

2011 april

a monthly publication of the  
department of chemistry  
university of alberta

# chemNEWS

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## BUILDING UPDATES

Jill Bagwe

### ARTS MURAL COMPETITION 2011

Planning and Infrastructure and the Faculty of Arts, in conjunction with the Department of Art and Design, is pleased to announce the commission of a feature artwork to provide an exciting visual and experiential enhancement in the atrium link between Chem East/Chem West buildings. The unveiling of the finished artwork is expected to be Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

### Mural Location:

Four overhead concrete panels located sequentially moving north to south along the link. Chemistry was selected because a lab renewal project is underway in Chem West. A portion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor will be renovated and will showcase the future of modern and

modular labs in the building. And the Atrium is a major thoroughfare. With the completion of CCIS and the connecting pedway, this pedestrian traffic will increase considerably reinforcing the Atrium as a major connection for students to the rest of campus.

The artwork should complement the proposed renovations and enhance the movement through the Atrium. The artist may choose to draw inspiration from the current occupants of the building i.e., department of Chemistry or treat as a public space with many links.

First stage submissions must be received by close of office hours on **Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011** and competition results will be made public **May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011**.

## Important Dates & Events

**April 22:** Good Friday (University Closed)

**April 25:** Easter (University Closed)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laura Pham

## CONGRATULATIONS TO....

**Matthew Ross** (Dr. Wong) passed his PhD defense March 3, 2011

**Lindsay Hounjet** (Dr. Cowie) passed his PhD defense March 7, 2011

**Alya Goulko** (Dr. Le) passed her PhD defense March 29, 2011

**Satoshi Takebayashi** (Dr. Bergens) passed his PhD defense March 30, 2011

**George Ebesoh** (Dr. Cairo) passed his MSc defense March 31, 2011

Congratulations to the following individuals who were selected by the Department for the FGSR Teaching Award:

Organic: **Tina Bott, Jack Lee, & Laura Zilke**

Analytical: **Naoto Soya**

Inorganic: **Tiffany MacDougall, & Mike Slaney**

Physical: **Brent Rudyk**

General: **Houston Brown, Elizabeth Corkum, Amira El-Yazbi, & Andreas Ibrahim**

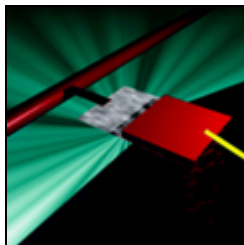
## WELCOME TO....

**Dr. Paulina de la Mata**, a post-doctoral fellow who will be working within Dr. James Harynuk's research group.

**Mrs. Dayna Morris** in her new role as the department's Financial Administrator. Dayna was the successful candidate in the search for Jenny's replacement. We are relieved to have someone with directly related internal experience to assume this challenging position and we know she's up to the task. Congrats Dayna!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO....

Congratulations to **Dr. Jillian Buriak** on achieving the "Top 5 Most Accessed Article in 2010" in *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces*. The paper is titled:



### Electrostatic Layer-by-Layer Assembly of CdSe Nanorod/Polymer Nanocomposite Thin Films

Sean A. McClure, Brian J. Worfolk, David A. Rider, Ryan T. Tucker, Jordan A. M. Fordyce, Michael D. Fleischauer, Ken D. Harris, Michael J. Brett and Jillian M. Buriak

DOI: 10.1021/am900659v

## WELCOME TO....

Welcome to the newest member of the Chemistry Business Office, **Mrs. Esther Moibi**. Esther will be taking over the role of Accounting Assistant from Dayna. Esther will be responsible for coordinating travel and expense reimbursements, external billing, and trust accounting assistance. Esther's office hours will be Mondays to Fridays from 8:30 am to 12:00 noon. Outside of her work life, Esther is a busy mom to two growing boys! You can reach her in E3-44; her phone extension is 2 6142 and email is [esther.moibi@ualberta.ca](mailto:esther.moibi@ualberta.ca)

Welcome to the newest member of the NMR Lab, **Ms. Mickey (Michele) Richards!** Mickey has taken on the challenges of being an NMR Spectroscopist and providing her support and expertise to our research groups. Mickey is currently finishing off her thesis and hoping to obtain her PhD very soon!

**Dr. Ratmir Derda** is applying for a Global Health grant from Grand Challenges Canada. Part of the process involves the creation and posting of a public on-line video that addresses some of the most persistent health challenges in the world through scientific innovation.

