

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

I hope that this newsletter finds you well and prospering in these challenging times. The Department continues to grow and improve. Most telling is the quality of its people, and I am very pleased to report that three junior faculty were promoted to Associate Professor with tenure this past year: Shigeru Amemiya, Kazunori Koide, and Sunil Saxena.

The Department has initiated a multi-year plan to improve research and teaching space. In January 2008 the 4th floor of Chevron was completely renovated to create state-of-the-art laboratories for undergraduate organic chemistry. Everyone is very excited about its improved instructional qualities and its enhanced safety and chemical hygiene features (see page 6). In May renovation of the 14th floor began and we anticipate the completion of a modern set of synthesis laboratories during the spring semester. Needless to say these renovations have caused some compression of current research space; however many research groups are stepping forward and sharing space. While the renovation of Chevron continues, the Department will be obtaining new space through the addition of two research floors on the top of Ashe Auditorium. This annex will provide an additional 12,000 square feet of space to help meet the demands of our expanding research program. These are certainly exciting times in the Department's life and I look forward to sharing them with you over the next few years.

The graduate program remains healthy with 230 graduate students and postdoctoral associates. This year the Department awarded 30 PhD and 8 MS degrees; three of our students received national-level recognition. Research remains the essential feature of excellent graduate-level education and it requires considerable investment in infrastructure and students. This year the Department was able to make notable improvements to the Glass Shop facility and was able to acquire a MALDI-TOF mass spectrometer and a 700 MHz NMR. In October the Bayer Foundation pledged support for two graduate

student fellowships for students working in the area of materials chemistry. Such investments in infrastructure and resources bode well for the continued success of our program.

The undergraduate program remains exemplary and 76 BSc degrees were awarded during the past year, a significant increase over the previous year. About one-fourth of these graduates have gone to graduate schools in chemistry, another fourth to professional schools, and the remainder to a variety of industrial and governmental careers. Our undergraduate majors remain very active in performing research, teaching (through the Undergraduates Teaching Undergraduates program), and outreach activities through the ACS Student Affiliates group. We remain very proud of them and pleased by their successes.

This fall we held our alumni awards event in which we honored the accomplishments of Dr. Michael Grever, Dr. Susan Graham, Professor Abul Hussam, and Professor Sung-Hou Kim. These alumni have made significant contributions to medicine, industry, science, and the human condition; see page 3. The Department is honored to be associated with such accomplished individuals.

Despite our success, we remain faced with a number of important challenges. While the University has made an important commitment to provide the Department with the appropriate quality and quantity of research space, the need to continue performing research while construction proceeds around us will be a challenge. To remain competitive with other chemistry departments, the Department needs enhanced funding in support of student fellowships, chaired professorships, and to better equip our upper-level undergraduate laboratories. We continue to work with the University administration and Development offices to address these needs.

I hope that you will spend a few minutes to fill out the insert and send us information about your activities.

We look forward to hearing from you!

David H. Waldeck

Issue 5
Fall 2008

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Staff Recognition



Fran Nagy, Graduate Program Administrator, received the Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence in Service to the University. This award "recognizes individuals whose performance consistently exceeds standards and expectations set for their position and who make a significant impact on the University through their commitment and performance."

Fran joined the Department of Chemistry in 1992 as one of ten secretaries. In her current job, she is responsible for some 200 graduate students. Her duties include assisting students with applications, tracking students' applications and arranging visits to the department—a chore that includes making air and hotel reservations for them.

Paul Floreancig, associate professor of chemistry, described Fran as "tireless in her service for the University, and she manages to accomplish her multiple tasks with a good nature that students appreciate."

Colleen Scott, now an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Southern Illinois University, wrote that Fran "played a very essential role in helping me get through graduate school."

Fran said, "Involvement with the students is the part of the job that I love."

