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University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry

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Department Scholarships

The department awarded more than $10,000 in scholarships to undergraduate chemistry majors this fall. All will be honored at the Honors Night event in April.

The inaugural Octa N. High Scholar is Ethan McBride (not pictured). Student photos were either submitted or on file. More information about the recipients on page 3.

Chen Defends

Feng Chen successfully defended her doctoral dissertation “Sensory, Tissue-regenerative, and Filtering Membranes of Lattice-Intercalated Nanobelts,” Dec. 10. Her research advisor is Z. Ryan Tian.

Chen has an undergraduate degree from the National University of Defense Technology.
Faculty News

Center Celebrates 10 Years

Derek Sears presented “The Early History of the Keck Laboratory.” He is a cofounder and former director of the center.

On the Go


Gawley also presented “Catalytic Dynamic Resolution of Chiral Organolithiums,” and “Kinetics of Enantiomerization and Resolution of N-Boc-2-lithiopiperidine,” with graduate student Tim Beng.

Matt McIntosh presented “Synthetic Studies toward Antascomicin B.”

Graduate student Sefat Al-Warsh presented a poster “Toward Solutions to the Problem of Controlling E-O-enolate Geometry of Lactate Esters.”

Graduate student Abby Hubbard presented “Design and Synthesis of Novel Chiral N-Heterocyclic Carbene Precursors.”

Ingrid Fritsch, Charles Wilkins and graduate students Maher Abu-Libdeh, Leanne Mathurin, Brett Spann, Liz Srader and Cody Wright attended.

Matt McIntosh gave a seminar “The Role of Organic Synthesis in Drug Discovery,” at the University of Tulsa Nov. 15.

Alumni News

Sue Brand, Ph.D. ’08, is a postdoc at Arkansas State University as of Nov. 1. Brand will be doing photobiology and developing technology for the U.S. Army to incorporate UV LEDs into gas masks and air filtration systems to kill anthrax bacteria and spores.

Anna Daily, Ph.D. ’07, will join Virtual Incubation as a scientist Jan. 3. As part of the research support team, she will provide expertise in the expression and purification of recombinant proteins, genetic engineering/cloning and numerous analytical chemistry techniques.

Steven Neal, B.S. ’04, M.S. ’06, and Allyson Neal, B.A. ’06, welcomed the birth of their son Benton Cooper Neal Oct. 9. Baby Benton weighed 8 pounds and 9 ounces and was 20 ¾ inches long. He is a Hog Fan in training with a Razorback-theme nursery.

Steven Neal is a Ph.D. student at Iowa State University working with Aaron Sadow. Allyson Neal works for Walgreens.

Melissa Weston, Ph.D. ’10, is a senior scientist at Halliburton in Duncan, Okla.

Susan Grisham, B.S. ’02, Ph.D. ’09, married Dev Banerjee in August in Fayetteville and honeymooned in Hawaii. The couple also had a ceremony in the groom’s hometown of Kolkata, India in September.

Grisham is a postdoctoral fellow in the physics department. Banerjee is the engineering materials science manager at Kennametal in Rogers.

Safety Tip

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

- Someone close by who knows you are working in the lab
- Safety goggles
- Gloves
- Lab coat

At right: Wedding photo of Grisham and spouse from ceremony in India.

Above: Wedding photo of Grisham and spouse from their Fayetteville wedding.
Student News

Students Pass Cumes
The following graduate students have passed the appropriate number of cumulative exams and are now official doctoral candidates.

Scholarship Recipients

DuPont Scholarship
Established through industrial gifts from DuPont-Conoco.

Grant Meredith is a premed Departmental Honors College Scholar and a member of AED. He is married to Molly Meredith and is the son of May and Murl Meredith of Fayetteville.

Ashley Rosenberg is a Departmental Honors College Scholar pursuing the biochemistry option. She is a member of AXE, a 2010 COBRE REU participant. This fall she won a poster award at the Arkansas INBRE Research Conference for her research under Matt McIntosh. She is the daughter of Paul and Andrea Rosenberg of Denver, Colo. Her father is an alumnus and her grandfather is Professor Emeritus of Marketing and Transportation Leon Rosenberg.

