Orbitals

What’s Happening in Chemistry Circles

Issue 137

September 1, 2008

Attention December Graduates

- Students planning to graduate this semester must file a graduation application no later than September 5.
- See http://graduation.tamu.edu for more information.

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Sciences Career Fair to be Held Thursday, September 18

Looking for a science internship or a full-time job? Investigating graduate and professional schools? Visit the Sciences Career Fair, to be held Thursday, September 18 from 10 a.m.—3 p.m. at the MSC 2nd floor. This is a free event, open to all students. No pre-registration is required.

Some of the companies interested in meeting chemists include Allergan, Colgate-Palmolive, Chevron, Lynntech, and Monsanto. For a complete list of companies and schools attending, visit http://careercenter.tamu.edu/

Workshops designed to help you get the most out of the Career Fair will be offered by the Career Center, including a resume writing workshop on Thursday, September 4 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in 111 Koldus and resume reviews on Friday, September 12 from 12-2 in the Halbouty Building (Room TBA).

A Mix & Mingle with Recruiters and Former Students will be held Wednesday, September 17 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in MSC 201.

Light refreshments will be served! This is a great opportunity to learn more about the companies attending.

If you aren’t ready to seek an internship or a full-time job, there are also volunteer opportunities, which may allow you some time to interact with future employers.

The success of the Career Fair depends on having a good student turn out. Companies don’t want to come unless they’ll have the chance to interact with students. Even though your graduation may seem a long time away, it’s really never too early to start looking for employment!

For more information about the Career Fair, please contact Marylin Yeager at marilyny@careercenter.tamu.edu.

Two Special Topics Courses to be Offered in the Spring

Two CHEM489 special topics will be offered this spring. These courses will count as advanced chemistry electives.

Green Chemistry will be offered by Dr. Don Darensbourg and will have organic chemistry as a prerequisite, with descriptive inorganic chemistry (CHEM362) highly recommended. Green chemistry, also known as sustainable chemistry, is the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances. Green chemistry applies across the life cycle, including the design, manufacture, and use of a chemical product. For more information about green chemistry, see http://www.epa.gov/gcc/

Spectra of Organic Compounds will be offered by Dr. Jiong Yang. Organic chemistry and one semester of physical chemistry will be the prerequisites for this course. In the course you will learn how to correlate molecular structure with spectroscopic and other physical properties and apply this to modern problems in organic chemistry. This course used to be regularly offered to undergraduates and involves using NMR, IR, MS to puzzle out the structure of organic molecules.

Both courses will need at least 10 students enrolled to “make.”

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Several undergraduate chemistry majors were honored at the ACS Student Affiliate banquet held on Thursday, April 17 at Wings ‘N More. The event, ACS Student Affiliate Chapter, on behalf of the Chemistry Department and the Student Affiliate Chapter, was attended by about 40 students, faculty, and staff members.

Dr. Gaede, Dr. Tiner, and Dr. Russell presented the awards for outstanding accomplishments by undergraduate chemistry majors. The money for these awards came from the Department of Chemistry, the Texas A&M Section of the American Chemical Society, and Dr. Hogg’s Presidential Professorship Account. Recipients of all awards were selected by the members of the Chemistry Department’s Undergraduate Awards Committee. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

Chemistry Department Outstanding Undergraduate Award ($200 and a certificate) - Given to the outstanding graduating senior; this is normally the one with the highest cumulative GPA but other factors such as research, career plans, etc. are considered. It was not possible to decide between the two people selected this year. Kelly Martinez and Joshua Owen

Chemistry Department Achievement Awards ($50 and a certificate) - Given to a few outstanding junior and senior chemistry majors based on total hours of credit and completion of the first two years of chemistry. Factors other than GPA are often considered although cumulative GPA is a major factor in the selection. Catherine Baxter, Bryan Carroll, Rebekah Condit, Alfredo Echeverria, Jeffrey M. Karnes, Justin Law, Christina Matz, Thu Ha Truong, Kelly G. Wagner

