

# chemNEWS

spring 2013



## Inside this edition:

- Building Updates
- Latest staff and student achievements
- Staff Profile: Jon Veinot – on Research Sabbatical in Germany
- HR Lunch and Learn Schedule
- Important Announcements, Departmental Dates and Events, and much more!

## BUILDING UPDATES

Jill Bagwe

The chilled cold-water loop system being installed in Chemistry East has yet to be turned on as there is a malfunctioning valve resulting in leaks along the line. F&O is in the process of replacing said valve and the system should be turned over by early June. Unfortunately, F&O has confirmed that due to the rising cost of the project, they are no longer in the financial position to fund tie-ins of pre-existing research equipment to the system as was originally thought. Research groups who wish to tie their research equipment into this chilled water system will need to bear those costs themselves.

Facilities and Operations have graciously agreed to fund the majority of the costs related to a full renovation of a contiguous suite of labs on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Chemistry East (Rooms 4-09/4-14/4-15) starting in early June in anticipation of the arrival of our newest faculty member, **Dr Rylan Lundgren**. Work to be done includes the removal of the outdated fume hoods replaced with ultra low-flow hoods; asbestos abatement of asbestos-wrapped elbows, floor tiles and bench tops; lab benches are to be re-painted and topped with new counter tops; new

flooring will be laid and acid traps will be replaced. The work is anticipated to take five to six months to complete.

Following a request by the Office of the Architect, the department agreed to permanently relinquish space located in the basement of Chemistry West to Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (EAS). EAS has an Acid Lab in South Academic Building (SAB) that needs to be moved given that the use of SAB has recently shifted from research-focus to administration. The functionality of this lab is an acid digestion/ fossil prep room. There were a lot of basic requirements needed for this lab including a large lab with multiple fume hoods and non-corrosive flooring with a floor drain, a series of smaller rooms that can be converted over to a photography room and prep rooms, and of course, close proximity to EAS and a loading dock area, all of which could be met by housing it within WB-59. F&O will begin renovations to this room in the near future.

*A gentle reminder that if you need immediate assistance with a maintenance issue or have concerns about alarms, building access, heating and cooling, please phone 492 4833, F&O's Customer Call Centre that operates 24/7. The*

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## Important Dates & Events

May 20, 2013: Victoria Day  
July 1, 2013: Canada Day

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laura Pham

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...



