



# The Graduate Beaker

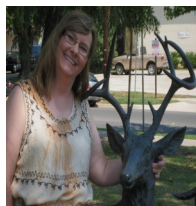


Department of Chemistry

## Susan's Corner

Welcome to Spring 2013!

This past year has been full of fun and adventure.



I was able to make quite a few recruiting trips for the department and the Toulouse Graduate School. I reconnected with some alumni, met some awesome folks and met many prospective graduate students along the way, several of whom applied to and were accepted into the graduate program.

Several of you have come with me on recruiting trips and that has always been greatly appreciated! The Graduate Recruitment Weekend, which is coming up soon (March 1-3), has become one of my favorite recruiting activities. Please mark this on your calendars - I can use as much help as possible with this important event.

This coming year, I encourage you to talk with prospective graduate students you meet at conferences and other schools and universities that you visit. Promote UNT and talk to others about your experiences and what you have gained here. As much as I love recruiting, you are the best recruiters we have!

Thanks again for being awesome promoters of UNT and the Department of Chemistry!

*Susan Brookington*

## Noticed any changes around the Department?

It's been awhile since the Graduate Beaker was published! Since our last issue, we have had a number of students come and go, there have been faculty and staff retirement announcements and there have been a number of changes to department and graduate school rules. Wow! That's a lot for one year!

We hope you enjoy this edition of *The Graduate Beaker*. Ideas, suggestions and comments are always welcome.

## New On-Line CV System

We have created a way to upload your CV on-line. Be sure and keep your CV updated—you never know when a recruiter might be looking or we have just learned about a scholarship opportunity that we must nominate a student for.

Check it out! [chemistry.unt.edu/graduate-program/graduate-student-cvs-currently-enrolled-graduate-students](http://chemistry.unt.edu/graduate-program/graduate-student-cvs-currently-enrolled-graduate-students)

## Upcoming Deadlines:

**Last day to file for graduation without a late fee was February 15.**

**Last day to file for graduation with a late fee is March 8.**

**Last day to defend for Spring graduation is April 1.**

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# Fall 2012 New Graduate Students



**Ganiat Animashwun**  
Xavier University of Louisiana



**John Beatty**  
Angelo State University



**Jonathan Bishop**  
University of Central Arkansas



**Michela Brumfield**  
Austin College



**Umesh Chiluwal**  
Tibhuvan University



**Bin Dong**  
Hebei University of Technology



**Habtom Gobeze**  
University of Asmara



**Jason Hamilton**  
Texas Tech University



**Laura Horn**  
University of North Texas



**Vivian Huynh**  
University of Central Arkansas



**Joshua Ivy**  
Texas A&M



**Michael Jones**  
Truman State University



**Yannik Mitheo**  
Angelo State University



**Rogers Nyamwihura**  
Saginaw Valley State University



**Christopher Obondi**  
East Carolina University



**Eunsol Park**  
Sookmyung Women's Univ.



**John Pearson**  
Texas A&M



**Amanda Phelps**  
Indiana University Southeast



**Christopher Williams**  
University of North Texas

## Spring 2013 New Graduate Students



**Roberto Aguilar**  
Southeastern Oklahoma



**Kenneth Bethel**  
Newman University



**Darrel Mayberry**  
Tarleton State University



**Stephanie Miller**  
East Central University



**Ting Zhou**  
Texas A&M University

## Recent Graduates

### Spring 2012

#### M.Sc.:

Robyn Ford (Mason)  
Cathy Molina (Golden)  
Daniel Taylor (Chyan)  
Zhouxing Wang (Golden)

#### Ph.D.:

Tammie Borders (Schwartz)

### Summer 2012

#### M.Sc.:

Ubisha Joshi (Verbeck)

#### Ph.D.:

Anna George (Mason)  
Ushasree Kaipa (Omary)  
Navaneetha Subbiayan (D'Souza)

### Fall 2012

#### M.Sc.:

Jason Halbert (Omary)

#### Ph.D.:

Bhaskar Chilukuri (Cundari)  
James Davis (Golden)  
Vallerie DeLeon (Golden)  
Billy Hoffmann (Verbeck)  
Hector Gonzalez (Cundari)  
Kameron Jorgensen (Wilson)  
Nisa Satumtira (Omary)



### Recent graduates have gone on to:

Faculty positions in universities such as the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Texas A&M International University and St. Michael's College.

