Synthetic Biology...  
--- Continued from Front Page ---

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"It's a great community," agreed Dueber. "Berkeley has the right balance of aggressiveness in research and a laid-back, supportive personality."

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- BioEHS Academics
- Chair Chat with Matthew Tirrell
- Alumni Profile: David Man
- News Briefs
- Fun facts about BioE

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Anderson, who joined the department in 2007, has spent six years - not an unreasonable length of time - working with Adam Arkin on creating tumor-killing bacteria. This promising treatment option has graduated to animal trials, but Anderson now wants to speed up the process.

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What do you like best about the work you do?
I really get to do the small stuff. In reality there is not enough time in the day to accomplish everything, and working over 10 hours a day plus weekends will only get you burned out faster. By strategically managing my time and prioritizing my responsibilities I have become a more effective and productive person.

You've come back several times to give career advice to students. What great tips do you have for them?
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Chair Chat
The 2010-11 academic year has been one of intense creative thinking and exciting new actions, aiming to strengthen the translation of our bioengineering work at Berkeley to practical applications in important societal matters such as cost-effective healthcare and bioenergy. One of the new ideas now well underway is the creation of an innovative masters degree which emphasizes Translational Medicine, joint with UCSF. Our thinking about this was stimulated and accelerated by the enthusiasm of Andy Grove, who has become a strong supporter of the program. We have created a new curriculum and recruited sixteen top-notch students (from over 85 applications received on a very short timetable), who arrived on campus in July.

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Professor Herr's Big Year Assistant Professor Amy Herr has been chosen to receive a 2010 Eli Lilly and Company Young Investigator Award in Analytical Chemistry. Earlier in 2010 Herr also received the NIH Director’s New Innovator Award, and was named a Sloan Research Fellow.

Mofrad CAREER Award and New Book Assistant Professor Mohammad Mofrad received a 2010 National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program award. CAREER awards are given to young researchers in science and engineering who have also translated their work into significant education activities. In 2010 Mofrad also published his third co-edited book, Computational Modeling in Biomachanics.

BioEnder and BioEngineering
2009 - 2010 BioE had a higher percentage of women undergraduates than any other engineering department at 35.5%! And over 33% female graduate students!

Need help at work? Hire a student! Contact the BioE department for help with recruiting graduating students, summer interns, or 6-month Co-Op interns.

Worried about the UC budget cuts? You’re not alone. Find the latest news on funding at Budget Central: newscenter.berkeley.edu/budget

Bioengineering Department 510-642-5833 bioeng@berkeley.edu http://bioeng.berkeley.edu

Want to be our next alumni profile? Drop us a line!

“Never stop asking questions” We interviewed BioE alumna David Mun, Chemical Process Engineer at Life Technologies Why have you stayed in biotech? As a bioengineer I’ve always sought to put my education to good use. The Biotechnology/Life Sciences field is a good fit because I am able to use my passion for biology and apply it with the logical rigor of an engineering background. It is interesting in that the field is continuing to grow, and at the end of the day it’s really satisfying to hear how our customers use our products to change the world or to raise the standard of living.

How did your bioengineering education prepare you for the work you do? It taught me how to learn. One of the harsh realities of working in the corporate world is that what’s learned in school is only a fraction of the skills you need to thrive. But having the theoretical background from a great program really solidified my fundamental knowledge and allowed me to springboard from that point.

What did you learn the hard way?
To really let go of the small stuff. In reality there is not enough time in the day to accomplish everything, and working over 10 hours a day plus weekends will only get you burned out faster. By strategically managing my time and prioritizing my responsibilities I have become a more effective and more productive person.

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What is your dream job? To move into senior management at a successful Biotechnology/Life Sciences company and provide high-potential students entering the workforce with advancement opportunities. Most importantly, to be happy in my work and achieve a great work-life balance.

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How did you get where you are now? A lot of trial and error. I am still learning to this day. I have mentored summer interns every summer at Life Technologies, and two concepts I try to impart to them is that you should never stop learning, and that I’d rather them make a decision and take a course of action than become stuck in “an analysis paralysis”. I also have an amazing group and boss to support me, and for that I am very grateful.

What do you like best about the work you do? Life Technologies is a very dynamic environment. The nice thing about being a project-based department is that I am able to observe and evaluate practices at different facilities. I am also able to help facilitate best practice transfer between sites to improve productivity and not have to “re-invent the wheel” every time a similar problem pops up at different facilities in the company. I enjoy being able to bring fresh eyes and an outsider’s perspective. I believe that manufacturing should be central to a company’s success and that we should do everything to ensure it runs most efficiently.

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