As the selection committee observed, it's no wonder that Nagy earned the nickname "Chemistry Mom." Fran says that the genesis of the Chemistry Mom moniker derived from the fact that she had two children who went to Pitt. "When I was helping them get into graduate school, I always said that I wanted to treat our students just like I would treat my own children. I've stuck to that. The students are my No. 1 priority."

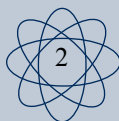
Fran is a wonderful example of the excellent and loyal staff in Chemistry and the Department is pleased to see her recognized in this way.



Josh Jones, Senior Administrative Manager of Stockrooms, is responsible for the day-to-day functioning of our graduate and undergraduate stockrooms and our chemical inventory.

During his senior year Josh began working in the Chemistry Department as an undergraduate stockroom attendant. In April 2004 he received his Bachelor's degree and became a staff member of the Chemistry Department, responsible for the undergraduate stockroom and our organic and general chemistry laboratories. In 2005 Josh received the Outstanding Service Award from our American Chemical Society–Student Affiliates for his help in preparing chemicals and getting equipment ready for various student-led outreach programs. Since receiving this award Josh has continued to contribute to the outreach programs, making new demonstrations available, including "Instant Light" and the development of finger prints as part of a demonstration on forensic science. Recently, Josh led the team charged with the Chemistry Department's computerized chemical container inventory system and he contributed significantly to the design of the undergraduate organic labs. In recognition of these contributions and his excellent performance Josh was recently promoted to his current position where he has oversight of all the chemical stockrooms and the chemical inventory.

We are thrilled to have someone as talented, dedicated, and hardworking as Josh be part of our staff.



2008 Distinguished Alumni Awardees



Susan Wilson Graham (PhD, 1981) joined St. Louis, Mo.-based ELANTAS PDG, Inc. (EPDG) in December 2003 as President and CEO. EPDG is a wholly owned subsidiary of ALTANA AG in Wesel, Germany. Under Sue's leader-

ship, EPDG has developed into a respected leader within the ALTANA organization, known for upholding their leadership position as a premier supplier of electrical insulation resins.



Abul Hussam (PhD, 1982) is a Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at George Mason University. World renowned for his development of a filter to remove arsenic from water. Abul has collaborated with his brothers,

Dr. Abul K. M. Munir and Prof. Abul Barkat, to establish an initiative for environmental research in Bangladesh through which he educates the public about environmental problems.



From left to right: Abul Hussam, Susan Wilson Graham, N. John Cooper (Dean), Sung-Hou Kim, David Waldeck (Chair), and Michael Grever



Dr. Michael Grever (BS, 1967), is Chairman and Professor of Medicine with an additional appointment as Professor of Pharmacology at Ohio State University. A Pittsburgh native, Dr. Grever has played a role in the devel-

opment of more than 17 new agents for the treatment of patients with either AIDS or cancer. In addition to his continuing role as a researcher, Dr. Grever serves on various federal advisory committee involving the discovery and development of new drugs to treat fatal diseases.



Sung-Hou Kim (PhD, 1966) is a Professor in the Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley, and serves as the Director of the Berkeley Structural Genomics Center and Head of the Structural Biology Department at LBNL.

He is also a founder of Plexxikon, a drug discovery company. Beginning with his landmark report of the crystal structure of t-RNA, Prof. Kim has continued to make important contributions in structural biology throughout his career.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Department is soliciting nominations for *Chemistry Department Alumni Awards*. Nominees should have a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree from the Department. The basis for the nomination can be excellence in research, teaching, management, or volunteer efforts. Nominations should include:

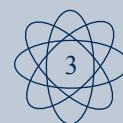
1. Your nominating letter
2. At least one but no more than three seconding letters
3. A CV for the nominee
4. Contact information for the nominee

Please see the alumni section of our Web site at www.chem.pitt.edu for more information

Nominations should be posted by
December 1, 2009
to:

Assistant Chair
Dept. of Chemistry
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh PA 15260

For more information about our awardees, visit the alumni section on our website.



Graduate Student Fellowships and Awards

The Department operates a number of fellowship and award programs for graduate students.

