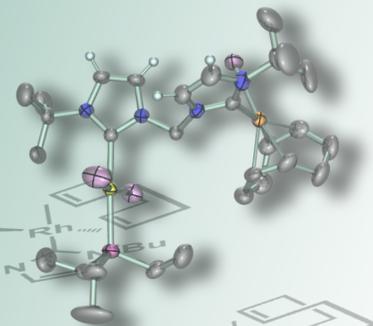


2011 july / august

a monthly publication of the
department of chemistry
university of alberta

chemNEWS



Inside this edition:

Building Updates

Announcements, Congratulations

Featured article on Mickey Richards and the NMR Lab

Pics from the annual Staff Appreciation Picnic, healthy workplace tips and more!

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

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

BUILDING UPDATES

Jill Bagwe / Karen McKinley

Building Envelope & Chemistry West Renewal Project Update

We are hopeful that the majority of these two projects will be completed by the end of September. As announced in the May/June edition of *chemNEWS*, the finishing cement work of the window project is slightly behind schedule due to the large amounts of rain that we have received. This is anticipated to be complete by mid-August.

The trades are still working fast and furious to meet the KIP funding terms and conditions deadline.

The framing and walls are now up and painting has begun on the 5th floor and the 4th is not far behind. Norlab is installing brand new benches and hoods in these state-of-the-art chemistry labs and they are going to be a place that you will be proud to work in.

The Department will continue with plans to host a Grand Opening and that date is still to be determined. Stay tuned for further details.

CCIS Update

CCIS building updates are provided to the current and future

occupants of CCIS on a weekly basis via e-mail, but an overall summation of the building is as follows: 11 of the 12 faculty members slated to move to CCIS have completed their moves and one has opted to postpone his move until CCIS labs are fully functional.

CCIS access control system is in the final stages of programming and completion of this effort will allow us to move into the next phase of the installation which is to begin training faculty administrators and granting access privileges to building tenants using their new ONEcards. For those individuals who do have assigned space, you are urged to take advantage of switching your old ONEcard to the updated version, which when programmed will allow you access to specific areas throughout CCIS. For further details, please see the last *chemNEWS*, or contact Karen McKinley.

Important Dates & Events

- August 17:** CCIS Staff and Faculty Luncheon
- August 19:** 45th Annual Gunning/Lemieux Chemistry Golf Tournament

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laura Pham

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Brian Worfolk (Dr. Buriak) passed his PhD candidacy exam June 1, 2011

Bing Bai (Dr. Lowary) passed his PhD candidacy exam June 2, 2011

Jeffrey Johnston (Dr. West) passed his PhD defense June 13, 2011

David Wingert (Dr. Clive) passed his PhD defense June 27, 2011

Ryan Fradette (Dr. West) passed his PhD candidacy exam June 28, 2011

S.M. Ibrahim Al-Rafia (Dr. Rivard) passed his PhD candidacy exam June 29, 2011
Brianne Zorzetti (Dr. Harynuk) passed her MSc defense June 30, 2011

Amira El-Yazbi (Dr. Lopnow) passed her PhD candidacy exam July 5, 2011
Joel Kelly (Dr. Veinot) passed his PhD defense July 13, 2011

Lan Liu (Dr. Klassen) passed her PhD defense July 19, 2011

Naoto Soya (Dr. Klassen) passed his PhD defense July 28, 2011

Javix Thomas (Dr. Xu) passed his PhD candidacy exam July 29, 2011

George Kotovych is a new grandfather! Grandson Luke Anthony was born to father Dr. Brian Rempel and mother Daria Kokovych. Luke is 7 lbs, 14 oz and 20" long.

Brent Rudyk, Marcel Munroe, Ryan Lewis, and **Laura Pham** represented the Chemistry Department in the WISEST Golf Tournament held on July 27th at The Links in Spruce Grove. It was a challenging tournament but the Chemistry team came out on top and took the prize for winning team. WISEST was also successful in fund raising approximately \$15,000, which will be used to support their Summer Research Program and their new initiatives reaching out to youth in junior high, a time when they begin to make important decisions about their future.

Shelley Garrett was appointed as the IT Administrator for Chemistry effective July 28, 2011. Shelley has been in the department since March 2009 when she was hired from Taylor University College as our Desktop Support Analyst. Shelley quickly earned a reputation as a capable and competent professional coupled with a wonderful "desk-side" manner. After some Unix Systems courses last summer and handily managing in the acting role of the IT Administrator position between this position's vacancies in both 2010 and 2011, Shelley was the very obvious successor. There is no doubt that she will be a wonderful asset to lead the Chemistry IT Group and I ask that you join me in congratulating her in her new role.

