Greetings

I hope that everyone is having a productive start to the new academic year. I want to thank everyone who turned out for the Graduate Student Feedback meeting on September 18. A number of important and interesting issues were discussed, and I appreciate the feedback I received on the strategic directions of the program. This will be a yearly event, so I hope that more of you will participate next year. Please feel free to offer any comments you have about the program by email, or to make an appointment to discuss your ideas in person.

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

I would like to encourage all first- and second-year students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents to consider applying for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF-GRFP). More information about the NSF-GRFP can be found at the following Link. NSF Graduate Fellows receive a competitive stipend of $32k/year. Moreover, it is a substantial honor to be awarded an NSF Graduate Fellowship, which will greatly benefit your future career. If you are interested in applying, please speak with your advisor or the DGS. Also, please note that there are staff available at the Graduate School to help you through the application process.

Look for an email in the coming weeks announcing the details of a new internal fellowship program sponsored by the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Needs (GAANN) program of the Department of Education. The department received a ~$671k grant to fund a number of GAANN fellowships to increase diversity and promote academic careers. If you are in years 1 – 4, you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, and you are interested in pursuing an academic career, you will be eligible to apply for a GAANN fellowship. Details will be coming in October!
Jill Bouchard and Doug Hines, your representatives on the Department’s Graduate Studies Committee, are organizing a meeting to gauge interest in forming a Chemistry Graduate Student Organization (CGSO). The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17 at 5 PM in 127 NSH. There will be free food!!!

Save the dates for the Nieuwland Lecture in Chemistry and Biochemistry on October 28 – 30. Dr. Joe Gray from the Oregon Health and Science University will be presenting three seminars, all at 4 PM in 127 NSH:

- "From Genome to Structure: Spatial Systems Biology of Cancer," Tuesday, October 29
- "Impact of Technology on Science," Wednesday, October 30

The department is seeking a few more motivated and enthusiastic graduate students to join the team which will complete an application for the Graduate Student Symposium Planning Committee (GSSPC) for the Spring of 2015. GSSPC groups are given full autonomy in planning an ACS national meeting symposium. This includes, but is not limited to topic selection, fundraising, speaker recruitment, and logistical arrangements. More information can be found at this Link. This is an excellent opportunity for networking and professional development. Please contact me directly (scorcell@nd.edu) if you are interested in this opportunity.

Feeling overwhelmed by graduate school? If you are in need of talking to someone who understands your feelings there are available resources. 1-800-GRAD-HLP is a national crisis hotline staffed by trained counselors who understand your unique pressures and know how to help. Please also remember that the University Counseling Center has a 24 hour crisis hotline at 631-7336.

The Department now has its own Facebook page! Check it out at Link. If you have content that you would like to add please send it to Mary Prorok (mprorok@nd.edu) or Rebecca Hicks (r Hicks2@nd.edu).

The National Science Foundation International Science and Engineering section has an opportunity for U.S. graduate students to participate in research experiences in summer 2014 through the East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes (EAPSI) program. EAPSI supports ~200 graduate students (must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents) each year to do research in the lab of their choice in any of seven locations: Australia, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore or Taiwan. The application deadline is November 25, 2013. The EAPSI program announcement and related information are available at Link.

Innova Dynamics is advertising several positions to work on silver nanowires. Applicants will need a B.Sc. + 2 years of industry experience or a M.Sc. or better. Descriptions of the positions can be found by searching for "Innova Dynamics" on LinkedIn's job search. For more information contact Russ Renzas (rrenzas@innovadynamics.com).
Awards and Recognition

Please let us know if you receive an award or other recognition at chembits@nd.edu.

Fellowships

Please let us know if you apply for or receive a fellowship at chembits@nd.edu.

Publications


“Resolution and Characterization of Helicate Dimer and Trimer Complexes of 1,3-bis(9-methyl–1,10-phenanthrolin–2-yl)propane with Copper(I)” Luis Lemus, Juan Guerrero, Juan Costamagna, Romina Lorca, Danilo H. Jara, Guillermo Ferraudi, Allen Oliver and A. Graham Lappin, Dalton Trans. 2013, 42, 11426. Link

“Nanoscale–Phase–Separated Pd–Rh Boxes Synthesized via Metal Migration: An Archetype for Studying Lattice Strain and Composition Effects in Electrocatalysis” Brian T. Sneed, Casey N. Brodsky, Chun–Hong Kuo, Leo K. Lamontagne, Ying Jiang, Yong Wang, Franklin (Feng) Tao, Weixin Huang, and Chia–Kuang (Frank) Tsung, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2013, 135, 14691. Link


“Peptide Modulation of Class I Major Histocompatibility Complex Protein Molecular Flexibility and the Implications for Immune Recognition” William F. Hawse, Brian E. Gloor, Cory M. Ayres, Kevin Kho, Elizabeth Nuter and Brian Baker, J. Biol. Chem. 2013, 288, 24372. Link
External Presentations and Outreach

Garima Agrahari attended the XIVth International Workshop – Molecular & Cellular Biology of Plasminogen Activation in June 4–8, 2013 at University of Notre Dame where she gave an oral presentation on “Molecular Mechanisms of Antiphagocytic Activity Mediated by Plasminogen-Binding Group A Streptococcal M-Like Protein”.

Emily Amenson, Karen Antonion, Laura Herder, Dany Floisand, and Michelle Bertke traveled to Celebrate Science Indiana at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to present “Power Up! Energy Boat Races.” Visitors to the table had an opportunity to race boats powered by different forms of energy and learn about the how we use renewable and non-renewable energy.

Dissertation Defenses

None in September.

(There Is) Life After Graduate School

Please let us know what you will be doing after graduate school at chembits@nd.edu.