

CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

From the editor:

In this issue of the newsletter you will find our usual features covering alumni, student, faculty, and department news and events. This issue will also highlight the hiring of a new faculty member, the establishment of a departmental summer research award, a change in department leadership, a global scholar award winner, and news of the RECYCLEMANIA contest. As always, we hope this newsletter brings you up to date on our activities.

Your editor,

D. L. Batema

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Spring 2011

Volume 6

RECYCLEMANIA HITS THE UE CAMPUS

The University of Evansville has teamed up with the Alcoa Foundation and Keep America Beautiful to participate in a recycling competition called RecycleMania. RecycleMania is an intense, 10-week competition among colleges and universities across America. This year, both UE and USI participated with other colleges and universities across the nation to compete for a \$1,500 donation from Alcoa Warrick Operations to further assist the winning school's on-campus recycling programs.

"By supporting KAB's RecycleMania, we want to educate students, professors and the entire campus community about the importance of recycling and inspire people to take that extra step in the dorm, at the library and after class," said Paula Davis, Alcoa Foundation President. The contest tracks who recycles the most on a per capita basis, who produces the least amount of waste, and who recycles the largest percentage of their overall waste.

The Alcoa Foundation and Warrick Operations donated recycling bins to the two local universities to assist them in their existing sustainability programs. Nationwide, Alcoa Foundation donated 50,000 recycling bins to 13 universities, including the University of Evansville. At the University of Evansville, the donated bins are being placed in residence halls, classrooms and administration buildings all across campus.

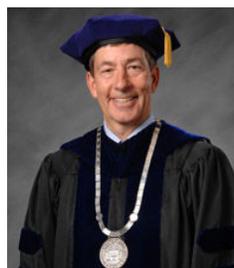
"We are excited about engaging thousands of college students here in Southwestern Indiana in this friendly challenge meant to demonstrate the importance of recycling," said Ed Hemmersbach, Location Manager for the Rigid Packaging Division at Alcoa Warrick Operations. "At Alcoa, we're working to raise the nationwide aluminum can recycling rate to 75 percent by 2015," he said. "And one way to reach that goal is making it more convenient for people to recycle wherever they may be."

"Sustainability has been a priority for the University of Evansville for some time now, so we're extremely excited to be part of RecycleMania," said UE President Thomas A. Kazee. "We've been proud to be a leader in the community on this issue, building Vanderburgh County's first two LEED-certified 'green' buildings on our campus – a project that was made possible in part by a generous grant from the Alcoa Foundation. Given that focus on sustainability, I am excited to see how our campus responds to the challenge of RecycleMania."

The contest began February 6 and continued until April 2. On April 15 the final results were published and UE placed 20th in the nation among almost 300 schools in the Grand Champion category. UE was also 1st in the state of Indiana with the highest achievement in both source reduction and recycling.

INAUGURATION OF UE's 23rd PRESIDENT, THOMAS KAZEE

The University of Evansville has formally installed Dr. Thomas A. Kazee as the institution's 23rd president. His inauguration was held on Saturday, October 2, 2010 on the UE's Sesquicentennial Oval. The ceremony, which included appearances by numerous dignitaries from the local and higher education communities, capped a week of inauguration events and activities. The ceremony was designed to celebrate the



unique features of the UE experience, as well as the University's relationship with the Evansville community. Kazee came to UE from Furman University where he served as Provost and Executive Vice President.

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:

Matt Major '10. Matt has completed work on a master's degree at IUPUI and is now currently enrolled in medical school at Indiana University.

Ian Stamps '10. Similarly, Ian has completed work on a master's degree at IUPUI and is now currently enrolled in medical school at Indiana University.

Kyle Knust '10. Kyle moved to Austin, Texas in the summer of 2010 to attend graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin. He is working in the Crooks group, where he immediately become involved in a series of microfluidic and electrochemistry experiments. In addition to coursework, Kyle is teaching an analytical lab. His research will involve the techniques of separation and enrichment of compounds at a bipolar electrode.