Awards and Fellowships to first-year students:

This program recognizes the accomplishments of entering graduate students and helps the Department recruit the best possible students to its graduate program. A number of University fellowships (Leroy Irvis, FAS/Provost's Development Fellowship, Warga) that provide stipend and tuition support are available to our students; however they must compete against applicants from other Departments and programs in the School of Arts and Sciences. In addition, the Department offers a number of awards to supplement worthy students who receive stipend and tuition support through a teaching assistantship. This awards program is administered by the Graduate Admissions Committee.

Awards and Fellowships for Research Excellence:

This program recognizes the accomplishments and encourages the research excellence of our graduate students. The Goldblatt Fellowship (Departmental) and the Mellon Fellowship (University) provide tuition and stipend support for two semesters. In addition, the Departmental Graduate Excellence Awards, in the amount of \$3,000, are awarded to students who have excelled in their graduate coursework and made quick progress on their research.

In addition, we are pleased to announce a new fellowship program that is funded through a generous donation by the Bayer Foundation. In concert with matching funds through the School of Arts and Sciences this gift will fund two graduate student fellows (tuition and stipend) for a five-year time period. We hope that these two new fellowships, in concert with the Goldblatt Fellowship (which is endowed), will provide a platform for enhancing the Department's ability to financially support graduate students through Departmental funding.

Awards and Fellowships for Teaching Excellence:

Through the generous support of Dr. Joe Rothermill and the family of Dr. Daniel Bode we are able to formally recognize the outstanding teaching accomplishments of our graduate instructors, through our annual Safford Awards and Fellowship. Named after Professor Emeritus Hurd Safford, a distinguished teacher and researcher of our Department, the Safford teaching awards are a \$500 cash award that is given each year to outstanding graduate student instructors nominated by our faculty. The Safford Fellowship, given for the first time this year to Mr. Peter Bell, gives summer tuition and stipend support to a past Safford Awardee who continues to exemplify the high standards of education set forth by Professor Safford.

2007-08

Hurd Safford Graduate Teaching Awards

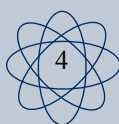
*Brett Allen
Sruti Bhaumik
Sangmi Jun
Dujuan Lu
Jared Moretti
Benjamin Norris*

2008-09

Hurd Safford Fellowship



Peter Bell



Phi Lambda Upsilon (PLU)

Founded in 1899, Phi Lambda Upsilon (PLU) is the National Honorary Chemistry Society, with the aim to promote high scholarship and original investigation in all branches of pure and applied chemistry. The University of Pittsburgh Xi Chapter has been a part of the National PLU since it was founded in 1917.

One of PLU's biggest events is the annual Francis Clifford Phillips Lecture, the longest-running graduate chemistry lecture series organized by graduate students. This past year's 53rd Phillips Lecture speaker was Professor Sunney Xie of Harvard University. Professor Xie's group was one of the first to pioneer fluorescence studies of single molecules at room temperature in the early 1990s and has since made important advances in single-molecule enzymology and protein conformational dynamics.

In the 2007-2008 the PLU organized several social events, including the welcoming picnic for first-year students (see photo).

This spring the PLU will host Professor Héctor Abruña from Cornell University for the 54th Phillips Lecture.

