Today's HWI Interns

Tomorrow's Scientists
HWI’s 36th Annual Summer Intern Program

HWI’s summer program is the best experience for students who are pursuing a science-related career. According to Dr. Jane F. Griffin, principal research scientist and summer intern program coordinator, “Being an intern part of a research group for 10 weeks or more enables the student to find out if research is her or his passion. Internships with significant learning opportunities are an invaluable way to fit your interests to a career path.” The students are immersed in science and by the end truly understand different approaches to research. HWI’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 2009 internship are:

**Brittany Montross**, a biology student at Cornell, is working with Dr. Roopa Thapar to express and purify two proteins that play important roles in RNA-mediated gene expression. She will help initiate structural analysis on these proteins using both NMR and X-ray crystallography.

**Jane Caty**, a biology student at Cornell, is working with Dr. William L. Doax. Daystrom is writing computer programs that analyze biological data magnitudes of time faster than can be done by hand. He is creating a webpage that displays codon bias statistics for use in researching the evolution of the codes for amino acids.

**Daniel Dykstra** and **Adam Ferin** are working in Dr. Michael Malkowski’s research group. Dykstra, a student at SUNY Fredonia, is working on projects related to understanding the differences in substrate specificities exhibited by COX-1 and COX-2. Ferin, a chemistry student at Case Western Reserve University, is working with Dr. Mary Rosenblum preparing and characterizing chemical solutions utilized in the high-throughput crystallization laboratory to identify initial conditions to crystallize macromolecules.

**Elizabeth Stewart**, a student at Wake Forest University is working on the purification and crystallization of mutants of the Pneumo- cystis carinii dithiolate reductase, the target enzyme in their AIDS-related drug design project.

**Kelsey Taylor**, a student at Allegheny College, is working with Dr. Wayne Schultz on a project geared toward understanding how animal viruses mutate to infect humans. Her specific project is to produce complexes of human and virus proteins that occur during infections with SARS and influenza viruses. The structures of these complexes will help us to understand how viruses infect cells and what mutations are necessary to establish infections in new species.

**Special Thanks**

Cutbacks in funding from foundation and government sources that have traditionally funded the Summer Intern Program have caused this year’s intern class to shrink in size. Due to the current national economic issues, we are especially grateful to First Niagara, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of WNY, and the Josephine Goodyear Foundation for their continued support of a program designed to further the education and career decision-making process of today’s youth. Every penny of the $10,000 newly raised for the summer program is used for stipends for the interns and supplies used for their laboratory work.

We also would like to thank almost a dozen families, whose children previously participated in the program, for graciously donating $3,550 to help provide other students with the same opportunities that their own children were afforded.

We want to thank Dr. George DeTitta and Adele DeTitta, for their generous $4,000 gift as well as Mr. and Mrs. Charles Balbach, who donated $2,500 toward the program.

The Josephine Goodyear Foundation has donated $25,000, through their Mentoring Matters program, for the HWI summer Program. The foundation has made a commitment to fund local mentoring programs. They make decisions regionally to ensure that the needs of local communities are met through charitable donations.

**Brittany Montross**, a student from the University at Buffalo, is working with Dr. Hongliang Xu on a project that determines the structure of microcrystals from X-ray diffraction data. The goal of this project is to develop powder diffraction biocrystallography as a useful and practical tool for determining the structures of potential pharmaceuticals and intermediates in their synthesis even when only microcrystals of these substances can be obtained. She will test new mathematical algorithms, analyze testing results and optimize computational procedures.

**Elliot Penna**, of Lehigh University, is working in the Joseph Luf/Edward M. Malkowski’s research group. Dykstra, a student from SUNY Fredonia, is writing computer programs that analyze biological data magnitudes of time faster than can be done by hand. He is creating a webpage that displays codon bias statistics for use in researching the evolution of the codes for amino acids.

**Elizabeth Stewart**, a student at Canisius College, is working in the characterization (expression, purification, crystallization) of a new protein in the fatty metabolic pathway as part of Cindy’s AIDS-related drug design project.

**Kelsey Taylor**, a student from Wake Forest University is working on the purification and crystallization of mutants of the Pneumo- cystis carinii dithiolate reductase, the target enzyme in their AIDS-related drug design project.

**Jackie Sikora**, a student at Allegheny College, is working with Dr. Wayne Schultz on a project geared toward understanding how animal viruses mutate to infect humans. Her specific project is to produce complexes of human and virus proteins that occur during infections with SARS and influenza viruses. The structures of these complexes will help us to understand how viruses infect cells and what mutations are necessary to establish infections in new species.