Everyone is encouraged to watch the following video and click on the "like" button. The number of votes and views might be an important determining factor in Dr. Derda's application. Please support it by "liking" it, and forwarding the link to your friends and colleagues.

<http://gcc.eveptv.net/blog/2011/03/08/paper-as-enabling-platform-for-cell-based-assays-for-basic-research-and-medical-diagnostics-in-resource-limited-environments/>

Many video applications from other universities have already gotten over 2000 votes! Please help our Department to advance and win this competition! If you have any suggestions on where to share this topic to generate more votes -- please e-mail [ratmir.derda@ualberta.ca](mailto:ratmir.derda@ualberta.ca).



## Healthy Workplace Tip

Get out and walk during your lunch break. Walking helps reduce stress, promotes bone health and helps you lose weight. There are a variety of indoor and outdoor walking trails on or near campus. See <http://www.onthemove.ualberta.ca/> for more information.

# Pi ( $\pi$ ) Day Festivities



Arthur & Anita



Carlos & Jared



Marcel & Verner



Only 6 brave volunteers put themselves up for auction at the Department's inaugural Pi Day fundraiser.

Winning bidders got the chance to "pie" their selected volunteer.



Matt & Marcel



**Disclaimer:**  
No actual pies were used in this fundraiser, just a whole lot of whipped cream!!



Laura & Ryan

Arthur & Jill



There were also a variety of real homemade pies and Bee Bell Bakery pies for everyone to eat and enjoy, one slice at a time, of course.



## Making the Switch to Google

Shelley Garrett

I just wanted to give you a progress update on the transfer to Gmail. **As of March 21, 2011**, the status is as follows (from Simon Collier, VPIT office):

After months of preparation, we have opened our doors to let all students go through the process of switching from central mail to uAlberta Google Apps. Students can go to [ualberta.ca/google/switch](http://ualberta.ca/google/switch) to get started. **The process is being restricted to students only at this time**, however, to allow departmental IT administrators time to plan transitions for faculty and departments in an orderly fashion. While we know there are many staff and faculty who are eager to make the switch to uAlberta Gmail, we are asking that they refrain from going through the switch process until their department is ready to move as a whole. This will make for a smoother transition when their department does make the switch.

In the next two months, AICT will be contacting individual business units to discuss their needs and schedule an appropriate time to move to Gmail.

You can look for updates, as well, at the VPIT site: <http://www.vpit.ualberta.ca/email/>

### Did You Know?

**South Campus & Michener Park:** Location of the Edmonton Research Station experimental farms, which are home to much of the university's agricultural research in areas like food safety and crop use for food and industrial products. A new multi-use community recreation centre, named the GO Community Centre, is currently under construction on the South Campus. Scheduled to be completed in March of 2011, the 200,000-square-foot facility will be home to 14 varsity athletic teams and several community sports clubs.

From UofA Facts



Nomination periods for the following awards have commenced:

- President's Achievement Award (closes May 31): A team award designed to profile achievements in support of the University's goals.
- Excellence in Leadership Award (closes May 31): Individual leaders or leadership teams are eligible for this award. The award was created to recognize the critical importance of the quality of the work and learning environment, and its impact on the academic experience.
- Excellence in Learning Support (closes April 30): A student-nominated award that recognizes members of the University community whose roles do not involve teaching, but who nonetheless directly and significantly contribute to the student learning experience.

To find out more about these awards and their nomination criteria, please visit:

<http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca/recognition>

### Do You Have an Idea...

...for a cost-saving measure or revenue-generating plan?  
Please submit it to our e-suggestion box!  
Email: [suggestions@chem.ualberta.ca](mailto:suggestions@chem.ualberta.ca)

### 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 (articles/reviews/pictures/comics, etc.) and are subject to editing. Send your submissions to: [newsletter@chem.ualberta.ca](mailto:newsletter@chem.ualberta.ca)

Please send submissions by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to ensure they can be featured in the next month's newsletter.

## “Count to 10...

...and try to be wise.”

Bonnie Gover

According to Chemistry Professor and Chair Jed Harrison, these are words to live by, though he says he doesn't always succeed. Success has, however, come to him recently in the form of a J. Gordon Kaplan award for Excellence in Research, presented, along with others at the Celebration of Research and Innovation on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Kaplan awards are the most prestigious UofA research awards, named after the first Vice-President of Research. I met with Jed recently to talk about the award among other things.

“I felt really honoured ... it was very, very thrilling to hear that I did receive it,” he says. Indeed. The award was 21 years in the making. That was long after he blew himself up in the lab. (More about that later.) The award originated from Jed's work in fluidics while on sabbatical in 1990, in Basil, Switzerland. There, he created the lab-on-a-chip idea and experienced “probably the most exciting moment in my scientific career...the first thought that crossed my mind was that I was looking at the birth of a new industry. And it was quite an amazing moment and I spent all year trying to make it work so it was also thrilling that it actually did work.” [For more in-depth information about the lab-on-a-



Chemistry Professor and Chair  
Jed Harrison

chip and current research, see [http://www.chem.ualberta.ca/faculty\\_staff/faculty/harrison.html](http://www.chem.ualberta.ca/faculty_staff/faculty/harrison.html).]

Other awards he's won have been particularly memorable as well, specifically: (1) the Steacie Fellowship ('96-98), essentially the best prize one can win in Canada\*, for which he won a large grant and 2 years teaching relief; and (2) the Merck prize ('96), the highest-paying award in Analytical Chemistry in the world. The Merck prize came with family travel, elaborate 8-course dinners and castles. Ask Jed about that sometime.

When I ask Jed about his university background [Simon Fraser, then MIT] and the most trouble he's gotten into while there, he tells me about being up close and personal with broken glass.

“My worst experience was at MIT when I blew myself up in the lab. I think I got about 6 hours of surgery and then 3 days in the hospital.” This was a serious accident; he still has the scars. And interestingly enough, at Simon Fraser, he was an activist on the student council. There, he was instrumental in organizing a student strike against hikes in tuition fees. “We failed. Fees went up anyhow.”

Jed might have had to pay more than he wanted for his education but there is no doubt he is happy with his choice of career. “Being a professor is one of the best jobs in the world. The chance to work with brilliant young people to guide them and help shape them and learn from their excitement is a really wonderful experience. The chance to direct what you want to work on and to control your destiny in that way is really quite extraordinary.”



[\*We are proud to say that our own Chemistry Department has 5, count 'em 5, current faculty members who have received the Steacie Fellowship, ahem.]

## Call for Exhibits/Volunteers for Science Rendezvous Edmonton 2011

2011 is the International Year of Chemistry. The Chemical Institute of Canada and TELUS World of Science would like to establish **Science Rendezvous Edmonton 2011** as the inaugural one-day festival style celebration of chemistry and science at TELUS World of Science (TWOS) for all the public. **Science Rendezvous Edmonton 2011** runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday May 7. Consider exhibiting and help the public celebrate Science with us!

### Who are you (in groups of 1-6 ...ideally 4)?

You are a group of people who might have: a few good hands on kitchen/household science or chemistry experiments/demonstrations that you'd like to show to folks of all ages.

You might be a college or university professor/ teacher/researcher/graduate student doing, or directing, research/work of import that you wish to show the general public.

You could be someone who will dress up and take on the persona of, a famous scientist (Einstein, Newton, Curie, Rutherford, Dalton, Priestly, Lavoisier, etc) for the day at TWOS.

You could be a drama student, or drama group, willing to perform a short scene/excerpt from a play featuring a scientist or scientists (Hoffman and Djerasi's *Oxygen*, Capek's *R.U.R.*, Brecht's *Galileo*, Durenmat's *The Physicists*, Kipphardt's *In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, Stoppard's *Arcadia*, Andreyev's *To the Stars*, Maxim Gorky's *Children of the Sun*, and countless other suitable plays) – potentially in the foyer of TWOS. A group of high school students, with their teacher willing, to demonstrate some research they've done or with exciting chemistry demonstrations to share.

A group of high school teachers demonstrating some exciting chemistry demonstrations they'd like to share.

A chemistry winner/finalist of the Regional Science fair contest.

An Association of local professionals (forensic scientists, fireman, EMTs, etc) who have a science demonstration the public just has to see.

Other relevant interested science group or company (...selling science not your services)

### How long do you have to exhibit?

In shifts your group will man a table continuously from 10:00 am to 4:00 p.m. on May 7th, 2011. The precise location of your (8×4) table in TWOS will be determined at a later date.

### What does each group member get for your volunteer labour?

The undying thanks of the organizing committee and a CIC Edmonton Volunteer T-shirt.

