In the 2011-12 academic year, the department graduated 52 students with bachelor's degrees in chemistry. In December 2011, the following students graduated with BA degrees: Ashley Cook, Corey Daigle, Raul Gonzalez, Cullan Lucas (cum laude; double major with music), and Megan Mader. The following students graduated with BS degrees: Willie Hsu, Cross Medders, Jordan Tham, and Ashley Wallace.

In May 2012, the following students graduated with BA degrees: Kevin Burnett (magna cum laude), Robert Gulley, Jayna Higginbotham, Christine Oh, Nadezda Ojeda, Christina Perez, Michael Pham, Adam Ramos, Jose Salinas, Vivian Salom, (magna cum laude), Hannah Sturm, Victoria Thomas, Madeline Tipton, David Vinther (summa cum laude); double major with mathematics), Shantal White, Allison Williams (summa cum laude), and Christopher Woolford. The following students received BS degrees: Jonathan Banke, Phillip Fiorini, Yale Fu (magna cum laude; double degree with economics), James Hemmer (magna cum laude), Daniel Jasinski, Matthew Lewis, Megan Link, Robert Lye, Alexander Mijalis (summa cum laude), Caitlin Pursley, Ashley Raymond, Erica Schepp, Gregory Serna, Sean Springer, Michael Thatcher, and Matthew Ward. In August 2012, the following students received BA degrees: Kathryn Broze and David Crochet. Khanh Pham (summa cum laude) received a BS degree. Congratulations to all our graduates! Many of them have submitted senior autobiographies, which can be found starting on page 6.

Academic Achievement Recognized on Parent’s Weekend

The Chemistry Department held its 4th annual Undergraduate Awards Ceremony on Friday, March 30 at 4 p.m. The ceremony is held to recognize academic award winners, scholarship recipients, and graduating seniors.

The CRC Outstanding First Year Chemistry Course Award, given to the most outstanding student in first-year major or honors chemistry was presented to Emily Emmons and Callie Cheatham. Emily and Callie received a small honorarium and a copy of the latest edition of the CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics.

The Outstanding Achievement in Organic Chemistry, given to the highest achieving student in majors or honors organic chemistry was presented to Elizabeth Campell and Quy Dong by Dr. Dan Singleton, the instructor in the majors’ section of CHEM228. They received a small honorarium and a certificate.

The Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry, given to the best student in CHEM415, was presented to Alex Mijalis by Dr. James Batteas. Alex received a subscription to the journal Analytical Chemistry along with a small honorarium.

The ACS Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry, given to the student with the highest achievement in Inorganic Chemistry classes and research, was presented to Khanh Pham. Khanh receives a small honorarium and a letter signed by the national chair of the Inorganic Division of the American Chemical Society.

Congratulations Chemistry Graduates!
The ACS Leadership Award, given to the students who exhibit the most leadership in service of the ACS Student Affiliates, was presented to Benjamin Megan Link and Andrew Winn by Dr. Tammy Tiner, advisor to the Student Affiliates. They received honoraria.

The Hypercube Scholar Award, presented to a student who exhibits promise for success in graduate school, was presented to James Hemmer, who began graduate school at UC Santa Cruz this semester. Jimmy receives a copy of the Hypercube software package.

Chemistry Department Achievement Awards are presented to the most outstanding junior and senior chemistry majors who do not receive other recognition. Dr. David Russell, Department Head presented each of these students with a check and a certificate. Students receiving this award were Alaina Anderson, Kevin Burnett, Yale Fu, James Hemmer, Yen-Nan Lin, Khanh Pham, and Viviana Salom.

The Jaan Laane Academic Achievement Awards, given to the two most outstanding juniors, with preference given to BS students, were presented by Dr. Jaan Laane to Alexander Megan Esteb and Stacey Moller. Megan and Stacey each received substantial cash awards.

The Merck Index Award, given to the one or two most outstanding students pursuing careers in the health profession, were presented to Allison Williams and David Vinther. Allison and David each receive a copy of the Merck Index.

The Hugh McLean, Jr. Award, given to a student who has displayed unusual perseverance in the pursuit of his or her degree, was presented to Jordan Tham by Dr. Holly Gaede.

The Chemistry Department Outstanding Undergraduate Award, given to the most outstanding graduating senior, with preference given to BS majors, was presented to Alex Mijalis by Dr. David Bergbreiter.

The 2010-11 departmental scholarship winners will also recognized at the ceremony. The scholarships are awarded based on chemistry majors based on academic achievement, financial need, and specific requirements requested by the scholarship donors. Chemistry majors who wish to be considered for departmental scholarships must complete the university scholarship application form. Since many of the scholarships are based on need as well as academic achievement, students are also encouraged to submit a FAFSA form.

Jeffrey Davis,Yen-Nan Lin, Stacey Moller, and Stephanie White received Dow Aggies Scholarships. These scholarships are reserved for junior and senior chemistry majors. Jayna Higginbotham and Allison Williams received The George C. Bauer Scholarship, which is intended for students demonstrating financial need. Joshua Horak, James Scandra, and Victoria Thomas received Sharon Merritt Birchter Scholarship, which is given to those intending to teach high school chemistry.

Andrew Winn received the Elizabeth Drake ’87 American Chemical Society Scholarship in Chemistry, given to students taking on leadership roles in the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. These students must be members of the National American Chemical Society. Allison Williams received the Jennifer Lynn Drost ’99 Memorial Endowed Scholarship. Lauren Montagnino, Kayla Powers, Michael Pham, and Madeline Tipton received Hach Scientific Foundation ACS Scholarships, for those students intending to teach high school chemistry.