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**The Josephine Goodyear Foundation has donated $10,000 to the Summer Intern Program. The foundation, which offers grants to non-profit organizations helping low-income women and children in Western New York, encourages collaboration between organizations. The Josephine Good- year Foundation has supported events, organizations, educational and scholarship programs in the Greater Buffalo area.**
Donald and Victoria Hess Endowed Memorial Fund

The Donald and Victoria Hess Endowed Memorial Fund has been established to benefit the Hauptman-Woodward Institute and to honor the longtime contributions of Don and Vicky Hess. With the support of the Hess children, Luna (Mitch) Bechtel and Johanna, the fund was created by Chuck Dowdell, Don’s longtime business partner. The goal of the Donald and Victoria Hess Endowment Fund is to raise permanent funds to further secure the financial strength of Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute.

Don and Vicky were killed in a plane crash on November 13, 2008. They were on their way to Florida to visit with family when the accident occurred.

Don, a native of Rochester, New York, graduated with an Engineering degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Chuck and Don co-founded Amherst Systems Inc. in 1975 to develop and manufacture high-speed data communication equipment. Chuck and Don gave him the Humanitarian Award on May 14, 2009. The Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation is known for recognizing several individuals for making positive contributions to the quality of life in Western New York. The recipient is chosen for making positive contributions to the quality of life in Western New York.

“Every individual’s contribution, no matter how small, can make a big difference,” Dowdell, Hess Endowment Fund chairman, said.

Dr. Herbert A. Hauptman Receives an Honorary Degree and a Humanitarian Award

May was an exciting month for Hauptman-Woodward Institute’s president Dr. Herbert A. Hauptman. The University at Buffalo held its 163rd commencement on May 10, 2009, where Dr. Hauptman was presented an honorary degree in science by Carl T. Hayden, chair of the SUNY Board of Trustees and UB’s President John B. Simpson.

The State University of New York awards a select number of individuals honorary degrees each year to recognize their success and achievements in their fields. Receiving an honorary doctorate from the SUNY system is “the highest form of recognition offered by the State University to persons of exceptional distinction.”

The award distinguishes persons who have carried out SUNY’s mission by achieving excellence in the fields of science, humanities, the arts, scholarship, education, business, philosophy, social services, and public affairs; have given outstanding service to the nominating campus, to SUNY, or to humanity; and have served as an inspiration to students of the nominating campus.

Dr. Carol Felten, the younger daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Edith Hauptman and a resident of Bethesda, Maryland, delivered her father’s remarks about the work that led to the 1985 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

“Everyone likes to feel that their work is appreciated and I certainly feel that way,” Hauptman said.

UB’s President John B. Simpson congratulates Dr. Herbert A. Hauptman
More than 65 members of the newly established Hauptman Society were recognized on May 13, 2009 at HWI with a private cocktail reception to celebrate their generosity. The Hauptman Society currently has more than 125 members.

Established in 2008, the Hauptman Society was created to honor distinguished donors who offer leadership gifts of $1,000 or more annually. These gifts support HWI’s mission and the pursuit of life-altering research. As part of the Hauptman Society’s member advantages, they will be invited to an annual gathering for a personal update on the cutting-edge advances being made at HWI by individual scientists.

“Hauptman-Woodward is proud to be the recipient of these financial contributions which allow the HWI scientists to continue to contribute to the knowledge that will find the cures to the diseases that plague our friends and families” Development Director Laurie Elliott Krajna said.

For more information on becoming a member of the Hauptman Society or to learn more about ways to support HWI’s research, please contact Krajna at 716-898-8597 or via email at lkrajna@hwi.buffalo.edu.
Leadership Buffalo Visits HWI

Leadership Buffalo is a program that gives aspiring leaders the opportunity to connect with other leaders in the Buffalo-Niagara community. On April 8, 2009, about fifty members of Leadership Buffalo’s Class Experience visited the Hauptman-Woodward Institute to learn about the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus as part of an economic development-themed day.

HWI Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director Dr. Ed Lattman welcomed the group and introduced University at Buffalo’s President John Simpson who delivered the morning’s keynote address. The group also took different tours featuring economic development initiatives on and near the SUNY, including HWI, RPCI, and companies located in UB’s Center of Excellence, as well as within the surrounding neighborhoods, some focused on spin-off companies and the future commercialization of products.

