Orbitals
What’s Happening in Chemistry Circles

Chemistry Graduates Participate in Dec. 12 Commencement

Twenty-two chemistry majors received their diplomas at the 2 p.m. December 12 commencement ceremony in Reed Arena.

**BA majors**
- Elzabeth Adams
- Tiffany Camp (cum laude)
- James Cantu
- Jessica Cuccio
- Taran Endsley

**BS majors**
- Sallie Finklea
- Annette Flores
- Connie Kim
- Ryan Olbrich
- Ana Lisa Ornelas
- Marissa Proske
- Chris Ruiz
- Megan Stussi (cum laude)
- Tyler Williams

**Sallie Finklea**
- Annette Flores
- Connie Kim
- Ryan Olbrich
- Ana Lisa Ornelas
- Marissa Proske
- Chris Ruiz
- Megan Stussi (cum laude)
- Tyler Williams

**BS majors**
- Timothy Bosser
- Tara Clover

Jason Denny
- Candace Hayes
- Bret Macha
- Clayton Mercer (cum laude)
- Bradley Nolen (cum laude)
- Brett Savoie

Profiles of many of the graduates can be found starting on page 3.

The Chemistry Building is coated with a dusting of snow on December 10. Two inches of snow accumulated, bringing a celebratory end to the Fall Semester finals.
May and August graduates must file for graduation between Jan. 2 and Jan. 30. More information can be found at http://graduation.tamu.edu/applica.html.

May and August graduates should check their degree audit after their registration for the Spring is finalized. May graduates should have no requirements remaining, and most likely even August graduates should have no chemistry courses remaining. August graduates should attempt to verify that the courses they have remaining will in fact be offered over the summer so that they have time to adjust their Spring registration if they won’t be.

Job Opportunity at Lynntech, Inc.

Lynntech, Inc., a rapidly growing technology development company specializing in transitioning innovative ideas and concepts into marketable technologies, is seeking highly motivated, creative researchers for our team-driven work environment. Good organizational and data management, proven technical writing efforts, and effective communication skills are required for successful career growth.

In addition to a challenging multidisciplinary work environment, qualified Research Assistant applicants will have the opportunity to develop their own scientific interests and broaden laboratory skills. This profitable, dynamic company offers an excellent compensation and benefits package. Our facilities are located in College Station, Texas, just four miles from Texas A&M University.

We have an immediate opening for a Research Assistant with a B.S./B.A in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, and/or Biochemistry. Prior laboratory experience in analytical chemistry and instrumentation is preferred.

Qualified applicants should submit a resume online at www.lynntech.com.

Lynntech, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Job Opportunity at OI Analytical

OI Analytical seeks an Inside Sales Support person. The position requires someone with a chemistry or basic science degree.

The Inside Sales Representative will be responsible for being the first point of contact for customer inquiries via telephone and email. With product knowledge and company knowledge will create leads for sales follow-up, qualify leads and generally provide for a positive initial experience for customers.

For more information, apply at the website www.oico.com. This job listing was forwarded by Kimberly (Nash) Ferguson (BA 2007), kferguson@oico.com.
Profiles of December Chemistry Graduates: The New Old Ags

**Tiffany Camp** was born and raised in Spring, TX. Besides receiving a B.A. in chemistry with a minor in business, she also has worked in the Financial Aid Office, for 3 1/2 years, where she received the Student Employee of the Semester Award. She has been actively involved in the Regents Mentor program by assisting incoming freshman’s transition into college. Outside of academics, she has been involved in numerous organizations including Campus Crusade for Christ and W.H.O.O.P. In her spare time, Tiffany enjoys painting and creating floral designs. After graduation, she will move to Houston, TX to begin working and will get married to her high school sweetheart, Cade Roper, in July of 2009. She is planning to go back to school and receive her MBA.

**James Cantu** was raised in Port Aransas, Texas and during his junior and senior years he was persuaded earn a degree at Texas A&M by his chemistry teacher. In addition to his course load he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and president of the American Chemical Society - Student Affiliated Chapter during the 2007-2008 academic year. James plans to become a United States Marine Corps Officer after graduation.

