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chemNEWS

BUILDING UPDATES

Chemistry West Renewal Project

The Chemistry West Steering Committee met on June 2 for an overview of the project. The Construction Manager (CM) is finalizing their construction schedule now, but they were able to relay some activity that will occur in the next few weeks.

Delnor is in the tender phase right now to procure sub-contractors to perform the mechanical and electrical. F&O is assisting with this process by pre-qualifying appropriate firms. A Request for Proposal will go out on July 5 with a submission deadline of July 15. The CM's final budget approval by F&O will occur on July 19 and they will award the sub-contracts the week following.

In the meantime, firms who specialize in demolition and hazardous abatement have begun the process to clear out the labs. Millwork is being removed (benches, cabinets), as well as any chemical equipment debris (broken glassware, syringes, etc.) that is found each time a cabinet is shifted.

As of June 10, the abatement process will begin until July 14 on a room-by-room basis. Throughout this process, Chem West occupants can expect to hear the manual scraping of floor tiles during the day. If more aggressive removal is required, a chipper will be used, but only after normal business hours. It should be noted that Delnor will continually monitor the air quality throughout the entire abatement process. If a testing result does reveal an anomaly that will trigger a strictly regulated and managed process in response.

Udo Reich is the site supervisor from Delnor and the individual to whom I can turn, on behalf of the Department, for any inquiries and concerns regarding the CWRP.

Domestic Hot Water Upgrade

The tie-in phase is tentatively slated for the 2nd week of August and thus far, Delnor is on target to meet this date.

Prior to these tie-ins and as a preventative measure, Delnor will run air pressure tests before they are water tested. To do so, each floor will be capped and pressured to 100psi and left overnight to check for leaks. When the entire system

is connected together, it will be air tested again. The water tie-in will not proceed without these tests passing.

On the day of the tie-ins, Delnor will roll it out to each floor separately and inspect all rooms where pipe was installed over the course of 24 hours. They will go into every room and look for leaks. The UofA, architects and engineers will follow and inspect each floor as well in order to pass our work.

Delnor impressed upon us that they understand the intrinsic value of not only the equipment in these rooms, but also the amount of work these labs represent.

They will do our best to leave this building in better shape than when they arrived.

Electrical Vault Upgrade

Facilities and Operations are in the exploratory stages for the installation of an electrical vault to service the Chemistry Centre and likely, Earth Sciences Building. While a source of funding has not yet been secured for this project, they are still moving forward on the design and location selection process now. The intent is to replace the main gear and create an emergency power system.



Important Dates & Events

- **June 17th:** Chemistry Staff Picnic
- **June 20th:** Father's Day



- **July 1st:** Canada Day – University Closed
- **July 2nd:** NASA Furlough Day

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO....

Congratulations to the following graduate students on passing their respective exams:

- **Hiofan Hoi** (Dr. Campbell) passed her PhD Candidacy Exam May 19
- **Dwayne Shewchuk** (Dr. McDermott) passed his PhD Final Exam May 19
- **Haley Carlson** (Dr. Campbell) passed her PhD Candidacy Exam May 26

On May 18, 2010, the Faculty of Science hosted its annual Celebration of Teaching and Research. Chemistry faculty were recipients of two of the five awards issued at this event.

- The Kathleen W. Klawe Prize for Excellence in Teaching of Large Classes went to **Dr. Arthur Mar**. The prize was established by Dr. Maria Klawe in honour of her mother, an economics professor at U of A in the 1960s–1970s, who routinely taught large classes with hundreds of students. This prize alternates between the Faculties of Arts and Science.
- The Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching was awarded to **Dr. Fred West**. The award recognizes the commitment by its academic staff to high standards in teaching, and is given to recognize outstanding teaching and the key role it plays in allowing the Faculty to attract and develop excellent students.

A full summation of this event can be found at:

www.science.ualberta.ca/FacultyofScienceNews/2010/05/FacultyofScienceTeachingandResearchAwardsCelebration.aspx

Congratulations to **Mahmoud Bahnasy** of the Lucy research group for winning second prize in the Analytical Graduate Poster Competition at the Canadian Society of Chemistry (CSC) Conference in Toronto held from May 29th to June 2nd. His entry was titled "Surfactant Bilayer Coatings in Narrow-Bore Capillaries in Capillary Electrophoresis" -- Makedonka D. Gulcev, Teague McGinitie, Mahmoud F. Bahnasy and Dr. Charles A. Lucy.



Mahmoud, pictured above, receiving his award from Dr. Rob McLaren (York), President of the Analytical Chemistry Division of the CSC.

