

2010 december

a monthly publication of the
department of chemistry
university of alberta

chemNEWS

BUILDING UPDATES *Jill Bagwe*

Sprinkler Upgrade - As was mentioned in May's newsletter, Facilities and Operations are proceeding with the sprinkler installation project within Chemistry West. Fire code requires that any conjoined buildings must have a fire retardant system in place to prevent the spread of fire between them. With CCIS slated for occupancy as of March 1, 2011; F&O will need to have at least contracted out the installation of sprinklers on all of the north windows on the 3rd to 4th floors (1st and 2nd floors already have fire shutters in place that were installed last year). I have not received a timeline as to when they will embark upon this project, but I will apprise those impacted by this work of the dates when I receive that information.

Building Envelope Project - The anticipated delivery date of the windows is expected to be January 12, 2011 and installation will begin immediately thereafter and should go until the end of February. **Delnor** has been contracted to perform the work and they anticipate that it will take one day per lab. However, for the "clearance to work in hazardous areas" form, Delnor will request two days per lab to account for unforeseen conditions. Please note that only the windows on the west side of Chemistry West (*those that look out onto Quad*) will be replaced. If you would like a preview of the finished product, Delnor has already installed a sample window in Room W1-11.

The process is for their trades to enter each lab and office on the west side of Chemistry West and install an insular panel into each window opening. They will then access the windows from the outside, remove and replace the windows from that position and once done, come back into the labs to remove the insular panels. The window crews will deal with the blinds, but ask that our lab and office occupants clear out the area around the windows to allow easy access to the windows and enabling them to do their work efficiently and minimize the time they are in your room.

Please note that because of the construction methodology, the site supervisor, **Dave Dagenais**, will be able to juggle which one they work on therefore we should be able to accommodate some adjustments to when particular labs are completed. If there are some limitations that would make it difficult for you to meet their proposed target date to do your room, please contact

me to arrange for an alternate date by not later than **Wednesday, December 22, 2010.**

Chemistry West Renewal Project - There is a belief that with the recent announcement by Stephen Harper of the extension of the KIP stimulus funds, that the renovations on on CW5N can now be delayed; that is not the case. Under the threat of financial penalties to Delnor, there is still pressure for them to complete a majority of the work by March 31st. As such, they need to press with their work schedule to avoid those penalties. As a result, the department will still have further requests for access in labs and offices on both the 3rd and 4th floors, and as well, it will result in a loss of fumehoods to some research groups who are on the same risers that service the 5th floors. We will endeavor to individually consult with impacted research groups and give them as much lead time as possible

We are in the final iteration of the CW4N designs with a focus on theoretical and instrumentation chemistry labs, a classroom for use by the Registrar's (to replace W4-46), faculty offices and graduate student write-up space. Once the 4th floor occupants move over to CCIS by the third week of March, Delnor will hoard off this floor and start demolition. Consideration has been requested that a passage way, allowing access to the CCIS pedway via the 3rd floor, be built. The expected completion date for the work on the 4th floor is mid-August.

Important Dates & Events

- * December 3 - Food Bank Collection in the General Office (E3-44) Starts
- * December 15 - NASA's Celebrate the Season
- * December 24 - Furlough Day
- * December 22 - Food Bank Collection Ends
- * December 25 - Christmas Day, University Closed
- * December 27 - University Closed, In Lieu of Christmas
- * December 28 - 31 - Winter Closure, University Closed
- * January 1 - New Year's Day, University Closed
- * January 3 - University Closed in Lieu of New Year's
- * January 4 - Furlough Day

More Details about the Upcoming Furlough Days Inside

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO....

Dr. Wei-Zheng (Wendi) Shen, a post-doctoral fellow (PDF), who will be working in Dr. Fenniri's research group over at NINT.

Dr. Venkatakrishnan Parthasarathy, a post-doctoral fellow (PDF), who will also be working in Dr. Fenniri's research group over at NINT.

FAREWELL TO....