Positions in industry including Lockheed Martin, Alcon Labs, and Corning.

Post-doc positions at West Virginia University

Ph.D. programs in California, Texas and Japan

# New Departmental Rules for Graduate Students

## New DELSE Requirements:

International students are required to pass the Diagnostic English Language Screening Exam before being allowed to work as a TA or in the Chemistry Resource Center (tutoring lab). The DELSE exam is administered during orientation week which is held the week before classes begin in the Fall and Spring semesters.

International students who were guaranteed some type of departmental support and do not pass the DELSE Exam upon entrance to the program will typically receive a prepper or grader position during their first semester at UNT.

During this first semester students attend additional training through the Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) and are retested again at the end of the semester. Students who do not pass the DELSE exam are not guaranteed any type of support after their first semester.

Beginning in Spring 2013, the Department of Chemistry is requiring all international students pass the DELSE exam within 2 years of their entrance in the program to be considered for any type of departmental financial assistance. **No international students in the department are exempt from this requirement.**

## New Dissertation Requirements:

The Toulouse Graduate School has lowered the minimum number of required dissertation hours for Ph.D. students from 12 to 9 credit hours. In order to be in line with the TGS rules, the Department has lowered the number of required dissertation hours from 12 credits to 9 credits as well. **This requirement goes into effect for the Fall 2012 incoming class.**

## Change in Ph.D. Committee Requirements:

New requirements for a Ph.D. Advisory committee must be at least four members (including the major professor) of which three must be from the Department of Chemistry. Two members of the committee must be from within the student's division and two members from outside the student's division. **This requirement affects anyone who has not yet filed a Ph.D. degree plan.**

## New 72 credit hour Ph.D. Program:

The Graduate School moved to a 72 hour Ph.D. program in Fall 2011. In order to be in line with the Toulouse Graduate School, the Department of Chemistry will also be moving to a 72 credit hour Ph.D. program. A typical degree plan would look as follows:

### PROFICIENCY:

Students will still need to satisfy the proficiency requirements by either passing the exam during their first year or passing the proficiency class with a grade of "B" or better in order to enter the core courses.

Students required to take proficiency course will have additional added hours taken, but not counted toward the 72 credit hours.

A typical degree plan will now look as follows:

### CORE:

CHEM 5210 Advanced Physical Chemistry	3 credits
CHEM 5500 Physical Organic Chemistry	3 credits
CHEM 5570 Advanced Analytical Chemistry	3 credits
CHEM 5710 Advanced Inorganic Chemistry	3 credits

### SPECIAL TOPICS:

CHEM 5XXX Special Topics	3 credits
CHEM 5XXX Special Topics	3 credits

(or 3 Special Topics if only 3 core are chosen; 1 special topics course can be outside of the department).

### OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

CHEM 5010 Intro. To Grad. Teach & Research	2 credits
CHEM 5940 Seminar in Current Chemistry	5 credits
CHEM 6010 Seminar for Doctoral Candidates	6 credits
CHEM 6940 Individual Research	32 credits
CHEM 6950 Dissertation	9 credits

### TOTAL HOURS - 72 credit hours

(Please note: This does not mean that you graduate more quickly, as obviously, your graduation is dependent upon your research progress!)

**This new 72 credit hour Ph.D. program goes into effect with the Fall 2012 incoming class.**

# Graduate Student Award Winners

## **Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Masters/Doctoral Fellowships:**

In Fall 2012 **John Beatty and Chris Williams** each won a Toulouse Graduate School Doctoral Fellowship. The award includes a \$25,000 fellowship, health insurance and remission of tuition for 4 years.

John earned his BS and MS degrees from Angelo State University and joined Dr. Verbeck's group in Fall 2012.

Chris earned his BS at UNT and joined Dr. Omary's group in Fall 2012 in Fall 2012.

## **Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Tuition Scholarships:**

In Fall 2012, the following new graduate students received a one-year tuition scholarship: **Michela Brumfield, Matt Carlson, Bin Dong, Habtom Gobeze, Laura Horn, Michael Jones, Rogers Nuyamwihura, John Pearson, Amanda Phelps and Chris Obondi,**

The following continuing students received a one-year tuition scholarship: **Keith Haynes, Sophia Kinyanjui, Andrew Mahler, Charlie Peterson, and Bruce Prince.**

All received packages worth approximately \$6,000/each.

