

CHEMISTRY

Millersville University, Dept. of Chemistry ♦ <https://www.millersville.edu/chemistry/> ♦ Fall 2020

Greetings from the Chemistry Department! Despite any obstacles that we faced during this past year and the new online teaching challenges due to the COVID-19 virus, the department remained active and identified creative ways to function so we could have another successful year full of faculty and student accomplishments! So, we are very excited to share our news with you.

We would like to give special thanks to **Dr. Edward Rajaseelan** for his six year of service as the Chair of our department. His leadership has helped keep Millersville Chemistry thriving.



That means we have a new Chair for the Chemistry Department, Dr. Aimee Miller! Dr. Miller is back on campus after a semester sabbatical in Fall 2019. She laid groundwork for two new collaborative projects for students in research and classes: Distributed Pharmaceutical Analysis Lab & Yeast ORFan Gene Project.

Congratulations Dr. Aimee Miller! – New Department Chair

The Department was honored for the 5th year in a row by having a chemistry alumnus receive the Young Alumni Achievement Award! The 2019 award recipient was **Dr. Cliff Stains**, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Virginia. Dr. Cliff Stains received his B.S. Chemistry degree from Millersville University in 2002 and his Ph.D. from University of Arizona in 2008.

Congratulations to Dr. Cliff Stains for his nomination and award of the 2019 Millersville University Young Alumni Achievement Award!



Important Chemistry Faculty Milestones/Achievements:

Congratulations to Dr. Kathryn Allen for being awarded tenure this year!

Congratulations to Dr. Daniel Albert for his 3 publications:

1) "Constructing, Troubleshooting, and Using Absorption Colorimeters to Integrate Chemistry and Engineering" Journal of Chemical Education. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jchemed.9b00548>

2) "Monte Carlo Uncertainty Propagation with the NIST Uncertainty Machine" Journal of Chemical Education. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jchemed.0c00096>

3) Kristen L. Omlor and Daniel R. Albert "Combining Chemistry and Engineering Design: Designing, Building, and Testing a Model Airbag" The Chemical Educator, 25 (2020) pp. 129-133.

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Congratulations to Dr. Steven Kennedy for his publication: (e-EROS) Sarah L. J. Trice and Steven M. Kennedy (2019). Tetrahydroxydiboron. In Encyclopedia of Reagents for Organic Synthesis. DOI: 10.1002/047084289X.rm01181.pub2

Congratulations to Dr. Aimee Miller for publishing a book chapter and for completing her sabbatical: Book Title: Communication in Chemistry Structured Presentations That Tie Chemistry Course Content to Everyday Contexts - Chapter 11, 149-161 DOI: 10.1021/bk-2019-1327.ch011 Publication Date (Web): September 23, 2019.

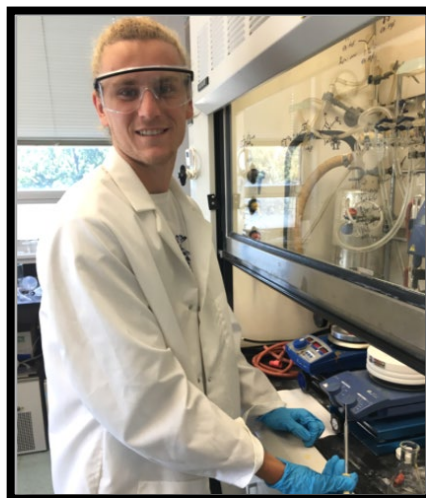
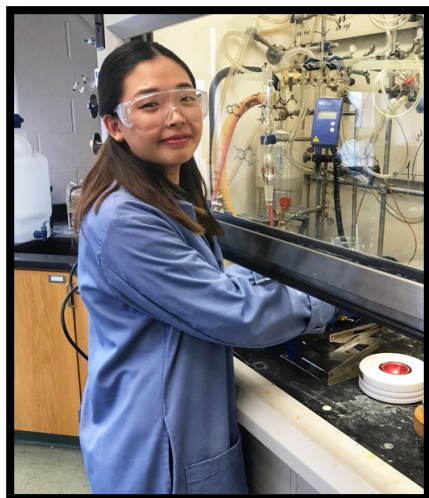
Congratulations to Dr. Melissa Mullen Davis for her publication: Coyne, K, Mullen Davis, MA, Mizoguchi, T, Hayama, R. Temporal restriction of salt inducibility in expression of salinity-stress related gene by the circadian clock in Solanum lycopersicum. Plant Biotechnology 2019, 36 (3): 195-200.

Congratulations to Dr. Maria Schiza & Dr. Jeremiah Mbindyo for receiving an NSF - MRI grant (\$278,234) for the purchase of a new Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) (in collaboration with Dr. Christopher Hardy and Dr. Charlton Wolfgang).

Note: We are also excited that the department received funding for a new microwave system, MARS 6 Microwave Synthesizer Unit, for faster chemical syntheses.

2020 Murley Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship:

In 2020, the Murley Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship was awarded to the two-top chemistry applicants: Yongyu Rose Ou and Nathaniel Maynard. Both students are completing their research experience under the guidance of Dr. Steven Kennedy during Fall 2020.



*2020 Murley Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship recipients:
Yongyu Rose Ou and Nathaniel Maynard*

More MU Students/Chemistry Majors News:

For Fall 2020, we had 34 new incoming chemistry majors. The department continues to have healthy enrollments each year as well as accepting transfer students (4 students) from other institutions.

