Greetings from the Chemistry Department! A lot of changes and exciting events happened during the last year in the Chemistry department! We welcomed two new faces to the Department. Dr. Melissa A. Mullen Davis, our new Biochemist, who joined the department in August 2018. Dr. Mullen Davis is originally from New Jersey. She earned her B.A. in Chemistry and Spanish from Colby College. She worked with Philip Bevilacqua studying nucleic acid biochemistry at The Pennsylvania State University to earn her Ph.D. in Chemistry.

Dr. Mullen Davis (pictured on the left) completed a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute with Donal Luse where she studied mechanisms of eukaryotic transcription. Before coming to Millersville in 2018, she spent four years at the College of Wooster as a Visiting Assistant Professor teaching courses in Biochemistry, Chemistry, and Biology.

Another new face in Chemistry Department is Ms. Emily L. Drennen, our new department secretary! Emily Drennen (pictured on the right) is excited to be a part of the Chemistry and Physics departments as the department secretary. She previously supported the director of sales at Lancaster DoubleTree Resort by Hilton as a marketing and sales specialist, where she worked for the past seven years. Emily graduated from Shippensburg University with a bachelor’s degree in communications, theater and music. Her passion is helping others excel in their work and encouraging others to never stop learning and growing. After hours, you can find her spending quality time with her husband, Jared Drennen, reading, or playing piano.

The Department was honored for the third year in a row by having a chemistry alumni receive the Young Alumni Achievement Award! The 2017 award recipient was Dr. Mike Zdilla (B.S. - MU 2000). Dr. Zdilla (pictured below) is an Associate Professor (Robert L. Smith Early Career Professor) at the Chemistry Department of Temple University. To celebrate the achievements of our successful alumnus, we held a very well attended Chemistry Department Colloquium (open to the MU community). The title of Dr. Zdilla’s presentation was “Chemistry and Energy”.

From the current chemistry faculty, Dr. Michael Elioff received his promotion to the rank of Associate Professor and Dr. Steven Kennedy received his tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.

Congratulations to both!
For the Fall 2018 we have 27 new incoming chemistry majors. The department continues to engage students in coursework and research. This year, we received equipment donations from TEVA, Pharmaceuticals. Thank you to all our donors and especially to our liaison and adjunct faculty, Dr. Anthony Drager!

The chemistry faculty and students continue to be actively engaged in research, writing grants and presenting their work in conferences. Many students received Niemeyer-Hodgson and SGRCA grants for research and 16 of them (shown below) received travel grants (special thanks to: Ms. Karen Murley, the Southeast Section of ACS, the National ACS, the Undergraduate Travel Grants from the College, the Noonan grants and the ACS Chapter funds) to attend and present their research at the Spring 2018 - 255th National ACS meeting in New Orleans, LA. Furthermore, the ACS Student Chapter has been very active in the past year and received the Commendable Chapter Award.

Eleven of our students also presented their work at the 20th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Chemical and Biological Sciences at UMBC where, Ms. Lauren Ostopowicz won a 1st place award and Mr. Karam Idrees, Ms. Samantha Gillis and Mr. Froylan (Omar) Fernandez won 2nd place awards in their respective categories in the Chemical Sciences.

Mr. Karam Idrees (pictured below along with his mentor Dr. Edward Rajaseelan) was the recipient of the SEPSACS award given to the top chemistry graduating senior in May 2018). He was also the recipient of many other departmental and college awards and he was nationally recognized as a Barry Goldwater Scholar Honorable Mention. He presented 6 posters at chemistry conferences and he published two peer reviewed papers, as the first author, on his research with Dr. Rajaseelan. In addition, he received the prestigious Breidenstine Award, awarded to the student whose honors work is judged most outstanding by the University Honors & Awards committee.
We also had an increased number of students participating in REUs and Internships during the 2017-2018 year:

**Five students participated in Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) during the Summer of 2018. They were:**

1) Gillian Good-University of Nebraska-Lincoln
2) Kyra Brakefield-NC State University
3) Froylan (Omar) Fernandez-University of Michigan
4) Girum Erkalo-Boston University
5) Liam Schroeder-James Madison University*

* This was a joint faculty-student REU – Dr. Katie Allen was also chosen to participate and conduct research as a visiting research associate through this NSF REU Grant at James Madison University.

**Fourteen students engaged in Internships during the Summer 2017 and through the Spring of 2018 in PA. They were:**

1) Wendy Harris-Glatfelter
2) Ben Grosso- Rockland Inc.
3) Christa Gonzalez-PPG Industries Inc.
4) Gillian Good-K&L Plating
5) Ben Stone-Millersville AEST
6) Aubrey Davis-Glatfelter
7) Erika Zurrita-Torres-Penn State NMT
8) Carolynn Nowak-Penn State NMT
9) Alix Joy-Penn State NMT
10) Alix Joy-Turkey Hill
11) Joel Trout-Arro Consulting
12) Ben Stone-Penn State NMT
13) Tobias Bentzel-Eurofins
14) Joy Thames-Eurofins

In December 2017/May 2018, 20 chemistry majors graduated from the program and joined the ranks of our alumni. Mr. Karam Idrrees was chosen to give the student moment of reflection of his time at Millersville at the May 2018 commencement. The Chemistry department is very proud of our 2017-2018 graduates! (shown on the right and below)

**December 2017 and May 2018 Chemistry Graduates**

*Left to right*

**Standing:** Huy Nguyen, Karam Idrrees, Johan Serrano, Ben Grosso, Milkias Eshetu, John-Paul Marrazzo, Tobias Bentzel, Ben Stone

**Sitting:** Lauren Ostopowitz, Samantha Gillis, Christa Gonzales, Wendy Harris, Joy Thames, Brandon Frey

*Not Shown:* Alix Joy, Garrett Shultz, Joel Trout, Carolynn Nowak
Many of our graduates had jobs/job offers before graduation, in a chemistry related field, and the following are attending graduate schools this Fall:

- Brandon Frey – Texas A & M
- Karam Idrees – Northwestern University
- Lauren Ostopowicz – Arizona University
- Samantha Gillis – University of Delaware
- Ben Grosso - UMBC
- John-Paul Marrazzo – Drexel University
- Joy Thames - UMBC

To celebrate the end of the semester of yet another successful year, we had a well-attended picnic in the courtyard which was organized by the new ACS Student Chapter officers!
Notable Alumni Achievements:

- Dr. T. Joseph Dennes III, Global Technical Director at DuPont, (B.S. - MU 2004) & (Ph.D. - Princeton University 2008) was nominated and received the 2018 Millersville University Young Alumni Achievement Award. This is the 4th year in a row that a Chemistry alumnus is a recipient of this award. What an honor for our Chemistry Department!

- Dr. David Turner, (B.S. - MU-2003) & (Ph.D. - the Ohio State University 2009) is the 2017 winner of the “Student’s Choice Award for Outstanding Teaching” at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. He is a Scientist at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Dayton and an Adjunct Professor at Wright State University.

We are very proud of the successes of all our graduates over the years. Our alumni reflect our efforts, dedication, and quality of teaching. *You are Millersville, and we celebrate you this and every year. Thank you!* We are always delighted to hear from you. Please stop by and visit us when you are in the area.

Alums! We LOVE to hear from you!

Update your contact information online at: [http://www.millersville.edu/chemistry/alumni/index.php](http://www.millersville.edu/chemistry/alumni/index.php)

Click on "Updates" on the bottom of the page.

Then click on "Update Now" to update your information for us.