Lydia Chen (Dr. Le) was the recipient of the **Arthur Bollo-Kamara Graduate Scholarship** in Chemistry, awarded by the ACPA. The winners of this scholarship must display academic excellence in chemistry, service to the chemical profession, service to the community and achievement in the arts or cultural activities.



Lydia Chen and ACPA Awards Committee member Sally Hanearin

FAREWELL TO...

Don Morgan will be retiring from his position as an Instrument Technician in the Mass Spectrometry Lab on August 31, 2011. Don started his career with the Department on March 4, 1968. Before coming to the Department, Don was working as a Field Technician for the Research Council of Alberta. As a young fellow, Don had limited experience and exposure to spectrographic equipment, but he applied for the position with the Department anyway. Don impressed

upon the Department that he had the knowledge and initiative to learn and do the job successfully. Don was offered the position; he took it and went on to build his knowledge and skills through courses, conferences, and on-the-job training to become an expert in his field. We are very thankful to Don for his 43 years of loyalty and dedication to the Department and we wish him a well-deserved retirement!

Sarah Magee has announced that she will be retiring from her position as Purchasing Specialist on September 30, 2011. Sarah joined the University in 1986 and was working with the Planning and Development Office before joining the Department on January 8, 2001 to fill the newly created position of Bookkeeper. As Bookkeeper, Sarah assisted the Purchasing Coordinator with the accounting side of purchasing, such as billing and accounts payable. Sarah quickly learned the ins and outs of purchasing and in 2007 took on the role of Purchasing Specialist. Throughout her career, Sarah has managed to juggle the demands of a full-time job alongside those of a busy family of three boys. Sarah is now eagerly waiting for retirement; she seems almost as eager to retire as becoming a grandmother. But retirement is more realistic at this point in time than becoming a grandmother. Thank you Sarah for your many years of hard work, dedication, and commitment to the Department! We wish you all the best in your retirement!

Bonnie Yu will be leaving her position in the Second Floor Storeroom to pursue a new career. Bonnie is a Chemical Technician who worked out of the 2nd Floor Chemistry Stores, side-by-side with Margaret Sisley. Bonnie was appointed in June 2006 and provided laboratory support to our analytical

ANNOUNCEMENTS – cont'd

undergraduate laboratories. Bonnie has been contemplating a complete career change to the financial field and has been working on her accelerated CMA program this past school term. In July, Bonnie was offered the opportunity for a position working for a private firm off of campus in the Accounts Payable department. The opportunity was too good for her to pass up and she has since resigned from her position effective Thursday, August 4, 2011. I know Bonnie to be a determined young woman and she will not only succeed, but excel in her new chosen field!

Joseph Fiorillo left his position as Purchasing Specialist within the Department to pursue a new career as an electrician on Friday, July 8th. We are thankful to Joe for his 2 1/2 years of service to the Department and his wry humour. Best wishes for your new career path Joe and we are sure you will excel there as you did here in Chemistry!

WELCOME TO...

Christine Whelan has been seconded from Computing Science for just under 14 months to replace Shannon Barner while she is on maternity leave. Christine has six years of administrative experience on campus for three different units. In these positions, she assumed more progressively responsible roles, the most recent being the provision of administrative support to all 45 faculty in Computing Science. In addition, she acted as the Admissions Coordinator for the faculty's graduate student applications. Christine herself just completed a BA degree from the University of Alberta and so has insight of what it is like to be an undergraduate student on campus. I am confident that Christine will very ably cover the maternity leave for Shannon and we are in good hands. Her contact information is cwhelan@ualberta.ca, 492-5373. Christine's (temporary) office is in E3-51 Chemistry Centre until Student Services moves to their new location in Chemistry West 4th floor, when those renovations are complete.

Corrine Chorney was hired into the Purchasing Specialist position vacated by Joseph Fiorillo. Corrine comes to us



Healthy Workplace Tip

Take a few minutes every day to get up and walk around. Instead of sending that e-mail or picking up the phone to contact your colleague, walk over and talk to them in person. Not only does this foster strong professional relationships, but it also gets you up and moving which contributes to your overall health.

from Facilities and Operations, having been there since October 2007. Corrine, however, already has about 15 years of experience in the purchasing field. She holds a diploma in Supply Management from the Purchasing Management Association of Canada. For those established personnel of our department, you will likely remember Corrine. She worked in Chemistry Stores as a Storeman, and as well, a Mailroom Clerk from 1986 to 1993. Corrine is known for her creative cakes (just ask Martin Cowie) and is a fitness buff. Her contact information is corrine.chorney@ualberta.ca, 492-3821.