Outstanding Student(s) in Sophomore Organic Class (Majors and Honors only) ($50 and a certificate) Corbin Gatlin and Daniel Sanders

Merck Index Award (a copy of the Merck Index presented by Merck; a $50 check and a departmental certificate) - Given to a graduating senior planning to attend medical school, vet school, pharmacy school or dental school. Jonathan Williams

CRC Outstanding First Year Chemistry Course Awards (a copy of the CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics presented by CRC, a $25 check and a departmental certificate) - Given to the outstanding student(s) in the Chemistry 103/104 or 101H/102H courses. One copy of the CRC is provided free. Merid Haile

Hugh McLean Jr. Award ($200) - Given to a graduating senior who has demonstrated unusual dedication and perseverance in pursuit of the degree. Angela Jones

ACS Leadership Award (a $50 check presented by the local ACS section) - Meant to recognize outstanding contributions to the Student Affiliate Chapter. Helen Hamilton, Jessica Herrmann, Hannah Werner

Outstanding Analytical Chemistry Student (an 8-month subscription to the journal Analytical Chemistry and an honorary membership in the Division of Analytical Chemistry. Presented by the National Division of Analytical Chemistry; supplemented by a $50 Chemistry Department check) - Usually given to the best undergraduate chemistry major in Chemistry 415/434. Josh Owen

Hypercube Scholar Award - Emphasis is placed on research potential, promise of a research career in academia or industry and likelihood of graduate school after receipt of the bachelor’s degree. Usually given to a graduating senior. Award consists of a certificate from Hypercube Inc. Scientific Software and a copy of HyperChem software. Thu Ha Truong
Chemistry Scholarships Announced

Several scholarships were awarded by the Undergraduate Awards Committee after May grades were received. Twenty-nine students received a total of $71,000 in scholarship support!

Four Dow Aggies Scholarships were awarded to outstanding junior or senior chemistry majors. The awardees are Scott Johnsgard, Bradley Nolen, Shaelyn French, and Daniel Sanders.

The George C. Bauer Scholarship, offered in honor of a former outstanding teacher in the department, was awarded to Crystal Pena-loza and Helen Hamilton.

Sharon Merritt Birtcher Scholarship is awarded to students planning to become teachers. The recipients are Jessica Hemann, Kelli Pearce, and Marissa Proske.

Dr. Minoru Tsutsui Memorial Scholarship is a recently endowed scholarship in honor of a former chemistry faculty member. Given to a chemistry major who is a Texas resident and plans a career in industry, the awardees are Christopher Jones and Jacob Dean.

Dr. Herman A. Liebhafsky Scholarship is a recently endowed scholarship in honor of a former faculty member. Given to a chemistry major based on financial need and achievement; preference for someone from a “rural” Texas area. The awardees are James Delfeld and Corbin Gatlin.

Eileen and Harry Lewis Scholarship is an endowed scholarship in honor of Eileen Lewis ’65 and Harry (Hank) Lewis ’65. Preference given to a female chemistry major based on financial need and not primarily academic achievement; application required. The awardees are Ivey Royall and Abby Sisco.

Hach Scientific Foundation Scholarships for students planning to become teachers. The awardees are Sallie Finklea, Megan Stussi, and Whitney Becker.

The Hach Scientific Foundation Scholarships were established in 2005 in honor of former Chemistry Department Head Dr. Schweikert. The scholarship provides support for a full-time student in good standing pursuing an undergraduate degree in chemistry. The awardees are Kathy Webb and Clayton Mercer.

The Emile A. Schweikert Endowed Scholarship was established in 2005 in honor of former Chemistry Department Head Dr. Schweikert. The scholarship provides support for a full-time student in good standing pursuing an undergraduate degree in chemistry. The awardees are Kathy Webb and Clayton Mercer.

