



WCUCC Banquet at Olympic View Golf Club

Rewarding Experience at Undergraduate Chemistry Conference

By Alissa Cheung

From May 5th to 7th, 16 undergraduates represented the U of A at the Western Canadian Undergraduate Chemistry Conference (WCUCC) in the beautiful city of Victoria, British Columbia. Approximately 100 undergraduate students from Colleges and Universities across Western Canada attended this year's conference. Malaspina University College, Okanagan University College, King's University College, Simon Fraser University, Thompson Rivers University, University of Victoria, University of British Columbia, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge, University of Manitoba, and University of Saskatchewan were all represented at this conference.

Plenary lectures were given by Dr. Rik Tykwinski (U of A), Dr. David Harrington (U of Vic) and Dr. Cliff Baar (Nova Chemicals), each providing unique insight from their research experiences in conjugated polyynes, in hydrogen fuel cells, and in single-site catalysts, respectively. In addition, there were 37 student oral presentations and 31 student poster presentations, demonstrating the novel developments in a wide range of chemical fields, including mass spectrometry, solid-state synthesis and computational chemistry. U of A's Paul Bichler was awarded 1 of 10 cash prizes for his oral presentation on his work under the supervision of Dr. Tykwinski.

All the U of A's participants are extremely grateful to the University of Victoria students and faculty for a remarkably organized and fun-filled symposium. We would also like to thank Dr. Robert Campbell for coordinating this trip, and the Chemistry Department and individual faculty sponsors for generously providing the funding. The Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta (ACPA) generously provided funds to cover the cost of the shuttle between the Victoria airport and the University.

The U of A and King's University College look forward to hosting WCUCC 2006!