

**TALENT**

## Student guitarist to audition with 'Idol' star

By Ben Colbrese  
Assistant Features Editor

When one Purdue student posted his information on a musician networking Web site, he never expected a recent "American Idol" star to answer. "I was definitely surprised, and I felt a bit honored," said David Lombardo, a junior in the College of Technology.

Amanda Overmyer, a local musician from Mulberry, Ind., and 11th-place finalist in season seven of "American Idol," said she was looking for a young musician out of Purdue to replace the lead guitarist in her current band. When she came across Lombardo's posting, Overmyer said she contacted him via e-mail.

"I saw that he was looking for a job as a guitar player, and he has a pretty impressive resume," said Overmyer.

Lombardo, who has been playing guitar for seven years, said this is

the first time in about six years he hasn't been in a band.

Although Lombardo still has to audition April 24, Overmyer said she hasn't looked at many other musicians.

"Around here, you can't be a professional musician in Indiana. I mean you can, I am, but there aren't that many around," she said.

Lombardo said he's excited about the possible opportunity to work with Overmyer, and if he is picked he plans on touring with them and playing as much music as he can.

"It's a real experience and, to me, it'll be a real honor to play with such an artist," he said.

He also said although he is happy to make some new connections in the music industry, what's most important to him is the music itself.

"Everyone in music has their own dreams and goals and, for me, I never wanted to be a big rock star; I just wanted to play music," he said.



Photo provided by Dave Lombardo

**Pictured here with his guitar, David Lombardo, a junior in the College of Technology, will audition to join "American Idol" finalist Amanda Overmyer in her band. Overmyer contacted Lombardo after seeing his information on a musician networking Web site.**

## WNBA DRAFT

Lindsey Wisdom-Hylton and Danielle Campbell sign on to the WNBA.

See SPORTS, Page 14

## QuickREAD

Your minute read for what is important to Purdue and the world.

### Finance committee approves \$2 increase in men's basketball prices

On Thursday afternoon, the University Finance Committee approved a \$2 increase in general admission men's basketball tickets for the 2009-2010 season.

No increases were proposed for student fees. John Shipley, interim vice president for business services and assistant treasurer, said the price for faculty and staff tickets will increase but will remain less than general admission tickets.

Shipley said the move will help recoup about 45 percent of the \$570,000 loss resulting from having 17 games in the 2009-2010 season as opposed to the 20 the team played this season. For this season, National Invitation Tournament offered Purdue the option of having three more games, a move Shipley said does not happen every year.

The Board of Trustees will vote on the increase Friday.

### Senator may drop state alcohol tax hike proposal

INDIANAPOLIS – A top state senator says he'll likely drop his proposal to double Indiana's alcohol tax statewide to help fund the struggling agency that runs the major Indianapolis sports stadiums.

Republican Sen. Luke Kenley of Noblesville tells The Associated Press he's probably going to amend his proposal to instead give Marion County an array of options, including possibly a local option alcohol tax.

Kenley says he suggested the statewide alcohol tax hike thinking it might help the funding plan win support. The tax would have funneled money to cities and towns around the state, and Indianapolis would have put its \$8 million share toward its cash-strapped Capital Improvement Board.

But Kenley says the statewide alcohol tax increase raised controversy instead of support. Kenley says the bill could be changed as early as Monday.

Source: Staff Reports and Associated Press

## CORRECTIONS

In a story in Wednesday's edition of the Exponent, titled "Purdue student competes on 'Wheel of Fortune,'" the air date of the episode was incorrect. The segment will air at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 15.

In a story in the Thursday edition of the Exponent, titled "Engineering Fountain flags reflect crisis in the Middle East," Yaseen Kadura was misquoted. The 1,389 flags represented those who have died in the Gaza conflict between Dec. 27, 2008, and Jan. 18, 2009.

The Exponent regrets these errors.

**TRANSITION**

## Professor takes dean position in Colorado

By Liz Rushmore  
Staff Reporter

Purdue proves to be an effective educational breeding ground for collegiate faculty.



Beyrouy

After attending graduate school at Purdue and returning as a faculty member for eight years, department head of agronomy Craig Beyrouy has accepted

a position at Colorado State University. There, he will serve as the dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences.

"This is a high-octane environment," said Beyrouy. "The autonomy of the department made for a level of experience and opportunity that allowed me to grow professionally."

In his time at Purdue, Beyrouy drastically increased faculty, restructured the undergraduate curriculum and added new programs as well as research areas. He was part of the department of agronomy's largest hiring scheme ever. Research in the areas of climatology, spatial technology and biotechnology is now being pursued as a direct result of his leadership. His advances have all led to better education for students and a better department of agronomy for Purdue.