“It’s always great to see leaders from the greater Buffalo-Niagara region come together to produce goals, initiatives, and answers. The Leadership Buffalo program is a solid program and I consider myself fortunate to be a part of the growth of this community’s current and future leaders,” Lattman said.

ExxonMobil Awards $20K Grant to HWI

When Dr. Douglas Dorset encountered difficulties solving the structures of certain materials used in the petroleum industry, he knew where to go for help. Dorset, now a Distinguished Research Associate at Exxon-Mobil Research and Engineering in Annandale NJ, is a former Hauptman-Woodward Principal Research Scientist. An expert in electron crystallography, he used electron diffraction to study the structures of membrane proteins and lipids, polymers and multi-component linear molecule assemblies, during his 27-year tenure at HWI. He also collaborated with Dr. Herbert A. Hauptman and, in 1993, they were first to apply direct methods of crystal structure determination to electron diffraction data, work that was developed further to demonstrate the generality of this approach, leading to a 1995 monograph on electron crystallography.

Since moving to ExxonMobil in 2000, Dorset has been responsible for determining the structures of catalytically-active inorganic materials (e.g., zeolites) that do not form large single crystals. Instead, they form microcrystalline powders that produce diffraction patterns that are more difficult to interpret. Although electron diffraction has been useful for determination of dimensions and symmetry, powder x-ray diffraction is the principal data type used to determine these structures. Dorset decided to contact his former colleagues at HWI and was pleased to learn that Drs. Hongliang (Jimmy) Xu and Charles Weeks were adapting their direct-methods computer program SnB for use with powder data. Initial trials have demonstrated the efficacy of their methodology.

Thus, an old collaboration has been renewed. Xu is testing program modifications that address the problems encountered at ExxonMobil, and Dorset has been instrumental in securing a grant from his employer to support the ongoing work at HWI.

Clarence Contemporary Society Visits HWI

On April 21, 2009, the Clarence Contemporary Society (CCS) visited Hauptman-Woodward Institute for an informational presentation and tour of the institute. Drs. Jane Griffith and Walter Pangborn led the tour for 35 CCS members. The attendees also watched a video on HWI, heard Dr. Deb Ghosh’s presentation on his estrogen aromatase work, a key breast cancer breakthrough and shared an informal lunch. The tour was put together several months ago by Victoria Hess, a member of the Clarence Contemporary Society, and wife of HWI’s Board chair. The Hess’s were killed in a plane accident last November.

More Than 100 International Visitors Tour HWI

HWI hosted The Empire State Development’s Foreign Trade Consulate Tour on April 29, 2009 with more than 100 guests gathered from around the globe. Foreign dignitaries representing 35 countries such as Indonesia, Japan, South Africa and France were in attendance for the event. The day’s activities included a luncheon, program of distinguished speakers and a panel discussion focused on life science business with representatives from Empire Genomics, Greatbatch, Immco Diagnostics and Trinity Biotech. The highlight of the panel discussion was Dr. Lattman, chief executive officer of Trinity Biotech, telling the audience how their Jamestown area plant was by far the most productive and efficient plant of their four in the US, noting low turnover, excellent workforce, and low rent. In fact, he stated that those outweighed the normal complaints about NYC taxes. Some of the distinguished speakers included: Sam Natapoff, senior advisor on International Commerce to the New York State Governor; Richard M. Kassel, president and chief executive officer of the New York Power Authority; Dr. Eaton Lattman, chief executive officer and executive director of HWI; and Thomas A. Kucharski, president and chief executive officer of the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise.
The City Honors School of Buffalo has created a program to support talented young people who are interested in medical research. HWI’s Dr. William Duax, the Herbert A. Hauptman Distinguished Scientist runs the program at HWI.

High school freshmen who are interested in the program come to school an hour early for the first six weeks to learn how to write an application for admittance to the program. Students who are accepted spend every Friday of four years of high school in a research laboratory. In addition they have to work in the lab for four hours each week and spend part of their summer vacation in the lab.

“We are soliciting additional contributions to the endowment fund or directly to the high school student program. We are seeking contributions from local friends of HWI who want to support the scientific training of some of the brightest high school students in the greater Buffalo area, young people who are Buffalo’s future,” Krajna said.

To make a gift to support this work, contact Laurie Elliott Krajna at (716) 898-8597.

High School Students the Key to Future Cures

The William L. Duax Chair in Crystallography Endowed Fund

Hauptman-Woodward now has the honor of being home to the William L. Duax Chair in Crystallography Endowed Fund. The purpose of the fund is to support the work, and teaching of Dr. William L. Duax. Duax, the Herbert A. Hauptman Distinguished Scientist at HWI, mentors enthusiastic high school students from many Buffalo city and Western New York suburban and private schools. These students train at HWI on their own time two afternoons a week after school, and all day Friday.