Mrs. Traci Grams, who will be leaving the Department at the end of the month. Traci joined the Department on July 16, 2009 as administrative support for vacation leaves and absences in the General Office. Soon after the start of fall term classes, Traci accepted the Administrative Assistant position in the Undergraduate Student Services Office which was soon to become vacant due to a maternity leave. Thank you Traci for your commitment and hard work over the past 18 months within the Department. We wish you all the best!

Christmas is for Sharing...

The general office is collecting food for the food bank until December 22nd. Donations can be dropped off in Room E3-44.

Contributions Welcome

This newsletter belongs to the department of Chemistry. So submissions of interest to our Department are welcome.

Submissions can be up to 1000 words and are subject to editing. Send your submissions to:

newsletter@chem.ualberta.ca

CONGRATULATIONS TO....

The University of Alberta believes our commitment to excellence is only realized through contributions of loyal individuals whose service plays an invaluable role in the University's growth, development and successes. The **2010 Celebration of Service** recognized all University of Alberta faculty and staff members who have 45 (1965), 40 (1970), 35 (1975), 30 (1980) and 25 (1985) years of service.

Mr. Dieter Starke was recognized by the University for **25 years of service** this year at the Celebration of Service on November 15th. Dieter joined the Department on December 3, 1985 to the position of Machinist Technician.

Mr. Allan Chilton was also recognized by the University for achieving **30 years of service** this year at the Celebration of Service on November 15th. Allan transferred to the Department on February 1, 1990 from Technical Services accepting the position of Electronics Technician.

Congratulations to both **Mr. Dieter Starke** and **Mr. Allan Chilton** on their achievements and also a thank you to both for their many years of dedication and contributions to the Department.

Congratulations to the following:

Sean McClure (Dr. Buriak) passed his PhD defense November 5.

Raed Al-Zoubi (Dr. Hall) passed his PhD defense November 5.

Feng Li (Dr. Le) passed his PhD candidacy exam November 16.

Toby Zeng (Dr. Klobukowski) passed his PhD defense November 17.

Melanie Johnson (Dr. Veinot) passed her PhD candidacy exam November 19.

Swaroop Sasidharanpillai (Dr. Loppnow) passed his PhD candidacy exam November 22.

Dipanjana Bhattacharyya (Dr. Clive) passed his PhD candidacy exam November 25.

Mingtao Wang (Dr. Wasylishen) passed his PhD defense November 26.

Jay Yoganathan (Dr. Vederas) passed his PhD defense November 29.

Jerrod Dwan (Dr. Wasylishen) passed his MSc defense November 29.

CONGRATULATIONS TO....

Mr. Marcel Munroe, who was one of this year's recipients of the **Annual Support Staff Recognition award**. The award is peer nominated and recognizes support staff members who have distinguished themselves by positively contributing to the work environment and by being good ambassadors for the University of Alberta. Marcel was presented with the award at the Celebration of Service on November 15th.



Marcel joined the Department and the University on September 17, 2007 in the position of Storeperson. Marcel quickly adapted to his new role in the undergraduate storeroom and was soon able to extend his assistance to other areas of the Department. Today, Marcel chairs the Social subcommittee (a branch of the Healthy Workplace Committee) and is responsible for coordinating social events and fundraisers such as "Movember". Marcel's achievement was also honoured by the Department on November 23rd at a special gathering attended by many of his colleagues. Congratulations Marcel!

MOVEMBER UPDATE



"It's been another great Movember and thanks to everyone who grew a fabulous mustache. Thanks are also in order to everyone who supported us; with your help we raised over \$1,900 towards prostate cancer research. Congratulations." – *Marcel Munroe*

Photo:

Back (L to R): Owen Scadeng, Jeremy Gauthier, Matt Zamora, Matt Kingston

Front (L to R): Jaime Bailey, Marcel Munroe, Joe Fiorillo, Greg Kaufman

Missing: Alex Brown, Mike Ferguson

FURLOUGH DAYS

The University will be closed from December 24, 2010 to January 4, 2011 as outlined below:

University Closure December 2010 - January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20 OPEN Regular hours	21 OPEN Regular hours	22 OPEN Regular hours	23 OPEN Regular hours	24 CLOSED Furlough Day	25 CLOSED Christmas Day
26 CLOSED	27 CLOSED In Lieu of Dec 25	28 CLOSED Furlough Day	29 CLOSED Furlough Day	30 CLOSED Furlough Day	31 CLOSED Furlough Day	1 CLOSED New Year's Day
2 CLOSED	3 CLOSED In Lieu of Jan 1	4 CLOSED Furlough Day	5 OPEN Regular hours	6 OPEN Regular hours	7 OPEN Regular hours	8

Support staff are not scheduled to work during the university closure except in specific, pre-approved situations as outlined in the Collective Agreement.

For questions about Winter Closure and Furlough Days, please consult your Department's HR Administrator.

A Winning Formula

Bonnie Gover

Wanted: Forklift Operator, Stock Mover, Quasi-Taxidermist and Explosives Maker. Oh, and Outstanding Canada Research Chair and Professor of Chemistry.

Hired: one John Vederas, all of the above.

Dr. Vederas has tried on many hats on the way to his current position as University Professor and Canada Research Chair. When he first started university, he majored in sculpture. But he soon discovered he had no talent for the craft and promptly transferred to chemistry. That's because research is where his passion really lies, and he likens it to a hobby. "Research is like fishing. Nothing happens until you get a strike or enough time. But when you do, you get this rush of adrenaline – and that's the fun part of it. It takes skill and tenacity and *time*. Lots and lots of time."



John Vederas, age 14 with cat skeleton he constructed*

And it takes curiosity, which has been a big part of Vederas' success throughout his 40-year career. He has authored 250 research publications, 4 books and 13 patents. And he recently received his 24th Award of excellence! That's more than 1 award every 2 years!



"Research is like fishing. Nothing happens until you get a strike. . . . But when you do, you get this rush of adrenaline – and that's the fun part of it."

Last month, Dr. Vederas won the 2010 Zolo Astech Award for Outstanding Leadership in Alberta Science. Over the span of his career, Dr. Vederas' awards have included:

- ✱ The Merck, Sharp and Dohm Award (1986) by the Chemical Institute of Canada
- ✱ The John Labatt Award by the Chemical Institute of Canada (1991)
- ✱ The Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (UofA) (1995)
- ✱ The Gordon Kaplan award for Excellence in Research (UofA) (2003)
- ✱ The Alfred Bader Award from the Canadian Society for Chemistry (2005)
- ✱ Alberta Centennial Medal – Province of Alberta medal to Alberta university leaders (2006)
- ✱ Fellow of the Royal Society Canada (1997); United Kingdom (2006); London (2009)

A number of the awards Dr. Vederas has received are presented to only one individual per year, so receiving them is a great honour.

Where Dr. Vederas has the most fun is in interacting with researchers in the lab. That, "and in learning new things," he says. "Here at the UofA, it's special: we have excellent facilities, opportunities for research and a

nice environment." These things have been key to keeping him here for the 33 years he has made Edmonton home. And it's not only students and colleagues who are fortunate to have the esteemed researcher here. As an internationally recognized leader in medicinal and bio-organic chemistry, Vederas has improved countless lives, both in Canada and around the world.

Dr. Vederas: Congratulations on your outstanding achievements. We are grateful for your hard work and dedication. Here's to your next award (or many!) by 2012!

*In case you're wondering... that's *not* Dr. Vederas' own cat. And it was of interest only *after* its 9 lives expired.

Photos courtesy J. Vederas and <http://www.chem.ualberta.ca/~vederas/vederas.html>

BUILDING A MORE EFFECTIVE YOU

Providing you the tools to deal with Life's challenges



Building a More Effective You is a professional development series created specifically for the **Department of Chemistry**. The series will address issues that many of us face in our daily lives including time management, effective communication, stress and depression.

All department members are welcome, so bring your lunch and learn how to handle issues that we face on a regular basis.

