

Resolution on the Retirement of Associate Professor of Biology Ross S. Feldberg.

His colleagues in the Department of Biology join with the Faculty of Arts and Science to record our gratitude and our admiration for Associate Professor Ross S. Feldberg on the occasion of his retirement after 34 years of service. Ross, a native of Chicago, received his bachelors' degree in chemistry from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 1965, and his doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1970. Ross met his wife of 42 years, Roz, just before he started college and they married five years later in 1966, when they were both in graduate school. After receiving their doctorates in 1970, Ross and Roz spent two years in Scotland where he was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Aberdeen and where Roz was a lecturer in Sociology. When Roz became an assistant professor at Boston University, Ross started a post-doctoral position at Brandeis University, where he worked with Dr. Larry Grossman on the enzymology of DNA repair in humans. Ross and Roz have a daughter, Sarah. Several of us remember the summer when Ross would bring Sarah in her baby seat to spend the day with him in the office. But the years pass and Sarah is a 2006 graduate of Tufts, and currently the managing editor of the website for the Las Vegas Weekly newspaper.

Ross joined the Department of Biology in 1975, just after the Barnum fire and for his first year at Tufts, he had no laboratory. While disappointed, in classic Ross fashion he made good use of this time preparing his lectures for the two-semester biochemistry course that he started co-teaching with Saul Slapikoff as soon as he arrived at Tufts. When his laboratory became available, Ross continued the work he had begun at Brandeis on a damage-specific DNA binding protein. Early results of this work led to Ross being awarded in 1976, his first major grant, 'The Nature and Repair of a New Form of DNA Damage', from the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health. His lab's productivity resulted in this grant being funded for three, three-year cycles and in the publication of nine articles in major research journals such as the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* and the *Nucleic Acid Research*.

Later, Ross turned his attention to a new area of research on how changes in hormone levels can induce inflammation. This work was published in 2000 in the journal *Prostate*. Ross also established collaborations with a number of Tufts faculty in need of the advice and help of an excellent biochemist. Over the years, Ross has collaborated with faculty in the Department of Chemistry, in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and in Biology. His longest and very productive collaboration has been with Professor David Cochrane in the Department of Biology studying the physiology and pathophysiology of mast cells. To date they have published 15 papers together with two more in preparation. In recent years, Ross has contributed articles on the pedagogy of teaching biochemistry to *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education*, and to *Biochemical Education*.

Ross was the Principal Investigator, in 1989, on successful grant applications to the National Science Foundation for, "A gamma counter and microcomputer" and for 'Research Experience for Undergraduates in Biology', which provided stipends for undergraduates to work in research laboratories in the Biology Department over the summer. In 1994, he was the Principal Investigator on the successful proposal to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Undergraduate Biological Sciences Education Program for \$1,800,000 in direct costs. This large grant paid for major renovations to the teaching laboratories in Barnum Hall and it also helped support undergraduate student involvement in research.

Ross is well known for his outstanding teaching of the introductory biology course, Bio. 13, and Bio. 152, 'Biochemistry', to hundreds of Tufts undergraduates. In recognition of this, Ross was awarded the Lillian Leibner Award for distinguished teaching and advising in 1981. In 2001, Ross developed a new course, 'Biosocial Issues in Contemporary America', a popular course with undergraduates that grew out of Ross's growing concern about the misinterpretation and misuse of science to explain social phenomena. From this concern, he has published an article on the widespread use of human growth hormone in the journal *Genewatch*. Ross also developed another new course, 'Bioscience Challenge Seminar', (Bio 16) to introduce students to the biological research going on at Tufts and to teach them how to access and read the scientific literature. Ross's outstanding teaching is evident in student comments on evaluations.

From Bio 13, Cells and Organisms:

"Loved the fact that this course Forced you to think like a scientist and also really take responsibility for your own learning...."

"He is one smart dude."

"Unabashedly in love with the course, Dr. Feldberg brought a measure of liveliness to early morning lectures."

"You're tests are!! @?! hard!!! But you're awesome."

"The passion for biology is great."

From Bio 152, 'Biochemistry':

"Great enthusiasm! It makes a big difference that you actually want us to learn this and had high expectations."

"Tough course. Taught well."

From Bio 16, 'Bioscience Challenge':

"Professor Feldberg's dedication to this course and to the students in it was very clear and impressive. In four years at Tufts, I believe he is one of the professors who stands out the most with regard to this quality."

Ross's commitment to teaching led him to develop a web-based set of tutorials for bioinformatics in 2005. In 2006, he introduced enhanced Podcasts of all lectures in 'Cells and Organisms'. Podcasts have since become very popular with the students and have ensured that his witty lectures will exist in perpetuity in the annals of the Bio 13 Spark site.

Ross has served on a number of University Committees and Boards including the Health Profession Recommendation Committee, the Faculty Advisory Board for the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, the Grievance Committee, the Board of the Experimental College, and for over 25 years as Chairman of the Medford Campus Radiation Hazards Control Group, the committee that

oversees the safe use and disposal of radioisotopes. Through this arduous task, Ross maintained the University's compliance with a host of intricate federal and state regulations and ensured a safe working environment for the Tufts community. Ross was also President of the Tufts chapter of the AAUP during 1994-1995.

While we have outlined Ross' achievements as researcher, teacher and colleague, we have not adequately captured the way his ready humor enlivened our department. Sometimes he is just plain funny, and other times his humor holds us together in important ways. He has a knack for making us laugh at ourselves in a way that is both gentle and instructive. He can sometimes use his humor to make a statement. Like the time the chair called an important department meeting very early in the morning and Ross arrived in his pajamas. After a good laugh, the meeting ran much more smoothly than expected.

The support and encouragement that Ross has given to younger colleagues is remarkable. In quiet but critical ways he facilitated the transition from postdoctoral fellow to faculty for many. You name it, Ross was there with advice about getting ready for that very first class, working with graduate students, making exams, lecturing to 283 students, suggestions on experiments, filling out radiation forms, writing and rewriting grant proposals, preparing tenure cases, grading, and taking time to have a life. And together Ross and Roz enriched our lives with numerous informal dinners, advice about things to do in Boston, lively conversation and great parties.

These intangible gifts will be sorely missed, as will the summer afternoons when one could find Ross playing his banjo on the steps of Barnum. In his retirement, Ross will continue thinking and writing about various biosocial issues as well as continue his service on the Board of Directors of his local YMCA and his volunteer work with "Little Brother Friends of the Elderly". Ever the teacher, he is also considering teaching English somewhere in Asia. With everything he will be doing, we hope and expect that Ross will still have time to keep close ties to the Biology Department.

On behalf of the Department of Biology, be it resolved that this resolution on the retirement of Ross S. Feldberg be spread on the minutes of the faculty of Arts and Sciences and that copies of it be sent to our honored colleague, to his wife, Roz, and to his daughter, Sarah.