**Md. Shafiul Azam** (Dr. Gibbs-Davis) passed his PhD defense April 12, 2013

**Faranak Teimoory** (Dr Loppnow) passed her PhD candidacy exam April 16, 2013

**Rokib Hassan** (Dr. Fenniri) passed his PhD candidacy exam April 24, 2013

**Wadim Matochko** (Dr. Derda) passed his PhD candidacy exam April 26, 2013

**Shaon Joy** (Dr. West) passed her PhD defense April 29, 2013

**Amira El-Yazbi** (Dr. Loppnow) passed her PhD defense March 8, 2013

**Ahmed Abdelfattah** (Dr. Campbell) passed his PhD candidacy exam March 11, 2013

**Haley Carlson** (Dr. Campbell) passed her PhD defense March 13, 2013

**Brett Feland** (Dr. Wasylishen) passed his MSc defense March 21, 2013

**Lu Deng** (Dr. Klassen) passed her PhD defense March 22, 2013

**Junfeng Zhang** (Dr. Lowary) passed his PhD candidacy exam March 25, 2013

**Reza Jafari** (Dr. Derda) passed his PhD candidacy exam March 25, 2013

**Jamie Bailey** (Dr. Bundle) passed his PhD defense March 27, 2013

**Feng Li** (Dr. Le) passed his PhD defense February 1, 2013

**Yen-Ku Wu** (Dr. West) passed his PhD defense February 4, 2013

**Yanan Tang** (Dr. Li) passed her PhD defense February 5, 2013

**Md. Faiaz Ahmed** (Dr. Lowary) passed his MSc defense January 9, 2013

**Roger Ashmus** (Dr. Lowary) passed his PhD candidacy exam January 16, 2013

**Zonglin Yang** (Dr. Le) passed his MSc defense January 17, 2013

**Brian Worfolk** (Dr. Buriak) passed his PhD defense January 17, 2013

**Anne Slaney** (Dr. Buriak) passed her PhD defense January 18, 2013

**Li Xia** (Dr. Lowary) passed her PhD defense January 21, 2013

**John Toman** (Dr. McDermott) passed his MSc defense January 22, 2013

**Meijing Wang** (Dr. Petersen) passed her PhD candidacy exam January 28, 2013

**Jack Lee** (Dr. Hall) passed his PhD defense January 28, 2013

**Xukun Li** (Dr. Le) passed her MSc defense January 29, 2013

## WELCOME TO...

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of **Beverly Bochon** as Senior Financial Administrator for the Department of Chemistry effective Monday, April 8, 2013. Her "office" location will be in the far right corner of E3-44 Chemistry Centre; phone is 2 5346 and her email is [bbochon@ualberta.ca](mailto:bbochon@ualberta.ca)



Bev Bochon, Senior Financial Administrator

Beverly has a long history in various financial roles. Prior to coming to the University of Alberta, she worked as an Assistant Accountant with the Alberta Treasury Branch. In 1985, she was hired by the department of psychology as the financial administrator, a position she held until 2012 (that's 27 years folks!) when she was then re-deployed to the Office of the Dean in the Faculty of Arts as a result of the Arts re-organization. Having been in the Psychology position, Bev has seen the full evolution of university finances from quill (*as she puts it!*) to pajama sheets to PeopleSoft. She has done all aspects of finances at a departmental level (including purchasing, which is timely, given we're searching for Corrine's replacement) and is well versed in the compliance needs of the various funding agencies.

Beverly missed the interaction and collegiality of working with students, staff, and researchers in a one-on-one basis and expressed her delight in being able to work within a department again. I, for one, am delighted to have such a capable,

committed and knowledgeable individual coming into this important role in our department. On a personal note, if you pop down to see her that first week, do know that she may be out of the office as she anxiously awaits the birth of her fourth grandbaby.

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of **Scott Steick** as Purchasing Specialist for Department of Chemistry effective Monday, April 28, 2013. His "office" location will be in E3-44 Chemistry Centre and phone extension is 2 3821. As he is an external hire, he does not have a U of A email address that I can share with you as of yet.



Scott Steick, Purchasing Specialist

Scott received his BA from the U of A in 1997 and his Business Diploma from NAIT in 2001. Following his education, Scott spent six years in Houston TX working as a Purchasing and Warehouse Manger for a TMC Orthopedic, an orthopedic and prosthetic products supply company, where, as his referee stated, "he did the job of 3 to 4 people." In 2008, he moved back to Edmonton where he took on the role as a Purchasing Agent for

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BUILDING UPDATES, continued  
from page 1

department encourages our chemistry personnel to call in building issues themselves as you would be the best person to explain the issue, having first-hand knowledge, and as well, would have the confidence that the call was placed in a timely fashion.

For those of you who have needed to get into CCIS during class changeover, you will have been witness to the bottleneck of foot traffic that builds up with the reason being that the primary pedway when you pass from Chemistry East into CCIS narrows down from three doors into two. Now that the design flaw has been identified, it will be corrected. Over the summer months, the large pane of glass that abuts with the building's perimeter will be converted into a third doorway in time for Fall term.

### RESULTS FROM THE CHEMNEWS SURVEY

Based upon the responses we received to our *ChemNEWS* survey conducted in February 2013, we will implement some changes to the content and format of our newsletter.

As our loyal readers may have already deduced, we will issue quarterly editions of *ChemNEWS* from hereon in. We will continue to write on our more popular topics such as building updates and

Do You Have  
an Idea...

...for a cost-saving measure or revenue-generating plan? Our suggestion box is at:  
<mailto:suggestions@chem.ualberta.ca>



## June 8 & 9, 2013

I'm gearing up for my 8<sup>th</sup> year riding in the fight to end Multiple Sclerosis in the annual **185km MS Bike Tour** happening this June 8 & 9, 2013!

Join in or donate now! Visit [msbiketours.ca](http://msbiketours.ca) and find me, Shannon Barner.

Every donation counts...\$6 raised is one information package for someone newly diagnosed. \$100 raised allows 5 people affected by MS attend a program for newly diagnosed. \$1000 raised, 3 requests fulfilled for special assistance."

THANK YOU!

featured interviews of our chemistry personnel, but we shall also grow the content to include featured alumni, undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows. We will focus less on topic information (birth announcements and the like) and more upon newsworthy topics. Research groups will be invited to submit a brief, yearly update on interesting research accomplishments within their group, broken down by research areas. Lastly, we will

continue to archive *ChemNEWS* since 45% of respondents indicated that they refer to past editions.

Please note that the Faculty of Science agreed to distribute our next edition of *ChemNEWS* in the Fall 2013 edition of their alumni magazine, *Contours*. In turn, the limited number of chemistry staff who work on *ChemNEWS* will focus all of our energies on ensuring content is top-notch and as a result, will not issue a summer edition of our own newsletter.

### 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](mailto:newsletter@chem.ualberta.ca)

General Fastener, maintaining the company's inventory from 90+ vendors. Based upon his past experience, he should be able to readily assume the volume and scope of work that our department generates for that desk!



On a personal note, for those of you who have been on campus for a decade or two, Scott's last name might be familiar to you. Yes indeed, he is Charlie Stelck's grandson (*the EAS' equivalent to our Ray Lemieux*).

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, **Dr Rylan Lundgren** will assume his position as Assistant Professor in inorganic chemistry. Rylan completed his PhD at Dalhousie University under the supervision of Prof. Mark Stradiotto where his research focused on the development of ligands to support platinum-group metals in catalysis. By December 2010, he took up a NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology with Prof. Fu and transferred to California Institute of Technology with Dr Fu. His references comment upon the fact that Rylan is a strong researcher and lecturer who bright and knowledgeable. Rylan's office will be in W4-23 with a phone number yet-to-be-assigned.



Rylan Lundgren, Assistant Professor,  
Inorganic Chemistry

#### ACPA Scholarship

Contributed by Norman Gee

Info

<http://www.pchem.ca/arthur-bollo-kamara-graduate-scholarship>

FWIW UA grad student won this 5 of the last 6 years.

#### Past Winners

- 2012 - Zonglin (Vincent) Yang (University of Alberta)
  - 2011 - Lydia Chen (University of Alberta)
  - 2010 - Matt Zamora (University of Alberta)
- Prior to 2010, the Arthur Bollo-Kamara Scholarship was open to undergraduates as well:
- 2009 - David Grewer (University of Alberta)
  - 2008 - Michael Gaultois (University of Alberta)
  - 2007 - Christine Mah (University of Calgary)
  - 2006 - Janet Macdonald (University of Alberta)

#### Juli Gibbs-Davis Wins Sloan Fellowship

<http://news.ualberta.ca/newsarticles/2013/february/sciencepowercouplereceiveprestigiousloanfellowships>



#### Science Citizenship, a Unique Course:

[http://www.science.ualberta.ca/en/FacultyofScienceNews/2013/April/Science299.aspx?utm\\_source=mailtointeractive&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Daily+News%3a+April+23,+2013](http://www.science.ualberta.ca/en/FacultyofScienceNews/2013/April/Science299.aspx?utm_source=mailtointeractive&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily+News%3a+April+23,+2013)



For the past several months, Germany has been home to Chemistry professor, Jon Veinot. Jon has been on a research sabbatical since July of 2012. Recently, he recently took some time to give us a report about his time in Munich where it is, as he says "a fantastic place to 'do' science."

#### **What provided the stimulus to go to Germany?**

This is a funny and somewhat convoluted story. About 4 years ago I was attending a small nanomaterials conference just outside Munich when a volcano erupted in Iceland. All flights in and out of Europe were grounded for 8 days. Needless to say, I was "stuck" in Munich and I made the most of it. I explored the area and even made my way up to the Technical University of Munich (TUM). After 8 days in Munich it was clear to me it was a fantastic place to "do" science – I was in love. After returning to Canada I received an invitation to return to Munich and be a plenary speaker at the "Frontiers in Silicon Chemistry" hosted by Wacker Chemie and TUM. At that meeting I started to lay the groundwork for coming to Munich for an extended stay. The rest is history....

#### **How long did it take you to plan your trip?**

Planning my professional activities in Germany was easy and it only took about 2-3 three months. The challenge came when I needed to arrange for my family to join me. Arranging for immigration details, schooling, kindergarten, and finding a suitable place to live was another story because German bureaucracy is incredible; that took about 8 months.

