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a monthly publication of the  
department of chemistry  
university of alberta

# chemNEWS

## Inside this edition:

Building Updates, including  
wet sprinkler installation in  
Chemistry West

Announcements,  
Congratulations

Featured article on  
Jill Bagwe, recipient of  
Excellence in Leadership  
Award

Important departmental  
dates, healthy workplace tips  
and much more!



## BUILDING UPDATES

Jill Bagwe

### **CW Renovations: The end is in sight!**

Delnor will be turning over CW5N to the department as of Tuesday, October 11, 2011 with the 4<sup>th</sup> floor to follow on Monday, November 7, 2011. For those of you who are not familiar with the renovations, they were much more than just a fresh coat of paint or new flooring – these renovations were on a grand scale in which the whole footprint of the labs was shifted to the east and the students' write-up space is now contiguous with their labs. There is no other word, but "stunning" to describe the transformation of our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors of Chemistry West north wings. Look for a grand opening date to be hosted by Facilities and Operations, Government & Corporate Relations and Chemistry in the near future.

The lucky occupants of the renovated space include the research groups of West and Clive to assume the labs on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor and the research groups of Brown, Hanna, Klobukowski and Xu will move to shared theoretical lab space on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. The Undergraduate Student Services Office will be permanently re-located to their new home in W4-39 with that move likely to occur in mid-November Other office moves include Drs Brzezowski and Yiu to move into W5-39 B & C respectively; Lynne Lechelt into W5-39C; Drs West and

McCreery into W5-70D and W5-70CV respectively; and lastly, Drs Brown, Hanna will move into W4-70D and W4-70C respectively.



### **Chemistry West Building Envelope Upgrade: Another project is wrapped up!**

Over the summer months, all of the windows on the west side of Chemistry West were replaced and those window ledges that were crumbling were chipped out and new concrete applied. Along the perimeter of the building, the ledge was replaced with a stainless steel form rather than with concrete. Lastly, re-pointing and re-sealing of the brick facia was completed. We're good to go for another 50 years now!

*Continued on page 2*

## Important Dates & Events

**October 10:** Thanksgiving Day

**October 11:** Celebration of Chemistry 2011: (Alumni, Staff, Faculty Awards & BBQ)

**Chemistry West Sprinkler System Installation:** The last of the sprinkler installations will be completed by Friday, October 14, 2011 with the final wing to receive the sprinklers being CW3N.

In mid-August 2011, Hugh Warren, Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance, Facilities and Operations, circulated a memo amongst our faculty and staff regarding the sprinklers. For those of you who did not read it, it is important that you do so as it addresses questions regarding triggering, changes you may need to make in how items are stored on shelving in your labs, and the University's awareness of the risks the sprinkler either mitigates or enhances. The content of that memo is as follows:

As part of the renewal of the various building systems serving the Chemistry West facility a new sprinkler system has been installed to protect the users of the facility, the building and the contents. The sprinkler system in Chemistry is a fully charged wet system meaning the lines are full of water at all times.



The following points are key to understanding the operation of this system:

- The sprinkler system operates on the principal of melting a fusible link that is installed in the individual sprinkler heads
- A specific sprinkler head would only discharge when the fusible link melted on either a heat incident directly in the area impacted by a fire or high temperature incident. Only the sprinkler head(s) in the immediate vicinity of the fire are activated - or - In the case of vandalism or a mechanical mal-function only the head that was affected would release water
- In all cases the discharge of a sprinkler head would be limited to the specific location of the incident.

If a sprinkler system had been active in the Chemistry West facility at the time of the most recent lab fire the following sequence would have occurred:

- Initial fire incident – The student would try to extinguish the fire and then evacuate the lab activating the fire alarm pull station as he left the lab.
- The fire alarm system would be the first

stage of alarm and would activate the building alarm for building evacuation

- As the fire incident advanced the smoke and heat particularly at the ceiling level would spread.
- At some point there would be sufficient heat to cause the fusible link on the sprinkler head in the location of the fire to melt and for that head to discharge
- If the fire continued to spread additional sprinkler heads would discharge as the heat built up in the locations that they were providing coverage for.

With a wet sprinkler system now installed in the Chemistry West facility items that the occupants now need to keep in mind related to their specific operational areas:

- Don't obstruct sprinkler heads. Obstructions can concentrate heat flow as well as impact water distribution on discharge
- Do not install heat source equipment directly below a sprinkler head (if the location is critical contact Facilities and Operations to have the sprinkler head relocated),
- If tall research equipment is to be installed in a lab that could block air movement and create hot spots, the sprinkler head can be moved
- Avoid stacking items on shelves in the middle of labs that obstruct heat flow. During our visits with our insurer to labs we have found that individuals will stack items on these shelves to within inches of the ceiling. This has the potential to impact the operation and effectiveness of the sprinkler system.