Jessica Sarvar, 2008-2009 President

2007-08 Graduate Student Fellows

Goldblatt Fellowship

Jia Luo

Byong-kyu Shin

Graduate Excellence Fellows

Jung-hyun Puh

Kristi O'Neal

Roman Ivanov

Xiao Wang

Zhongyu Yang

Bayer Fellowship

Andrey Solovyev

Frederick Kaufmann Fellowship

Kristy Gogick

Warga Fellows

Casey Clements

Kristy Gogick

Provost's Award

Binbin Go

Audrey Solovyev

Sunoco Fellowship

Dane Clausen



Mingyan Wu



Hui Fang

Lauren Ashe Fellows

Eric Buck

Casey Clements

Alexander Clemmens

Aaron Crandall

Adam Fleisher

Yang Gao

Maryll Geherty

Yevgeniya Kravchenko

Joshua Osbourn

Christopher Rosenker

Nathaniel Ware

Undergraduate Organic Laboratories

Information please

We are very interested in hearing about the accomplishments of our alumni and former colleagues in the Department of Chemistry. If you have news to share please complete the top portion of the enclosed envelope or contact Michele Monaco by telephone (412-624-8200) or e-mail (monaco@pitt.edu) so that we can share your information with the rest of our readers. The information that you provide to us will be included in future mailings or on the Departmental website.

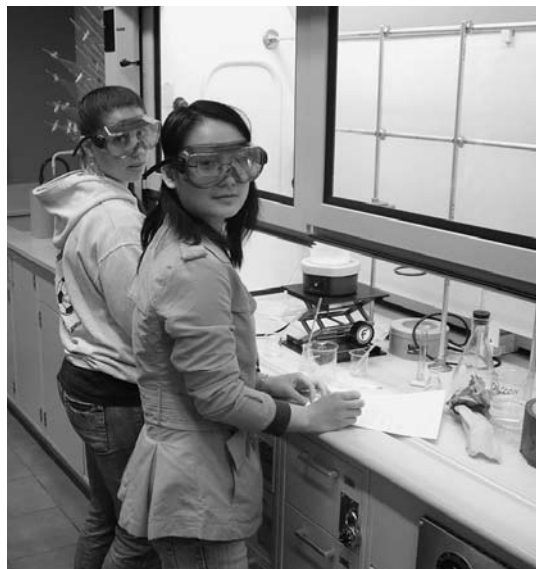
We are looking forward to hearing from you!

A floor by floor renovation of the Chevron Science Center, slated to occur over the next several years, has had a very successful beginning! After careful planning, the 4th floor of Chevron was completely gutted in early 2008 and then rebuilt into a new state-of-the-art organic laboratory teaching facility. The newly renovated 4th floor includes five teaching laboratories, a stockroom, an NMR room, and a recitation room. These new facilities, which opened in August, have



dramatically improved the learning and teaching experience for our students and instructors.

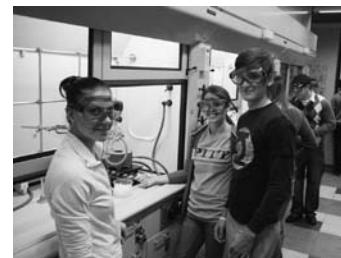
These teaching laboratories provide a tremendous improvement for student instruction and safety. In the old labs, the hoods occupied three banks mimicking the layout of aisles in a grocery store. In contrast, the new labs have the hoods placed along the side and back walls of the laboratory space. This floor plan opens up the space and dramatically improves the ability of students and instructors to communicate. One of our undergraduate



co-teachers, Sara Shatt, summed up the reason this layout is so valuable by saying “when I was a student in the old labs I had to wander around and look up and down the aisles when I wanted to ask my instructor a question. Now as a co-teacher in the new labs my students can just wave at me from across the room when they have a question.” Experienced instructors have made similar comments indicating that rather than worrying about the safety of their “out of sight” students, they can now scan the entire laboratory from any location.

A predominant feature of the new laboratories is a U-shaped teaching island in the center of the laboratories.

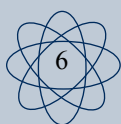
The outside of the teaching island provides work space for students to take notes during pre-lab lectures as well as a place



for them to keep lab notebooks. The inside of the teaching island houses support equipment, including new GC and IR instruments, melting temperature apparatuses, and a multimedia center (projector and sound system). Technology-oriented instructors have gained a lot of flexibility in how they discuss the day's laboratory activities with their students; for example, showing animated GC and IR tutorials.