Kevin Burnett received The Dr. John L. Hogg Endowed Scholarship in Chemistry. Darcie Hicks received the Eileen and Harry Lewis Scholarship. Bianca Ramirez and David Vinther received the Dr. Herman A. Liebhafsky Scholarship. Kristen Ackerman, Alaina Anderson, Gabriel Dang, Megan Esteb, James Hemmer, James Moore, Chan Park, and Khanh Pham received the Dr. David W. Lipp ’66 Memorial Endowed Scholarship. Cullan Lucas received the Dawn C. ’96 and David A. ’88 Mason Scholarship in Chemistry.

Laura Kleihege, Netan Pruthi, and Kimberly Trevino received The Connie G. and Otto F. (Pete) Schumm Endowed Scholarship in Chemistry. Adriana Amagliani received The Emile A. Schweikert Endowed Scholarship. James Hemmer received the Dr. Minoru Tsutsui Memorial Scholarship.

Congratulations to our scholarship recipients, and many thanks to the donors who have made these awards possible.
Department of Chemistry Announces 2012-13 Scholarship Recipients

The Department of Chemistry has awarded $64,500 in scholarships to undergraduate chemistry majors for the 2012-13 academic year. These scholarships are endowed by generous donors, some honoring former teachers or students. Congratulations to all our recipients, and many thanks to the donors who made these scholarships possible.

ACS-Hach Scientific Foundation Scholarships is intended for chemistry majors who have demonstrated progress toward becoming certified to teach, with at least a 3.0 GPA. The awardees are Emily Cargile, Lauren Montagnino, and Andrew Rendon.

The George C. Bauer Scholarship, was established in 1968 by Mrs. George C. Bauer, in memory of her husband who was a professor of analytical chemistry at Texas A&M. This year’s awardees are Allison Williams and Jayna Higginbotham.

Sharon Merritt Birtcher Scholarship is awarded to students planning to become teachers. The recipients are John Nguyen and Esneider Zamora.

The Dow Aggie Scholarships are given to outstanding junior or senior chemistry majors. This scholarship was made available by the generous support of Dow Chemical and its employees to support Texas A&M University and its students. This year’s awardees are Benjamin Cassidy, Yen-Nan Lin, Stacey Moller, and Stephanie White.

Jennifer Lynn Drost ’99 Endowed Memorial Scholarship in Chemistry. This scholarship was established by the Drost family in memory of Jennifer Drost, a former chemistry major. Preference is given to outstanding out-of-state students. This year’s awardee is Shelby Hale.

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

Eileen Lob Lewis ’65 and Harry S. (Hank) Lewis ’65 Premier Endowed Scholarship in Chemistry is an endowed scholarship in honor of the Lewises. Preference given to a female chemistry major based on financial need and not primarily academic achievement; application required. The awardee is Darcie Hicks and Pamela Valencia.

Dr. Herman A. Liefhafsky Scholarship was established by Dr. William R. Howell ’69 and Cindy Howell to honor a former chemistry professor. Given to a chemistry major based on financial need and achievement; there is a preference for someone from a “rural” Texas area. The awardees are Bianca Ramirez.

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 Alaina Anderson, Quy Duong, Megan Esteb, Juan Guerrero, David Hersh, Madhav Neupane, Chan Park, and Ramsey Yusuf.

The Dawn C. ’96 and David A. ’88 Mason Endowed Scholarship in Chemistry, established by former students, is awarded to a chemistry major on the basis of academic achievement. Preference is given to a member of the corps of cadets. The recipient is Ethan Pulliam.

Connie G. and Otto F. (Pete) ’45 Schumm Endowed Scholarship was established as a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Schumm. It is awarded to outstanding chemistry majors based on both financial need and academic performance. This year’s awardees are Laura Kleihege, Kayla Powers, Netan Pruthi, and Kimberly Trevino.

The Emile A. Schweikert Endowed Scholarship was established in honor of Dr. Emile Schweikert, who served as the Head of the Department of Chemistry for many years and continues as an esteemed faculty member. The scholarship provides support for a full-time student in good standing pursuing an undergraduate degree in chemistry. The awardee is Adriana Amagiani.

Dr. Minoru Tsutsui Memorial Scholarship was established by Mr. Don Birkelbach ’70 in honor of his former chemistry professor. Given to a chemistry major who is a Texas resident and plans a career in industry, the awardee is James Moore.

To be considered for a scholarship, chemistry majors must apply online using the University Scholarship application, found at scholarships.tamu.edu. The application will open October 15 and close February 1.

Some scholarships are based on financial need. To be considered for these, you will have to complete a FAFSA.

We generally do not award scholarship to students who have already received substantial scholarships.

Do not hesitate to inquire about any of these scholarships.
Welcome to Our New Students!

Our undergraduate chemistry program continues to grow. This year, we welcome 136 first-year students and 12 transfer students. In addition, we’ve welcomed several change of majors into the department over the past year. Welcome to all our new chemists!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First-year Student</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zakaria Abu-Adas</td>
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<td>Talal Aldugman</td>
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<td>Owais Sarwar</td>
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Welcome Incoming Chemistry Students

Continued from page 4

Bryce Schilling
Stephen Sharp
Sachit Shrivastav
Alyssa Smith
Bre’Ana Stafford
Jason Stevens
Robert Stevens
Andrea Stewart
Matthew Stoudt
Ashley Terzis
Marshall Tolleson
Aurora Torres
Jocelyn Townsend
Trinh Tran
Mollie Umphress
Henry Vasquez
Sarah Ward
Inice Warren
Hannah Weems
Amy Westwick
Idalou, TX
Austin, TX
Sugar Land, TX
Burleson, TX
Gonzales, TX
Arlington, TX
Harlingen, TX
Grapevine, TX
Cypress, TX
Celina, TX
Cottonwood, AZ
Dallas, TX
Wylie, TX
Houston, TX
Chico, TX
St. Hedwig, TX
Corpus Christi, TX
Houston, TX
Sweetwater, TX
Temple, TX
Kevin Wilfong
Gabriela Wolf-Gonzalez
Xu Ye
Pureiu Yeo
Clayton Yoder
Alyssa York