"The position at Colorado State is a great opportunity for Craig," said George Van Scoyoc, professor of agronomy. "He's been a very good department head."

As for what he will miss the most, Beyrouy said, "I'm going to miss the people. I would be absolutely remiss if I didn't say this: I am going to miss the students, they are like a family to me."

**BLINDNESS RESEARCH**



Jason Kraeji | Graphic Artist

## Professor looks for link between human, fish retinal diseases

By Tiffany Teegarden  
Assistant Campus Editor

One Purdue professor's research with zebrafish eyes could help solve the problem of blindness in humans.



Leung

Yuk Fai Leung, an assistant professor of biological sciences, does research which involves studying and finding treatments for retinal degenerative diseases that cause blindness in humans. The National Eye Institute said that blindness or low vision affects 3.3 million Americans age 40 and older. Poor eyesight can sometimes be attributed to retinal degenerative diseases, such as diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration.

Leung said it is hard to understand the problems with the disease or cure it unless a person has a deep understanding and appreciation of its development.

"I was studying genetics for various human eye diseases as a graduate student and became strongly aware of the complexity of the

genetic architecture underlying all these problems," Leung said. "So I decided to study the genetic networks that control eye development, which I believe is the basis for studying diseases."

For the basis of his collaborative research, Leung used an interesting subject.

"I used zebrafish, a great vertebrate model system that has eyes more similar to humans than mice or rats," he said. "I studied a genetic mutant of zebrafish in which the retina is not developing properly."

He then compared the mutant retinas with normal retinas in terms of gene expression, and used a tool that allowed him to measure more than 15,000 gene expressions.

"From there we identified 731 genes that were not expressing normally in the mutant retina," he said. "We have been trying to put these genes together in regulatory networks, which is one of the research focuses of my laboratory at Purdue."

John Dowling, the Gund Professor of Neuroscience at Harvard and Leung's supervisor/mentor during his research at Harvard, wrote in an e-mail that Leung was a motivated worker.

"He carried out all of the experiments, and I provided comments along the way, but the research was very much his," Dowling said. "I think his work is outstanding, that it breaks new ground."

Dowling said he believes Leung's research will lead to new insights.

"In my view, it provides an approach that will eventually tell us much about how a piece of the brain develops, something we still know too little about," he said.

Leung's research will benefit every human being and current eye disease research that is being done.

"Our work is laying down the framework of normal development for interpreting what goes wrong in disease," Leung said. "My group at Purdue will continue to build tools to study global gene network."

His research requires many different academic fields and an array of different researchers who are willing to help.

"I think this is only possible in a school like Purdue University, that we have many different schools with different talents," he said. "This was indeed one of the original reasons that drew me here to continue my research program."

**G-20**

## Experts: Obama impresses world leaders during trip



AP Photo

**President Obama smiles in Turkey on Tuesday.**

By Jeff Berglund  
Staff Reporter

President Barack Obama has given the United States' foreign policy a facelift.

Obama arrived in the nation's capital early Wednesday morning, concluding an eight-day overseas trip. His travels spanned six different countries, beginning with the G-20 economic summit in London and ending with a surprise visit to the troops in Iraq. The president's debut on the world stage was closely

watched by political scientists back home, and the reviews have begun to come in.

"President Obama, who is very popular in Europe and in most places around the world, was a big hit in Europe," said Harry Targ, a professor of political science.

"For almost 30 years, diplomacy was replaced by threats, demands and military interventions," Targ said. "The agreements (Obama) reached with the other G-20 countries and his comments on the U.S.'s role in the world indi-

cate that he will be less committed to imposing the United States' market vision on the world and will re-commit the United States to the use of diplomacy as a tool of international relations."

Ann Marie Clark, an associate professor of political science, said Obama was successful in part because he was able to give other world leaders the sense that he was listening to them.

"The first impression is very important. I think he did pretty well," Clark said. "He's tak-

ing on a lot of issues. I think he gets points for ambition. He was well received by many countries with differing political views."

While Clark said Obama made a good impression, she explained he did not get everything he wanted out of his trip. One of the goals on which Clark said Obama fell short was getting more ally countries to send troops to Afghanistan.

"It doesn't seem like he has been able to get many concrete promises for help from the NATO countries," Clark said.

## Weather

	<b>Today</b> T-storms	<b>Saturday</b> Partly cloudy
	47/32	56/31

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