with quiet grace and dignity. Regardless of the nature or difficulty of the task which he faced at HWI or any of the many other charitable organizations which he helped, Paul consistently went above and beyond any expectations,” Dr. Herbert A. Hauptman, HWI president said. “We always knew that if there was a fundraiser, event or behind-the-scenes project work, we could count on his support.”

Former president and chief operating officer of Greater Buffalo Press, he and his brother built a business which was the largest printer of Sunday comics and advertising inserts in the world, a business that remained in family ownership in the U.S. and one in Canada.

Koessler helped raise millions of dollars for local schools such as Canisius High School and The Buffalo Seminary, as well as for a variety of charitable organizations such as HWI, WNED, Roswell Park, and the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society, just to mention a few. He also led the Paul J. Koessler Foundation which awarded more than 40 grants within the community. For the past eight years, Koessler served on the Peace Bridge Authority as chairman and vice chairman.

He is survived by his wife Niscah, as well as three daughters, two sons, a stepdaughter, three stepsons and nineteen grandchildren.

Dedicated HWI Board Member Retires After 32 Years of Service

Robert J. A. Irwin recently retired from the HWI Board of Directors after 32 years of dedicated service to the Institute. Irwin served as vice chairman of the board from 1989-1991 and as chairman of the board from 1992-1996. He served on HWI’s Finance Committee and assisted many of the board’s subcommittees. He was honored by HWI for his service in 2003 at the biennial Awards Gala for his service and has received many awards and honors from local charitable organizations. Irwin has served on a number of boards and committees throughout Western New York and is an active volunteer and philanthropist. He presently serves as vice chair of the New York State Historical Association.

Amy L. Clifton, Alexandra C. Montante and Joseph Voelkl elected to the HWI Board of Directors

Clifton is chief financial officer (CFO) of LPCimilleni, Inc. where she manages all top-level financial information and has direct oversight of the accounting, information technology, and human resources departments. Prior to joining LPCimilleni, Clifton served as chief operating officer for Unified. She previously served as CFO for Reciprocal. She previously held positions with ClientLogic, Morgan Stanley and Mercer Management. She serves on the advisory boards for the Maria Love Convalescent Fund and the Westbrook Early Childhood Program, as well as the Investment Review Committee for the Buffalo and Erie County Regional Development Corporation. She holds a master’s degree in Business Administration from Yale University and a bachelor’s degree in Public Health Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She resides in Buffalo, New York with her husband Theodore Walsh and their three children.

Montante, a teacher at Nardin Academy in their Montessori Program, is also a member on the boards of the Western New York Women’s Fund and the Busson Scholarship Fund. She serves on the Zoological Society Education & Conservation Committee, the Nichols Alumni Board, as well as vice chairman of the advisory board for Nichols School and Sisters Hospital. She has been deeply involved with the Junior League of Buffalo for a number of years and served as the JLB president during the 2005-2006 league year. Montante received her bachelor’s degree in economics from Smith College. She earned both her master’s degree in modern languages and her master’s in education administration from the University at Buffalo. She resides in Clarence Center with her husband Michael and their children.

Voelkl, president and chief executive officer of Buffalo Pharmacies, has volunteered on the Hospice Board, the Erie County Sheriff’s Advisory Committee and the ECMC Foundation Board. He also serves as a Trustee of St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute, Niagara Lutheran Health Systems, and the KeyBank Advisory Group. Voelkl graduated from the University at Buffalo Pharmacy School in 1959. He resides in Williamsville with his wife Carolyn. They have five children.

What’s Happening at Hauptman-Woodward

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences has announced that HWI’s Kevin Maharaj has received a National Institute of Health’s Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Predoctoral Fellowship.

A prestigious award, the fellowship will fund Maharaj’s graduate education for the next several years. He currently is a graduate student in the Structural Biology Department at the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute which is part of the University at Buffalo’s School of Medicine. Maharaj is studying under the tutelage of Dr. Daniel T. Gewirth, HWI senior research scientist and associate professor at UB. This is the first NIH fellowship awarded to a student at HWI and the only one granted at UB this year.

“I am very appreciative to be a recipient of an NIH NRSA pre-doctoral fellowship. I know that this is a huge honor and I plan to work even harder because of this opportunity,” Maharaj said.

“The fellowship recognizes that the health and progress of our society is closely tied to our continuing and deep support of basic scientific research,” Gewirth said. “This small investment in Kevin’s training today will undoubtedly be repaid many times over in the decades to come.”

Kevin Maharaj

Jessica Gee and Michael Rhodes Joins HWI Staff

Jessica Gee has joined the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute (HWI) as a research associate. She will be working in the laboratory of Dr. Barnali Chaudhuri. Gee will be studying the role of chromosomal partitioning proteins.

The Chaudhuri laboratory is investigating how biological macromolecules function as molecular machines by virtue of their structural design.

Prior to joining HWI, Gee worked as an undergraduate research assistant in the UB Pharmacology and Toxicology Department, in the laboratory of Dr. Arin Bhattacharjee. While working there, Gee developed an independent research project where she studied the role of the transcription factor NF-κB in the regulation of Slick, a sodium-activated potassium channel. She also performed general laboratory maintenance and organization, and made weekly data presentations, in addition to collaborating with other laboratory members.