Transfer Student
Cody Bryant
Matthew Carlin
Joshua Gordon
Megan Henneberry
Abdul Khan
Michelle Krecker
Samuel Morenikeji
Simon Park
Charles Rosales
Sandra Shin
Oscar Verduzco
James Wollenburg

Tomball, TX
Houston, TX
Beijing,
Grapevine, TX
Kingwood, TX
Deer Park, TX

Hometown
Whitehouse, TX
Prosper, TX
Dallas, TX
College Station, TX
Palo, TX
Montgomery, TX
Orangeburg, SC
Flower Mound, TX
San Antonio, TX
Oxford, GA
Victoria, TX
Harlingen, TX

Welcome to Recently Declared Chemistry Majors

Cheyenne Bauer
Christopher Beto
Garret Brown
Emily Cargile
Ricardo Castro
Sarah Chandel
Matthew Cohan
Rachael Cox
Daniel Dobbins
Michael Frey
Nicholas Gamez
Mark Goloby
Juan Guerrero
Kenci Hillbrich
Jeremy Huffman
Hanophy Joshua
Boenker Julie
Nicholas Krejchi
Ryan Leikness
Elijah Martin
David McCloskey
Taryn McMillen
Steven Montalvo
Herbert Morais
Joshua Muehlbrad
Rachel Redding
Calandra Sanderson
David Sikorski
Barbara Smith
Kari Stratton
Michael Torano
Richard Van Dyke
Pritivh Vangal
Khoi Vo
John Vu
John Wells
Avery Willard
Emily Wilson

A New Element: Public Policy

By Yale Fu (Class of 2012)

As an undergraduate with a little too much free time between the spring and fall semesters, I have always sought to occupy myself with productive pursuits during the long summers. To cater to my typically neglect-ed adventurous side, I have taken opportunities during the past two summers to spend time outside of my comfort zone, both geographically and intellectually. The most recent summer has provided my biggest eye-opening experience to date.

I took a step out of my old element, a world of lab coats, classrooms, and group meetings, into a realm of suits, teleconferences, and branch meetings. I brought my chemistry-related talents to Washington, D.C. Although my job was neither terribly exciting nor glamorous, I consider it to be one of my most worthwhile experiences. I

Although my job was neither terribly exciting nor glamorous, I consider it to be one of my most worthwhile experiences.

A PPIP internship provides participants the opportunity to work full-time in policy-related internships for a semester. Internship sites vary and typically range from governmental agencies to non-profit organizations and private firms. Students take an active role in their organizations and gain valuable knowledge that will prepare them for life after graduation.

They are currently accepting applications. Visit ppip.tamu.edu for more information.
Kevin Burnett
Kevin Burnett grew up in Albuquerque, NM. He came to Texas A&M on a Track & Field/XC scholarship. He was very blessed to be a part of an indoor and outdoor Big 12 Championship team and three NCAA National Championship teams in track. He was also part of the Aggie Cross Country team that finished 18th at the NCAA Championship, the programs highest finish ever. He hopes to enter into the medical field as a surgeon. He has loved all his time at Texas A&M, even PCHEM and 234.

Willie Hsu
I graduated from Bellaire High School in Bellaire, TX in 2008. I entered Texas A&M as a chemical engineering, but quickly realized it wasn’t very exciting. I decided to switch majors to chemistry my second semester of freshman year on the sole hope that all my classes would be as fun as organic chemistry. Luckily for me, it turned out to be true. I loved learning about chemistry (though my grades won’t tell you that). In fact, I love chemistry and Texas A&M so much that I made the decision to remain here to pursue my Ph.D. And I look forward to it.

Yale Fu
Yale Fu was born in Shanghai, China and has been a Texan since changing countries during kindergarten. After concluding his high school career in Arlington, he made the decision to continue his education at Texas A&M University. This decision has worked out very well, as Yale will graduate from TAMU with a B.S. in Chemistry, a B.A. in Economics, and a plethora of great experiences and relationships. As an undergraduate, he has worked at Texas A&M in the Organic Chemistry Lab Program, the University of North Texas Health Science Center as a researcher, Colgate-Palmolive as a research and development intern, and the Environmental Protection Agency as a policy analysis intern. Yale has also had the privilege of conducting undergraduate research with the Zhou research group in the field of metal-organic frameworks. He will start law school in the fall of 2012, at Stanford Law School. He hopes to avoid a life of debt and eventually facilitate the progress of science through law.

Megan Link
I graduated in May 2012 with a B.S. in Chemistry. Directly after graduation I went on a trip of a lifetime with my younger sister to Switzerland, where my older sister had been living for several years. This was the final hurrah before starting my position at Baroid Industrial Drilling Products - Halliburton in Houston, Texas, as a chemist. In this role, I have the opportunity to work in the lab on product development as well as interact with customers on a daily basis. I will already be giving a product showcase at a IGSHPA convention for a product that I developed recently. I am so thankful for my experiences at A&M, which created an environment for my growth academically as well as professionally. I look fondly back at my time walking the halls in the chemistry annex but anxiously anticipate the future that studying Chemistry at Texas A&M university has provided me.

Bobby Lye
Robert William Lye was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas to Bob and Caryn Lye. He is a first generation Aggie. He started in Chemical Engineering as a freshman in 2007, but after getting an internship realized that he liked the chemistry more than the engineering, and transferred into the chemistry department after two and a half years. Starting in the summer of 2011 he was an undergraduate researcher for Dr. James Batteas, studying the macromolecular structures of porphyrins. He was married to his beautiful wife Katie, who also graduated from Texas A&M, on August 13, 2011. He graduated in the spring of 2012 with a B.S in Chemistry and will be managing the chemical department for his father’s company in San Antonio until he finds a more permanent job in the chemical industry.