Keegan McHose '09. Keegan is working for Boehringer Ingelheim Roxane, Inc. in Columbus, Ohio. The company focuses on the therapeutic areas of cardiovascular, respiratory, metabolic, and virological diseases and oncology.

Roshan Lamichhane '09. Roshan is attending graduate school at Indiana University.

Gollsheed Ouranes '08. Gollsheed is currently enrolled in graduate school at IUPUI.

Sarah Schonaman '08. Sarah emailed to let us know that she has been accepted into Creighton University's

pharmacy program. Creighton was her first choice, so she is understandably excited to begin her studies.

Jessica Winkler '07. Jessica is a graduate student at Nebraska working on her Ph.D.

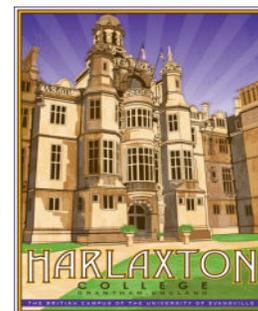
Samantha (Kirsch) Bouchie '06. Samantha graduated from the Indiana School of Medicine on May 8, 2010. Samantha is specializing in internal medicine and has begun her residency at St. Vincent Hospital & Health Care Center in Indianapolis.

Crystal White '04. Crystal is a graduate student at Indiana University.

Kat Schurmeier '04. Kat continues to work at the Sigma Chemical Company in St. Louis.

Mark Seib '90 Mark sends along best wishes to all (and especially Drs. Morrison, Weller, and Kinsey). Mark is currently the Medical and Lab Director for Telacris Plasma Donation Center for Indianapolis and Anderson, Indiana. He also maintains a busy family practice in Lapel, Indiana for Community Physicians of Indiana, and is Chief of Family Practice for the Community Hospital of Anderson. Mark is president of the Madison County Medical Society and is involved with various volunteer activities in the community.

Bob Wargel '66. Bob and his wife Judy visited the chemistry department on December 7, 2010 and took a tour of the Koch Center. As a result of their visit and conversations with Dr. Lynch, Bob and Judy graciously contributed to a fund that has allowed the department to offer a research stipend to a student for summer research (See story on page 4).



Harlaxton 40th Anniversary Reunion

The University hosted the Harlaxton 40th Anniversary Reunion April 15th and 16th, 2011. Many of our alumni have been fortunate to have experienced Harlaxton. Chemistry majors Nick Takebayeshi and Chris Matlak are currently at Harlaxton.

A number of events, including educational sessions, panel discussions, teas, luncheons, and dinners, were attended by returning alumni and the UE community. Dr. Edward Bujak, special guest, traveled from Harlaxton to join the festivities.

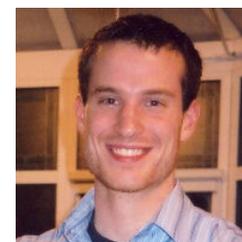
CHEMISTRY ALUMNI PRESENT SEMINARS AT UE

In the current academic year, 2010-2011, we were very pleased to have two chemistry alumni visit the department and present seminars; Meagan (MacDonald) Farley '08, and Nick Manicke '04.

Meagan works as a chemist at Red Spot Paint in Evansville, Indiana and gave a seminar entitled, "Red Spot Overview and UV 101." In her presentation, Meagan gave students an overview of Red Spot Paints and some insight into the type of work she currently performs.

Nick, a graduate of UE in biochemistry, returned to his alma mater to give a presentation entitled, "Biomedical Applications of Mass Spectroscopy: Ambient Ionization and Miniature Instruments." Prior to his seminar, Nick enjoyed a lunch with Dr. Kaufman and several students.

After graduating from UE, Nick earned his Ph.D. from Purdue University in analytical chemistry. He is currently working as a post-doc in the Aston Labs at Purdue University.