## **CAS Travel Grants:**

The following students won CAS Travel Grants to attend professional conferences in Fall 2012: **Venu Bandi (D'Souza), Aaron Hart (D'Souza), Roy McDougald (Omary), Marie Laury (Wilson), Simon Koskey (Chyan), Billy Hoffmann (Verbeck), Barbara Walton (Verbeck), Charlie Clemons (Verbeck), JD Fox (Verbeck) and Chandra KC (D'Souza).**

The following Ph.D. students won CAS Travel Grants to attend the Spring 2013 ACS meeting in New Orleans in April: **Seare Berhe (Youngblood), Sushanta Das (D'Souza), Brandall Ingle (Cundari), Cong Liu (Wilson), Yinka Olatunji-Ojo (Cundari) and Timothy Stephens (Acree).**

## **Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Thesis/Dissertation Awards:**

Congratulations to the following graduate students who won 2012-13 TDF Awards: **Travis Figg (Cundari), JD Fox (Verbeck), Marie Laury (Wilson), Cong Liu (Wilson) and Frank Pasquale (Kelber).**

Each won packages worth approximately \$36,000.

## Retirements



### Dr. Diana Mason

Dr. Diana Mason retired after teaching chemistry for over 30 years. Dr. Mason started her professional teaching career as an Education Coordinator, in 1978, in the cytotechnology program at Southwestern Medical School. With her MS in zoology from Texas A&M University Commerce in hand, in 1980 she began teaching chemistry and algebra at Jesuit College Preparatory School in Dallas.

After 10 years at Jesuit, she left to pursue her PhD at The University of Texas at Austin while continuing to teach chemistry at Austin Community College. Her first tenure-track position came in 1995 at The University of Texas at San Antonio where she taught courses in interdisciplinary studies for the College of Education and chemistry. In 2001 she accepted the first Chemical Education position in Texas at the University of North Texas where she continued until she retired on August 31, 2012.

Dr. Mason graduated 7 Ph.D. and 3 M.Sc. Thesis Students from UNT, formed the Mean Green Demo Team and helped judge many science fairs throughout the region. The many demo shows were performed in Texas but some were in other states and one show was in Qatar. She also hosted two international conferences while at UNT (ChemEd 07 and ACS BCCE 2010).

Even though she has left the formal classroom, she intends to continue working with teachers doing professional development workshops, teaching online courses, and writing an e-book for high school chemistry that links basic chemistry with the storied facts, fiction, and folklore of Texas.

### Dr. Ruthanne Thomas



Dr. Ruthanne Thomas, longtime faculty member in the Department of Chemistry, is retiring on March 1, 2013. Dr. Thomas joined the Department as an Assistant Professor in Fall, 1981, at what was then North Texas State University. She subsequently rose through the ranks to Full Professor. She was also chair of the Department for 14 years (1993-2007) and chair of the Department of Mechanical and Energy Engineering for a semester (Fall 2007). For the past five years, along with continuing to teach in Chemistry, she also served as Associate Vice President (2008-2011) and Senior Associate Vice President (2011-2013) for Research.

Although her doctoral degree was formally in physical chemistry, she always considered herself an inorganic chemist. Her research interests were in main group organometallic chemistry and NMR spectroscopy. She and her research group were especially well-known for their work on the solution structures and reactivity of organolithium compounds as determined by multi-nuclear NMR spectroscopy.

Although details have yet to be finalized, it is likely she will be teaching a course or two in Chemistry this fall as part of UNT's modified service program. She is also looking forward to spending more time with her husband traveling in their RV, hiking, and geocaching. She has indicated she would very much love to hear from former students and colleagues. Contact Dr. Thomas at [rthomas@unt.edu](mailto:rthomas@unt.edu).



### Janet Jensen

Janet came to UNT in September 1999 when she was hired by the Center for Parent Education, part of the College of Education. Her position was part time and funded by soft money, so Janet said she "had to go out and find a real job". Janet joined the Department of Chemistry in September 2005 and now after 7.5 years, she is retiring effective April 30, 2013.

Janet says she realized after her husband passed away that life was too short and she plans to spend her free time doing "fun things". Traveling with her sister is at the top of her list, herding cats is a constant, and the ever-present sale at the closest Macy's, but she promised to come make coffee in the mornings just for fun.



# Announcements

## Graduate Recruitment Weekend March 1-3, 2013

**This is our biggest recruiting event of the year!**  
The tentative program will be as follows:

Friday, March 1:

Up to 6:00 pm—prospective students arrive  
7:00—10:00 pm— Meet at Syndicate for a catered dinner, billiards, darts and a poster session. This event is hosted by the Department of Chemistry, faculty, graduate students and members of Alpha Chi Sigma

Saturday, March 2:

8:00 a.m.—1:30— Breakfast and welcome, tours of Denton, the UNT Campus and the Chemistry Building, lunch with faculty  
1:30—3:30 —individual lab tours and CART tour  
Evening—Dinner at the Greenhouse

Sunday, March 3:

Morning —Breakfast and exit interviews  
Return home

**How can you help?** I'm glad you asked! We need your help with airport pickups, welcoming the prospective students at the Syndicate, helping with the poster session on Friday evening and showcasing your lab(s) on Saturday afternoon.

I can also use help setting up, picking up food and cleaning up. This year I'm going to need extra help as this is the same weekend as the UNT undergraduate Preview Day. Preview Day takes place across campus and in the Chemistry Building, and is at the exact same time as our GRW events!

## UNT Preview Day

March 2

UNT undergraduate Preview Day will be Saturday, March 2 and takes place across campus and in the Chemistry Building.

This event runs at the same time as our GRW events! Help with this event would be most welcome! See Susan or Dr. Acree if you are able to help out.

## Department Honors Day

May 1

Mark your calendars! The Department Honors Day ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 1 from 3:00—4:30 in CHEM 104.

Watch for upcoming announcement details.

## Upcoming ACS Meeting

April 7-11

The 2013 Spring National American Chemical Society Meeting and Exposition will be held April 7-11 in New Orleans, LA.

More information can be found at: [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org)

## More Announcements...

...can be viewed on the television presentation in the Student Services office (CHEM 207), which is updated weekly with information on upcoming events! Come visit us and check it out.

# Covalent Bonds

## Alpha Chi Sigma

The Beta Eta Chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma celebrated its 60th Anniversary on Sunday, November 11, 2012, at the home of Dr. Gerry Dobson, member of the Order of Altotus, and his wife have, Kay. Members of AXΣ provide a number of valuable services including setting up the refreshments at the weekly seminars, decorating the tree for the departmental Open House each December and helping with Homecoming events—just to name a few.

Beta Eta made history by being the 1st chapter to initiate women and three of its members have gone on to become Grand Master Alchemist of the national chapter.

More information on AXE can be found at: [unt.orgsync.com/org/alphachisigma/home](http://unt.orgsync.com/org/alphachisigma/home).



### Staff Highlight: Susan Brockington

After graduating from Denton High School in 1982, Susan immediately moved to Virginia Beach, VA, where she attended Commonwealth College, earning the equivalent of an associates degree in Executive Secretarial Administration. In 1984, she returned to Texas and took a job at UT-Arlington where she worked for a couple of years. After leaving UTA, she enlisted in the U.S. Navy but received a medical discharge from boot camp. She eventually made her way to UNT and was hired by Dr. Martin Schwartz in the Department of Chemistry in December 1986.

Shortly after being hired at UNT, the then Chair of the Department, Dr. Le Theriot, commented “all of my secretaries go to school” so Susan immediately enrolled at TWU and obtained her BS degree in Sociology (graduating on the “12 year plan”). Susan has continued her education on and off and has earned graduate hours in the Graduate School of Theology at Abilene Christian University and in Student Services Administration at UNT.

Susan’s duties in the department have changed over the years, but her time is mainly spent in the areas of graduate recruiting, graduate admissions and helping with advising. Susan is also responsible for handling all paperwork for the annual University Assessment, SACUS and ACS accreditations.

Constantly striving to be involved with the students, Susan is a member of the Beta Eta Chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma, she is the faculty/staff sponsor of the UNT Fencing Club, the UNT Ice Hockey team, the Adventist Christian Fellowship group and was at one time the faculty/staff sponsor of the Wakeboarding Club.

Outside of work, Susan and her husband David have a 14-year old son, Daniel. Susan is involved in many activities, but mainly spends her time in Jail Ministry (teaching Bible class on Sunday at the Denton County Jail), is active in her church (Argyle Church of Christ) and, until recently, was overly involved in Cub Scouting (she says this is her last year but that remains to be seen...). Susan loves watching her son play in-line hockey and listening to him play his harp. She is an avid ice hockey fan and loves to travel especially to the mountains of Montana.

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