

# CHEMISTRY

N E W S L E T T E R

Millersville University, Department of Chemistry ♦ [www.millersville.edu/~chem](http://www.millersville.edu/~chem) ♦ Fall 2008

## General Update

Greetings from the Chemistry Department! This has been another busy year for the chemistry department.

Mr. Tony Yiannakos, our lab technician, resigned from the University at the beginning of the fall semester. He accepted a teaching position at an institution in New Hampshire. Mrs. Catherine Greco has graciously agreed to help the department by working part-time in the general chemistry prep room until we fill the position.

With the generous support of the administration and funding from the Technology fee, we were able to purchase a new Varian 400 MHz NMR in the spring of 2008. We had some room modifications made to the NMR suite to accommodate the larger NMR. We also received funding to purchase a new Buck Scientific GC with several different detectors (FID/DELCD, TCD, PID). The biochemistry lab now has a new analytical balance and new microfuges for use in our courses.

As a result of alumni efforts we received close to \$7,000 in analytical consumable products. We also received 3 NanoDrop instruments equipped with UV-VIS and fluorescence detectors. These units will measure samples as small as 1 $\mu$ L with spectral readings that take only 10-20 seconds.

Our enrollments remain healthy. This year our freshman class has 30 students and we have a total of 103 majors. Several of our majors are enrolled in the biochemistry

option for the express purpose of preparing for pharmacology studies. This trend is growing among our majors. We are still investigating the possibility of a forensic option. Taking the conservative route, we will begin by offering a Forensic Chemistry course in spring 2009.



Various members of the department are actively engaged in the Middle States Self-Study which you will see over the next few months as "Rediscover Millersville: The 2010 Self-Study". This is probably one of the most significant activities we do since it maintains the integrating of the university and its programs.

## Faculty

**Dr. Pat Hill** is on sabbatical leave this year. She is traveling across the country conducting chemistry and art workshops. She plans to develop an advanced level workshop as well for those who would like more information on the topic and have already participated in her entry level workshop.

Working as a team, **Dr. Laura Anna, Pat Hill** and **Steven Bonser** have assumed the responsibility of maintaining the new NMR. They will attend workshops dealing with the applications and maintenance of the instrument.

**Dr. Maria Schiza** attended an NSF workshop this past summer to prepare for her course in Forensic Chemistry which will be offered for the first time in spring 2009. She also received a Pennsylvania State System-Professional Development grant to support her research ("Application of Gold Coated Silica Nanospheres for the Detection of Low Levels of Organophosphorous Pesticides by Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy (SERS)").

**Dr. Jeremiah Mbindyo** has received one of the highly competitive grants from The Research Corporation for studies in "Self Assembly Routes to Multifunctional Biocompatible Nanoparticles".

**Dr. Jeremiah Mbindyo** ("Drug Nanopackaging and Delivery Using Aptabodies to Target Lung Cancer") and **Dr. Lyman Rickard** ("Nanowire Array Heat Pipes for Use in Thermal Management") were both recipients of Keystone Initiative grants.

## How YOU Can Help

Like what you read about chemistry alumni, faculty, students and programs? Please keep our programs strong and support chemistry students. Give on-line @ [www.millersville.edu](http://www.millersville.edu). Click on the "Giving" tab OR send your gift to Millersville University, Development Office, P.O. Box 1002, Millersville, PA 17551-0302. Gifts can be restricted or unrestricted.

### HOMECOMING WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

**Saturday, November 1, 11:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Science and Mathematics Alumni Luncheon** (Steinman Courtyard, Argires Science Complex)

Science and Mathematics alumni are cordially invited to this luncheon. No charge with advanced reservations.

Please call the Alumni Office (800-681-1855) or register online at [www.villealumni.com](http://www.villealumni.com).

**Science and Mathematics Student Research Poster Display** (Caputo Hall Lobby)

Current undergraduate/graduate research poster papers will be displayed.