**Dr. Nick Manicke,
UE graduate 2004**

DR. MILLER RECEIVES UE GLOBAL SCHOLAR AWARD

The Institute for Global Enterprise in Indiana recently announced the 2011-12 recipients of the UE Global Scholar Award and Dr. Kristy Miller from the chemistry department was one of the award winners. As a UE Global Scholar, the recipients of this award will engage in scholarship, curriculum development, travel and/or research activities related to the impact of globalization on our learning environment.

Dr. Miller, Associate Professor of Chemistry, will apply her Global Scholar award to study the impact of globalization within the field of biotechnology – with a focus on

China. Professor Miller plans to examine the activity and effectiveness of the enzyme phytase in animal feed to the world's first genetically modified phytase corn feed produced by Origin Agritech, Ltd., a biotech company in Beijing, China.

She also intends to develop an 'Introduction to Global Biotechnology' course, incorporating partnerships with biotech companies to create potential internships for UE students. Finally, Professor Miller will investigate and compare global biotechnology markets focusing on the uniqueness of each.

Congratulations to Dr. Miller upon receipt of the UE Global Scholar Award and on becoming the new chair of the chemistry department (see story below).

DR. TODSAPON THANANATTHANACHON

Dr. Todsapon Thananathanachon has accepted a position in the department as our new inorganic chemist. If you have trouble reading or saying his name, you are not alone. But he has made it easy on us by suggesting we call him Dr. Tod.

Dr. Tod is from northern Thailand where he attended Chiang Mai University in Chiang Mai (see map), received a B.Sc. degree in chemistry in 2002, and graduated with first class honors (Gold Medal). He came to the US to



continue his studies in chemistry and attended Washington University in St. Louis. He received a Ph.D. in 2008 working with Dr. John R. Bleeker. His dissertation was entitled, "Synthesis, Characterization, and Reactivity of

Silapentadienyl-Iridium Complexes." While at Washington University he received the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence (2007-2008) and the Dean's Fellowship Award (2007). Dr. Tod also received the Chemistry Department Teaching Assistant Award (2005).

After graduating from Washington University, he accepted a position as a post-doc research associate at the University of Illinois from 2008-2010 where he studied the catalytic conversion of sugars and cellulose to liquid biofuels and fuel additives.

Dr. Tod then accepted a position as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Juniata College in 2010. In his first semester at Juniata he taught a bioinorganic chemistry class and a special topics class on green chemistry. Dr. Tod also began a research program, involving undergraduate students, in the study of catalytic conversion of renewable materials to liquid biofuels.

His research interests are focused on the synthesis and reactivity of organometallic compounds and their importance in homogeneous catalysis for sustainable organic synthesis. In particular, he is interested in the catalytic conversion of renewable resources to liquid biofuels and valuable chemicals.



Dr. Todsapon Thananathanachon

DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP CHANGING HANDS

Effective June 1, 2011, Dr. Bryan Lynch will be stepping down as the chair of chemistry department, and Dr. Kristy Miller will assume the duties and responsibilities of chair. In preparation for becoming the chair of the

chemistry department, Dr. Miller says, "I am looking forward to serving the department and the University. I feel very fortunate to be able to work alongside such exemplary colleagues."

CHEM 490 SEMINAR: 'Nanotechnology'

The theme for this year's CHEM 490 seminar was nanotechnology. During the fall semester we hosted four guest speakers. Dr. Bin Zhao from the University of Tennessee visited on September 17, 2010 and gave a talk entitled, "Stimuli-Responsive Hairy Particles and Block Copolymer Micelles." On October 29, 2010, Dr. Scott Hartley from Miami University gave a presentation entitled, "Ortho-Phenylenes and Cross-Conjugated Macrocycles: Unusual Molecular Architectures for Single-Molecule Devices." UE chemistry alumni, Meagan (MacDonald) Farley gave a talk on "Red Spot Overview and UV I01" when she visited on November 5, 2010 (See story on page 2). And our fourth guest speaker, Dr. Jean Francois Morizur from Sabic Innovative Plastics presented a

seminar entitled, "Studying and Working in a World of Innovation", on November 19, 2010.