“If they want to learn more about scientific research, and are willing to give themselves to it, they should have the opportunity,” Duax said. “These students are particularly adept at computer programming and critical thinking skills needed for work in the Duax computer lab. Currently the students are researching the evolution of the genetic code.”

These high school juniors and seniors have given numerous presentations throughout Western New York and in national and international competitions and continue to amaze their audiences with their ability to understand and pursue complex technical problems, methodologies and solutions.

We are most grateful to Mr. Roy J. Carver, Jr. for his pledge of $300,000 to establish this fund in honor of Duax. “It is our hope and goal to grow this fund by educating others as to the importance of Dr. Duax’s work and educational programs and opportunities for the scientific youth of our community,” HWI Development Director Laurie Elliot Krajna said.

Who is Roy Carver?

Engineer, entrepreneur, and industrialist Roy J. Carver Sr. invented Bandag Tires and developed a profitable business. He generously funded the construction of the basketball auditorium at the University of Iowa that bears the Carver name and set up a charitable foundation that awards funds for biomedical research in Iowa where the Carver name has become a household word. Under Roy Carver Jr’s leadership the foundation has funded a wing of the Iowa University Hospital and the Roy Carver Institute for Bioinformatics.

Roy Carver, Jr and Bill Duax were contemporaries at the University of Iowa.

“A year ago, I was telling Roy about the high school student training program in structural biology and bioinformatics at HWI and I said that we needed computers,” Duax said. “Because Roy has a long-standing interest in education he asked how much money was needed and proceeded to write a personal check for $100,000 to the Student Project. I asked him if he would be willing to issue a challenge grant to establish a Chair in Crystallography at HWI. He has made a commitment to provide three annual gifts of $100,000 to endow a Duax Chair in X-ray Crystallography at HWI.”

“We are soliciting additional contributions to the endowment fund or directly to the high school student program. We are seeking contributions from local friends of HWI who want to support the scientific training of some of the brightest high school students in the greater Buffalo area, young people who are Buffalo’s future,” Krajna said.

On June 9, 2009, Chris and Cami Greene hosted a reception at the Saturn Club to raise awareness of the student program and support for the endowment. Four of the students, Ema Rutkowski, Jimmotti Teyst, Kevin Gibas and Patrick Ryan presented a brief talk especially tailored for a lay audience that contrasted the evolution of the genetic code with the evolution of human language. Sixteen students mingled with the guests explaining why they want to dedicate their life to medical research and what attracted them to the HWI program. “The ability of these students to communicate the essence of their work to grade school students, college students, university professors and laymen is a skill that many scientists never achieve,” Duax said.

All students for the program are asked to complete an application form based on the City Honors application describing the goals and aspirations and why they want to study biological research. In fact, a reporter covering the event referred to Dr. Duax as the pied piper of bioinformatics. “Soon students from other schools in the area in the area were asking how they could get into the program. It was important to me to be clear that anyone willing to come in for four hours a week was welcome,” Duax said. By summer 2008 there were ten students working from two to four eight-hour days in the lab. They began an in-depth study of a bacteriophage containing unusually DNA. This bacteriophage is a living relic that holds a key to understanding the origin and evolution of the genetic code which preceded the origin and evolution of the species.

A presentation later in the year to the students in UB’s gifted math program presented by Teyst, Hogan and Patrick Ryan, a sophomore at Canisius, drew more applications. There will be 25 students from 12 schools in the program this summer.

“We have been fortunate that some remarkably generous and supportive friends (Ange Fatta, Connie Constantine, Joe Biondolillo) have made donations allowing for modest summer stipends. Roy Carver, Jr. a friend of Dr. Duax’s from the University of Iowa who believes in education, medicine and bioinformatics provided a major gift allowing acquisitions of needed computers and also made a donation to establish an endowed Duax chair (see story, page 10).”

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All students for the program are asked to complete an application form based on the City Honors application describing the goals and aspirations and why they want to study biological sciences. Brief quotes from those applications were compiled into a brochure that was distributed at the reception at the Saturn Club. “When you read these quotes I think you can understand why even if I don’t know where I will put them or where I will get enough computers, I can’t turn any of these young people away,” Duax said.

