



Department of Chemistry



The Graduate Beaker

Upcoming Deadlines:

Last day to file for graduation without a late fee was **May 28**.

Last day to file for graduation with a late fee is **June 11**.

Last day to defend for Summer graduation is **June 25**.

Last day to defend and avoid Fall registration is **August 6**.

Inside this issue:

Susan's Corner

Welcome to the Summer 2010 semester!

This Summer looks just as adventure-some as in the past. The Summer NSF "Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)" began June 1 with 4 students arriving to work in research labs. Activities for REU students have been hosted by graduate students, faculty members, and alumni, giving the students a chance to see Texas and chemistry outside of UNT. If you are willing to coordinate or host an activity, please contact Trevor at (940) 565-4372 or Trevor.Riegelman@unt.edu.

Summer I classes run June 7-July 9 and Summer II runs July 12-August 14.

Finally, we end the Summer with 12 M.Sc. and 9 Ph.D. students slated to defend and graduate.

Fall 2010 is just around the corner with orientation week starting Aug. 16.

WOW! Summer goes by fast these days!

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 formal dinner will be held Friday evening

Several hotels are located in Denton: Homewood Suites, Marriott Courtyard, Best Western, Holiday Inn. There's also the Redbud/Heritage Inn Bed and Breakfast and the Wildwood Inn.

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



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▶ **In Spring 2010, graduate students in the Department of Chemistry won over \$51,000 in awards, scholarships and travel grants. Thus, chemistry graduate students have received over \$262K in awards for the academic year.**

Good Job!

Graduate Student Award Winners

The Department of Chemistry held its annual awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 5, 2010. The following graduate students were recognized:

GEORGE VAUGHAN MEMORIAL AWARD - given to the outstanding first or second year graduate student in the department. Winners were **Bhaskar Chilukuri**, (Cundari) and **Billy Hoffmann** (Verbeck).

JAMES J. AND RUTH I. SPURLOCK SCHOLARSHIP AWARD - given for outstanding research achievement by a graduate student in Chemistry. Winner was **Aaron Pierpont** (Cundari).

ED AND JULIA HODGES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - awarded to the outstanding graduate students in the Department of Chemistry for their outstanding academic endeavors, with a focus upon research accomplishments. Award winners were **JD Fox** (Verbeck) and **Laura Grubbs** (Acree).

DR. R.B. ESCUE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IN CHEMISTRY EDUCATION - this award is awarded to the outstanding graduate student specializing in Chemistry Education. Award winner was **Carissa Manrique** (Mason).

Outstanding TA Awards

These Awards are given by Alpha Chi Sigma, Beta Eta Chapter

OUTSTANDING FRESHMAN LEVEL T.A. AWARD - given to the outstanding T.A. in the freshman level labs. Award winner was **Alesha Harris** (Petros)

OUTSTANDING UPPER-LEVEL T.A. AWARD - given to the outstanding T.A. in the upper-level labs. Award winner was **Heidi Conrad** (Golden).

Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Travel Grants

The TSGS awarded travel scholarships to present their research at conferences to the following students: **Glenn Morello** (Cundari), **Marie Majkut** (Wilson) and **Ubisha Joshi** (Verbeck).

Conference Award Winner

Gbenga Oyedepo (Wilson) recently attended the "Molecular Quantum Mechanics 2010: An International Conference in Honor of Professor Henry F. Schaefer III" which was held at UC-Berkeley May 24-29, 2010. Gbenga won a U.S Department of Energy sponsored award for outstanding research presentation by a graduate student.

Spring 2010 Travel Grant Award Winners

In Spring 2010, the College of Arts and Sciences awarded \$3,900 in travel grants to chemistry graduate students.

The following students were awarded travel grants to attend the ACS Meeting in San Francisco March 21-25, 2010:

Kate Kerr (P. Marshall) - poster; **Smitty Grubbs** (Cooke) - poster; **Laura Grubbs** (Acree) - paper; **Roy McDougald** (Omary) - poster; **Sammer Te-karli** (Cundari/Wilson) - paper; **Brent Wilson** (Wilson) - poster; **Glenn Morello** (Cundari) - paper; **Kameron Jorgensen** (Wilson) - paper; **Jennifer Brown** (Petros) - paper; **Josh Gibson** (Wilson) - paper; **Marie Majkut** (Wilson) - poster.

In addition, **Billy Hoffmann** (Verbeck) - poster at the American Society for Mass Spectrometry in Salt Lake City, UT 5/23-27.

Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Tuition Scholarships

The following graduate students were awarded tuition scholarships for Spring 2010 and Summer 2010: **Vallerie DeLeon**, **Chris Dewberry**, **Laura Grubbs**, **Smitty Grubb**, **Billy Hoffmann**, **Shih-Huang Huang**, **Kameron Jorgensen**, **Gbenga Oyedepo**, and **Brent Wilson**.