Continued on page 4

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

*Healthy Workplace Tips Will Return*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laura Pham

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

**Jessie Key** (Dr. Cairo) passed his PhD defense August 4, 2011

**Clarissa Sit** (Dr. Vederas) passed her PhD defense August 8, 2011

**Ravi Loka** (Dr. Cairo) passed his PhD defense August 10, 2011

**Shuai Zhou** (Dr. Veinot) passed his MSc defense August 24, 2011

**Steve Barry** (Dr. Mar) passed his MSc defense August 30, 2011

**Yao Zou** (Dr. Cairo) passed her MSc defense August 31, 2011

**Marlin Penner** (Hall) passed his PhD defense September 7, 2011

**Lu Deng** (Klassen) passed her PhD candidacy exam September 8, 2011

**Margot Dawe** (Li) passed her MSc defense September 9, 2011

**Lihong Wang** (Clive) passed his PhD defense September 20, 2011

**Laura Zilke** (Hall) passed her MSc defense September 21, 2011

**Tina Boff** (West) passed her PhD defense September 22, 2011

**Erin Sullivan** (Tykewinski/Hall) passed her PhD defense September 23, 2011

**Zhenhua Chen** (Clive) passed his PhD defense September 23, 2011

**Brian Asher** (Wong/Martin) passed his PhD defense September 23, 2011

**Linghui Yu** (West) passed his MSc defense September 26, 2011

**Wei Sun** (Lucy) passed his MSc defense September 26, 2011

**Shoma Sinha** (Wolkow) passed her PhD defense September 27, 2011

**Lu Zou** (Lowary) passed her MSc defense September 27, 2011

**Xiaojiang Zhang** (Buriak) passed his PhD defense September 28, 2011

**Matthew Markiewicz** (Bergens) passed his PhD defense September 29, 2011

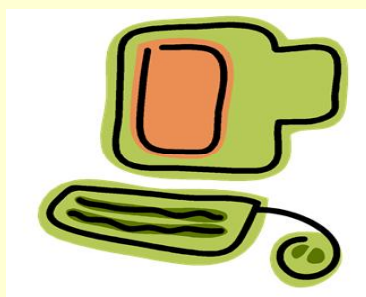
Congratulations to **Jack Lee** (Hall Group) for receiving a Best Poster Award (2nd Prize) at the 15th International Meeting in Boron Chemistry held in Niagara Falls, Ontario, September 11-15.

Congratulations to **Shannon Barner**, who welcomed a baby girl, Isabella Sarah Anne Barner to her family last month. Isabella was born on Sunday, September 4, 2011 and weighed in at 7 pounds, 9 ounces.

Congratulations to **Narges Shaabani** who also welcomed a baby girl to her family. Sara Shaabani was born on August 4, 2011.

## WELCOME TO...

**Tyler Petersen** joined the Department on August 29, 2011 to take on the position of Desktop Analyst with the Department's IT Group. Tyler is an external hire who has three years of experience in both an academic and retail environment, with the last 1.5 years at the Apple Store, an environment where it is impressed upon the staff that they provide a high level of customer service to their clients. Based on the interview, I believe he will hold fast to that service model for our "customers" - you! Tyler will provide desktop support for the department and is well versed in both a Mac and PC environment. Please join me in welcoming Tyler to the department.



We are pleased to announce that **Bela Reiz** has accepted the position vacated by Don Morgan in the Mass Spectrometry Lab. Bela has been working in the Mass Spec Lab on a contractual basis for the past two years. His new appointment as a Mass Spectrometry Technologist now makes him a permanent member of the Department. Congratulations Bela!

*Continued on page 4*

## Get to Know a New Department Member: Danny Mah

Danny will start in the department as of November 15 for a 12-month secondment from EHS. He will work with our department researchers to develop and establish laboratory safety protocols. Chuck Lucy was involved in the recruitment process over the summer. Danny will be housed in W3-68 with a number yet-to-be assigned. Danny wrote us a short greeting:

As I will be joining the U of A shortly, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I have 11 years experience as a Health, Safety and Environment Specialist. I have had the fortunate opportunity to work in the private sector, healthcare and public service. Earlier in my HSE career my years were spent in Ft McMurray working in heavy industrial construction and commercial land development. I moved to what was then Capital Health as a Health, Safety and Environment consultant and most recently as an Occupation Health and Safety Lead Investigator with the Alberta Government.

My lovely wife and I have recently taken up Stand Up Paddling to keep active. I also snowboard, long board and am a cycling enthusiast. I have a love affair with cars. My wife would say it's an affliction. The most memorable car I have is a 1969 VW dune buggy. My current projects include a 1927 Model T Hot and a 1977 Austin Mini Cooper.