HWI thanks the generous donors who support the Duax students including: the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus Renaissance Student program; the East Hill Foundation and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Greatbatch.
More HWI scientists than ever before attended the 2009 ACA Annual Meeting held July 25-30, 2009 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. 782 scientists were there with 276 presenting lectures and 350 displaying poster presentations; 31 members of HWI’s scientific staff attended.

One key highlight at this year’s conference was the group of HWI high school students from all over WNY. Dr. William Duax, Ph.D., brought 12 students to the conference. These students, who attend a variety of WNY high schools, including City Honors, Canisius High, Mount Mercy Academy, St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute, Williamsville North, Andover Academy, Nardin Academy and the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, are in the preliminary stages of training to be future scientists.

The ACA is a member society of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the Crystallographic Society of America (CSA). Its objective is to advance experimental and computational techniques for the determination of the arrangements of atoms and molecules in matter and the nature of the forces that both control and result from them.

The total membership of the ACA is over 2,200 scientists with 232 members attending the 2009 meeting in Toronto.

Dr. Roopa Thapar, Hired as Research Scientist at HWI

HWI Scientists Attend 2009 Annual Meeting of the ACA

The Hauptman-Woodward Institute has hired Dr. Roopa Thapar as a new research scientist. Thapar has been a visiting scientist at HWI for almost two years at the Hauptman-Woodward Institute. She will focus on molecular recognition and assembly of large multi-protein and protein-RNA complexes that play important roles in regulation of RNA-mediated gene expression. Thapar uses a multi-disciplinary approach combining structural tools and biochemical and molecular biological approaches to understand how protein-RNA complexes are regulated.

Thapar received her bachelor’s degree in Pharmacy (Medicinal Chemistry) from C.U. Shah College of Pharmacy, Mumbai, India in 1988 and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry (Structural Biology) from the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington in 1997. She worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill from 1997-2000. An NIH-funded scientist, Thapar is an ad hoc reviewer for the Journal of the American Chemical Society, the Journal of Molecular Biology, ACS Chemical Biology and for Biochemistry and is a member of the RNA society, the Protein Society, and the American Chemical Society.

Lauren Smith Joins HWI as Research Associate

Lauren Smith has joined HWI as a research associate in Dr. Barnali Chaudhuri’s lab. She will be working on chromosome segregation in bacteria. The Chaudhuri lab is investigating how biological macromolecules function as molecular machines by virtue of their structural design. She previously was a research affiliate in the Immunology Department at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI). At RPCI, Smith prepared smokers’ bronchial cell samples for cytometry analysis. She also performed flow cytometry analysis and analyzed data. Prior to that, she worked for Waste Stream Technology, inc. where she was a Radiochemistry Technician and Data Coordinator.

She received a bachelors of science degree in Chemistry with a minor in Biology from Buffalo State College in May 2005. She is currently enrolled in an interdisciplinary masters of science program where she is studying Biology with a Cellular Biology Concentration from the University at Buffalo and RPCI and expects to graduate in the summer of 2009. She currently resides in Depew, NY.

Left: Alexandre Perrin and Dr. David Parish

Dr. David Parish, Among First HWI PH.D Class Now Returns as HTS Consultant

HWI is pleased to announce that Dr. David Parish will be re-joining the HWI team as a consultant in the high-throughput screening (HTS) laboratory. Parish is developing software and tools to integrate an Epson SCARA four-axis robot, with the crystallization efforts underway at HWI to improve efficiency. One of the robot’s tasks is to sort a group of 1,536 vials, each containing a different crystallization solution, into subsets that can be used directly to improve or optimize crystal size and quality. The optimization technique, developed by HWI researchers, is fast and efficient but tedious as it currently requires manual sorting of small vials to conduct the experiments. Robotics will improve the accuracy and precision of the sorting, eliminating the tedious. Once these optimized single crystals are produced, they can be used by X-ray crystallographers to see structural details of biological macromolecules. These structures are important to understand how molecules function.

Alexandre Perrin, an international intern from Nancy, France, has been working closely with Parish on these efforts, providing an opportunity for international educational outreach. Perrin is an intern on a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) which is centered at HWI and led by Dr. George T. DeTitta.