Matthew Sirtonski has been hired for an 8-month term to temporarily fill the position left by Bonnie Yu. Matthew received both his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Science from the University of Alberta. Matthew also

worked as a T.A. for Greg Kiema in 2007. Greg speaks very highly of Matthew's abilities and so we know this to be a good fit. Matthew starts his appointment on Monday, August 15; his appointment runs until April 27, 2012.

Welcome to **Xi (Lisa) Li** who joined the Department on August 2 as our new IIP student in the IRC. Lisa is currently enrolled in her fourth year of the Bachelor of Science Specialization in Chemistry program at the University of Alberta. Lisa is currently trying to get up to speed on Dreamweaver and some of the other programs used by our IRC. Lisa is temporarily located in room E3-15 and will be returning to the IRC Office in room W3-56 once construction in the west wing is complete. She can be reached by the same email as previous IRC students (jirc@chem.ualberta.ca).

MESSAGE FROM SECOND FLOOR STORES:

A pH electrode was removed from room E2-22 (an undergraduate teaching lab) this past June. The pH electrode was discovered missing during a routine check of the equipment within the room. Whoever took the electrode did not take a pH meter to go with it. We would kindly ask that if you have borrowed this pH electrode, please return it to room E2-22.

The missing electrode has been replaced in readiness for the fall term. For anyone wishing to borrow equipment from the teaching labs on the second floor, please see Margaret Sisley in room W2-32 before removing any equipment from the teaching labs.



NEW LIAISON LIBRARIAN FOR CHEMISTRY

Elizabeth Wallace is the new Liaison Librarian for the Department of Chemistry. She was recently hired as Collections Librarian in the Science and Technology Library and will also serve as liaison to the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Elizabeth holds a BA in Geography and Environmental Studies, and an MLIS (Library & Information Studies,) both from McGill University.



Staff Appreciation Picnic, June 28, 2011

A Magnetic Career

Bonnie Gover

The hum of the NMR machine is steady but not overly loud. That's a good thing because just in front of it, I am talking with Mickey Richards, the Department's new spectroscopist. Mickey took some time out recently to talk with me about spectroscopy and her new job working with the massive magnets.

What an NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance) machine does essentially is identify the chemical composition of a sample. The sample is put in the machine where a magnetic field surrounds it. The way the atoms respond to the magnetic fields through radio frequencies helps Mickey to identify their makeup. NMR is also used to monitor reaction processes so reactions can be done while the sample is in the magnet. From a reaction, a metal or organic complex can be identified that could be used down the road, for example, in the oil industry. The Chemistry department has a lot of these NMR magnets – 11 to be exact, spread out in 8 ½ rooms.



The V700 NMR Machine Used for the Most Minute Samples

About her job, Mickey says that, so far, it's been "pretty good." Just four months earlier, she was a PhD candidate in the chemistry department on a studentship awarded by the AHFMR (Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research) when the posting for Spectroscopist came up. Since her PhD concerns NMR, it was a natural fit. "Seeing the listing I thought this was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. Even though I'm not done yet, I posted my resume, got an interview and was offered the job maybe a week and a half after the interview."

However, coming from a strictly organic background, she says the first few months "were a very steep learning curve." What surprised her most is how differently the divisions use NMR. "I'm pretty sure this is going to take at least a year before I feel like, wait, I don't have to look at my notes anymore or I actually have seen this problem and know how to fix it. As opposed to, uhhh, try something."



Mickey Putting Sample into U500 NMR Machine

It can take between five minutes and several days to analyze a substance. "It really depends on the nature of the problem and how much sample [researchers] have and just really what they're trying to do." The job is never boring, says Mickey. Whatever they are trying to achieve, the coolest part "is when people get the result they want and then somehow think I was responsible for it – when I'm not, at all. It's their hard work. So seeing people very excited about their research and whatever results is what's really neat."

While in her position, Mickey is completing her thesis, entitled *Conformational analysis of furanose carbohydrates via computational and NMR techniques*. She looks at the shape and structure of 5-membered ring carbohydrates, of significance because humans don't produce them. Mickey says that because fungi, bacteria and protozoa all make them, "they're potentially interesting drug targets." Interesting indeed.

