Thomas F. Donahue

Professor Tom Donahue retired from the Biology Department January 1, 2012. Tom grew up in the burrows of New York but early on stretched his view on life beyond the big apple by obtaining a B.S. degree at New Mexico State University. He was drawn back to the big city where he obtained M.S. and Ph. D. degrees in the field of genetics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York. After a postdoctoral position at Cornell University, Tom started his academic career in 1982 at Northwestern University Medical School in downtown Chicago where he received tenure. Tom was subsequently enticed to join the Biology Department in 1989 as an Associate Professor and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Full Professor in 1994.

During his academic career, Tom received a number of awards including a Searle Scholar and SROP (summer research opportunity development) Distinguished Mentor Award. Tom devoted his scientific career to the study of protein synthesis in the common yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae.* His laboratory published 50 manuscripts in some of the top scientific journals with a laudable citation *h*-index of 14, which attests to the high regard that scientific colleagues had for the research efforts of his laboratory. Tom made notable contributions on how cells control the initiation of protein synthesis as well as seminal contributions in the area of transcription and DNA repair. This latter topic includes his most cited manuscript "Dual Roles of a Multiprotein Complex From *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in Transcription and DNA -Repair" with nearly 300 citations. These studies were performed by Tom and a steady stable of undergraduate and graduate students as well as numerous postdoctoral fellows that worked in his laboratory.

Tom was a highly sought after speaker at scientific conferences (he was a speaker at over 30 international and national conferences) as well as a frequently invited speaker to peer departments at other universities (~40 speaking engagements at other campuses). Throughout his academic research career, Tom developed a reputation of upholding high standards of scientific excellence. This trait was recognized by invitations to serve on numerous departmental and college promotion and tenure committees as well as numerous invitations to serve on faculty and graduate recruiting committees. Tom was also asked to serve on several editorial boards for some of the top scientific journals and by the National Institutes of Health that invited Tom to participate on numerous grant review study sections (invitations that Tom readily accepted).

Tom brought his scientific passions to his teaching endeavors in several capacities earning him the distinction of consummate educator (for which he was affectionately known as "sensei" by many colleagues). In addition to his involvement in graduate admissions, his administrative skills and high standards for graduate education were honored by his appointment for many years as Director of a prestigious National Institutes of Health Training Grant that provided graduate fellowship support. His gift of heartfelt mentoring was experienced by all students, and particularly recognized in his service to minority undergraduate and graduate students as a recipient of the SROP Distinguished Mentor Award. Moreover, Tom served as director of the NIH Initiative for Minority Student Development (IMSD) Program at Indiana University, whose mission

was to increase exposure to and advancement within scientific careers of underrepresented groups.

Finally, as an instructor, Tom made the "art of doing science" palpable at both the undergraduate and graduate student levels. Tom used his skills as an experimental geneticist to develop and teach an inquiry-based upper level undergraduate genetics laboratory course, well before inquiry-based undergraduate science education rose to the forefront of our public academic discourse. Many hundreds of students majoring in Biology and Biochemistry received their first investigative "ah-ha" experience through performing genetic crosses in Tom's laboratory course. At the graduate level Tom was also active in promoting research ethics on our campus by teaching a research ethics course to graduate students and active in mentoring the "scientific writing skills" of graduate students.

Those looking for Tom post retirement will likely find him lifting more then his own body weight at the local gym, or on a road trip with his wife Pauline to see interesting sights or to listen to music at a small venue. Tom and Pauline are also keeping busy with many children and grandchildren several of which are in the local community. Members of the small club of life sciences researchers at IU will clearly miss Tom's insight, wisdom, and humor that he offered to his colleagues.

Carl Bauer