



CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2006

Volume 1, Issue 2

PROJECT KALEIDOSCOPE AT UE

A Message From the Editor:

This is the second issue of the new format for our newsletter. The "spring" edition is a little late this year as it is the first day of summer as I am putting the finishing touches on this issue. We have provided the latest information we have on our alumni, faculty and students. I hope this news brings you up-to-date on your alma mater. As always, I would welcome any news you would like to share and any comments on improvements and additions to this newsletter.

Your editor,

Donald L. Batema

Project Kaleidoscope (PKAL), established in 1989, is a national alliance dedicated to building a strong learning environment for undergraduates in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) fields, with a focus on what works.

PKAL works to equip teams of faculty and administrators for leadership in transforming education at the local level, so that students are better served. At UE we have such a team of faculty and administrators dedicated to improving the undergraduate experience in the STEM fields.

The team, formed in the summer of 2004, consists of Erin Bredensteiner (Math), Cris Hochwender (Biology), Talitha Washington (Math), Ray Lutgring (Chemistry), and Jean Beckman (Dean). This Leadership Initiative Team has met on a regular basis to discuss goals and strategies for improving math and

science education at UE. It was decided very early that improving the availability of research experiences for our students would be the focus of UE's participation in the PKAL initiative.

In April 2005 the team attended a PKAL workshop, "Leadership in building a research-rich learning environment", at Hope College in Michigan. After the workshop the team continued to meet and try to develop ways to include research experiences into our classrooms and laboratories. As a result of recommendations of an external review of the chemistry department in September 2005, our Leadership Initiative Team worked with the Office of Development to include an endowment for undergraduate research in math and science in the upcoming capital campaign. The team is continuing to meet and work toward a goal of increasing the number of research experiences available to our students.

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ALUMNI NEWS

Loranelle Lockyear (Schultz) ('91). Loranelle sent us an e-letter just after the fall edition of the 2005 newsletter to bring us up-to-date on an extremely eventful and chaotic year. She received funding to do 10 weeks of research in the labs of Chris Culbertson at Kansas State for the summer of 2005. However, the research stint was interrupted on a couple of occasions. First, on the passing of her father, Clifford, who many of us knew. And second, on the premature birth of her son Nicholas. Loranelle tells us that Nicholas is doing well. And her research, which was broken up into little chunks has progressed as well. Finally, she has gone through the tenure and review process and is to be promoted to Associate Professor at Bethany College.

Luke Turner ('97). Luke reports that he is a visiting researcher in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Bath in Bath, England.

Josh Fessel ('99). Josh recently graduated from Vanderbilt with a top award. On May 31, 2006, Josh was named the Founder's Medalist for the School of Medicine, an award presented to the top student in each of Vanderbilt's schools. His immediate plan is to intern at Vanderbilt for a year studying internal medicine and then move to Boston to do his anesthesiology residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he is a Beecher Scholarship recipient for his incoming class. Josh graduated from UE summa cum laude majoring in psychobiology and chemistry.

MAY 2006 GRADUATING CLASS

On May 13th, 2006 thirteen students graduated with degrees from the chemistry department. Baccalaureate was held at Neu Chapel at 10:30 am and Commencement occurred at Roberts Municipal Stadium at 1:30 pm. Some of our new graduates have accepted offers with graduate or professional schools. Our graduating seniors, their majors and the their next academic step (is known at this date) are:

- **Samantha Kirsch, Ashley Neuman, Brandi Warren, Angela Sun, Chen Tsai, Hsiang-Jui Yeh, Eric Mantel, and Kyle Klene** all received degrees in Biochemistry. **Samantha** will attend Indiana University School of Medicine in Bloomington, IN. **Ashley** will attend the Indiana University School of Dentistry in Indianapolis, IN. **Brandi** has accepted an offer in the School of Medicine, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Louisville in Louisville, KY.
- **Angela Elsten** Chemistry/Secondary Education.
- **Jessica Frisz** Professional Chemistry. **Jessica** will attend the University of Illinois, Chemical Biology Program, Chemical -Biology Training Program in Champaign, Illinois.
- **Mandir Helms** Chemistry/Physics. **Mandir** will attend Rosiland Franklin School of Medicine in Chicago, IL.
- **Joshua Zars** Chemistry/Archeology. **Josh** will travel overseas to Cambridge, England. He will begin a Master of Philosophy of Archaeological Sciences program at Cambridge University.
- **Seth Hall** Chemistry Business Administration. **Seth** has decided to attend Indiana University School of Dentistry in Indianapolis, IN.

We will update the happenings of our 2006 graduating class in the fall edition of the newsletter.

SUMMER RESEARCH/ INTERNSHIPS FOR 2006

Several of our students will be actively involved in research this summer in research programs and internships both near and far.

Those students accepted into summer research programs for 2006 include:

Dorothy Ahlf: Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

Jessica Wojtas: University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada

Emily Maurer: University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

Jason Pitt: Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

Those students who will be working as interns with local companies include:

Kim Fessel and **Jamie Smay** as Quality Control Nutritional In-process interns at Mead Johnson Nutritionals in Evansville, Indiana.

Sean Vaughn, Joel Melby and **Jessica Frisz** as summer interns in the Plastics Division at General Electric in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

We look forward to hearing about their research activities and experiences in the fall when they return to campus.

CHEMISTRY CLUB ACTIVITIES

The Chemistry Club started off the year with a welcome back picnic at Dr. Lutgring's house. During finals week, the club had a pizza party and played bingo for prizes.

The club ended the year with the annual spring banquet at the Olive Garden. Most importantly, this year the club proudly reestablished affiliation with the American Chemical Society by becoming an ACS student affiliate. The club is anxiously looking forward to an exciting year next year. The officers for 2006-2007 are: President, Emily Maurer; Vice President, Jessica Wojtas; Secretary, Megan Gootee; Treasurer, Sheena Donald; and Activities, Golsheed Ouranos.

NEW CHEMISTRY COURSE

This year the Department of Chemistry offered a new sophomore level special topics course. This one credit course entitled, "Chemical Career Planning", is designed to give students the opportunity to gain skills in writing a scientific resume, cover letter, and personal statement. Students also work on developing interviewing skills. Additionally, the course introduces students to the career paths possible to chemistry majors among government, industry, and academia, including graduate schools and other post-professional programs. The course was developed and taught by Dr. Kristy Miller.

CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT STUDENT AWARDS

Our annual awards for deserving chemistry majors were presented at the end of the year chemistry club dinner at the Olive Garden on May 3, 2006. The recipient of the Outstanding Senior Student of the Year Award, sponsored by ACS, was **Jessica Frisz**. Our Outstanding Sophomore Student of the Year award was presented to **Patrick Blanford**. Finally, **Joel Melby** received the CRC Handbook Award as our outstanding freshman.

UE MESCON

The 2nd annual University of Evansville **Math, Engineering, and Science Conference (MESCON)** was held Saturday, March 25, 2006. 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 the presentation as well as the technical merits of the research presented. Monetary awards and other recognition are given for the best presentations.

This year, UE MESCON attracted 31 abstract submissions from universities/colleges in the tri-state area that included, in addition to UE: Marian College, Tri-State University, Murray State University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Vincennes University, and University of Southern Indiana. UE chemistry majors Angela Elsten, Emily Maurer, Sean Vaughn, and Jessica Wojtas participated in this year's conference.



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY ALUMNI INFORMATION FORM

Department of
Chemistry
Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2006

Name _____ Year Graduated _____

Email Address _____

Current Position _____

Address _____

Education Since Leaving the University:

Travel/Hobbies/Honors/Family News:

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FACULTY NEWS

Spotlight on Faculty. Dr. Morrison displayed his musical talents by playing piano at the annual Spotlight on Faculty event held April 8, 2006.

New Faculty Member. Dr. Kenton Renkema will be joining the chemistry department this fall as a new faculty member. Dr. Renkema comes to us from a teaching post-doc at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan where he has

been teaching general chemistry. Previously he was a post-doctoral fellow at Rutgers University working on catalyst design and kinetics for alkane dehydrogenation. He did his graduate work at Indiana University in the labs of Dr. Kenneth G. Caulton. In his graduate research, Dr. Renkema studied C-F bond activation. His main molecule for study was an unsaturated osmium complex.

We look forward to his arrival in the fall, and you will see a feature article on Dr. Renkema in the fall edition of the newsletter.

Where in the world is Dr. Lynch? Dr. Lynch has been on sabbatical this spring and summer. He is working on several projects at MIT. We are awaiting his return and we are anxious to share his experiences with you in the next newsletter.

We're on the web:

chemistry.evansville.edu