Important Dates & Events

October 8: Thanksgiving Day; University Closed
October 29: Start of a Full Moon
October 31: Halloween with a Full Moon
November 7: Last Day to Withdraw from Classes
November 11: Remembrance Day
November 12: Remembrance Day Holiday; University Closed
December 5: Last Day of Classes
December 24-31: Winter Closure; University Closed
December 25: Christmas Day
December 26: Boxing Day
ANNOUNCEMENTS
Laura Pham

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Hongchao Zheng (Dr. Hall) passed his PhD defense September 4, 2012
- Yi Shen (Dr. Campbell) passed his PhD candidacy exam September 4, 2012
- Myles Poulin (Dr. Lowary) passed his PhD defense September 10, 2012
- Amr Mahmoud (Dr. McCready) passed his PhD defense September 11, 2012
- Melanie Hoffman (Dr. Veinot) passed her PhD defense September 17, 2012
- Misra Galib (Dr. Hanna) passed his PhD candidacy exam September 17, 2012
- Ritesh Saini (Dr. Campbell) passed her MSc defense September 21, 2012
- Farzad Molihi (Dr. Clive) passed his PhD defense September 21, 2012
- Steve Dempster (Dr. Jaeger) passed his PhD defense September 24, 2012
- Sara Bonderoff (Dr. West) passed her PhD defense September 24, 2012
- Georgi Nedev (Dr. Lucy) passed his MSc defense September 24, 2012
- Jiamin Zheng (Dr. Li) passed her MSc defense September 25, 2012
- Pei Yan Zhu (Dr. Xu) passed her MSc defense August 8, 2012
- Spencer Alford (Dr. Campbell) passed his PhD defense August 17, 2012
- Zedu Huang (Dr. Vederas) passed his PhD defense August 21, 2012
- Dipanjan Bhattacharyya (Dr. Clive) passed his PhD defense August 27, 2012
- Lars Laurentius (Dr. McDermott) passed his PhD defense August 30, 2012
- Mingguo Xu (Dr. Li) passed his PhD defense on July 31, 2012
- Ruokun Zhou (Dr. Li) passed his PhD candidacy exam June 1, 2012
- Sindhu Nair (Dr. Lopnow) passed her PhD candidacy exam June 6, 2012
- Shuai Sun (Dr. Hanna) passed his PhD candidacy exam June 6, 2012
- Reshma Singh (Dr. Harrison) passed her PhD candidacy exam June 7, 2012
- Paul Lummis (Dr. Rivard) passed his PhD candidacy exam June 8, 2012
- Ryan Zaari (Dr. Brown) passed his PhD defense June 11, 2012
- Delwar Sikder (Dr. Gibbs-Davis) passed his PhD candidacy exam June 14, 2012
- Bob Stanley (Dr. Lucy) passed his MSc defense June 14, 2012
- Leah Coumont (Dr. Veinot) passed her PhD candidacy exam June 18, 2012
- Madeleine Jensen-Fontaine (Dr. Le) passed her MSc defense June 19, 2012
- Le Kang (Dr. Rivard) passed his MSc defense June 21, 2012
- Amr El-Hawiel (Dr. Klassen) passed his PhD defense June 28, 2012
- Abu Kausar (Dr. Gibbs-Davis) passed his PhD candidacy exam May 1, 2012
- Chen Peng (Dr. Harrison) passed her PhD candidacy exam May 1, 2012
- Adam Malcolm (Dr. Rivard) passed his PhD candidacy exam May 2, 2012
- Azeret Zuniga (Dr. Li) passed her PhD defense May 4, 2012
- Nicole Oro (Dr. Lucy) passed her PhD defense May 10, 2012
- Jinyue Ding (Dr. Hall) passed his PhD candidacy exam May 14, 2012
- Jiahui Wu (Dr. Campbell) passed his PhD candidacy exam May 15, 2012
- Lei Pei (Dr. Lucy) passed her PhD candidacy exam May 16, 2012
- Mickey Richards (Dr. Lowary) passed his PhD defense May 17, 2012
- Hosnay Mobarok (Dr. Cowie) passed his PhD defense May 22, 2012
- Chenguang Fan (Dr. Vederas) passed his PhD defense May 22, 2012
- Jeremy Gauthier (Dr. Stryker) passed his PhD defense May 23, 2012
- Amelia Fitzsimmons (Dr. Klobukowski) passed her PhD candidacy exam April 5, 2012
- Huiling Sheng (Dr. Harrison) passed her PhD candidacy exam April 10, 2012
- Lydia Glover (Drs. Cavell/Veinot) passed her MSc defense April 18, 2012
- Difei Sun (Dr. Li) passed her PhD candidacy exam April 19, 2012
- Jun Peng (Dr. Li) passed his PhD candidacy exam April 24, 2012
- Ayalyn Stanislaus (Dr. Li) passed her PhD defense April 30, 2012

WELCOME TO...

A warm welcome to all of the new post-doctoral fellows (PDFs) that have joined the Department over the past few months. They include:

- Dr. Xiaopeng Chen, a graduate from Zhejiang University in China, will be working with Dr. J. Stryker’s research group.
- Dr. Bikas Das, a graduate from Jadavpur University in India, will be working with Dr. R. McCreery’s research group in NINT/NRC.
- Dr. Somnath Dasgupta, a graduate from Jadavpur University in India, will be working with Dr. D. Bundle’s research group.
- Dr. Frederique Deiss, a graduate from the University of Bordeaux 1 in France, will be working with Dr. R. Derda’s research group in CCIS.
- Dr. Heshmatollah Ebrahiminajarafabadi, a graduate from Sharif University of Technology in Iran, will be working with Dr. J. Harynuk’s research group.

Welcome to Belinda Lelievre, who will be taking over the administrative duties that were assigned to Diane Dowhaniuk for the months of September and October 2012. Belinda holds a BA in Psychology and has 30 years of administrative experience ranging from doctor’s offices to banks and spas. Her office is in E5-33G Chemistry Centre and her extension is 248-1506.

Welcome back to Shannon Barner who was on maternity leave this past year. Shannon returns to her position in the Undergraduate Student Services Office to provide support to Dr. Christie McDermott.
CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Miss Marie Barnes received the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta (ACPA) 2012 Undergraduate Scholarship in Chemistry. The award is given annually to a student who is registered in a full-time undergraduate chemistry program at a university in the province of Alberta. The criteria for this scholarship is based on academic excellence and service to the chemical profession.

Mr. Zonglin (Vincent) Yang received the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta’s (ACPA) 2012 Arthur Bollo-Kamara Graduate Scholarship. The Arthur Bollo-Kamara Scholarship was established by the ACPA as a memorial to Dr. Arthur Bollo-Kamara, and the work he conducted on behalf of chemists in the province of Alberta. This scholarship is awarded annually to a student registered in a graduate chemistry program at a university in the province of Alberta. The criteria for this award is based on academic excellence, service to the chemical profession and to the community; and participation in arts and culture. Samples of the artwork submitted by Vincent for this award are shown on page 6.

Mr. Jeffrey Murphy placed first in the Macromolecular Science and Engineering Division category of the Student Poster Competition that was held in Calgary at the Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition last month.

Dr. James Harynuk and his lab hosted a media event on June 21, 2012 to showcase his research in body odour-repelling fabrics. Here are media website links:


Dr. Michael Serpe also hosted an interview with media on August 28, 2012 about his research in developing new methods to diagnose diseases. Here is a link to the news story:


Dr. Eric Rivard was recently awarded the 2012 Provost’s Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Dr. Rivard was recognized for his achievement at the University’s annual Celebrate! Teaching, Learning and Research event held on September 27, 2012.

Earlier this year, Dr. Yoram Apelblat was awarded the Kathleen W. Klawe Prize for Excellence in Teaching of Large Classes. This highly competitive award is only presented to the Faculty of Science every second year.

FAREWELL TO...

Farewell to Kathleen Gee, who worked in the Department over the summer months as Administrative Assistant. Thank you to Kathleen for her time in our department and for helping us out during her colleagues’ absences!