**Taran Endsley** grew up in Texarkana, Texas. He is graduating with a B.A. in Chemistry with a minor in Business. Taran will begin working at Baker Hughes Drilling Fluids in December of this year. Outside of academics, he is involved in numerous intramural and city league sports, playing both softball and soccer. He is married to Beth Endsley a A&M graduate, and they live with their lovely black labrador named Niobi. He is also a member of Bethel Lutheran Church in Bryan, Texas.

**Tara Michele Clover** was born and raised in Texas City, TX. She knew that Texas A&M University was where she would attend college after viewing the campus from afar during a soccer tournament in her adolescent years. Starting out as a Biomedical Science major, Tara became a Chemistry major at the end of her junior year after realizing that chemistry was her stronger suit. During the same time, she began to work in Dr. Abraham Clearfield’s research group where she continued to work throughout her undergraduate years. She was also a member of the Texas A&M Taekwondo Team. Tara plans to continue her education and has her sights set on graduate school in hopes of attaining her doctorate degree.

**Sallie Finklea**, class of ’08, hometown is Garland, TX. She majored in Chemistry with a concentration in teacher certification. She enjoyed being involved in a Bible Study and eventually became a student leader and treasurer with the TAMU Navigators. After she graduates she will be attending graduate school where she will be pursuing a Masters in Linguistics. She would also like to take this opportunity to thank her parents, John and Jan Finklea, for all the support and love they have given her over the past several years.

**Annette Flores** grew up in the Rio Grande Valley, Sullivan City, TX. Along with her twin sister, she is a first generation Aggie. As an under-
Profiles of December Chemistry Graduates: The New Old Ags

Connie Y. Kim was raised in Garland, TX. After living in Dallas County all her life, she wanted to live in a new city and College Station was the best place to start her college career and ultimately get her degree in Chemistry. A&M was such a large and amazing university that Connie wanted to be more than just a student, so she joined organizations like Aggie Women in Leadership and Liberty in North Korea (L.I.N.K.). When she was not busy studying or attending meetings for organizations, she was working at the GI lab at A&M’s Small Animal Hospital where she performed PCRs, DNA extractions, electrophoresis, ligations, transformations, and plasmid isolations. Since she was a lab assistant for five years, she wants to continue down this path but also sees herself returning to school to get a M.S. and Ph.D.

Clayton R. Mercer, class of 2010, was born and raised in Burleson, TX. Becoming an Aggie in a Longhorn home wasn’t easy but he made it work. Clayton loves Chemistry and graduated A&M in just two and a half years. He worked as a Chemistry TA and then in the Liu lab. Clayton has been happily married for 7 months to his high school sweetheart, Aggie class of ’08. Clayton is actively applying for both a full-time job and graduate school. He is still deciding what to do after graduation but is expecting his own little Aggie this summer.

Brad Nolen grew up in Carrollton, TX. At Texas A&M, he played trombone in the Texas A&M Jazz Ensemble and in Hulabaloo band, the spirit band that plays at basketball and volleyball games. In the summers, he was a counselor at Camp of the Hills, a summer camp located in the hill country west of Austin, where he worked with underprivileged children. It was here that he discovered his love for the outdoors and working with children. In the Fall semester of 2007, Brad was accepted into the Texas A&M Public Policy Internship Program and lived in Washington D.C. There he interned with the Association of American Universities and worked on physical science policy and on issues relating to science education. Brad’s love for science and children led him to apply to Teach for America to which he was accepted. He will be teaching high school biology in Charlotte, North Carolina in the Fall of 2009. Brad’s long term goal is to become a Physician’s Assistant and practice medicine in high need areas across the U.S. or abroad. Brad enjoys running, human physiology, being a coffee snob, brewing beer (applied chemistry!), the outdoors, and rock climbing.

Ana Lisa Ornelas was raised in Edinburg, TX. She wanted to go to Texas A&M and receive a degree in Chemistry which she finally achieved. She played intramural sports to keep her active
during her college career. She is unsure of what she plans on doing after graduation. There is a possibility of graduate school so she can pursue a career involving research. Time can only tell what this Aggie Alumni will plan to do.