Students who took their first semester of organic chemistry lab in the old facilities but are now taking their second semester in the new labs were stunned at the improvements. Most were wide eyed and awed on their first day in the renovated labo-



ratories. After actually working in the new space the student excitement has grown. They greatly appreciate how the open floor plan improves their ability to interact with their instructors. They are also thrilled that each laboratory is outfitted with its own IR spectrometer.

In addition to the new teaching laboratories, the renovated 4th floor has a modern stockroom, with a flammable storage room and fire suppression system. Also included is a high-density shelving system that optimizes storage by allowing shelves to compress by sliding back and forth along tracks embedded into the floor. Finally the new stockroom includes a prep hood as well as a walk-in hood



to store large carboys of acid which will prevent corrosive vapors from damaging our brand new facilities!

The excitement about the laboratories is pervasive. One of our undergraduate instructors, Brianna Rossiter, had this to say.

“Having experienced Chevron’s old labs as both an organic chemistry student and as an undergraduate instructor and then having had the pleasure of teaching in the improved labs, I think my awe can most easily be expressed in asking the question of why couldn’t I have had these labs as a student?! The labs are beautiful, state of the art, with brand new equipment...all the elements necessary for an ideal learning and teaching environment. These labs cater to my practical and organized teaching manner and philosophy. Organic chemistry is truly taught within the laboratory and therefore a laboratory with all the necessary elements for this learning helps create that perfect chemical reaction—igniting our passion for knowledge.”

Clearly our sophomore organic chemistry students are benefiting from our new facilities. We hope to one day extend similar benefits to our students taking laboratory courses in inorganic synthesis, polymer chemistry, and the honors organic laboratory course. We hope to realize this goal by converting the current “recitation room” on the 4th floor into a state-of-the-art advanced synthesis laboratory. In fact, in hopeful anticipation of one day receiving the necessary funding, this room is already equipped with the necessary ventilation, plumbing, and power hook-ups!



Faculty Highlights: Stephen G. Weber Measurements in Small Volumes

Whether it is because the object of our interest is small, or simply because working in small volumes is safer and greener than working in large volumes, we develop analytical tools that operate with small volumes. These have been applied to analytical chemistry as well as to organic and physical chemistry.



Bioanalytical

Electroactive neurotransmitters (e.g., dopamine, serotonin and others) are separated using capillary HPLC. They are detected in a novel system that yields photoluminescence based on a homogeneous redox reaction.

We are developing an approach to reproducibly and quantitatively add or remove molecules from single cells. In this technique an electric field is used to create transient pores in the

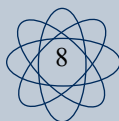
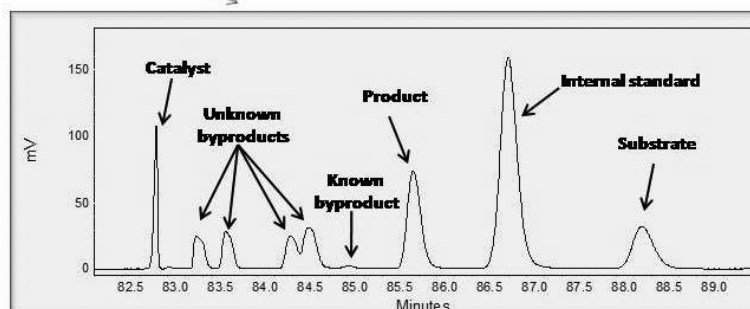
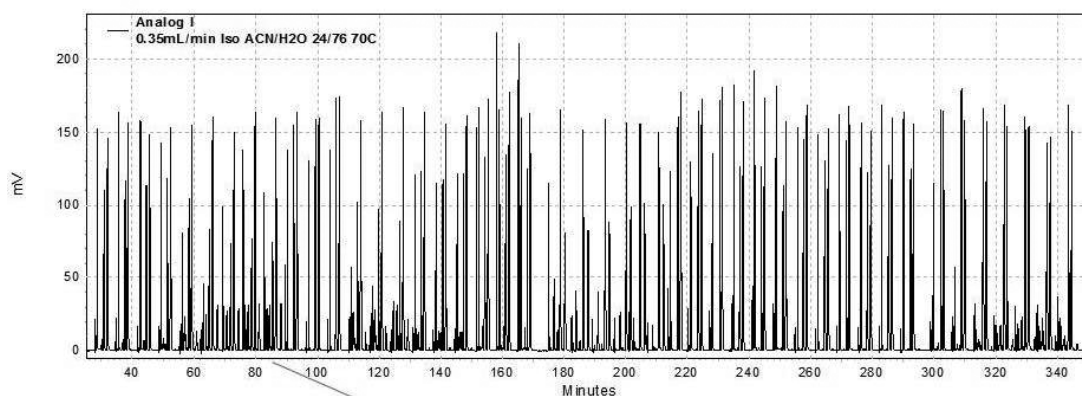
membrane of a single cell. The leaky membrane reseals in seconds. The challenge is to make the approach quantitative and reproducible. Through both experiment and theory, we have established the most quantitative and reproducible approach to date.

