Cell Press Profile of the Week: Gabe Hayes, Scientific Editor, Cell

How long have you worked at Cell Press/Elsevier, and what brought you here?
I’ve been at Cell for about three months. I was attracted to the idea of thinking about a wide range of science each day, rather than the same problems over long periods in the lab. The enthusiasm of the editors for science—that was clear in the interview process—was very attractive.

What would you say is the most difficult part of your job?
Giving each paper the right level of attention and making sure that the most exciting papers come through the review process strengthened and communicating the important breakthrough clearly to a broad audience is a welcome challenge.

And your favorite part of the job?
Learning about new areas of biology every day, through reading papers and interacting with my colleagues on the editorial team. Talking with people about their work at meetings and lab visits has also been a highlight.

Where did you grow up, and how did you end up in Boston?
I grew up in the northwest corner of Michigan’s lower peninsula. My adult life has been a migration further eastward, through Ithaca, then New York City, and now I think I’ve gone as far as I can (except for hopping the pond altogether to spend a year in Hamburg, Germany during college).

If you were to move away from Boston, where would you want to live?
I find San Francisco beautiful, like most people I suppose.

When you’re not at 600 Technology Square, how do you like to spend your time?
I love to play tennis and am always looking for new people to hit with. The Charles has been very inspiring for jogging, and I’m looking forward to running the Boston Athletic Association half-marathon this Sunday. Classical music and opera are another passion. I also love to travel, so the opportunity to attend meetings is a perk of the job.

If you had more time in the day, what would you do?
Resume piano lessons. I started learning in college, but I’m afraid my piano has become more a piece of furniture than a musical instrument that I use.

Tell us something unusual or surprising about yourself.
I spent a year as a (very blond) child living on the Rosebud Sioux reservation in South Dakota.

What’s the weirdest job you’ve ever had?
I had a temp job one summer inspecting plastic witch pails that McDonald’s had produced for Halloween. They wanted college students to do this, so the pay was better than other, less pleasant temp work (7 am start in a factory producing hose reels, for example).