Khanh Pham
I grew up in Ho Chi Minh city, the most hustle and bustle city in Vietnam. After graduating from high school, I decided to pursue postsecondary education overseas; and I chose the United States as my destination as some of my close family members reside here. I first started my college courses at Lone Star College System in Tomball, Texas. This was where I got my first job as an Admissions and Enrollment Specialist that significantly helped me improve my English and communication skills. After more than two years at this college, I decided to complete my bachelor’s degree in chemistry at Texas A&M University as I fell in love with the school
after my first visit. Here I got involved in a significant research project under the supervision of Dr. Zhou. The research focused on metal-organic frameworks that were capable of capturing gas molecules. In early 2012, we published an article on JACS to report a unique framework whose CO$_2$ uptake could be controlled thermally or optically. In addition, I did a summer internship at MD Anderson Cancer Center, during which I discovered my passion for the medical field. I followed it with volunteer work at Scott & White Healthcare Center to make sure that I was making the right choice. I am currently applying to medical schools for the next school year.

Michael Pham

Michael Pham was born in Lake Jackson, TX, and is second to attend Texas A&M after his brother, David Pham, Class of 2004. Michael entered A&M as a Business Honors Major, switched to Sociology his sophomore year, and finally switched to Chemistry in the Spring of 2010 with the desire to teach high school. Throughout his time at A&M, he was involved in the FLO Aggie Fish Club, Fish Camp, and One Love, the latter of which has helped increase his desire to participate in humanitarian work such as the Peace Corp. Starting July 1st, 2012, Michael will be a Teaching Associate in Chemistry at Texas A&M’s University in Doha, Qatar, after which he plans to serve a term in the Peace Corp before finally settling down to teach high school chemistry somewhere in the US.

Viviana Salom

Viviana Salom was born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, but lived most of her life in The Woodlands, north of Houston. She entered Texas A&M as a National Merit Scholar and has loved Chemistry and the subject matter, though later she decided to focus on medicine and add a Biological Chemistry track. As a freshman, Viviana received the Departmental award for Outstanding First Year Student. As a sophomore, she joined Dr. Darenbourg’s research group as research assistant and enjoyed her time there. In summer 2010, Viviana interned abroad in a private hospital in Madrid, Spain. She then began coaching junior USAV club volleyball and volunteering at the College Station MED. In Spring 2011, she was awarded as an outstanding student, received her Aggie Ring (Whoop!) and applied to medical schools in Texas. In Summer 2011, Viviana participated in a week-long research program at UC Berkeley and her long-term boyfriend proposed to her under the Century Tree on the Aggieland campus. They plan to be married in December 2012. In her senior year, Viviana finished her Chemistry degree, worked to close her biology studies, and was accepted to UT Houston Medical School for entry in 2012. Over her four years at Texas A&M, Viviana has been part of Kappa Theta Beta Catholic Sorority, the St. Mary’s Catholic community, and she has played for the Texas A&M Women’s Club Volleyball team. She would like to give a special thanks to the Department of Chemistry, especially Dr. Gaede, Dr. Darenbourgh, Dr. Batteas, and Dr. Romo for being wonderful teachers and mentors.

Erica Schepp

I grew up and graduated high school in Pampa Texas, a small town in the Texas panhandle near Amarillo. Our family has a long history with TAMU. My grandfather and my mother went to graduate school in Chemistry at A&M, and my older brother got his BS in Biomedical Engineering here. I came to College Station with my twin sister Monica and have earned a B.S. chemistry degree from TAMU. While at A&M, I was a member of the American Chemical Society, Hullaballoo Band, and the TAMU concert band playing percussion. The summer of my sophomore year I completed an internship for Rhodia Chemicals in Charleston, South Carolina. I enjoyed working in the lab setting of the chemical plant, particularly research and development. My junior year I started my undergraduate research with the Donald J. Darenbourgh group working for Stephanie Wilson. I enjoyed research and worked over the summer of my junior year creating polymer films for the DJD group. After graduation, I planned to go to graduate school to earn a PhD in chemistry. While applying for graduate schools, I received a call from INEOS for a job interview as a polymer chemist. I went for the interview and received a job offer that I could not resist. I will be moving to Houston after graduation to start working for INEOS O&P. I have enjoyed my time at Texas A&M and am eager to start my career as a chemist.

Victoria Thomas

I was born in Friendswood, Texas and attended most of elementary school in Pearland, Texas. After my dad graduated from law school, we moved to Amarillo for his career. Six years later, we moved to College Station in the middle of eighth grade. I graduated in 2009 from A&M Consolidated High School with a great interest in Chemistry. I started at Texas A&M as B.S. in Chemistry with a minor in physics. I planned to work in forensics. However, after doing some job shadowing I decided this was not the career for me and I switched to a B.A. in Chemistry in order to receive my teaching certification to teach high school. While at Texas A&M, I also bowled competitively for the Texas A&M Bowling Club. I completed my student teaching Spring 2012 at JJ Pearce High School for the next school year.
School in Richardson, Texas where I will be teaching Chemistry in August.

**Madeline Tipton**
I will be student teaching in the fall then seeking a teaching job in Houston.

**Shantal White**
I’ll be attending dental school at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

**Allison Williams**
I will be starting dental school this upcoming fall at University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry.

**Aydee Alverado (BS ’09)**
Currently, I am a supervisor for the Crude Assay department at Intertek. I have been there for two years and thanks to my degree I moved up pretty quickly within the company. I give thanks to my advisors for advising me to obtain my bachelors degree of science instead of arts. Just this alone has helped me tremendously with my career.

**Kevin Arendt (BS ’11)**
It seems like graduation was only yesterday. I have started classes at Princeton and am thoroughly enjoying them. I came early in the summer and started working in Abigail Doyle's lab in the area of nickel catalysis. I think I made the right decision and feel like I fit in well with her group.

