Greetings from the Chemistry Department! The department had another exciting year, full of events, and faculty and student accomplishments! We are eager to share our news with you.

The 2019 Murley Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship recipients, Jessica Whittemore and Steven Knauss, shown above with Ms. Karen Murley.

This year, a new Chemistry Fellowship (Murley Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship) was established due to the generosity of Ms. Karen Murley (shown in the center - left). The fellowship is given to the two top chemistry student applicants for a ten week summer research experience under the guidance of MU Chemistry faculty. This year’s student recipients were: Jessica Whittemore who performed her research under the direction of Dr. Daniel Albert and Steven Knauss who performed his research under the direction of Dr. Kathryn Allen.

In addition, a new Excellence in Chemistry scholarship under Dr. Edward Rajaseelan’s name was initiated, contributed to, and established by Chemistry Alumni and an anonymous donor for the first time this year. The first recipient of this scholarship was Yongyu Rose Ou.

The Department was honored for the fourth year in a row by having a chemistry alumnus receive a Young Alumni Achievement Award! The 2018 award recipient was Dr. T. Joseph Dennes III, Global Technical Director at DuPont, (B.S. Chemistry - MU 2004) & (Ph.D. - Princeton University 2008). The department invited and hosted Dr. Dennes for a seminar. He met with the students and talked about careers in chemical industry and presented a talk on “Reflections on Science-based Innovation at DuPont and Beyond”.

Dr. Dennis, who was introduced by Dr. Rajaseelan (left), gave a wonderful presentation to a standing room only of students, faculty, administrators, faculty emeriti, and friends and donors of the department!

For Fall 2019, we have 32 new incoming chemistry majors. The department continues to have healthy enrollments each year as well as accepting transfer students (8 students) from other institutions. A new curriculum option - Engineering Instrumentation & Automation under a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry Degree (BS CHEM/EIA) - was approved this year and will be effective Fall 2019.
The chemistry faculty and students continue to be actively engaged in research, writing grants and presenting their work at conferences. Many students received Niemeyer-Hodgson and SGRCA grants for research and 11 of them received travel grants (special thanks to: 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 2019 National ACS meeting in Orlando, FL, March-April 2019. 10 chemistry majors attended and presented research posters at the South East Pennsylvania Section of the ACS Education Night at York College, York, PA, in April 2019. Seven of our chemistry students presented their work at the Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Chemical and Biological Sciences at UMBC in October 2018 where, Mr. Froylan (Omar) Fernandez won a 1st place award and Mr. Christopher Reyes (CJ) won a 2nd place award in their respective categories in the Chemical Sciences. Furthermore, the ACS Student Chapter was selected to receive the Commendable Chapter Award for their activities during the 2017-2018 academic year.

We also had a number of students participating in Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), Fellowships, and Internships during 2018-2019:

Five students participated in funded research opportunities during the Summer of 2019. They were:
1) Girum Erkalo – REU-University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
2) Autumn Peters – REU-Florida State University
3) Kyra Brakefield – REU-Tulane University
4 & 5) Steven Knauss & Jessica Whitemore - Murley Fellowship-Millersville University

Six students engaged in Internships during the Summer 2018 and through the Spring of 2019 in PA. They were:
1) Aubrey Davis – Glatfelter, PA
2) Steven Knauss – AEST, Millersville, PA
3) Mingqi Lu - Penn State NMT, State College, PA
4) Christopher Reyes (CJ) – MRG Labs, York, PA
5) John Risell – Ferro Corp., Philadelphia, PA
6) Alexander Torres – Eurofins, Leola, PA
In Spring and Summer of 2019, 21 chemistry majors graduated from the program and joined the ranks of our alumni. The Chemistry department is very proud of our 2019 graduates! (shown below)

Many of our graduates had jobs or job offers before graduation, in a chemistry related field, and the following are attending graduate programs this Fall:

1) Froylan (Omar) Fernandez – University of Wisconsin-Madison
2) Gillian Good – University of Wisconsin-Madison
3) Weihao (Howard) Ma – University of Georgia
4) Christopher Reyes (CJ) – University of Texas at San Antonio
5) Liam Schroeder – University of Delaware
6) Natalie Sukanick – Pharm. D.- University of Maryland

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 ACS Student Chapter!
2019 Chemistry Department Awards

This year’s student recipients of the Chemistry Department Awards were:

- CRC Chemistry Achievement Award - Jessica Whittemore
- Gerald S. Weiss Chemistry Scholarship in Inorganic Chemistry – Isaac Whitcraft
- Cecil M. Upton Organic Chemistry Award – Girum Erkalo
- Polymer Education Undergraduate Award - Isaac Whitcraft
- MU ACS Student Chapter Award – Gillian Good

- American Chemical Society Awards in:
  - Analytical Chemistry – Girum Erkalo
  - Inorganic Chemistry – Girum Erkalo
  - Organic Chemistry – Gillian Good
  - Physical Chemistry – Kristen Omlor

- American Institute of Chemists Award – Froylan O. Fernandez
- ACS Southeastern PA Section Award – Gillian Good

Notable Alumni Achievements

- Dr. Cliff Stains, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Virginia, (B.S. - MU 2002) & (Ph.D. – University of Arizona 2008) was nominated and awarded a 2019 Millersville University Young Alumni Achievement Award. This is the 5th year in a row that a Chemistry alumnus is a recipient of this award. What an honor for our Chemistry Department!

- Dr. David Walton (’12 - BS-CHEM) earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the California Institute of Technology. He is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University.

- Dr. Jillian Weissenrieder (’15 - BS-BIOCHEM) earned a Ph.D. in Bio Medical Science from Penn State Hershey. Currently, she is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania.

- Dr. Mark Hlavinka (’02 - BS-CHEM) & (Ph.D. – University of Colorado 2007) is a Technology Licensing Manager at Chevron Phillips Chemical Company in Houston, TX.

- Mr. Froylan (Omar) Fernandez (Chemistry class of 2019) has been accorded Honorable Mention in the 2019 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). He will be attending the chemistry graduate program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Fall 2019.

- Ms. Lauren Ostopowicz (Chemistry class of 2018) has been accorded Honorable Mention in the 2019 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). Currently, she is a chemistry graduate student at the University of Arizona.

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
Click on “Updates” on the bottom of the page.
Then click on “Update Now” to update your information for us.