Marissa Proske grew up in Ft. Worth, Texas. Besides her chemistry degree, she also earned her secondary teaching certification while at Texas A&M University. Outside of academics, Marissa has also been involved in numerous organizations including Aggie School Volunteers, HOSTS, and GUIDE. After graduation, she will finish her student teaching at Bryan Collegiate High School and then explore options as a research chemist or high school chemistry teacher in the Houston area.

Chris Ruiz grew up in Houston, Texas. Besides his degree in chemistry, he also earned a minor in business and completed the biological sciences track for chemistry majors while attending Texas A&M University. Outside of academics, he has also been involved in intramurals, HOSTS, FMA, and also loves to workout and play poker. While attending A&M Chris became extremely active in online poker during the Fall of 2006 where he has turned his initial deposit into a vast amount of money across numerous online poker sites. After graduation, Chris plans to travel and play high stakes poker before attending Business school. He also plans on writing a story on the highs and lows of playing high stakes poker.

Brett Savoie was born in Flint, Michigan but moved to McAllen, Texas when he was just a little tyke. Growing up, Brett was always good at math but never imagined he would end up in the sciences. Those around him were quite surprised when he later graduated from Texas A&M with degrees in Physics and Chemistry. While at A&M he did research in both the Physics and Chemistry departments during the day and in the evenings he would go and play with local disabled youth in Project Sunshine (his favorite organization). During his undergraduate education, Brett also managed to cultivate interests in music, writing, and history. After graduation, Brett will hang around College Station for the Spring, enjoying a semester free of school work before entering graduate school in the fall.

Megan Stussi came to Texas A&M University from Rockwall, TX as a first generation Aggie with a Sooner dad who wondered “Where did I go wrong?” After her first year here she decided to pursue a teaching certificate with A&M’s Math and Science Scholars (MASS) program and was awarded the Hach Scholarship her sophomore year of college. She fully enjoyed her four years in College Station by studying abroad, being very active in her church, and meeting her future husband. Their wedding was on November 29th, 2008. After moving into a little apartment in Mesquite, Megan will go to work at Poteet High School teaching our future leaders!

Tyler Williams came from humble beginnings in the once small town of Sugar Land, TX. Tyler came to Texas A&M in the fall of ’04. He could not decide a major in his first two years. When he was forced to pick one,
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he chose chemistry. He was never sure why he chose chemistry, but in the end was glad he did. He saw that chemistry is everywhere, and is a forever expanding field. Also, when the TA isn’t looking, the labs could be fun too. After college, Tyler plans to either move to LA to become an actor/singer/dancer (a triple threat) or get a job in pharmaceutical sales to utilize his charm and interest in medicine. Also, upon writing this, Tyler has decided to always talk in the third person. In conclusion, Tyler has enjoyed his time at Texas A&M University and will forever remember his experiences.

Old Ags

Jess Miller (BS 2005) wrote in to update us on his whereabouts. Here’s an excerpt from his postcard. “Howdy Chemistry Department, This month I have been at Fort Benning, GA for a Dermatology elective. I will return here to complete training in Family Medicine after graduating in May. The hospital has a strong educational program, and the physicians have a positive work environment. I found a home nearby in Alabama within biking distance of Downtown Columbus. The city was built along the Chattahoochee River, and the historic district includes a performing arts center, a river walk, a university, pubs, an opera house, and a convention center built into the old steel refinery. The post has a historic stadium, the Infantry museum, and the jump towers used by the Airborne trainees. I have to return to Houston to finish my last semester of medical school, but I already feel at home in Georgia. I wish your department a very blessed Christmas.

Kimberly (Nash) Ferguson (BA 2007) writes, “I have been doing pretty well since graduation. I got married in May of 2007 to my husband Andrew who is a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at A&M. I moved to College Station in March of 2008 and I really enjoy living here. I have been working at OI Analytical since May of 2007. I started as an inside sales support person and was promoted to an inside sales representative in April of 2008 which means that I have a territory (North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia) that I am responsible for meeting a quota. (I believe with very recent changes, I will become the sales representative for this area very soon but that is not official yet.)”