Fresh fruit and water will be provided as a healthy snack.

NEXT PRESENTATION

HOW TO SET BOUNDARIES AND BE ASSERTIVE

Many people experience the need to set clear boundaries with others, at work and at home; but they have difficulty speaking up in conflict situations or they put aside their own requirements in favor of others' needs. This workshop is designed to assist people in identifying, setting, and maintaining appropriate boundaries and to assure that their own needs are balanced with the needs of others.

Monday, December 20th, 2010
Irene Spelliscy, Human Solutions
12:05pm-12:55pm

UPCOMING PRESENTATION DATES

DEPRESSION
Monday, January 17

ENHANCING COMMUNICATION IN THE WORKPLACE
Monday, February 22



If you have any questions please contact the Social Environment Committee at: socenvcomm@mcfeely.chem.ualberta.ca



Western Canadian Undergraduate Chemistry Conference

WCUCC 2011

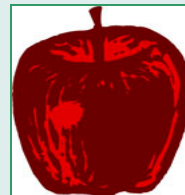
**An opportunity to present and share
knowledge.**

**Encourage the involvement of your
research students.**

**Winnipeg, Manitoba
Thursday April 28th -
Saturday April 30th**

For more information please contact
Co-Chair Scott McKay
ummckay7@cc.umanitoba.ca

Faculty Contact
Dr. John Sorensen
john_sorensen@umanitoba.ca



Healthy Workplace Tip

Problems? Lead by example

In a work environment, many responsibilities are shared. Whether these are work-related projects, or general chores to keep the workplace in order - lead by example. Simply complaining will generate negativity that can be contagious and divisive. A positive approach, where individuals are willing to help others around them, is also contagious, and will lead to a happier, healthier workplace

Did You Know?

There are more than 300 student groups active on campus for nearly every area of student interest: academic, cultural, recreational, and political. The largest, the Dance Club, has been going strong since 1957 and has 1,800 members.

From UofA Facts

Do You Have an Idea...?

...for a cost-saving measure or revenue-generating plan? We now have an e-suggestion box.

Email:
suggestions@chem.ualberta.ca

Christmas is for Sharing...

The General Office is collecting food for the food bank until December 22nd. Donations can be dropped off in Room E3-44.



December 2010
12:05 – 12:55 p.m.

Relaxation for the Holidays

Irene Spelliscy, Human Solutions

Wednesday, December 1, 2010—Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall

During the holidays we are often surrounded with images of people who are happy, in love and enjoying the whirlwind of their lives. However, in reality this time of year can be tiring or bring up painful feelings. Wouldn't it be nice to get through the season with just a little less stress and a few more moments of calm and peace? This workshop is designed to help you find relaxation during this busy time and also to improve how you are thinking or feeling about the moment and the season.

Business Manners

Gail McDonald, BGS Enterprises

Wednesday, December 8, 2010—Education South 255

With increased responsibilities and a limited amount of time in which to meet them, we may find ourselves becoming lax with our business manners. Perhaps you've been hitting "send" a little too frequently before your emails have been proofed. Maybe you've found yourself or your colleagues to be more abrupt lately. If so, join Gail and learn some tips that will ensure your work relationships run more smoothly, face-to-face and electronically!

Part two of a three-part Professionalism Lunch and Learn series

Pilates

Naissa Preston, Campus Recreation

Tuesday, December 14, 2010—W1-17 Van Vliet

Take some time for yourself this busy holiday season and join us for a lunch time Pilates class. Pilates combines breathing with various movement patterns performed in a balanced sequence. The result is a strengthening of the core (pelvic stability and balance, abdominal control and proper spinal curvature and alignment) and improved flexibility.

This session is suitable for beginners. To best ensure your freedom of movement, please wear appropriate attire. Mats are provided.

Bring your lunch and join us for these informative sessions. Seating is limited—please register at www.learningshop.ualberta.ca. For information about the Lunch & Learn program, contact the Health Promotion and WorkLife Services office: hpaws@hrs.ualberta.ca.