I look forward to meeting all the great people I have heard about.  
Regards,  
Danny Mah

Check out local and not-so-local champions:



Harold Kroto  
[http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/chemistry](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry)

Jillian Buriak:  
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/technology/shaping-the-future/nano-technology-coming-to-the-doctors-office/article2191107>

## Announcements, continued



The AICCS is pleased to welcome **Angie Fraser** to their group. Angie has accepted a newly created part-time position within the AICCS as Dr. David Bundle's Administrative Assistant. Angie was formerly the Minister's Secretary in the Minister's Office for Alberta Municipal Affairs and brings eight years of executive level administration with her to the AICCS. The Minister's Office tried their very best to retain Angie but her new role as a mother demanded more of her time, which is why the AICCS and Dr. Bundle is fortunate enough to have Angie join their group.

The AICCS is also pleased to welcome **Heather Ross** to their group. Heather will be taking on a newly created full-time position of Financial Administrator for the AICCS. Heather comes to the Department from her position as an Accounting Technician from Goodwill Industries of Alberta. Heather has over ten years of administrative and financial experience and is now ready to take on new challenges with the AICCS.

Welcome to **Dr. Erik Luber**, who has joined the research group of Dr. Jillian Buriak as a post doctoral fellow. Dr. Luber received both his BSc and PhD from the Faculty of Engineering right here at the University of Alberta.

Welcome to **Dr. Gang He**, who has joined the research group of Dr. Eric Rivard. Dr. He graduated from Shaanxi Normal University with a PhD and has traveled across the ocean to take on a post doctoral fellowship position with Dr. Rivard's group.

## FAREWELL TO...

**Craig Turk** left the Department on September 30, 2011 to pursue a new job opportunity with the Cross Cancer Institute. Craig joined the Department on April 28, 2008 as an Instrument Technician within the Analytical and Instrumentation Lab. Craig has been a great asset to the Department over the last 3 years and he will be missed.

**Mickey Richards** has decided to resign her post as an NMR Spectroscopist within the NMR Lab effective September 30, 2011 in order to finish writing her thesis. Though her presence in the NMR Lab will be missed, we also understand her desire to complete her thesis and obtain her degree. We wish her all the best.

**Dr. Graham Murphy** has left his post-doctoral fellow position with Dr. Fred West's research group. We wish him well in his future endeavor.

**Dr. Paul Raston** has also left his post-doctoral fellow position with Dr. Wolfgang Jaeger's research group. Dr. Raston will be moving to the U.S.A to take up a new post-doctoral position.



As many of you know, **Sarah's** last day with the Department was September 30, 2011 and upon deliberation and discussion with the Chair and the Office staff, it has been decided that we will not be seeking a new Purchasing Specialist. Instead, the Department of Chemistry will reduce the composition of its current financial team so as to meet the anticipated 2012-13 budget reductions. The resulting action is to abolish one of the two existing Purchasing Specialist positions through attrition. Knowing that it is unreasonable for the remaining specialist position to assume the entire workload of both positions, we intend to re-organize our current structure and expand the current Accounting Assistant position from 0.5 FTE to a 1.0 FTE. By doing so, we can add some of the more perfunctory Purchasing Specialist duties and responsibilities on to this position.

## Building Updates, continued from Page 2

In terms of insurance against loss in the case of a sprinkler discharge we have contacted Risk Management and Mr. Bob Picken has advised that:

"Our insurance program is set up to be able to respond to large losses such as you described below. The description of the sprinkler system Hugh has provided above will definitely make a difference in any potential claims."

**CCIS Grand Opening:** The Grand Opening for CCIS, held on Friday, September 23, was a resounding success. Attended by notable dignitaries such as Premier Stelmach, President Indira Samarasekera, Vice Provost Carl Amrhein, and Chancellor Linda Hughes along with 100's of guests and CCIS researchers.

"This is a new day for collaborative, scientific research and this is its new home," said Gregory Taylor, dean of the Faculty of Science. "The Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science solidifies the University of Alberta's Faculty of Science as one of the top faculties of its kind in the country, if not the world." Other interesting facts about CCIS, as posted on the Faculty of Science website:

- Approximately 244 km of conduit (approximately the distance from Edmonton to Didsbury on Highway 2)
- 731km of wire (approximately the distance from Edmonton to Regina)
- 17,700 lamps (If you were to take one minute to install a lamp it would take 295 hrs to install them or 37 days working 8hrs per day).
- 1290 km of plumbing piping
- 825,000 cubic feet of concrete
- 90,000 square feet of exterior glass (almost 2 Canadian football fields worth)
- 136,000 square feet of interior glass (almost 3 Canadian football fields)
- Over 1,500 doors
- 2,200 lecture theatre seats and writing tablets



## Jill Bagwe Wins Excellence in Leadership Award

Bonnie Gover

It's 7:00 in the morning. You are a 21 year-old university student. Your final exam is in a couple of hours. The doorbell rings and the crew from legendary radio show host Peter Gzowski is on your doorstep. Can they film your gummy collection?