Gee received a bachelor’s degree in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University at Buffalo.

Michael Rhodes has joined the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute as a staff accountant. Rhodes will be responsible for general ledger and financial reporting.

Prior to joining HWI, Rhodes was an accountant and property manager at the WNY Veterans Housing Coalition. He previously held positions at Wtlinn, Cain & Dry LLP, Regional Integrated Logistics and Tops Friendly Markets.

Rhodes received his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Medaille College.

An avid athlete and sports enthusiast, Rhodes resides in Lockport, New York.
We would like to thank and acknowledge the following donors to Hauptman-Woodward

February 1, 2008 – June 30, 2008

Donor Wall Unveiling

On May 8, 2008, Hauptman-Woodward proudly unveiled the Donor Wall of Honor in the reception area of our new facility. The wall is a way of giving thanks to all of the donors and contributors in our capital campaign, whose contributions enabled us to build our new facility which more than doubled the usable space of our old building, provided us with state-of-the-art laboratories, and served as a great recruiting tool. Chris Greene, Chairman of the HWI Foundation Board, and Connie Constantine, Chairman of the Capital Campaign and former Chair of the Board of Directors, jointly unveiled the wall and said a few words of thanks to the friends, Board members and donors that had gathered to celebrate the new building and culmi- nation of the campaign. Our sincere thanks to all those that helped make our new building a reality!

A Comparative Riedel Wine Glass Tasting Experience

Crystal for Crystallography

Join us at Hauptman-Woodward as we make a journey through the world of wine glasses and fine wine. Georg Riedel, President and 10th generation at the over 300 year old Riedel Crystal Company, will lead us on this journey. His expertise in the field of wine glasses and knowledge of fine wine, combined with his exceptional talent for stories and history are not to be missed.

Friday, October 24, 2008

700 Ellicott Street, Hauptman-Woodward Institute (atrium)

due at 7:30 p.m.

- includes a set of 4 Vitis Riedel glasses, retailing at $770

(Bordeaux, Burgundy, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc)

Kendall Jackson Sommeliers Products

sponsored by Premier Estate

Wine and appetizers are included in the tasting

RSVP - space is limited, please call 716 898-8597 for reservations

Donor Mark your calendars, make your gift lists and gather your friends for a fun filled weekend of shopping!

The weekend of December 5 – 7, 2008 is the well-known Gallery Walk in downtown Buffalo. This is the weekend that numerous studios and galleries open their doors to the public. It is a unique opportunity to visit talented local artists and artisans in their studios and in small gallery settings.

Hauptman-Woodward will participate in the event this year, with more than 40 artists and artisans setting up booths in the HWI lobby, showing and selling their art. Julia Duval Skrip is the volunteer chairperson coordinat- ing the Hauptman-Woodward artists. She anticipates a wide variety of artisans at HWI.

This is an awesome opportunity for you to do some one-stop shopping, getting an early jump on the holidays, and view art by local talent! The artists displaying at HWI are donating 20 percent of their sales proceeds, making your purchases even more valuable – they will support life-altering research in our community at Hauptman-Woodward. Our location will be open Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7 from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Mark your calendars, make your gift lists and gather your friends for a fun filled weekend of shopping!
Where are you from originally?
Gewirth: I was born and grew up on the south side of Chicago where I attended public schools and later the University of Chicago, where I majored in Chemistry.

Can you tell us a little bit about your family?
Gewirth: I come from an academic family. My dad was a philosophy professor in Chicago, my uncle was a professor at Stanford, my brother is a chemistry professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana, my sister is a professor of psychology at the University of Connecticut. My mom was not a professor, but she was trained as a biologist and worked for the Environmental Protection Agency where she specialized in the Great Lakes.

Tell us a little about your educational and career path and how it led you here.
Gewirth: I went to grad school at Yale University and after I finished my Ph.D., I went to Harvard where I did a post doc with Dr. Don Wiley. After that I went back to Yale to work with Dr. Paul Sigler and did a long post-doc of about seven years which was funded by successive fellowships from the American Cancer Society and The Leukemia Society. Paul Sigler, who was, incidentally, a native of Buffalo, was a famous structural biologist during the Golden Age of macromolecular crystallography in the 1990s. Yale was a great place to be back then. One could argue that at the time it was the center of the universe for structural biology. In addition to Sigler, the group at Yale included Tom Steitz, Fred Richards, and Jennifer Doudna, who produced great structures, as well as Axel Brunger and Zbyszek Otwinowski, who were at the forefront of crystallographic methods development. I then got a job at Duke University and taught in the Biochemistry Department there for seven years before I came to HWI in 2005.

What inspired you to have a career in science?
Gewirth: That really came from my mother, who was trained as a biologist at the University of Chicago. She got us involved with science fairs as kids and really applied scientific methods to understand things. For example, she used to conduct experiments related to her environmental interests. When the street lights in Chicago were being converted to the orange sodium vapor lights in the 1970s, my mom was concerned that the brighter light would change the dormancy cycle of trees, which...