Paul Crothers of the Machine Shop is no longer a property virgin! Paul is the proud owner of a lovely home that was built in 1940 in the Parkview area. We already know how handy he is and so the home is in good hands. Enjoy the yard work and property taxes, Paul, and may you have many happy memories in your new home!



Congratulations to **Bela Reiz**, a Mass Spectrometry Technologist in the Mass Spec Lab, and his wife, **Anelia Reiz**, on the birth of their baby daughter, **Alexis Nicole Reiz**. Alexis was born on Friday, April 30, 2010, weighing in at 2,900 grams and measuring 49 cm tall. Our warmest congratulations to Bela and his beautiful family!



WELCOME TO....

Bonnie Gover is the latest addition to our Support Staff team. As our new Administrative Assistant, Bonnie is delighted to be back at the University of Alberta. She enjoys the campus environment, and, as she says, "is honoured to be part of a Department where leading edge science and research is done." Welcome, Bonnie!

ANNOUNCEMENTS -- Continued

FAREWELL TO....

Biological Services Laboratory Technician for the AICCS, **Jean Pearcey**, will leave her position as of June 30, 2010. Jean started her tenure here as of January 1, 2007 and provided analytical support to Todd Lowary.

One of our Chemistry Sessional Lecturers who taught CHEM 10X for us these past two years, **Murray Carmichael**, has accepted a contract to teach Chemistry at a high school in Yangzhou, China, as of September. Murray has told us that this city is famous for the start point of the longest man-made canal in the world and its cuisine, including Yangzhou fried rice. Hǎo yùn, Murray!

It was with some trepidation and a lot of thought that **Dr. Rik Tykwinski** resigned his position effective June 30, 2010. Rik was born in Marshall, MN. He completed his B.S. degree in 1987 at the University of Minnesota – Duluth, where he also developed his interest in organic chemistry working as an undergraduate researcher. He explored the chemistry of alkynyl iodonium salts, receiving his Ph.D. in 1994 at the University of Utah.

Awarded an Office of Naval Research Postdoctoral Fellowship, he moved to ETH Zurich (1994-97) to work on the chemistry of functionalized tetraethynylethenes and their materials properties. Rik accepted a position with the Department of Chemistry, Organic Division in July 1997 as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to the rank of Professor in October 2004. Rik helped raise the profile of our Department in Organic and Materials Chemistry, as well as Nanotechnology, as a result of his prolific scientific productivity, which was recognized with numerous institutional awards. He managed an outstanding research team while carrying out first-rate service and teaching for us. In particular, his role as Organic Chemistry Course Co-coordinator was of great value to our students and

colleagues, but he could always be counted on to contribute wherever and whenever needed. His steady, good cheer will be missed by all. Of particular note, his departure also means Prof. Hall will be looking for a new gym partner to beat at the bench press.

There is no doubt that Rik's love of good beer has been an important factor in his decision to move to Germany and stay on at the Friedrich-Alexander-University of Erlangen and continue to do research. We wish him and his family all the best. But in case you think he's gone forever, Rik has requested an appointment as an adjunct professor so that he may continue his role as co-supervisor for his students.

Dr. Joe Takats will be completing his reduced load position at the end of July to enter the ranks of Professor Emeritus. Joe started his career at the University of Alberta as an Assistant Professor with the Department of Chemistry in September 1971. Joe is looking forward to spending time with his wife, Mickey, and their three grandchildren. Joe is a quiet, dignified, and private individual who will continue to do research in the Department so this is a "see you later" Joe!

Roya Lahiji, a PDF with Dr. McDermott, will be leaving the Department on June 4th. She and her husband will be moving to Michigan to pursue new opportunities.

Nikola Pekas, a PDF with Dr. McCreery, will be leaving the Department on June 18th. He will be taking up a new position with NINT/NRC on campus.



CONGRATULATIONS TO....

Congratulations to the following faculty who received these accolades at the Faculty's Annual Celebration of Excellence in Teaching and Research on May 18, 2010:

- **David Bundle** – 2009 Distinguished University Professor, Univ of AB
- **David Bundle** – 2008-2009 Killam Annual Professorship, Univ of AB
- **Jillian Buriak** – 2009 Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science
- **Jillian Buriak** – 2009 Fellow, Academy III, Royal Society of Canada
- **Derrick Clive** – 2010 R.U. Lemieux Award, Canadian Society for Chemistry
- **Dennis Hall** – 2009 Rutherford Award for Teaching Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Univ of AB
- **Dennis Hall** – 2009 Rutherford Memorial Medal (Chemistry), Royal Society of Canada
- **James Harynuk** – 2009 New Faculty Award, AB Ingenuity
- **Wolfgang Jaeger** – 2009 Humboldt Research Fellowship, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- **Liang Li** – 2009 Maxxam Award, Canadian Society for Chemistry
- **Glenn Loppnow** – 2009 3M National Teaching Fellowship, 3M Canada & The Society for Teaching & Learning in Higher Education
- **Glenn Loppnow** – 2009 Vargo Distinguished Teaching Chair, Univ of AB
- **Charles Lucy** – 2010 Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Univ of AB
- **Arthur Mar** – 2010 Kathleen W. Klawe Prize for Excellence in Teaching of Large Classes, Univ of AB
- **John Vederas** – 2009 Fellow, Royal Society London, UK
- **Frederick West** – 2010 Award for Excellent Teaching, Faculty of Science

HRDF On-Line Enhancements & Changes

E-HRDF Launches June 1, 2010

HRDF applications can now be completed via E-HRDF, a new web-based system that will allow much faster processing, expanded reporting, and more effective tracking of the status of the fund. The end result will be a smoother and more transparent process for employees, departments and administrators.

Use your CCID to login to E-HRDF at:

<https://hrnet.hrs.ualberta.ca/hrdf/>

A paper-based (PDF) HRDF form continues to be available in the HRS Forms Cabinet and can be mailed to the HRDF Office (2-60 University Terrace) for processing:

<http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca/Forms/HRDF-Application.pdf>

Instructions and Information Sessions

In addition to online support as you complete the application, E-HRDF instructions on how to use the system will be available on June 1 on the HRDF website

<http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca/Learning/Funding/HRDF.aspx>

Need a guided tour?

We recognize that some employees may have limited access to computers or may not be comfortable using computers. In the following hands-on sessions, facilitators will walk you through learning the new system step-by-step. Seating for these sessions is limited to those who are less comfortable using computers:

June 15 12:00 to 1:00 Business B-28

June 17 12:00 to 1:00 Education South 155A&B

To register for one of the above sessions, please paste the following URL into your web browser

<http://sldregistration.ualberta.ca/CourseCalendar.do> or call Cynthia Munro at 492-0901.

HRDF Allotment Fully Utilized

The first HRDF allocation for job enhancement for the current fiscal period of April 1 - July 31, 2010 has now been fully utilized. Therefore all further applications requesting funding for this period cannot be funded and will be returned to the applicant. HRDF will be accepting applications June 1, 2010 for courses/conferences held between August 1 - November 30, 2010. Funding is still available for wellness courses. Please refer to application and course dates on our website.

Changes to Reimbursements

New guidelines for reimbursement of HRDF approved funds in the Collective Agreement indicates that all receipts must be submitted no later than 45 calendar days after the scheduled learning event. If receipts are not received within this time frame reimbursements will not be made. The previously approved funds will be made available to other applicants.

Borrowed Funds

Applications requesting borrowed funds beginning in 2010/2011 will be accepted after March 1, 2010.

Off-Campus Wellness Related Courses

Effective July 1/09, \$8,000 will be available for wellness courses offered by off-campus providers. All private, for-profit fitness organizations are excluded.

The list of approved non-profit providers includes:

- Public School Boards
- YMCA and YWCA
- Post-secondary institutions
- Community Leagues
- Municipalities

Courses eligible for funding are limited to physical fitness courses with a similar nature and structure to those found in the *Campus Recreation Activities Guide* and for staff members only (fees for family members are not covered). All courses must be facilitated by a qualified instructor to be eligible for funding.

Recreational memberships are NOT eligible for reimbursement.

WISER – Family BBQ

The outdoors, fun games, casual networking, and free BBQ! Where can you find them all at once?

WISER (Women in Science, Engineering, and Research) invites you to come out and enjoy a fun barbecue. This event is **children friendly so bring your family!**

When: Saturday, June 19th, 2010. 11:30 am – 3:00 pm

Where: Emily Murphy Park Site #2

Cost: FREE

RSVP by June 17: www.wisest.ualberta.ca

Get to know your Department

Bonnie Gover: After graduating from the UofA, I lived in Toronto for 16 years, where I honed my technical writing and editing skills. One of my most interesting work experiences was a stint at President's Choice, where I worked with food product descriptions. I still have a sample of the products I worked on that made it to the shelf. I am passionate about health and love good food – but, unfortunately, am not nearly as excited about the exercise that has to balance it! For a couple of years, I've been a member of a community garden and am currently on a quest to find a sweet tomato variety that works in our plot. As for being back at the UofA, I think I'll really like being in Chemistry and look forward to getting to know you all better.

Lynne Lechelt: I joined the Department in 1993 as an assistant to Professors David Bundle, Ole Hindsgaul and Monica Palcic - and their "Carbohydrate Chemistry" group. I was offered a permanent departmental position in 2003 and have since been employed as a department secretary/admin assistant at one time or another to most divisions. I like what I do and the people I interact with - faculty, colleagues and in particular the students. I have wonderful family and friends, and many interests that keep my life outside of work full and happy.



Karen McKinley: I work on the 3rd floor in the Chair's office. I started at the University in January of this year and am enjoying it immensely. I am 49 years old, been married for 25 years this August to Dave, have 2 daughters, Mackenzie 20 and Jordan 15. Our household also contains 3 cats and 2 dogs. When I am not at work, we are usually out camping or riding around on our motorcycle. My addiction is Reality TV – I need an intervention! And I HATE getting my picture taken.

Support Staff Recognition Award

Participate in the Support Staff Recognition Award program by nominating an individual who has demonstrated an energetic commitment towards the continued success of the U of A. Nominations may be forwarded to Human Resources between July 1st and September 30th. Please see the following website for complete details:

<http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca/Recognition/SupportStaff.aspx>

Engineering Graduate Research Symposium

The first Engineering Graduate Research Symposium will be held on June 17, 2010. The symposium will start with breakfast at 07:45 followed by a keynote address at 08:30. Our keynote speaker is Professor Thomas Levenson, a renowned science writer, filmmaker, and director of the Graduate Program in writing at MIT. The keynote will be held at the Myer Horowitz Theatre in SUB so you will need to register early to be able to get the tickets. The oral and poster presentations, panel discussion sessions, and the career fair will be held in ETLC. The career fair hosts a select group of companies that are interested in hiring Master's and Ph.D. graduates so have your resumes ready for the day. More details about the symposium and career fair are accessible at our website

[\(http://www.eng-symposium.ualberta.ca/\)](http://www.eng-symposium.ualberta.ca/).

To register, all you need to do is fill out the form at: <http://www.eng-symposium.ualberta.ca/index.php/register-to-attend>

Registration is free of charge and allows you to benefit fully from the symposium. The deadline for registration has been extended to 23:59 on Monday, June 7, 2010. This deadline will not be extended any further so please make sure to register ASAP!



Healthy Workplace Tips

Take the time each day to stretch at your desk. It will help ease back pain and boost energy.

- Shrug your shoulders – to release neck and shoulders.
- Loosen your hands and wrists with air circles.
- Release your upper body with a torso twist.
- Do leg extensions – works the abs and legs.
- Give yourself a big hug to stretch your back.

Art Mural for Chemistry Centre Atrium Corridor has been chosen!



They went further to say that a palette of light blues and greens were chosen to contribute to the effect of the vertical lines. The bright and fresh qualities of these colours not only relieve the congestion of the space and inspire positivity, but they also compliment the dark browns and brick reds of the atrium.

The artists indicated that the materials they will choose are reflective of the fact that chemistry is rooted in the investigation of the properties of matter. As such, they will combine oil, acrylic and spray paint to create an exciting visual reaction of texture and colour.

The two will begin to work on the three pieces over the course of the summer with an installation date of September 1st. At that time, Chemistry will host an informal installation ceremony for our building occupants. I, for one, look forward to the breath of fresh air these art pieces will bring to our building and am excited to know that our department and building are the fortunate recipients of the 2011 Art Mural Competition. The intent is that those art pieces will be installed as you move north through to south throughout the atrium.

On May 26, a selection committee met to select the winning design for the 2010 Arts Mural Competition. The committee was comprised of an Associate Professor from Art and Design, a planning officer from the Faculty of Arts, the Director of Facilities and Operations, two Planning Officers and the Associate Director from the Office of the -University Architect, as well as a Chemistry representative. The chosen installation was the unanimous choice of the committee amongst the four, short-listed submissions.

"Visual Alchemy" is the creation of two BFA undergraduate students, **Rachelle Bowen** and **Jennie Vegt**. For their mural, they drew inspiration from the history of the Chemistry Centre and applied it to enhance the atrium link's physical characteristics.

In their proposal, Bowen and Vegt stated that **Raymond Lemieux**, for whom the building is partially named, is famous for having synthesized sucrose. In all three panels, they abstracted the hexagon shape found in the structure of sucrose and incorporated it into a pattern of strong vertical lines that open up the narrow space of the atrium and encourage flow through passage.

