

Faculty & Friends

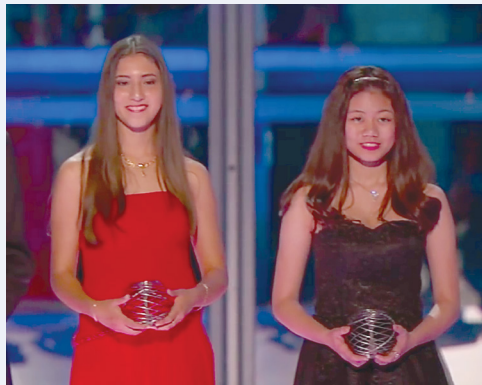


Trinity College President elected Trustee

Dr. Joanne Berger-Sweeney, president and professor of neuroscience at Trinity College, has joined the CSHL Board of Trustees. Before becoming president of Trinity in 2014, Dr. Berger-Sweeney taught and ran a neuroscience laboratory at Wellesley College for over 15 years, and served as the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Tufts University. She earned her M.P.H. from the University of California, Berkeley, and her Ph.D. in neurotoxicology from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. “Her leadership at premier academic institutions in the United States, as well as her experience and accomplishments as a research scientist, make Dr. Berger-Sweeney uniquely qualified to contribute to our governing body,” says CSHL Chairman Jamie C. Nicholls. Welcome, Dr. Berger-Sweeney!

Silicon Valley & CSHL reward star students

Even the most famous of scientists don’t often get true star treatment—but shouldn’t they? Elevating scientists to star status is one of the goals of the Breakthrough Prize, founded by Silicon Valley giants including billionaire tech investor Yuri Milner, Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg, Google’s Sergey Brin, and 23andMe’s Anne Wojcicki. Launched in 2014, the yearly award show is a mix of science and Hollywood that has earned it a reputation as the “Oscars of science.” With the help of CSHL’s DNA Learning Center (DNALC), Breakthrough is showing students worldwide that their work can really make a difference, too. At the December 2016 award show, Breakthrough Junior Challenge awards went to high school seniors Deanna See of Singapore and Antonella Masini of Peru, who will help lift others at their schools into scientific excellence with a DNALC-led lab redesign valued at \$100K.



Nobelist honored by WSBS

At its 14th Commencement Convocation, the Watson School of Biological Sciences presented an honorary degree to a scientist who is already a CSHL alum: Nobel laureate Carol Greider. She was recruited in 1988 as one of the first CSHL Fellows, a program designed to give outstanding young scientists who have just finished their Ph.D. the opportunity to pursue their own scientific questions. Greider thrived in this position, and began to uncover the health implications of her co-discovery of telomerase, for which she shared a Nobel Prize in 2009. That major discovery was made by studying a tiny pond organism called *Tetrahymena*, a point Greider brought up during a scientific lecture that she gave at CSHL earlier this year. “Discoveries often come from unlikely places. Curiosity-driven research provides unexpected understandings that may have important implications in health,” she said, adding with a smile, “I know you all know this already.”



New faculty: David McCandlish

All of us are mutants, in a sense. While mutations that cause disease tend to get the most attention, there are many mutations within each of our genomes that cause no harm. This distinction fascinates the newest addition to the Simons Center



for Quantitative Biology, Assistant Professor David McCandlish, who comes to CSHL after completing a Ph.D. at Duke University and postdoctoral work at the University of Pennsylvania. Using computational tools, he is searching for differences between the many harmful and benign mutations in our genomes. He hopes to uncover ways to predict which mutations fall into which category—a topic that is relevant to the problem of antibiotic resistance—and ultimately use this knowledge to guide the development of a new generation of drugs.