Microextractions

We have developed a simple tool that is applicable to a multitude of measurements of molecular properties, including partition coefficients between octanol and water (P_{ow}), pK_a , and the strength of noncovalent interactions. All the approaches are based on partitioning between an aqueous phase and a polymer film in a 96 well plate.

Microreactors

Using “plumbing” related to our capillary HPLC post-column reactors we have begun a collaboration with organic chemists in the department. We have constructed a micro-reactor in which 750 nL reaction volumes are



created. Many reaction volumes sequentially flow through a capillary reactor, where the reaction of interest occurs. Automated analyses (fast-GC or ultra high pressure liquid chromatography) quantifies the yield.

The research group

Our group is multitalented, focused on accomplishment and scholarly activity, and keen to tell the world what they have done. Students and Postdocs in the group are eager participants in national and international meetings. From the 11th Meeting on *in vivo* Methods in Cagliari, Sardinia, to the most recent meeting of the NIH-funded Centers for Chemical Methodologies & Library Development in Lawrence, Kansas, from Pittcon in New

Orleans to Pittcon in Chicago, and from meetings on Green Chemistry to the Landau Meeting of Nobel Laureates, in the last few years the students have visited three countries and a dozen cities in the process of making more than 30 presentations.



Faculty Nuggets

George Bandik received the Ampco Pittsburgh Prize and the 2008 J. Kevin Scanlon Award.

Lillian Chong received the Hewlett Packard Outstanding Junior Faculty Award.

Dennis Curran was named the Blaise Pascal International Research Chair, Prefecture de la Region D'Ile-de-France (Paris) 2007–08. In addition, he received an American Chemical Society Award for Creative Work in Fluorine Chemistry (2008), the University of Pittsburgh Innovator Award (2007), Harry and Carol Mosher Award, Santa Clara Valley Section, ACS (2007), the “Ryudo” Visiting Professor, Tokyo Institute of Technology (2007), and ISI Highly Cited Researcher, among top researchers in chemistry (www.ISIHighlyCited.com), 2000–present.

Joe Grabowski was Elected to the Board of Governors for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, and is serving on a team that is designing the new Pittsburgh Science and Technology High School, slated to open in August 2009.

Ken Jordan was the winner of a 2008 Provost Award for Excellence in Mentoring. In addition, Ken is the President-elect of the Telluride Science Research Center.

Kaz Koide's platinum/palladium detection system was licensed.

Nat Rosi was invited to participate in the transatlantic Frontiers of Chemistry Symposium, a biennial program sponsored by the ACS, RSC, and GDCh that brings together 30 of the best young early-career scientists from the US, UK, and Germany.

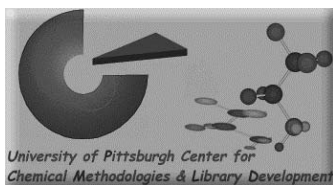
Peter Wipf won the Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award and is also a recipient of the ACS Ernest Guenther Award.