Before I leave, I ask Mickey if there's anything else we need to know about her or the lab. She replies, quite simply, "maybe that we're here. There are days that people don't necessary come down and talk to us, which I assume means things are running well for them. But all three of us are down here to help people. So come down and visit. Ask questions. Don't be afraid of us." So if you have time, why not take Mickey up on her invitation? WB-13 is not that far...



Chemistry Golf Tournament

Location

Eagle Rock Golf Club
50549 - RR #234
Range Road 234
Township Road 510
Phone: 780-464-4653

Date and Time

Friday, August 19, 2011
First tee-off at 9:00 AM
(Teams and Tee-Times will be posted)

Cost

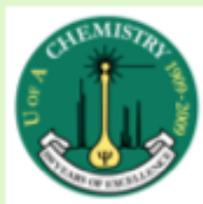
(Golf + Power Cart + Dinner)

\$60

The golf rate is subsidized by your support of our fundraising BBQs there will be a maximum of 52 golfers allowed to register, so RSVP quickly!

Awards & Prizes

- Winning team score
- Long drive (men and ladies)
- Closest to the pin (men and ladies)
- Longest putt (open)
- Grand prize draw



45th Annual Gunning/Lemieux Golf Tournament



This year's tournament will be held on **Friday, August 19th, 2011** at the pristine and secluded **Eagle Rock Golf Course**. The course is situated south on 50 Street, 6km East of Beaumont on Township road 510.

The format will be a **4-Person Best Ball Texas Scramble**. There will be a post-event reception hosted by Eagle's Nest Catering with a carved roast beef dinner (vegetarian option is available) and an exciting awards presentation to follow. This tournament will include 18 holes of golf, power cart rental, dinner, awards and draw prizes.

Golf clubs may be rented at the Eagle Rock Pro Shop. When registering, please indicate if you require either **club rentals** or a **vegetarian meal**.

Registration deadline is July 29th, 2011

- **Marcel Munroe:** 492-4781, W1-28, mmunroe@ualberta.ca

Golf dress code is required. Tournament will proceed rain or shine.



Health Promotion and WorkLife Services (HPaWS)

LUNCH & LEARN

August 2011

12:05 – 12:55 p.m.



****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.****

Manage Your Time and Energy

Irene Spelliscy, Homewood Human Solutions
Wednesday, August 3, 2011—Education South 158

Time is a precious resource. Once it is used up, we can never get it back. We've all heard the phrase "time = money" and certainly in a business setting, this is the case. As humans, we require balance in our work lives so that we meet both our job requirements and personal needs. How do we manage our time at work so that we are both satisfied and successful? This session will explore the answer to this question.

How to Help Your Child Succeed at School

Irene Spelliscy, Homewood Human Solutions
Thursday, August 11, 2011—Education South 158

Every parent wants their child to be happy and successful at school. Many working parents struggle with knowing how to support their children and school-related activities. This session invites participants to seek a partnership between each child, the school and themselves as parents. This partnership creates positive structure at home to support their children's experience at school, and looks for ways to reward effort rather than outcomes.

Fun Flow Vinyasa

Michelle Desnoyers, Campus Recreation
Thursday, August 18, 2011—W1-17 Van Vliet

Vinyasa is a flowing and vigorous yoga practice designed to increase internal heat. Similar to ashtanga, it differs in that pose and movement patterns are not predetermined. The session is set to a modern and up-beat, non-traditional soundtrack. Participants are sure to leave beaming and humming a few tunes.

Nutrition for Physical Activity/Sport

Charlotte Varem-Sanders, Homewood Human Solutions
Wednesday, August 24, 2011—Education South 113

Going from couch potato to super fry (without the grease)? Not sure how to eat or when to eat to meet your needs, potential or goals? Wherever you are in your physical activity—following some basic guidelines will help you improve your stamina, strength and energy levels.

Getting Where You Want to Go: Strategies for Effective Goal Setting

Laurel Vespi, Stone Circle Coaching
Wednesday, August 31, 2011—Education South 128

It's true that people set goals so they can create some kind of change in their lives. It's also true that most people abandon their goals within 30 days. Join Laurel to learn some tips to make goal setting simpler and more effective. We'll explore:

- why people are not successful with their goals and how goal setting relates to success
- inspiration vs. motivation
- key strategies (singular focus, written plan, managing your environment, consistency, plan B)

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.