Molly Steen is a Four-Year Honors College Scholar. She is the president of the ACS Student Affiliates and is vice president of the campus chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). She researches in the Stites lab. She is the daughter of Tom and Keli Steen of Grove, Okla., where she graduated first in her high school class.

Arthur and Lois Fry Scholarship
Established by Arthur Fry, University Professor Emeritus, and his late wife Lois. Awarded to chemistry majors with a 3.0 GPA or above, who plan to work in professional chemistry.

Gayatri Suresh Kumar is a Four-Year Honors College Scholar, a HHMI Scholar and a member of the ACS Student Affiliates. She is pursuing minors in business and French. Originally from Chennai, India, she is the daughter of T.K.S. Kumar and Sujatha Suresh Kumar of Fayetteville.

William K. Noyce Scholarship
Established in 1966 to honor the contributions made to the department by Professor William Noyce, who died that same year at the young age of 54.

Ross Harmon plans to attend pharmacy school and is pursuing a minor in Spanish. He is the son of Ralph and Denise Harmon of Fort Smith.

Jonathan Schmidt is a Departmental Honors College Scholar, a 2010 COBRE REU participant and a member of the pre-pharmacy club. He researches in the Stenken lab and is the son of David and Debbie Schmidt of Germantown, Tenn.

Mary Smith is a 2010 COBRE REU participant and researches in the Stenken lab. She is pursuing the biophysical option. She is the daughter of Brenda Smith and the late Russell G. Smith of Greenwood.

Octa N. High Scholarship
Established in 2009 by the late Octa N. High. The 1933 alumna almost dropped out of school at the University of Arkansas during the Great Depression but was able to earn a bachelor’s degree in zoology through financial support by the university. This scholarship aids students in anthropology, biological sciences, and chemistry and biochemistry. Recipients are referred to as Octa N. High Scholars.

Ethan McBride is interested in organic synthesis and processes. He is the son of Gayla Scott and Douglas McBride of Texarkana, Texas.

Jacob Sacks Scholarship
Established to honor the late Professor Jacob Sacks and his wife Wilma. He was a faculty member for more than 20 years and was largely responsible for establishing the biochemistry program. She was a physician and helped to establish many projects in maternal and child health.

Christopher DuVall is a Departmental Honors College Scholar doing research in the Kueppe lab and pursuing a minor in finance. He is a member of AXE where he serves a treasurer. He is the son of Mitchell and Melody DuVall of Tahlequah, Okla.

Shannon Mumma is a Departmental Honors College Scholar, a 2010 COBRE REU participant and a member of AED. She researches in the Stites lab and is pursuing minors in business and psychology. She is the daughter of Teresa McNutt and Tony Mumma of Tulsa.

Ettore Rastelli is Four-Year Honors College Scholar pursuing a minor in math and is a researcher in the Zheng lab. He is the son of Lee and Corrie Rastelli of Galveston, Texas.
Calendar of Events

January
12-24 ............... Open registration and drop/add for new students
17................. Martin Luther King Holiday, university closed
17............... Last day to receive 100% cancellation of fees for an official withdrawal for spring 2011
18............... First day of spring 2011 classes
21............... CUME
24............... Last day to add a full semester class or to register for spring 2011
24............... The Arthur Fry Lecture Series featuring Donna G. Blackmond
31............... Last day to drop a full semester class without having the mark of “W”
31............... Spring seminar series begins

The above dates and events are listed on the department’s Blackboard site https://learn.uark.edu/

Save the Date

Holiday Break
The University of Arkansas will be closed, except for essential operations, Friday, Dec. 24, re-opening Monday, Jan. 3, 2011.

December Birthdays
04..............Evgenia Akhmetova
06..............Nicole Webb
06..............Jack Thoma
08..............Brett Spahn
27..............Nan Zheng
31..............Scott Morris

The publishing of birthdays is not intended to invade the privacy of anyone. If you prefer not to be included, please let us know.

Library Hours
CHBC Library (CHEM 225)
http://libinfo.uark.edu/chemistry

Holiday hours (Dec. 16 - Jan. 2)
Dec. 16-17..............8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 18-19..............CLOSED
Dec. 20-23..............8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 24-Jan. 2 ..........CLOSED

Interim hours (Jan. 3-14)
Jan. 3-7..............8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Jan. 10-14..............8 a.m. to 5 p.m.