

2010 september

a monthly publication of the
department of chemistry
university of alberta

chemNEWS

BUILDING UPDATES

Building Envelope Project

The objective of this project is to re-point (the industry term that means to add new mortar) and re-seal the brick, install new windows on the west side of Chemistry West, as well as repair the crumbling concrete ledge that lines the base of the building. With the change in windows, the Project Manager, Michael Madsen said to me that even though the building now has air-conditioning (it didn't 50+ years ago!), he knows that it is still important to the occupants that we be able to open the windows. Even though open windows make it difficult to balance the building's air pressure, which is why many new buildings do not have that feature, Michael has retained the ability to open the windows. However, only every other window will be able to be opened.

Funded by additional Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP) funds, the project has gone out for tender as of August 20 and a vendor will be selected by mid-September. Once selected, the preferred vendor is slated to begin the work in the Fall with completion to be by the end of October.

Chemistry West 5N Renewal Project

With the hazmat abatement and demolition finally completed, the project is moving forward to build walls. Faculty offices, located in what was originally W5-35, will go up first as Delnor needs a new site office, which up until now, has been in W4-46.

The design stages are 95% completed with a few final elements, including colour and finishes yet to be decided upon. Given the time deadline for completion, March 31, 2011, there will be a lot of activity between now and then.

Chemistry West Fire Pump and Sprinkler Riser

It should not be a surprise that given the age of our building, we do not meet many new current building codes. However, that will slowly begin to change as renovation projects roll out. The first step is to install a sprinkler riser and a fire pump in Chemistry West. The

need for this update is in conjunction with CCIS, which abuts to Chemistry West along the north side and without fire retardation between those two buildings, the University will not be permitted to open CCIS. To address this need, F&O has hired KFR Engineering to code assessment and sprinkler designs for the west side of Chemistry West (the east side is not connected). Installation of a sprinkler system in all labs/offices in the affected areas will occur over the Fall term. Please be advised that lab clearances will be required for those labs. As well, F&O is taking advantage of the access to the CW5N and will install sprinklers throughout that wing.

Chemistry East Control Valve Project

An email was sent out on August 6th that outlined the purpose of this project. The only update to add is that there is a need to extend the project until September 21, 2010. Individuals who have been impacted by this project have already been notified. In the meantime, continue to wear your sweaters until they can turn the heat back on upon the completion of this project.

Jill Bagwe

Did You Know?

The University of Alberta is *one of the province's largest employers* with more than 15,000 full- and part-time employees. More than 70,000 direct and indirect jobs in Alberta are supported by the university.

Important Dates & Events

- September 1st:** Art murals in Chemistry East installed
- September 8th:** Start of Fall term
- September 20th:** Department of Chemistry Professional Development Series presentation "Managing Stress" (see attached)
- September 23rd:** 2nd annual Department of Chemistry "Celebration of Chemistry" event – by invitation only

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO....

Matt Zamora (Dr. Cowie) received the \$1000 Arthur Bollo-Kamara Graduate Scholarship at the largest-ever ACPA General Meeting on May 8, 2010. Arthur Bollo (deceased) was an MSc grad student in the chemistry department in the late 70's.

A feature of the AGM was a talk by Chemistry's **Randy Whittal** on FT-ICR mass spectrometry. Congratulations, Matt! Great job, Randy!

The winners of the 44th Annual Gunning/Lemieux Chemistry Golf Tournament held on August 21st were **Robin Hamilton, Verner Lofstrand, Houston Brown, and Jeremy Gauthier**. Congratulations to you all!



Golf Tournament Awards Ceremony



Chemistry golf tournament winning putt by Jeremy Gauthier (Stryker Team), in a tie breaker with the McDermott team



Winning Team: Robin Hamilton, Verner Lofstrand, Houston Brown, and Jeremy Gauthier

Thank you to the following sponsors:

Earls Campus Towers; Cambridge Isotopes; Caledon Laboratory Chemicals; AICCS; Dima Glass; Praxair; RATT; Fairmont Hotel MacDonald; Swagelok; Hudsons; Anachemia Science; Champs Sports Bar; Agilent Technologies; Domino's Pizza; VWR Scientific; O'Byrnes.

Room bookings

A gentle reminder that all requests for room bookings should be sent to roombooking@chem.ualberta.ca

A number of persons receive this email and therefore, all will respond to your request. Please do not send individual emails.

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO....

Chen Liang (Dr. Lucy) passed her MSc final exam August 12, 2010.

Kyle Wells (Dr. Cowie) passed his PhD final exam August 13, 2010.

Bryan Karolat (Dr. Harynuk) passed his MSc final exam August 19, 2010.

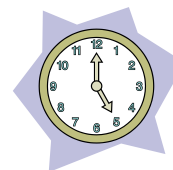
Shawn Liu (Dr. Xu) passed his PhD candidacy exam August 20, 2010.

NEW! With the formal transfer of the CW1-50 Computer Lab to AICT, there are revised hours as of Wednesday, September 8, 2010 in which you can access this room:

- **Mon - Thurs:** 8:00 am - 7:30 pm
- **Fri:** 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- **Sat/Sun:** closed

Exceptions:

- Oct 11 (Thanksgiving) - Closed
- Nov 11 (Remembrance Day) and Nov 12 (Furlough Day) - Closed
- Dec 20 to Dec 22: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
- Dec 23 to Jan 3 - Closed
- Jan 4 to Jan 7: 8:00 am-4:30 pm
- Feb 21 (Family Day) - Closed
- Apr 22 (Good Friday) - Closed
- Apr 25 (Easter Monday) - Closed



University of Alberta Lunch and Learn Program

Bring your lunch and join HPaWS' informative sessions from 12:05 – 12:55 p.m.
Register at:

www.learningshop.ualberta.ca

Nutrition for Energy

Charlotte Varem-Sanders
Human Solutions

**Wednesday, September 15, 2010 –
Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall**

Does the food you eat or don't eat make a difference in your energy levels? High quality, nutritious foods help us keep our energy levels up. But what about when you're eating healthier and your energy levels aren't as good as you know they can be? Join us to learn some strategies to keep your energy levels higher. For example, we know that we need to eat breakfast – but do we? What other food choices and factors make a difference in our energy levels?

Responsible Optimism

Theresa Williams, Human Solutions

Thursday, September 23, 2010 – TBA

When adversity and challenges arise, we can either respond with optimism or gloom. Optimism, however, leads to health. This workshop addresses the benefits of optimism and the characteristics of optimistic people. It also offers tools for adopting a more optimistic, positive outlook on life.

Home Design Kick-Off for Fall

Elissa Scott, Gruuvy Roomz Interiors

Tuesday, September 28, 2010 – TBA

Looking for fresh ideas to make your rooms cozier, happier and more functional for the fall season? Join Elissa Scott and discover new and transformational inspirations for your own particular rooms, realizing how your own unique interior design comes from the inside out.



Healthy Workplace Tip

Get to know your co-workers

Participate in workplace social activities. This promotes a more positive, team-oriented work environment.

U of A Faculty Curling League

The U of A Faculty Curling League is about to start its 44th season and is seeking players to fill vacancies on some of our teams.

We are a recreational league with an open format (teams may have any combination of men and women) and our members are faculty, support staff, emeritus and friends of the U of A. All curlers, from beginners to experienced, are welcome.

We curl at the Jasper Place Curling Club, 16521-107 Avenue, from 4:55-7:00 pm on Mondays, starting October 4. Fees this year (includes 20 games, 2 banquets and prizes) are \$265 per person.

Whatever your experience level, if you are interested in curling please contact Al Shostak (al.shostak@ualberta.ca, 492-1293) for further details.

Slick is the Word

Bonnie Gover

From the special keyboard in his office to the oversized computer screens, Barkley Vowk, our new IT Administrator and resident UNIX expert, has some pretty slick – as he describes it – equipment in SB-2D. With that equipment and more, he's got a lot of upgrading to do, he says. Not knowing what he's going to find from day to day is the biggest challenge of his job although his first couple of weeks have gone pretty well. There are a lot of things in Chemistry that weren't in his previous department (Math), especially the assortment of instruments that are hooked up to computers. When it comes to those computers, he says, a lot of them are so old that finding a replacement is next to impossible. It's essential that they keep running, though, so the challenge is to uncover or more likely *construct* the parts. Electronics Shop: you could get a call soon.



Information Technology Office

Since Barkley had his start in IT, the biggest change he's seen in the industry is the amount of security issues. Ten years ago, threat to computer systems was "sort of a background hum," he says. But that changed with the first major worm in 2001 or so and since then, providing computer security became a chief focus at organizations everywhere. When I ask what one thing we computer users could do to help IT, Barkley's answer is not surprisingly "apply your security patches." So a word to laptop users: if those messages that pop up on your screen from time to time aren't heeded, you could easily bring back some nasty viruses.

As for the next big thing, it could very well be cloud computing. Essentially, this

means service over the Internet from a provider such as Amazon or Google without the necessity of physical hardware on site. Whether the UofA will be using it in the future is anyone's guess, although it is currently working towards something along those lines. Barkley says Gmail, which will be controlled by servers located somewhere like Vancouver or Seattle, operates on a similar concept. With the new calendaring options, "It's actually a pretty slick system."



Barkley in his office in SB-2D

Two minutes after asking if there is anything else I need to know, we're on the fourth floor looking at the cluster of computers in 4-32. It's a tidy room, with rows upon rows of computers. These 120 or so machines are used for computational computing and are part of student research. What the computers do is work in tandem, i.e., something that would take one computer 6 months to calculate takes 62 computers working together a day or so. The configuring, coordinating, and support for this parallel computing is Barkley's job. Loud as it is from the fans that cool the computers, this is where he has the most fun hands down in his job. It's pretty neat. "It's slick," he says. Love that word slick.



Cluster computers in 4-32

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

MANAGING STRESS

Identify the causes of stress, its symptoms, early detection, prevention and remediation. Participants are given a clear definition of stress and clear guidelines for recognizing stress in themselves and fellow employees. Some simple techniques for reducing stress such as relaxation, limit-setting, and positive thinking are also taught.

Monday, September 20

Irene Spelliscy, Human Solutions

12:05pm-12:55pm

Room E3-25

UPCOMING PRESENTATION DATES

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE YOUR TIME

Monday, October 18

HOW TO SET BOUNDARIES AND BE ASSERTIVE

Monday, November 15



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