Lauren Smith, Research Associate

To see more on the Ghosh lab or this breakthrough visit HWI’s website at www.hwi.buffalo.edu

Laurie Elliott Krajna Presents to Buffalo Rotary Club on Key Equipment Purchase

Laurie Elliott Krajna, Director of Development, presented to the Buffalo Rotary Club, updating them on their purchase of a filtration device for a chemical research lab. The device filters 150 gallons per minute and reduces total organic carbon (TOC) to being about 600 percent over other methods. Krajna pointed out that community support is needed to perform research prior to obtaining NIH (National Institutes of Health) funding. Thank you to the Buffalo Rotary Foundation for their support and insight into the importance of basic research partnerships.
The event marked HWI's first year of participation hosting more than 25 vendors in the Holiday Open Studios and Galleries presented by Artists in Buffalo Incorporated. Twenty percent of sales donated by the artists went towards supporting life-altering research at the institute.

Some notable artists who participated included: Rachel Ostrow; Julia Duax-Skop, Antimony Designs; Terri Kucinski, T.E.K. Gemstones; Valerie Masterman of Kickin' Glass; and Missy Crawlall of Rostedgee 2. In addition to the artists, there was a silent and basket auction organized by Beth Marks and Holly Tiftickjian.

THE STEPS TO A CURE BEGIN WITH BASIC RESEARCH

The health of friends and family is important to everyone.

Would you like to double your donation to Hauptman-Woodward, without it costing you a cent more? Here are just a few of the companies in our community that match employee donations. Bristol-Myers Squibb, Fannie Mae Foundation, Hewlett Packard, HSBC KeyBank, Merrill Lynch, National Fuel, UB.

Ask your employer today if they match donations, or make in-kind donations of equipment.

Does your organization coordinate an annual fundraiser? Many companies organize golf tournaments, auctions, dress down days or events where the funds benefit various community organizations. Implementing a fundraiser is a great way to develop company spirit, camaraderie and to give back to our home community.

Hauptman-Woodward would be honored to be the recipient of your next fundraiser. For more information on partnering with an event, please call Laura Elliot Krioga at (716) 898-8597 for sponsorship opportunities, ticket information and reservations.

1. DONOR MATCHING

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SAVE THE DATE

December 4 - 6, 2009

Gallery Walk Fundraiser

Hauptman-Woodward will for the second year be hosting a site for the annual Gallery Walk. This year’s event, scheduled for December 4-6, 2009 is expected to draw more than 30 vendors, making it its largest site.

“We are so pleased to be involved in the event again this year, it’s always exciting to see the turnout and new faces at the Gallery Walk,” Event Chair Julia Duax-Skop said.

Hauptman-Woodward would be honored to be the recipient of your next fundraiser. For more information on partnering with an event, please call Laura Elliot Krioga at (716) 898-8597.
Where are you from originally?
I grew up in Olean, New York. I moved to Buffalo to attend grad school and eventually lived in the city of Buffalo, but have since then moved to Williamsville.

Where did you go to school?
I went to Olean High School and then St. Bonaventure where I majored in chemistry and graduated in 1963. After that I moved to Buffalo to attend grad school and graduated in 1968 with my Ph. D. in inorganic chemistry.

How did you become interested in science?
My older brother and I used to talk about being scientists when we were younger. I became interested in inorganic chemistry because at the time not many people had expressed an interest in it as compared to organic and analytical chemistry and I was curious to learn more about it.

What is your greatest accomplishment?
In 1988 I assisted Dr. William Duax in solving the structure of Gramicidin A, which is an antibiotic. At the time it was the largest structure to be solved using direct methods. I also helped a professor in the Pharmacy Department at the State University of Buffalo better understand the molecular basis of the potency of an important class of cardiovascular prescribed drugs.

Can you tell me a little about your family?
I have a step-daughter Nataliya who recently graduated from St. Bonaventure and is just completing her first year at medical school in Florida. She was accepted by two other schools that she applied to so my wife, Olga, and I are both very proud and excited for her.

What are some of your hobbies?
I enjoy fishing, but I haven’t been able to invest as much time on this hobby as I’d like. When I was a child I used to go through the mail order catalog to look at the fishing equipment and different fly patterns for catching fish. I learned to tie my own fishing flies from a kit I bought when I was about 10 years old. My dad would take me to a local pond where I used to catch sunfish and blue gills with them. I have since fished for bass and trout in a lot of places including under the Peace Bridge more than once. I also used to make Tiffany style stained glass lampshades for pleasure, but I haven’t done any new pieces in quite a while.

Do you like to travel?
I traveled a lot more when I was younger. When I travel now it is mostly for scientific meetings. Every year or so my wife and I will go to the Adirondacks to feed the mosquitoes and let the fish make fun of us. It’s peaceful around the campfire listening to the sounds of the night. I also lived in Australia for a couple of years while I was doing my post doc. That was indeed very interesting to say the least.