



ALUMNI NEWS

Spring 2015

CU Denver Chemistry Department

A Word from the Chair

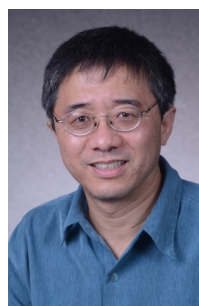
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This year we had an incredible ensemble of graduating students who, not only had excellent academic records, but have also given outstanding service to the department. Many have served as teaching assistants, graders, and learning assistants; carried out active research projects with our faculty; and presented their results in the American Chemical Society National Meeting. As these alumni continue onto graduate school, medical school, or a new career, we wish them good luck in their future endeavors.

Shortly after the student recognition program, the department celebrated Professor Douglas Dyckes' retirement from CU Denver. Doug was a valuable asset to the Chemistry Department, an enjoyable colleague, and an excellent mentor to many faculty members. He came into the department as Chair in the fall of 1990 and served eleven years in this position. He then stepped in again as Chair during 2005-2007 and 2012-2014. Over the years Doug maintained an active research lab, graduating many master students and undergraduate research students. Furthermore, he was a very innovative and challenging professor. He developed the Hon-

ors Organic course and worked with Steve Medema to develop the University Honors and Leadership program. During my first year as Chair I received a lot of help and advice from Doug. I could always count on him for advice regarding various departmental functions and activities. We shared a common vision of the department's future and worked together to achieve our goals. I considered Doug a good



friend and really hope to see him around in the future.

As Professors Douglas Dyckes and Lisa Julian part ways from the University of Colorado Denver, tenure-track Assistant Professors Biochemist Liliya Vugmester from University of Alaska Anchorage and organic chemist Jung-Jae Lee from MIT will join the department. Dr. Kyoung Nan Kim will also join the department as an Instructor. We are very happy to have them join our department and look forward

to working with them towards our goal of establishing a strong graduate research program. In the coming academic year the department is planning to recruit an additional tenure-track faculty and a non-tenure track instructor. This will further strengthen the department's research and teaching capabilities.

Currently the department is working on several curriculum developments. These include reforming the instruction of General Chemistry lectures and labs, designing new online courses, and implementing additional courses in the area of biochemistry. The department plans to add a new BS major in Biochemistry in the near future and possibly a BA degree in Chemistry. Meanwhile, the department is working with Metropolitan State University of Denver's Chemistry Department on a joint BS/MS program. The upcoming changes to the Chemistry Department will increase our effectiveness in teaching, as well as research development. I hope these strides will bring the department to establish a stronger graduate program at the Ph.D. level over the next few years.

Sincerely,

Haobin Wang

Haobin Wang

Dr. Douglas Dyckes Retires

This spring the Chemistry Department celebrated the long and very distinguished career of Professor Douglas F. Dyckes, as he heads into retirement. Dr. Dyckes came to the CU Denver Chemistry Department as Chair in the fall of 1990, after a career with many accomplishments in the area of Organic Chemistry at the University of Houston. He served 25 years in our department, as an exemplary instructor, researcher, mentor, colleague and three-time departmental Chair.

His guidance and dedication to his students is unequalled, and at his recent retirement party many of his current and former students spoke in emotional and glowing terms about how much he meant to them and how important a figure he was in their

lives. His influence extended beyond the sharing of his love and understanding of chemistry to his interest in their lives and careers. His former students came from as far away as Texas, Kansas, and Indiana to

celebrate his retirement. His current and former colleagues at the University also described his legacy as a professional model to be emulated.



Pictured left to right: Martha Dyckes, Dr. Douglas Dyckes, Melissa Edmiston

His door was always open for advice and friendship, be it related to chemistry, teaching, navigating bureaucracies, or personal crises. His positive influence was felt across the University through his dedicated service as Chemistry Chair, as a member and Chair of numerous committees, and in the establishment of a University Honors program. His relationship with the Department and the University will continue as Professor Emeritus, and his legacy will endure through the scholarship fund that has been set up in his name.