#### **What are you working on?**

The projects I took on while in Munich have been aimed at exploiting the expertise of my Alberta Team and that of the TUM Chair for Macromolekular Chemie. We have developed methods to link functional polymers to the surfaces of nanomaterials through electrically conductive bonds. The resulting materials have applications in solar cells, light-emitting diodes, optical structures and even new battery technologies.

#### **What has thrilled you the most about living in Germany?**

This is a tough question to answer simply because there are so many things I really like. First and foremost the beer in Bavaria is second to none. After the beer comes the freedom. My family and I have had the opportunity to travel throughout Europe without the need of a car. We simply hop on the train and go anywhere – we have been to Salzburg, Strausbourg, Pitztal, Vienna, Rome, Venice, Prague, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Barcelona, Paris, Lyon, Berlin, Bonn, Nurenburg.... the list goes on.. This chance to explore and experience the European culture is a chance of a lifetime.

#### **What does it mean to you personally and to your team to have this experience under your belt?**

For me personally, I feel completely revitalized and ready to push hard in research and teaching again. The opportunity to observe and even

take part in the education system in Germany has provided me with fresh ideas I can incorporate into my research, teaching and personal life. I have also made friendships that will last for a lifetime.

As for my team, they have all grown to become more independent scientists. I am really impressed with how they have risen to the challenge. I really believe they would not have realized the same growth if I had been around to turn to on a daily basis.

I expect the collaborations established with the Rieger group as well as other groups at TUM will continue for the next 8-10 years and the combination of our expertise will lead to exciting advances.

#### **What do you miss most about Edmonton?**

This is a tough question to answer because my knee jerk response is .... Nothing (especially the snow in April). But, after thinking about it more, I miss the people. Friends and family are a big part of my life. After returning to Canada I am sure I will say the same about Germany. My family (especially my daughters) would respond a bit differently and say they miss our dogs who had to stay in Canada during our adventure.

#### **When will you be back?**

My family and I will return to Edmonton in the middle of July.

#### **What will you do first when you return?**

Sleep! After that my daughters have dibs on going for a "Slurpy". I will likely go for a walk with the dogs and enjoy the mild Edmonton summer.

#### **Is there anything you think I should have asked but didn't?**

I think it is important for everyone to take advantage of an international opportunity like the one I have just experienced. It is a life changing time that is beyond words.



Health Promotion and WorkLife Services (HPaWS)

# LUNCH & LEARN

May 2013

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.\*\*

## Mood Disorders

**John Betton, Homewood Human Solutions**  
**Wednesday, May 8, 2013 - CAB 269**

*\*\*Join us for this event to mark Mental Health Week (May 6-12)!\*\**

Mental health problems are an increasing concern in today's workplaces. 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.

## Taoist Tai Chi

**Vicky Haggith, Fung Loy Kok (FLK) Institute of Taoism**  
**Thursday, May 16, 2013 - KIVA Room (Education North 2-103)**

The gentle flowing movements of this ancient art, when regularly practiced, can open and strengthen the body, promoting improvement in the muscular, skeletal and circulatory systems. With time, practitioners experience increased strength, flexibility and balance. This is accompanied by deepening relaxation and calming of the mind as practicing is a form of moving meditation. Join us for an introduction to FLK/Taoist Tai Chi™, a demonstration of some of the 108 moves and to learn a few moves.

## Professionalism in the Workplace

**John Stevenson, Homewood Human Solutions**  
**Wednesday, May 22, 2013 - CAB 269**

People form judgments about you in the workplace based on your behavior, attitude, speech, and appearance. The impressions you communicate to others – positive or negative – can help you get ahead professionally, or can slow down your career progress and even sometimes create conflict in the workplace. This session will give participants an understanding of the importance of professional behavior in the workplace and what it involves.

## Getting Organized

**Stacy Walker, Gettin' Around To It Professional Organizing**  
**Tuesday, May 28, 2013 - CAB 269**

Certified Professional Organizer, Stacy Walker, returns to host a discussion about the why and how of getting organized. She will touch on the impact of organization on productivity and stress and provide some tips and tools to help you conquer the clutter in your life.

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).