Steve Weber has been named the winner of the 2008 ACS Pittsburgh Award.

Growing Impact of Interdisciplinary Research Efforts

The Chemistry Department plays a major role in interdisciplinary research programs at Pitt. In part, this role reflects chemistry's centrality as a discipline but it also arises from the Department's vision for how chemistry will evolve and grow as a discipline. While the Department's faculty are committed to maintaining core excellence in the traditional disciplines of analytical, inorganic, organic, and physical chemistry, they see biophysical/bioanalytical chemistry, computational/theoretical chemistry, materials chemistry/nanoscience, and synthetic chemistry as important growth areas.

In 1998 the Department collaborated with the Medical School and the Pittsburgh Cancer Institute to create the Combinatorial Chemistry Center (CCC). Building upon this success the Department received a grant from the NIH in October 2002 to create one of the nation's first Centers of Excellence in Chemical Methods Library Development (UPCMLD). Research groups in the Department collaborate with other research groups in Pittsburgh and at Duke University to generate new chemical diversity.



Innovative new methodologies in diversity-oriented organic synthesis and access to high-quality libraries of diverse chemical structures are providing researchers with powerful tools to discover molecules with a wide range of physiological properties. In October 2008, this multi-million dollar grant was renewed for five years, and the Department looks forward to excellent science and important discoveries from this initiative.

Department faculty and researchers continue to play an important role in the University's nanoscience initiative and the Petersen Institute of NanoScience and Engineering (PINSE). The Institute's vision is "to solve large, complex scientific and engineering challenges in this burgeoning field by facilitating interdisciplinary teams drawn from the schools

Petersen Institute of NanoScience and Engineering

of Engineering, Arts and Sciences, and Health Sciences, and to educate the next generation of scientists through a world-class integrated program of innovative knowledge generation." This initiative has allowed the Department faculty to expand in size by 10 percent and is providing the

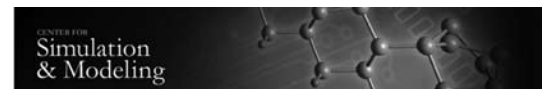
resources to develop materials chemistry as an area of excellence.

Chemistry department faculty participate in two recently established interdisciplinary programs that encompass faculty across the School of Arts and Sciences, the University of Pittsburgh Medical School, and Carnegie Mellon University; these are the Molecular Biophysics and Structural Biology (MBSB) graduate program and the CMU-Pitt PhD program in Computational Biology. The MBSB



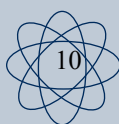
program trains students to work at the interfaces of physics, chemistry, biology, and medicine. The Computational Biology graduate program provides an intensive, interdisciplinary education for solving biological problems using computational methods. This program was selected as one of only ten HHMI-NIBIB Interfaces Initiative Awardees in the country in November 2005.

Most recently the Department has played a lead role in creating and launching the University's Center for Simulation and Modeling. A joint project of Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences and the Swanson



School of Engineering, the center comprises more than 50 faculty members from such disciplines as chemistry, physics, biology, materials science, chemical and mechanical engineering, computer science, and the social and health sciences. Several PhD-level computational experts will be hired through the center to assist faculty members and their more than 100 graduate students. The new center should position Pitt as a leader in advanced scientific computing. In the near future, it is hoped that a new PhD program in computational science can be linked to the Center.

This rich diversity of interdisciplinary activities underscores the health and promise of Chemistry as a discipline.



ACS–Student Affiliate Corner

Each day, Chevron Science Center is the home to a familiar scene of quiet intensity: a throng of students briskly shuffling into and out of the lecture halls, listening and taking diligent notes of their professors' lectures, or working out practice problems in the fishbowl study area.

However, the scene on Fridays in room 132 is markedly different. This usually quiet classroom is full of undergraduates chatting excitedly about chemistry, whether it be in their classes, research, or tutoring and outreach. A lack of seats for the 50 young scientists in attendance has some of them standing along the wall or outside in the hall.