### How do you apply to participate in Science Rendezvous Edmonton 2011?

You must email the following information to Ian Phillips ([ian.phillips@epsb.ca](mailto:ian.phillips@epsb.ca))

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Group's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Organization's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Group Members' names: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Activity: (Describe your exhibit in no more than 100 words)

There are currently only 30 spots available. Depending on the numbers and variety of entries for Science Rendezvous Edmonton 2011, there is no guarantee that your proposal will be accepted. Informal auditions at a yet to be chosen location (TBA) may be necessary to arrive at the final roster of participants. A call for volunteers is under consideration as of this writing.

Do not hesitate to telephone me at 780-448-5000 to talk to me in person if you need some clarification.

I look forward to working with you in Science Rendezvous Edmonton 2011,

Dr. Ian G. Phillips (Teacher Ross Sheppard High school).

# Japan Disaster Fund Raiser Silent Auction, Sales, Entertainment, Food

**Saturday, April 16, 4:00 – 8:00 pm**

**Edmonton Japanese Community Centre**

**6750 – 88 Street, 780-466-8166**

**Silent Auction:** Japanese goods/Pictures/  
Golf trip/Gift baskets/ services & more!  
Cash, Debit card, VISA and Mastercard only

For list of items, <http://www.ejca.org/>

**Sales:** Pottery, Japanese goods & more!

**Entertainment:** Japanese Dance, Kimono  
show, and Songs

**Donation to Red Cross:** Cash or cheque only

**Food:** Sushi, appetizers, drinks (Cash only)



## As of March 31, 2011

Total lost	27,973	{ Dead: 11,532 Missing: 16,441
Evacuation locations:	2,225	
People at evacuation locations:	172,472	
Residential houses destroyed:	28,538	
Residential houses partially destroyed:	127,660	
Non-residential buildings destroyed:	3,708	
Roads broken:	2,126 locations	
Bridges broken:	56	
Landslides:	136	
Railroads damaged:	26	



Kesennume City - after the quake and tsunami



Oofunato City - before the quake and tsunami



Health Promotion and WorkLife Services (HPaWS)

# LUNCH & LEARN

**April 2011**

**12:05 – 12:55 p.m.**



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**\*\*Please note that staff and faculty will receive priority Lunch and Learn registration, with others being accommodated if space permits. To ensure a quality learning environment for all participants, registrants are asked to please endeavour to arrive at Lunch and Learns on time to minimize class disruption.\*\***

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## **Emotional Intelligence**

**Deepika Mitra, Homewood Human Solutions**  
**Thursday, April 7, 2011—Education South 164**

Whether we focus on personal skills, like the ability to motivate ourselves, or on interpersonal skills, like empathy, each of us can benefit from enhancing our emotional intelligence. This workshop will assist participants in identifying development goals and strategies to enhance these skills.

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## **What's Behind Your Organizing Challenges?**

**Stacy Walker, Homewood Human Solutions**  
**Wednesday, April 13, 2011—Education South 164**

Certified Professional Organizer, Stacy Walker, returns with insight into the psychological and emotional side of getting and staying organized. What gets between you and the space you want to create? Are you a perfectionist? Do you have the best of intentions but procrastinate or get distracted time and time again? Learn more about how these and other obstacles affect the organization in your life.

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## **More Juggling Elephants: Get your "acts" together!**

**Kim Arsenault, Meridian Learning and Development**  
**Tuesday, April 19, 2011—Education South 164**

Life at the U of A can be busy! Do you feel like the circus is running you instead of you running your circus? Stop trying to Juggle Elephants! Learn some solid strategies for being the Ringmaster – get your "Acts" together.

This Juggling Elephants session will focus on some practical tools for:

- Prioritizing current tasks and activities based on purpose.
- Minimizing distractions, and interruptions to increase your focus and productivity.
- Planning for successful completion of new and existing tasks.

Come one, come all. This will be a practical session with a brief introduction to Juggling Elephants with lots of tools for better prioritizing and time management.

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## **Zumba**

**Amanda Shuya, Campus Recreation**  
**Thursday, April 28, 2011—W1-17 Van Vliet**

Come out and try one of the most popular fitness crazes! Zumba involves interval training sessions where the fast and slow rhythms of Latin dance are paired with resistance training to tone and sculpt your body while burning fat. Participants will learn Latin body isolations, moves from the cha-cha, salsa, merengue, bachata, cumbia, samba and reggaeton.

*\*\* Encore—back by popular demand\*\**

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