New Proficiency Rules:

Beginning with the Fall 2009 graduate student class, the Department of Chemistry adopted new rules regarding the proficiency requirements for Ph.D. students.

There were no current students grandfathered in under the new rules.

Please also remember that all M.Sc. and Ph.D. students must maintain a "B" average in their core and special topics courses combined.

Did you know?

Did you know that you cannot graduate with 2 semesters of "F" (or NP) in a pass/fail course? This includes research and/or seminar courses. Check out Sections G1 and G2; page 9 of the Graduate Policy Bulletin for more details.

Staff Highlight: Janet Jensen

Janet Jensen is an Administrative Specialist in the main office. Her main duties are to assist faculty in the preparation and submission of proposals for external grants and to processing paperwork to add students/staff to positions that are grant funded. Once added, Janet then enters payroll information so that when payday arrives the checks do too.



Janet was raised in a Chicago suburb, attended the University of New Mexico, and later moved to Bucks County, PA where she worked as secretary to the Assistant Superintendent of Schools in a Philadelphia suburb.

In 1999 she and her husband decided to move to Denton TX where they planned on retiring. That lasted about one month. Retirement just wasn't what she expected so she was applied and was hired at the Center of Parent Education, which is part of the College of Education. Then in September 2005 she joined the chemistry staff just in time to relocate to the new building and an office with big windows.

Janet's children are grown; her son works at the University of Missouri in Columbia and her daughter has her own business here in Denton with Janet's husband who also decided retirement just wasn't what he expected.

Her hobbies include reading when she has time, cooking, sewing, redecorating, refinishing old furniture, gardening, and above all shopping...just ask her about the latest bargain she found. She admits to watching Dancing with the Stars religiously, and drag racing, but only funny cars not top fuel or prostock. Her two favorite movies are Lion in Winter and Fast and the Furious. Music has always been an important part of her life so when you visit her office there is always music playing in the background. Her taste is eclectic, oldies, folk, classical, opera, bluegrass, depending on how the day is going. (She also makes very good coffee!)

Who Knew?

Did you know that the first and oldest JACS article "II. —A Method for the Detection of Artificial or Dextro-Glucose in Cane Sugar, and the Exact Determination of Cane Sugar by the Polariscope", by **Dr. P. De P. Ricketts**, was published in January 1879?

Check out the full article: <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ja02143a001>

Newsworthy Items?



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

Alumni!

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

Spring 2010 Graduates

Congratulations to our recent graduates:

Dr. Lorraine Dieckmann earned her M.Sc. in Chemistry specializing in Industrial Chemistry with Dr. Golden. Dr. Dieckmann is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacology at Texas Wesleyan University where her research is in correlation of a protein's structure to its function. Dr. Dieckmann will continue in her position at Texas Wesleyan.



Dr. Aaron Pierpont, of Dr. Tom Cundari's research group, successfully defended his dissertation "Computational Study of Small Molecule Activation via Low-Coordinate Late First-Row Transition Metal Complexes" on Thursday, April 1, 2010. Dr. Pierpont has accepted a position at Los Alamos National Labs and begins this Summer.



Ms. Alexa Stucki of Dr. Diana Mason's group, earned her M.Sc. in Chemistry Education. Alexa did her teaching internship at Flower Mound High School and she will be entering her first year of teaching chemistry there in the fall. She plans to start work on her doctoral studies in the near future.



Ms. Jill Willi earned her M.Sc. in Chemistry specializing in Industrial Chemistry with Dr. Golden. Jill is an instructor at North Central Texas College, Corinth campus. Jill will continue in her position at NCTC.

Alumni Re-Connect—Dr. Artie McKim

Dr. Artie McKim writes — I graduated from Professor Alan Marchand's research group in 1999 with a PhD in Organic Chemistry. The Marchand group was a great place to work, and I was exposed to many productive and creative synthetic organic chemists. I'll never forget those marathon Friday afternoon group meetings – I've come to miss them now!



My first professional position is the one I currently hold with Gaylord Chemical. Gaylord is the world's largest producer of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and other thiochemicals. DMSO is an important solvent which has applications in micro-electronic manufacturing, the production of active pharmaceutical ingredients, and as an excipient in drug formulations. I'm basically a troubleshooter and technology translator who works with a smart market development team to help grow our business

The biggest lesson since graduate school: never stop learning. Find creative ways to augment your technical skills that makes you special and valuable. Always be flexible and curious.

I've been fortunate since my time at UNT. My job has allowed me to travel in Asia, Europe, and South America; my employer helped me earn an MBA from LSU in 2006. My time at North Texas really opened doors for me, and I'll always look back fondly.

On a personal note: I currently live in the New Orleans area, and will soon move to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. I live with Dr. Debra Dee Dolliver (Ph.D., 2001 at UNT with Dr. Mike Richmond) and four cats: Mr. Catzilla, Mr. Skanky, Sammy, and Señor Fausto.

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