Greetings

It’s been great to report on your many accomplishments throughout the semester in ChemBits, and I hope that you have found this newsletter to be useful and interesting reading. The sheer volume of your scholarly activity is astounding and you should all be proud of your accomplishments and those of your peers. Keep up the great work during the summer!

I want to personally thank Steve Asiala for all of his help this semester in getting ChemBits off the ground. He has set a very high bar indeed!

As always, please help us by sending information regarding awards, fellowship applications or fellowships received, papers published, external presentations, or any other relevant information to chembits@nd.edu.

- Steven Corcelli, Director of Graduate Studies

News and Announcements

The 18th Annual Biochemistry Research Retreat will be held this year at Swan Lake Resort, Plymouth, Indiana, on June 11–12. The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Ad Bax from the NIH.

The annual Chemistry–Biochemistry–Biology Interface (CBBI) symposium will be held Monday and Tuesday, May 13th and 14th, in Jordan Hall of Science.

Here’s an interesting New York Times article regarding an audacious academic fraud forwarded to us by Professor Kamat. Link

Hope College is hiring a one-year full-time organic chemistry instructor to begin in Fall 2013. Review of applications will begin immediately, so if you’re interested you should move quickly. Link

Congratulations to Zack Terranova for his recent election as President of the Graduate Student Union!
Awards and Recognition

Congratulations to winners of the 2013 Department Teaching Awards:

Jarred E. Pickering – Emil T. Hofman Award for Teaching in the First Year Program
Brandon E. Haines and Evan Peck – Jeremiah P. Freeman Award for Teaching in Organic Chemistry
Dominic C. Babbini and Natalie A. Wasio – Rudy Bottei Graduate Teaching Award
Leigh A. Weston – Roger K. Bretthauer Award for Teaching in Biochemistry
Catherine Campos, Jeremy Eberle, Ian Harrier, John Herrington and Brendan Mahone – Kaneb Outstanding Teaching Assistants

Major Gooyit has been selected as the recipient of the 2013 Eli J. and Helen Shaheen Graduate School Award in the Sciences for the University of Notre Dame. He will receive a plaque, a cash prize and the opportunity to receive a custom-made University of Notre Dame cap and gown.

Congratulations to Zack Terranova for being awarded the 2013 CRC Award for Computational Sciences and Visualization.

Abigail Weaver, funded by the Eck Institute and a CBBI travel grant, will be completing an internship at the FDA’s Forensic Chemistry Center (FCC) in June of 2013. She will test the ability of Paper Analytical Devices (PADs), produced in the Lieberman lab, to detect substandard medicines and compare their accuracy and usability for field screening with a collection of hand-held spectrometers.

Congratulations to Shiran Zhang for receiving the 2013 Kokes Award for the 23rd North American Catalysis Society (NACS) meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, June 2–7.

Fellowships

Awarded

Jennifer Arceo has received a 2013 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Fellowship. The award is for a maximum of three years over the next five year period. Congratulations!

Catherine Campos and Ian Harrier were selected as Teaching Fellows in the first Summer Teaching Training Program this summer. They will each be the primary instructors for the department’s summer offerings of Chem 10172 and Chem 20273, respectively. They will receive training, guidance, and support from a faculty mentor during their first foray into university-level instruction. Congratulations to Catherine and Ian!

Shailaja Kunda was awarded the Faculty of the Future Fellowship from Schlumberger Foundation for a second year. This grant supports women from developing countries pursuing their PhD in Sciences and Engineering abroad. Congratulations, Shailaja!
Publications


“Cyclodextrins as complexation and extraction agents for pesticides from contaminated soil” Ryan J. Flaherty, Bertil Nshime, Michael DeLaMarre, Sam DeJong, Pamela Scott, Andrew W. Lantz, Chemosphere 2013 91, 912–920. Link

External Presentations and Outreach

Please send any information about your external presentations (posters or talks at conferences, for example) or outreach activities to chembits@nd.edu. Without your direct help this is a very difficult section to populate, but I know there a huge amount of activity in this arena. Surely someone went to ACS in New Orleans??

Dissertation Defenses

It’s been a very busy month for Ph.D. defenses! During the current academic year, 26 Ph.D. degrees have been awarded. This is considerably more than the 2011–2012 academic year (20 Ph.D.’s) and actually ties the department record (26 Ph.D. degrees were awarded in 2008–2009).

Congratulations to Brighid Corcoran (mentor: Marya Lieberman) for completing her Ph.D. thesis defense: “Assembly of Air–Stable Cationic Lipid Bilayers on Mica and Silicon”.

Congratulations to Lauren Fleury (mentor: Brandon Ashfeld) for completing her Ph.D. thesis defense: “Redox Titanocene Catalysis in C–C Bond Formations and New Discoveries in Phosphorus–Mediated Bond–Forming Reactions”.

Congratulations to Moushumi Hossain (mentor: Brian Baker) for completing her Ph.D. thesis defense: “Molecular Description of How Mart–1 Specific T–Cell Receptors Recognize Structurally Diverse Melanoma Antigens”.

Congratulations to Kotchaphan Kanjana (mentors: Ian Carmichael and David Bartels) for completing her Ph.D. thesis defense: “Chemical Kinetics in Reactor Cooling Loops: Metal Ion Hexahydrate Reactions and Suppression of Radiolysis by Hydrogen”.
Congratulations to Andrew Kosal (mentor: Brandon Ashfeld) for completing his Ph.D. thesis defense: “New Discoveries in Titanium and Phosphorus Mediated Carbonyl Additions”.

Congratulations to Sean Murphy (mentor: Prashant Kamat and Libai Huang) for completing his Ph.D. thesis defense: “Metal Nanoparticle–Graphene Oxide Composites: Photophysical Properties and Sensing Applications”.

Congratulations to Rebecca Quardokus (mentor: Alex Kandel) for completing her Ph.D. thesis defense: “Scanning tunneling microscopy observations of neutral and mixed-valence organometallic complexes”.

Congratulations to Kimberly Wilson (mentor: Jeff Peng) for completing her Ph.D. thesis defense: “Conserved Functional Dynamics in the Cell Signaling Protein Pin1: Investigations by Bioinformatics and NMR”.

(There Is) Life After Graduate School

Zach Funk will be serving as an Officer in US Navy with a focus on surface warfare.

Valerie Goss just accepted a tenure track position at Chicago State University.

Andrew Kosal will start a full-time position with Michelin North America in Greenville, SC next month.

John Zintsmaster has taken a position at Chevron Energy Technology Company as Lead Research Scientist.