During the spring semester, CHEM 490 featured student presentations. Following the format from last year's seminar series, professors in the department selected a nanotechnology paper within their area of expertise and students signed up to read the selection and present a seminar. After several engaging student seminars, the spring semester CHEM 490 seminar series ended with a presentation from former alumni Dr. Nick Manicke (See story on page 2). His presentation was entitled, "Biomedical Applications of Mass Spectroscopy: Ambient Ionization and Miniature Instruments."

The chemistry department appreciates all our guest speakers who so gratefully gave of their time for this year's CHEM 490 Seminar Series on Nanotechnology.

NICK TAKEBAYASHI RECEIVES INAUGURAL SUMMER AWARD

Generous donations from folks like Bob and Judy Wargel, Bob and Mary Plane, and Jean Beckman have made it possible for the department to establish an endowed research award for a deserving student to carry out a research project during the summer, under the direction of a faculty member. The funds go toward a stipend and on-campus housing.

This summer will mark the inaugural presentation of the award, and this will allow Nick Takebayashi the

opportunity to study the f and E state of iodine with Dr. Bryan Lynch. Previous work in the Lynch lab has focused on the f state of iodine. Nick will further the work on the f state, especially the measurement of the lifetime of the f state as a function of iodine pressure in order to obtain information on how well iodine self-quenches its electronic excitation. Furthermore, Nick will begin the difficult prospect of studying another ion-pair state, the E state.

Gifts to the chemistry department have led to the establishment of the Chemistry Summer Research Endowed Scholarship.

STUDENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Student awards in the UE Chemistry Department were presented at the Spring Awards Banquet for the Local Section of the ACS at the Moonlite B-B-Q Inn on April 18, 2011 in Owensboro, KY. Kate Upton received the Outstanding Senior Award and the sophomore award was presented to Nick Takebayashi. The keynote speaker, Dr. Krystal Hamorsky, gave a talk entitled, "Genetically Engineered Proteins

for the Development of Novel Bioanalytical Sensing Systems & Vaccine Platforms."

The CRC Freshman Award was presented at the Senior Recognition Dinner held at the Acropolis on April 27, 2011. The awardees, Dalton Snyder, Tyler Lawson, and Vanessa Legault-Cordisco, each received the CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics.

SENIOR CLASS OF 2011

The UE chemistry department had 8 students graduate on Saturday, May 7, 2011 with ceremonies at Robert's Stadium. Our professional chemistry majors were Brittany DeWitt, Lindsay Cornett, Tom Hardin and Kate Upton. Kevin Todd graduated with a

biochemistry major. Greg Wallace, Karen Schenk, and Chris Nash graduated with a basic chemistry/business administration degree.

[Marc Chavez is scheduled to graduate in December.]



**Chemistry Department
Graduating Seniors
Class of 2011**

7th ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE MESCON CONFERENCE

The 7th Annual University of Evansville MESCON (Math, Engineering, and Science CONFerence) was held Saturday, March 26, 2011. 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 125 attendees of the conference.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Dr. Stephen Jacobson, Associ-

ate Professor of Chemistry at Indiana University. His presentation was titled, "Micro- and Nanofluidic Devices for Bioanalytical Chemistry."

The 2011 UE MESCON had 30 oral presentations and 18 posters given by students from several universities and colleges in the tri-state that included: UE, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Bellarmine University, University of Southern Indiana, St. Louis University, Purdue University-Calumet, University of Kentucky, and Indiana University.

The only chemistry student to present at MESCON this year was Brittany DeWitt. Brittany entered the competition with a poster entitled, "Pollution of Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Products in the Wabash River Determined by Liquid Chromatography and Mass Spectroscopy."



The MESCON logo for 2011
(Mescon is sponsored by Buehler Motors, Inc.)

SUMMER RESEARCH

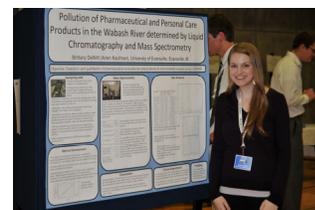
Three chemistry students from the department will be involved in research projects during the summer of 2011.