The Dr. John L. Hogg Endowed Scholarship in Chemistry was established in memory of Dr. Hogg. The scholarship provides support for a full-time student in good standing pursuing an undergraduate degree in chemistry. The inaugural awardee is Stacey Lehne.

All currently enrolled undergraduate chemistry majors are routinely considered for the chemistry scholarships at the end of each semester.

The Dr. David W. Lipp ’66 Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Chemistry. Established in November 2005 by the Lipp Family Foundation in memory of Dr. David W. Lipp ’66, the scholarship provides support for full-time students in good standing pursuing an undergraduate degree in chemistry. The awardees are Randall Suders, Hannah Cook, and Katherine Popek.

Our policy is to try to spread the scholarship money to as many deserving students as possible.
Do not hesitate to inquire about any of these scholarships.
Some scholarships require applications, so please stop by Room 104 Chemistry to pick up the application for us to keep on file.
May and August 2008 Graduates Announced

We had 21 BA Graduates in the May 10, 2008 ceremony. They were Racquel Allen, Sarah Banton, Rebekah Condit (magna cum laude), John Fullerton, Robert Hakari, Matthew Hebert, Cory Henson (magna cum laude), Lauren Kulpa (cum laude), Olivia Lara, Jonathan Mann, Christina Matz (magna cum laude), Diana Medina, Jennifer Nichols, Timothy Picha (magna cum laude), Howard Price (cum laude), Katherine Spruiell, Emily Townsley, Jessica Trevino (cum laude), Jonathan Williams (summa cum laude), Crystal Young, Nathan Young (cum laude).

We also had 14 BS Graduates in May. They are Bryan Carroll (magna cum laude), AJ Echeverria (magna cum laude), Sabrina Fergeson, Daniel Hitchcock, Jeff Karnes (magna cum laude), Trevor Makal, Kelly Martinez (summa cum laude), Atashi Mukherjee, Josh Owen (summa cum laude), Nicole Pearsall, Sandani Samarajeewa (magna cum laude), Meghan Stroh (cum laude), Jessie Taylor (cum laude), and Thu Truong (summa cum laude).

We also had five B.A. graduates in August 8, 2008. Ricardo Azevedo, Mallory Bradsher, Diseye Komonibo, Andrew Lindsey, and Alexander Pemba (magna cum laude) received their degrees on August 8, 2008.

Graduate’s High School Teacher Wins Inspiration Award

Bryan Carroll (B.S. 2008) successfully nominated his high school chemistry teacher, Mr. Mario Rosales, from John B. Alexander High School in Laredo, Texas for the Inspiration Award. The Inspiration Award for Exception Secondary Education honors a Texas high school teacher who made a significant impact on a Texas A&M graduate.

“No other teacher has positively influenced my life like Mr. Rosales, or ‘Mr. Rose,’ as his students know him,” said Bryan in an interview published on Texas A&M’s News web page. “Not only did he prepare me for the stringent academic demands of college, but I can truthfully say that, through example and direct council, he also prepared me for the general challenges of life. Because of his course and the enthusiasm with which he presented chemistry, I decided to make chemistry my major in college. I’m extremely grateful for Mr. Rose’s guidance and thrilled to report that I still love chemistry. This passion led me to seek a position in a chemical research laboratory, and I’ve been happily participating in research with Dr. Francois Gabbai for three years now.”

In the same interview, Rosales said he is truly honored to be recognized for the award because the sentiments expressed by Carroll show that, since he began teaching in 1986, he has touched his students’ lives. “This award is the epitome of every educator’s dream since it reminds us of our reasons for choosing this profession.”

Mr. Rosales was on hand to receive the award, and was able to hand Bryan his diploma. Congratulations to Mr. Rosales, and keep sending us great chemistry majors!