Visitors to CHEM100

Dr. Shari Yvon-Lewis, Department of Oceanography, spoke to the CHEM100 class on November 13. Dr. Lewis has an undergraduate degree in chemistry from UMass Amherst. She introduced the four branches of oceanography, then focused specifically on chemical oceanography. Chemistry majors interested in this area of research should consider the minor in oceanography.

Dr. Valerie Meyers (B.A. 2000), NASA, visited the CHEM100 class on December 2. She spoke about her work as a toxicologist, where she evaluates the hazards on payloads bound for the International Space Station. Even something relatively innocuous on earth can become hazardous in a microgravity, confined environment. This is Dr. Meyer’s third visit to CHEM100. While in graduate school, she spoke about her research evaluating bone loss in astronauts. She returned later to speak about her work monitoring Texas Environmental Quality.
Dr. Wayne Goodman Receives 2008 JoAnn Treat Research Excellence Award

Dr. D. Wayne Goodman

The Texas A&M Research Foundation announced the recipient of the 2008 JoAnn Treat Research Excellence Award at their Annual Fall meeting on December 8, 2008. This year’s recipient is Dr. D. Wayne Goodman, Distinguished Professor, Chemistry Department at Texas A&M University. Dr. D. Wayne Goodman received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas. He joined the Department of Chemistry in 1988. He has published over 490 publications/book chapters and is the recipient of the Distinguished Research Award of Texas A&M University, the Giuseppe Parravano Award, the Adamson Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Surface Chemistry of the American Chemical Society, and many others. He has served as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Catalysis and is currently serving on the Advisory Boards of Surface Science, Langmuir, Catalysis Letters, and the Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter and E-Journal of Surface Science and Nanotechnology.

Dr. D. Wayne Goodman received a $10,000 award, a commemorative plaque and will also have his name recorded on the JoAnn Treat commemorative glass vase displayed in the Research Foundation lobby.

Dr. Frank Raushel Named AAAS Fellow

Dr. Frank Raushel was named a Fellow of The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). This is an important accomplishment because election as a Fellow of AAAS is an honor bestowed upon members by their peers. A total of 486 new AAAS Fellows were elected this November.

Dr. Raushel is the Davidson Professor in Science and Professor of Chemistry, of Biochemistry and Biophysics, and of Toxicology. He received his B.A., from St. Thomas College and his Ph. D. from the University of Wisconsin Madison. He completed postdoctoral work at Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Raushel’s research focuses on the determination of enzyme reaction mechanisms and protein structure using kinetic, genetic, and magnetic resonance techniques.

Dr. Raushel will be recognized for their contributions to science and technology at the Fellows Forum to be held on 14 February 2009 during the AAAS Annual Meeting in Chicago. The new Fellows will receive a certificate and a blue and gold rosette as a symbol of their distinguished accomplishments.

Welcome New Faculty Member — Dr. Oleg Ozerov

Dr. Oleg Ozerov will officially be joining the department this Spring.

Dr. Ozerov received his M.S. in chemistry from the Higher Chemical College of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 1998, and his Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the University of Kentucky in 2000. After serving as a Postdoctoral associate at Indiana University, he joined the faculty at Brandeis University and rose to the rank of Associate Professor in 2006.

Dr. Ozerov is one of the brightest young stars in the inorganic/catalysis area. In addition to his outstanding research achievements, he has an impressive publication record (44 papers in leading journals) and has received significant outside recognition (Sloan and Research Corporation Innovation Award). Dr. Ozerov is regarded as an excellent classroom instructor and is dedicated to the training and mentoring of undergraduates.

Dr. Ozerov will be teaching CHEM 104 this Spring.
ThinkSwiss will support 15 talented and motivated U.S. students from all fields of study, who apply for a research project at a Swiss university or research lab. The awardees will receive a monthly stipend of CHF 1,000 (approx. $830) for a period of up to three months. Additional information about the 2009 ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship can be found on http://www.thinkswiss.org/

ACS Scholarships for Underrepresented Minorities

The American Chemical Society (ACS) Scholars Program is now accepting applications for the 2009-2010 academic year. This program is targeted at minority groups considered to be under-represented in the sciences—African American, American Indian and Hispanic or Latino students. Award amounts are based on financial need and can be up to $2500 per academic year for college freshmen, up to $3000 per year for college sophomores, and up to $5000 per year for college juniors and seniors. This scholarship is also available to students in two-year chemical technology programs. Graduating high school seniors, college freshmen, sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply. The number and amount of awards are subject to available funding. We must receive applications by March 1, 2009. Students in pre-med, pharmacy, nursing, dentistry, and veterinary medicine programs are not eligible for this scholarship. For more information or to apply online, go to http://www.acs.org/scholars

Career Center Open House

The Career Center Open House will be held Wednesday, Jan. 21st from 11am-1pm at 209 Koldus. During the Open House, you can meet Career Center staff, find out more about events and services, and learn how to utilize HireAggies.com. You will also be able to get a list of all employers coming to campus this spring, determine deadlines for uploading your resume, and drop off your resume for review to pick up at the end of the week.

Important Dates:
Mock Interview Day for Engineering, Science, & Related Majors
Jan 26 8am-5pm 209 Koldus
Preparing You for the Workplace
Mar 31 5:30-7:30 pm 601 Rudder

Learn more about...
How to find a job in a tight economy
What to expect during your first year

Working for Baby Boomers
For a list of all Career Center workshops http://hireaggies.tamu.edu/tamu/staffmaster3/workshopListing.cfm

Study Abroad

Financial aid for study abroad informational meetings will be held January 29, Thursday 10am-2pm Spring study abroad fair http://study-abroad.tamu.edu/preparation_orientation.asp
(This is the only meeting in January.)

Scholarships for Research in Switzerland

ACS Scholarships for Underrepresented Minorities

Career Center Open House

Study Abroad
ACS sponsored Nuclear and Radiochemistry Summer School

The ACS sponsored Nuclear and Radiochemistry Summer School Program is seeking curious and highly motivated students with strong science backgrounds. If selected, these students receive an all-expense paid opportunity to complete a 6 week summer course in Nuclear and Radiochemistry in either CA or NY. They also earn hours (tuition paid) of undergraduate chemistry credit through either San Jose State University or SUNY-Stony Brook.

An announcement for the Nuclear and Radiochemistry Summer Schools that can be posted is available at http://www.nscl.msu.edu/~manonica/2009_SummerSchoolFlyer.pdf

It describes the application procedure and the preferred background for applicants. This information, and downloadable application and personal reference forms, can also be found on the web http://www.cofc.edu/~nuclear/nukess.html

The deadline for applications is February 1, 2009.

International Research Experiences for Undergraduates

The ACS International Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program (ACS-IREU) will select 18 students to conduct research at selected institutions in Germany, France, Italy, and the UK. To qualify, students must be US citizens or permanent residents, be rising juniors or seniors, majoring in chemistry or a related field, and have one semester or summer of prior research experience. Although helpful, no foreign language experience is required. Detailed information and online applications can be found on the web site www.acs.org/ireu.

Internship Program in Scientific Computing and Graphics

Interns work with faculty members and their research groups on projects using high-performance computing environments to address problems in science and engineering that could not otherwise be attempted. This includes aspects of high-performance computing and scientific modeling and simulation as well as graphics, visualization, informatics, and high-performance network communications.

The program is full-time for 10 weeks, June 1 through August 7, 2009. Interns are paid a $5000 stipend (interns are responsible for their own travel and housing costs).

Requirements:
Interns must be undergraduates at the time of the internship (through August 2009).

Interns must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States and its possessions.

Deadline for receipt of applications is March 2, 2009.

Contact:
Undergraduate Internship Coordinator
University of Minnesota Supercomputing Institute
599 Walter
117 Pleasant Street SE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Phone: (612) 624-2330
Email: uip@msi.umn.edu.
http://www.msi.umn.edu/programs/undergraduateinternship.html