Spend a Semester Away....

Are you ready for a semester away from College Station, but not ready to break out your passport? Consider these alternatives.

The Public Policy Internship Program (PPIP) is recruiting students for the spring semester. Students will be placed within legislative offices in Austin or policy-related organizations in Washington, DC. The deadline for the Spring Semester 2009 Washington DC Internships is October 17 and for the Spring Semester 2009 Austin Internships is October 24. Applications may be downloaded at http://tamu.edu/ppip.

To be eligible, you must meet the following criteria:
- Minimum GPR 3.0 (DC) or 2.5 (Austin)
- Student in good standing at TAMU
- At least 60 credit hours and one semester completed at TAMU
- US Citizen

Our policy makers need good science information. Consider providing it!

Another exciting program is the National Student Exchange. The National Student Exchange (NSE) was started in 1967 to help undergraduate students who could not afford to study abroad. Students from TAMU pay TAMU tuition and fees but attend another US (or Canadian) university for a semester or two. The course work you take is agreed upon before hand and is used towards your A&M degree.

With 180 colleges and universities from which to choose, you should be able to find a campus with just the right combination of courses, facilities, and environment to meet your personal and academic needs and interests!

More information can be found at http://www.tamu.edu/nse/

Academic Help Available

If this semester isn't getting off to the great start you hoped for, consider taking advantage of some of the services offered by the Student Counseling Service (SCS). The SCS offers individual academic, career, and personal counseling. So, whether you're struggling in organic, aren't sure what to do with your major, or can't get along with your roommate, there's help for you! In addition to individual counseling, ongoing group counseling sessions are available, including topics such as "Academics Anonymous," Academic Survival, First Generation College Student, and Navigating Your First Year Aggie Experience. The SCS also offers one-time workshops on diverse topics like Study Success, Stress Management, and Talking with Professors. The SCS offers Learning Disability Screening and many other assessment tests to help you learn your personality, study skills, and career interests. The SCS is located in Cain Hall. For more information, please visit the SCS website at http://scs.tamu.edu or call 845-4427.
Job Opportunities: Graduates

Omm Scientific is seeking a Laboratory Technician who will perform routine chemical and biochemical laboratory procedures including the conduct of reactions, isolation and purification of reaction products, chromatographic procedures (HPLC, TLC, column), compound characterizations, cleaning glassware and other laboratory equipment, maintenance of laboratory equipment, and other laboratory duties as required. Please send your resume to: dbarma@ommScientific.com

Omm Scientific Inc., Deb K. Barma, Ph.D., President, 9995 Monroe Drive, Suite 121, Dallas, TX 75220. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Champion Technologies is seeking a inorganic scale specialist. This position acts as support for the scale inhibitor and dissolver product line under the supervision of the Specialists Team Leader. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing a basic knowledge in the areas of product changes, updates, developmental activities, and projects for the scale product line. Contact Anthony Rodriguez, Specialists Team Leader, Flow Management, Champion Technologies at Anthony.Rodriguez@CHAMP-TECH.com or 281-710-9429 (Office).

Job and Research Opportunities: Continuing Students

Tom Bianchi’s lab in the Chemical Oceanography department has a lab position available. Duties will include, but not be limited to, washing glassware, putting references into endnote for a book that will be published, and helping out the graduate students with organic extraction and analytical techniques. Our lab has both an HPLC/MS and a GC/MS which we use to detect organic molecules in marine sediments, such as lipids, amino acids, pigments, and lignin. Pay will be $8 an hour, 2-3 days a week for 2-3 hours at a time.

If you are interested, please respond to Rick Smith at rsmi1230@ocean.tamu.edu with a CV or a resume, or at the very least a written summary of your chemistry background.

Celanese still has an open intern R&D chemist position for the summer in Clear Lake. The internship is a fantastic opportunity to see what industrial research can be like. Contact Stephen Kerlegon at Stephen.Kerlegon@Celanes.com or Phone: 281.291.5031

Rice University offers 2009 IBB Summer Undergraduate Internship Programs. They currently have a program focused on Cellular Engineering and another in Bionanotechnology. Information and 2009 application forms for these programs are available at these urls:

- HHMI Program in Bionanotechnology: http://cohesion.rice.edu/naturalsciences/hhmi/index.cfm?doc_id=10945

You can search for other summer research opportunities at the NSF website http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm.
Welcome to Recently Declared Chemistry Major Alisha Bohnsack

Important Advising Notes

Appointments with Dr. Gaede or Dr. Tiner may be arranged by calling 845-0520. The Q-Drop deadline this semester is October 31. You must meet with Dr. Gaede or Dr. Tiner before Q-dropping a chemistry or math course. May Graduates should check their degree audit and also schedule a pre-registration appointment. Note that 36 hours of 300 and 400 level courses in residence at TAMU is a graduation requirement, and B.A. majors do not automatically meet this requirement. Registration begins November 13 for the Spring semester.