Another temporary assistant who has left us is Christine Whelan, who was hired to cover Shannon Barner’s maternity leave. My thanks to Christine for her time in the department and her commitment to our undergraduate student program that saw her taking on the added responsibility of moving the ugrad office (not once, but twice) and assuming the role of FAQ for student advising.

A fond farewell to Diane Dowhaniuk who retired from her Administrative Assistant position in the Department of Chemistry on September 21, 2012. Having been an administrative assistant in our department for almost 39 years (December 10th marks the date), she admitted it was a difficult decision for her to retire, but one that will allow her to focus her energies on getting back to good health. In reviewing her past evaluations, they consistently refer to her as having “...pleasant manner,” also referring to the following traits: “highly amiable, helpful and greatly appreciated”: 39 years later, that still holds true! On behalf of the department, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Diane for her many years of loyal service and support to our faculty members, staff and students. I know we wish her all the best as she enters this new chapter of her life! The department plans to hold a celebratory event for Diane’s retirement, but she will shape how that looks. A separate announcement regarding this event will follow at a later date.

Congratulations to: Brian Worfolk, Tate Hauger, Kenneth Harris, David Rider, Jordan Fordyce, Serge Beaufre, Mario Leclerc and Jillian Buriak, who were recently selected for the inside cover of Advanced Energy Materials.


CONGRATULATIONS TO:

And the Winners Are…

In 2010, the Department of Chemistry established three different annual staff recognition awards: Outstanding Administrative Support; an award in the areas of Teaching, Research or Technical Support; and a Chemistry Booster award. While there were no nominations for the booster award this year, I am delighted to announce the award recipients for the other two categories.

The recipient of the 2012 Chemistry Outstanding Administrative Support is Lynne Lechelt. This award is intended to recognize staff who consistently provide outstanding administrative service to the Department of Chemistry with a focus on providing outstanding service, fostering innovation, creating a positive influence in the workplace and demonstrating leadership qualities.

Lynne has been on campus for 25 years now, 21 of these within the Chemistry department itself. Lynne was first hired as a “Technical Secretary and Patent Administrator” by Professors Bundle, Hindsgaul, and Palcic. When Drs. Hindsgaul and Palcic left the department in 2002, the department was fortunate enough to be able to retain Lynne’s services when she accepted an offer to become one of our Administrative Assistants.

In this role, Lynne has impressed many people over the years due to her high efficiency, thoroughness and level of service she provides to her faculty. Five chemistry faculty contributed to an application for Lynne’s nomination, with each nomination reiterating the same sentiment and that is, “Lynne represents a key backbone component of our department who consistently manages to juggle an ever-increasing workload with great humour, kindness, and a high degree of professionalism.” In addition, it is clear that she cares about the well-being of those around her and is incredibly dedicated. A recent example of this dedication was seen while she was on vacation this summer. Even on vacation, she continued to call a faculty member, for whom she was assisting with conference arrangements, to see if they needed anything in her absence!

Lynne’s impact is not limited solely to Chemistry, as the numerous visitors for whom she has organized department visits continue to remember her, long after their time here. One of the nominators indicated that he routinely receives unsolicited compliments about Lynne’s work from invited speakers, who marvel at the ease with which their visits were arranged. Her ability to coordinate and convey necessary information in a concise format and her willingness to provide additional details on non-official aspect of their visit (i.e. hotel recommendations in Jasper/Banff) is highly appreciated by them. This makes a tremendously positive first impression upon visitors to our department.

I am delighted that Lynne is the 2012 recipient of our Outstanding Administrative Support Award and for whom this award is long overdue.

The award for 2012 Outstanding Teaching Support was given to Nada Djokic. This award is intended to recognize staff who consistently make a positive contribution to the teaching (and research) success of the Department of Chemistry and as with the administrative award, includes providing outstanding service, fostering innovation, creating a positive influence in the workplace, and demonstrating leadership qualities.

Do You Have an Idea…

…for a cost-saving measure or revenue-generating plan?

Our suggestion box is at: mailto:suggestions@chem.ualberta.ca

BUILDING UPDATES, continued from page 1

1. For those of you who have blinds, F&O is to install overrides so that an occupant can now control their own blinds, with the following exception: For all south-facing offices, upper blinds remain on automatic controls, but their lowering will now be staggered so as to reduce noise within the offices.

2. Now that we have gone through one full cycle of the sun’s pathway, it was found that at certain times of the year, there was a lot of glare coming off of the North Lecture Theatre (NLT) and back onto CCIS. To correct this issue, all rooms (labs AND offices) on all floors that face east and north, will now have blinds installed within them.

3. Install manual override controls for lighting in the offices, allowing the occupant to control their own lights. In addition, F&O to install additional night lighting (lockers in basement) where safety issues were noted.

It is estimated that these projects will take up to one year to complete, but controls of lights and blinds are to be given first priority.
Although Nada hasn’t been in the department as long as Lynne (she was hired in August 2009), Nada quickly established herself as being extremely hard working with excellent time management skills, coupled with being a friendly, deeply caring person with whom staff, teaching assistants or students from a variety of different cultures and backgrounds, appreciate and respect.

As the Assistant Laboratory Coordinator for Organic Chemistry, Nada’s duties are to primarily provide administrative support to the Organic Lab Coordinator, respond to TA and student inquiries, enter lab marks, and modify lab experiments to meet curriculum changes. The reason why Nada is the recipient of the outstanding teaching award as she not only does the previously-mentioned duties, but also goes above and beyond with a focus on improving the student and teaching experiment.

Nada works to improve the TA training and teaching experience and will incorporate student feedback in order to improve the experiments and lab experience. This summer, Nada took it upon herself to update the TA training slides and in addition, created a new TA training manual. She will often touch base with the TAs throughout the term to ensure that they both know their roles and are happy in them.

Nada has also made some important contributions to student learning. She tried to see things from the students’ perspective in order to help improve certain aspects of the experiment and the lab. For one project, Nada helped to film most of the videos that will be used as part of the virtual organic chemistry laboratory and she did all of the scripting for the animations.

Her supervisor, Dr Hayley Wan, comments on Nada’s personality, “It is not easy to find a person to work with who is always cheerful and happy, no matter how bad the day is going. Nada sees the optimistic side of things in order to make a situation or a person feel better. She always comes to work with a smile on her face and offer to help out in any way that she can…and she creates a fun, relaxed working atmosphere for all those around her.”

It is because of these invaluable and innovative contributions to organic laboratory program that Nada is the recipient of the 2012 Chemistry Outstanding Teaching Support Award.

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.
Artwork by Zonglin (Vincent) Yang

About the Artist

Vincent is currently an MSc Chemistry student starting his 3rd year of studies. Vincent works with Dr. Chris Le’s research group in the Clinical Sciences building.
Most of us know Gareth Lambkin as a technician – a biochemistry technologist/manager over on the third floor. But not many of us know there exists a Gareth Lambkin, the musician. ChemNews caught up with Gareth to talk about his divergent passions and the serendipity that helped bring them together.

How did you get your job as Biochemistry Technologist/Manager?
I was working in Pediatrics, here at the UofA when the maternity leave position in Chemistry was posted on the HR site. I was looking at it – I think it was over Christmas one year [2008] – and I thought I’m gonna look for another job. So I found the ad, applied, and got it. It was a perfect fit because of my Master’s in Cell Biology from the UofA. Sandra Marcus [the outgoing employee] was doing her PhD in the same lab that I got my Masters in. So I knew a little bit about the position. I was looking to get out of where I was . . . but [it being temporary], it was a bit of a risk.

Obviously it became Full Time?
Yah, when she decided not to come back, the position went open. I reapplied for the position and got it.

How serendipitous that you already had knowledge of your future position without knowing it. I know; it was really weird how it all worked out. Small world.

Your shop provides biochemical resources to help researchers further their projects. What keeps you enthusiastic about your career?
Two things mostly: The students; I enjoy working with the students and guiding them in their projects. I like it when I can see in their eyes that they get excited about their project. There’s a term; ‘the shining eyes’ [that describes that excitement]. I also like that there’s a lot of challenges and a lot of variety because, for the most part, I’m a one-man show. So I do all the administration, I do the technical work, like I fix the broken equipment, and I teach graduate students. But I also do research of my own and do bench work for different investigators in Chemistry.

What are you working on now?
Right now I’m focusing all my efforts on implementing the Safety Management System that is going through the department. I’m also taking the supervisory leadership program through Workplace Learning.

What is the biggest challenge in your job? Finding the time to get everything done. I just have too much to do.

I understand that you have a second life as a musician (drummer). Please tell me more. After high school, I took a year off and then went into the music program at Red Deer College. So I have a music diploma. I also took my first two years of Science in Red Deer. And then I transferred to Edmonton and took my second two years of science at the UofA here. I hooked up early on in my music career with a bass player with whom I became really close friends. We would go to school during the week and play in the bars on the weekend. And then I played with a lot of bands. When I started doing my grad studies in cell biology there was another cell biologist there who is a fiddler/singer from the maritimes and so we started a maritime-type band; we played celtic music. We played together for a good five years but then he finished his PhD and moved down to New York. So we sort of split up but I stayed with some of the other guys in the band and we gigged for another four years after that. It was good – a lot of fun, of course, but it [also] kept me from starving when I was in school.

And now?
I’m actually just gigging by myself. I bought myself a nice new guitar. I have about an hour and half worth of original music that I’ve written over the years and I pepper that with some covers that I know and I play gigs just by myself.

Wow. Where?
So far I’ve had a couple of gigs at Brittany’s Lounge downtown.

But you’re a drummer…you play the guitar solo?
I’ve always been able to play a variety of instruments but what I really focused on and what was my passion was drumming in college. But I always played guitar and I’ve always written my own songs. I’ve been composing ever since I was a little kid …that’s just sort of part of me. It’s taken 40 years to get good enough on the guitar to play by myself.

When’s your next event?
I don’t have any gigs booked right now but when I do I’ll let you know.

Stay tuned for ChemNEWS updates on Gareth’s upcoming shows.
October 2012
12:05 – 12:55 p.m.

**NOTE: Staff and faculty will receive priority Lunch and Learn registration. Grad students and PDFs will be accommodated only if space permits. To ensure a quality learning environment for all participants, registrants are asked to please arrive at Lunch and Learns on time to minimize class disruption.**

Beyond Stigma: Understanding Mental Health
Christine Lee, Homewood Human Solutions
Thursday, October 4, 2012—Education South 265

In today’s society there still remains a lack of awareness and, at times, stigma related to mental health problems. This session will allow participants to enhance their understanding of personal and environmental factors that can have an impact on mental health, as well as the most appropriate prevention and intervention strategies available. Tips will also be provided to help individuals assist and cope with loved ones with mental illness.

Green Cleaning
Dani Findlay, Office of Sustainability
Thursday, October 11, 2012—ECHA 1-125

Open your cupboard or peer under your sink... everyday household items can be used as effective and eco-friendly cleaning supplies! Learn more about the draw backs to chemical-laden cleaners, the benefits of green cleaning solutions and how simple it can be to start cleaning green. During this workshop we will look at some standard cleaning ingredients and consider some of the alternatives available. Using readily available ingredients in your home, you will walk away with an abundance of information about how to clean green, recipes to save you money while reducing your environmental footprint and also your very own home-made cleaner.

Tax Planning
Ron Graham, Homewood Human Solutions
Tuesday, October 16, 2012—Education South 265

This session will focus on tips for effective tax planning. Topics will include: determining your tax rate, deferring income to a lower tax year and dividing income with family. Participants will learn how to use deductions to reduce their taxable income and receive advice on how to save and invest tax successfully.

The Fundamentals of Change and Transition
Kristine Aanderson, Homewood Human Solutions
Thursday, October 25, 2012—Education South 265

Change is a fact of life, but letting go of the familiar can be challenging. When we understand the need for change, and are resourced to manage it, we transition with greater ease. Participants in this session explore strategies, frameworks, self-care tools and resources to navigate the change process successfully.

**Join us as we mark Mental Illness Awareness Week!**

**NOTE: This is an extended event running from 11:45am-1:15pm.**

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@ualberta.ca.