

CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

From the editor:

In this issue of the newsletter you will discover that our students and faculty have been very active in teaching and research this year and have been duly recognized for their efforts by receiving some prestigious awards. Additionally, several of our faculty have received promotions since the last newsletter was published. And finally, we will pass along sad news about Angela Krieg and John Dorris, as each passed away this year.

Your editor,

D. L. Batema

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Volume 5

UE PRESENTS ANNUAL BERGER AWARDS

The University of Evansville presented Dr. Bryan Lynch the 2009 Sadelle and Sydney Berger Award for scholarship at the University's annual Fall Faculty & Administrator Conference in August. The award was presented by UE Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Susan Kupisch on behalf of the Berger family, who established the endowment to give recognition to faculty at the University of Evansville. In his comments at the award ceremony, UE President Stephen Jennings said, "This is one of the most prestigious awards our University can bestow upon its faculty."

Dr. Lynch was rewarded for his research into the study of small molecules. Using a nitrogen-pumped dye laser, Dr. Lynch has studied the structure of electronic excited states of small molecules in the gas phase – including a two-semester period in 2007 when he took a sabbatical in Massachusetts to study in the research labs at MIT. His project, supported by the Lilly Endowment, Inc., the Petroleum Research

Fund, and the American Chemical Society, led him to work with isocyanogen, CNCN, to observe and determine the structure of its first electronically excited state – something that had never been done before.



**The 2009
Berger
Award recipient
for scholarship,
Dr.
Bryan Lynch.**

Dr. Lynch earned a B.S. in chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh, and his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the same institution. Before coming to UE in 1994, he worked as a research scientist at several companies in Pennsylvania, including Advance Materials Corporation and Gulf Research and Development Co., where he was a project leader.

UE WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

The University of Evansville has selected Dr. Thomas A. Kazee as the institution's 23rd president, replacing retiring president, Dr. Stephen Jennings. Dr. Kazee, who will assume his duties on June 1, 2010, was elected by the Board of Trustees, Friday April 9, 2010 and he was introduced to the UE community later in the day. He is currently the Provost and Executive Vice President of Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. Prior to his position at Furman, he served four years as Dean of the College at the University of the South (Sewanee), and for 18 years as a faculty member at Davidson College's Department of Political Science. He earned a B.A. in political science from Baldwin-Wallace College in 1974 and his PhD, also in political science, from The Ohio State University in 1978.

Dr. Kazee's wife, Sharon, is the Dean and Vice President of Arts and Academics at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. She is currently completing her doctoral work at the University of South Carolina.

Both spoke briefly to a gathering of UE faculty, administrators, staff, and students after their introduction by the chair of UE's Board of Trustees, Neil Ellerbrook.



**The University of
Evansville's 23rd
President, Dr.
Thomas Kazee, and
his wife Sharon.**

ALUMNI NEWS

We are grateful to receive news of our alumni and happily pass along their news to others. The following alumni made visits to the department, sent e-mails or made calls to let us know what they have been up to since graduating from UE:

Ashley Austin '09. We have received word that Ashley has been accepted to the Medical College of Georgia, in Athens, Georgia.

Lynsey Thrasher '09. Lynsey is employed as an organic environmental chemist at an environmental lab with a primary responsibility of maintaining and troubleshooting various instruments in the lab including GC, MS, IC and ICP. Her previous position was as a Special Projects Chemist with Abengoa Bioenergy of Indiana, in Mt. Vernon, IN. She is also currently working on an MBA through Aspen University in Denver, CO.

Megan Gootee '08. Megan is now teaching 6th grade science at Brownsburg East Middle School, Brownsburg, IN, just west of Indianapolis.

Meagan (McDonald) Farley '08. Meagan is currently working at Red Spot Paint Company located in Evansville, IN. Last year, on February 21, 2009, she married Christian Farley. She will be presenting a paper entitled, "UV Curable Coatings for Containers and Closures", at the RadTech Conference, the largest technical conference for the UV curable coatings industry.

Jessica Wojtas '07. Jessica sends us a note to tell us that she was married on July 11, 2009 in Huntington, IN.