In planning your schedule for the next semester, keep in mind that at the present time Descriptive Inorganic Chemistry, CHEM362 and Analytical Laboratory, CHEM434, are only offered. CHEM362 is a prerequisite for CHEM462, Advanced Inorganic Chemistry, and CHEM433, Inorganic Laboratory, so if you would like to take either of those courses next year, you must enroll in CHEM362 in the Spring.

Fall Commencement has been set for Friday, December 12 at 2 p.m.

Faculty Receive ACS Awards

Two Chemistry faculty have received prestigious ACS regional awards.

Dr. Abraham Clearfield, distinguished professor, has received the American Chemical Society (ACS) Northeast Region Award for Achievements in the Chemical Sciences for his career excellence in contributions to chemical research and knowledge. Dr. Clearfield, the inaugural recipient of this award, received it last summer during a special symposium held in his honor. Dr. Clearfield's work focuses on several major themes; metal phosphonate chemistry, metal organic frameworks (MOFs), porous mixed oxides, solid state chemistry applied to nuclear waste remediation, and polymer nanocomposites. Dr. Clearfield welcomes several undergraduates into his group each semester.

Dr. David Bergbreiter, Presidential Professor of Teaching Excellence, has been awarded the Southwest Regional ACS Award. The Award is given to the section member who has made meritorious contributions to the advancement of chemistry, chemical engineering, chemical education, either pure or applied, or to the profession in general.

Dr. Bergbreiter's research explores new chemistry related to homogeneous catalysis, ligand synthesis, polymer surface modification and surface synthesis and analysis. Dr. Bergbreiter and his students are inventing new ways to combine the features of polymers with known homogeneous catalysts and known ligands. This work has received significant attention as an example of "Green" chemistry.

The award, which has been given annually since 1948, was presented to Dr. Bergbreiter in a ceremony at the William J. Clinton Presidential Library on October 2.
Old Ags

Daniel Taylor (B.S. 2005) recently wrote in to Dr. Tiner. Here is his slightly edited update. “I have just finished my first week of graduate school at the University of North Texas! I got in!! If I counted correctly, there are about 20 students including myself who are starting this fall. I think I’m the only Aggie. However, I was surprised when I bumped into a former classmate, Smitty Grubbs (B.S. 2006), who is in his third year of grad school now. It has been nice to have a familiar face in the hallway while I adjust to the different pace of graduate school. I am considering analytical and also inorganic/materials chemistry. Two of the professors I have spoken with received their doctorates at TAMU, Drs. Omary (inorganic) and Verbeck (analytical/forensic). Both have some really exciting research projects that are largely focused on applications. Needless to say, I am incredibly busy with all of this! But, I feel really good about the whole thing. I have found in myself a renewed spirit for being a student. I think one of the biggest mistakes I made was not getting involved, I am really going to try to correct that this time. I was hell-bent on going it alone even when support was all around me the whole time. I guess we all eventually come to our senses. I was especially glad to know that it was still there when I needed it most. Thank you very much for your help. I wish you and the department the best, it looks like you will all have your hands full! “ Friends of Daniel may contact him at dmt.tamu@gmail.com

John Steinbach (B.S. 1989) recently wrote into Dr. Bergbreiter from League City. He reported, “I don’t know if I told you but I transferred to the Celanese Clear Lake Plant in 2003. In February 2004, Celanese sold my unit to Dow. I’ve been a Run Plant Engineer for Dow since that time. I support the Acrylic Acid Crude and Glacial units and dabble a little bit in the esterification plants. It’s really hard to believe I’ve been gone almost 20 years, now. I’d like to get back up there and take a look around campus and stop in for a visit. The last time I planned to come hurricane Rita intervened and I lost my tickets to the football game. After 12 hrs on the road and a $400 vet bill, I wasn’t in the mood for a football game. I hope you are doing great and look forward to another successful year.” John’s friends may contact him at Steinbach@dow.com .

Jess Miller (B.S. 2005) sent a postcard into the department from the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, WA. He writes, “I am performing a surgical rotation at Madigan Army Medical Center this month. The scenery here is beautiful, and the physicians are dedicated to clinical teaching. I visited the Museum of Glass and tossed an A&M pin into the harbor in memory of Dr. Hogg. I hope y’all are having a good semester, and I look forward to visiting when I return to Texas.” Jess is alluding to Dr. Hogg’s admiration and collection of blown glass.

Mike Killough (B.S., Ph.D.) dropped by to visit recently. Mike was Dr. Bergbreiter’s first Ph.D. student and now is the head Texas A&M recruiter for INEOS olefins and polymers. INEOS is the world’s third largest chemical company with sales approaching $45 billion. Fortunately, both Ike and INEOS were spared major damage from Hurricane Ike. Friends may reach Mike at Mike.Killough@ineos.com.