This scene is the weekly gathering of Pitt's chapter of the American Chemical Society Student Affiliates, and while it may sometimes look from the outside like just a weekly social gathering, the work that is being done here has been recognized both locally and nationally. Pitt's Office of Student Affairs named the ACS Student Affiliates as Outstanding Organization of the Year for 2008. This chapter has also been recognized



by the American Chemical Society for the past 20 years in a row, as well as being frequently recognized for promoting green chemistry initiatives.

At each Friday meeting, the excited student membership gets down to the business of the week. Frequently, this means planning for an outreach activity. Last year the chapter participated in more than a dozen outreach events, some composed of a small contingent of students heading to a local elementary school to put on small demos, others that put to use a majority of the chapter's members and serve as many as 50 students with a Saturday morning full of exciting presentations.

Lectures by a guest speaker are another common Friday activity. Students are often given exposure to cutting-edge research being conducted by department faculty. Perhaps more importantly, each fall term begins with a lecture series devoted to post-graduation opportunities which includes career

counselors, graduate and professional school advisors, and industry representatives. These lectures help improve member placement in competitive post-undergraduate programs.

While many activities are the focus of a single meeting, others provide a benefit to students and faculty every week. The establishment of a volunteer tutoring schedule makes sure that many hours in the fishbowl are staffed with a student affiliate who can provide assistance to undergraduate students in general or organic chemistry.

What is it that makes this chapter so "outstanding"? The answer to that question depends on whom you

ask, whether it's the student participants who have learned about ongoing research and post-graduation opportunities, other undergraduates who have been tutored by chapter members, or the many high school and elementary school students who have had fun learning about chemistry during outreach activities. It is this multifaceted approach to chemistry involvement outside the classroom that has not only been highly

lauded by others, but has also sustained high levels of membership and activity. The Student Affiliates chapter has been a large part of the undergraduate chemistry experience for many students and is an important factor in the success they have gone on to achieve in their future endeavors. We are very proud to have them play such a major role in the department.

Brandon M. Mills, 2008-2009 Co-President



2008 Undergraduate Senior Awards

The Merck Award

Leah A. Fow
James P. O'Conner

The Silverman Prize

Leah A. Fow

The American Institute of Chemists Award

Max Osipov

The SACP College Award

Nancy L. Czaicki

The Mary Louise Theodore Prize

Matthew A. DeNardo
Samuel E. Getchell
Lance A. Mabus
Jeffrey J. McCullough
Erin L. Walsh

The Phillips Medal



Lauren M. Smith



University of Pittsburgh

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Department of Chemistry

Alumni Updates

Ram K. Keswani (MS 1949 with Dr. Henry Freisch) visited Pitt in September 1994 after a lapse of 45 years, along with his wife, daughter and son-in-law (located in Easton, Pa.).

Richard R. Suchanec (PhD 1961) has a consulting firm, Pine Cones, Inc. He holds a patent for a "wound care application" covering the biochemistry of body wounds (application to HIV/AIDS). He teaches math in middle schools, mentors students, and received an award for poetry.

Sheldon I. Clare (MS 1962) retired from University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, and then taught part-time at the University of Arizona and Pima Community College. He is a widower with 3 children, and 1 grandchild.

Eugene Mazzola (PhD 1971) is part of the NMR Facility at the University of Maryland Chemistry Department specializing in the structural elucidation of natural products and other organic compounds.

Joseph J. O'Shanka (BS 1976) relocated back to Pittsburgh after taking an early retirement as a senior materials scientist for Antioch/Creative Memories in St. Cloud, MN. He is employed as a polymer scientist for Ferro Corporation, Washington, PA

Thomas Clinton (PhD 1981) joined Vesuvius as a patent attorney, managing the company's patent portfolio of refractory materials and molten metal handling inventions.

Kevin John (BS 1992, PhD 1998) runs Los Alamos National Lab's medical isotope program.