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. Four of our chemistry students (Chanveboll Yun, Yongyu Ou, Steven Knauss, and Jessica Whittemore) presented their work at the NIH sponsored Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Chemical and Biological Sciences at UMBC in October 2019. Jessica Whittemore received a 2nd place award in the Chemical Sciences Division at the UMBC Symposium. Although students were not able to travel to the 2020 National ACS conference this year, six students (Steven Knauss, Kristen Omlor, Jessica Whittemore, Yongyu Ou (Rose), Chanveboll Yun, Nathan Maynard) and Dr. Albert were able to present their posters/presentations online. Four students (Simona Gavrilovici, Yongyu Ou (Rose), Chanveboll Yun, Nathan Maynard) also presented their research online at the Made in Millersville 2020 conference.

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Sixteen students engaged in Internships during the Summer 2019 and through the Summer of 2020 in PA.

Student	Internship Site	Student	Internship Site
Alexander Johnson	Penn State NMT, State College, PA	Maryssa Brandt	MRG Labs, York, PA
Austin Ackerman	Eurofins, Leola, PA	Melissa Cejudo-Montes	Pixelle, Spring Grove, PA
Austin Brinser	PharmTech, Mt. Joy, PA	William Trinh	Penn State NMT, State College, PA
Donita Garcia	PharmTech, Lancaster, PA	Troy Smith	MRG Labs, York, PA
Harrison Noel	K&L Plating, Lancaster, PA	Rebecca Goldinger	McCreary Labs, Harrisburg, PA
Stephen Knauss	Millersville, AEST	Jacinto Hyman	York, PA
Jenna Davis	K&L Plating, Lancaster, PA	Rachel Laughlin	Lancaster, PA
Luke Netherton	Eurofins, Leola, PA	Peter Caceci	West Chester, PA

In Spring and Summer of 2020, 25 chemistry majors graduated from the program and joined the ranks of our alumni. The Chemistry department is very proud of our 2020 graduates! (shown below)



Spring and Summer 2020 Chemistry Graduates

Left to right

Standing: Thomas Przywara, Peter Caceci, Cole Stempel, Troy Smith, Steven Knauss, Rachel Laughlin, Richard Carr, Girum Erkalo, Austin Ackerman, Michael Seeger, Chanveboll Yun, Alexander Johnston

Sitting: Jenna Davis, Kaylee Tada, Maryssa Brandt, Maitri Patel, Jessica Sharrow, Lindsay Balawejder, Natalie Barco, Kyra Brakefield, Madeline Stehly, Simona Gavrilovici

Not Shown: Courtney Kearns, Mingqi Lu, Erika Zurita-Torres

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

- 1) Kyra Brakefield – University of Oregon
- 2) Steven Knauss – Cornell University
- 3) Thomas Przywara – SUNY-Stony Brook
- 4) Jessica Sharrow – Campbell University (D. Pharm and Master's in Public Health)
- 5) Troy Smith – University of Arizona

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2020 Chemistry Department Awards

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

- CRC Chemistry Achievement Award – Malcolm Jones
- Gerald S. Weiss Chemistry Scholarship in Inorganic Chemistry – Jessica Whittemore/Kassandra Castaldi
- Cecil M. Upton Organic Chemistry Award – Yongyu Ou
- Polymer Education Undergraduate Award - Autumn Peters
- Murley Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship - Nathaniel Maynard/Yongyu Ou
- MU ACS Student Chapter Award – Jessica Sharrow

- American Chemical Society Awards in:
 - Analytical Chemistry – Jessica Whittemore
 - Inorganic Chemistry – Kyra Brakefield
 - Organic Chemistry – Girum Erkalo
 - Physical Chemistry – Thomas Przywara

- American Institute of Chemists Award – Steven Knauss/Jessica Sharrow
- ACS Southeastern PA Section Award – Kyra Brakefield

2020 Chemistry Department Scholarships

- Richard Sasin Endowed Scholarship in Chemistry - Priyanka Subedi/Devon Erb
- Yvonne and Sandra L Turchi Biochemistry Scholarship - Rebecca Goldinger
- Sandra A Yeager, Ph.D. Chemistry Scholarship - Melissa Cejudo-Montes De Oca
- Dr. R. Edward Rajaseelan Excellence in Chemistry Scholarship - Kassandra Castaldi

External Awards: The 2020-21 Krausse STEM Scholarship (\$1,500) was awarded to Rebecca Goldinger, a junior at Millersville University majoring in Biochemistry.

Notable Alumni Achievements

- **Dr. James Dreer** (B.S.– MU 2016, D.O. LECOM) is currently doing his residency at Penn State Hershey.
- **Dr. Pineal Bekere** (B.S.– MU 2016, M.D. Loyola University of Chicago) is currently doing her residency at LGH.
- **Ms. Gillian Good** (B.S.- MU 2019, University of Wisconsin-Madison), **Mr. Brandon Frey** (B.S.- MU 2018, Texas A & M) & **Mr. Karam Idrees** (B.S.- MU 2018, Northwestern University) have been accorded Honorable Mention in the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP).

Fall 2020 – Seminar Series Online

This year's Fall 2020 Seminar Series, hosted by Dr. Kathryn Allen, is available online on Mondays from 4-5 pm. The list of seminars can be viewed at: <https://www.millersville.edu/chemistry/files/speaker-schedule.pdf>

You can also use the following link to connect and watch the live seminars through Zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/MillersvilleSeminar>

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: <https://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.

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