Chem. Major Finalist for Rudder Outstanding Student

Cory Lynn Henson (B.A. 2008) was a College of Science finalist for the Brown Foundation-Earl Rudder Memorial Outstanding Student Award. His name was listed in the graduation program, as one of thirteen finalists from the entire University. The Brown Foundation-Earl Rudder Memorial Outstanding Student Award was established to honor the memory of the late president Earl Rudder and to provide public recognition to the outstanding senior students graduating each year from Texas A&M University.
Old Ags

**Nathan Young (B.A. 2008)** had a busy summer. His son William Harvey Young was born on June 5. According to Nathan, “He was 8 lbs. and looks just like Rachel, but I think he has my hair color. It was actually kind of funny because I had an exam at like 8am on the day she delivered, so it was all pretty hectic.” Nathan recently reported on his new job, “I’m doing well; I’ve been working at my new job in Austin for about 2 months now. **Jorja Duffin (B.S. 2006)** has been my mentor in my department and I will be taking over for her as she will be moving to Dallas next week for a new job. Thus far I have enjoyed my position a lot; I am in charge of managing all the organics testing in the entire lab. It sounds like a lot but it’s pretty straightforward GC-MS testing. I do a bunch of other things but that’s my main responsibility.

Rachel and William are doing very well. William is going to be 3 months old on Sept. 5th. It’s amazing watching babies grow in the first few months of life; he’s already starting to smile and laugh.”

**Jennifer Nichols (B.A. 2008)** wrote in recently to report on her new job, “I’m working as a Research Assistant in the Evidence-Based Outcomes Center at Texas Children’s Hospital. I’ve been here for almost a month and am starting to get the hang of things. My department produces evidence-based guidelines for the treatment of specific illnesses. I’m hoping to apply to medical school someday so this job seemed like a good fit for me. While I don’t use much of my chemical knowledge, I actually work with EndNote and references and medical journals all of the time. So... I actually ended up using skills from the senior seminar that I despised so much, haha.” *(Note from Dr. Gaede: Yes!!)*

**Graduates’ Plans**

**John Fullerton** plans to go to Texas Tech School of Pharmacy and to practice pharmacy.

**Lauren Kulpa** will be attending Law School at Loyola Marymount in LA for Fall 2008.

**Alexander Pemba** will be attending graduate school at the University of Florida. **Andrew Lindsey** will be teaching high school.

**Chemistry Open House Slated for October 25**

Our 21st Annual Chemistry Open House and Science Exploration Gallery will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2008 beginning at 9:45am in the Chemistry foyer.

Other activities at Chemistry Open House and Science Exploration Gallery will be underway between 10:00am and 3:00pm. They will include lots of hands-on and computer activities, guided lab tours, and demonstrations.

The Chemistry, Physics, and Biology Departments are involved, as well as other sciences.

Dr. Wendy Keeney-Kennicutt (kennicutt@mail.chem.tamu.edu) coordinates that event. Please contact her or the ACS student affiliates if you are interested in volunteering to help with this event. It’s a fun way of getting kids interested in chemistry!
Several of chemistry majors are working as teaching assistants in the first year program in chemistry. These students are Stephanie Bowman, Shyreen Dulanya, David Moore, Whitney Morlatt, Andrew Tindell and Hannah Werner. Working as a TA can be a great opportunity for chemistry majors. It looks great on your resume, and it forces you to remember the general chemistry material! (Remembering this can be useful for GREs and MCAT performance.) Most importantly, it gives you a new perspective, allowing you to see the classroom (laboratory) from the other side! Students who have served as teaching assistants often become more conscientious students.

Additionally, it is not certain whether either of the physical chemistry laboratories CHEM325 or CHEM326 will be offered over the summer. In any case, students will no longer be able to fulfill their entire physical chemistry requirement in the summer session, and should plan accordingly.

Attention December Graduates

- Students planning to graduate this semester must file a graduation application no later than September 5.
- See http://graduation.tamu.edu for more information.