Jamie (Smay) Davidson '07. Jamie was recently married as well; on May 9, 2009 in her hometown of Lapel, Indiana. Her husband Jeff is also a 2007 UE graduate with a major in computer science. Jamie is currently a graduate student at IUPUI as a 2009 Woodrow Wilson Indiana

Teaching Fellow. She has finished her student teaching and will be receiving her teaching license for chemistry in June.

Brad Hubartt '07. Brad has been accepted into the Physics program at UT. His plan is to join the thin film research group working on new models and developing more efficient computational techniques.

Lauren Massey '05. Lauren is a 2009 graduate of the UK College of Density as a doctor of medical dentistry. She has set up a private practice in San Antonio, Texas.

Brian Alberding '05. Brian is currently a graduate student at The Ohio State University.

Randy Scherer '04. Randy has finished his Ph.D. at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tennessee in the area of interdisciplinary materials science and engineering. He is now employed by Cook Medical.

Monisha (Barnhill) Woodruff '99. Monisha is in her ninth year of teaching high school in the Evansville, IN area. She taught math at Reitz High School for six years, and then moved into a similar teaching position at Bosse High School. Just this past year, she was able to switch from math to teaching chemistry at Bosse. Monisha is currently completing her doctorate in education through Walden University. She now has her administrator's license and hopes to be either a principal or begin working in science teacher education.

Doug Adamson '87. Dr. Adamson made a visit to the department and took a tour of the Koch Center with Dr. Lynch during his stay in Evansville. Dr. Adamson was at Princeton University for awhile before accepting his current position at the University of Connecticut as Associate Professor in polymer chemistry.

She was always extremely helpful in the lab and enjoyed answering student questions. Angela carried her enthusiasm of teaching to her family. While as a stay at home mom, she home-schooled her daughter and three sons. Angela was proud of her family and often shared her pictures and stories with us.

JOHN DORRIS

Our stockroom clerk of several years, John Dorris, recently lost his battle with lung cancer. John, 75, died February 28, 2010, at the Charlier Hospice Center in Evansville.

John was feeling absolutely fine except for a little blurriness in one eye. After a series of tests it was determined he had lung cancer which had metastasized. The final diagnosis and, ultimately, the unsuccessful treatment occurred over a short period of time. John was a fixture in our stockroom and I know he will be missed.

John was born January 8, 1935, in Webster County, Kentucky. He did his undergraduate work in chemistry at Murray State University, and then moved on to Michigan State University where he received his Ph.D. John held several jobs in food science over the years, most recently at AmeriQual Foods. After retiring from AmeriQual, he joined the chemistry department, serving as the stockroom clerk.

ANGELA KREIG '95

We have just received news that Angela Kreig '95 passed away on April 2, 2010 at the Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, Indiana. Angela graduated with a professional chemistry degree from UE in 1995. Angela worked as a laboratory assistant, and she was one of the best assistants I have had the experience to work with.

NEW LC/MS FOR CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

Dr. Arlen Kaufman is the principal investigator for a recently funded NOAA project (\$358,552) entitled, "Environmental Science at Vectren Conservation Park: From Chemistry to Communities." The three year project has as one of its goals to determine the presence and concentrations of major industrial and agricultural pollutants in the Wabash River and associated aquatic and wetland habitats within the University's Vectren Conservation Park (VCP). To meet this goal, the NOAA funding has allowed Dr. Kaufman to purchase a new triple quad mass spectrophotometer for use in analysis of major pollutants, such as pesticides and personal care products (PPCP's) in water samples.

Service technicians from Thermo Scientific were on campus in late March to install the instrument and provide instruction on the use and capabilities of the LC/MS.

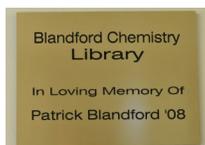
Additionally, students enrolled in Chem 461, Instrumental Analysis, are getting hands on experience in developing methods for the analysis of various pollutants, such as atrazine. The addition of this instrument will not only meet the needs of research in our department for years to come, but also in teaching up-to-date analytical methods.



Chemistry department's new LC/MS, affectionately called 'Finnie'.

