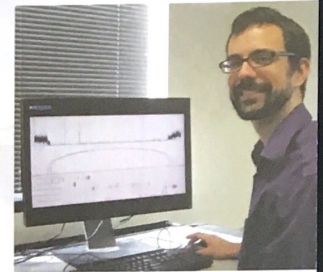


As Good as Goldwater

Biology Professor **Yves Brun** is in constant demand as a STARS mentor, and for very good reason. He is a leading researcher who made headlines a few years ago with his lab's discovery of "nature's strongest glue," a naturally occurring substance excreted by a bacterium called *Caulobacter crescentus*. A native of Canada whose first language is French, Brun is a popular teacher. His lab accommodates a wide range of students, from freshmen through post-doctoral scientists. And no fewer than four undergraduate students who have worked in his lab have won the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship.

Established by Congress in 1986, the goal is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers. Competition for the Goldwater Scholarship is exceptionally intense.

An alumnus of IU STARS, **David Larson** (right) (BS 2003) is a senior scientist at the Genome Center at Washington University in St. Louis. "A lot of the credit goes to



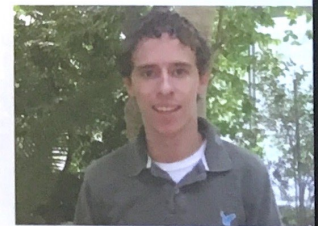
Yves. He was a great mentor. He gave us lots of freedom to explore the science we were pursuing and gain intellectual independence."

Mark Wortinger (left) joined the Brun lab in the summer of '95, just after his freshman year. He stayed on through 1999, when he completed a Master's degree in Microbiology. He has just completed 10 years at Eli Lilly and Co. as an associate biologist and was recently promoted to the highest associate position — Consultant Biologist.



"I decided to make research biology my career based on my experiences in Yves' lab," Wortinger says.

Aaron DeLoughery (right) is a second year Ph.D. student in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Harvard University. "It was a great experience working with Yves Brun at IU. His mentorship shaped my interests in biology and prepared me for graduate school," he says.



Brun's most recent protégé to win the Goldwater, **Ellen Weinzapfel**, is at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, pursuing a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology.



So what is Brun's secret? In typically modest fashion, he grins and paraphrases Herman B Wells: "Hire the best people and get out of their way." ■

Biology Professor Yves Brun

Make a contribution:

Marc Muskavitch recently endowed the Marc and Karen Muskavitch Research Excellence Award, given annually to one STARS student at the spring symposium. Karen, a Ph.D. biochemist who specialized in research ethics, passed away from cancer in 2009; Marc, a current faculty member at Boston College, says "Karen always believed in using your gifts to try to make a difference."

Your support of IU STARS can help young researchers:

- Cover the costs of attending IU
- Travel for research or to attend conferences
- Purchase lab supplies, textbooks, or professional society memberships

Photo of David Larson by Christopher Harris