Math Requirement Reminders

All chemistry majors are required to enroll in math every semester until they complete the requirement. A B.A. major needs the first two semesters of calculus, and a B.S. major needs three semesters of calculus and an advanced math. Students who are not making satisfactory progress in math will be asked to find another major.

Undergraduate Chem Majors Serve as TAs
New Ags

We welcomed 84 new chemistry majors this summer. That’s tied for the second-largest incoming class ever with Fall of 2004. Please welcome these students to our program.

Thomas Ahn
Anthony Antequera
Jonathan Banke
Kristin Bell
Cai Benavides
Ileene Berrios
Jacob Brannan
Joshua Broussard
Maxwell Brown
Kevin Burnett
Katherine Burton
Matthew Burton
Fernanda Cabrera
Travysa Chitothie
Clint Crabbil
Johnathan Crawford
Jeffrey Davis
Kristina Duxbury
Laura East
Abbie Evans
Lucinda Fernandez
Phillip Fiornini
Yiye Fu
Heather Garvin
Caroline Gibler
Juan Gonzalez
Raul Gonzalez
Bryland Gumm
Jae Ha
Paul Hagseth
Kendall Hardgrove
Brett Harper
Craig Harrison
James Hemmer
Amy Hernandez
Kalenn Herring
Jayna Higginbotham
Tomas Huerta
Corey Lashway
David Lee
Haley Lee
Joshua Levin
Matthew Lewis
Megan Link
Allen Lunsford
Troy Luster
Megan Mader
Elaine Medina
Alexander Mijalis
Karen Miranda

Elizabeth Moore
Jonathan Moreau
Curtis Morris
Kelsey M Morrison
Tommy Nguyen
Bryan Parker
Brooke Pawelek
Amanda Mai Phan
Melby Philip
Rachel Posey
Caitlin Pursley
Jessica Rapacz
Nicole Reusser
Ismael Reyes
Katherine Richards
Trenton Rogers
Bianca Romoer
Viviana Salom
Cody Schatte
Erica Schep
Gregory Serna
Clara Stock
Hannah Sturm
Anthony Tran
David Vintner
Benjamin Walker
Catherine Watkins
Shantal White
Allison Williams
Andrew Winn
Colton Wise
Christopher Woolford
Jia Yu
Affan Zafar

Euless
Rockwall
Tomball
Roanoke
College Station
Dallas
San Antonio
Cedar Hill
Houston
Flower Mound
Willis
Royse City
Bellaire
Pasadena
College Station
Nacogdoches
Katy
The Woodlands
Brownsville
Orange
Pampa
Carrollton
Longview
Manchaca
Houston
Nacogdoches
Arlington
Mabank
San Antonio
San Antonio
The Woodlands
Baytown
Jasper

We also welcomed two transfer students this summer.

Masato Hirai
Christine Oh

Toyko
Flower Mound
Japan

Change of Major
A number of students have recently changed their major into chemistry. Please welcome these students who have seen the light!

Dallas Anderson
Alice Cole
Corey Daigle
Katie Decock
Ashley Dittmer
Philip Duttwiler
Aaron Hollas
Shalene Hopkins
Kyle Jones
Ruben Lopez
Nicholas Moore
Aaron Pavlish
Christopher Rhoades
Mario Salinas
Arpan Satsangi
Tiffanie Smith
David Teasdale
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Dr. Daniel A. Singleton has received a Distinguished Achievement Award in the category of Teaching by The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University. The awards were presented at the annual ceremony on Tuesday, April 29, at 1:30 p.m. in Rudder Theatre.

Dr. Singleton, Davidson Professor of Science, has also received the prestigious Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award for 2008. The Cope Scholar Award, issued by the American Chemical Society recognizes and encourages excellence in organic chemistry. Awardees are selected from among distinguished scientists across the globe. The award was presented at a special ceremony during the ACS Fall Meeting in Philadelphia, PA in August 2008.

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