Dr. Scott Reed Awarded Grant for Stockholm Sabbatical



Associate Professor Scott Reed was recently awarded a grant from the Wenner Gren Foundation. The grant, titled "The Role of Membrane Nanostructure in Membrane Fusion," will support his sabbatical at Stockholm

University during the 2015-16 academic year. During his sabbatical, Dr. Reed will be working in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics with Stockholm University's Professor Peter Brzezinski, his research will focus on measuring temperature dependence.

CU Denver Chemistry Club

The CU Denver Chemistry Club had an eventful 2014-2015 academic year. The highlight, according to the club president Jack Henderson, was being able to take 8 Chemistry Club students and 5 research students (sponsored by the Chemistry Department) to the ACS National Meeting, making it the largest CU Denver group to attend a national meeting. In preparation of the ACS National Meeting, the club hosted CV writing and networking workshops. The ACS meeting was hosted just a few blocks away from the Auraria Campus at the Colorado Convention Center, all the students who attended were able to take part in the undergraduate programs that ACS had to offer, including the ACS Student Award Ceremony.

For Earth Day, the Chemistry Club was able to participate in an outreach event at McMeen Elementary School. On the same day on the Auraria Campus, the club had an information table where they gave out liquid nitrogen ice cream, green chemistry information pamphlets, and hosted an Earth Day scavenger hunt. Similar events were held in the fall semester including the all-time-favorite liquid nitrogen ice cream demonstration, and outreach events with the Auraria Early Learning Center.

Research Students Receive ACS Award

Nara Chon, currently a MS student in Chemistry, and BS Student in Chemistry Jack Henderson, received the Undergraduate Research Poster Award in the Division of Computers in Chemistry at the 249th American Chemical Society National Meeting, held March 23rd, in Denver, for their collaborative poster, "Comparisons of Synaptotagmin 1 and Synaptotagmin 7C2A domains in membrane associations by molecular dynamic simulations." Nara and Jack's poster was selected based on a well-defined hypothesis with a clear set of specific aims, an excellent grasp of the research performed, and their conclusions were supported by the data. Congratulations to Nara and Jack on their joint accolade.

2014-2015 Student Recognition Awards Recipients



2014-2015 Outstanding Graduate Award Recipients left to right:
Nara Chon, Christal Davis, Madelyn Hunsley, Haobin Wang (Professor and Chairman), Daniel Giardina



Robert Damrauer Award:
Desmond Hamilton
Dr. Haobin Wang



Marti Barrett Award:
Favinn Maynard
Dr. Haobin Wang
Kristina Bueter (not pictured)



Mike Milash Award:
Favinn Maynard
Dr. Haobin Wang
Roubina Tatavosian

Robert Damrauer Award:
Marti Barrett Scholarship:

Michael Milash Award:

General Chemistry:

Honors General Chemistry:

Inorganic Chemistry:

Organic Chemistry:

Analytical Chemistry:

Desmond Hamilton

Kristina Bueter

Favinn Maynard

Favinn Maynard

Roubina Tatavosian

Marcus Farmer

Tyler Houston

Stephanie Cung

Thao Huynh

Ryan Brody

Chelsi Lopez

Iman Dwebi

Biochemistry:

Graduating Graduates:

Jean Dreyfus:

Department Award:

Research Poster Award:

Thao Huynh

Desmond Hamilton

Nara Chon

Christal Davis

Daniel Giardina

Madelyn Hunsley

Desmond Hamilton

Jack Henderson

Marko Kokotovic

Thao Huynh

Robert Lewis

Joseph Nguyen

Nara Chon

Jack Henderson

CU Denver Chemistry Faculty Publications

Margaret Bruehl, Denise Pan, and Ignacio J. Ferrer-Vinent. Demystifying the Chemistry Literature: Building Information Literacy in First-Year Chemistry Students through Student-Centered Learning and Experiment Design. *Journal of Chemical Education* Article ASAP September 11, 2014 DOI: 10.1021/ed500412z.

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CU Denver Chemistry Faculty

Larry Anderson, Prof. Emeritus
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Priscilla Burrow
Robert Damrauer
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Doris Kimbrough
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