BLANDFORD CHEMISTRY LIBRARY

Room KC300 in the Koch Center is now officially known as The Blandford Chemistry Library in memory of Patrick Blandford. Patrick was an extremely good student



The plaque depicting the newly renamed chemistry library.

who had a lot of friends, was fun to be with, and loved chemistry. Patrick was the son of Dr. and Mrs. Dick Blandford. As many of you may know, Dr. Blandford teaches engineering at UE.

Patrick was scheduled to work on a Research Experience for Undergraduates project involving organic chemistry at a university in Bangkok, Thailand in the summer of 2007. Tragically he was killed in an automobile accident outside of St. Louis in May, just before he was to leave for Thailand.

To honor their son, the Blandford family gave a significant gift to the Department to make the Library more accommodating to students and provide a place to relax, study, and to socialize. In the picture below, you can see some of the renovations to the library including, a computer, laser printer, comfy chair and couch, and periodic table. Other renovations, not in view, include some art work, a refrigerator, and a hand-built wooden bookcase.



A view of the newly renovated Blandford Chemistry Library.

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Several faculty members have received promotions within the last year.

Dr. Ray Lutgring, director of the UE Honor's Program, has been promoted from Associate Professor to Full Professor. Dr. Kristy Miller has been promoted from

Assistant Professor to Associate Professor. Along with this promotion, Dr. Miller has achieved tenure. And, most recently, Dr. Bryan Lynch, chair of the chemistry department, has been promoted from Associate Professor to Full Professor.

Congratulations to Drs. Lutgring, Miller and Lynch!!

CHRIS CHILDERS RECEIVES NATIONAL ACS AWARD

Chris Childers, a senior professional chemistry and mathematics double major, attended the 239th ACS National Meeting in San Francisco, CA on March 21-25. The theme of the spring 2010 meeting was: 'Chemistry for a Sustainable World.'

Chris presented a paper entitled, "Molecular Dynamics Study of the Effect of Molecular Weight Between

Crosslinks on Thermomechanical Properties of Aerospace Epoxies." His presentation was in the Undergraduate Research in Polymer Science, Polymer Nanoscience, and Modeling Section. Chris was honored by receiving the Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Polymer Research.

Congratulations to Chris for this distinctive honor!!

Chris received the Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Polymer Research.

STUDENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Student awards in the UE Chemistry Department were presented at the Spring Awards Banquet for the Indiana-Kentucky Border Section of the ACS at the Moonlite B-B-Q Inn on April 21, 2010 in Owensboro, Kentucky, and at the Senior Recognition Dinner held at the Acropolis on April 28, 2010 in Evansville.

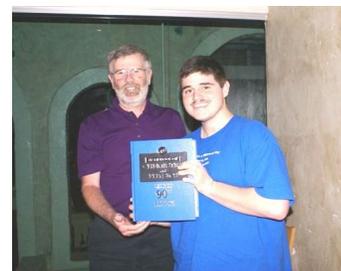
At the ACS dinner in Owensboro, three individuals were honored with the Outstanding Senior Award. Ashley Nelson, Aaron Wiles, and Brad Gibson received a cash award.

The CRC Freshman Award, presented at the Senior Recognition Dinner at the Acropolis, was awarded to

both Nick Takebayeshi and Chris Matlack. They each received the CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics.

This year's Pitt Outstanding Lab Assistant Award was presented to Ashley Nelson, a senior professional chemistry and mathematics double major. Ashley received a plaque and a monetary gift during the Senior Recognition Dinner.

We also recognize Kate Upton and Mallory Williams, a chemistry minor, who were inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi national honor society during a ceremony at the spring meeting of the society.



Nick Takebayeshi receiving Freshman Award from Dr. Morrison

SENIOR CLASS OF 2010

The UE chemistry department had 7 students graduate on Saturday, May 8, 2010 at ceremonies at Robert's Stadium. Our professional chemistry majors were Ashley Nelson and Chris Childers. Actually, both Ashley and Chris are double majors in chemistry and mathematics. Biochemistry graduates were: Aaron Wiles, Brad Gibson, Matt Major, and Ian Stamps. Katie Reihle graduated with a basic chemistry degree. [Hannah Singleton (biochemistry) and Matt Steiner (chemistry business) are scheduled to graduate in December.]

Some of our graduates will continue their education in graduate school; others are in the waiting-to-see stage. Ashley Nelson is off to the Department of Chemistry at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. She will pursue a Ph.D. in organic polymers and work with Dr. Timothy Long.

Aaron Wiles is going to the mountains where he will become a Ph.D. candidate in Immunology in the Biomedical Science Program at the University of Colorado in Denver.

Chris Childers has accepted a graduate assistantship at the University of Southern Mississippi in the School of Polymer Science and High Performance Materials in Hattiesburg, Mississippi as a Ph.D. candidate.

Brad Gibson is headed for the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana as a Ph.D. candidate in bioanalytical chemistry.

Matt Major will pursue a master of science degree in biology at IUPUI in Indianapolis.

Congratulations to all of our seniors and newest alumni.



Chemistry Department Graduating Seniors Class of 2010

6th ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE MESCON CONFERENCE

The 6th Annual University of Evansville MESCON (Math, Engineering, and Science CONFERENCE) was held Saturday, March 27, 2010. MESCON is an undergraduate research conference with a focus solely on math, engineering and science. Unlike other research conferences, MESCON is a competitive conference with judging based on the quality of presentation as well as the technical merits of the paper presented. Monetary awards, and other recognition were given for the best presentations at a luncheon for the 86 attendees of the conference.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Dr.

Kent M. Bryan, Professor of Mathematics at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. The 2010 UE MESCON had 30 oral presentations and 9 posters given by students from several universities and colleges in the tri-state that included: UE, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Bellarmine University, and Indiana University.

UE biochemistry major, Brad Gibson gave a presentation in the chemistry division entitled, "Cucurbiturils as high-specificity delivery mechanisms for anti-cancer agents." His presentation was well received and he garnered praise for a job well done.



The MESCON logo for 2010.

SUMMER RESEARCH

Several chemistry students from the department will be involved in research projects or internships during the summer of 2010.

Dr. Arlen Kaufman will have two students working on environmental projects this summer, Tom Hardin and Brittany DeWitt. Tom, who received a UExplore grant, will continue the work started by Amanda Senechal '09. He will be analyzing mercury in soil samples collected around power plants. He will also work with Dr. Chris Tweddle from the UE math department to model the fate and transport of mercury in soils.

Brittany, who received her funding from the NOAA grant ("Environmental Science at Vectren Conservation Park: From Chemistry to Communities"), will focus on chemical analyses of various pollutants including pesticides, mercury, and pharmaceutical care

ceutical and personal care products, known as PPCP's, collected in water samples from the Vectren Conservation Park.

Brittany will be the first research student to learn how to use the new LC/MS instrument recently purchased using funds from the NOAA grant (see story on new LC/MS on page 3). Additionally, Tom will assist Brittany in the analysis of mercury from water samples collected in the VCP project Dr. Kaufman is directing.

Kate Upton, a junior professional chemistry major, has accepted an REU at the University of Arizona for the summer. She will work with Dr. Mark Smith in the field of astrochemistry.

Aaron Wiles has accepted a summer internship at Bristol-Myers-Squibb in Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

Dr. Kaufman will be directing students in a summer research project centered around the analysis of mercury, pesticides, and pharmaceutical and personal care products during the summer of 2010.

CHEM 490 SEMINAR: 'Chemistry in the Service of Medicine'

The theme for this year's CHEM 490 seminar was 'Chemistry in the Service of Medicine'. During the fall we had three outside speakers who addressed the theme in their presentations. Dr. Luke Tolley from the University of Southern Illinois gave a talk entitled, "New Tools for Proteomics" on September 18, 2009. UE chemistry alumni and current IU medical student, Samantha Kirsch Bouchie '06 visited on September

25, 2009 and gave students her insights on medical school. The third speaker, Dr. Sharon Ripp, from Pfizer in Groton, CT gave a presentation on October 23, 2009. Her talk was entitled, "Discovery and Development of a New Ketolide Antibiotic".