Brittany DeWitt will continue working with Dr. Kaufman on analyzing various pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCP's) from the Wabash River using the new LC/MS. Brittany has worked on method development for several different PPCP's and this summer will add more to her list as she goes into 'production' mode.

Joining the Kaufman group will be Sean Sullivan who

will continue the work on mercury analysis in soils surrounding electric generating power plants in southern Indiana. In addition to the mercury autoanalyzer, he will be using the newly acquired CEM MARSXpress microwave digester to digest soil samples. This project is a collaborative effort with Dr. Chris Tweddle (math department), who will help in the modeling of the fate of mercury in soil.

Nick Takebayashi will work with Dr. Lynch using the laser to study the E state and f state of iodine (See story on page 4).



Brittany DeWitt at NCUR 2011

NCUR 2011 AT ITHACA COLLEGE

The National Council of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) for 2011 was hosted by Ithaca College in New York, with the conference taking place March 31 through April 2.

UE students from chemistry, biology, psychology, archeology, and neuroscience made the trip to Ithaca, New York to attend the conference and present their research results, either as a poster or an oral presentation.

Brittany DeWitt, a chemistry major, made the trip and reported on her research, "Pollution of Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Products in the Wabash River Determined by Liquid Chromatography and Mass Spectroscopy."

All the student presenters did an admirable job and represented the University and their respective departments very well. In addition to the conference, there was ample time to visit local areas of interest.



The NCUR logo for 2011

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.

Bryan Lynch's Note: This past year my students and I spent a good deal of time in the pchem lab perfecting our double resonance experiment of iodine, and we now have a paper ready for submission to the *Journal of Chemical Education*. Our work with iodine continues as we explore more of its excited states and examine the kinetics of collision-induced vibrational energy transfer. Like my predecessor, Phil Kinsey, I now spend a lot of time in my basement. Phil makes golf clubs in his basement; I now make furniture. It is a great way to relax and if you want to see some of the items coming out of my shop go to: faculty.evansville.edu/bl22/woodworking.html.

Don Batema's Note: I have been involved with my usual duties as chemistry laboratory supervisor and teaching in the Global Leadership Program, formally known as the Bachelor of Liberal Studies Program.

Kyle Zoll, a biology major, completed his research project on the diversity and density of birds at the Vectren Conservation Park. He presented the results of this research at the MESCON conference.

Away from work, I am also trying to teach myself photography, and as you may have guessed my favorite subjects are birds. I took the picture (at the right) of a sanderling along the shoreline of Okaloosa Island in Florida during spring break this year while visiting my son. I was able to take this shot of the sanderling, a common shorebird, as it waded through the shallow water in front of me.



Sanderling at Okaloosa Island, Florida

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY

The UE Music Therapy Association hosted the annual 'Spotlight on Faculty and Staff' fundraising event on Friday evening, March 18th, 2011. The chemistry department was well represented again this year by Dr. Morrison and Dr. Lynch, who both gave outstanding performances.

Dr. Morrison performed a couple of 19th century Romantic drawing room pieces: "Warblings at Eve" by Henry Brinley Richards and "Boute-en-Train" by Eugene Ketterer.



Dr. Bill Morrison prepares to dazzle the audience on piano.

Dr. Lynch played the piano and sang in a quartet at the fundraising event. He played all three movements of Sonatina (Op. 36, No. 1) by Muzio Clementi.



Dr. Bryan Lynch playing piano.

Dr. Lynch then joined a quartet that also included Ralph Larman, John Meredig, and Ken Steinsultz. Songs performed by the group included, "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" by E. R. Ball and "Grand Old Flag" by George M. Cohan.



Dr. Bryan Lynch singing in quartet.

And the winner is.....Dr. Morrison was again proclaimed the favorite performer this year. Congratulations!



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



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY ALUMNI INFORMATION FORM

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E-mail Address _____

Current Position _____

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Travel/Hobbies/Honors/Family News:
