

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

ROBIN SCHOEN, is the **Director** of the Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources (BANR) of the National Academies, a position she assumed in November 2004. Prior to joining BANR, she was Senior Program Officer for the Academies' Board on Life Sciences (BLS), where she directed several studies, including *Discovery of Antivirals Against Smallpox; Stem Cells and the Promise of Regenerative Medicine; The National Plant Genome Initiative: Objectives for 2003-2005*; *Sharing Publication-Related Data and Materials: Responsibilities of Authorship in the Life Sciences*; and a BANR study on *Predicting Invasions of Nonindigenous Plants and Plant Pests*. She also organized multiple-years of proposal and progress reviews for the State of Ohio to assist its efforts to build a biotechnology industry within the state. Before joining BLS in 1999, she worked in various capacities over a ten year period in the Academies' Office of International Affairs, the National Research Council Executive Office, and the former Commission on Life Sciences. Her work during that time focused on involving U.S. scientists in efforts to strengthen biology internationally, and in addressing policy issues that affect progress in microbiology, neuroscience, biophysics, cancer research, physiology, and biodiversity. This included workshops and reports on gaining access to research resources, intellectual property rights, and developing the infrastructure for science. She also directed a program to bring high-quality laboratory courses in the biomedical sciences to young investigators in Mexico and South America, funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. A native Washingtonian, Robin received a B.S. in biology and chemistry from Frostburg State College, Maryland, and an M.A. in Science and Technology Policy from George Washington University.

KAREN L. IMHOF, Administrative Assistant, rejoined BANR in October, 2003. She previously worked with BANR from 1998 to 2001 as a Project Assistant. For the interim years she was a Senior Project Assistant on the Board on Earth Sciences and Resources. Before coming to the Academies, she worked as a staff and administrative assistant in diverse organizations, including the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Three Mile Island nuclear facility and records storage facility. Karen's personal interests include reading, hiking in the woods, jewelry making, and the pursuit of humor.

CAMILLA YANDOC ABLES, Associate Program Officer joined BANR in March 2008. A native of the Philippines, she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños in 1991 and later on worked as a researcher at the International Rice Research Institute. She attended the University of Florida from 1996-2001 and received a PhD in Plant Pathology. Prior to working at the National Academies, Camilla worked as a postdoctoral research associate at Purdue University and at the United States Horticultural Research Laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service in Fort Pierce, FL. She has performed research in the areas of weed biological control (discovery and development of bioherbicides), plant disease control, and methyl bromide alternatives. She is a member of the American Phytopathological Society and the Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture. Among the activities that she enjoys are cooking, painting, drawing, reading, and watching movies.

RUTH SOPHIA ARIETI, Research Associate, joined BANR in April 2006. She graduated from George Mason University in May 2005, majoring in Biology. Her interests in biology include agriculture, the environment, and evolutionary biology and particularly its effects on behavior, animal and human. In addition to her work in science, she took many courses in philosophy and religion. Among her hobbies are creative writing, care of her pets (of the mammalian and crustacean varieties), cooking, and baking.

ADAM P. FAGEN is a **Senior Program Officer with the Board on Life Sciences** of the National Research Council. He came to the National Academies from Harvard University, where he most recently served as Preceptor on Molecular and Cellular Biology for the 300-student undergraduate genetics

course. He earned his Ph.D. in molecular biology and education from Harvard, working with physicist Eric Mazur on issues related to undergraduate science courses; his research focused on mechanisms for assessing and enhancing introductory science courses in biology and physics to encourage student learning and conceptual understanding, including studies of active learning, classroom demonstrations, and student understanding of genetics vocabulary. Fagen also received an A.M. in molecular and cellular biology from Harvard, based on laboratory research in molecular evolutionary genetics, and a B.A. from Swarthmore College with a double-major in biology and mathematics. In addition to genetics and molecular biology, he is interested in improving undergraduate and graduate science education and other scientific workforce and policy issues. He served as co-director of the 2000 National Doctoral Program Survey, an on-line assessment of doctoral programs organized by the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and completed by over 32,000 students.

KARA LANEY, Associate Program Officer, joined BANR in June 2008. She previously served as the Policy Associate for the International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council, a non-profit organization focused on liberalizing trade in agricultural products. In 2006, Kara completed her master's degree in International Agriculture and Rural Development at Cornell University, where her research focused on the implications of EU accession for the viability of small farmers and the prospects for rural development in Romania. Prior to graduate school, Kara worked for three years at the International Cooperation and Development branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She is a graduate of Brown University with a B.A. in International Relations. Her hobbies include ultimate frisbee, biking, gardening, and running.

AUSTIN LEWIS, Senior Program Officer, joined BANR in June 2004 and his primary responsibility is to manage the Animal Nutrition Program. A native of the United Kingdom, he received B.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the Universities of Reading and Nottingham, respectively. Most of Austin's career has been spent in teaching and research at three institutions (Iowa State University, University of Alberta, and University of Nebraska). Austin has been active in the American Society of Animal Science, serving on several committees and spending a three-year term as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Animal Science. His previous involvement with the National Academies has consisted of serving on the Committee on Animal Nutrition and two of its subcommittees (Nutrient Requirements of Swine (twice) and Bioavailability of Nutrients) and a six-month assignment (2003-2004) as a visiting scholar in BANR. His other interests include literature and music as well as outdoor activities such as walking and cycling.

ERIN MULCAHY, Program Assistant, joined BANR in July 2008. She graduated from Cornell University in January 2008, with a B.S. in Animal Science. Her biological interests include animal behavior, wildlife management and environmental conservation. During her junior year, she spent a semester abroad in South Africa where she collected field data on impala herd behavior, scorpion diversity and elephant impact in Kruger National Park. Erin's other interests include horseback riding, working out, watching movies and exploring the city.

JANET MULLIGAN, Research Associate, joined BANR in February 2007. She received a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Wingate University, and an M.S. in Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology from Frostburg State University. She has worked on research projects for *Bt* corn experiments, received a DuPont grant to conduct beaver foraging research, and was a co-conductor of mammal inventoring for one of the mid-Atlantic parks for the National Park Service.

KAMWETI MUTU, Research Associate, joined BANR in July 2008. He has worked extensively in the environmental non-profit world, most recently as a Project Coordinator with the grassroots Anacostia Watershed Society where he developed the trash and litter abatement program for the Anacostia River and its tributaries. He has a B.A. in Land Use Planning & Management from Northern Michigan University and an M.A. in Environmental Science & Policy. His thesis focused on the impacts of community-based conservation initiatives on the state of wildlife trends in Kenya. Kamweti enjoys photography, biking, bird watching, being outdoors. He also dreams of sailing.

PEGGY TSAI, Program Officer, joined BANR in November 2004. She has worked on various studies ranging from agricultural biotechnology to animal health to international agriculture, and served most recently as the study director for *Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Research at NIOSH* (2008). She began her work with the National Academies as a Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy

Fellow. Prior to this, she interned with the U.S. House of Representatives, House Science Committee; U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Scientific Affairs; and U.S. Department of Commerce, Technology Administration. Peggy received an M.A. in Science, Technology, and Public Policy from George Washington University, and B.S. in microbiology and molecular genetics with a double major in political science from UCLA. Peggy enjoys watching movies, cooking, discovering new dining establishments, traveling, and organizing social events.

EVONNE TANG, Senior Program Officer, joined BANR in October 2007. She has served as study director for multiple projects on different subjects ranging from science policy to research and development since she joined the Academies in 2002. Some of her recently completed projects include *Protecting Building Occupants and Operations from Biological and Chemical Releases*(2007), *Status of Pollinators in North America* (2007), *Review of the Department of Energy's Genomics: GTL Program* (2006). Her doctoral dissertation focused on the ecophysiology of cyanobacteria and the use of cyanobacteria in tertiary wastewater treatment system. After completion of her doctorate, Dr. Tang received postdoctoral fellowships from the Smithsonian Institution, the National Research Council, Canada, and the Quebec Ministry of Education, Canada. Dr. Tang received her B.Sc. from the University of Ottawa, M.Sc. from McGill University and Ph.D. from Laval University, Canada.