**Catherine Baxter (BS ’09)**
Since the fall of 2011 I have been pursuing a master's degree in environmental toxicology at the Institute of Environmental and Human Health at Texas Tech University. I am studying the presence of organochlorine pesticides in quail from the rolling plains and the potential role of pesticides in quail population decline. I have also been supporting a recent effort to oppose the expansion of a coal mine in my hometown of Eagle Pass, TX.

**Chris Woolford**
I was born and raised in Baytown, Texas, which is about 30 miles east of Houston. When I was deciding a major for college, it was between music and chemistry (go figure). Obviously I chose chemistry and I have never regretted it. The classes I’ve taken here at A&M have expanded my knowledge of chemistry beyond anything I could have imagined and I have genuinely looked forward to many of my classes. Once I started tutoring, I got to share my passion for chemistry with others by helping them understand the fundamentals. I never gave up the part of me that considered majoring in music and have been involved with the A&M bands, orchestra, and the Northgate Philharmonic. I will graduate in May with a B.A. in Chemistry and will spend the next four years at the University of Houston School of Pharmacy. I will always remember the times here learning chemistry be it Dr. Bergbreiter’s amusing anecdotes or having to evacuate lab in 234.

We welcome news from current students and Old Ags! Please send updates to advising@chem.tamu.edu.

**Whitney Becker (BA ’09)**
I graduated as a chemistry major December 09 (class of 2010). I have been teaching high school chemistry in town at Rudder High School and loving it! I actually have taken this school year off from teaching and I am going back to school myself in Branson, MO. There is a year long Christian discipleship program that I will be attending there!

**Hiren Bhakta (BA ’09)**
It is good to hear from you and I would be happy to share a small update on what I have been doing since graduating. Currently, I am a fourth year pharmacy student at the Texas A&M Health Science Center Rangel College of Pharmacy. I will begin my clinical rotations on July 2nd in Temple, TX, and I am expecting to graduate next May. After completing my BA in chemistry with a minor in biology in 2009, I began pharmacy school in the fall of that year. I feel that the strong science foundation I built during my undergraduate years has served me well throughout pharmacy school. I haven’t yet figured out my career plans beyond my final year of pharmacy training, but I will most likely pursue a retail or hospital pharmacy job upon finishing pharmacy school. However, given the flexibility of career choices with a PharmD. degree, I will have many options.

**Stephanie Bowman (BA ’10)**
I started pharmacy school at University of Houston College of Pharmacy in the fall of 2010, so I'm currently starting my third year. I will graduate with my Doctor of Pharmacy degree in May 2014 and I hope to complete a residency after that. I plan to work as a clinical pharmacist, possibly in an area related to critical care or cardiology.

**Samantha Burrows (BS ’11)**
Since graduation I am now in my third trimester in chiropractic school at Parker University. I am thrilled to say I have found my calling in life through chiropractic. I am loving learning about the strengths of the human body and preparing myself to be a doctor that can serve my community in numerous ways.

Along with school I am getting married August 25th of this year. I am very excit-
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ed to be married and start my life with my future husband!

Ashley Dittmer (BS ’10)
While I haven’t done much with chemistry, I have started flight school and am currently in Pensacola, FL. After my training in Quantico, I moved here to Pensacola and have finally started the first phase of flight school, Introductory Flight Screening. In IFS, we learn to fly civilian aircraft prior to learning military aircraft. I will finish in the next few weeks and then will hopefully start the next phase, Aviation Preflight Indoctrination soon after that, although there is an unknown wait period due to the volume of students coming through (Spring Navy grads). I am trying to get stationed in Corpus Christi for primary, but that isn’t exactly up to me. After I complete flight school in a few years I will be looking to go for a masters degree to get back into chemistry. I am thinking about pursuing a chemistry related career when I retire from the Marines. One thing my Chemistry experience has taught me, which will help me as I continue through flight school, is how to study. Most of the other students had much easier degrees, so this will be even more challenging academically than it already is. The academics here are very difficult and technical, so having a scientific/technical background will definitely be beneficial (this is why, I think, most the Aggies here do very well).

Update: Just thought I’d drop a note to let you know I finished IFS (Initial Flight Screening) with my solo flight yesterday! I attached a couple photos they took of me with the airplane (Piper Cherokee 140). Their tradition is to take a picture and then when you go back into the office, they cut off the back of your shirt and you draw/write on it before they hang them in the hangar. So all the Marines wear a green undershirt. I am now waiting for API (Aviation Preflight Indoctrination), which will begin sometime in the end of August/early September. After API, I will find out where I will be headed for primary.

AJ Echeverria (BS ’08)
I got married to a fellow aggie right after chemistry. I then went to medical school at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. I just graduated this past May and now I’m an MD resident at Baylor going into radiation oncology. Good to hear from y’all!

Jennifer Erchinger (BS ’11)
I am still over in Zachry about to start my second year in a Master’s program for a degree in Health Physics. I am part of the Nuclear Security Science and Policy Institute focusing on nuclear safeguards and security. I will have the bulk of my thesis research on a portable live-stock radiation monitor done by the end of August (hopefully 😊). I have not decided if I want to stay for a PhD yet, but in September, I am planning on taking the qualifying exams to keep the door open.

Alice Cole (BA ’10)
I just thought I’d drop you a line and update you on my recent accomplishments :) I have just graduated with my Masters degree in Public Health, MPH. I have received two job offers so far and am looking to move to Houston in the next few months. I am also engaged and to be married in August this year. At graduation I received an award and was inducted into the Delta Omega honorary society for graduates in Public Health. It was a great surprise to be inducted and I know I will have people to connect with to ask questions and learn new things.

Amanda Cooke (BA ‘10)
I am still at UT Houston Medical School and have already begun my third year. I recently sat the USMLE Step 1, the first part of our board certification exam. Last summer, I had the privilege of going to Ghana and working at the Baptist Medical Center in Nalerigu for six weeks! This opportunity in particular is something that I would recommend for any pre-med students at A&M. If you know anyone interested in international medicine, they are welcome to read my blog from the trip at amandagcooke.wordpress.com or email me - I’d love to answer any questions about my experience or help get them set up on their own trip.

Trevor Davis (BS ’09)
After a 4 month stint working in the QC lab of the Beaumont Exxon-Mobil refinery (laid off in Jan 2010) followed by working 2 years for Hess Oil in their Information Management department, I have now found a job that I truly enjoy doing. In May 2012 I was offered a position with Sasol North America in the Product Safety department. The position mainly deals with the creation of MSDS for our products, updating outdated MSDSs, and moving the department forward from an IM standpoint. I really enjoy this position as it combines chemistry with technology, two things I have always had a passion for! Another big plus is that I get to travel once every couple of months to the various seminars and new regulatory training sessions held around the country. Pay is excellent and the benefits are wonderful, plus I’m sur-
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rounded by a good deal of Aggies (including my manager, Sheryl Small c/o ’76). I had no idea about Product Safety when I was in school, so maybe you could start suggesting it to your graduating seniors as a possible career choice!

Jim Delfeld (BA ’09)
I’m still in graduate school at tu for math. My main research project is studying math involved with the cryo-electron microscope. So there is some chemistry there! (Editor’s note: Jim had a double degree in mathematics.)

Jamie Felps (BA ’10)
Since graduation I have worked in Cedar Park as a high school chemistry teacher and last year I made the move to Fredericksburg to be closer to my family where I am the Pre-AP and AP chemistry teacher as well as a coach track and cross country at the high school.

Megan Fish (BS ’11)
I’m going to medical school at Texas Tech in the fall, and this past year I did a masters program at the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health in Health Policy and Management. I did not quite complete the program, but I may transfer some credits and complete it later.

Matthew Freeman (BS ’11)
Currently I am working for Air Liquide/Balazs Nanoanalysis in Dallas. I perform trace metals testing for semiconductor companies like Texas Instruments and Intel. All of my work is performed inside of a clean room in a full smock. With the procedures we have, trace metals are able to be reported from ppb down to ppq.

Nancy Garcia (BA ’10)
I’m back in Texas, and working part-time as an Instructor for Academics Plus, where I teach basic reading and math skills for grades Pre-K through 12th. In the meantime, I am applying to graduate school to get an MFA in Creative Writing. I’m keeping my fingers crossed!

Hopefully, I figure things out before I’m thirty ;)

I was also very honored to be interviewed by TWU as a Program Coordinator for their research department. It was an awesome opportunity, and feel as if it would have been a great fit if I wasn’t so focused on getting into graduate school. That’s all I have in the update pipeline!

Aaron Gobert (BA ’09)
A little update about myself, I have been working for Halliburton for the past two years and recently transferred into a new role as a Mud Engineer. I drive from Houston (where I currently live) to a heliport in Louisiana, from there I fly by helicopter to a drill ship in the Gulf of Mexico called the Stena Forth where we drill production wells for HESS. As a Mud Engineer I am in charge of all the fluids that are used in the drilling process. I do everything from running tests on the fluid to make sure the chemical and physical properties are within specification - to inventory management of the chemical products and fluid volumes on board.

Aaron Hollas (BS ’10)
I currently live in Irvine, CA and am just finishing my first year of graduate school at UCI, working for Alan Heyduk. Grad school is tough and keeps me busy, but I’m doing well other than that.

Shalene Hopkins (BA ’11)
I am now an Implementation Specialist with United Allergy Services. I started as a Clinical Allergy Specialist for the company in August of last year where I did allergy testing and immunotherapy treatment on patients in a primary care physicians office. This included applying and reading the allergy test, mixing of the medications, and administering allergy injections. I was promoted in April to the position of implementation specialist. In this position I open new allergy clinics in physicians offices all over the country. I help the new Clinical Allergy Specialist with their first week of tests and help the clinic incorporate the allergy services into the flow of their clinic. It is an about 3 year old company that looks for new employees with bachelors degrees in the sciences, preferrably with some clinical experience.

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Josh Hunt (BA ’10)
I have been doing well. Once I graduated I worked at Neos Therapeutics in Arlington as a research tech. Neos is a small dietary supplement and pharmaceutical manufacturer. I was working mostly on researching new pharma products. Then I got a promotion to chemist and got moved to Quality Control. I worked there for a little bit and then had to move to Houston because I got engaged! I am now working as a contract quality control chemist at Kaneka North America LLC where we manufacture CoQ10. I have been here about three months so far.

Joshua Ivy (BS ’10)
After graduating I had a job at Lynntech, Inc. working in the Energy & power group, testing sample fuel cells and producing catalyst for various SBIR contracts. I have recently resigned from the position, and am going to be moving to Denton to start graduate work at UNT. If you need more details, please let me know!
Kurt Johnson (BS ‘11)
Over the past year I have been busy beginning my career in medicine. Immediately after graduating, I began shadowing the Chairman of Surgery at University Hospital (associated with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio). Most of this time was spent in the level 1 trauma center and in the OR.

After this experience, I was motivated to become certified as an EMT and enrolled in the appropriate classes at a community college during the fall. I also got a tour of Texas as I interviewed at 5 medical schools in the state including schools in Houston, Dallas and Galveston. By February, I was both state and nationally certified as an EMT.

I now have a part-time job in San Antonio with a company that contracts medics out for large event centers such as the AT&T Center, Alamodome and convention center. The job is actually pretty fun and diverse; I have been able to watch many SA Spurs games, hockey games, the Zac Brown Band, Rammstein and several other shows.

Only in the last few weeks have I been informed of my acceptance to all of the schools that interviewed me. After some deliberation, I am excited to say that I will soon be moving to the Texas Medical Center in Houston to attend school at Baylor College of Medicine! Class begins July 30th!

Lauren Kulpa (BA ‘08)
I was a B.A. in Chemistry with a minor in Theatre Arts and graduated in May 2008. I ended up going to law school at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. I graduated in May 2011 and then took the California Bar in July 2011. I moved to Montgomery, AL in September 2011, to clerk for the Honorable W. Keith Watkins, who is a federal district court judge for the Middle District of Alabama. My clerkship is 1 year. I will be moving back to Los Angeles in late September of this year to work for Sidley Austin. I will be in their litigation practice group.

Life has definitely taken me on some unexpected adventures since graduating from A&M. As a freshman sitting in Chem 100, I had no idea I would be going to law school, let alone moving to California and Alabama. I definitely think my science background helped me in my legal studies, as far as being able to think critically and logically. I also think that the writing course I took for my chemistry degree helped immensely with writing for law school. In the law, as in science, it is important to write clearly and concisely and to know your audience.

Andy Lindsey (‘08 BA)
Sorry for the late reply, but I’ve been out of the country. After some deliberation, I am excited to say that I will soon be moving to the Texas Medical Center in Houston to attend school at Baylor College of Medicine! Class begins July 30th!

Bret Macha (BS ‘08)
I graduated in Dec-2008 and accepted a Master’s position in Dr. Frederic-Georges Fontaines group at Universite Laval in Quebec, Canada. I currently have finished my thesis and it is under review.

I am currently living in Wurzburg, Germany and have started my PhD studies (Julius-Maximilians-Universitat Wurzburg) under the guidance of Dr. Holger Braunschweig. I started in February and have just begun my studies.
Jennifer Nichols (BA ’09)
I’m currently finishing up my MPH in Community Health at the University of Texas School of Public Health. I’ll be done in August and will graduate with a 4.0 – yeah! I have worked full-time as a Research Assistant at Texas Children’s Hospital for almost 4 years now and will be promoted upon graduating. I work in a department that develops evidence-based clinical guidelines… same place as when I updated you a couple of years ago. In addition, I also have a side job (part-time) working on the development of a national guideline for the management of breast cancer survivors. My title for that project is Evidence-Based Specialist.

Brad Nolen (BS ’08)
I thought I would just update you on what I am up to. My wife an I moved to Kabul, Afghanistan this summer and I am teaching at the international school of Kabul, an English speaking k-12 school. I teach anatomy, biology, life science (middle school), and elementary science lab! Ironically, I’ve never gotten to teach chemistry since I graduated from a&m! My wife (a Baylor grad) is the admin assistant at the school. I’m trying to convert my seniors in anatomy to becoming aggies as best I can! Hope everything is great in aggie-land!

Kelli Pearce (BA ’10)
Since graduation I have been teaching preAP and regular level Chemistry at Waco High School in Waco, TX. During my two years here I have been the student council sponsor and co-sponsor and a member of different leadership teams on campus. This fall I will begin my third year here as not only a teacher, but also the drill team sponsor.

Dr. Matt Rowan (BS ’04)
I wanted to pass along the good news that I successfully defended my dissertation and earned my Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. I will be starting a post-doc in a new lab at the Health Science Center next month and am excited to finally be done with school!

Mitchell Ponsford (BA ’10)
Since I graduated, I got my BS in dental lab sciences, got into dental school, and published a research article in the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. I definitely had a solid understanding of research coming out of A&M. Take care!

Chris Rhoades (BS ’11)
For the past 12 months I have been working on a contract position as a laboratory technician for Chevron Phillips. I work in their gel permeation chromatography laboratory at their research facility in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Jason Shore (BA ’10)
Since graduating in May 2010 (B.A., Biological Chemistry track), I received my M.S. in Medical Sciences from the UNT Health Science Center in May 2011, and I have just completed my first year of medical school at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM).

Megan Stroh (BS ’08)
As you may already know from your records and past correspondence, I joined Teach For America in 2008. I was placed at L.W. Higgins High School to teach Chemistry. I am still there and still teaching Chemistry! I have also been working this summer for an organization called teachNOLA as a Skill Building Instructor. This was just a job for the summer, but we will have four new teachNOLA teachers at Higgins next year, so I will still be working (informally) with the organization.

Megan (Stussi) Naylor (BA ’08)
Ben and I got married 2 weeks before graduation in December of 2008. I taught 1 1/2 at Poteet High School in Mesquite, TX. I then opened my own photography business called Naylor-Made Photography (www.naylormadephotography.com) as Ben and I prepared to go overseas as missionaries. We have been serving for 7 months in Budapest, Hungary with United World Mission (UWM) and are expecting our first child in January 2013!

Madeline Tarrillion (BA ’09)
I am about to start my 4th year of medical school at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. During my 4th year, I will be doing rotations all around the US. I’m excited to see what this year brings! This summer I am applying for residency. I hope to specialize in Dermatology. Since Dermatology is one of the most competitive specialties to get into, I have no say as to where I will end up for residency. I do know that I want to practice in Texas though. So I’ll be back!

Sarah Tilford, (BA ’09)
I’m in medical school… Will be going into ObGyn. Hope all is well!

Andrew Tindall (BA ’09)
I am still working at MD Anderson as a Research Assistant in pharmacokinetics lab. As my PI and a fellow in the lab are PharmD’s, I was curious and did some research. This lead me to taking the PCAT, doing more research, and in the end becoming very, very interested in pharmacy school. I am going to be applying this summer for admittance in the Fall of 2013 semester.

