

# News from the College of Science

## Fall 2014

### Notre Dame **Science**

[<http://science.nd.edu>]

### Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

[<http://chemistry.nd.edu>]

## Chair's Notes



Dear Alumni-

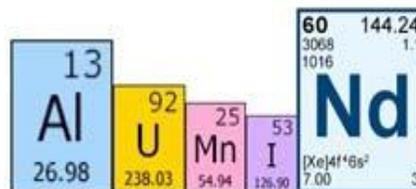
I am pleased to share with you the latest edition of the departmental newsletter. There are many exciting items to report. I would especially direct your attention to the Departmental News section for information regarding new facilities and to the Student & Alumni News section for information on the new Distinguished Graduate Alumnus Award. [Read More \[news/50436-welcome-from-the-chair-fall-2014/\]](#)

### Faculty News [[news/33201-faculty-news/](#)]

Our faculty have been hard at work over the past year, and that has led to a number of remarkable achievements. From research grants to alumni awards to journal editorships and more, faculty members have raised the profile of the department and have been recognized for their important contributions to science. [Read More \[news/50442-faculty-news-fall-2014/\]](#)

### Research in the News

A number of research projects in the department have garnered national and international attention over the past year, spanning topics from proteomics to quasi-crystals. [Read More \[news/50443-research-in-the-news-fall-2014/\]](#)



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### The Benchmark: Seven Questions for Professor Prashant Kamat



1) *When did you realize you wanted to be a scientist, and what led you to choose physical chemistry?*

I didn't decide to become a scientist until I finished my undergraduate education. I was exposed to research at that time which made me like chemistry much more. As to physical chemistry, I have always been fascinated with colors, particularly those in nature, like how flowers

## Departmental News [[/news/33199-department-news/](#)]



It has been a busy year for the department. We are especially grateful to all of the donors who have financed efforts here on campus to enable us to be leaders in science. We are also proud of the accomplishments of

our staff and faculty in furthering this mission. [Read More](#) [[/news/50479-departmental-news-fall-2014/](#)]

## Student & Alumni News [[/news/33198-alumni-news/](#)]



We are always happy to see the impact that our alumni are making in the world. Here, we share information on the new Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Distinguished Graduate Alumnus Award and celebrate accomplishments and recent graduates. [Read More](#) [[/news/50476-student-alumni-news-fall-2014/](#)]

synthesize the same colored compounds over and over. Since natural dyes absorb light for energy, I wanted to explore how synthetic dyes could lead to energy conversion.

2) *What are the biggest challenges you face in your research?*

The biggest challenge is a constantly changing horizon. What use to work say 10-15 years ago for training students is not the same as what is effective today. Today's students have grown up with screens (TV, iPad, etc.), and so I have to retune my methods to get the message across. Keeping motivation high is also a challenge. People almost exclusively attended graduate school in the past because they really wanted to be researchers. Now students may have a variety of reasons for going to grad school, and so not all students are motivated the same way. [Read More](#) [[/news/50494-the-benchmark-7-questions-for-prof-prashant-kamat/](#)]



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