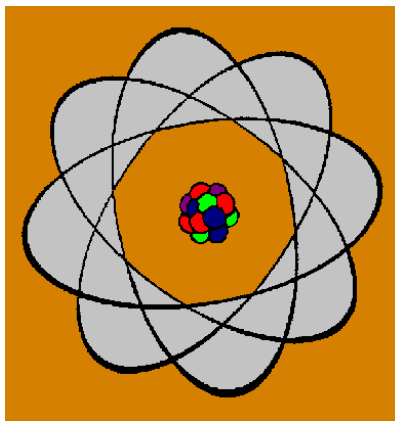


# Orbitals



## What's Happening in Chemistry Circles

Issue #135

March 3, 2008

web address: <http://www.chem.tamu.edu/ugrad/>

[a publication of the Department of Chemistry at Texas A&M University]

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### **ATTENTION MAY GRADUATES: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?**

Please let us know what your post-graduation plans are by sending an email to [advising@mail.chem.tamu.edu](mailto:advising@mail.chem.tamu.edu). If you have a permanent email address where we can contact you after graduation, please include that information. We'd like to include updates in a future issue of Orbitals.

### **ATTENTION ALL CHEMISTRY MAJORS: WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?**

It's a good idea to keep our office informed of your curricular and extracurricular activities and interests because certain award and fellowship nominations require that we know more than just your GPA. One way to make sure that we are informed is to drop off a current resume at the Undergraduate Advising Office for your file. Let us know if you've lined up a great summer internship or job, too!

### **DECEMBER GRADUATES**

Ten undergraduate chemistry majors received degrees at the December 14, 2007 commencement ceremony.

- B.A. degrees were awarded to: **Hoa Thi Chau, James Nelson English, Amelia Wike Freeman, Benjamin Daniel Naberhaus, and Ashley Pilar Ogden.**
- B.S. degree recipients were: **Ashlee Anne Jahnke, Angela Darlene Jones, Melinda Suzanne Luetke and Andrew Michael Shuff.**
- Students graduating with honors were: **Amelia Freeman** (summa cum laude, GPR >3.9), **Ashlee Jahnke, Melinda Luetke and Benjamin Naberhuas** (magna cum laude, GPR = 3.70-3.899) and **Andrew Shuff** (cum laude, 3.500-3.699). **Andrew Shuff** also completed the requirements for a B.S. degree in chemical engineering at the same time.

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### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Lynntech, Inc.** located here in College Station is looking to hire some research assistants with a BS/BA in chemistry. A May graduate who is looking for a full time job would be great, but they could also use someone looking for a part time job of 15-20 hours a week. The job will involve in-lab work, so some experience in a research lab setting would be a plus. The job description is posted at <https://hr.lynntech.com/> (position ID 60) Apply by clicking the submit resume link at the bottom of the page. If any students have questions regarding the company or the job they can email Ashlee Jahnke at [ashlee.jahnke@lynntech.com](mailto:ashlee.jahnke@lynntech.com).

**GE Water and Process Technologies** is advertising for three Advanced Technologist positions. The first two require a Bachelor's degree in chemistry, and the third requires a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Microbiology or "relevant discipline." For more detailed position descriptions, please see the binder in the Undergraduate Advising Office. For more information contact Eric Hendrickson, or the hiring manager, George Delong.

#### **Position 1: Advanced Technologist – Organic Deposit Analysis**

Perform organic characterization on samples from water and hydrocarbon process treatment programs using solvent extraction, Infrared spectroscopy and organic elemental analysis.

**Position 2:** Advance Technologist (LPB) – Customer Analytical Services, The Woodlands TX  
Person will be responsible for performing water analysis using ICP and ICP/MS, AAS, Hg analysis, automated colorimetric methods, flow injection analysis (FIA), segmented flow, auto titration systems, ion chromatographs and discrete analyzer.

**Position 3:** Advanced Technologist – Industrial Microbiology Analysis  
Perform microbiological analyses and recommendations on industrial cooling water and deposit samples. Conduct evaluation on cooling tower biofouling mechanisms and biocide treatment selection.

Eric Hendrickson  
GE Water & Process Technologies  
Product Technologist Engineering  
O 281 681 5348  
F 281 363 7780  
C 817 881 6539  
D 8\* 353 5348  
E [eric.hendrickson@ge.com](mailto:eric.hendrickson@ge.com)  
[www.gewater.com](http://www.gewater.com)  
9669 Grogans Mill Road  
The Woodlands, TX 77380, USA

George DeLong, PhD  
GE Infrastructure  
Water & Process Technologies  
Analytical Leader  
T 281 681-5317  
F 281 363-7724  
D \*353 5317  
E [george.delong@ge.com](mailto:george.delong@ge.com)  
[www.gewater.com](http://www.gewater.com)  
9669 Grogans Mill Road  
The Woodlands, TX 77380

**Texas Molecular** in Houston has a job opening. They are looking for a chemist/technician with a 2 or 4 year degree. Interested applicants should contact John Griffin at (281) 930-2525 or [griffinrj@earthlink.net](mailto:griffinrj@earthlink.net), or Dr. Ross Koile at (281) 744-8294 or [chemfly@comcast.net](mailto:chemfly@comcast.net).

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## SUMMER STUDY ABROAD

### 2008 “Junior Summer Abroad” Research Program in Europe for Undergraduate U.S. Students

Come and experience one of the best research experiences of your life! During this 8-week study abroad program, you will be exposed to international research, education and culture. In addition, you will be working in an experienced, collaborative research team to develop and apply algorithms and software for simulating reactions with organic materials that involve transitions between electronic states. Applicants should have at least two years of undergraduate study, preferably **majoring in chemistry**, biochemistry, physics, or computer science; or a related discipline such as chemical engineering or materials science, with an interest in chemistry. If you have an enthusiasm for learning new science, we will help you to become familiar with this exciting area of complex systems research that is becoming more important in the global environment.

**We offer:**

- 8 weeks in Europe: June 30 - August 22
- \$2,000 stipend
- housing, food and transportation costs paid
- extensive contact with graduate student mentors and professors
- training in cyberinfrastructure
- arranged tours and outings
- participation in a concluding workshop

**To qualify, the candidate:**

- must be a United States citizen
- have at least two years of undergraduate study, preferably majoring in chemistry, biochemistry, physics, or computer science; or a related discipline such as chemical engineering or materials science, with an interest in chemistry.
- completed application must be submitted by **February 29, 2008**

For more information or to apply for this opportunity, contact Bill Hase (bill.hase@ttu.edu), John Tully (john.tully@yale.edu) or Theresa Windus (theresa@fi.ameslab.gov) or visit our website at [http://pire-europe.chem.ttu.edu/pire/junior\\_summer\\_abroad.htm](http://pire-europe.chem.ttu.edu/pire/junior_summer_abroad.htm).

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## **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIPS**

### **Call for Proposals: Undergraduate Research Scholars Program for the 2008-09 Academic Year.**

The goal of this program is to encourage capable undergraduates to participate actively in research projects and to give them the opportunity to communicate their research findings as principal authors to the university's research community. The deadline for applications for the coming academic year is **April 11, 2008**. To learn more about this program you may visit the Undergraduate Research web site at <http://ugr.tamu.edu/scholars/>.

The **PUBLIC POLICY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (PPIP)** is a program intended to draw state and federal government attention to the quality and aptitude of Texas A&M University. This program selects the most talented and driven students to represent Texas A&M in Washington, D.C. while working for various governmental and non-governmental agencies. If you would like additional information about our program, please feel free to visit our website [www.tamu.edu/ppip](http://www.tamu.edu/ppip) or contact us at 979-845-3210. Fall Applications are due by 5:00 pm on **Friday, March 7th**. Applications are available at our website [www.tamu.edu/ppip](http://www.tamu.edu/ppip).

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## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **American Chemical Society Scholars Program**

These are scholarships for underrepresented minority college students with financial need. Apply now for the scholars program designed to be a catalyst for African American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian students seeking to pursue undergraduate college degrees in chemical sciences and chemical

technology. The application period for the 2008-2009 scholarships is open, and the application is online at <http://www.acs.org/scholars>.

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## **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**

#### *Summer Job Search*

Learn when, where and how to look for a summer job using various online and other resources available through the Career Center.

Wednesday, March 5

3:30 - 4:30 pm

111 Koldus Building

Dress: Casual

#### *On-Site Company Interview*

Learn what to wear, what to say, and what questions to ask during an on-site visit and job interview.

Wed, March 5, 4-5 pm, 110 Koldus

Tues, March 18, 4-5 pm, 110 Koldus

Mon, March 31, 4-5 pm, 110 Koldus

#### *Salary Evaluation & Negotiation*

You'll be given guidelines for analyzing the total benefits package so you make the best decision about a job offer.

Wed, March 5, 5-6:15 pm, 110 Koldus

Tues, March 18, 5-6:30 pm, 110 Koldus (includes Financial Planning)

Mon, March 31, 5-6:15 pm, 110 Koldus

For more information contact

Mandy Wheat '01

Assistant Director - Marketing & Publications

Texas A&M Career Center

(979) 845-3640 phone

(979) 845-0067 fax

mandyw@careercenter.tamu.edu

### **LONE STAR GRADUATE DIVERSITY COLLOQUIUM**

#### *Funds Available, Students Encouraged to Attend Diversity Colloquium*

The Office of Graduate Studies has extended the deadline for financial assistance to undergraduate and Masters students considering graduate school and/or searching for a doctoral program, to encourage attendance at the third annual Lone Star Graduate Diversity Colloquium, March 28-29, at Texas Tech University. The deadline for financial assistance has been extended to Monday, March 17. The financial assistance from OGS will cover registration fees, meals while at the conference and transportation to

Texas Tech. Students will be responsible for lodging, but scholarships are available for those needing additional financial assistance. Contact Megan Palsa at [meganp@tamu.edu](mailto:meganp@tamu.edu) <<mailto:meganp@tamu.edu>> by Monday, March 17, to make arrangements. For questions or more information, call (979) 845-3631. <http://ogs.tamu.edu/news-1/funds-for-lone-star-colloquium>

#### INTERESTED IN BEING A MENTOR?

Join the Mentor Staff for Aggie Access Learning Communities! Access Mentors work with a partner and a group of 10 freshmen for the year. Training is provided; Access Mentor positions are paid student worker positions. Access freshmen for 2008C will be from the College of Liberal Arts, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Geosciences, College of Science, and General Academic Programs. All the materials are online at <http://aggieaccess.tamu.edu> <<http://aggieaccess.tamu.edu/>> behind the tab in the menu titled "2008 Mentor Application."

#### SOPHOMORE LEADERSHIP COURSE

The Cultural Leadership, Understanding, and Exploration for Sophomores (C.L.U.E.S) learning community is a one year course-credited program for sophomore focused on leadership and multiculturalism. The course is broken down into two semesters; a three-hour course in the Fall and a one-hour course in the Spring. These courses may count towards Texas A&M University mandatory diversity credit hours. If you would like to learn more about this program or hear what our students have to say check out the video we have on the website <http://clues.tamu.edu> <<http://clues.tamu.edu/>> Applications can also be found on the website. The deadline is March 28, 2008 @ 5:00pm! Contact Lesley-Ann Brown at [lesley@aggieculture.tamu.edu](mailto:lesley@aggieculture.tamu.edu) if you have any questions.

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#### MORE REMEMBRANCES OF DR. HOGG

I would just like to say how very sorry I am.

I had Dr. Hogg for organic chemistry in the 2003-4 school year and he was one of those professors that leaves a lasting impact on his students with his incredible zeal and enthusiasm for teaching chemistry and teaching students. He was always willing to talk about classes to take.

He wrote me a letter to get into medical school and I am about ½ way through. He prepared me for chemistry and for life by showing me what it is to pour 110% of yourself into what you choose to do.

So many professors research and teach because they have to, Dr.Hogg was a rare teacher who taught with teaching as a hobby--and it showed in everything that he taught.

Dr. Hogg you will be greatly missed,

**Michael Van Hal**

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I was floored like everyone else upon opening what I thought was another issue of Orbitals. The only professor at Texas A&M to truly have an impact on life was gone. Not only was Dr. Hogg a phenomenal teacher of chemistry, he also excelled as a teacher of life.

Dr. Hogg impressed me from the day I met him during orientation. His love of chemistry was obvious, but his enthusiasm to make us love it too was what excited me the most. My very first lecture at A&M, in the fall of 2000, was with Dr. Hogg in Organic Chemistry. After welcoming us and briefly introducing himself, he exclaimed that this class had something like 8 to 11 freshman – the most ever. He went on to tell the upperclassmen that he would give them our names so they could “take us out back,” and beat us up later. How could I not love this guy?

While I did well in my two semesters with him, I turned out to be more interested in medicine than chemistry, and thus began focusing less on my major. For brevity, I'll simply say that he is the reason I was able to stick it out and graduate on time with a degree in the field he loved so much. I am currently in medical school, and I owe so much to Dr. Hogg for helping me get here.

One example of the type of man he was occurred about a year ago. My discussion group was struggling with the way to calculate different formulas of drips. I decided to email the question to Dr. Hogg, not really expecting a reply. I was wrong to doubt him. He not only answered my question *that day*, but also wanted to know everything I had been up to and offered to answer any questions I had in the future.

My sorrows go out to his family, friends, and to Texas A&M. Dr. Hogg, I am forever grateful.

**Justin Amaro**  
**President, Medical Student Government Association**  
**Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine – Bradenton**

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I honestly have avoided writing this for weeks. Looking back, my career in chemistry at Texas A&M - both as an undergraduate and graduate student - was shaped by this straight-forward, generous teacher and mentor. I spent nine years in the hallways of Texas A&M, and many hours sitting in Dr. Hogg's office seeking advice in courses and career.

I have two great memories of Dr. Hogg. The first, while this is difficult to admit, was one that does not begin well, but in the end showed the kind of character that I hope to demonstrate as I interact with students. Dr. Hogg did not believe that I belonged in graduate school, and in ways he was right, after all, I was a lazy sophomore organic student, and I struggled in some upper-level courses. I did have the intellect, but he wasn't sure that I had the drive. After spending the first semester of my first year as a graduate student on probation, Dr. Hogg actually came to my lab to apologize and to congratulate my success in my graduate courses. My grades and effort exceeded his expectations. I will admit, that his straight-forward analysis of my undergraduate performance was the fuel that I needed to succeed in graduate school. I am glad that he was honest with me, but equally glad to see a man humble enough to congratulate me when I achieved success.

The second great memory of Dr. Hogg came in April, 1997. My research advisor was not in the habit of hooding Ph.D. students, and so I asked Dr. Hogg to hood me, and he gladly accepted. I still remember

his voice on stage when he told the Dean of Science, "I've got her."

It is an honor to have that picture hanging on my wall.

Dr. Hogg, rather John, has since continued to keep in touch and has continued to be my mentor as I teach undergraduates. I will miss him greatly.

**Tara Decuir Todd, '92**

**Lecturer - Vanderbilt University**

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I just wanted to say Dr. Hogg was a special person to me. I realize this is very late after the fact, but I only just heard of his passing. I will always remember his advice to follow the things that will make you happy in life. Not to get caught up measuring your success in terms of how you stack up with others, but how you stack up with your personal goals.

**Scott Peterson**

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I was saddened to hear of John's death. He and I went to the University of Kansas at the same time. He was a graduate student in organic chemistry, while I was in inorganic, still we knew each other.

After we both received our degrees, I discovered he was teaching at Texas A & M. I started teaching chemistry at San Jacinto College, a two-year college in Pasadena, Texas, in 1979 and by the time I was Chair of the Department in 1986, John had become a wonderful resource for my students. Members of our Department visited A & M and John was a gracious, wonderful host. He frequently answered e-mails with educational and/or chemical questions over the years. He always had time for us and made us feel an important part of chemical education in Texas. We also shared an interest in Science Outreach and he shared his experiences with me.

When my daughter started to become interested in looking at colleges, along with two of her friends, we visited A & M and dropped in on John, finding him in his office on a Saturday. He took time out of his busy schedule and was so kind to the young girls.

We traded war stories about the worst things that had happened to us in front of a class. John told about feeling a lump in the sleeve of his sweater. He pulled it out in front of his class and discovered it was a pair of his wife's underpants that had suffered static cling in the clothes dryer. He will be missed and his sense of fun will always be remembered.

**Ann Cartwright**

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## **OLD AGS**

**Matthew Russell** (B.A. 2006) is now employed as a QC Lab Tech for Albemarle Catalysts in Pasadena, TX. Friends may contact him at: [Matthew.Russell@albemarle.com](mailto:Matthew.Russell@albemarle.com)

**Dr. Shawn Kucera** (B.A. 2000) sent the following news about the completion of his graduate degree and new position back in December to Dr. Hogg. "Hi Dr. Hogg, This is Shawn Kucera, BA '00 writing to you on my last full day as a graduate student at UT Austin. I will finally be getting my Ph.D. in Pharmaceutics

(yay!). It's been a long, tough road, but it's definitely been worth it. I have really had to call upon my training in chemistry quite a bit during my studies here. Anyway, after a short break over the holidays to Germany with my girlfriend to visit her family, I will start as a Senior Applications Scientist with Evonik-Degussa Corporation in their Eudragit Division (formerly Rohm Pharma Polymers) in Piscataway, NJ. I'm really excited about this position. I worked as an intern one summer at their main R&D site in Darmstadt, Germany, so I know the products and scientists very well. Rather than a traditional pharmaceutical company, this is an excipients company (basically a chemical company). We produce polymers that are used for sustained released, enteric protection, and taste masking. In fact, the company's first product was an acrylic polymer (still used today) that provided enteric protection. My job will range from tech service responsibilities to formulation design and enhancement. I'll get to meet with the formulation groups of the big players in the pharmaceutical industry, give presentations at conferences, promote our products, etc...So, it's a pretty high profile job. Anyway, I hope that everything is OK there at TAMU. I really miss it sometimes. I wish I could have been there on T+1 to watch the ball game. I was in Caldwell at my parents' house, just 30 miles away, but tickets were almost impossible for us to find (at a decent price!). I'll have to stop by sometime and visit when I'm on campus. My mom works for PTTS and says she sees you around every now and then. Well, I've got to get back to preparing for the defense. Take care and have a great holiday season!" Friends may contact Shawn at: shawn.kucera@gmail.com

**Ashlee Jahnke** (B.S. 2007) dropped Dr. Tiner a line recently. "My company (Lynntech, Inc. located here in College Station) is looking to hire some research assistants with a BS/BA in chemistry. A May graduate who is looking for a full time job would be great, but we could also use someone looking for a part time job of 15-20 hours a week. The job will involve in-lab work, so some experience in a research lab setting would be a plus. Can you forward this on to all the chemistry majors? The job description is posted at <https://hr.lynnotech.com/> (position ID 60) and they can apply by clicking the submit resume link at the bottom of the page. Also, if any students have questions regarding the company or the job they can email me at ashlee.jahnke@lynnotech.com. I've been here a couple of months now, and I'm really enjoying it."

**Dr. Mike Killough** contacted Dr. Tiner recently. "I am now the lead recruiter for A&M for INEOS Olefins & Polymers and will expect to be coming by more often. I will send you some info on the company (3<sup>rd</sup> largest chemical company in the world, privately owned, etc.)." Friends may contact him at Mike.Killough@ineos.com.

**Kelly DeCock (B.S. 2006)** contacted Dr. Gaede recently about a classmate's seminar topic in CHEM 481. She also gave this update, "I know Dr. Hogg included me in one of the orbitals a little while back with information on my engagement and acceptance into pharmacy school. It was just last September/August, so things haven't changed TOO much except that I know more about the UIW pharmacy school so that if students interested in Pharmacy want to ask me about this particular program, they can. I am a first year student and it's called the Feik School of Pharmacy (it's a private catholic university). I also just got accepted to a Summer Internship at Walgreens, so that's perhaps the only update. This is a good e-mail to contact me: chemkelly@gmail.com."

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