# H i g h l i g h t s

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## Student Activities

We are extremely proud of the Chemistry Class of 2008. Their names and affiliations follow:

**B.S. Graduates:** Eric Kratz will attend the University of Pittsburgh; Jessica Smeltz, North Carolina State University; Aaron Rathmell, Duke University; Erik Allman, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry; Rebecca Butt, University of Akron; Laurel Kegel, George Washington University; Christine Ditzler, Lehigh University; Clare Flynn, Johns Hopkins University; Michael Mara, Northwestern University; Stephanie Reichardt, Villanova University for a Master's; Tamra Shelly, University of Maine.

This year we had 23 undergraduate students engaged in research supervised by 11 faculty in the department. Of this group of students 11 presented posters at the National ACS meeting in April.

Our ACS Student Affiliate Chapter was awarded a "Commendable" citation for their work during the past year.

## Spring 2008 Graduates



*Back [Left to Right]:*

★ Ian Rowe ★ Kelly Rhoads ★ Stephanie Reichardt ★  
★ Laurel Kegel ★ Tamra Shelly ★ Cindy Lo ★ Eric Kratz ★

*Front [Left to Right]:*

★ Clare Flynn ★ Rebecca Butt ★ Christina Kissinger ★  
★ William Hesse ★ Christine Ditzler ★  
★ Michael Mara ★ Stephen Peurifoy ★

*Graduates not Available for Photo:*

Erik Allman, Jake Madara, Aaron Rathmell, Jessica Smeltz,  
Michael Williamson

## Alumni Updates

**Ronald Funk** ('71) is a Computer Systems Administrator at Kennedy Space Center in Florida; **Eliza Woolridge** ('85) is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Marist College; **Jeff Stuart** ('87) is now at Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Laboratory in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. His title is Principal Member, Engineering Staff; **Jennifer Shapiro** ('96) has recently accepted a position as Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Vermont; **Sharmila Sivendran** ('98) is a post-doc researcher at the University of Pennsylvania; **Sashi Sivendran** ('98) is a Senior Chemist at Cambridge Isotope Labs; **Eric Burkholder** ('99) is an Application Specialist at PANalytical; **Carlyn (Frey) Fryberger** ('02) is a chemistry teacher at Ephrata High School; **Colleen Neal** ('02) is an Analytical Chemist at Proctor and Gamble; **Sara Bargo** ('04) is in the Ph.D. program at the University of Wyoming; **Matt Perekupka** ('05) is a chemistry teacher at Cinnaminson High School in New Jersey.

I mentioned last year that our department web site contains lots of interesting tidbits of information. The site will undergo yet another total facelift this year (thanks to Dr. Maria Schiza who has been working with IT) and has even more information and pictures to look at. Finally, if you would like us to update your activities, send us the information by email or directly through our "Alumni" link on the site.

## Fall 2008 Seminar Speakers

**Mr. Thomas Walls** (MU '05) University of Virginia and Georgetown; *"Design and Synthesis of Novel, Fluorescent Voltage-Gated Sodium Channel Antagonists"*

**Mr. Raymond Pugh** (MU '03) Lehigh University; *"Determining How Heparin Interferes with the MAPK/ERK Signaling Pathway: An Attempt to Understand the Atherosclerotic Process"*

**Dr. Jon Kauffman** (MU '85) Lancaster Laboratories; *"An Overview of the Analytical Testing Required for Biopharmaceutical Products"*

**Mr. Richard Wurzbach** (MU '88) York Laboratories; *"Commercialization of a Technique to Analyze Small Grease Sample Quantities for Lubricated Machine Wear and Property Changes"*

**Dr. Nicholas Rider** (MU '95), Penn State Hershey Medical Center; *"Title to be Announced"*

## Alumni News

### Alums! We LOVE to hear from you!

Update your contact information online at: <http://www.millersville.edu/~chem/>

Click on "Alumni" on the left side of the page.

Then click on "Update Now" on the right side of the page to update your information for us.