Gabriella Guzzio (B.A. 1997) wrote in to Ms. Warren recently. She reports, “I am now teaching in Chappaqua, NY, a suburb of NYC...where Bill and Hillary Clinton reside. It is a really nice area and has really nice people.” Friends can reach Gabby at gvg1214@aol.com.
Affording Graduate School

Many students do not realize that generally, tuition and fees are not charged to students pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry. In fact, students generally earn a stipend, either through a teaching assistantship or a research assistantship. These stipends can be replaced or supplemented with graduate fellowships. (Some graduate fellowships are profiled on the next page.) Fellowship applications are typically due in late October or early November.

Additionally, it is best to apply early to graduate schools to have the best chance of receiving University-specific fellowships, many of which are awarded on a rolling basis. Graduate school applications are often due early in the Spring semester, but you should try to get applications in at the end of the Fall semester. Read on, for information about valuable opportunities for students who plan to apply to graduate school.

Workshop: Preparing for and Applying to Graduate School

Mon Oct 13 2008 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Location: MSC 224

The Office of Graduate Studies invites undergraduate students to learn about “Preparing for and Applying to Graduate School” on Monday, October 13, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center 224. Information will be presented on funding and fellowships, preparing to take the GRE, and ways to get involved in research opportunities while working on your undergraduate degree. For more information and to RSVP please email meganp@tamu.edu.

Graduate and Professional School Day

The Career Center will be hosting Graduate and Professional School Day on Friday, October 10, 2008. Over 90 schools from Texas and across the nation will be on campus on the 2nd Floor of the MSC to represent hundreds of graduate programs and professional schools. A list of participating schools can be found at http://careercenter.tamu.edu/GPSD.html.

GRE Preparation Course

A GRE Prep Course is offered through Texas A&M University Continuing and Professional Studies Office Division of Research and Graduate Studies.

The Continuing and Professional Studies Office will hold its next GRE Prep Course the weekend of October 25-26, 2008. CAPSO’s proven 15-hour course will equip participants with the tools to attain the score required to gain access to grad school. The course is taught by a former public school teacher and Texas A&M graduate with over seven years experience teaching the GRE for less than half the price of non-Texas A&M courses. Valuable follow-up with the instructor is available to those completing the Prep Course.

For more information, future review dates and to register visit: http://gre.tamu.edu.
Graduate Fellowships

1) National Physical Science Consortium - Graduate Fellowships in the Physical Sciences (http://www.npsc.org/). NPSC offers a unique Ph.D.-track graduate fellowship in the physical sciences and related engineering fields. It is open to all U. S. Citizens, but with emphasis on recruitment of applications from historically underrepresented minorities and women.

An NPSC Fellowship covers the first two or three years of graduate school, depending on the employer who sponsors the fellowship, with the possibility of continuation for several more years providing all the conditions of the fellowship continue to be met. The maximum duration is six years, in which case the overall value (stipend, tuition, fees, summer salary for two summers) of an NPSC fellowship typically well exceeds $200,000. http://www.npsc.org/downloads/brochure

The application for this program is due November 5.


The Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships seek to increase the diversity of the nation’s college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, to maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and to increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students.

To facilitate this goal the Fellowship grants awards at the Predoctoral, Dissertation and, Postdoctoral levels to students who demonstrate excellence, a commitment to diversity and a desire to enter the professoriate.

This year the program will award approximately 60 predoctoral fellowships. The predoctoral fellowships provide three years of support for individuals engaged in graduate study leading to a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) or Doctor of Science (Sc.D.) degree. The on-line Application Deadline: November 14, 2008.

3) The purpose of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) is to ensure the vitality of the scientific and technological workforce in the United States and to reinforce its diversity. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in the relevant science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines who are pursuing research based master’s and doctoral degrees.

The NSF expects to award 900-1,600 Graduate Research Fellowships under this program solicitation pending availability of funds. The Graduate Research Fellowship stipend currently is $30,000 for a 12-month tenure period, pro-rated monthly at $2,500 for shorter periods as approved by NSF.

All awards will be for a maximum of three years usable over a five-year period. The anticipated award date is late March 2009.

The application deadline for chemistry is November 10, 2008.

For information about this program, please see http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf08593

4) The Hertz Foundation offers fellowships in Chemistry. They are looking for exceptional creativity, broad understanding of physical principles, and an outstanding potential for innovative research. Applicants must be applying to or enrolled in a Ph.D. program and must have American citizenship or permanent residency.

There are two options available, chosen at the time of the award. Both options are five year fellowships.

The application can be found at www.hertzfoundation.org. The application deadline is October 31, 2008.