Following these invited presentations, students gave their presentations related to the theme of 'Chemistry in the Service of Medicine.'

Invited speakers to this years Chem 490 seminar included Dr. Luke Tolley, Samantha Kirsch Bouchie, and Dr. Sharon Ripp.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

The following notes from the faculty and staff will give our alumni some idea of what we have been up to during the last year.

Bill Morrison's Note: This marks the spring of my 35th year with the university. It's amazing how rapidly that time has passed. It seems only yesterday that I began my journey with the department. Amazingly, it was not until last May that I was actually able to visit our wonderful campus at Harlaxton. Sue and I spent ten marvelous days in England which included a trip to Grantham. We expect to attend the 40th reunion festivities there in 2011 along with other members of her Founders Class. Our daughter Mary is now living the life of a struggling actor in New York City. She will officially graduate from Millikin University mid-May. I still enjoy my classes, Sue's business has bounced back from the recession and our health remains good.

Bryan Lynch's Note: There was both good news and bad news this year. The good news is I was promoted to professor of chemistry, for which I am thankful. The bad news is, I slipped on ice in February and broke my right ankle and ended up in the hospital for one week. Thankfully I am now walking with only a brace, and I'm very grateful to friends, especially Joann Hussmann, who provided two months of "taxi-service" to get me to all the places I needed to get to. This was my first (and hopefully last) visit to a hospital!

Other good news comes from the pchem lab. For the last few years, we have been performing a new laboratory exercise using laser double resonance spectroscopy to study highly excited electronic states

of iodine. Our work was presented at The Ohio State University International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy, where it was very well received. I got the feeling that other faculty would like to begin performing this experiment in their pchem labs.

Don Batema's Note: I continue to teach labs for freshman chemistry and teaching environmental science in the BLS program. I am keeping busy with research as well. Amanda Bellian, an environmental science major, completed a research project during the summer 2009. She documented the dragonfly and damselfly diversity of the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge near Oakland City, IN. She identified 43 species; 18 of which were new records for the area. Amanda received funding from UE Explore and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I will have another student, biology major Kyle Zoll, starting a bird survey project at the UE Vectren Conservation Park in the summer of 2010. I was also involved with the 3rd Annual Ohio Valley Birding Festival that took place April 30-May 2, 2010. It included workshops, speakers, a family day, and several hikes to local birding hotspots. I led a hike at the Bluegrass Fish and Wildlife Area just east of Evansville.

My family is spread far and wide, so it presents some opportunity for travel. My youngest daughter has moved to LA to work as a music therapist. My wife and I went for a visit recently, and she treated us to an evening with John Williams and the LA Philharmonic Orchestra. In June we will fly to Pembroke, Wales to visit my oldest daughter to help celebrate the birth of our second granddaughter. We will be making a trip to Eglin Air Force Base in Florida to visit my son before his deployment to the 'sandbox' in November.

Elsewhere in this newsletter we have told you about Dr. Kaufman receiving a \$358,552 grant from NOAA. One of the 'toys' he purchased was a new LC/MS. Pictured below is another one of his 'toys'. The truck will be used to haul heavy equipment to and from the research site.



SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY

On Friday, March 26, 2010 the UE Music Therapy Association hosted its annual 'Spotlight on Faculty' event. The chemistry department was well represented by Dr. Bill Morrison and Dr. Bryan Lynch.

Dr. Morrison wowed the audience on piano, playing The March and Galop from the *Waves of the Ocean*, by Charles D. Blake. Dr. Lynch sang 'Charles Rutledge' by Charles Ives with an accompaniment

from Donna Davis, his piano teacher. He also played the piano selection, 'The Wild Horseman' by Robert Schumann.

In keeping with what seems to be a tradition, Dr. Morrison was honored with the People's Choice Award. Dr. Morrison was the crowd pleaser for the third time in five years the event has been hosted.



Chemistry department 'Spotlight on Faculty' participants, Dr. Bill Morrison and Dr. Bryan Lynch



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY ALUMNI INFORMATION FORM

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Travel/Hobbies/Honors/Family News:
