Welcome to the Fall 2010 semester and a new academic year! A total of 16 new full-time and 2 part-time students began the program this Fall.

This Summer was an exciting time as the new students began to arrive and we said good-bye to some familiar faces. This Summer 4 MS and 6 PhD’s graduated, bringing our total to 11 MS and 9 PhD graduates for the 2009-10 academic year. Another 10 MS and 6 PhD’s are already scheduled to defend this Fall. Wow!

Danielle Tarver, who worked in the Student Services Office, took a full-time job in her field and Kisha Smiley joined the Student Services Office as our new student employee Kisha is a psychology major and has been a great asset to the Student Services in her short time here so far.

Please remember that my office is always open so feel free to stop by anytime you have questions or just need a break from the lab or need to regroup. I’m here for you!

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Graduate Beaker! Comments/suggestions/ideas are always welcome.

Susan Brockington
Chemistry Student Services Office

The Department of Chemistry at UNT will celebrate it’s 100th year in 2010!

Homecoming weekend several activities will happen in the Chemistry Building. Festivities begin the afternoon of October 15 and will include: student poster sessions, a tour of the building with its facilities and historic displays, a presentation of the history of AXE (the first chapter of this professional chemistry society in the state of Texas), and a continuous slide show showing the history of the department. A dinner will be held Friday evening at Fremaux’s. Dinner tickets are $35/person until September 23. From September 25-October 8 tickets will be $45 and will be $50 at the door. Dinner reservations can be made through Pamela Johns in the Department.

Graduate students are encouraged to attend and participate.

For more information, contact Susan Brockington: susanb@unt.edu or (940) 565-3554. Also, check out the department centennial website periodically for updates:

www.chem.unt.edu/centennial/

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**Fall 2010 New Graduate Students:**

**Savannah Aguirre:** Savannah received her BS in biology from Baylor University with a minor in chemistry.

**Sean Ayling:** Sean received his BS in chemistry from UNT. He will continue working in Dr. Paul Marshall’s group where he worked as an undergraduate.

**Ron Cavazos:** Ron received his BA in chemistry from Texas A&M University.

**Uma Fogueri:** Uma earned her BS in pharmaceutical sciences at Goa College of Pharmacy, India. She is interested in working in polymer materials with incorporation of drug delivery mechanisms where she hopes to focus her research.

**Taye Folabi:** Taye received his BS in biochemistry from UNT.

**Jason Halbert:** Jason received his BS in chemistry from UNT. As an undergraduate he worked with Dr. Omary where he will continue his research.

**Aaron Hart:** Aaron received his BS in chemistry from UNT. Aaron continues in Dr. Verbeck’s lab where he worked as an undergraduate student.

**Melissa Giguere:** Melissa received her BS in biology from UNT and joins us for her M.Sc. in Industrial Chemistry.

**Carrie Moore:** Carrie received her BS in forensic science with minors in biology and chemistry from Baylor University. She joins us for her MS in Chemistry Education. She eventually wants to “teach chemistry with a forensics twist”.

**Duong Nguyen:** Duong received her BS in chemistry Texas Woman’s University. Before coming to UNT she worked as a research assistant in industry. Duong is interested in analytical, organic and materials.

**Iain Oswald:** Iain received his BS in chemistry from UNT. Iain will continue his work Dr. Omary’s lab where he worked as an undergraduate.

**Daniel Pardue:** Daniel received his BS in chemistry from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Daniel is interested in inorganic, organometallics and computational chemistry.

**Dinesh Ramesh:** Dinesh received his BS and MS in chemistry from Madras University.

**Sirish Rimal:** Sirish received his BA in biochemistry from Anderson University. Sirish is interested in synthetic methodologies and total synthesis.

**Matthew Smith:** Matthew received his BS in chemistry UNT.

**Timothy Stephens:** Timothy received his BA in chemistry from the University of Arizona.

**Jiaqi Wang:** Jiaqi earned her BS in chemistry at East China Normal University. She is interested in analytical chemistry and biochemistry.

**Rebecca Weber:** Rebecca received her BS in chemistry from Southeastern Louisiana University. She will be working in Dr. Angela Wilson’s group where her interest is in theoretical computational chemistry.
Beginning Fall 2010, graduate students in the Department of Chemistry won nearly $220,000 in awards and scholarships. GOOD JOB!

Graduate Student Award Winners

Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Masters/Doctoral Fellowships

In Fall 2010 Rebecca Weber won a Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Doctoral Fellowship. The award includes a $25,000 fellowship, health insurance, remission of tuition (a package worth approximately $67,600). Rebecca earned her BS in chemistry from Southeastern Louisiana University (5/10) and joined Dr. Wilson’s group.

Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Tuition Scholarships

Congratulations to the following new graduate students who each won a one-year tuition scholarship: Uma Fogueri, Aaron Hart, Duong Nguyen, Daniel Pardue and Dinesh Ramesh.

Congratulations to the following continuing students who each won a one-year tuition scholarship: Bhaskar Chilukuri, Vallerie DeLeon, JD Fox, Billy Hoffmann, Josh Gibson, Kameron Jorgensen, Andrew Mahler, Marie Majkut, Charlie Peterson and Brent Wilson.

All received packages worth approximately $5,580/each.

Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Thesis/Dissertation Awards

Congratulations to the following graduate students who won TDF Awards: Laura Grubbs, Smitty Grubbs and Glenn Morello.

Each won packages worth approximately $24,400/each.

New Abstract Rules for Thesis and Dissertations

According to the Graduate Reader, Jill Kleister, MS and PhD students must include his/her concentration in the abstract header. The correct style should be as follows:

Doctor of Philosophy (Chemistry-Concentration) for example:

Master of Science (Chemistry—Physical Chemistry) or

Doctor of Philosophy (Chemistry-Physical Chemistry)

All questions regarding your thesis or dissertation should be sent to: Jill.Kleister@unt.edu. Please be patient when writing Jill. There’s only one of her and approximately 200 graduate students writing and defending each semester!

Ms. Jill Kleister will be here on Friday, October 8 to present a seminar on “Thesis and Dissertation writing”. And yes! attendance is required even if you are not graduating this year. Besides it’s good info. to know now!

Did you know?

Toulouse School of Graduate Studies offers Professional Development Workshops? Workshop information can be found at: www.tsgs.unt.edu/workshops
Staff Highlight: Hongjun Pan

Dr. Hongjun Pan is the Director of the department’s Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Laboratory. There are two NMR spectrometers in the lab: Varian 500 was installed in 2007, it can do both liquid and solid state NMR experiments; Varian 400 was installed in 2010 which can do liquid NMR experiments.

Dr. Pan earned his Ph. D in 1991 from Iowa State University, his research interests include the application of modern NMR spectroscopy to solid state and solution materials, the biological effect of strong magnetic field, he and collaborators conducted the first experiment about the biological effect of strong magnetic field in genetic level by using micro array assessment, found that the strong magnetic field can significantly alter the gene expression. Recently he was invited to give a talk about research results at the 2010 Piers Conference (Progress in Electromagnetics Research Symposium) held in Cambridge, MA.

Dr. Pan is married and he has two sons, one has graduated from college and the other is a sophomore. Dr. Pan likes travelling and fishing.

Alumni Re-Connect—Dr. Charoendee Pingsuthiwong

Dr. Pingsuthiwong writes—I graduated in May 2004 from Professor Teresa D. Golden’s research group with a PhD in Analytical Chemistry. After I graduated I moved back home to Bangkok, Thailand and have been working for the Thailand Government as a Medical Scientist in the Bureau of Drug and Narcotics in the Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health. My job is in Forensic Toxicology where I am responsible for drug testing in the labs. I am also in charge of providing a proficiency testing program for the drug testing laboratories around the country, providing training programs, and am involved in setting the drug testing regulations for the country.

I always feel gratitude to Prof. Golden for giving me an opportunity to join her research group, and for her efforts to lead her students. The experiences I got from working in her research group, the group meeting, and taking the CHEM 6010’s were very good training for working in the real world. As a foreign student, my times in North Texas also helped me cross the culture barrier, and somehow strengthened my professional career at an international level, and I’ll always appreciate this time when I look back. I miss UNT, friends, professors, UNT staff, and people I met along the way.

I got a chance to visit UNT once in July 2007, and I was happy with our Chemistry Department for its continued growth and providing more research facilities for its graduate students.

I think life has so many things waiting for us to explore, and I have never stopped learning. I keep my eyes open for new technologies and still keep improving my skills in the management area.

On a personal note: I am single and live in Bangkok with my mom and sisters. I am used to living in a big family that keeps my personal life busy but enjoyable. I like reading, gardening, travelling and photographing.
Summer 2010 Graduates

Congratulations to our recent graduates:

Ms. Jennifer Brown (Petros) successfully defended her MS thesis “Synthesis and Screening of a Combinatorial Peptide Library for Ligands to Target Transferrin: Miniaturizing the Library” on June 22. Jennifer will continue in Dr. Petros’ group working on her PhD.

Dr. Wei-Hsuan Joyce Chen (Omary) successfully defended her PhD dissertation “Triimine Complexes of Divalent Group 10 Metals for Use in Molecular Electronic Devices” on May 6.


Dr. Kathleen Holley (Mason) successfully defended her PhD dissertation “Examining and Characterizing Changes in First-Year High School Chemistry Curricula” on June 16. Dr. Holley is currently the CHEM 1430/1440 lab coordinator in the Department of Chemistry at UNT.

Ms. Jo King (Mason) successfully defended her MS thesis “Homework Versus Daily Quizzes: The Effects on Academic Performance Within High School Pre-AP Chemistry” on June 16. Jo will continue her position as a teacher at Crandall High School in Amarillo.

Dr. Sudha Manandhar (Kelber) successfully defended her PhD dissertation “ on Monday, June 28. Dr. Manandhar has accepted a position at Novellus in California and began July 1.


Dr. Cynthia Powell (Mason) successfully defended her PhD dissertation “Podcast Effectiveness as Scaffolding Support for Students Enrolled in First-Semester General Chemistry Laboratories” on April 19. Dr. Powell is a faculty member at Abilene Christian University and will continue in her position there.

Dr. Kris Sherman (Mason) successfully defended her PhD dissertation “Affordances of Instrumentation in General Chemistry Laboratories.” on June 24. Dr. Sherman continues in her position at Teach North Texas (TNT) at UNT.

Dr. Justin Wilks (Kelber) successfully defended his PhD dissertation "Free Radical Chemistries at the Surface of Electronic Materials" on June 24. Dr. Wilks has accepted a position at Novellus in New York and begins October 4.

Reduced Meal Plans for employees!

All full AND part-time benefits eligible UNT employees can purchase meal “tickets” allowing you eat at any of the dining halls and other locations around campus. This includes all TA’s, TF’s and several other positions on campus.

Meal packages start as low as $4.60/meal and drop to $3.79/meal. Not bad for all you can eat! If interested, see Susan for a letter showing eligibility.

Do you have any noteworthy items? Send them to us at chem@unt.edu

We want to hear from you! Let us know about jobs, marriages, new family members, etc. Write us and let us know what you are up to: chem@unt.edu

Alumni!