Kelly Wagner (BA ’09)
I am starting my final year of medical school. I plan on applying to a Radiology residency, and if it all goes well, I’ll know in March.
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Jennifer Wallace (BS ’09)
I hope all is well with you as well. I am entering into my third year of my Masters degree in Theological Studies at the University of Dallas and am also working as a Campus Minister at the same place and loving it. After graduation next May, I hope to teach a combination of Chemistry, Math and Theology at a Catholic high school in the DFW area or work in Campus Ministry with college students. Also, I recently became engaged and hope to be married this December in College Station at St. Mary’s! Aaron (Guilbeau) is an Aggie as well. Class of ‘08 with a degree in Industrial Engineering. He has been working for BNSF Railway in Ft. Worth since he graduated and plans to be with them for a long time. So, my next job will very much depend on where we need to live for my his job and where we want to settle down.

Jamie Wheeler (BS ’10)
I’m afraid I’m doing just about what I was doing the last time I updated you, but I’m still happily in Madison at the University of Wisconsin, working for Professor Robert Hamers in Chemistry. This spring I completed my second year Thesis Background Oral exam and paper, to proceed to Ph.D. Candidate status. I actually switched projects just before the TBO, so it made for a great transition as I laid out the background and justification for my new project, then objectives. As soon as I passed, I was able to jump into my project. Things are going well, and I’m learning more all the time about how to think about my science. It is a good feeling :)

I was actually in Aggieland briefly this Saturday for a wedding. I toured the renovated MSC, then walked by Chemistry on the way home. Of course, since it was Saturday, I didn’t expect to see anyone there, but it was neat to walk by and think about how things were and how they are now. I’ve been very blessed.

I’m glad you mention PPIP to new students; it is a great program for building perspective. I still think a lot about the effects of science policy on my current research, and I’m still considering science policy as a future career area. I was actually elected to the Associated Students of Madison (ASM) Student Council (student government) in the Spring, to serve as a Graduate School representative for the upcoming school year. It isn’t really science-related, but I’m learning a lot about education policy at the state and university level, which affects science education.

Through ASM, I also applied to and was appointed to a university committee for undergraduate advising called the Council on Academic Advising. I have been interested in undergraduate advising during my time here because of interacting with so many freshmen students who seemed to struggle to find advising or maybe didn’t even know how an advisor could help them. That really resonated with me, since I feel that your advising and Dr. Batteas’s advising were enormously insightful and helpful. It pains me to see students “floating” through without direction or guidance, so I try to talk to them when I can and primarily encourage them to find a knowledgeable advisor. I hope my work with the Council will help me better understand the resources available on campus, so I can help students use them; it should be an interesting opportunity and make for a happy and busy upcoming year.

A New Element: A Chemist Exploring Public Policy

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terned as a policy analyst for the Environmental Protection Agency through the Public Policy Internship Program of Texas A&M. Despite my job title, my time with the EPA taught me much more than the business of public policy. At work, I saw in action diplomacy with foreign countries and cooperation with other agencies, both inside and outside the government. Lectures and labs had not quite prepared me for dealing with diplomats from both China and South Africa. Never before had I felt such responsibility to be a good ambassador for my school, field of expertise, and country.

Perhaps the greatest wealth of experience from working in the nation’s capital came outside of work. I saw more than my fair share of D.C.’s intern-friendly side. The city offers an abundance of networking opportunities, many of which are aimed at those at the bottom of the professional totem pole. Think tanks and other non-governmental organizations hold more seminars and conferences than any inquisitive and interested mind could ask for, and a happy hour culture thrives in downtown D.C. Most congressional hearings also allow for a public audience. I filled my mind with facts and opinions about topics such as transportation reform, interstate air pollution, and Sharia Law (and my stomach with complimentary food on several occasions). The entire city trades on information as much as it does currency.

Overall, my summer in Washington, D.C. has influenced me in many ways, and I will carry many of the lessons from this experience with me for the rest of my life. My opinions may change in the future, but what I have learned during the summer will always have an impact on how I think and act. Although I have yet to find my exact career path, I feel better equipped to handle whichever path I choose. I have a much clearer understanding of the policy-making process. I see how the area of environmental policy can use a background in chemistry. Most importantly, I have a clearer understanding of the inner workings of Washington, D.C. and the professional world. The desire to explore proved to be a very effective catalyst for my transition to the real world.
The 14th Annual Sciences Career Fair

Upcoming Career Fair

The Career Center presents: THE 14TH ANNUAL SCIENCES CAREER FAIR on Thursday, September 13, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Bethancourt Ballroom - Memorial Student Center 2300. This event is intended for any student seeking an internship, full time job or a graduate program. Go to http://HireAggies.com/scf.html to see a list of the Employers and Graduate Schools who are recruiting undergraduate and graduate Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Geosciences majors. Each company has provided an informational paragraph and link to their website.

In addition, current students are invited to attend our Chemistry Department mixer for an opportunity to mingle informally with employers. This event will take place on Wednesday, September 12 from 7 –08:30 p.m. in the ILSB building. Please register for this event at https://secure.touchnet.com/C21490_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=256

VOLUNTEER: Click the volunteer button on http://HireAggies.com/scf.html to sign up to Volunteer!! The organizers need friendly Aggies to greet and assist recruiters and students all day.

Many workshops will be held prior to these events to help you maximize the benefit from your time with the recruiters. For more information, visit: http://HireAggies.com/scf.html. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Marylin Yeager at myeager@tamu.edu

American Chemical Society-Student Affiliate Chapter

The Texas A&M University American Chemical Society Student Affiliate Chapter (ACS-SAC) is a student organization that is dedicated to promoting interests in science. All majors are welcome to participate. The meetings are held on Tuesdays at 6 pm in CHEM 255 and feature talks from faculty and professionals in industry as well as social events. This club is an excellent opportunity for undergraduates who are interested in meeting new people, taking chemistry to the campus and community, and furthering their knowledge of chemistry.

Next Meeting: Proctor & Gamble September 11th Internship Opportunity Resume Writing Workshop