Fast forward several years to September 2011 and Jill Bagwe, Chemistry's Assistant Chair (Administration), is posing with that collection in her office. Most of her 800 gummies are in boxes but she has a few favourites by the window. Of that morning several years ago, she says, "It was a neat experience. I just thought, 'Well, make yourself acceptable.'"



It is this kind of tenacity that no doubt helped Jill win a recent Excellence in Leadership Award from the UofA. She took some time out to speak with me about the award and her leadership style.

"On a campus-wide level to get that recognition was so humbling and such an honour. It was a little overwhelming actually." Upon receiving the news, she says she gasped and cried [for joy]. I view this as a once-in-a-lifetime career acknowledgement. I really do. I don't think this will ever happen to me ever again so I was really, really pleased."

About her leadership style, Jill says it has been developed through the many positions she has held on campus. "I've often thought that if I was in. . . senior administration or management, I would treat my employees the way I'd want to be treated. And it's as simple as that. I



don't ascribe to that whole 'leave your personal life at home.' I don't think you can; there's a crossover and I think you have to be compassionate and understanding.' While Jill speaks about also having to be firm in order to, as she says, "get the job done," she cites her open door policy and emphasizes the need to be genuine. "I think it's important that you be approachable and be sincere."

Jill's first "real" job was at Ponderosa. "I was the salad bar girl. "Yeah," she says, "that's dating me a little bit." The lesson she learned from that job was that she didn't want to do that for the rest of her life. [No offense, Ponderosa]. At the UofA, Jill started as a research technician and worked her way through administrative positions, each with progressively more responsibility, to get where she is now. And the chemistry department suits her just fine. "Overall, everyone has such a spirit of collegiality and supports one another."

When asked what inspires her, Jill says that she is inspired by people who are not defined by their past. Having had significant setbacks of her own, Jill mentions her multiple sclerosis and says adversity doesn't have to quash success. "People who have that will to fight and continue and persevere -- I find inspiration in that. And that can just be anybody. It's your own tenacity and ambition and drive that has you go through life. And whatever that is for each individual, that's a personal thing."

"And I only ever want to be in a position where I feel like I can make a difference. So if I serve on a committee, I must make a difference. Somehow."

On passions, Jill says that in addition to family and friends, her passions are nature and travel. "[Travel] just gives you that different perspective of different cultures and . . . expands you as a person. Taking my son was very important for that very reason and we've gone to 4 continents and 23 states." Taking time for travel ties in with her words to live by: "You should live your life to the fullest capacity and not live it for tomorrow. Live your life now."

In the spirit of the award, Jill will be using the \$4000 award money to create a travel bursary that will help others in the department further their career or leadership goals.

Congratulations Jill!





Health Promotion and WorkLife Services (HPaWS)

# LUNCH & LEARN

**October 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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## **Mood Disorders**

**Irene Spelliscy, Homewood Human Solutions**  
**Thursday, October 6, 2011—CAB 377**

*Join us for this event to mark Mental  
Illness Awareness Week (October 2-8)!*

Mental health problems are an increasing concern and 1 in 5 Albertans will develop a mental illness. This workshop gives participants an understanding of mood changes, anxiety and depression. It provides strategies for controlling one's own mood and tips for supporting others who may be experiencing difficulties.

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## **The Afternoon Slump**

**April Smith, Vitalize Initiatives, Inc.**  
**Thursday, October 13, 2011—CAB 377**

Do you get tired, lose focus or fall victim to sugar cravings come mid-afternoon? If so, you're suffering from the afternoon slump and this is the workshop for you! Take time out and invest in yourself. Learn about the causes of your afternoon slump and discover tools to combat it in this fun, interactive workshop.

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## **Handle with Care: Conflict Resolution in the Workplace**

**Cecile Schultz, Homewood Human Solutions**  
**Wednesday, October 19, 2011—Education South 327**

Conflicts stem from many different sources. Understanding when, and how, to apply a variety of different conflict resolution strategies can prevent unnecessary hardship. This session explores strategies to defuse anger and conflict so that difficult situations in the workplace can be resolved respectfully.

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## **Forgiveness: The Gift You Give Yourself**

**Irene Spelliscy, Homewood Human Solutions**  
**Wednesday, October 26, 2011—Education South 327**

It can be difficult or near impossible to forgive someone who has hurt or wronged us. Holding on to these resentments can have negative effects on our health, our well-being and our ability to experience joy and happiness. This session explores what it means to forgive, how we can move from a place of anger to a place of peace and how this process can free us from our past hurts. Forgiveness is not something that we do for others; it is a gift that we give ourselves.

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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).